All Things Bright and Beautiful,
All Creatures Great and Small.
All Things Wise and Wonderful
The Lord God Made Them All.

Hymns of Zion #207
Sermon by Bro. Neil Ramseyer, Bay City, MI

2 Chronicles 30:1-17 and Romans 1

Greetings, Dear Ones. Truly it is a blessing to be in God's house on this Lord's Day. We'll trust that the Lord will provide, whoever the speaker is. We don't come with an agenda or a plan as to where the Word will open. We come trusting that your prayers and our own prayers will be lifted up to God and the Spirit, that the Spirit will then abound, and God through His Holy Spirit will teach us. So we rely upon your prayers and upon the Holy Spirit in this day to be in our midst, to teach us, and provide for us each a blessing. That's what we've come for this morning.

We've come through a week of trials and struggles of various kinds for each one of us, and we come today because we know this is a haven for us. It's a place where we can find comfort, we can find fellowship with loved ones of like mind and faith, and we can come together and worship our God in a way we are accustomed to without fear of objection, reprisal, or someone trying to stop us in anyway. That's a blessing, isn't it, that we really enjoy. May your prayers continue for the Word throughout the day, and we trust the Lord will be in our midst and provide for us each a blessing.

It's amazing the accounts we can read in God's Word. This is a story from a long time ago, but yet as we read it we recognize our God has not changed, has He? Our God is the same as He was, as He is, as He always will be. Even though the children of Israel had not been following God's commandments, had not been doing what God had asked them to do, God was still their God, and He through Hezekiah and those at that time encouraged the children of Israel to return unto Him and to again worship Him the way He wanted them to.

I think the key that we can read there is probably in verse 9. It says, "For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him." It is no different today, is it, Dear Ones?

We find times in our lives where we all at once recognize that we are drifting away a little bit. Maybe we're not as good as we had been in following God's Word and being obedient to what He's asking us to do. But, what does it tell us here? If we are willing to humble ourselves and return unto Him, He will not turn His face away from us, and that, Dear Ones, is a great blessing for us – to recognize that even in our human failings, oftimes we fall short, and if we humble ourselves and turn to our God, He is there waiting to shine His face upon us.

It takes some action on our part. We have to be willing to recognize that we're wrong, to recognize that we've made mistakes, to humble ourselves. Humbleness is a struggle for us as humans. Maybe some people more than others, but I believe we all struggle with it in some sense – to humble ourselves and just recognize that there is a great God that is far above us who we need to be obedient to.

Even if we drift away a little as the Israelites did, He is there waiting for us to humble ourselves and come back to Him, and He will walk us through the days ahead until life's end. That's what we're searching for, isn't it? That's what our desire is – that we can walk with our God until life's end, whenever that is, and that

**Sermon continued on Page 48**

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Correspondence
For May Issue
(news from March 16-April 15)
Due: April 20, 2013
Light from the Word
The Faithful Church-Submissive

Writings based on God’s Word

The faithful church is based on love and obedience to the whole counsel of God’s Word. These biblical principles were discussed in previous Light from the Word articles. We will now focus on the essential attribute of submissiveness on the part of each member of the body, so that it can grow stronger as a whole and bear much fruit to the honor and glory of God.

The faithful church consists of a group of believers who are committed to serving God and edifying one another. We are bound together in a living, God-ordained body whose success relies upon love-driven submission by each member. “From whom (Christ) the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Eph. 4:16).

Submission consists of yielding our own will or preferences with the understanding that there is a higher purpose to be attained. This purpose includes bringing glory to God by dwelling together in peace and unity, which also brings special blessings to the church: “...live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you” (2 Cor. 13:11). Submission requires a bending of our will, and its true beauty is born of our devotion to God and to what He has called us to be. It is not submission if we comply only when we agree with what is asked.

Jesus has set the perfect example of submission. He said, “I can of mine own self do nothing...because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me” (John 5:30). The ultimate act of submission was when Christ laid down His life on our behalf. We see that His submission to God’s plan for our salvation created an agonizing struggle for Him. He prayed earnestly, “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done” (Luke 22:42). His struggle arose from a pure, sinless heart which was facing the unthinkable burden of being separated from His Father because of our sin.

God understands how we as humans wrestle with our prideful self-will and how easy it is to justify what we think is right. “Every way of man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts” (Prov. 21:2). A humble spirit will help us acknowledge our struggles with the carnal mind before the Lord and seek His grace for objective discernment. We will remember that we are to seek the welfare of our brother and the entire body of believers above our own. “Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth (well-being)” (1 Cor. 10:24). We probably will not be asked to lay down our life for another, but it can also be very difficult to give up our self-will. “Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren” (1 John 3:16).

There will always be differences of opinion among brethren on this earth regarding liberty and restraint in application of God’s Word in various matters. (Rom. 14) Some things should be respectfully left to individual conscience and others require establishment of standards within the church which are based on biblical principles. When our faith rests on the foundation of Jesus Christ and our relationships within His body are based on selfless, Christ-like love, we can trust that the Holy Spirit will guide the church in these matters (John 16:13). In the pattern of the Apostles (Acts 15:1-29), humble servant leaders search the Scriptures and rely upon the Holy Spirit for direction; and as submissive brethren we receive their direction with joy. (Acts 15:30-31) That is a joy that springs from a humble recognition that we benefit from and vitally need loving direction from others as we walk with a limited understanding as individuals. (1 Pet. 5:5) This is made possible only by God’s grace.

We are cautioned by the warning that no Scripture is of private (personal) interpretation (2 Pet. 1:20). We also recognize that if our motive for counsel is only to seek reinforcement of our views from those who agree with us, we are neglecting the safety of broader understanding. (Prov. 11:14)

If we become “…wise in our own conceits (opinions)” (Rom. 12:16), we will be unable to reason together and live in a peaceable, harmonious relationship within the body. The Apostle Paul compares the marriage relationship to that of Christ and the church, His body. (Eph. 5:22-33) He begins this discourse with the exhortation: “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Eph. 5:21). The fear of God causes us to take very seriously our marriage relationships as well as our responsibilities within the church. The fear of God should cause us to tremble when we consider that He hates “putting away” (Mal. 2:16) As in marriage, there is a covenant-based oneness among the members of the body of Christ into which we are baptized. (1 Cor. 12:12-13) If we become influenced by the attitudes of the divorce culture of the world, our minds may begin to toy with the desire to escape the obligations we once vowed to fulfill. The concept “irreconcilable differences” has arisen from this divorce culture and is used by many to justify breaking the sacred marriage relationship. This same false reasoning is sometimes used to justify breaking the bonds of brotherly love within the church family. (1 Cor. 12:25) This concept has no scriptural basis. “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves” (Phil. 2:3). Nothing is impossible with God when His grace is applied and brethren are willing to make a sincere effort to achieve the higher purpose (mission) God has established for His church. This includes spreading the Gospel message of salvation to the lost, nurturing the believers, preserving sound doctrine and offering loving deeds of service to our fellow human beings. Jesus prayed that the church would walk in the love and mind of Christ, enabling the world to know why He came. (John 17:23)

The faithful church will seek to practice submission as prescribed in the Word of God and exemplified by Christ. It will be known for its brotherly love, compassion for all, peace, and unity of spirit. In an atmosphere of love, trust and mutual respect, submission will not be a burden, but a privilege. Jesus said, “…my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:30).

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous” (1 Pet. 3:8)

An editorial committee of elders prepares articles for this section of Silver Lining to address some special needs of our times. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1523 County Road 400N, Congerville, IL 61729 or fellowshippromoter@gmail.com
Sending Laborers Into His Harvest

In our Christian walk, we are often reminded of the call to trust and obey. The call is to trust in our faithful God and the promises of His word. Then, we obey as an expression of trust as we try to live out our faith according the precepts of the Word.

Outreach process

The call to service is an example of an act of obedience in response to trusting in the work of God. An Outreach Process was developed by the Mission Committee to assist those who are called. The charge was to develop a process by which the Apostolic Christian Church sends forth brethren to serve. The development of this process is in support of the call to trust and obey.

God’s Word and work

According to the Scripture, the work of carrying forth the Gospel is God’s work, and it is in this work that we must trust. As Jesus is sending forth His disciples He asks that we “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth laborers into His harvest.” In this call for us to pray, we are reminded the sending forth of laborers is God’s work.

We observe the same expression of God’s work in the commission to the disciples in Matthew 28:18. Jesus says, “All power is given me in heaven and in earth.” After this foundational statement, we are given the command to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Again, the work is not done outside of the power of God, and is expressed as a work of God in which we are to trust. These two examples remind us that our labors are the work of God being done through the power of Christ by His body, the Church, in submission to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Steps in sending

This brings us back to trust and obey. By faith, trusting that the work of sending is by His power and He is the “Lord of the Harvest,” the Mission Committee prayerfully examined how we as a brotherhood faithfully obey in the sending work of our Lord. The work was carried out with humility, seeking the wisdom of God through His word. With attention given to the sending of the early church, the missionary work of Paul and the apostles, a process has been established.

The Outreach Process begins with the Lord’s work of calling brethren to service. Then, the Elder and other Godly counsel confirm this call. Next, the process involves a questionnaire and review completed by a selection committee for the purpose of ensuring the candidate's readiness for service.

Upon confirmation of the call, the process continues to ensure brethren are fully prepared for the work. Also, during this time, a process of commissioning happens between the brethren going to serve and the local church body.

The entire process involves the establishment of support from the local and national church for the brethren being sent. In the epistles, Paul and the apostles ask the church for three things as they go to minister the Gospel: spiritual support (Colossians 4:2-4), communication support (Ephesians 6:21-22), and physical support (1 Timothy 5:18).

Therefore, the Outreach Process likewise asks the church to fulfill these three roles on behalf of the brethren going to serve. And finally, trusting in the power of our God, the process results in the church sending brethren as an act of obedience.

The fields are ripe

The Mission Committee and those brethren who are directing the work of the Outreach Process trusts the Lord that the working out of His will in sending brethren may be done in a God-honoring way. It is with humility and by grace that this work is pursued in obedience to the furtherance of the Gospel to the lost and to the edification of the body.

In John 4:34-35, we are again reminded that the work is His, and that the fields are white unto harvest. We know that the work is not complete until He brings us home to glory. Therefore, the Mission Committee, on behalf of the Apostolic Christian Church, continues to offer fields of service for our brethren.

There are many opportunities in which the fields are ripe unto harvest, but the laborers are few. If the Lord is calling you to serve, please counsel with your elder and contact Bro. Kirk Plattner, the Outreach Process Coordinator.

Kirk Plattner
16448 S US Hwy 231
Remington, IN 47977
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Haiti Agriculture

How does agriculture in Haiti compare to the U.S.? The most progressive Haitian farming practices would be similar to fifty years ago in the States, many of them 75 to 100 years ago.

There are some tractors and plows, though most ground is plowed with oxen or tilled with a hoe. Most crops are planted and harvested by hand, including corn. The only fertilizer used is plant compost and animal waste, but even this is not commonplace in much of Haiti. You will not find large fields, GPS guided machines, 24-row planters or huge combines to harvest the crop. Weed control is by the hoe or machete, not chemical control. Hybrid seed corn is uncommon.

Animal production expertise is similar to crops. Pigs are tied to trees and get scraps to eat, which takes 1½ to 2 years to reach 150 to 180 pounds when they are butchered. Cattle are malnourished with poor quality forages. Chickens run loose and eat what they can find. Goats do the best, but are plagued with parasites that keep growth rates low. There is some progress, but it is slow and not keeping up with the increasing needs of the Haitian people.

S.E.E.D. Ministries

World Relief became involved in the 1960’s and 1970’s with the Heifer Project. In 1995, World Relief investigated other ways to be more involved in Haiti agriculture. They learned of S.E.E.D. Ministries, an agriculture school in Les Cayes, founded by Frantz Clotaire, a native Haitian. The S.E.E.D. mission is to teach agriculture skills as well as the Gospel message of salvation.

There are about 30-35 students in each of the first and second year classes who study agronomy, forestry, and animal science along with the study of the Bible. These students also have hands-on experience, with each having a garden plot they are graded on.

About 20-25 students go on to the third year extension program. The purpose of the gardens is to demonstrate how the farmers can increase quantity and quality of their products by using better techniques such as composting, seed selection, weed control, and irrigation where necessary. The students also help the pastor with church-related activities.

This agricultural knowledge gives the farmers the ability to better provide for their families. This ministry has brought about a trust between the community and the students so the seed of salvation can be planted in the hearts of unbelievers. The third year program has been fully financed by World Relief for the past 17 years.

Another ministry, “One Hundred Fold,” was organized in 2005 when a number of brothers saw the need and began sending farm machinery to S.E.E.D., with the desire to see their production increase 100%. So far, this organization has sent two tractors, a plow, disk, planter, cultivator, sprayer, and a cornsheller. They have also sent hybrid seed corn and herbicides.

How you can help

Pray that the work in Haiti agriculture will make a difference to help feed the Haitian people and bring them the message of salvation. Twice a year, in January and March, work teams are sent. You can help by participating on one of these teams, which are involved in construction projects, maintenance of machinery, and instructional teaching. At this time, a World Relief committee is considering starting a dairy program.

These are all projects you can become a part of. With your prayers, physical and financial help, the Haitian farmers can learn to raise an abundant crop, allowing them to better provide for their families and feed the population at large, all to the glory of God.

While progress is slow because of financial limitations and cultural differences, there are improvements. The question is, will these be soon enough to overcome food shortages? Helping others must be done with respect for their dignity, views, and culture. It can only be accomplished if we go as a learner and walk with them as a partner. All glory is given to Christ, not to man.
Recently at a school’s silent auction there was a hamster up for bid. The hamster had been at the school for a week prior and all the kids loved it. There was one boy in particular who was determined that he was going home with that hamster! He dug into his savings and pulled together $100. The big day arrived and he was so excited he could hardly contain himself, knowing that he would be going home with it!

The starting bid was well below the hamster’s value, but it soon became evident that there were two people who really wanted it, because the bid began to climb quickly. One was the boy with his savings in hand, and the other, a person who wanted to give it as a gift to a family member. The boy watched as the bid kept increasing. What was he to do if it went past his saved amount? When it went past $100, he ran to Mom to see if he could get a little extra from her, but much to his dismay it kept climbing. Now what? He was getting desperate because he could see the hamster “slipping through his fingers” and going home with someone else and he REALLY wanted it. He raised the bid one more time. For the moment, his was the highest bid. He stood there with his hands folded under his chin, eyes shut and bouncing up in glee in anticipation of it being his. This was the desire of his heart.

However, the bid kept climbing. What was he to do, since it was now past what extra his Mom had given him? His friends started getting out their change and giving it to him to make up the difference so that he could raise the bid one more time. The other bidder, who was a stranger to him, stood back and observed, by this point knowing that the intent was to give it to him because how could a person allow a child to pay so much for a hamster?

The auction was about to end and the boy’s bid was not the last. The bell was rung and there was a minute left. His pen was poised over the paper to increase it one final time when the last bidder stepped up to him and with a shake of the head no said, “Trust me.” “Really?” the boy responded. “Yes. Trust me.” Wow, what a test! Trust a stranger or raise the bid to get that hamster he wanted so badly? The kids started the final countdown: 20, 19, 18, 17, 16…. Would he trust? He still had the pen in his hand. The count continued, 15, 14, 13, 12, he then joined in the countdown…. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0, and only then did he lay the pen down. The auction was over. The final bidder went to him and said, “I didn’t want you to have to spend all your money. Thanks for trusting me. It is yours!” “The boy was ecstatic! Because of his trust he was able to keep his money AND the hamster.

Trust is something that is earned and, so it’s much harder to trust a stranger than someone you know. This boy had to trust the stranger and not raise the bid despite how badly he wanted to because he knew the hamster would not be his. How hard do you find it to trust God? He knows/sees the master plan and what is best for us. He wants our obedience when he asks us to do something even though it may not make sense or even hurt. When he does ask us to do something do we obey immediately?

At the Home, we see parents of our residents who put their trust in us, often strangers to them, to care for their loved ones. Just as the boy with the hamster had friends rallying around him with support and encouragement and protection and reporting the new bid and finally, giving what they had, I see staff surrounding our residents with their friendship. They support them physically, emotionally, and mentally. They are their cheerleaders, and they rejoice with them over each victory - big or small. They give from their heart and are always looking out for their best interest. Staff members are quick to report any changes that occur so that it can be taken care of as soon as possible.

We are excited that five residents will soon be moving into residential homes. That move means a lot of preparation, fears, questions, anxieties, worry, doubts, stress, anticipation, excitement, joy, and happiness. Despite all these emotions we can see the benefits for these people and we continue to trust in the Master for their futures.

We, too, have to be willing to give up the things we value in our lives in order to gain the victory. Do you have something that you are hanging onto tightly? Is God asking you to let go of something that you just can’t seem too? Can you give it to Him in complete and total surrender?

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
(Romans 8:28)
days, followed by his right side for 40 days. He was told to eat certain things, break a hole in his house, and walk the streets with an iron pan in front of his face. All of this so that Ezekiel would realize through the physical, emotional and social suffering (just think what his wife and neighbors thought!) the depth of the spiritual distress of God’s people. The result was that Ezekiel acted with a deep urgency and love for them.

One thing that immediately impressed itself on me when I began work at Gateway Woods fourteen months ago was how God was doing this in each person’s life associated with His ministry here. Everywhere, I met former or current staff members that were also foster parents or missionaries now across the globe or friends to those who had been here as long as 25 years ago.

And, the lesson that I learned most from these individuals wasn’t that they were hugely talented or particularly gifted, but that they made themselves available to God however He deemed necessary.

When the flesh is stripped away, the Spirit as gold, which is malleable in its purified form, is what’s left. In spirit, we become a creature that is more closely aligned with the loving and just, sovereign Lord of Lords.

**God Knows What He’s About**

“When God wants to drill a man, And thrill a man, and skill a man, When God wants to mold a man To play the noblest part; When He yearns with all His heart To create so great and bold a man That all the world might be amazed, God knows what He’s about!”

*(Author Unknown)*

**News:**

The Top Quality program has a need to borrow a used vehicle for the 2013 summer. This vehicle would be used for transport of people and materials to various landscaping jobs in the Leo area. An extended cab truck that could seat five would be ideal. But please do not hesitate to contact us with any option that could seat at least four, and has either a bed or can pull a trailer. The Top Quality program is designed to help the Gateway Woods residents gain valuable interviewing and job experience, which they can then apply later in life. If you have a vehicle that could possibly work that you would be willing to give up for the summer, please contact:

Ryan Donaghy (260) 627-7315
ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org

We are searching for a summer Volunteer Coordinator and a Top Quality Coordinator. Please see the notices in the ad section or email Bro. Ryan Donaghy at ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of the children on our campus! We are also searching for summer Educational Intern. Please see the notice in ad section or email Bro. Adam McAfee at adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience working in an educational environment while impacting our residents!

Gateway Woods welcomed four new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as they become accustomed to their new homes. It can be a difficult adjustment for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than they have experienced before. We are excited to work with these new children and their families. Also, please keep the teachers, houseparents and counselors of these children in your prayers.

We are grateful to God for providing us with wonderful Staff. We currently have four career positions available: one opening for an Alternate Houseparents, an opening for a Development Coordinator, an opening for a Math Teacher, and an opening for a Foster Care Program Manager. For more information please see the notice in ad section or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’. Perhaps this includes you!

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God’s work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com gatewaywoods often for updates. Make sure that you are on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible, we are gathering as many email addresses
as we can for our Restoring Hope. Please send a quick message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
ATHENS, AL
Susan Koch

The themes for March were yellow, animals/the farm, and Dr. Seuss. The weather here in Alabama has been crazy going from the 40’s one day to upper 70’s the next. The students have been able to get outside more with the warmer weather and are enjoying riding bikes, crossing the monkey bars, finding flowers, and watching the neighbors’ horses.

We have been blessed to have lots of visitors come down to work with World Relief. We also welcomed Josie Gerber and Joanna Schneider from Rockville, CT as they volunteered at the Preschool the last two weeks this month. Bro. Dick and Sis. Betsy Hany (from Rockville) also helped around the church and preschool during those two weeks.

Recently we studied the letter “V” and got to blow up some volcanoes! The kids loved watching the vinegar-baking soda mixture bubble out of the volcano’s mouth. And they really liked watching what happens when you put a Mento in a 2 liter of Diet Coke! I had forgotten how high the Mentos shoot up. I believe our record was 2.5 feet.

Ms. Kalla’s class has been learning the names for farm animals in Spanish and English and will be studying how X-rays work. Ms. Louise’s class has been learning about animals that come out in the spring like birds and rabbits. My class decorated some flower pots and plan to plant a small garden. Hopefully they will be able to watch the produce grow and pick some veggies in the summer.

“And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food…” (Gen. 2:9)

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Roger and Becky Roberts

One day some children were offered a basket of fruit. The only thing they had to do to get it was to run to it and whoever was first got the basket. When the children were allowed to run, they held hands and ran to the basket together and shared the prize. How are you doing? Are you grabbing the hands of those around you and helping them win the eternal prize?

Our small congregation was blessed this past month with many visitors that are traveling through to Cullman. Among our visitors were Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Jim (Sis. Marlene) Plattner (Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Tom (Sis. Sue) Waldesper and family (Atlanta, GA), Bro Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Tom Lanz (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). A special thanks to each visitor whether you serve us on the pulpit or were the hands and feet of Jesus helping those in need.

We enjoyed a pizza supper and singing with the Princeville group. Amazingly enough the weather cooperated that we could actually pull taffy afterward. Please continue to pray for Sis. Barbara Coulter and Woodrow Haggenmaker that they could feel God’s healing touch.

As spring approaches, we begin to look forward to the annual Memorial Day weekend of fellowship and singing at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. Prayerfully consider joining us this year for an uplifting weekend. See the ad at the back for schedule information.

When traveling to the Fellowship area using a GPS, use Frankewing as the final destination. Once you turn off Hwy 64, the Fellowship area is the first drive on the left.

If you are traveling through the area this spring, we would love your fellowship! Please either call or email us ahead of time so we can make plans. Bro. Roger & Sis. Becky Roberts (931) 309-9335 mrpipes@afo.net

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen

Bringing us the good news of the Gospel this month were Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Doug Shock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Nick Gutwein (W. Lafayette, IN), and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN).

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16)

We lift up those in our family, congregation, and community who are experiencing physical, emotional, and spiritual struggles.

We extend prayers and sympathy to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig and family in the passing of Sis. Stacia’s grandfather, Bro. Richard Schock (Elgin, IL).

After a short illness, Bro. Rich Wuethrich (Sis. Nola, Francesville, IN) is now safe in the arms of Jesus. We send sympathy to his family here in Phoenix: Sis. Candy Meiss
We thank them all for their efforts to be with us.

We were also visited by Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and his wife, Sis. Darlene, who were with us for a Sunday service. We thoroughly enjoyed a six-week visit from Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS) and his wife, Sis. Lois. We love it when they’re here and we miss them already! We thank both brothers for their willingness to serve on our pulpit.

We are so thankful to announce the safe arrival of Jacob Charles Keller, born to Sean and Stephanie Keller on March 12. Jacob is the grandson of Steve and Maria Bauer and the great-grandson of our Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. Jacob is, simply put, a beautiful miracle made possible only by the work of God. Praise Him!

Our winter visitors are starting to leave as spring approaches. We will miss each one and pray for safe travels on the highways as we see that some of them are heading into still-wintery weather. Our weather by contrast is sunny and quite warm for mid-March. We have had several days with high temperatures in the low 90’s. We are cooling down a bit as we head toward the official start of spring in a few days.

Many in our congregation enjoyed being entertained by the Deer Fry International Group on March 3. Many thanks to them for their visit and to Bro. Andy Knobloch for coordinating and hosting the gathering. May God bless you all!

We have been experiencing beautiful Spring weather with temperatures in the 80’s. Blue skies and lush, green grass bless us with joyful feelings of expectation as we move toward Easter and the new birth that Christ Jesus has given to us through His death and resurrection.

Our fellowship is lifting up prayers for our Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotsz as they travel to India in support of RGMMI, our church’s mission project there. We pray that their eyes and their hearts will be enlightened and that they will know the proper responses to encourage others in this mission outreach. We pray for safety and good health for the entire team.

Congratulations to Bro. Tom and Sis. Heidi Luginbuhl on the arrival of their granddaughter. Little Jordyn Mills was welcomed by parents Rebecca and Jonathan and big sisters, Jenna and Anika.

We continue to lift up Bro. Jon and Sis. Kali Sauder in prayer as they travel in South America on a work project. We rejoiced to share time with them in fellowship as they returned home briefly from Argentina en route to Brazil.

Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) ministered the word of God to us, including a message to prepare our hearts for sharing the Lord’s Supper together.

Our prayers go out to those in our congregation who struggle with health concerns. May God bless you with renewed strength during difficult times.

This past month we had numerous visitors that assembled with us. Our thanks and gratitude to the visiting ministers that labored on the pulpit including Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Willis Ehnl (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL).
We pray that God will bless them for their labors.

It has been a blessing to have Wednesday evening services in the Palm Springs/Palm Desert area for the winter months. We have had some large gatherings and really enjoyed the fellowship of the brothers and sisters from across the land. We appreciate Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) taking time to gather with us and share the Gospel. Also we appreciate that the San Diego ministers have come out to support the gatherings.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Our Junior High and High School students recently traveled to Tucson, AZ for ACYF weekend. They had a blessed time and appreciated the efforts of the Tucson church.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian) said good-bye to his uncle in Colorado. Also, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle bid farewell to their daughter, Joy Bao. May God comfort them at this time of loss.

As the Easter season approaches, may we always keep our eyes upon the cross and the great love that Jesus had for us. Not only that He died for us, but that He rose again so that we may have victory over death.

“The grave of Christ, the risen Lord, Is vacant where He lay; The Son is victor over death; Whoe’er believes is saved.
Hallelujah! The Lord arose. Our ransom now is paid. The Son is victor over death, Whoe’er believes is saved.” (Hymns of Zion #257, v. 1 & 5)

**CANADA, KITCHENER, ONTARIO**

Kim Leman

“Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.” (Job 36:5)

We are grateful for the ministry of Bros. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda, Bay City, MI) and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL). May God richly bless them for travelling to be with us!

Our older Sunday School students were rewarded with a weekend trip to the Creation Museum, followed by a blessed time of fellowship with the Latty and Junction, OH churches for Saturday night and Sunday. We appreciated our teachers, Bro. Murray Metzger and Sis. Ingrid Fortenbacher, facilitating this trip and know that the memories will last a lifetime for our children!

The following weekend our entire church was invited to Bay City, MI for a baptism. We again enjoyed the blessings of our precious brotherhood as we travelled and fellowshipped with other believers. Thanks to the Bay City church for hosting us that weekend!

Since we are currently smaller in number, we have started having a World Relief night one Wednesday a month. So far it has been a blessing for us and hope our labors of love will bless the lives of those precious ones on the receiving end!

**COLORADO, DENVER**

Lily Zarkovacki

Greetings from Colorado!

We thank the following ministers for sharing the Word with us this past month: Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn, Morris North, MN). On March 16 we were blessed with a wonderful Easter Program from our Sunday School class. It is a wonderful reminder of the “Old Rugged Cross” and the sacrifice that our Lord and Savior did for each of us!

At our annual business meeting, the following brethren were chosen to serve: Trustee – Bro. Mike Reinhard, Treasurer – Bro. Mike Martin, Sunday School – Bro. Jake Leman and Sis. Rose Zarkovacki. We pray for the Lord’s guidance and wisdom as they take on this new responsibility. We also want to sincerely thank those whose terms expired.

Also, we would like to uplift in prayer Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer and Sis. Lorraine Hohulin as they recently underwent different health issues.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**

Sheila Gerber

Lauren Gottier

“Now thank we all our God with heart, and hands and voices, who wondrous things hast done, in whom the world rejoices, who from our mother’s arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is our today.” (Zion's Harp #236)

Our congregation has been blessed with the birth of two babies. Brooklyn Paige was born to first-time parents Matt and Kara Stanley. We rejoice with her grandparents, Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan and Timothy and Vivian Stanley. Bro. Duane and Sis. Beth Zahner also welcome their first child, Cameron James. His grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Wagenbach. May the Lord bless these families with countless gifts of love.

Lynn Linden has turned her
heart to the Lord in repentance. We welcome her into our congregation and will strive to support her in brotherly love as the Lord converts her heart.

We were thankful to have Sis. Edit Funk from Szeged, Hungary attending our congregation for the next few months.

We extend our sympathies to the family of David Cone (Billy Cone and Amy Bateman) at the time of his passing.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WASHINGTON**

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretaker for February was Sis. Bonnie Dotterer (Forrest, IL). Our caretaker schedule is booked for 2013, except for the month of August. We are currently taking reservations for 2014. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, this would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or (302) 540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Joe Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN). Other visitors this month were from Rittman, OH; Rockville, CT; Chicago, IL and Lester, IA. We are truly grateful for the ministers and families that travel, sometimes great distances to be with us for services.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Phil Steffen (Mona) as he travels to Afghanistan for his work. The weekend Bro. Steve and Bro. Ben were here, we were blest to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday evening. The following day we had our annual business meeting. Bro. Tom Katanic was elected trustee.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area, 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.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**

Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting minister Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis Debbie, Elgin, IL) this past month.

We are enjoying and rejoicing in our visitors and regular winter friends and brethren right now. We are one of the unique churches that ebbs and flows with the seasons. The Lord promises that wherever two are more are gathered, He will be present, and for that we are always grateful.

**Note of Thanks:**

We would like to thank friends and family and especially the Fort Lauderdale church family for their continuing prayer and support for our son, David, who has returned safely from Afghanistan. Please keep his brother, Josh, in your prayers. Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold

**FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS**

Victor Beer

At the closing of our mid-week service March 20, we are looking forward to our next midweek services at a new church building next fall. We have been blessed to have had the grade school facility in Estero for the usual 2 midweek groups for our meetings. Our new church building committee has given us real hope to have the new church ready by late fall, if everything goes as planned.

We were richly blessed this month as these brothers brought us the Word. Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). We appreciated their sharing with us very much.

**News from the New Beginnings**

We have a rather large maintenance project going on at our apartment building. We are painting the underside of the soffit which goes around our building. Our building is approximately 6000 square feet, so it is a long way around. We are thankful to Bros. Denny Mott and Herb Stoller for help with this project, which is still ongoing. This project parallels our spiritual walk of life. When we think about it as a whole, it becomes overwhelming. However, if we take it a day at a time as the Bible instructs and implore God’s help and the help of a loving church family, we can see the progress and know that with a little effort on our part and God’s powerful enabling, the goal comes into view.

Our young mothers are enjoying some great lessons in our adult Sunday School class. This past month, they have had godly wisdom imparted to them by Bros. John Hodel, Ken Bucher, and Sis. Margie Sauder. We thank these loved ones for letting them be used by God.

We had several occasions this month to share with visitors the vision and work done here at THE NEW BEGINNINGS as well as give tours around our facility.

We were privileged this month
to travel to Leo, IN to The Gateway Woods campus to attend a vision meeting for the ministry there. We are struck once again at how God directs our hearts in similar ways to accomplish His good and perfect will and then allows His weak servants to be a part of His plan and work. We never cease to be amazed at how God accomplished His purposes in ways so far above what we can think or imagine. (Ephesians 3:20) It’s a reward and delight when we realize that some soul may have been touched for eternity because of a small act of obedience.

If God is calling you to serve in a ministry that can touch soul’s lives for now and eternity and can be instrumental in the change of a life’s course of destruction to salvation, The New Beginnings may be the place He wants you to serve. You may call Bro. Bill Masters at (309) 824-3981 to request more information or go to www.thenewbeginnings.org. Our society is giving young mothers a message of deceit. Won’t you consider being God’s mouthpiece for revealing truth as revealed in the Bible?

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:1)

During this month as we celebrate Easter in the remembrance of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, we appreciated the time we had to quietly reflect on this most wonderful plan of salvation during Holy Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter was Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL). We also greatly appreciated his ministering efforts to us the following Sunday, as well as all of our visiting ministers this month including: Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Janet, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN).

We enjoyed another year participating in our Sunday School Auction. It is always a blessing to work on a project together, side by side, knowing that whatever work we are able to do assists in the growth of our church and brings glory to the Lord. Many thanks to God and all of our congregation who helped to make this year a success, not only in financial donations set aside for outreach, but also drawing us closer together as a church body.

We want to extend a special welcome to Sis. Shaunda Bedwell (Bluffton, IN)! Sis. Shaunda plans to stay in the Sarasota area for an indefinite length of time as she assists in caring for family members. We so appreciate having brothers, sisters, friends, and families joining us in our congregation! We want all to know that our doors are always open for more to join us as we serve in a small church. There are many opportunities, benefits, and blessings to serve in small churches around the world, such as by building relationships with substantial one-on-one time and therefore bonding closely with one another, being more able to fully use your spiritual gifts to help further God’s Kingdom, and learning a new dependence on God as we step out of your comfort zone. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity of ministry for yourself/

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

On a beautiful spring day, Haven Joy West entered the world! She was welcomed by her loving parents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Stephanie West, and excited siblings: Cody, Haley, Abbigail, Ashlynne, and Annalise! We rejoice with them, as they thank the Lord for His goodness in blessing them with this precious little girl!

For six years, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp have traveled from their home in North Carolina to attend church in Atlanta so many Sundays. We will miss their sweet presence and sincere friendship, but we are so thankful they have opportunity to move this month to Cissna Park and enjoy living at Creekside. Thank you, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia, for your joyful attitudes and loving hearts! We will miss you. What a blessing to have the love of Jesus bind our hearts together across the miles, as we wait for eternity.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Chris and Sis. Peggy Camp, as they have experienced the death of Chris’s sister-in-law, Joyce Camp, as well as Chris’s Uncle. Through this season of walking in the valley of the shadow of death, may God’s presence be your true
hope and comfort! We love you.

Sis. Peggy Camp underwent minor surgery. We are praying for healing and renewed strength!

We want to thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL) so much for ministering from the pulpit this month! We are so blessed by your willingness to travel and share God's Word and love with us. Thank you for feeding us His Word.

The last Sunday of March, the Sunday school shared a recount of the Easter story! As we listened, it was neat to hear the message of hope in Jesus' resurrection within the Gospels, as well as throughout the New Testament!

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead…” (1 Peter 1:3)

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen

With friends on earth we meet in gladness,
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the tho’t of sadness,
That we must say, “Good-by”....

We had our yearly Invite-a-Friend in February. Although it was even small for Belvidere, we enjoyed our guests from Princeville, Roanoke, and Sabetha. We were so thankful for the extra voices and prayers that weekend.

*How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death’s sea,
That we, when all earth’s toils are ended, With them shall ever be!*

Our love and prayers are with Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi with the passing of Ted's father, Bro. Richard Schock (Elgin, IL). May the joy that comes with the hope of life everlasting be their comfort.

_No parting words shall e'er be spoken
In yonder home so fair, But songs of joy, and peace, and gladness We'll sing forever there._

We thank Elder Bro. Dave Steffen and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) for their efforts in bringing encouragement of the joy and peace and gladness that awaits us in yonder home. It is also a blessing that in that same time we could be chastised to bring forth love, joy and peace here on earth.

*We'll never say good-by in heav'n, We'll never say good-by, For in that land of joy and song We'll never say good-by. (Hymns of Zion #122)*

Life here on earth can be sometimes so busy and wearisome. May we keep our thoughts on the things above and long for the land of joy and song.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Gina Hodel
Teri Huber

Children truly are a blessing from above. Bro. John and Sis. Jennifer Fehr along with siblings Aaron, Stephanie, Michelle, Brian, Jason and Jordan welcomed home Kaitlyn Larae born on January 30. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft (Forrest, IL) and William and Helen Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Robert and Ashley Black are thankful for a new daughter as well. Katlyn Lynell was born January 29 and older sister, Sadie, is excited to have a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Tami Masters.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Tudy Schmied as her sister-in-law, Lucy Schmied, passed away. Our church was heartbroken by the unexpected death of John Usherwood. We lift up his wife, Kayla, and daughter, Shelby, in prayer during this difficult time.

We are also praying for Bro. Everett Hari (Sis. Bev) as he is home recovering from heart surgery. We miss seeing him in church and look forward to him worshipping with us again soon.

Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor MO) and Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Ft. Meyers, FL) were visiting ministers this month. We appreciate their willingness to serve.

As we prepare our hearts for the upcoming Easter season, may we keep our focus on the cross and our high calling to serve Him faithfully.
for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.” (Luke 22:19-20)

We partook of Holy Communion and were brought into remembrance of Christ’s suffering, and, above all, the load of sin He willingly bore for each one of us. Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) was with us and assisted Elder Bro. Bruce.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) for the reading of the Memorandum. May we willingly and prayerfully receive the instruction, chastisement, and encouragement “as they must give an account” for us.

Note of Thanks:

I am overwhelmed and touched by everyone’s prayers, cards, notes, and deeds of love shown to me as I undergo chemotherapy treatments at Mayo Clinic for lymphoma cancer. It is very humbling and much appreciated to be on the receiving end of everyone’s kindness. How thankful I am to be a part of such a caring church family and brotherhood. May the Lord richly bless and reward each one of you. In Christian Love, Sis. Charlene Dietz

ILLSINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Bro. Tony Manz from Junction, OH, for ministering to us this month. May God be your reward.

On March 2, a group from our church volunteered with a local charity organization (Empty Tomb) to help build clothes cupboards for local children who need them. The project was an excellent way to serve God and our community and to spread Christ’s love throughout Champaign-Urbana.

The singing group, Testify from Gridley/Roanoke/Bloomington, joined us for a hymn sing on March 3. It was a treat to hear the brothers use their God-given musical talents to praise and glorify Him. A delicious potluck supper preceded the hymn sing. Thank you to all who contributed.

As always, we express our heartfelt appreciation for our visiting ministers. Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) opened God’s Word with us this month. Thank you for everything you do!

As this is being written, many of our college students (and several individuals from our Champaign congregation) are embarking on a work team trip to Reynosa, MX. We trust that God is going with them and pray that the trip will be a blessing to everyone involved.

ILLSINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Sarah Drake

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana!

On February 17, we enjoyed a housewarming at the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Abbie Tabor. Even though the Tabors have been attending Champaign church for a while now, it was a joy to officially welcome them to our congregation.

Their family is a blessing to us!

On February 24, little Emlyn Elle Messner arrived to thankful parents Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kasey Messner. She joins sisters Alea and Maille. We pray God will give them wisdom and strength as they raise their family.

On March 9, we held our Sunday School Benefit Program/Dinner. The Mexican meal and program were admirably done and we thank the Sunday School students, teachers, and everyone involved in making the evening possible. We especially appreciated the memories shared by those who went on the mission trip.

Yesterday I received an ad in the mail. It was an invitation to an open house for a new spa named, “Reflections.” They were offering the latest procedures to enhance and alter my face and body to reflect a “younger” me. Ads and procedures such as these are not new, but what made me pause was the name of the spa – “Reflections.”

Note 2 Corinthians 3:18, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

This is transformation of our image! Imagine that you and I – flawed, aged, without beauty and full of sin – can be transformed into the image of the glory of the Lord. From the human viewpoint it seems impossible. Yet this change can come by the work of the Spirit in our lives…as we study the Bible, pursue Godly living, confess our faults and repent, and nurture the Spirit of the Lord in our being. Dare I suggest that the Apostle Paul unknowingly invited us all to the original beauty spa of the heart?

May God bless and encourage each one today.
Bible presentation. He reminded us that we are of great worth in God's sight, but also nothing without Him.

“So I’ll strive to be more humble, evermore be meek and kind; humbleness shall rule my actions, meekness dwell in heart and mind. In my manner and my being all my neighbors may be seeing that it is God’s Spirit’s might leading me to truth and right.” (Zion’s Harp #186)

Bros. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), James Fehr (Tremont, IL), and Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN) shared the Word of God with us when single brothers and sisters across Illinois gathered with us on March 3. The singing was truly beautiful. Whenever I hear beautiful singing, I always think that the angels’ singing in heaven is even more beautiful. How we long for that heavenly home.

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for sharing the memorandum with us and for sharing the Word with us on Sunday. May God bless him.

There are several in our congregation that continue to battle with health issues. We continue to keep them in our prayers.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Maria Currier**

**Erica Steffen**

“God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides us with un-erring hand;
Sometimes with tear-less eyes we’ll see;
Yes, there, up there, we’ll understand.”

**(Hymns of Zion #165 vs. 5)**

Our prayers have been with Bro. Harold and Sis. Ashley Schieber as their baby boy, Job, has been hospitalized for several weeks. May they feel the continued prayers of the brethren as they wait on the Lord’s will in hopes of being able to bring him home soon.

We extend our sympathy to those in our church who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Mary Schieber (Bro. Mike) & Sis. Janet Schrock (Bro. Ken) have felt the loss of their brother, Bro. Danny Overmyer (Sis. Carol, Francesville, IN). May the Lord comfort their hearts at this difficult time.

This month we have been blessed by many visiting ministers willing to be used by God to share the Word. Visiting ministers have included: Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL).

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Amy Gasser**

We were blessed with many visitors on February 24 for the wedding of Bro. Jeff Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Patsi) and Sis. Heidi Krueger (Mary and the late Jim). We thank Bros. Dan Beer and Randy Beer (Milford, IN) for serving us from God’s Word. In the afternoon, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. David Steffen conducted the wedding service. We wish Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi God’s blessings as they begin their life together.

Other visitors on the pulpit during the past month include Elder Bro. Doug Schock and Bro. Ryan Schock (both of Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Richard Schock, whose funeral was on February 23. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Lyla, six children, Sue (Doug) Kellenberger (Ft. Wayne, IN), Bro. Richard Schock II (Peoria, IL), Sis. Jeanne (Bro. Bob) Schambach, Laurie Schock, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Steve) Fischer (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Ted (Sis. Heidi) Schock (Belvidere, IL), grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bro. Richard will be missed by all.

Bro. Bill Wewetzer was a recent surgical patient. May God grant him a speedy recovery!

Bro. Kirk and Sis. Amanda Schambach became first-time parents on March 14, when little Judah Henry was born. His happy grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie Kellenberger and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach.

Elgin hosted ACYF on March 10 and 17. We thank all who helped to make the evening a blessing in song and praises to our great God.

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**

**Debra Blunier**

**Linda Rocke**

Although we rejoice to hear the true Word from our faithful brothers who serve us from the Eureka pulpit, we were also thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us, including Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford IL).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia Banwart and their family on the loss of Joel’s sister, Sis. Mabel (Peter) Weber of Peoria.

We are glad to hear that Morgan Blunier is recovering well after a serious surgery. Morgan, age 10, is the daughter of Merle and Amanda (Starkey) Blunier and granddaughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy (Ehnle) Blunier.

**Note of Thanks:**

Blessings to all who made our
25th anniversary so very special. The ‘surprise’ singing, the gifts and many cards were greatly appreciated. Our love to each of you. Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy Lou Leman

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Angela Herr
Janelle Stoller

We were thankful to have Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Dana Nieman (Remington, IN), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) minister God’s precious Word to us. May we continue to remember our ministers in prayer.

“This new being now arises, Having died with Christ before; What in Adam’s fall has perished Christ the Saviour did restore. Dearest child we bid thee welcome In our blessed brotherhood; From the wild tree thou art grafted On this holy tree and root.” (Zion’s Harp #34, verse 2)

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carissa Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel), Bro. Philip Kaeb, and Bro. Joseph Kaeb (late Bro. Eldon and late Sis. Stephanie Kaeb). We thank Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) for being with us this weekend and being willing laborers for the Lord.

Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. John Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) also shared God’s Word with us. We thank them for their efforts on our behalf, and may God be their rich rewarder.

Bro. David, Sis. Holly, Kaley, Brianna, Abigail, and Kamryn Mueller welcomed Alayna Jo into their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel, Sis. Connie Mueller (Bloomington, IL), and Chuck Mueller.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Carol Bazzell (Bro. Don), Gracie Edelman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karie), Sis. Melanie Teubel (Bro. Ed), and Sis. Betty Wiegand (Bro. Dick) as they have recently spent time in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer

“We rejoice with Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah Schieler, as they praise God for the birth of their new daughter, Alea Terese on February 18th. Alea’s happy siblings are Katelyn and Tyson. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger (Tremont, IL). We are thankful for her safe arrival. It is always a blessing to welcome these precious little ones.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Laura Wiegand welcomed a precious little girl, Molly Janeen, on March 15. Molly was welcomed home by MaryBeth, Anna, Alexander, and Marcus. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand and Bro. Denny and Sis. Beth Mott (Morton, IL).

Our congregation is so thankful for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm and their family as Bro. Jeff was ordained as Elder of our Goodfield church on February 23. May we continue to lift them up in prayer and encourage them along this path of service that the Lord has lead them. Assisting Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL).

On February 27 we listened to the reading of the memorandum. We were thankful that Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was able to be with us. May God bless the words brought forth through the Holy Spirit.

The Bible class held a Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction on Saturday, March 2 to raise money for their Jamaica trip. The Lord truly worked in the hearts of those who attended to have a giving heart. A large sum of money was collected to assist in the furtherance of spreading the Gospel.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday, March 6. We were thankful once again to see how God has provided in the past year
for our congregation. Our prayers are with Bro. Herman Glueck (Sis. Sarah), Bro. Jim Hartman (Sis. Ree), Bro. Caleb Wyss (Sis. Bethany), Bro. Darrell Stoller (Sis. Jennifer), Sis. Joan Plattner (Bro. Kurt), and Sis. Kristin Wettstein (Bro. Phil) as they have been selected to teach our precious youth of God and His son, Jesus. May they be filled with wisdom from above. Bro. Daryl Blunier (Sis. Lucy) was selected to serve on the Eureka Home Board, Bro. Alan Roth (Sis. Joanne) was selected as trustee, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Paula Hartman have agreed to be on our kitchen committee. We want to thank the teachers, trustees, and kitchen committee who have served their term they include: Bro. Josh Knapp (Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Bob Schieler (Sis. Ashley), Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Myra), Bro. Rod Hinrichsen, (Sis. Lynda), Sis. Judy Musselman (Bro. Gary), Sis. Holly Bauman (Bro. Dan), Sis. Deb Steffen (Bro. Dirk), Bro. Kris Swords (Sis. Heather), Bro. Sam Plattner (Sis. Pat), and Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall. May God bless them for all their time and effort.

On March 10 we had a blessed weekend of hearing the testimony of four dear souls and witnessing their baptisms. Our new sisters and brother in Christ are Sis. Maria Berardi (Bro. Randy and Sis. Ellie), Sis. Kaitlyn Rocke (Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha), and Bro. Tyler and Sis. Abbie Getz. We were thankful to have Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) assist Bro. Jeff Grimm with this weekend. May they continue to feel God’s direction in their life.

We are thankful that Bro. Ben Tanner has been able to come home. We continue to pray for him and his family as he deals with these health issues. We also lift up Sis. Shelley Rokey (Bro. Ben) as she has had some surgery recently. May God’s healing hand be upon them.

Laura Hinrichsen (Jim, Eureka, IL) passed away suddenly on February 20. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Jim and his family and the entire Hinrichsen family, as they mourn the sudden loss of a spouse, mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt.

Sis. Corrine Roth (Roy) went to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 11. We lift up Roy and his children: Jae Gerst (Mark, Mahomet, IL), Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike), Sis. Kenda Tauer (Bro. Ted), Sis. Krista Steffen (Bro. Brian, Gridley, IL), Sis. Shannon, Bro. Shawn, Sis. Kitty Herrmann (Bro. Ross), and Bro. Derek (Sis. Joy). May they feel God’s nearness. During this time of loss, we can also rejoice with Roy, as he has come to the foot of the cross in repentance. We pray that he can feel God’s nearness, direction, and comfort in the days ahead.

We appreciate the visiting ministers and their willingness to share God’s Word. We were blessed to have them this past month. They include: Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ).

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Jeff & Sis. Ruth would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support. He wants you to know they are available at any time during the day or evening if you need them. They are your servants and they love and appreciate each of you very much. They are also thankful for the support they have on the pulpit: Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg as our deacon, Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha, and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janel.

Sis. Carolyn Schlipf lost a
grandson, Matt Schweigert (Tremont, IL). Death brings sadness, but thanks to God we have brethren to help in bearing the burdens of sorrow.

**Note of Thanks:**

A note from the family of deceased Bro. Stan Ringger: “As I sit here trying to write this message, words fail me. There is no way to express how much this church family and brotherhood means to my family. My pen would run dry if I tried to list every kind deed that was shown to our family during the last two years. The sorrow of Stan’s passing has been lightened because of the love that our families and church family have shown us. Thank you so very much and may God bless each and every one of you.” Sis. Colleen Ringger, Bro. Jamin and Sis. Whitney Ringger, Bro. Seth and Sis. Jennifer Campbell, and Sis. LeaAnn Ringger.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON**

**Annette Tanner**
**Julie Bahr**

By the time this writing is printed, we will, once again, have celebrated our Risen Lord and Saviour on Easter. What a precious, precious privilege for us as mankind to be given this Gift of Forgiveness, Grace and Salvation! I was filled with emotion and inspiration as I recalled some of the many names of Our Awesome God: Alpha and Omega, The Beginning And The End, Son Of God, King Of Kings, Lord Of Lords, He’s Everything, Messiah, Jehovah, Prince Of Peace, Son Of Man, Seed Of Abraham, The Great I Am, Second Person Of The Trinity, He Is Lord! These are just a few to get our hearts stirred!

We are thankful for our visiting ministers who share the Gospel with us. Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN); Elder Brothers: Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL); Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL); and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) all gave of their labors. Bro. Jeff Neihouser gave our Family Worship topic «Storm Proof: 10 Life Principles for Jesus’ Teachings.»

Our love and sympathy is shared with the family of Marty Belsley (Roger) who passed away. She is a sister-in-law to our Sis. Joyce Hirstein (Bro. Ted) and our Sis. Joannie Endress.

We extend our deepest sympathy also to our Sis. Carol Schick (Bro. Stan) in the loss of her dear sister, Chris Frank.

Our dear Bro. Eldon Bauman has entered his Eternal home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Doris, two daughters and one son: Connie Bauman, Becky Kaiser and Frank Bauman. Our Sis. Dorthy Krantz (Bro. Jack), Mable Yentes, Sis. Bernice Knapp, and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter are his surviving sisters.

A sweet little baby boy, Maxwell Alan, entered the home of Tim and Amy Zimmerman. Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman and Bro. Mark and Sis. Esther Stephens are the thankful grandparents.

**Note of Thanks:**

We would like to say thank you for all the love and support given to them during their mother’s stay at Restmor and especially at the time of her passing. Words cannot express the thankfulness in our hearts for each one. We love all of you. Sis. Sarah Frank Family

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

**Pam Fritzenmeier**

Another precious daughter has blessed the family of Bro. Benj and Sis. Kristen Hodel. Marinn Juniper was born March 7, and is welcomed home by big sister, Jasper, and grandparents Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Marv and Sis. Gail Hodel.

Retired minister, Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr celebrated 65 years of marriage March 14! God’s blessings to this dear couple for their gracious example of a godly union.

Our monthly family hymn sing was held March 3. The Sunday school grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 sang some songs for us and everyone enjoyed singing together to praise our God.

Many thanks to Elder Bro. Paul (Sis. Jan) Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Fred (Sis. Diane) Funk (Morton, IL) for their visit and ministry.

A host of families have had to say goodbye to loved ones this past month. Sis. Martha Schaefer passed away February 17. She was the sister-in-law of Sis. Eva Jean Schaefer. Bro. Rich Schock’s father, Bro. Richard F. Schock (Elgin, IL) passed away February 19. Joy (Jay) Bao (Vista, CA) passed away February 28. She was the daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle. On March 3, Sis. Gladys (the late Bro. Nick) Knobloch passed away. Sis. Mabel Weber (Bro. Peter) passed away March 10. We extend our prayers and sympathy to all these families.


Many are suffering health issues and need our prayers: Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Sis. Betty Miller, Sis. Maria Graham, Sis. Dee

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Renee Hermann
Gloria White

We are always encouraged when we hear the Word of God. We thank our home church ministers who continually serve us. In addition, Bro. Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ted Witziz, Jr. (Morton, IL) have ministered to our needs this month.

February 23 was the wedding day for Tanya Wagenbach (Curt and Marybeth) and Shawn Puckett (Emmett and Reba) of Kewanee. We wish them God's blessing in their life together.

Happy first-time parents are Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann (currently serving in Mexico) to baby, Ivory Kay, born on March 4. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann and Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel of Champaign, IL.

Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne Herrmann have been blessed with a new grandchild, Charlene Ann, born to Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Herrmann (Kansas City, MO) on March 17.

Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier are thankful for a new grandchild, Marinn Juniper, born March 7 to Bro. Benj and Sis. Kristen Hodel (Peoria, IL).

Hospital patients needing our prayers this month are Bro. Vernon (Sis. Bernice) Stoller and Mary (Ron) Satsler.

May God be the great comforter to those who recently have lost their dear mothers. Bro. Keith (Sis. Lisa) Knobloch laid his mother to rest, Sis. Gladys Knobloch (late Bro. Nick). Others in the family are Bro. David (Sis. Judy) Knobloch (Bloomington, IL), Marsha (Alan) Koehler (Peoria, IL) and Cynthia (Dennis) Aupperle (Princeville, IL). Two foster sons, Bro. Dick (Sis. Jeanette) Gramm and Jesse (Misty) Hobbs of Tennessee.

Sis. Margie (Bro. Stan) Schick laid to rest her mother, Sis. Mabel Weber (Peoria, IL). Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Ginny Streitmatter in the passing of her brother, Bro. Eldon Bauman (Morton, IL).

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller celebrated their 60th anniversary on March 8. Bro. Eddie and Sis. Francis Knobloch observed their 50th anniversary on March 3. We wish them God's blessings each new day.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
James Hodel
Barb Schwind

James 1:17: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...”


On February 27, Bro. Bill Hohulin (Goodfield IL) presented our monthly topical Bible Study on Samuel Froehlich.

Proverbs 18:22: “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.”

March 3 was the wedding of Sis. Kaitlyn Isaia (Bro. Rich Isaia & Deanna Harrell) and Bro. Josh Ramsier of Sardis (Bro. Mark & Sis. Alice). We were thankful for visiting ministers: Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Bro. Robert Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. William Brake (Sardis, OH), and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH).

March 4 was our annual church cleaning, followed by our annual fellowship hall cleaning on March 11.

On March 9, our Sunday School held a spaghetti supper. We are thankful for all who helped to make this blessed evening.

“There's a tie of noble kinship, in a soul who loves the Lord, There's a friendship warm and lasting, if he heeds the Masters Word There is mutual understanding, and a sympathy so kind In the tie of Christian friendship, as on earth we oftimes find.” (Hymns of Zion #91)

March 10 was our monthly Family Sing held with the Eureka & Congerville congregations. What a blessed evening of worship and fellowship.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

“In your patience possess ye your souls.” (Luke 21:19)

Visiting Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) based his topical lesson for our Family Night service recently on this verse. We were encouraged to remain steadfast and have patient endurance in our lives. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) also visited.
recently and helped Bro. Steve read and review the Memorandum. May God richly reward them for their love and service to us.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel welcomed a new son-in-law into their family on March 1, 2013. Josh and Sheila (Beutel) Graber are at home in Morton, and we wish them God's continued blessings.

We pray for steadfastness and patient endurance for our Bro. Derek and Sis. Leann Sauder, as Bro. Derek has been hospitalized this past while. May God continue to grant them grace for each day.

There are new granddaughters to report! Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger welcome Alea Terese, baby daughter of Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah Schieler, Goodfield, IL. Katelyn and Tyson are her siblings. Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber welcome Chloe Mae, little girl born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl (Morris, MN). Crystal, Lewis, Archie and Allison will help with her care. And Sis. Kathy Rocke also has a new granddaughter, Rylee Rose. She is the first baby born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Maria Rocke, who are at home in Elgin, IA. May these parents be given much patience and wisdom as they rear these children in the fear of the Lord.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Marlene Prather
Jodi Fehr

“It is a month of blessing – to give, to grow, to praise, to pray, to grieve, to love.

The annual Loving Shepherd Ministries benefit auction offered us the blessing of giving to support orphans throughout the world.

Our brothers and sisters were blessed with new babies this month. Bowen Timothy Fehr was born to Bro. Drew and Sis. Jodi, and is welcomed home by big brother Teyden. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker (Eureka, IL) and Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr. Wesley Kent Hodel was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jolynn Hodel, and is welcomed home by big brothers, Drew and Landry. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Marjie Kaiser (Bloomington, IL) and Kent and Janet Hodel. May God bless these two dear couples as they raise their little boys.

On March 9, our church had a busy day. We hosted the annual World Relief Meeting and helped with the Eureka Home Benefit Auction. It was a busy day for all, and a true blessing.

Our Bible class hosted a mission trip fund raiser. Thank you to all, who helped, donated and gave of their time. Our young people will truly benefit from this.

Sis. Whitney Indermuhle was ill and is now recovering. May God continue to heal her.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter

It’s been a month of opportunity – to give, to grow, to praise, to pray, to grieve, to love.

The annual Loving Shepherd Ministries benefit auction offered us the blessing of giving to support orphans throughout the world.

Our brothers had the opportunity to grow in grace and victory during “Finding Freedom” day. Thanks to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for sharing, and to many other brothers who gave of themselves.

Ministering Bro. Neil and Sis. Kris Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) spent a blessed Sunday, sharing the Word with us.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb Gerber and family mourn the loss of her brother, Tom Freiburger.

Thanks to all who made ACYF at Purdue a memorable day for our young people. God was glorified and many friendships made that will last a lifetime.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lisa Aschliman had an unexpected trip home from Haiti for surgery on her broken leg. We're happy to see them so soon after we said good bye, but pray for a speedy recovery!

Bro. Charles Zorio and Bryan Aschliman (Bro. Skip and Sis. Connie) continue to deal with ongoing health concerns.

God has given the miracle and blessing of new life to the Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard family as they have welcomed 2 new grandchildren. Leo Gregory Reinhard arrived to grace the home of Ben and Hannah, and Shaelyn Rose Reinhard was added to the family of Bro. Mark, Sis. Angie, Kaitlee, Bria and Jace. Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford, IN) are Shaelyn's maternal grandparents.
Bro. Terry and Sis. Gloria Steffen are rejoicing with a new grandson, Hunter Cole Conrad, born to their daughter, Joy, and her husband, Rich.


“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Eph. 5:15-16)

Our dear Bro. Zach Bertsch had a surgical procedure to help him deal with the increasing pain of his cancer. Bro. Zach has been an inspiration to all who know him, as he has “redeemed the time” he has yet here on earth. From his cancer redemption project with LSM, to encouraging others in their daily walks, to being a loving husband and daddy, Bro. Zach has been faithful to the Lord. He challenges each of us, “What would you do if you had 6 months to live? Well, what’s stopping you from doing it right now?” The truth of our mortality is that we may actually have less than 6 months to live. Just because we don’t know for sure doesn’t make our calling any less urgent than Bro. Zach’s. We continue to hold him, Sis. Jenny, Zion, Moriah and their families up to our loving Heavenly Father.

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new… It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” (Rev. 21: 3-7)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longengerber
Amy Moser

“I do not work my soul to save for that my Lord hath done, But I’ll work as hard as any slave for the glory of God’s dear Son.”

We rejoice with convert Lindsay Beeks and her family, Bro. John and Sis. Laura, as she started her repentance in late February. Let’s be prayerful as she begins her walk with the Lord.

We mourn with Sis. Joyce (Bro. Steve) Fischer. Her father, Bro. Richard Schock of Elgin, IL passed away. His funeral was February 23. The mother of our Sis. Malinda Giltner (Bro. Rocky) also passed away. Sis. Judy Langhofer was laid to rest in Wichita, KS. May they feel the Lord’s loving comfort.

A Finding Freedom Day was held for married or engaged brothers, converts and friends on Saturday, February 16. This was a day of fellowship and speakers held at Kingdom Academy. Brothers were encouraged to become modern “Mighty Men of Valor.” A thank you to the speakers of the day: Bro. Jeff Leman, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Zach Bertsch. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) share God’s word with our congregation on February 17.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber

On Sunday, March 10, our High School students shared in a day of fellowship at West Lafayette for ACYF. We pray that this day will have eternal benefits for them.

Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) recently shared with our congregation and we are always thankful to have them visit.

Our prayers continue with our dear ones, Bro. Andre Neihouser (Sis. Lois), Jon and Sis. Diane Clevenger and Sis. Sharon Denton (Bro. Jim) as they all have had health concerns.

Nick Leman, son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam, was recently home on leave from the Marines. He has now been deployed to Afghanistan. We pray for the Lord’s protection as he serves in this capacity.

Bro. Richard Wuetrich, 80, (Sis. Nola) went home to be with our Lord Jesus. We extend loving sympathy to his dear wife of 60 years, Sis. Nola, as well as to the children and many family members. Children are Bro. Rick (Sis. Judy, Francesville, IN), Sis. Candy Meiss (Bro. Jim, Austin, TX), Sis. Connie Beer (Bro. Steve, Syracuse, IN), Sis. Robin Steffen (Bro. Jeff), and Bro. Randy (Sis. Stefanie) both of Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Richard had 17 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren who were dearly loved. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Rich’s siblings. Sisters are Theresa Von Tobel (Francesville, IN), Sis. Elizabeth Schambach (Elgin, IL), Sis. Glendoris Huber (Bro. Lester, Lexington, KY), Sis. Genevieve Schambach (Bro. Ed, Elgin, IL), Brothers are Willis (Marjean, Las Vegas, NV), Bro. Bob (Sis. Phyllis), and Bro. Chris Lee (Sis. Ruth) both of Francesville, a
sister-in-law, Sis. Barbara Wuethrich (the late Bro. Dave, Francesville, IN) and a brother-in-law, Bro. Eugene Huber (the late Sis. Millie, Francesville, IN). Other siblings who preceded him in death are Barbara Wuethrich, Wilma Stewart and Sis. Velda Overmyer. We also extend sympathy to his many extended family members, including nieces and nephews who were dearly loved.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks to each of our loved ones for your many deeds and acts of love and kindness shown to our family in the passing of our dear beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother, Danny. Your prayers, love and concern, food brought in, phone calls, and beautiful cards will always be remembered. May God bless each of you. The family of Bro. Danny Lee Overmyer

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Katy Frantz
Gail Bradford

In spite of the chilly weather and dreary Indiana days, our church is busy and full of life. We trust our Lord to faithfully guide us each day as we seek Him. All the way our Savior leads us!

On February 17, we celebrated the marriage of Bro. Philip Bertsch (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Patricia Bertsch and the late Sis. Rebecca Bertsch, Bluffton North, IN) and Sis. Jaimie Oppermann (Henry and Debra Oppermann, St. John, IN).

We were blessed to host The Heritage Quartet from Francesville on Saturday, March 2. Thank you to the quartet for honoring Christ with your voices, and blessing us with songs as well.

A Silent Auction Dinner held on Saturday, March 9 began with a chili dinner and ended with donations that would benefit the Sunday school mission trip. Many in our church donated trips, baked goods, babysitting, and other services and items.

Tessa Ann Levy was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Kate Levy on March 10, 2013. She has three proud older siblings: Cohen, Abe, and Lydia. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy.

Sis. Ginny Zeller hosted a Young Group/Seniors dinner on Saturday evening, March 16. The wonderful turnout blessed both the young people and the empty nesters in Indy.

Our church bade farewell to Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy during a reception following second service on Sunday, March 17. They will be moving to Colorado and attending the Denver church. We support their decision, knowing God is leading them, but we will miss them.

Bro. Peter Schroder (Sis. Penny) led a Bible study on February 27, covering the three epistles of Peter. On March 13, Bro. Ben Standish (Sis. Stephanie) taught a Bible study on 1 Thessalonians.

A special thanks to the minister who shared the Word with us during his visit to Indianapolis: Chad Huber (Sis. Pam, Francesville, IN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Julie Rocke
Meagan Frank

We have much to be thankful for this month. Springtime is creeping slowly upon the earth. Showers of rain and drifts of snow alternate to soften and moisten the earth to ready it for planting. It is good to be reminded that we need to constantly be preparing our hearts to receive the seed from the Word of Life that it can bring forth abundantly.

We warmly welcome the newest addition to our congregation. Adree Yvonne Frank was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Meagan on March 12. Big sister, Brielle, and loving grandparents, Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank and Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) warmly welcome her into their hearts and lives.

Also rejoicing in a new arrival are Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold. Granddaughter Zoey Lorraine joined the family of Bro. Fred, Sis. Kayla and Lincoln Manz (Junction, OH). We’re thankful for her safe arrival and pray God’s blessings upon them as well.

We are thankful for the healing given by the Master Physician to several of our loved ones this month. Hospital and surgical patients were Sis. Norma (Bro. Gene) Nuest, Sis. Connie Knobloch, Sis. Meagan (Bro. Brad) Frank, and Bro. Bill (Sis. Jo) Frank. May they continue to feel God’s nearness as each of them recovers at home.

Our annual Fellowship Weekend brought many visitors into our midst recently. The weekend was a blessing to each of us – even those who were not able to host! Thank you to the committee who served us an all-church dinner followed by a singing on Saturday evening. Sunday we enjoyed the services of Bros. Philip Schultz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). We trust they will feel God’s rich blessings as He once again provided for the truth to come forth with power and sincerity.

We also enjoyed a Wednesday evening service with Bro. Mike Thomas (Sis. Claudia, Valparaiso, IN).
We wish each of you a blessed Easter as we remember the ultimate sacrifice given by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May our hearts be tender and ready to grow the good seed and bring forth fruit according to His Word.

**INDIANA, LEO**

Kirby Reutter

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Did you ever wonder what it’s like to be the child of Gateway house parents? Hannah Beer is a 16-year-old convert. Her parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer, who serve as house parents at the Pine House. They have served in this capacity for the past four years.

A few months ago the Beers visited us in Ohio for a birthday celebration. This is the poem that Hannah shared with me. The poem is titled: “We Will Cope.”

*This rainy night,*

As shapes fly past the window,
I think of it.
It will change us.
Some change will be good, some hard,
And some just change.
I stare, unseeing,
My heart twisting in my chest.
When will it come?
So much uncertainty;
No one knows when it will come,
Just that it will.
Close ties may fade,
And I will give up some comfort,
But we will cope.
I have forgotten
What it’s like to be normal,
But we will cope.
Sometimes I am glad
That it will happen soon, not far-off.
It seems exciting.
But mostly I fear.
I fear change back to the normalcy

Which I no longer know.
This fear holds me.
It holds me from my future,
And pulls me down.
I am afraid.
I fear what will change by it.
What will happen?
But we will cope.
I, and my God, and my friends;
We will cope.”

Change is not just difficult for the children of Gateway house parents. Change is difficult for all of us, even seasoned believers. A great leader once said: “The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself.” An even greater leader once said: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear” (1 John 4:18). Despite our failings of faith, we can still be thankful that there is at least one constant in this universe: Jesus Christ and Him Crucified!

A different Beer family also recently came to visit us in Ohio. We sang the following hymn together. It’s called the “Family Prayer Song.” The second verse goes like this:

“Lord, we vow to live holy,
Bowing our knees to Thee, only.
Staying together,
Praying together,
Any storm we can weather,
Trusting in God’s Word.
We need each other:
Fathers and mothers,
Sisters and brothers,
In harmony and love.”

May these words also be the “Family Prayer Song” for the entire Apostolic Christian Family!

**INDIANA, MILFORD**

Janie Price

Jodi Beer

What a joy to witness the marriage of Sis. Heidi Krueger (Sis. Mary, Elgin, IL) to Bro. Jeff Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) on February 24. We welcome Sis. Heidi to our family of God and pray she may feel our love. May their life together be filled with the never-ending love we can absorb from our heavenly Father.

We shared an evening of fellowship as we gathered for our annual church auction. We thank those who serve so willingly and pray God will direct our hearts as we share His love and earthly gifts.

The love that caused Christ to die is the same love that sends the Holy Spirit in us to guide and direct us. Our congregation shared Holy Communion together. The amazing love Christ had for us that He shed His blood and gave His life for our sins can always strengthen us and stir our hearts with gratitude.

Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily Junction, OH) in serving communion. On Sunday, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla Lacrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna Remmington, IN) along with Elder Bro. Rick Plattner assisted Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter in a service to ordain Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb) to the duties of ordained deacon. Our church family united in praying for Bro. Randy and his family as he willingly gives of his God-given talents to shepherd our flock. Also worshipping with us that Sunday, we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita Gridley, IL) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel Latty, OH). We rejoice and are thankful for all who came to share the events with us.

The month of March brought many blessings as the Princeville choir journeyed to Milford to blend their voices in praises to God.

Psalm 59:17 “Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my...
defense, and the God of my mercy.”

Also with us on that Sunday was Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri). We can truly say we have shared the cup and praised His name.

**INDIANA, REMINGTON**
**Jenni Honegger**
**Marcella Tyler**

We are excited to announce the engagement of Bro. Mark Waibel (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody) to Sis. Anna Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette)! This is the first time in several years that two Remington members have become engaged. We are thankful and happy for them both. As they prepare for their wedding day, we pray that the Lord will bless Bro. Mark and Sis. Anna as they seek to redefine their relationship with each other through Christ’s love and example. We also are praying for Sis. Velda Beckley as she has recently spent time in the hospital. Our God is all-powerful, and we pray for His healing hand to be upon Sis. Velda to help her recover.

We are thankful to Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi) from Wolcott for his presence on our pulpit this month. Even though he’s not one of our “home” ministers, the ties that bind us together are close enough that it almost seems like he is. I so appreciate the special relationship we have with the Wolcott congregation and ministers!

Our Bible class recently spent the day at Purdue University for ACYF Day. It was a blessed day of seeing old friends, singing praises to God, and being refreshed with the nourishment of the Word. Our sincere thanks go out to all who worked so hard to make the day possible for our young people.
from Bluffton North.

Next Sunday will be our Easter Sunday, 2013. This time of year is especially dear to both Bob and me. We were married on April 14, which was Palm Sunday in 1946. We always look forward to our Easter Sunday, which celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We vividly remember the first Easter we spent together as man and wife 67 years ago. We ate our meal in the Army Mess Hall in Camp Knight, CA. It was different, but God was with us as he was all the rest of the Easters we have spent together. May our loving Lord and Savior be with each congregation that celebrates this Easter. We send our love to all of you, as we ask Him to bless you each day of your lives.

May you have blessings galore as you think of the love that preceded His great sacrifice.

Please visit us if you are in the vicinity. We would love to have you with us. Remember we are just 2½ miles south of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49.

INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE

Ben Stoller
Katie Widmer

The West Lafayette church was blessed by the conference report given by our elder Bros. Curt Frank and Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). We are thankful for the trip that they made with their wives (Sis. Lyla and Sis. Ronda) to share the evening with us. We are also so thankful for our elder body and the time that they spent prayerfully searching out God’s Word in addressing areas of responsibility that we should each take in our lives.

The PYG took a trip to Summer’s Gap Tennessee for our spring break mission trip. It was eye-opening to see the level of poverty experienced and a blessing to be able to help in some small way. Thanks to all who supported us at our fundraiser dinner beforehand and through prayer while we were on the trip.

We are excited for Bro. Bryon and Sis. Ashton Steffen and their daughter, Poppy, as they welcome little Lucette Mala into their family. Congratulations to our Br. Ed and Sis. Annette!

The Easter program was another precious blessing this year as the children joyfully proclaimed the name of Jesus. It may only be a few children up to sing, but their soft hearts and huge faith speaks volumes.

We praise God for the gift of His son this Easter season and pray that an understanding of His sacrifice and love would transform the way we live!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Beckie Lehman
Michelle Earney

We were thankful for the visiting ministers we had this month: Bros. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) and Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN). We were blessed by Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) with his topical Bible study on “The Sermon on the Mount.”

Our high school students enjoyed a day at Purdue for the annual ACYF. Our church received a nice reminder of what the Easter season is about with our Easter program. Everyone was blessed by the students’ willing hearts to sing joyfully unto the Lord.

IOWA, AMES

Jacob Schulz

We had a visiting minister one Sunday and one Wednesday night this month. We would like to thank Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA) for bringing forth the Word. May God bless them for their willing service.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Teresa Schock

We were glad to have Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) with us February 24. We thank him sincerely for coming and ministering to us.

For our Invite-a-Friend weekend, we had two visiting ministers: Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). We are thankful they took the time to come and be with us. We thank all our visitors for spending the weekend here. It was a blessing for all.

Sis. Shirley (Bro. Joel) Wuthrich was in the hospital for a knee replacement. We are glad she is now at home.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson
Monica Eisenmann

“We preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this month: Bros. Tom Lanz and Dale Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Ned Bahler (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We appreciated their visits!

We gathered at the Oakville-Mediapolis church to hear the conference report from Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) this past month. It was a very blessed evening. May God richly bless them for their labors on our behalf.
**IOWA, ELGIN**  
Maria Rocke

Bro. Dean & Sis. Maria Rocke are thankful for their little blessing, Rylee Rose. She was born March 12 and is doing well after an extended hospital stay. Her grandparents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer and Sis. Kathy Rocke (Tremont, IL).

**Note of Thanks:**

Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer wish to extend their appreciation for the many cards, thoughts and prayers in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
Laura Funk

Visiting Garden Grove and bringing the God’s Word were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Increasing the blessings were the visitors that accompanied these brothers. We enjoyed and appreciate the fellowship!

Elder Bro. Doug Schock and Bro. Brad Funk, Deacon presented and meditated on the Memorandum recently. May we prayfully incorporate the many teachings and examples that were identified for us to use in our daily lives.

“I suffered much for thee,  
More than thy tongue can tell,  
Of bitt-rest agony,  
To rescue thee from hell;  
I’ve borne, I’ve borne it all for thee,  
What hast thou borne for Me?”  
(Hymns of Zion #115 vs. 3)

In the recent past, we specifically remembered Jesus’ death and suffering. What have you and I borne for the Savior?

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
Diana Butikofer

We are thankful for the two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss (Eureka, IL) and their family shared a Sunday with us. Elder Bro. Wayne & Sis. Rose Grimm (West Bend, IA) spent a weekend with us. Bro. Wayne assisted our Bro. Joe Gerst with the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday evening and then shared God’s Word with us again on Sunday. We trust the Lord will bless these brothers for their labors.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
Joyce Moser  
Gloria Moser

“All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful. The Lord God made them all.”  
(Hymns of Zion #207)

A precious baby boy, Khye Howard, was born on March 3 to first-time parents, Bro. Ross and Sis. Abby Mogler. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois Mogler and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS). May God bless this family with His wisdom and nearness as they raise their child to know His love.

Bro. Larry Leuthold (Sis. Mardi) is improving at home following a surgical procedure. May God be near him as he recovers.

“This union of our hearts, Shall stand through grace in Jesus: We walk the path of life, While cheer and trust increases. Where God in truth abides, Where two join hand and heart, We find a three-fold cord, Not lightly rent apart. “(Zion’s Harp #79)

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With thankfulness, our congregation witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Sue Knoblock (Bro. August and Sis. Florence) and Elder Bro. Rod Bajema on February 17. We certainly wish them God’s blessings as they sojourn life’s pathway together. Our appreciation is extended to the many visiting elders and ministers who were with us to preach the gospel message and to share in this joyous occasion. They included: Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
Sharla Wiegand

An open house at our new church building was held February 23. It was an opportunity to welcome the community and explain church practices. We also welcomed brothers and sisters from various congregations. The dedication of our new church to the glory of God was performed by Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) also labored on our behalf.

Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) shared in the reading of the Memorandum to the Oakville and Burlington churches on March 2. We appreciate the love and concern these dear shepherds show us. Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) also shared the Word on Sunday.
Three new lambs were welcomed into the fold on March 10. Sharing their testimony of faith were Raiann Lanz (Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia), Brittney Lanz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary) and Torri Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Stefanie). Helping with this important work was Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA).

Note of thanks:
We would like to express our heartfelt thank you to all for your prayers, cards, meals, visits and many deeds of kindness shown to us these last few weeks. May God richly bless each of you for your expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

Bro. Robert Frank family

IOWA, WEST BEND
Yvonne Bruellman
Becky Virkler

Bro. Darin and Sis. Twila Massner have been blessed with a sweet baby, Ava Ann. She joins siblings Aaron, Benjamin, Cloe, Seth and Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart. We all thank God for His presence and nearness in Sis. Twila’s extended hospitalization.

On March 10, ministering Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA) was among our visitors. We appreciate his willingness in bringing forth the Word of God. May God bless the spoken Word and Bro. Merlin.

Bro. Denton Knobloch (Sis. Rose) is a hospital patient at the time of this writing. We pray God’s healing hand will rest on him. Recovered from surgery and returned home are Sis. Lainey Banwart (Bro. Joshua), Sis. Helen Anliker (Bro. Leonard) and convert Tyler Schmidt (Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly). God’s healing is truly a blessing.

“We are going down the valley one by one.”

Our sympathy is extended to Dave and Laurie Schneider in the death of Lauries’ mother, Helen Garber. We also extend sympathy to Sis. Joyce Banwart and Sis. Lucille Schmidt (Bro. Dwaine) in the loss of their sister, Sis. Mabel Weber (Bro. Peter, Peoria, IL). God has called home Sis. Ruth Sigsbee from our congregation. Left to mourn the loss of their mother are Sis. Ruth’s sons: Robert Jr. of Algona, IA and James (Deborah) of Sioux Center, IA and Sis. Ruth’s daughters: Judy (Tim) Boyd of Algona, IA and Muriel (Martin) Secker of Auburn, CA.

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die.” (Ecclesiastes 3:1,2)

May God comfort each soul that is in sorrow.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

JAPAN, TOKYO
Manuela Denes
Marie Inoue

We are enjoying warm days now and then as signs of spring are appearing. The cherry blossoms (non-fruit bearing) are just beginning and soon will be spreading their beauty everywhere. But this beauty does not compare with the precious and beautiful true story of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. As we prepare for our Easter program and singing at two nursing homes may the Lord guide our thoughts as we meditate and review the scriptures explaining His great love for us, even to die and shed His blood for our sins, and greater yet to arise the third day. May those who hear the story for the first time have a desire to believe this saving faith.

About a month ago, we sent cheer cards made by the Bluffton and Bluffton North Sunday School children to many residents living in temporary housing in Fukushima-Ken resulting from the earthquake 2 years ago. We recently received loving thank you notes from these residents expressing their joy in receiving the cards. These will in turn be translated and sent to the Bluffton children. May God bless each one for their part in this card ministry.

Many prayers ascended to the throne of our Lord during the severe illness and death of our dear friend, Joy Ehnle Bao of San Diego, CA. Our love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to her husband, Jay, and children: David and Emily. Also to her parents, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle, her brother, Tom and her sister, Jewel Maeda, and their families as they will truly miss their loved one. May the Lord provide comfort as only He can in the days ahead as they keep “precious memories” of Joy in their hearts.

KANSAS, BERN
Rita Menold
Jill Meyer

“What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus, to feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.

In all the earth there is no higher standing than this—to follow in the Savior's ways.

What all the world could never give, a lamb of Jesus will receive.”

(Zion’s Harp #16)

We were thankful to welcome two new lambs to the fold on the weekend of March 9-10. It was a blessing to hear the testimonies and
witness the baptisms of Sis. Olivia and Sis. Tabitha Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim). May they always feel God’s nearness as they continue in their walk with Him. Our thanks are extended to our Sabetha ministers, Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara) for being with us on that Sunday.

Christian fellowship is always a blessing and we were able to experience that on our “Invite-a-Guest” weekend March 2-3. We especially thank Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL) for being here and ministering to us. May God bless him for His efforts.

Special appreciation is given to all those who helped with the annual church cleaning on March 4. It always reminds us that spring is on the way and it is time to renew and refresh. May we do this not only physically, but also spiritually as we become refreshed in the Word and cleanse and purify our hearts. Spring is such a wondrous time of year when we can witness new life all around us. We are so grateful for the “new life” that Jesus has offered to us through His sacrifice!

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart
Spring is here. A sign of new life and new birth everywhere. Are we not blessed to have such a promise for life everlasting from our Heavenly Father through His grace! We appreciate and are thankful for the visiting ministers and their families who came to share God’s Word and fellowship with us. Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber) from Taylor, MO and Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane) from Lamont-Gridley, KS shared with us.

KANSAS, LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder
We thank ministering Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) for his willingness to bring God’s Word to us one Sunday when there was only one minister at home.

We are glad that Bro. Lloyd Luthi was able to come home after being in the rest home for several months. Our church was blessed with company for an Invite-a-Guest weekend on March 3. Those who labored in ministering God’s Holy Word were Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

KANSAS, SABETHA
Dawn Strahm
Sally Strahm
“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

We rejoice and are thankful that Mark and Kari Hertzel are repenting. May God wrap His loving arms around them as they begin this walk with Him. Their parents are Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzel and Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye Meyer.

It was a blessed weekend when we heard the provings and witnessed the baptism of two souls, Bro. Elijah Hartter (Bro. James and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Whitney Grimm (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene).

Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) were with us to help in this work. We pray that they may stay grounded upon the Rock of our Salvation, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger are thankful for another grandson, Khye Howard Mogler. Khye’s parents are Bro. Ross and Sis. Abby Mogler (Lester, IA).

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. In our midst this month were Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. DonnaLou, Gridley, IL).

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Wyatt Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia), Ezekiel Beyer (Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla), Bro. Cal Weiss (Sis. Dena) and Bro. Harvey Wenger. May God’s healing hand be upon each one of them.

It was a blessing to be able to host an invite-a-guest weekend the weekend of March 16 and 17. We appreciate those who traveled from a distance to be with us.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.” (Proverbs 31:10)

We think of our earthly mothers as Mother’s Day draws near. We are
thankful for all they do for us.

“God with us! We need not fear;
Jesus crowns with life eternal;
Faithful let us be while here,
Till God ends our pilgrim journey;
Trumpets for the conflict sound;
Up, ye valiant, stand your ground!
See, our Saviour leads the way;
Triumph marks His ev’ry footstep;
Follow Him in glad array
Bravely with courageous effort!
Though he leads through blood and death,
Heroes never lose their faith.
We behold the heav’nly throng
Who in ages past have suffered
Persecution, hate, and wrong,
Who for God their lives have offered;
Look beyond, behold their course;
Strive as they, to heaven’s doors.”
(The Supreme Sacrifice, Zion’s Harp #100)

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

God’s Holy Word was proclaimed again expounding many unsearchable riches of His wisdom and knowledge. We were most thankful for visiting ministers: Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) and their family, Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann), and Bro. Mike Walder (Sis. Susie) and some of their children, all from Smithville, Ohio. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless and reward these dear servants of His for serving us.

We were saddened to hear of Dan and Denise Henderson’s plans to relocate and move to Springfield, MO to be with their family on April 4. We have appreciated these dear ones’ support and fellowship for many years. May God’s special blessings rest upon them and may Joshua 1:9 be a comfort and encouragement to them, ...

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid; neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Josh. 1:9)

We will miss them. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Glendoris Huber and her family in the passing of her brother, Bro. Richard Wuethrich (Francesville, IN). Bro. Rich will be remembered for his joyful spirit to encourage and minister to others around him.

God’s Formula for Victory
To win the battle, we must surrender. (Matt. 16:24-26)
To find strength, we must be weak. (2 Cor. 12:9,10)
To gain, we must lose. (Philippians 3:7,8)
To live, we must die. (Galatians 2:20)
To be first, we must be last. (Mark 9:35)
To be exalted, we must be abased. (Matt. 23:12)
To be chief, we must be servant. (Matt. 20:26,27)
To reign, we must suffer. (2 Tim. 2:12) (author unknown)

May we be willing to suffer as Christ did on the cross of Calvary, that “we may be given the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We welcome all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions are in the Minister’s Book.

MEXICO, IXTLÁN
Matt Gerber

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” (1 Pet. 4:8)

Please pray that Sis. Carmen Cervantes could feel God’s comfort in the passing away of her sister Lidia from cancer.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman and Sis. Deb visited for an extended weekend. Bro. Mike reminded the church of the need for dependence on the Holy Spirit and encouraged us to love each other as brethren.

Ivory Kaye Herrmann was born March 4 to Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah. Ivory spent a week and a half in the hospital since she was premature, but is now home and doing well. Special thanks to all who were praying.

Bro. Lalo and Sis. Silvia have moved back from Queretaro to Ixtlan.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA
Stephanie Rinkenberger

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:38-39)

We are thankful for the abundance of visitors we have had over these past few months!

In November we rejoiced with the baptisms of two converts: Sis. Daniela Robles (Magdalena, MX) and Sis. Jessica Roque (Ixtlan, MX). Elder Bro. Mike Leman and Sis. Deb (Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk and Sis. Debra
(Peoria, IL), as well as Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, MX) were present for the weekend. We also enjoyed hosting the Thanksgiving work team from Denver (and many other churches!) who served the annual Thanksgiving meal to more than two hundred community members.

December was blessed with the engagement of Bro. Zach Knobloch (Peoria, IL) to Sis. Daniela Robles (Magdalena, MX). They will be married March 2013 in Magdalena where they plan to make their home. We also welcomed the arrival of Bro. Jason Grassi to our Magdalena church family. A team from Forrest, IL helped us celebrate the end of 2012 and bring in the New Year!

In January we hosted a team from Cissna Park, IL, and in February we appreciated the team from Gridley, IL. We are thankful for the communion and energy the teams bring!

We are grateful for your prayers for our elderly Sis. Doña Rosa, who continues to struggle with health issues. We look forward to the Easter season and sharing communion this next month. May God be glorified in His work here!

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Melissa Blough

This time of year is filled with much promise and hope as we see the sunshine and the colors of spring start to pop from the cold, dirt below. This season reflects the heart of a changed creation, a Christian. Once a cold, hardened heart as the ground in the winter’s freeze yet at the touch of Christ’s love and truth the heart begins to thaw, seeds grow and fresh plants of color and life poke up in the tender, tiled soil of the heart.

Let us remember to take moments this spring, pause and thank the Lord for His gifts and mercies. He died and arose…an amazing love for every soul:

"The sun did not rise
Because I woke up
I woke up because
The Son
Rose many years ago
It may seem like an old worn out story
But just think
Did I bring the sun up in the West?
Did I give the bird its song?
Did I form the dew drops upon the grass?
How big is this God from little to small?
I am not the center of the universe
Just another small part
Completing His intricate puzzle
The sun did not rise
Because I woke up today
My lungs did not expand at my command
Life continues to move
Things change
How much do I control?
Faith and prayer my journey starts
Release of human power drive
I leave it in His hands
No better place
He created it all, gave it all
The sun did not rise
Because I woke up each day
I woke up
Because the Son rose the third day."

With much joy, Martin and Veronica Hoeksma welcome home their baby son, Johannes Albert. Sophia and Cece are thrilled to have a brother as well. Our prayers are with them as they grow and seek Godly wisdom.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We rejoice with Sis. Natasha Schlatter (Bro. Jay & Sis. Carola) as she has professed peace with God and man and has made a covenant with God in baptism. We are thankful for the many visitors who were here for the weekend. They include visiting ministers: Bro. Todd Graff (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Kitchener, OH) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN). We are also thankful that Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) was able to be here for Natasha’s testimony.

The family of Bro. Floyd Knochel invited our congregation to an open house to celebrate his 90th birthday at the beginning of March. We are thankful that God has blessed Bro. Floyd with many blessed years!

Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie Knochel are thankful for two new grandchildren. Elise Ann was born to their daughter, Jennifer and Jordan Winter. One of their other daughters, Ashley and Paul Reusch, welcomed William “Liam” Victor into their home just a few days later.

We also rejoice with Scott Schmidt (Mike and Sis. Cheryl) with his marriage to Summer Sabias. We are thankful for this young couple and pray for God’s nearness in the days ahead.

Our prayers are with Bro. Gene Meylan (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Mabelle Wackerle as they spent time in the hospital recently.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”

(Romans 15:13)
MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Krista Wieland

My grandmother has always been an inspiration to me and also a friend and continues to be, even though we live hours apart. Our phone conversations are a priceless part of my life. These phone conversations have changed some over the years. When I was a teenager struggling with problems, I would call my grandma to complain about how difficult my life was. Without fail, she would respond by telling me to “go do something for someone else and you will feel better”. It used to make me so mad that she did not feel sorry for me!

As I grew older (and hopefully a little wiser) I began to realize how true this was: when I am thinking about my seizures, lack of safety, and not driving, it results in self-pity and hopelessness. When I do something for someone else, no matter how small it is, I forget about me and think about them. This causes gratitude and hope to return. Without hope we have nothing and even as born-again believers, I would guess that most of us at one time or another felt a loss of hope. I am not minimizing the reality of horrible trials people are going through or the value of counseling and medication. But I have learned that this Biblical piece of advice never fails. Thanks, Grandma!

We continue to be prayerful for our beloved Allen family: Bro.Pat, Sis.Jeanie, Ann-Marie and Cody and Luke as Sis.Jeanie is now under hospice care. We are thankful that Abraham and Sarah Nolan have been announced and will share their testimonies in the near future. Our prayers are with them as they continue to seek God’s perfect will for their lives. We are grateful for them and how they have blessed our church.

We extend our sympathy to the families of Elder Bro.Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr, Sis.Eloise Bahr, and Bro. Phil and Sis.Dawn Bahr in the death of Bro.Mark and Bro.Phill’s sister, Martha Belsley(Blomington, IL). We also want to remember her husband, Roger; daughter, Nicole (Champaign, IL); and son, Marcus (Morton, IL) in our prayers.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Betty Rassi Lindwall

It was a real privilege to share Communion together and to experience God using Bro. Lynn (Sis. Leonda) Stieglitz (Leo, IN) to take us into the Upper Room as we remembered Christ’s Supper with the disciples.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)

What a joy it was to listen to the children as they sang and recited verses for our Easter program.

Bob Schmidgall, Bros. Rick Messner, and Dewayne Dill traveled to Alabama to assist with the reconstruction there. Bro. Dewayne also went to Haiti as a part of SEED Ministries and taught ruminant nutrition and worked in the veterinary clinic. May God continue to bless them for their service. May God’s healing hand continue to be on my co-writer, Sis. Brenda Messner, as she goes through treatments and returns to good health.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Pfaffmann

We are blessed to have beloved brethren travel the many miles to visit and share the Word with us. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL) and Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN). May God bless them for their labors in sharing the Word!

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:28)

Elder Brother Bill Schlatter reminded us to examine ourselves as the time of remembrance approaches.

On March 9, Bro. Lafe & Sis. Kristen Grimm had a baby girl, Bryn Marie. Welcoming her home is big sister, Bria. Grandparents are Bro. Rod & Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabatha, KS) and Merle & Jean Spohr (Morris, MN).

MINNESOTA, MORRIS NORTH
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm

It’s been a long winter in Minnesota. But, as I write this month’s article, I realize that tomorrow (according to my calendar) is Spring. It seems that God has another plan this year. Winter has been long and it seems that wherever you go someone is saying, “I can’t wait till Spring”. The thought came to me.....”if all
of us are so anxious of a change of the season...are we that excited to see the Creator of those seasons?” I believe that God certainly talked to me and caused me to remember where I need to be putting my focus and to get ready for that time of the season when He will come again.

We were so blessed to have our Elder Bro. Paul (Sis. Jan) Messner, Winthrop, MN; Elder Bro. Bill (Sis. Emily) Schlatter, Junction, OH; Bro. Dwayne (Sis. LaRae) Dill, Minneapolis, MN; and Bro. Wes (Sis. Esther) Moser, Lester, IA visit our congregation. Bro. Paul and Bro. Bill also shared the memorandum with our church. Thank you, brothers, for sharing the Word and for fellowshipping with us. We certainly appreciate all who come to visit us and also appreciate our home ministers who labor so unselfishly.

Sis. Amanda (Carter) Feuchtenberger and their son, Eli, both have had hospitalization and surgery procedures this past month. We are happy they have felt God’s healing hand.

Many from our church enjoyed singing at Skyview Plaza and West Wind Village. Those that cannot go out like they used to really appreciate the beautiful singing. “Singing with joy in your hearts to the Lord.” Hymn singing is part of the rich heritage we have. It really warms our hearts to see our children singing with such zeal. Yes, they are learning from us the importance of worshipping in song, but we are learning from them the importance of becoming like a little child. We are a blessed people.

As you are planning your summer vacation, please accept our invitation to come to Morris North!

MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER
Mark Stork

We were blessed this month by those willing to bring us God’s Word. Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) was here for our Sunday service and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) was here for our Wednesday evening service. It is always a blessing to hear God’s Word. The next scheduled Sunday service is May 5 and the next scheduled Wednesday evening service is May 15.

We currently have openings at the Guest House for any that would have a need. For more information or to make a reservation see the back of this issue.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Rebecca Messner
Heather Steiner

We rejoice with Ann Lind (Dan) as she has peace with God and man. What a blessing for her as well as the whole church! It’s so beautiful to observe God’s miraculous work in the hearts of man.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) joined us for the reading of the Memorandum. It was a blessed weekend, and we were grateful for his willingness to serve us. May God be his rich rewarder.

The family of Kenny Howk has been in our prayers through his illness and since his passing. We wish that God’s comforting Spirit will work in hearts.

May we each one be faithful to our great God!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)
want to thank God for all the many blessings He sends us.

Easter will be here soon and we praise God for sending His Son, Jesus to die in our place, for the remission of our sins and then arose from the grave so we can have eternal life. God is charge of everything, but He gives us the choice whether or not we will serve Him.

On March 16, Elder Bro. Ted (Sandra) Steffen and family from Alto, MI came to help with Communion and also to minister to us on Sunday. We appreciate Bro. Ted's willingness to come assist in the Lord's Supper. Retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm was also able to come to Communion which was special because he hasn't been able to come to church for quite some time due to health issues.

We were saddened to hear that Sis. Katie (Bro. Adam) Reinbeck's grandfather passed away. May God give her and her family comfort.

Bro. Don (Sis. Elaine) Hoerr and Bro. Arnie (Sis. Marge) Gerst continue to receive treatment for cancer. Also Sis. Marion (late Bro. Lyle) Pflum is recovering at home from her knee surgery and stroke. All three request your continued prayers in their behalf.

We welcome Bro. Matt Kaehr (Bluffton, IN) to our congregation. We are thankful for his addition to our church family!

Our prayers have been with Bro. Al Weigele (Sis. MaryAnn) as he was hospitalized this month. We trust he can feel our love and prayers and, even more, God's nearness and strength.

We are very thankful to have more souls seeking the Lord in repentance. Our new converts are Brandon Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elvira), Benjamin Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan), and Donna Dotterer (Keith). We are so thankful and prayerful for each of them as they take this most important step of faith.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land. But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”
(Isaiah 1:18-20)

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Lauren Rufener

“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”
(2 Thes. 2:13)

We welcome Bro. Matt Kaehr (Bluffton, IN) to our congregation. We are thankful for his addition to our church family!

We appreciate visiting ministers Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City, IA) for bringing God's Word to us.
OHIO, JUNCTION  
Vicki Boroff

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) help Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with communion and stay for the weekend. We also appreciated having Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) minister to us this month.

Two babies joined our church family recently. Shawna Joy was born February 20 to Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller, Latty, OH and Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn, Latty, OH. Zoey Lorraine was born March 17 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Kayla Manz. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz, and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold, LaCrosse, IN.

Our prayers go out on behalf of Sis. Kallie Manz who spent some time in the hospital.

We rejoice to hear of a soul turning to the Lord this month! Morgan Stoller (Bro. Kirk and Sis. Eileen) started repenting. We continue to keep him in our thoughts and prayers!

We keep Sis. Carol Stoller (Bro. Ray) in our prayers after her recent knee surgery.

We appreciated the ministers who visited us this month. Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise Manz (Junction, OH) visited on our Invite-A-Guest weekend, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller (Remington, IN) served us on the pulpit and we sincerely thank them!

OHIO, LATTY  
Carmen Stoller  
Mindy Stoller

This month, as always, God has been very good to us! We have been blessed with the birth of two healthy babies. Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller (Junction, OH) welcomed little Shawna Joy on February 20. Happy Grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller, Latty, OH and Bro. Walt and Sis. Renee Sinn. Jake and Ashley Sinn welcomed Mox Jacob on March 3. Proud grandparents include Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn. We rejoice with these couples and pray God will bless these little ones and their families.

We rejoiced to hear of a soul turning to the Lord this month! Always a bright spot during the winter months, World Relief Days were held March 11 & 12. During this event, 15,825 bags of rice pilaf, 100 Red Cross kits, and 450 health kits were packed for Mexico. In addition, various sewing projects including backpacks and comforters were completed. Thank you to all who organized and worked to make this special project a success and blessing!

We were so thankful for a weekend of blessings from the Spirit, as we remembered our Savior's sacrifice through Holy Communion. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) shared the evening and following day of worship with us. May God richly bless their efforts and the inspiring messages we received.

OHIO, MANSFIELD  
Elizabeth Walter

Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones this month. At the time of her death, Sis. Dorothy Durkin was the oldest sister-in-faith in our church. After 99 years, she was blessed to go on to her eternal reward. We remember her children: Marlene Durkin, Richard (Evie) Durkin, Judy Custer, and her son-in-law, Robert Fidler. We will also greatly miss the presence and example of our Bro. Adam Baumann. May God's comfort be with his son, Jacob Baumann. We extend our sympathy to Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker, in the unexpected loss of their brother-in-law, Ray Herr.

We rejoice with Bro. Chad and Sis. Tami Griffey as the adoption of Faith Nicole was finalized on March 5. Faith is 2 years old and joins excited big sister, Kaitlyn. Also thrilled are grandparent's Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker, and Paul and Bernie Griffey.

May God's healing hand be with Bro. Dave Eylerly (Sis. Edna) and Gary Sauder (Vicki), as they have both spent time in the hospital this month. We remember Sis. Melinda Matuch in prayer as she is also struggling with illness.

OHIO, RITTMAN  
Anna Bauman  
Julia Zollinger

“Thus united and in concord Let us walk the path of life; Hand in hand, O may love bind us For each other's welfare strive.”  
(Unity, Zion's Harp #237)

March 3 was a special day for our church with the ordination of Bro. Art (Sis. Bonnie) Ingold as elder. Our prayers are with Bro. Art and his family as he takes his place as under-shepherd of our flock. We appreciate those who came to serve us that weekend. They included Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH). Ministering brothers were Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dale
Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN), Ron Palitto (Akron, OH). That evening we gathered to partake of Holy Communion. We all felt united as we remembered our Lord’s death.

February 18 was the birthdate of Hadleigh Caroline, born to Steve and Lisa Widmer. Excited siblings are Parker, Eilash, and Elin. Grandparents are Kevin and Diane Schlabach and Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer.

Bro. Chet and Sis. Jenny Manz (Toledo, OH) rejoiced in the safe arrival of their first child. Kylie Elizabeth was born on February 3. Grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Kathy (Junction, OH) and Sis. Diana Raifsnider.


Recently hospitalized were Bro. Neil (Sis. Donna) Gasser, Bro. Ed (Sis. Anita) Riggenbach, Bro. Jack (Sis. Delores) Maibach and Sis. Pat (Bro. Rich) Steiner. Our prayers are with each one during this time.

We wish God’s comfort and nearness to the family of Sis. Nina Rufener who passed away on February 18. Her children are Chris (Denny) Huddleston, Bro. Ron (Sis. Kay) Rufener, Bro. John W. (Sis. Emily) Rufener.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Henico welcomed a baby girl, Mia Ruth, into their family on February 22, joining siblings: Ariana, Dexter, and Gibson. Grandparents of this precious bundle are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah (Akron, OH) and Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman. Hospital patients this past month were Sis Connie Maletich (Bro. Dave), Sis. Dawn Maibach (Bro. Steve), Bro. Dana Riggenbach, Sis. Luella Stoller, and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim). We certainly pray for God’s healing on behalf of these dear brothers and sisters.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Bro. Bob Ramsier (Sis. Inez) in the passing of his sister, Sis. Arlene Ramsier (Rittman, OH).

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN). We appreciate your service in the ministry and your willingness to share the Good News to all that have ears to hear.

On March 9, our congregation partook of Holy Communion together. We thank Bro. Mike Lehman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for coming to assist on this special occasion. We are thankful for his exhortation to take time for remembrance of Christ’s sacrifice each day.

“We place myself in Jesus’ hands And there abide forever; No griefs, no joys, shall loose the bands, Nor yet our union sever! In these dread days when earth decays, Who stays in Him and thus obeys Shall be preserved forever.” (Zion’s Harp #177)

Many from our congregation traveled to Roanoke, IL, to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Josh and Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier and sing this hymn for them as they became husband and wife. There can be no better beginning to the unknown years and events ahead in a marriage when its foundation is started and built on Jesus Christ, and all confidence is placed in Him. We wish Josh and Kaitlyn the deepest of God’s blessings as we remember them in our prayers and look forward to having them visit us often.

Many of us have experienced the lifelong friendships that start in the Single Group. We were happy to be able to host a few visiting here in Sardis. We all have so many opportunities to encourage and learn from our Single Groups in different ways as they continue to grow in their faith and relationship with the Lord.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Sara Crist
Kara Stoller

Our church rejoices along with the angels that Anita Fetzer has seen her need to repent of her sins and turn to Jesus for salvation! Anita’s parents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Elizabeth Fetzer. Praise God that souls are still answering the invitation to come unto Him.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11: 28-30)
This past month we had our annual invite-a-friend weekend. We greatly appreciated the fellowship from those who came to visit. It is always a blessing to meet those of like mind and faith and be reminded how privileged we are to have this as a part of our fellowship. We also were blessed to hear the Word from Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) who assembled with us that weekend. May God bless him for his service.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) came on a Thursday evening to share an update from the elder forums and Winter Conference. We’re so thankful for all the work the elders do on behalf of the church and continue to remember them in our prayers.

Kurt Rager recently spent time in the hospital. We trust the Lord will continue to care for him and for all those in need of His healing.

Sorrow has come to Sis. Tami Dettwyler (Gary). Her brother, Chuck Sprauer, recently passed away. We pray for comfort for her and her family.

We have missed Bro. Denver Slagel as he has spent time in Magdalena, MX. His plans are to relocate there. We wish him well in his desire to serve those in need.

February 23 and 24 was a big weekend for testimonies and baptisms. We welcome Sis. Evelyn Hari, Bro. Greg and Sis. Susan Stadeli, Sis. Teresa Tribbett (Bro. Mark and Sis. Anne-Marie), and Bro. George Kaufman (Melvin and Sally Kaufman). Assisting Elder Bro. John Wiegand was Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) from Remington, IN.

Sis. Marian Sinn recently had surgery for colon cancer and is back home recovering. Sis. Evelyn Hari is dealing with a lot of pain due to her health condition, and is unable to attend church. We pray for our Father’s care for both of them.

March 2 we enjoyed a Haitian meal of rice, beans and bread. A group of our brethren spent a week in Haiti. They prepared the meal, and then shared pictures and comments about the week they were there. We also had an informational meeting regarding what our local World Relief activities are, and the needs in our own area.

Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary) from Tremont, IL was here to assist Elder Bro. John Wiegand in the delivery of the Memorandum March 9. We appreciated his comments and the willingness to travel to Oregon to serve us. Also visiting our pulpit were Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa), and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), from Portland, OR. Bro. Paul Jensen (Sis. Marie), after spending time in the hospital, then at home with nursing care, passed away Friday March 15, at the age of 77. He and Sis. Marie just had their 52nd anniversary, March 10. He has one daughter, Sis. Anne-Marie Tribbett (Bro. Mark) and four grandchildren, Sis. Teresa, Paul, Lena and David. He will be greatly missed by his beloved family and our Silverton congregation.

This month the Word has opened several times to the book of John, where Jesus comforts His disciples before His time of suffering. John 16:22 was especially meaningful:

“And ye now therefore have sorrow; but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.”

This verse reminds me of the welcome coming of spring. As we look forward to spring after winter, it reminds us that sorrow and suffering do not last forever, but “joy cometh in the morning.” May we be encouraged and strengthened as we dwell upon Christ’s victory as the Easter season approaches.

We have been encouraged and instructed from God’s Word by our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), and John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), and Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Peoria, and Roanoke, IL; Lester, IA; and Bay City, MI.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Francesville (4/28), West Lafayette (5/5), Bloomington-Normal (5/12), Akron (5/19), and Champaign (5/26).

If you plan to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our
schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928 and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 866-5543 fritzmb.family@gmail.com.

TEXAS, AUSTIN
Serenity and Jasmine Ringger
We are excited to have a new baby in our church. On February 22, Jesse Kitt was welcomed by Bro. Scott and Sis. Rachel Hartzler, and his two sisters: Summer and Lexi. Grandparents are Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest IL), Sis. Karen Hartzler (Rittman OH) and Richard Hartzler.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss with the passing of her father, Bro. Richard Wuethrich (Sis. Nola, Francesville, IN) on March 11. May they feel the Lord’s nearness and comfort in this difficult time.

We are always thankful for the willingness of ministers to bring us the Word. This month we hosted Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL).

Visitors also came from South Bend, IN; Atlanta, GA; West Lafayette, IN; Rittman, OH; Bluffton, IN; Forrest, IL; Eureka, IL; Cissna Park, IL; Columbus, OH; Silverton, OR. We are thankful for the fellowship they bring.

The following is the minister schedule for May: (12) Forrest, IL; (19) Elgin, IL; (26) Silverton, OR.

Please refer to the minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

TEXAS, DALLAS-FORT WORTH
“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)

Services are being held generally the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. Please call ahead to verify.

Leland & Mary Plattner (956) 265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi (512) 321-2345

“Now the city was large and great, but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded.” (Neh. 7:4)

We pray that God will grant the increase.

TEXAS, McALLEN
Gloria Walder
We have been so blessed again through the ministry of the Word by Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), and Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO). May the Lord continue to strengthen them in His work and bless them abundantly.

We also enjoyed other visitors from Oakville, Eureka, Congerville, Tremont, Morris, West Bend, Kansas City, Akron, Mansfield, Latty, and Zapata. We encourage our visiting ministers to feel free to bring others along. Since we do not know which minister is coming from the congregation scheduled, we depend upon your informing us, rather than our contacting you. We heartily welcome each one and wish to make plans for meals and fellowship as soon as possible each week.

Services are scheduled for April 28, Mansfield, OH; May 12, Smithville, OH; May 26, Goodfield, IL; June 9, Bern, KS; and June 23, Morton, IL. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl. Occasionally there is a schedule change. If you plan to be with us on Sunday or mid-week, please verify the date by calling the Nohl’s.

Andy and Kristi Plattner have a 2-bedroom apartment available one block from the Gulf at South Padre Island for visitors who wish to spend time there. You may call them at (956) 433-9844 for more information.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street exit off I-83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

VERMONT, NORTH CLARENDON
Nathan and Miriam Reutter

”Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid; neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Josh. 1:9)
USA World Relief Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brother</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Home Church</th>
<th>Cell Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Klotzle</td>
<td>Counseling Elder</td>
<td>Altadena, CA</td>
<td>(818) 522-3307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Kellenberger</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Elgin, IL</td>
<td>(224) 629-6531</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Leman</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Roanoke, IL</td>
<td>(309) 241-0257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Schambach</td>
<td>Administrator/Secretary</td>
<td>Elgin, IL</td>
<td>(630) 247-5271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ray Slagel</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Fairbury, IL</td>
<td>(815) 848-3714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Kaeb</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Bern, KS</td>
<td>(785) 547-5269</td>
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<td>Stan Schambach</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Prescott, AZ</td>
<td>(224) 698-0899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doug Fiechter</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Bluffton, IN</td>
<td>(260) 307-6595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Kloter</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Rockville, CT</td>
<td>(860) 836-7935</td>
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World Relief Informational Meetings

Opportunities to Serve One Another

The mission of World Relief is to provide humanitarian aid and volunteer labor to alleviate human misery and suffering throughout the world, first to the household of faith, and then to others as much as we are able, in a way that is a Christian witness and brings glory to God.

We thank God for the various opportunities to help the needy of the world made available to our congregations through World Relief, not only with funds, but with volunteer labor by our brethren.

One way to hear about these opportunities is to attend one of three presentations held throughout the year.

Schedule

The Western Meeting is held the second Saturday of March and is rotated between the Apostolic Christian Churches west of the line between Indiana and Illinois.

The Eastern Meeting is held on the second Saturday of November and is rotated between the churches in Indiana and all churches eastward.

Also, Thursday before the conference in August, there are presentations scheduled by the church holding the conference.

For more information, go to the World Relief web site (www.acworldrelief.org) and check under Informational Meetings.

Next meetings

Before Conference:
Fairbury, IL Fellowship Hall
August 8, 2013
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Eastern Meeting:
Latty, OH
November 9, 2013
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Caretakers Needed for Washington D.C. Church

The Washington, DC, church is looking for couples, families or singles to serve as caretakers for our church, which is located in a residential area of Silver Spring, MD. You should plan to stay an entire month if possible (minimum three Sundays). At this time, there is still good availability for 2014. This would be a wonderful way to help out a small church by providing fellowship, hospitality and upkeep/maintenance. There also would be ample time to explore the DC area, which is rich in interesting things to do and see. If God is leading you to use your talents in this way, please contact Doreen Steffen for more information at 302-540-6574 or dkgsteffen@gmail.com.
### Gateway Woods Teacher Needed

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a Teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 6th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor’s Degree in Education and/or an active teacher’s license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam McAfee</td>
<td>School Administrator</td>
<td>PO Box 125, Leo, IN 46765, 1-888-443-4283, <a href="mailto:adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org">adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Stieglitz</td>
<td>Counseling Elder</td>
<td>15417 Doty Rd., New Haven, IN 46774, 260-657-1033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Qualifications:**

- Member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church.
- A degree in Education and/or TESOL is preferred but not required.
- Ability to communicate in the Spanish language.
- Enjoys being with and working with children.

### English Teacher Needed in Ixtlan, Mexico

The Ixtlan church has started a private elementary school that presently teaches first through fourth grades, with plans to add a fifth grade in August 2013 and a sixth grade the following year. We are looking for a replacement English teacher who is available to begin teaching in late March 2013. Classes continue through July 5 and begin again in mid-August for the 2013-2014 school year.

If you are a graduating college senior who would like to apply for the position, but cannot come down until after graduation in May or until the beginning of next school year, we would be open to that possibility. We also would consider applicants to just finish out the 2012-2013 school year.

- Willing to be sent by the AC Mission Committee and to work together as a missionary team in Ixtlan.

Counselling Elder for Ixtlan: Mike Leman

**Please contact:**

Grant and Hannah Herrmann
Current English Teacher
grantandhannah11@gmail.com

Matt Gerber
School Administrator
magerbe@gmail.com

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“In your patience possess ye your souls.” (Luke 21:19)
### Jamaica

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2013</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
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<tr>
<td>CCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-448-2421</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jarock71@gmail.com">jarock71@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockpatrick School</td>
<td>Jun 22-29</td>
<td>Trent Johnson</td>
<td>BelvidereSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>608-882-1259</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jenn.j@charter.net">jenn.j@charter.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Jun 29-6</td>
<td>Harvey Landis</td>
<td>AkronSS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>330-466-8274</td>
<td><a href="mailto:landziv@aol.com">landziv@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at lmdettwyler@gmail.com

### Haiti Construction Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2013</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td>Apr 6-13</td>
<td>Daryl Luginbuhl</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>484-433-1205</td>
<td><a href="mailto:darylluginbuhl@gmail.com">darylluginbuhl@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Apr 16-23</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-266-9009</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Apr 25-29</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td>ACWR-CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH Haiti Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-266-9009</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td>May 4-11</td>
<td>Daryl Luginbuhl</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>484-433-1205</td>
<td><a href="mailto:darylluginbuhl@gmail.com">darylluginbuhl@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Jun 7-14</td>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRW Vocational School</td>
<td></td>
<td>574-870-5046</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
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### Haiti Medical Work Teams

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Fin, Haiti</td>
<td>Apr 19-27</td>
<td>Alice Widmer</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com">alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com</a></td>
<td>330-939-0083</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bonne Fin, Haiti</td>
<td>May 17-25</td>
<td>Alice Widmer</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com">alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com</a></td>
<td>330-939-0083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Teams</td>
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</table>

Trip includes travel dates of Friday thru the following Saturday. There is a need for ministers to travel with the ACC medical teams not only for spiritual
Mexico

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reynosa Medical</td>
<td>May 14-21</td>
<td>Todd Drayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>260-273-3112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:todd.drayer@gmail.com">todd.drayer@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>May 25 - Jun 1</td>
<td>Mark Steffen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Phoenix Bible Class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>602-980-2451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:marksteffen@coreccg.com">marksteffen@coreccg.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jun 8-15</td>
<td>Benj Knapp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
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<td>Washington Bible Class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>309-208-7450</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:benjknapp@homewayhomes.com">benjknapp@homewayhomes.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jun 25-Jul 1</td>
<td>Duane Metzger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>515-887-2661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:drmetzger.89@live.com">drmetzger.89@live.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Team</td>
<td>Sep 18-25</td>
<td>Cheryl Herrmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com">cherrmann@frontier.com</a></td>
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<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jan 4-11</td>
<td>Karl Edelman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>815-657-7385</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:karledelman@cawi.org">karledelman@cawi.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Feb 15-22</td>
<td>Jon Baner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-532-9435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jon.baner@watershedfoods.com">jon.baner@watershedfoods.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions?
Contact Mike Fiechter
mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
260-597-7330

**Summer Volunteer Coordinator Needed**

Gateway Woods is currently searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator. The Summer Volunteer Coordinator position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with fellow volunteers as well as Gateway Woods Staff and residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ryan Donaghy  
Assistant School Administrator  
PO Box 125  
Leo, IN 46765  
1-888-443-4283  
ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org

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

With Bro. Tim Sauder stepping away after over 27 years of service, Gateway Woods is now seeking to fill his position with a brother or sister desiring to tell our story of helping broken children and reuniting families to supporters. The Development Coordinator position is open to full-time or part-time applicants, and offers responsibility, creativity and unique challenges. This position also offers unique flexibility as applicants can live and work from either Leo, IN or the IL area. If you have a passion for helping troubled children and families, versatile interpersonal relationship building abilities and strong communication skills, and are a motivated self-starter, please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information and a job description.

Bruce Drayer
P.O. Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
(260) 627-2159

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

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families:
Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Sunday Service: (held monthly at guesthouse residence) 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
For schedule, see: www.acmission.org/minister-rotation
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork
4733 Birdie Lane NW
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 288-0072

Mid-week Service: (held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507) 281-2875

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land

All adults will need just ONE of the following documents:
1. Regular U.S. passport
2. U.S. passport card
3. Enhanced driver's license
4. Any Trusted Traveler Program (for example, Nexus card)

U.S. citizens under the age of 16 (or under the age of 19 if traveling with a school, religious, or other youth group) may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be original, photocopy, or certified copy.
2013 Alabama/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend
May 25-26

In James 5:16, we read that “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” During the 2013 Alabama/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend, Ordained Deacon Leland Plattner from Zapata, Texas plans to speak on the topics of “The Effectual Fervent Prayer” and “Praying Without Ceasing.” Fellowship, singing and worship will also be key activities throughout the weekend. An auction is also planned for Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. Donation of auction items is appreciated. See a weekend schedule below as well as overnight accommodations and directions.

If you are in the Central Illinois area and would be interested in riding a bus to the Tennessee Fellowship Area from Morton, Ill., please contact Bro. Andy or Sis. Jayne Sauder at (309)263-9965 or e-mail them at jayne.sauder@gmail.com.

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend the weekend! Please RSVP to one of the contacts listed below.
Sis. Gwen Leuthold -- 615-969-0958 or leutholdg@aol.com
Bro. Don Sauder -- 615-373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com
Bro. Kerwin or Sis. Sara Edelman -- 256-326-4533 or edelman@100@gmail.com
Bro. Roger or Sis. Becky Roberts - 931-309-9335 or 309-208-5590 or mrpipes@afo.net
Bro. Andy Stoller -- 330-682-8171 or andrew.stoller@juno.com

Weekend Schedule

Saturday, May 25
-- All activities at the Tennessee Fellowship Area located in Pulaski, Tenn.
12:00 p.m. -- Registration (and donation of auction items)
2:00 p.m. -- Auction commences with song and prayer
6:00 p.m. -- Supper
7:00 p.m. -- Singing (congregation and special group singing)
7:30 p.m. -- Ordained Deacon Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) speaking on “Pray without Ceasing”
8:00 p.m. -- Singing

Sunday, May 26
10:00 a.m. -- Church services at Athens Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Ala.
3:30 p.m. -- Fellowship begins at Tennessee Fellowship Area
4:00 p.m. -- Singing
5:00 p.m. -- Ordained Deacon Leland Plattner speaking on “The Effectual Fervent Prayer”
5:30 p.m. -- Supper
7:00 p.m. -- Singing

Local Motel Accommodations: Athens, Alabama Area - Best Western (256)233-4030; Travel Inn (256)232-7074; Country Hearth Inn & Suites (256)232-1520; Days Inn (800)329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256)232-0030; Hampton Inn (256)232-2377; Holiday Inn Express (800)465-4329 or (256)232-7931; Sleep Inn (256)232-4700; Super 8 (256)233-1446. Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tenn.--Super 8 (931)363-4501

In addition to hotels in the area, electric and water hookups for campers are also available at the Fellowship area. Please contact Bro. Roger or Sis. Becky at the info listed above if you are interested.

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

Gateway Woods is in need of a Top Quality Coordinator for the summer. The Top Quality Coordinator position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with Gateway Woods Staff and summer volunteers, as well as the chance to spend a significant amount of one-on-one time with residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities and to have a positive impact in the lives of residents this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Ryan Donaghy  
Assistant School Administrator  
PO Box 125  
Leo, IN 46765  
1-888-443-4283  
ryan.donaghy@gatewaywoods.org

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

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**Education Intern Needed**

Gateway Woods is in need of an Education Intern for the summer of 2012. The Education Intern position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with Gateway Woods Staff, as well as the chance to grow as a teacher and spend a significant amount of one-on-one time with residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities and to have a positive impact in the lives of residents this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Adam McAfee  
School Administrator  
PO Box 125  
Leo, IN 46765  
1-888-443-4283  
adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org

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

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**Foster Care Program Manager Needed**

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

Jeff Schumacher  
P.O. Box 125  
Leo, IN 46765  
(888) 443-4283  
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz  
Counseling Elder  
15417 Doty Rd.  
New Haven, IN 46774  
(260) 657-1033
Interested in Houseparenting?

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. Due to a change in staff, we have a need for an Alternate Houseparent couple. This position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore this possibility, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf
Residential Program Director
P.O. Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(888) 443-4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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

“We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime.”
- Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents

Give a Child Hope

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

The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

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

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

Name _________________________
Mr.       Mrs.       Miss
Spouse ________________________
Address _______________________
City ____________St ___ Zip _____
Home Ph ______________________
Cell Ph ________________________
Email _________________________

Please check preference:
- Haiti
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Jamaica
- Zambia
- Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:
- Boy – Age _______
- Girl – Age _______
- No Preference

Cost: $25.00/month
For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:
ACWR Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

“APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN WORLD RELIEF
www.acworldrelief.org"
Summer Worship Services in Colorado

Lord willing, in addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, CO, we plan to hold services

July 21 and July 28
Breckenridge River Mountain Lodge
100 South Park Avenue, Breckenridge, CO 80424
Office: (970) 453-4711

Breckenridge is located in Summit County. If you take the Frisco exit on Interstate 70, Breckenridge is about 9 miles past Frisco on Highway 9. It is less than 2 hours from Granby, Glenwood Springs, Denver, and Buena Vista.

There is free parking available in lots north and south of the entrance that are only about a 5 minute walk away.

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be supporting the service, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort also if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don’t want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations.

For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF from the Apostolic Christian Publication website:
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After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).

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(815) 848-5113
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Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Prov 29:18

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bibledist@adamswells.com
God's Promises to the Believer
Fifth in a Series of Five Articles

2 Peter 1:3-4, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

God's Word is full of promises for the believer. However, in times of struggle or difficulty, it may be hard to grasp these promises and believe them. Many people know the words of the verses but do not internalize them and experience the power of their truth. It is important for the believer to personalize the promises and choose to believe through faith that they are true for him or her.

Below are some steps for internalizing these promises:

1. Identify the promise from the Scripture as the truth.
2. Make the choice to affirm it as truth for the believer, according to His abundant mercy, that we are kept unto salvation by the power of God through faith.
3. Make the choice to live like the truth is completely true even if your feelings don't match. Remember, when your feelings and the truth are in conflict, always follow the truth of the Word.
4. Believers can claim the promises below because of God's grace and goodness toward them. We cannot claim any right to these promises based on our own worthiness. Therefore, in order to keep these promises in perspective, it is helpful to use the following sentence stems:
   - Because of salvation through Christ...
   - Because of the Holy Spirit's work in me...
   - Because of God's love, power, and plan...
   - In this series of articles, we will examine some sets of promises in God's Word and discuss how these promises could have application in our lives of faith.

Set 21: God is working in me.

Philippians 1:6, “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

At times we may feel pretty worthless and incapable of doing much for the Lord. However, He promises that He will perform a good work in each of us until our time on earth is complete. We ought to be up and doing, ready to serve as He calls.

Set 22: God has given me a lively hope.

1 Peter 1:3-5, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Our hope in Christ of a heavenly inheritance is more than a chance possibility; it is a solid assurance that doesn't fade away. Yes, we could foolishly forfeit that hope, but we can be reassured that it is God's promise to the believer, according to His abundant mercy, that we are kept unto salvation by the power of God through faith.

Set 23: He will protect me to the end.

John 10:27-29, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.”

2 Timothy 4:18, “And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 10:23, “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised):”

The protection of God is a wonderful testimony of His promise to keep us until the end. God's faithfulness should never be in question. He will preserve. He will not allow anyone to remove us from His Father's hand. His love for us is complete!

Set 24: I can have a full assurance of faith.

Hebrews 10:22, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Luke 12:32, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

1 John 5:13, “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

Again, this assurance isn't just a fleeting hope, but is full of faith. We are not to fear trial or tribulation, for it is our Father's pleasure to give us the kingdom. We are to believe on the name of Jesus that we might know that we have eternal life. Satan can try to make us question our faith, but we need only to rest on the promises of God.

Set 25: I am complete in Christ.

Colossians 2:10, “And ye are complete in him [Jesus], which is the head of all principality and power.”

Here we see that, in Christ, we lack nothing. We are perfected or complete in Him.

Set 26: Nothing can separate me from God's love.

Romans 8:35-39, “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Finally, we see the promise that we cannot be separated from God's love by anything external to us. We alone have the choice and ability to walk away from Him, but He will not leave us. Let us claim these promises for ourselves and stand firm upon them knowing that they will not fail.
It's a daily effort, isn't Dear Ones? It's not something we do once and we're done, but it's a constant daily effort to serve our God and to walk with Him. May He grant us the grace each day as we strive to do that. He grants the grace sufficient that we can achieve that goal of serving our God and being ready when He calls us home.

We know the Apostle Paul – we can see it very evident in his writing here – had a great concern for those at Rome. He had a great concern for the fact that they had rejected God and had embraced the things that were against God. As the last verse said, they even knew the things that are worthy of death and still chose to do them.

The Apostle Paul begins here with a salutation to them as he does always in his writings, but he reminds them who he is – "a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God... Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;" Romans 1:1,3

The Apostle Paul can truly testify that he was called out of a world of sin to be an apostle of Jesus Christ. We consider where Paul was before his conversion – on the road to Damascus when he was known as Saul and how he went about persecuting the church, even causing those who believed in Jesus Christ to be put in prison and even put to death. In the Acts of the Apostles it even records for us that as they stoned Stephen, they laid their coats at the feet of Saul, and he consented unto Stephen's death (Acts 7:58, 8:1).

He worked diligently to stop the Gospel of Jesus Christ, this foreign doctrine that had come forth, until that day when he was struck down on the road to Damascus. He acknowledged as he blindly looked towards that bright light, “... Who art thou, Lord?... ” Acts 9:5 He recognized who he was seeing, and then he was obedient to what he was told to do.

Not unlike our own lives, Dear Ones, when we stepped out of the world of sin that we were born into and recognized we needed a Savior, we too looked upon Jesus Christ, and He has, at that time and since then, given us direction for our lives.

The question is, are we being obedient to what He is asking us to do? That's the question for each one of us to consider as we consider God's Word this morning and our relationship with our God. Are we being obedient to what He's called us to do? Are we being obedient to His precious Word? That's where He wants us, isn't it? He doesn't want us walking contrary to the Word of God. He doesn't want us fighting the Word of God. He doesn't want us to be any part of this description he gave at the end of this chapter to the many there at Rome.

Yet we recognize, even as we read in the Old Testament, when they were called to return to Jerusalem to worship God and keep the Passover, it said many of them “... laughed them to scorn, and mocked them” when they called upon the children of Israel to return to God. (II Chronicles 30:10) Those that heard it mocked those who brought the word. What a shame! But they weren't willing to listen to God.

Here then as Paul addresses the Romans, he tells them of his interest in them. He says “... I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world" – that their faith was strong. "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;” v.8-9. What a lesson and encouragement for us, Dear Ones, to pray for one another, to remember each other in prayer as we have that opportunity to fall upon our knees at our beside or wherever and pray unto our God! It's so important that we pray for one another and that we then encourage one another.

He mentioned them always in his prayers "Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you." v.10. His desire was to go to Rome and minister unto them as he had already to the Gentiles. He mentions the Greeks, the Barbarians, those he had ministered unto (v.14). He had that great desire to do the same at Rome – to come and minister the Word of God that they might hear the precious Word, receive it, and respond.

The preaching of the Word is no different today. The preaching of the Word goes forth so the hearers might receive it and respond to it. For every time we can come together and hear the precious Word of God, we have that opportunity again to learn more of what God desires for us or to hear once again of His love for mankind and what He's done for us. I don't believe it will be any different this morning or this afternoon or next Sunday or than it was last Sunday. The Word will come forth. The call will go forth for sinners to turn unto Jesus Christ.

That's the easy thing, really – to say, 'Sinners, turn unto Jesus Christ!' That means everybody, doesn't it? We don't have to point out and say that person’s a sinner and that one is and that one is. No, we all were sinners. We inherit things in this life when loved ones pass on. Sometimes they leave an inheritance. We inherited that sin through Adam and Eve. We couldn't reject it. We couldn't refuse it. We inherited it. So now we have to deal with it, Dear Ones.
The Apostle Paul's great desire was to go to Rome and reveal to them the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so they could deal with their sin. He said, "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that often-times I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles." v.13. But, he wasn't able to for whatever reason. There were times he wanted to be there but could not. He says, "...I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." v.15. As much as is in me, I desire to do this, Paul said – to bring you the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” – every one that believeth – “...to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” – it doesn't matter. v.16. This Word of God is the power of God unto salvation if we but believe. That’s a great opportunity we have, isn’t it Dear Ones? Brothers and Sisters, aren’t we thankful that God called us in His time to this way, that we yielded unto the call, that we were willing to humble ourselves, and stand before our God?

Paul says, “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” v.17. So he encourages us that we walk with Him and serve Him, but then he also goes on in this chapter to talk about the many things of this world that will take us away from our God and will lead us away from Him.

As we read those words, we can think about today and what is going on in our world around about us. We recognize so many have fallen into these traps we read about and the sinful ways that are laid out here in this book. Oh that we would never allow our church to be tainted with any of these things, Dear Ones! No matter what the popularity of things is in the world today, no matter what level of acceptance comes to this world, it is still not acceptable to God. We want to be obedient to God, do we not, and what He tells us, what His Word says, and what He wants us to do.

So we need to be careful, especially in this day and time, when acceptance of many of these things we read about here is kind of common in the world today. We cannot let it become common in our lives or in our church. We have to live in this world, but God calls us to be separated from it – not to become part of it, not to partake of it as many did in these times.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.” v.18-19. God reveals to us His truth and His desire for us to serve Him and walk with Him. May we yield to His desires for us. May we yield to where God calls us to be and what He calls us to do.

He goes on to speak of those who reject God's glory. “...when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” v.21-22. We can gain a lot of knowledge today in this world – worldly knowledge. How does that serve us in our relationship with Jesus Christ? If we profess ourselves to be wise but really become fools concerning Jesus Christ, what have we gained? We have gained nothing, Dear Ones. We have only lost. We've lost our opportunity of eternity with our God.

I’m not saying we don’t need to gain knowledge on this earth for occupations and so on. I’m not trying to speak against college or anything. Don't get me wrong. But when we desire great knowledge of this world, we often lose our simple knowledge of Jesus Christ. That’s what is more important – that we recognize who He is and what He has done.

It says they “changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator...” v.23-25. Isn’t that so prevalent in the world today? People want to serve the creatures more than the Creator of all things, our God. What a shame that we are going that direction in this world!

When we think about the sin of this world and what is happening out there, Dear Ones, we have to wonder how much longer God is going to let this continue. We see the signs. We recognize that the end can be very near.

We do not know what God’s plan is. Even His Son, our Lord and Savior, doesn't, but we do know there will come a day when God will say enough and no farther and call His children home, out of this sinful world to eternity with Him. May we be ready for that day, Dear Ones! Above everything that is going on around about us, may we be ready for that day when He calls us Home so we can spend eternity with Him.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...” (Romans 1:16)
Remembering: Our Spiritual Heritage

From the Zion's Harp

The late minister Bro. Henry Beer, Milford, Indiana, lauded the value of The Zion's Harp Hymnal because of its doctrinal depth and clarity. Surely a review of its many stanzas confirms Bro. Beer’s conclusion. I often notice this as I sing the various verses during worship. One such verse is reflective of our doctrinal outlook. It is found in verse three of the song, “Obedience To The Word,” page 142.

“Salvation through our faith is found; No works of law we need. Though baptized, yet our hope is vain If we His word don’t heed.”

Elder Joseph Bella

An early Elder of our faith here in America was Joseph Bella, a native of Hungary, who was converted in that country, and eventually moved to the United States. He was known as a “roving Elder” who traveled widely helping to establish early congregations. A single man, his marital status (of being single) allowed him the freedom to travel and be of assistance to new churches.

Coming from Europe, he first landed in Sardis, Ohio, the site of our second church in America. This was his home base from which he did much traveling to outlying areas to help with small, newer congregations. He shared in the eldership with Elder Isaac Gehring. Bro. Bella’s dwelling in the Sardis area consisted of a small woodshed “lean-to” next to the larger home of Elder Gehring. He repaired watches for his livelihood. His shop and living quarters were in the lean-to, and his earthly quarters were indeed humble.

Many references to Bro. Bella are made in Marching To Zion. A noteworthy one is found on page 94 (second edition): “Bella’s life was a legacy of faith and courage. He survived many fierce storms, particularly in the form of persecution for his faith while in Europe. America proved to be a safe haven of religious freedom for this man who had suffered so terribly for the Lord.”

(More on Joseph Bella in subsequent issues)

Elgin, Iowa

Each of our congregations has pre-Apostolic Christian peculiarities. One such area was in Northeastern Iowa, the site of our current church at Elgin, Iowa. Many years before Europeans arrived in this area, it was known to the Indians as “Sac Bottom,” an Indian burial ground. The Indians of that era of often indifferent to the depths of the graves they dug, and over the years soil erosion disrupted the graves, and human bones became exposed in great numbers. Hence, the area also became known as “Shin Bone Valley.”

Interestingly, the town of Elgin was laid out by M. V. Burdick, a surveyor. Because he hailed from Elgin, Illinois, he honored his home town by naming the new village Elgin.

As one nears the small village of Elgin, he will notice a sign which heralds the area as “The Switzerland of Iowa.” The area, in a scenic sense, is somewhat similar to Switzerland. In 1937, a reporter for the Des Moines Register referred to Elgin as, “Little Switzerland located in a valley between hills typical of the Swiss Alps.”

Tidbit

In 1863, a small church was built on East Market Street in Mansfield, Ohio. That street is now known as Park Avenue East. The cost of that church was $1,500. (source: Marching To Zion, page 107)

Perry Klopfenstein
Gridley, IL

Next Issue: More historical data.

“I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end. I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”

(Ps. 119:112-114)
Jesus taught that we are unworthy. In Luke 17:10 it is written, “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants, we have done that which was our duty to do.” The word used in Luke is “unprofitable” which means about the same as “unworthy.” I have wondered about doing all things which are commanded us. That is complete obedience. Even if we do so, Christ says we should say that we are unprofitable servants. That is humility and makes us realize that we are not very well qualified to judge or criticize others as if we were better than they. However, when others do not do according to God’s Word, I do believe we should humbly point out that this is not according to God’s Word, while, at the same time, asking for others to instruct us as to how we might live more in accordance with God’s Word.

In Matthew 8 we find the story of the centurion whose servant was sick so he called for Jesus to come and heal him. In verse 8 we read “The centurion answered and said, Lord I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.” Jesus commended the centurion for what he said, so it is a good thing to say that we are unworthy of Christ’s love and care, and of salvation. Let’s all admit, we are unworthy.

There is a woman mentioned in the Bible who wanted healing for her daughter. However, Jesus told her as recorded in Matthew 15:26 “It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to the dogs.” Jesus may have been testing her to see how she viewed herself. Her response is recorded in verse 27, “Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.” She considered herself unworthy and her daughter was healed. She didn’t mind being referred to as a dog. That is great humility and composure. She passed the test.

In Luke Chapter 18 from verse 9, we find the story of the Pharisee and the publican, both of whom went into the temple to pray. The Pharisee thanked God that he was not like other people but the publican prayed, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus said it was the publican who was justified, indicating that he was correct in thinking himself unworthy. Our attitude about ourselves is important.

In the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37, it was the Good Samaritan who showed love to the unfortunate traveler. He did not consider himself too good or high up, to help. It showed true humility and not an over-evaluation of himself. There is a close connection between being humble and feeling unworthy.

In Genesis chapter 32, Jacob prayed before meeting his brother, Esau, verse 10, “I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast showed unto thy servant.” Jacob felt very unworthy and prayed accordingly.

We conclude that the Bible teaches that we are unworthy and we should realize and confess that we are unworthy. Yet we find in Revelation 3:4 that some believers are worthy. “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments, and they shall walk with me in white; for they are worthy.” The question arises, how can we be both unworthy and worthy?

I believe this is similar to Christ’s teaching that we have to lose our life to find it. It seems like a contradiction but it is true. Of ourselves we are completely unworthy and all our righteousness is as filthy rags. Yet, if we are in Christ, God sees us as in Christ and Christ in us. Therefore, He sees us as being worthy, because of the atonement Christ made for us. What a glorious Gospel!

Christ teaches that we are to love every human being as we love ourselves. After all, we of ourselves are completely unworthy, but with Christ we are counted worthy and shall walk with Him in white.

“Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.” (Ps. 119:111)
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matt. 5:16