“For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.”

Mark 4:28
From Despair to Joy

Dear Readers, as Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday approach, I am reminded of the Easter messages in our Hurlbut’s storybook. One is so appropriately titled, “The Darkest Day of all the World”. Lest that discourage us, the following story is entitled, “The Brightest Day of all the World”.

This is truly our feeling at Easter time. We are saddened when we think of our Lord who suffered so for us. The afflictions he bore seem almost too much. And being compelled to look beyond the physical, we consider the true weight of sin he endured, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:21, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” No wonder the Father turned his face from him. Yet we are encouraged as we endure the few days of darkness and in faith look to that brightest day. As the angels said to the women at His tomb, “He is not here: for he is risen”. Let us rejoice in God’s wonderful plan of salvation!

With joy,
Bro. Rick Plattner, a Silver Lining Counseling Elder
(together with Bro. Tom Stock)
Rewards of Faithfulness

“A faithful man shall abound with blessings…”
Prov. 28:20

The Scriptures describe faithfulness as an unwavering performance of our duties and vows unto God based on a firmly held belief in Him and His Son, Jesus Christ: “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering (for he is faithful that promised)” (Heb. 10:23). Being faithful requires commitment and dedication as a vital part of a personal and lifelong relationship between Christ and the believer. At a time when many of His disciples were leaving Him, Christ asked the twelve, “Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John 6:67-69). A steadfast faith in Christ enabled the Apostle Paul to endure sufferings: “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). Both Peter and Paul were able to make these beautiful expressions of faith and commitment because their belief in Christ went beyond this life to the eternal reward in heaven awaiting the faithful.

A steadfast faith in God enables us to withstand Satan’s temptations, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” (1 Peter 5:8-9). “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:4-5). Leading an overcoming life against the temptations of Satan has eternal benefits: “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him” (James 1:12).

Another important aspect of faithfulness to God as well as to others is to “Set a watch. O Lord before my mouth:” (Psalm 141:3). This includes being truthful at all times and avoiding gossip, as well as giving and taking sound advice. “A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies” and “A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter” (Proverbs 14:5; 11:13). Lying goes beyond not telling the truth. It includes being inconsistent in what we say and how we live, as it relates to our relationship with others and especially with God. “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen” (1 John 4:20). “Who is a liar, but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son” (1 John 2:22). Lying is a very serious sin which if left unchecked, will cause us to forfeit our salvation (Rev.21:8).

Gossip can destroy friendships, and the wounds it causes are slow to heal (Proverbs 17:9; 18:8). Giving

— Please turn to pg. 56
I don’t think there’s any better place to be, I don’t believe there’s any more special thing to think about, I don’t think there’s any greater joy than to be able to share the Gospel message that there was this Man, conceived of the Holy Ghost, sent to earth not to live, but to die. He died on the cross, and He shed His blood that not one of us in this room or this town or this county or this state or this nation or this world would have to go and face a Christless grave, but with anticipation and hope and joy we can look forward to a home in glory that never, ever ends.

I know you’ve prayed already, but continue to pray. Continue to pray that as we would look into the Word and would read the old, old story that our hearts would be soft, that our hearts would be very, very soft. Numbers of us have claimed the name, have repented for sin, have come through the door which is Christ, and others kind of have their nose pressed against the glass looking in. Our prayer is for each of us that this Easter Day would be a blessing, would be an encouragement and that this Easter Day would be just what He would have it be for us.

This is the account of Jesus. This is the account of the resurrection. This is the account of this sinless Lamb of God. There was no fault in Him. Did they crucify Him because He turned the water into wine? Did they crucify Him because He cleansed the leper? Did they crucify Him because He made the blind to see? They crucified Him because of me. They crucified Him because of you. There just isn’t anything that’s more personal than this realization that if we were the only soul that walked this earth, Jesus loved us that much that He died for me.

These women that loved Him - I question if there’s anything more poignant that we would look at in the account of Good Friday when they slew our Lord than the women, His mother and Mary Magdalene and Mary the wife of Cleophas as they gathered at the foot of the cross. Jesus had told His disciples this needed to happen. He said in three days I’ll rise again. (St. Mark 8:13) These dear women. These dear women of God! What is it about you dear women of God? How we love you and appreciate you and esteem you how God uses you. Not to leave you men out, but you have to agree there’s just something about a woman of God that…it’s of God.

They had brought sweet spices that they might come and anoint Him. The picture they had in their minds was not ‘up from the grave He arose’. The picture in their minds was this dead Christ, this One they had loved so much, that had been so dear to them, that had seemed so full of promise and life, who spoke with authority and not as the scribes, who spoke of the kingdom not of this world. Here their hopes and dreams and desires all were seemingly to naught. Yet out of love and out of desire, they went up town and they bought spices that they were going to anoint His dead body.

The picture is much bigger. The picture here is much bigger than this place here in the Holy Land. You know, I haven’t been there. If God grants it, I would like to go there. I have a cousin who was there. They would take him to the hillside, and they would say this could well have been the sepulchre wherein Jesus was laid. They’ll point to this account here in Mark and it says in verse 5, “…they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.” They’ll say look at this sepulchre. This sepulchre has a window in it so there would have been light so you could have seen this young man, this angel. They’ll say there’s a bench here on the right. This could well have been where Jesus was laid. We might say oh that just brings it home! It seems so real! I can just picture the
women coming down to anoint His dead body.

But, you know, to me what makes it real, I think back to a time - actually quite a while back now; that's what happens when you don't die young; you grow old - I remember a time when I was burdened. I was burdened with sin. I knew as I looked into the Word. I had parents that loved me. They took me to church. I had Sunday school teachers that loved me. I'll never forget my aunt was my third grade Sunday school teacher, and she drilled it into our heads. We had a song to sing at the program - At The Cross. What never left me was those words “for such a worm as I”. What are you, eight, nine, when you're in third grade? It never left me.

I remember thinking of my name. We say what's in a name? Well, my name when you spell it backwards says sinned. I knew I was lost, but I also knew without a shadow of doubt that if I would pray to an almighty God, through a Lord and Savior Jesus, that He would pick me up out of a miry pit and He would place my feet upon a path that would take me to heaven where eye hath not seen and ear hath not heard neither has entered into the heart of man. What will heaven be like? Sometimes a soul will lose their spouse and say will I know my husband? Will I know my wife? All I can say is would it make you happy? Well, sure it'd make me happy! I say of course! Whatever you can imagine! It will be better than that! Why? Because of Jesus!

They came to anoint the dead Christ. When we come to Jesus, when we come repenting, when we come with sorrow, when we come with a burden of sin, and we say ‘Here’ - just like we vomit it up - what are we looking for? We're looking for an escape. We're looking to get rid of this dreadful feeling that we know if we'd die with that burden of sin we would go to hell fire. We know that! We know that! But when we come, He takes that burden and replaces it with a peace that passes all understanding.

We find that, we say kind of tritely, life has its ups and downs. Maybe a better way to say it would be that our will doesn't always align with God’s will. But we know He loves us with an everlasting love. We know His intent is only that we would walk the streets of gold with Him. Is heaven real to you? When we let our little grandson go, I said will you wait for me just inside the gate? I know, I know he will be there. I know I will see his face again. Probably all of us have laid those away, whether it's mom or dad, grandpa, grandma. We have this confidence they are there. King David, when his son died, said I can go to him. I can go to him. (2 Samuel 12:23)

This account, it's a big picture. It's more than we can ever grasp. A soul repents for sin. What does that mean? They’re sorry for sin. They receive a peace that passes all understanding. What does that mean? That means those sins are wiped away. When that soul is baptized, right back here - a watery grave. There’s no water in it now, but there's a handy faucet there. You just turn it on, and you fill it up. It's a watery grave. What does that mean? That means when a soul repents for sin, becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus, is baptized into His name most holy, they go down into that water, that grave. Does the water wash the sins away? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Nothing but the blood of Jesus. But they don’t stay in that water. They come out a new creature in Christ Jesus. Up from the grave He arose! Are there souls you care about? Are there souls you pray about? Are there souls you wish somehow you could just convert them? God knows everything. God knows everything.

What is the most powerful force in all the world? It’s the love of Jesus.

I don’t know why it pops into my mind. I had opportunity recently, and I had purchased a mobile home. The woman was trying to get her things

— Please turn to pg. 55
For many years Apostolic Christian brothers and sisters have been serving in Haiti. Some years ago God placed on the heart of a few brothers with an interest in dairy to explore the possibility of developing an improved Haitian capacity to produce milk.

These brothers observed many cows dotting the countryside, but none managed in a way to seriously feed the starving children of Haiti. To understand the opportunity, consider the following…

Today Haiti imports 100,000 tons of milk equivalent dairy powder. This effectively exports $100 million of currency that could otherwise be recycled within the country to create new employment and provide funds to feed and educate children. But it is estimated there are 500,000 dairy cows in Haiti. The best they can determine, the average Haitian dairy cow produces 4 pounds per day excess after feeding her calf. In contrast the average modern cow produces nearly 70 pounds.

A new agricultural program
Acting on what God had placed on these brothers’ heart, a new agricultural program to support the formation of a Haitian dairy industry has begun. The objective of this program is to work with other entities to begin serious development of a domestic dairy industry in Haiti. The challenges are formidable but the opportunities are profound.

As these brothers studied the problem and met with many individuals and organizations, it became clear that a serious commitment will be needed to make a significant and long-lasting impact. What emerged was a vision modeled after successful dairy hubs formed in other developing countries.

The idea is for Haitian farmers to share ownership of a milking hub where various dairy related services are provided. This includes sanitary collection of milk, milk cooling to improve shelf life, product transportation, veterinary services, feed and water, and access to improved genetics.

We believe God desires that His witness would also be present in the dairy hub as Haitians form working relationships and regularly interact with brothers and sisters who model the Christian life.

Research and learning
Before brethren can begin working directly with Haitian farmers, they need to be confident in their ability to produce milk in Haiti. So the initial phase of the program is a project to establish a research farm and milk processing center.

This phase is focused on two objectives. The first is to determine best practice for profitable milk production in Haiti. The second is a necessary objective to establish a means to profitably market milk they produce.

In the next 18 months with God’s blessing they plan to:
• Acquire land where a research farm and processing plant can be established
• Construct minimal infrastructure required to manage a herd of approximately 12 cows

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. – Galatians 6:10
So Send I You

*Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* John 20:21

“As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” This statement by our Lord is short, but full of profound encouragement. As brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church, may we find exhortation in the power of these words. There are many thoughts generated by this short command that guide the process by which we send brethren to serve. Here are a few for our meditation.

**It is the Father who sends**

As we consider how our Savior came to Earth, we are reminded that it is the Father who sends. The scriptures further clarify this in several places. In Luke 10:2, it states “pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”

It is the Lord of the harvest who sends forth laborers. Then, as we recall in the sending of Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13, verse 4 states “being sent forth by the Holy Ghost” they departed. What an encouragement to us as followers of Christ that it is only by His power that we are sent. For our church, the Outreach Process was developed to assist brethren in confirming their call to be sent by God, through the church, for service.

**Sent under authority**

When brethren are sent in the power of God they are sent under His authority. In Matthew 28:19, the Great Commission begins with, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Jesus qualified his command for us to go by declaring the power with which He is sending. Again, when we think of this encouragement in light of the examples we see in Acts, we are shown a clear picture of being sent under authority.

In Acts 14:16-17, when Paul returned to Antioch, he testified to the churches who sent him of “the things that God had done with them.” In the Apostolic Christian Church, the Outreach Process ensures that sent brethren are under the authority of the church, accountable to the church, and receive the full support of the brotherhood.

We are sent to be “with” those we are serving.

In Matthew’s account of our Savior’s birth, we are reminded that “they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” We are humbled by the sacrifice of our Savior who came to be with us, and to save us. While the incarnation is not a proper comparison for our lives, there is an encouragement in how the Father sent Jesus. Jesus was sent to be with us.

We can also look into the words of the Apostle Paul to further witness this encouragement to us. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul states to the church that “unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law… that I might by all means save some.” We are encouraged by the Father’s sending of the Son and Paul’s testimony to the Corinthian church that we are to go and be with those we are serving. The brethren we send to Haiti, Jamaica, or Mexico, are encouraged to live among those they serve, in a culturally sensitive way.

**Sent in the power of God**

The ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5) is not done in our own power. Our Lord gave us this example in His relationship with the Father. In John 5:19-20, Jesus states, “for what things soever he doeth,
We live in a world where tragedy and suffering are a present reality. The questions and hurt associated with such circumstances can be difficult to understand. Thankfully, God’s faithfulness and the truths of the Bible can help us grasp suffering from a biblical viewpoint. Last month we presented information on the hurt associated with tragedy and the reasons there is suffering in the world. This month our discussion continues, focusing on the love of God for His people and His sovereignty.

**God Loves His People – “Does God care about my pain? Is God good?”**

Scripture paints a picture of God as being loving (1 John 4:10 & 16), abundantly merciful (1 Chron. 16:34), and deeply connected to His people (Jeremiah 29:11, John 11:33-35). We must hold onto this view of God, as it is how He describes Himself in Scripture. We don’t find a distant God in the Bible; instead, we find a people who feel pain and distance from God. This is consistent with our experiences today. Many who are hurting wonder where God is and feel as though He may have left them. Job certainly felt like God’s presence was very elusive, despite his belief that God was there. In Job 23:8-10 he expressed it this way, “Behold, I [Job] go forward, but he [God] is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: on the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” We can take courage and comfort in the fact that we do not find an abandoning God in Scripture. Instead, we find a God whose ultimate desire is to care for and heal our wounds, as stated in Isaiah 61:1-3.

The gospel message is that God desired to reconcile His people to Himself and was willing to do so even though He knew it would cost Him. The cross is God’s ultimate expression of His love for His people. He knew He would have to allow and destine His Son to bear what was rightfully due those who killed His Son (Acts 2:23). This was God’s plan because of His mercy and love for His creation.

There is no more powerful way to demonstrate love for another than to lay down your life for them (John 15:13). There is no clearer display of God’s heart toward us than the cross. Surely we must conclude that God cares more deeply about us than we can imagine, as He was willing to remedy our greatest need through experiencing His greatest pain. Jeremiah captures God’s heart toward His people in one of the Bible’s most familiar verses.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

These words contain comforting truths. Do you think Jeremiah was feeling good at the time he penned these words? While we don’t know for sure, we do know that Jeremiah faced difficult circumstances when these verses were written. In fact, Jeremiah and those he was communicating with were in captivity. False prophets were telling the people lies, one of which was that their captivity would be short (Jeremiah 27:16). Jeremiah responds with the true message from God in chapter 29. Many Christians hold onto the hope and good news from Jeremiah 29:11, and they rightly should. However, what we often don’t remember or realize is that Jeremiah and the people he was sharing this message with were in captivity and were going to be in captivity for some time. Therefore, it is important to remember God’s thoughts toward you are “thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end,” even when finding ourselves feeling difficult emotions and experiencing excruciating circumstances.
God is Sovereign – “Is God in control?”

This question is asked in many different forms. In Revelation 6:10-11 God is asked why He has not judged the wicked. Most of us don’t understand how God can be in control when awful things happen with seemingly no consequence to the wicked (See Psalm 73). Even in the passage from Revelation noted above, the question is asked to God, and the response is simply to wait and know judgment will come.

God is never confused or surprised by what happens to us. He is grieved when sin occurs and when He sees individuals hurting, but He is not taken by surprise. God knows the beginning, middle, and the end of our life stories. Scripture teaches that everything that happens in this world will be used for the ultimate good of God’s people (Romans 8:28). This is not to say that all things are good, but that God knows and holds the outcome in His merciful hands. The good news for every believer is that the end of the story is written, and it ends well for God’s people. God is in control of the story.

1 Peter 4:19 “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

Even when tragedy and suffering occurs in your life, God means them for good while Satan means them for evil. Perhaps there is no way for this truth to not come into question, at some level, for an individual who is experiencing suffering. In the midst of tragedy we hurt and do not understand why the tragedy occurred or how God could use it for good. More times than not, we do not see how this can be true, yet we are to move toward believing that God is faithful to His promises and that we will have a new perspective in Heaven.

In the midst of our questioning, the Lord tells us He has a plan and a purpose. We are asked to trust Him in this though we do not understand. In the end, evil will be judged and our pain will be removed; until then we are asked to trust God in the midst of our pain, believing He will give us the grace necessary to go forward.

2 Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

The process of moving through our hurts and questions takes time. May we thank the Lord for His patience with us and pray for wisdom to know when to just allow ourselves/others to experience difficult emotions and when to push towards moving through hurt. Believing God is in control does not mean that we understand what God is doing, nor does it mean that we always “feel” it to be true that God is in control. Instead, belief in God’s sovereignty is simply holding onto the truths we read in the Scriptures, that God’s ways are “higher than ours” as we are reminded in Isaiah 55:8-9. The truth is that God is good, God is in control, and God cares about you. Nahum 1:7 “The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.”

Holding onto these truths is extremely difficult when circumstances and emotions push them into question. We need the grace of God and the community of believers around us to hold onto these truths for us when the pain of tragedy is too intense for us to hold onto them ourselves. May we encourage each other to this end!

Tragedy and suffering affect us all through the events that occur in our lives, causing us to feel grief and loss. For more information about dealing with grief and loss, please visit our website at www.accounseling.org/emotions or call ACCFS at 309-263-5536. Next month we will conclude our discussion on the theme of tragedy and suffering, focusing on the believer’s hope of Heaven and the ultimate goodness of God.

April 2014 SILVER LINING 9
Easter time always reminds me of the year when I attended a Passion Play with some of the residents. One resident in particular got into the drama of it. When the soldiers began to pound the nails into Jesus’ hands and feet, she clung to my arm and began to sob. I felt so convicted. Why didn't I feel that way? Why wasn’t I distraught at the murder of the Savior? I guess, as time goes on, one can lose the depth of gratitude you once had… until you get a wake-up reminder! Back to the play. I assured this tender-hearted lady that it was going to be okay because he arose! What joy it brings to know that He did arise and was victor over the grave to give us that hope of being with Him some day.

After the play was over, we had the opportunity to meet the cast. Another resident was on a mission to find Jesus and shake his hand. She would not be dissuaded when we couldn’t find him right away. It didn’t matter that it wasn’t really Jesus. After meeting him, she told everyone with a tone of reverence and awe that she had met Jesus and shook his hand. When “we met” Jesus, were we excited about it and couldn’t help but tell others? Isn’t that the Great Commission?

It also made me think of the awe we will have one day when we meet Jesus face to face and bow down before Him in deep gratitude for what He has done for us. May you have a blessed Easter filled with joy and peace.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Luci Koch – Executive Director, Gateway Woods Family Services of Illinois
Opening the Illinois Adoption Program

“Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee.” Jeremiah 32:17

The leadership of Gateway Woods felt led years ago to pursue an adoption program in Illinois in order to serve our brothers and sisters who had a desire to adopt. Over the years, the door to providing adoption services seemed to waiver between open and closed. However, God had a perfect plan and time for His work. In March of 2014, Gateway Woods Family Services Illinois officially opened to provide adoption services for families residing anywhere in Illinois. The office is located at 923 Detroit Court, Suite 3, Morton, IL 61550. Sisters Luci Koch and Katie Kaufmann are working at this office and would appreciate your prayers as the adoption program begins.

The mission of Gateway Woods is to honor and obey God by providing help and healing to troubled children and families who then may bless others. That mission is being carried to Illinois, but not without opposition. There is a spiritual battle for the souls of families and children. Your prayer support is key in facing this battle and reaching the lost for Christ. Nothing is too hard for God. He has opened the way in Illinois for Gateway Woods to place children in only loving, Christian adoptive homes.

Gateway Woods Family Services Illinois provides quality, affordable, and family-focused services for both international and domestic adoptions. Services include home studies, education, support, post placement supervision, and referrals. We also place children who are born in Illinois or other states and voluntarily relinquished for adoption into approved homes. More information about our services can be found at gatewaywoodsIL.org, or you can contact Sister Luci Koch at 309-266-0767 or luci.koch@gatewaywoodsIL.org.
News:

Gateway Woods is awarding scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by contacting Chad Kaeb by phone at 888.443.4283 or email chad.kaeb@gatewaywoods.org. Applications need to be submitted by June 15, 2014.

We are searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2014. Please see the notice in The Silver Lining or contact Bro. Clint Plattner at clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of the children on our campus! As one former resident put it “It really makes a huge difference to [residents] when volunteers come out. It’s great when they work with us and play Frisbee and stuff. We notice.”

We are also searching for our Summer Education Intern and Top Quality Coordinator. Please see the notices in The Silver Lining or contact Bro. Adam McAfee at adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience while impacting our residents!

There are four career positions available currently at Gateway Woods: one opening for a Development Coordinator, one opening for a Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker, one opening for an Alternate Houseparent, and one opening for a Teacher. For more information please see the notices in this month’s edition of The Silver Lining 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, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at our website or by emailing ross.feller@gatewaywoods.org.

Apostolic Christian Preschool Athens, AL

Susan Koch

The themes for March 2014 were the color yellow, Dr. Seuss, and animals/the farm. We also studied letters U through X. We are ready for warmer weather here at the preschool so the children can see the signs of spring in the playground. My class was excited to see Ms. Kalla’s volcano erupt. Then we did the whole Diet Coke and Mentos thing, because we like to watch things explode (safely of course). We also had some guest musicians demonstrate how to play the violin as we studied the letter V. Thanks Sis. Rhoda and Rachel for helping us out!

Ms. Louise’s class made cat in the hats out of construction paper and paper plates in honor of Dr. Seuss month.

Ms. Kalla’s class made “wopsicles” for the letter W. These are homemade popsicles made from 1 c. plain yogurt, 1 1/2 c. fruit, and 1/4 c. fruit juice. Blend, freeze and enjoy!

Remember, if you want to volunteer at the preschool, please
let me know. You can contact me at 309.202.4897 or susankoch2@yahoo.com. More information about the preschool can be found at www.acpreschool.org. There is a section under the About Us tab regarding volunteering; however once you contact me, I will send you a more in depth informational packet.

**Arizona, Phoenix**  
*Heather Hinrichsen*

Thankful that our visiting ministers this month were Bros. John Laukhuf (Latty), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Kent Heimer (Taylor), Mark Bahr (Detroit), John Leman (Bern), Roger Aberle (Sabetha), Rod Bajema (Lester), Doug Schock (Bloomfield), Mike Hohulin (Ft. Lauderdale), and Neil Ramseyer (Bay City).

Sis. Linda Yackley, a long-time resident of Phoenix, passed away in Morris, MN. Our prayers are extended to all her family.

Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Chuck) was in the hospital and appreciates prayers for healing and strength.

Katie and Megan Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) are at peace with God and, Lord willing, are looking forward to baptism.

**Arizona, Prescott**  
*Richard Manz*

Greetings from Prescott!

We were blessed to have Bro. John (Sis. Connie) Lehman from Bern, KS to help with the reading of the memorandum on March 2. Other ministers that came to serve us this past month were Bro. Neil (Sis. Sharon) Ramseyer from Bay City, Bro. Jessie (Sis. Bonnie) Bedolla from Detroit, and Bro. Jon (Sis. Nancy) Kokanovich from Phoenix who comes up so often. We are so thankful for their willingness to travel to our small church and share God’s Word.

Our business meeting was held at the beginning of the month. We were reminded of all the efforts put in by our church family to maintain and operate our services to the Lord. We want to thank those that have served in their positions and pray for those that will start or continue in their positions.

**Arizona, Tucson**  
*Lisa Knapp*

We were blessed with many visitors on our pulpit over the last month. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg), Kent Heimer (Taylor) and Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) were all with us and were gracious enough to be used by the Lord in ministering. Bro. Duane and Bro. Ben served us Holy Communion also, for which we are very thankful. We also wish to thank Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa) and his wife, Sis. Lois, who visited for an extended stay this winter. Bro. Ron was so willing to be a part of our pulpit during his stay. We can’t thank them enough for their love toward us. We thank them all from the bottom of our hearts.

We are starting to say goodbye to our winter visitors. This is always a hard adjustment. We pray for their safe travels and hope to see them again next winter. We always hope to stay connected with loving thoughts and prayers on each other’s behalf. Of course this means we are experiencing warm spring weather which is beautiful, sunny, warm days with lovely cool evenings. Even in a warm climate like Tucson, spring is a time of renewal and a
beautiful season that reminds us of God’s seasons and the wonders of His creation.

California, Altadena
Our congregation was thankful to Bro. Gary (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) Endress for being willing to help serve on the pulpit this month. It’s always a blessing to have visitors join us in our small fellowship. We can learn so much from each other.

We are praying for many in our small church with health concerns this month. We lift up Bro. David Art, Sis. Maria Cser, Ann (Aaron) Yaussi and Bro. Bob Crockett to the Great Physician.

Our Bible Class students enjoyed a trip to Phoenix for the Fellowship weekend that is held twice a year with the Arizona and California churches. So many rich friendships are started that can last a lifetime.

California, San Diego
Janelle Brewer

“And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing.” 
Ezekiel 34:26

We have been tremendously blessed this past month with visitors from many places! Many of them came to witness the union of our Sis. Brittney Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian) and Bro. Chris Aranda (Tony and Sis. Cristela Cardenas, Chicago, IL). We wish them God’s nearness as they make their home in Bloomington, IL. We will truly miss Sis. Brittney here in San Diego. Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) had a part of the wedding service and other ministering brothers here were Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), and Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hildy, Morris, MN).

A number of other ministering brothers proclaimed the Word to us this month. They include Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville/MediaMapolis, IA). Additionally, Bro. Mitch Fehr (Sis. Abbie, Morris, MN) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) were with us. We really appreciate Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix, AZ) coming to serve our congregation one Sunday when both our home ministers were gone. May God bless each one of these brothers and their wives.

Again this month we enjoyed worship services in the Palm Springs/Palm Desert area. We appreciate Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN) ministering to us.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Kyann Wuethrich (Bro. Levi) at the sudden passing of her grandpa, Bro. Ike Rufener from Rittman, OH. We pray that God will comfort her and her family at this time.

“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.” Revelation 21:4

Canada, Kitchener, Ontario
Johanna Fortenbacher

We try not to take for granted that there will be a minister here every Sunday. But our Jehovah God has provided for us and we are thankful. This month we had many ministers: Bro. Adam Luginbuhl from Philadelphia, Bro. Tom & Sis. Jane Bollinger from Tremont, Bro. Don & Sis. Connie Manz from Junction, Bro. Vic & Sis. Connie Bauman from Smithville, and Bro. Matt & Sis. Deanna Manz from Toledo.

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“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.” Revelation 21:4
our halls resounding, That Holy! Holy! Holy! sounding, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
(a lot of exclamation marks)
Zion’s Harp #251

Connecticut, Rockville
Lauren Gottier
Sheila Gerber

The engagement of Bro. Tom Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole) and Sis. Julianne Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) was made known to our congregation. We rejoice with this couple and trust that the Lord will direct them through their engagement.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Diana Reutter celebrated the birth of twin babies, Preston Dean and Lauren Kate. They join big sister Alexis and are welcomed by grandparents Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam Reutter and Frank and Sara Vidakovics of Bath, OH.

“Stay thou with me when the shadows of chill death are drawing nigh, like the frosty breath of morning ere the dawn in rosy sky. When the darkness falls around me, then illuminate my soul; as a traveler home returning may I reach my heav’nly goal.” Abiding in Jesus, Zion’s Harp #205

We extend sympathy to the families that have recently experienced the loss of loved ones. Sis. Marilyn Lanz’s (Bro. Ed) sister, Sis. Linda Yackley (Bro. Clarence, dec.) from Morris, MN, passed away.

Sis. Amber Fehr has ended her earthly journey. She leaves her husband Bro. Jay and two sons, Jared and Michael. In addition, her passing is mourned by her mother, Sis. Harriet Farney (Bro. Clifford, dec.); sister, Sis. Anne Gerber (Bro. Loren); extended family; and our entire congregation.

We keep Sis. Carolyn Virkler (Bro. Bernard, dec.) in our prayers, as she is recovering from a recent injury.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for February were Bro. Ernie, Sis. Lucy & Sis. Amy Isch (Bluffton North, IN). We are currently taking reservations for caretakers for 2014, several months are still available. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, this would be a wonderful way to do so. Also, please see the ad in back. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgstefen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our minsters this month were Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL). Our other visitor this month was from Forrest, IL.

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 blessed with a fellowship dinner followed by a presentation by Bro. Kirby Reutter on the Gateway Woods projects. Two weeks later, Bro. Bill Schmidgall made a presentation on the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services. We thank these brothers for sharing the good work that they do.

We were thankful for visiting brothers who shared the Word this past month. Visiting were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), and Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Marvin Steffen (Sis. Rhea, Ft. Meyers, FL). We are grateful for their service and pray for a blessing for them.

We continue to appreciate and welcome the many visitors we are having this winter season.

Florida, North Ft. Myers
Victor Beer

Church services continue at the Seven Day Adventist church, both Sunday and mid-week. This church is located on Ortiz Avenue about one quarter mile north of its intersection with Colonial Avenue, just west of exit #136 at the first stop light.

Our hope is to be able to use our new church on or about April 20 or 27. Our hopes are high for
the move to our own edifice, but we are thankful to have such a spacious church building in which to worship.

This month we have been truly blessed by ministering brothers from these congregations. Sarasota: Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne) and Bro. Ron Koehl (Sis. Carol). Bluffton North: Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry). We pray God’s rich blessings on them for their service.

We are glad to report good results in treatment for our Sis. Jeanie Haerr (Bro. Ray). Also, we are praying for complete success for health for Sis. Virginia Shock (Bro. Norm). It’s been great to see Bro. Dave Kieser (Sis. Wilma) enjoying improved health, like we usually observe in him.

Using the Adventist Church has changed our Sunday routine somewhat, but the great volunteer spirit prevails so strongly. God has just continued blessing us in every way.

Florida, Sarasota
Kim Ott

“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

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) join our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter in serving us in Holy Communion. We appreciate the efforts of these brothers as well as all of our visiting ministers this month, including: Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH). May God add His blessing to the words that were spoken and to the lives of the brothers who shared in presenting the gospel.

Many people from our church recently enjoyed a blessed weekend at our annual family camp out. Reflecting on God’s creation, seeking God in our devotions, and joining in fellowship with others proved to be a time of wonderful fulfillment. We thank all who made this weekend special.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ernie Buser and Bro. Gordon Bryant (Sis. Marilyn) as they recover from recent health issues. May God continue to provide them the healing strength they need for each day.

Illinois, Belvidere
Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Gina Hodel
Terri Huber

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh” Eph. 5:31.

We are happy for Bro. Chris Aranda and Sis. Brittany Wagenbach as they were united in marriage on February 23 in San Diego, CA. In March, our congregation celebrated with the couple at a reception held in Bloomington.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Eccl. 3:1

Bro. Randy and Sis. Erica Stuereman were blessed with a baby girl born on February 20. Kimber Hope passed away 3 days later on February 23. During her time here on earth she was surrounded by love from her parents, big sister Allie, and family members. We pray the family will feel God’s comfort and peace during this difficult time.

We would like to thank Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) for assisting Bro. Mark with the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate leaders who council to provide biblical direction for our church. Bro. Doug Wagenbach along with his wife, Sis. Lillian, and family visited from San Diego, CA. We thank him for sharing God’s Word.

With thankful hearts, Bro. Eric and Sis. Martney Huber and big brother Cohen welcomed Mason Eli to their family on March 11. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber and Harold and Marilyn Stickling from Peoria. We also rejoice with Dayton Rabe as he has answered God’s call to repent. His parents are Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie Rabe.
Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl
Sandi Joos

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.”
Hymns of Zion #154

We rejoiced to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Leah Knobloch as she testified she found the cleft in the Rock, Jesus Christ. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) with us for the weekend.

We also benefited from having guest ministers Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) with us this month for our all-church invite-a-guest weekend. We enjoyed the fellowship of all that joined us that weekend.

“And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”
Luke 22:15-16

We spent a blessed evening together partaking of Holy Communion. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) assist our Elder Bro. Bruce Endress.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18

Our prayers this month have been with Bro. Ed Ehnie (Sis. Verla), Bro. Clarence Bruell (Sis. Sharon), and Troy Elsasser (Leslie) as they were hospital patients.

Bro. Richard and Sis Marilyn Slutz are rejoicing as they have a new grandson. Their son, Bryson, and his wife, Danell, are first-time parents to a son, Raylan “Thomas, who was born February 12.

Illinois, Champaign
Sarah Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana!

March 8 was our Young Group’s annual Parent and Church appreciation supper. Thank you to all the visiting parents who traveled to Champaign for the evening. We greatly appreciate you and your children who attend school here.

On March 15, a housewarming was held at the home of Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla Beyer (children: Sammie, Zach, Zeke, and Eli). The Beyer family has been a blessing to us since they moved here last summer, and we are thankful to have them as part of our congregation.

Thank you to visiting ministers Bro. Al Shambach (Sis. Sarah; Remington, IN) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget; Chicago, IL) for traveling to share the Word with us. We appreciate all that you do.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

In March, ministering Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL) visited our church.

Also in March was our annual Sunday School Benefit Dinner to support the Bible Class’s upcoming trip to Magdalena, MX. The theme for the evening was “Stronger Together” from Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.

Bro. Norm Stahl has agreed to serve as an usher. We appreciate his willingness to accept this role.

We mourn with Bro. George and Sis. Velda Foxe at the passing of their brother-in-law, John Getz (Morton, IL). We offer our prayers to the family.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Janie Waldbeser
Sandy Rudin

“Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:”
Psalms 103:1-2

These are the verses that our Elder Bro. Tom Stock expounded upon as he had our topical Bible presentation in February. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

We bid farewell to two of our loved ones this past month. Bro. Marvin Hari passed away. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his dear wife, Sis.
Carolyn. They had just celebrated 69 years together. Also in our prayers are his daughter, Arly Hari of Phoenix, AZ; and his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Janice Hari of Paxton, IL, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sis. Harriet Walder also passed away on February 16. She is survived by several cousins. Sis. Harriet will always be remembered by her meek and quiet spirit, which we appreciated so much.

“Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.” Psalms 71:9

It is with mixed emotions that our Sis. Sal Markwalder has decided to move to Fairview Haven Assisted Living. We miss her here in Cissna, but we are thankful it has worked out for her. We know our precious Savior will not forsake her as she adjusts to her new surroundings.

Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Craig Stickling (Peoria), and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN) shared the word of God with us when the Cissna Park Young Group hosted an Invite in March. It was refreshing to hear the beautiful singing! We look forward to that Day when we can sing praises to our God in the chorus beyond the skies!

Bro. Stan Maul and Sis. Myrma Weer's, had medical treatments this month, but are doing well. It was good to see Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger in church again this past Sunday! We pray God will continue to be with all our loved ones who struggle from time to time, and bless them with His grace and comfort.

Illinois, Congerville

Erica Steffen

“For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians: 6:20

We know that the angels in heaven are rejoicing, as we have had several young people turn to God in repentance. May they feel the Holy Spirit guiding and directing them as they begin this most precious walk with Christ.

On March 9, our church hosted an All-Church Potluck and Singing. This was a blessed evening of food, fellowship, and praise to God, which was enjoyed by all. We are thankful for the many guests that were able to share in this event and truly made it a special time with brethren from near and far. Special thanks to those who helped organize the evening and labored much to make everything run smoothly!

We continue to feel God’s blessings as we have had many willing laborers in the Word visit us in the past month. Our thanks and prayers are extended to Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury), Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Arel Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest), Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest).

Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Dave (Sis. Kathy) Obergfel (Peoria, IL), who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday, February 19. His thought-provoking topic was “The Widow’s Mite.” On March 15, we gathered for Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted Bro. David. We are thankful that Bro. Earl and his wife, Sis. Dixie, remained with us on Sunday.

Several in our congregation have recently experienced the loss of loved ones. Sis. Cora (Bro. Bill) Schambach’s brother, Harold Woolschlager, passed away in Texas on February 22. Bro. Cal (Sis. Dena) Weiss, formerly of Elgin, was laid to rest in Sabetha, KS on March 5. His siblings in Elgin are Bro. Paul Weiss, Bob (Eleanor) Weiss, and Sis. Pat (Bro. Howie) Schifferer. Sis. Jeanette Schmidt lost her brother, Alvin Schuman (North Aurora, IL) on March 4. We have experienced a loss in our own family with the sudden passing of Sis. Sally (Bro. Ed) Fritz of Washington, IL on March 8.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Marilyn Steffen’s daughter, Rachel (Jim) Stall of Phoenix, AZ, recently received a stem cell transplant.
at the Mayo Clinic. She is now recuperating at home. Bro. Arvid (Cindy) Miller and Sis. Rebekah Braun (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sue) were recently in the hospital and are also recovering at home.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier
Linda Rocke

“…Know them which labour among you, and over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And… esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.” 1 Thes. 5:11-12

The words of the Apostle Paul had special meaning for the Eureka church, as the faithful service on the pulpit of our longtime Elder Bro. Ervin (Sis. Sandy) Knecht drew to a close and Bro. Trent (Sis. Lucy) Meiss was ordained. The church had a special singing to express heartfelt thanks to Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy for all of their sacrifice and service, and a special “family” feeling prevailed.

“And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.” Jeremiah 23:4

We felt the promise of the Word fulfilled as Bro. Trent was ordained our new Elder on March 2. Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury), and Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) assisted in the service. Visiting ministers that Sunday also included Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend), Bro. Harvey Kinsey (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton), and Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park).

Births: Two families welcomed new additions this month. Sage Elizabeth was born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kelly Knecht. She is welcomed home by big sister Brooklyn and big brother Tucker. Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy Blunier are the grandparents. Lucy Marie arrived to Bro. Jake and Sis. Janel Fehr. She has three brothers: Ernest, Lester, and Charles, and three sisters: Kary, Sophie, and Annie. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Tim and Donna Carr.

Death: We extend sincere sympathy to the loved ones of Bro. Gerald (Sis. Velma) Leman. He was the father of Bro. Mike (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Ed (Sis. Ruth).

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks for the prayers, cards, donations, food, and many kind deeds shown us during the passing of Janet, a dear and loving wife, mother, and grandmother. A special thanks to all who helped in any way for the two meals that were prepared. God bless each one of you. Bro. Richard Knecht Family

Illinois, Fairbury
Angela Herr
Janelle Stoller

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord…” Psalm 127:3


On March 15 and 16, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Elisa Kaeb (Will and Juanita) and Sis. Martha and Sis. Esther Moser (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara). We rejoice with them and pray that they may continue a close walk with the Lord. We thank Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Rick in this work.

We are also thankful for several other visiting ministers this past month, including Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN). May God bless these dear brothers for sharing His Word.

Sis. Pat Hartman has been in our thoughts and prayers as she has recently spent time in the hospital.

Illinois, Forrest
Karla Zimmerman
Molly Zimmerman

The winter has been long and cold here in Illinois and often
I have found myself wishing for the warmth of spring to appear. Similarly, in our spiritual life we can become weary as we daily battle sin and Satan and we can begin to wish for the Lord’s return. We can find encouragement in Gal. 6:9 “Be not weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”

We are thankful God has blessed us with a handful of warm days the past few weeks. We know that spring is on the horizon!

It is always a blessing to welcome a new little baby. We rejoice with Nathan and Abby Martinez as they welcomed their first daughter, Kerigan Allyn, this past month. Excited grandparents are Roger and Sheila Steidinger and Robert and Sheila Powers.

We thank visiting minister Bro. Philip Schulz (Burlington, IA) for being with us this month.

Our prayers are with Sis. Mary Edinger as she has recently spent some time in the hospital.

We also ask for prayers for Molly Brown, daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon, as she will undergo another heart surgery. We pray that God will guide the hands of the surgeons and that little Molly will have a quick recovery.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

*Melissa Rokey*

*Laura Wiegand*

We share the excitement of three new babies welcomed into our church family this month! Sadie Jean and Silas Gray were born to Bro. Austin and Sis. Rachel McClure on February 20. It’s easy to see that Clayton is going to have fun being a big brother to this sweet duo. Grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn McClure (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts (Washington, IL).

March 14 was the day precious Tylin Willis was welcomed into the world. His parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Blunier. Tylin has siblings: Laura, Ella, Jubal, and Garrett to entertain him at home. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis Blunier and Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand.

Our Sis. Lydia Hohulin fell and broke her shoulder. Please remember her and Bro. Bill in prayer as she heals. We also continue to remember Paul Puzich in our prayers as his son-in-law, Stephen Collins, passed away recently.

Bro. Randy Schmidgall had a heart attack recently and had 2 stents placed. We keep him and Sis. Cindy in our prayers.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Our annual business meeting was held recently and we want to thank our out-going Sunday School teachers: Bros. Randy Blunier, Adam Rocke, Jared Schieber, Ross Herrmann, Luke Rocke and Sis. Megan Rokey, Jill Wagner and Karen Wiegand. A welcome to the new teachers: Bros. Josh Knapp, Robert Rokey, Bob Schieler, Keith Grimm, Derek Roth, and Sis. Tiffany Gerst, Jenise Wiegand, and Andrea Wiegand. We appreciate Bro. Loren Zeltwanger’s past work as Trustee and give our support to Bro. Mike Hartman, newly-appointed to this position.

We heard the encouraging words from the reading of the Memorandum recently and want to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for his part in sharing this with us. Also, thanks go to Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) for presenting an insightful look at the Fruit of the Spirit in our topical bible study on a recent Wednesday evening. And last, but not least, we want to thank Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Brian Sutter (Sis. Allison, Washington, IL) for leading an all-day parenting seminar for the Goodfield congregation on a recent Saturday. It was a wonderful day of learning how the Lord can work through us as parents, grandparents, and aunts & uncles in preparing our precious children with strong and solid biblical truths and standards.

**Illinois, Gridley**

*Perry Klopfenstein*

The prophet Isaiah wrote, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”  
Isaiah 66:1

May the Lord give grace to our ministers, and may we meekly listen and follow the teachings that will guide us into everlasting life.

Sis. Becky Funk broke her foot in an accident. Sis. Val Funk is recovering from surgery on her foot, and is back at work.

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Morton, was here for the reading of the conference letter. We appreciated the exhortations for godly living in these times. Surely, the enemy is “wrathful still” as we sing in the Zion’s Harp hymnal.

Plans are being finalized for church remodeling. A committee has met several times and drawings are shown in our church’s fellowship area.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler had her 80th birthday on March 3. A reception was held at the Meadows home on a Sunday afternoon.

A son was born to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Rachel Schlipf on February 4, 2014. He was named Carter Jackson. Siblings are Levi, Addison, and Gabe. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla Schlipf, Gridley, and Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht, Roanoke, and Chad Rossman, Bloomington.

August Jay Dohman was born on February 12. His parents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Amanda Dohman. Siblings are Lane and Alyse. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Judy Dohman, Gridley, and Jim and Leann Jordan of Diboll, TX.

Clayton Michael Stoller was born on February 24. He is the son of Dustin and Eva Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Peg Stoller, Gridley, and Jodie Rossman, Roanoke, and Chad Rossman, Bloomington.

May the responsibilities and nurturing efforts of these newborn children find a plentiful supply from the hand of God, as their parents lovingly train them up in the nurture of the Lord Jesus.

**Illinois, Morton**

*Annette Tanner*

**Julie Bahr**

HALLELUJAH!!! HE IS RISEN!!! Make this the best Easter EVER-in your Life, as TODAY is the Day of Salvation! Start your relationship with God through Jesus Christ, decide whether you believe Jesus Is God Incarnate, and can forgive your sins, make you a new person on the inside and lead you to live in a God-honoring way. Acts 4:9-12 and John 1:12,13.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford), and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign), who brought us our Family Worship topic “Sin Has Consequences”.

Our loving sympathy goes out to Sis. Mary Lou Grimm (Bro. Hank) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Melba Hangartner, Tremont.

We share in the loss with the family of our Sis. Wilma Bollegar who passed recently. Surviving are her husband, Clyde and two daughters: Krista Opperman and Nancy Bollegar.


We have one more blessed new birth event to report. Bro. Kyle and Sis. Heather Plattner announced the birth of their new baby daughter, Lena Rose. Happy and thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk and Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner, Princeville.

**Illinois, Peoria**

*Pam Fritzenmeier*

Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr are thankful grandparents again. On January 29, Brett and Liv Steffen, along with Obie and Zion, welcomed home a precious baby boy, Hutch Lee-Lynn. Elsie Grace Kaisner was born March 4 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Mindy Kaisner. She is welcomed home by big sisters, Anna and Mazie. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr and Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner.

We are thankful to announce a new convert, Luke Sauder. His
parents are Bro. David and Sis. Rachel Sauder.

We look forward to the testimony and baptism of Kathy Waddel March 19.

Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville) was “home” March 2 to help family serve lunch and shared God’s Word also. That evening was an all-church retirement singing for Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary) spent Wednesday evening, March 12, helping with the reading of the memorandum. May God bless each one for their service.


We also have a list of those dealing with health issues who desire our prayers. These include Bro. Jeff (Sis. Melissa) Waibel, Sis. Kathy Huthmann, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Russ (Sis. Roma) Rumbold, Sr., Mary Funk, Andrea (Aaron) Staley, Mary See, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Sis. Maria Graham, Allison Stickling (daughter of Chris and Sis. Marsha), and Bro. Tim (Sis. Joan) Reinhard.

Please pray also for our missionary families. These include Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti, and Bro. Zach and Sis. Daniela Knobloch, Bro. Jason Grassi, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Magdalena.

Note of Thanks:

We were very touched by the many kind wishes by way of cards and gifts that we received on our 60th wedding anniversary. It is an added blessing to be a part of a loving church family who cares and shares in the seasons of our life. In His love and ours, Don and Vi Messner

Illinois, Princeville

Gloria White

Renee Herrmann

We have been abundantly blessed by several visiting ministers. This month has included Bro. Brad Gudeman and Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Dan Pfister (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Chicago, IL), Bro. Doug Moser (Morris North, MN) and Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Herrmann as their daughter Destiny has made a beginning in repentance. Let’s remember to keep all our converts in prayer.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner have been blessed with another granddaughter, Lena Rose born to Bro. Kyle and Sis Heather Plattner (Morton, IL) on March 10.

Hospital patients needing our prayers this month are Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter, Sis. Sheryl Martin, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Jordan) Feucht and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Jane) Leman. May God’s healing hand rest on each one.

Illinois, Roanoke

Barb Schwind

Judy Sauder

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

As we think on Easter, we truly have a reason to celebrate!

Three beautiful new babies were born. Troy, Jen and Tucker Janssen welcomed Reagan Ann on February 18. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen, Beth Pelz of El Paso, and Dave and Tammy Pelz of Tiskilwa. On March 1, Talon Gene Ott was born to Adam and Tara Ott of Eureka. Talon’s sister is Remielle. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Lorna Ott, and Dave and Lisa Zobrist of Goodfield. On March 8, Caleb Asher was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht. Caleb’s siblings are Joshua, Charity, and Javin. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Mardell Dotterer (Rittman). We wish God’s blessings to these precious babies and their families.

We thank Bros. Frank Sauder, Tim Hohulin, Tim Lehman (Taylor), Dave Obergfel (Peoria), and Jeff Wiegand (Goodfield) for their messages on Discipleship and Spiritual Growth, Discipleship in the Family and Church, Discipleship Examples in the Bible,
and Discipleship at Work, School, and with Friends. We appreciated these brothers’ encouragement to be in the Word, live godly lives filled with love, and share Jesus with others.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Wilmer Blunier, Sis. Erma Moser, Sis. Mardell Bowald and Sis. Rachel (Bro. Rich) Leman, Sis. Sally Blunier, Bro. Jerry Sauder in the death of their sister and sister-in-law, Sis. Melba (Bro. Jerry) Hangartner (Tremont) on February 26. On March 12, Sis. Amber (Bro. Jay) Fehr (Rockville) went to be with the Lord. She is the daughter-in-law of Bro. Gene and Sis. Margaret Fehr. Our prayers are with both of these dear families.

On March 2, we rejoiced in the marriage of Sis. Sarah Hodel (Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge) and Bro. Danny Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen) from Bluffton. Visiting ministers sharing the pulpit were Bro. Mark Klaus (Athens), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest), and Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Bluffton).

Our 3rd through 8th grade Sunday School students sang for us at the Family Hymn Sing on March 2.

We thank all who helped with the annual church and fellowship hall housecleaning on March 3 and 10. The bathroom remodeling job was also completed this month.

We thank our high school students for serving us at the Bible Class Spaghetti Supper on March 8. We enjoyed the delicious food and fellowship.

On March 8, Doris Fischer (Sis. Clara) of Mt. Washington, KY was married to Brent Cox also of Mt. Washington, KY. Brent’s parents are CJ and Gloria Cox of Phoenix, AZ.

On March 8-9, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Rachel Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy) and Kristen Schwind (Bro. Denny and Sis. Rita). The girls shared that it’s pointless to be lukewarm to Christ and that we are powerless without Christ. We welcome Rachel and Kristen as sisters in Christ! Visiting ministers were Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington).

David Leman (Denny and Sis. Karen) has begun his walk with the Lord.

Congratulations to Allison Sauder (Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary) and Nick Ruzicka from Waconda, IL as they are planning a May 17 wedding.

Our prayers continue for Sally Achterberg and Kay (Michael) Nazarczuk, who are battling serious health issues.

Last month I had the opportunity to hear Gracia Burnham speak. Gracia and her husband, Martin, were Christian missionaries in the Philippines when they were kidnapped by an Islamic terrorist group in 2001. After being forced to tramp through the jungle with this group for over a year, Gracia was rescued by the Philippine army. But, Martin was killed in the rescue attempt. Some of Martin’s last words to Gracia were that he was thinking about Psalm 100 and how important it is for them to serve the Lord with gladness. What an encouragement that is for all of us!

Illinois, Tremont
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder
“`If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” John 13:17

Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) visited on a recent Family Night. His topic, Happiness beyond our Happenings, based on John 13:1-17, was enlightening as we learned that happiness is a condition. We all can be happy (supremely blessed, content, and full of joy) when we follow the ways of the Lord.

We also want to thank Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for his visit to help in the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm and Bro. Mike Grimm also spent a Sunday worshipping with us. May God bless these brothers and their families.

We want to extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Melba Hangartner at her death. Her happy, contagious smile was a reflection of the joy in her heart. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Jerry; children: Jeff (Teresa) Hangartner and Janese Hangartner, Pekin, Jay (Julie) Hangartner, Celina,
TX and Jon (Kim) Hangartner, Peoria; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Along with other surviving siblings and spouses are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Ruth Koch, brother-in-law and sister-in-law from Tremont. We also extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Galen and Sis. Betty Rocke at the death of her brother, Todd Mogler, of Princeton, MO. May God surely provide comfort for these dear ones in their time of need.

Our congratulations to Bro. Michael Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie) and Sis. Holly Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) as their engagement was announced. May their love for each other grow as they prepare for marriage.

New babies are always reason for rejoicing. Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Dill welcome another grandson, Rowen Jack. Bro. Dane and Sis. Kim Zeller (Morton, IL) and brother, Hudson, are his family.

We remember those dear ones with health problems in our congregation, and realize they indeed do appreciate our prayers in their behalf.

We were blessed to gather on a Friday evening for an informative presentation to acquaint us with The Cancer Redemption Project in Haiti, which is under the wing of Loving Shepherd Ministries. Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Sis. Jenny (the late Bro. Zach) Bertsch (Bluffton, IN) shared how the ongoing project is progressing. We were reminded that this project is just one among many opportunities we have to share our rich blessings with others.

**Illinois, Washington**

**Marlene Prather**  
**Jodi Fehr**

We appreciate the dear ministering brothers that come to share with us. Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) came to help Bro. Ron with the Memorandum on February 19. Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) came for our monthly Bible Study. We thank these brothers.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeff, Sis. Chelby Sauder and family as they have been given another gift from God. They traveled to China in early February to receive their new little adopted daughter, Emerson. May God bless this dear family, as they begin to share their love with little Emerson. We have grandparents that are also feeling very blessed. Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner welcomed Ethan Mark, along with parents, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Melissa Hangartner. Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts are enjoying twins, Silas Gray and Sadie Jean. Their parents are Bro. Austin and Sis. Rachel McClure. May God bless these little grandchildren, as they welcome them to their families.

Our church was so saddened to hear of the unexpected passing of Sis. Sally Fritz on March 8. She leaves behind her dear husband, Bro. Ed; sons: Doug (Jennifer, Morton, IL), Bro. Phillip (Sis. Jessica); daughters: Sis. Denise Weerts (Bro. Daniel, Remington, IN), Sis. Michelle Phillips, Lynette Schick (Nathan), Katie Rasmussen (Bro. Mike), and 14 grandchildren. May this dear family continue to feel our love and prayers.

On March 8, we enjoyed going and supporting the annual bake sale and auction for our Eureka Apostolic Nursing Home. It was truly a blessed day.

**Indiana, Bluffton**

**Suzie Fiechter**  
**Kim Meyer**

“O, Spirit of God's strength and might, create in us new life and light;  
O, join us all in heart and mind, that access to God's throne we find  
Within Thy light!  
Anew, Lord, we are bound to  
Thee, through Thy blest sacrament which we partook,  
That joined in heart and hand; to  
Zion's realm and holy land  
We journey on!”

**Zion's Harp # 200**

We entered into a sobering and blessed evening as we partook of Holy Communion on March 15. The God of the Universe not only became man, He allowed Himself to suffer and die at the hands of His created beings. As the bread and wine entered our bodies and flowed into each of our cells, we prayed that His Spirit, His Mind, His Will would totally fill and control our lives. Thank you to our dear Elder Bros. and their wives for joining us and assisting our own dear Elder Bro. Lynn: Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson.
(Bay City), Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy Eisenmann (Chicago), and Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North).

Sheena Steffen (Bro. Ed and Sis. Denise) has turned to her Lord in repentance. May God guide her and convert her soul!

We welcome our new Bro. Chase and Sis. Lindsay Fiechter into the family of God, as they gave their testimonies and were baptized on March 8-9. Chase’s parents are Dave and Sandy Fiechter and June Dickerson. His grandparents are Sis. Maxine (Bro. Charles – dec.) Fiechter and Sis. Mary Jo (Bro. Paul – dec.) Gerber.

We were recently challenged to live our lives so that the angels in heaven will rejoice when we repent and the demons in hell will rejoice when we die.

Surely, the angels also rejoice to welcome a loved one Home. Our Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bluffton) was also the mother of Rick (Deb), Karen (Steve) Aschliman, Sis. Wanda (Bro. Mark, dec.), Sis. LouAnn (Bro. Bill) Rager.

Bro. Mitch and Sis. Jenna Fiechter are rejoicing with the birth of a son. Kade Mitchell was born on February 22. Grandparents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel.

Piper Gray Stoller was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna Stoller on March 3. She joins brothers, Crew and Ridge, and sister, Saylor, at home. Grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Susan Stoller and Bro. Len and Sis. Mary Francesi.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber
Mildred Claus

“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come...” Song of Solomon 2:12

After a cold but beautiful winter, Spring is in the air! With joy, we welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family back to Francesville after they have served in Mexico for the past years. We pray that their transition to life here will be smooth.
Sis. Salome Huber (daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy who is returning with them) was recently very ill and we are thankful that she is regaining strength.

Others that we continue to keep in our prayers due to ongoing health concerns are Sis. Diane Clevenger (Jon) and Sis. E. Joan Gutwein.

Bro Jan Gutwein (Sis. Val), who is serving the Lord in Haiti, was recently injured in a motorcycle accident. Our prayers for his continued and complete recovery are ongoing.

High school Bible Class students spent a Sunday with the other Bible Class students from the Indiana Apostolic Christian Churches in West Lafayette, IN for ACYF. May the Lord bring fruit from this time spent together.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle
We sincerely welcome Bro. Scott and Sis. Becky Ringger from Gridley, IL to our congregation. It is a joy to have new families move to our area and worship with us.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein and their family have been home for several months from the mission field in India. On Wednesday, February 26, Bro. Stan gave a presentation on “Bringing the Kingdom into Everyday Life.” Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they recently returned to India.

Our Indy choir traveled to Detroit, MI for the weekend of March 8-9. It was a blessed time of worship, song, and fellowship.

On Wednesday, March 12, Bro. Ron (Sis. Edie) Bollier led a Bible study on ways to encourage and edify our spouses and strengthen our marriages.

We rejoice with Mark and Grace Zeller on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Marie, born on March 19. She joins her brother Emmett. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Ginny Zeller and Russell and Debbie Moulton (Big Sandy, TX).

We enjoyed having Sis. Rebekah Herrmann (Princeville, IL) here with us the last ten weeks for a college internship. We wish her God’s richest blessings and continued guidance as she plans to move to Chicago, IL for a second internship.

Indiana, Lacrosse
Betsy Virkler
Meagan Frank
“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow…”
_Hymns of Zion #95_

We are thankful for the blessing of fellowship we enjoyed this month for our annual Fellowship Weekend. We appreciated the many guests that were able to join us for a supper and singing on Saturday evening and a day of worship on Sunday. We want to thank Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) for bringing forth the Word.

We also want to thank Bros. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN) and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN) for ministering this month. We truly appreciate their service on our behalf.

Indiana, Leo
Kirby Reutter
“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” Galatians 6:10

This month I kept thinking about the age-old question: “Who is my neighbor?” Luke 10:29. My email inbox repeatedly gave me the answer.

“Please pray for Sis. Judy Gehring. She’s been admitted to Parkview Hospital Heart Institute for testing due to shortness of breath and not feeling well.

…Thank you for praying! Mom is home from the hospital. Her heart tests came back with no problems. Really appreciate your love, prayers and support! Sincerely, Sis. Rachel Fessenden.”

“Brett and Heather Wieland had a new baby boy, Carter Flynn. On Sunday he started having seizures. He is in intensive care and is being tested to try to find the cause of the seizures. Brett and Heather and their family would really appreciate your prayers.

…Please continue to pray for Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda’s son, Brett, and his wife, Heather. The MRI showed some stroke activity. His heart is being evaluated today as to whether it might have thrown off some blood clots and caused them. The prognosis is uncertain.
as well; only time will tell. At this time, medication has stopped the seizures. Your prayers are so appreciated!

...Carter is home! We are praising God! Thank you so much for supporting Brett and Heather and Carter in prayer!”

“To our Leo Family: My younger sister, Sis. Jodi, works at CVE in Magdalena. One of her girls, 5 year-old Keyla, was diagnosed this week with a brain tumor. The doctors at this point are thinking that it is malignant and she has an MRI scheduled to get a better understanding of the situation. So far they do know that it is in a very delicate part of the brain. As my sister said, she needs loads of miracles, but then we have a great, big God who is looking to show Himself strong. Please pray for Keyla!

…Update on Keyla from CVE: Keyla’s MRI results are back. The tumor is in the thalamus area and quite large which makes the surgery risky and small chances of getting it all out. Right now Keyla is comfortable and content. The staff on the unit is great and she is charming them all...but it’s hard to imagine the journey that is in front of us. Thanks for praying everyone! We feel your prayers.”

Speaking of neighbors, a few months ago (around Christmastime) my beautiful wife made freshly-baked cookies and hand-delivered them in a bucket to our next-door neighbor. The very next day, this same neighbor returned the bucket—with his own batch of freshly-baked cookies. As I pondered this exchange, my first reaction was: “That was a completely pointless transaction. Everyone could have just made their own cookies, and it would have saved the trip across the driveway.” But then I had the following epiphany: “It wasn’t about the cookies. The cookies were simply the excuse—or rather the opportunity. It was all about making a connection, forging an acquaintance, and developing a relationship. It was about acting neighborly to a neighbor.”

We have no problem with acting neighborly to a newborn baby that we don’t even know or a five-year-old girl from a different country. Why then is it sometimes difficult to be neighborly to fellow Apostolic Christian churches right around the corner? Did the Master really call us to “keep splintering until I come”? Or much rather, does the Master call us to the “ministry of reconciliation”?

Also, a few months ago, a former intern of mine (not from church background) asked me the following question after a Gateway Team Meeting: “Why do Apostolic Christians always get along?” I didn’t have the heart to tell her (or perhaps the Spirit reminded me that I had the right to remain silent), but the following thought crossed my mind: “Well actually, after 150 years of church history, we are kind of still working on that one!”

It’s perfectly okay if we only have five measly loaves or two small fishes. Or perhaps even a bucket of cookies would suffice. In the words of the Master: “Go—and do thou likewise.” Luke 10:37

Indiana, Milford
Minnie Beer

Jodi Beer

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with Matthew and Betsy Krouse on the birth of Carter Fay. Grandparent is Sam Beer and great-grandparents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer.

We welcomed the Sunday Schools from Francesville, Remington, and Wolcott on March 2. Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) gave them sound spiritual instructions.

Our World Relief family night and Silver Thimble auction were well supported. Our sincere thanks go to our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) who, along with our Bro. Randy Beer, served us Holy Communion on Saturday evening March 15. On Sunday, Bro. Bill served us through the ministering of the Word.

We extend our sympathy to Marlene Bokholdt in the passing of her husband, Alexander. He is the son-in-law of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger

Marcella Tyler

Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis.
Wendy) from Champaign, IL was a visiting minister this month. We thank him for his willingness to serve.

Bro. Stuart Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) will be moving to Benson, MN for an internship this summer. We will miss him and wish him God’s blessings as he pursues this part of his education.

Sis. Lois Bahler has not been able to attend church lately and her presence is much missed. We hope that she will feel up to worshiping with us again soon.

We were very saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sis. Sally Fritz (Bro. Ed) from Washington, IL. Sis. Sally was the mother of our Sis. Denise Weerts (Bro. Dan) and she was a frequent visitor to Remington. We are thankful that Sis. Sally is at home with her Savior, but want to remain prayerful for her loved ones still here on earth. May God comfort each one’s heart.

We also are united in grief with Sis. June Knobloch (Bro. Neil) over the unexpected death of both her brother and sister-in-law Todd and Jennifer Mogler of Princeton, MO. We pray that the Lord will grant peace and healing to those left behind in this tragedy.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” 1 Thess. 5:18

May the Lord bless Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton, IN) for sharing Words of truth and eternal life with us this month.

We are thankful Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (Bro. Marty) is recovering from an elbow injury caused by a fall. We are happy to learn she will not require surgery.

We rejoice at the safe return of Bro. Caleb and Sis. Laura Schafer and their children from a six-week stay in Texas.

“Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.” 1 Chron. 29:13

Indiana, Valparaiso
Marguerite Hoerr
Sherry Meiss

Spring is trying to make its presence known and we are all so ready for it to move forward. This reminds me of what Bro. Tim Bucher preached to us on Sunday, how we should be looking forward to each new day for what God has planned for us. Not what we want to do, but what God has in store for us to do. Our purpose here is to glorify God, praise the name of the Lord morning to night.

We are so excited to announce the dates of testimony April 5 and baptism on April 6 for Logan Weiss, son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha. What a true blessing this is for them and us as well. Keep praying for the Purdue students on their mission in Magdalena, MX. May this experience touch them deeply.

Recently, a sister gave me a new daily devotional. Instead of reading one passage a day I have been reading it as a book and re-reading what I’ve already read again and again, it’s that good. Here is a day I would like to share as Jesus speaking to you called: “Softly I Announce My Presence”. Shimmering hues of radiance tap gently at you consciousness, seeking entrance. Though I have all Power in heaven and on earth, I am infinitely tender with you. The weaker you are, the more gently I approach you. Let your weakness be a door to My Presence. Whenever you feel inadequate, remember that I am your ever-present Help. Hope in Me, and you will be protected from depression and self-pity. Hope is like a golden cord connecting you to heaven. The more you cling to this cord, the more I bear the weight of you burdens; thus, you are lightened. Heaviness is not of My Kingdom. Cling to hope, and My rays of Light will reach you through the darkness.

We pray our Lord will comfort the family of Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler for the loss of their son Todd and daughter-in-law Jennifer and the family and friends of Bro. Leonard Hitz who passed away February 9, 2014.

Our Sis. Marguerite Hoerr (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Merle Bucher (Sis. Leona) need our prayers for their return to us in good health and pleasant weather. Also, remember to pray for each other and our snow bird’s safe return home to worship with us again. We miss them deeply!

The way to follow the Lord is to turn right and go straight. All
are welcome to come and visit, or stay! We’re just south of US 30 on IN State Road 49.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Katie Widmer
Andrea Furrer

Greetings from West Lafayette!

Here, we are so thankful as the temperature is beginning to warm and signs of Spring are appearing. The PYG just returned from warmer climates, as we were at the orphanage in Magdalena, MX over our spring break. We were extremely blessed by the week and many of us expressed a strengthening in our spiritual lives and in our relationships among the group. We had a very eventful trip and we are thankful that the Lord was watching over us and kept us safe. This year has seen much growth in our group as some of our students have given their lives to God and left the old, sinful person behind. This is something we are so thankful for, knowing that now we will be together in eternity! The church is also appreciative of all the visiting ministers that come and serve us on Thursday night. It is wonderful hearing wisdom from so many of our ministers.

Iowa, Ames
Jacob Schulz

We had a visiting minister two Sundays and two Wednesdays this month. We would like to thank Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville/Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie), and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty) for bringing forth the Word. May God bless them for their willing service.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Teresa Schock

We were richly blessed, February 16, when Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington) was with us. Also, that weekend, Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke) was here. They both brought others with them, and we enjoyed having them all. It was quite sobering to us when we heard of Sis. Sally’s sudden passing after their visit. We wish our Father’s nearness and tender mercies to the Fritz family.

March 8 and 9, Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott) traveled to help out on the pulpit, as our Elder Bro. Doug was away. It was also our annual invite-a-friend weekend. May God bless all those who came.

Kendra Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam, Bay City) gave her testimony and was baptized March 16. We welcome her as our new sister. We thank Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester) for all his kindly words and laboring all weekend. May God be his rich rewarder.

As Easter approaches, let’s remember all that Jesus did for us. “He left it all, to climb to Calvary. He left it all to set us free. He walked away.”

From heaven’s splendor. He left it all, He left it all To come to me. How could I repay such mercy? Oh, what love He had for me! He left the throne for Golgotha, Just to die upon the tree.” Author unknown

Iowa, Burlington
Ivy Steiner
Monica Eisenmann

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Mark Masters ( Mansfield, OH) here to help our Elder John Schmidgall with memorandum. We also thank Bro. John Cottrell (Eureka, IL) for teaching us from the Word of God.

We rejoice with the converts Brianna Schulz (Bro. Roger and Sis. June), Hannah Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy), Ben net Wulf (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn), and Zach Schulz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody and the late Karen) that were announced for having precious peace from God and are awaiting baptism.

Our thoughts and prayers have often been with Sis. Tami Banwart (Bro. Leo) and her family during her total ankle replacement and recovery time. It has been a long process and Sis. Tami’s cheerfulness has certainly witnessed to us many times. She is currently in therapy.

“God hath not promised skies always blue, Flower strewn paths all the way through. God hath not promised sun without rain,”
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God has promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labor, light for the way.
Grace for each trial, help from above,
Unfailing sympathy and undying love."

Author Unknown

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

Ben and Kami McCready were blessed with a son, Lochlan Michael, on March 8. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch and Julie McCready of Elgin. Lochlan joins his big sister Kaydee.

Kendra Knobloch was united in marriage to Aaron Haug of Bondurant, IA on March 15. We wish them joy and blessings in their life together. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch and Ron Haug and Beth Jordon.

We’re thankful ministering Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West, Bend, IA) could be with us this month. May God bless the efforts put forth.

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

Lending themselves to be used in the vineyard of the Lord were Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). Bro. Wayne and Bro. Doug shared the Memorandum with us. We are thankful these brothers and their wives are willing to travel and serve the small congregations that don’t have a resident elder.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler of West Bend, IA. Their son and his wife, Todd and Jennifer, were suddenly taken from this life. God is not a respecter of age. We must be ready to meet him in the “twinkling of an eye”.

“God knows the way, He holds the key,
He guides us with unerring hand;
Sometime with tearless eyes we’ll see;
Yes, there, up there, we’ll understand.”

Hymns of Zion #165 vs. 5

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger
Joyce Moser

It is encouraging to each of us to be able to share the news that souls believe they have attained peace with God and man. Our converts: Lynelle Mogler (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Lois), Nichole Barber (Mike & Sis. Donna), and Chad Knoblock (Bro. Troy & Sis. Donna) have made it known that they feel this “peace that passeth understanding.” We look forward to hearing their testimonies, and to witnessing their baptisms in the near future.

We also rejoice with Michael Leuthold (Ashley), who has felt convicted to turn to the Lord in repentance. We pray for God’s grace to be with him as he begins this new life in faith.

We enjoyed fellowship with many church families during another “Invite-a-Couple” weekend March 8-9. Included in the guests were ministering Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth) from Sabetha, KS. We appreciate his allowing himself to be used in this service.

Hospital patients this past month include Sis. Kris (Bro Art) Metzger, Bro. John Tolvstad, John (Sis. Karmin) Popkes, and Sis. Shirley Nester. We pray for the Lord’s healing touch upon these loved ones.

Mitchell Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna) is engaged to Megan Tiffany. They are planning a September wedding. The engagement of Sis. Lanna Meyer (Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda) to Bro. Drew Schmidgall (Bro. Rob & Sis Kathryn) from Morris, MN was announced to us on February 23. They are planning their wedding for late April. We wish both of these young couples God’s blessings as they prepare for their lives together.

Scott and Molly Bowman were blessed with their first child on March 13, when Sophia Ann was born. Loving grandparents in our congregation are Bro. James and Sis. Lois Metzger. We pray for God’s loving hand to bless this couple as they raise their first-born.

The Lester congregation extends a warm “welcome back” to Sis. Michelle Feuchtenberger, who has recently moved back to our area from Morris, MN.

We extend love and sympathy to our Sis. Alice Wulf and her family in the loss of her sister,
Sis. Corrine (Bro. Richard) Schmidgall, from Morris, MN. We also want to remember Sis. Gladys Knobloch, Sis. Elgeva Knobloch, and Dale & Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch, and their families with heartfelt sympathy, on the loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. Calvin Weiss (Sabetha, KS).

Note of Thanks:

The family of retired Elder Bro. Leo Moser wishes to express their appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy they received at the time of his passing. Thank you to everyone who lifted us up in prayer, sent cards, gave memorials, brought food, accommodated overnight guests, and/or assisted in countless other ways. We appreciated each one who was able to attend his visitation and/or funeral service... or dialed-in to listen. Your expressions of care and love meant so much. It made us so keenly aware of how much we treasure our brotherhood—our church family. May God reward each of you as only He can.

Sis. Leona Moser, Bro. Wes & Sis. Esther Moser & family, Sis. Myra & Bro. Arnie Wulf & family

Iowa, West Bend

Yvonne Bruellman
Becky Virkler

God has blessed our congregation with two new babies. Converts, Jesse and Molly Leman are the thankful parents of baby Gavin Russell. He is welcomed home by brother Augustus. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman and Dave and Becky Hefty. Bro. Greg and Sis. Denise Fehr are the thankful parents of baby Lauren Kay. She is welcomed home by siblings: Cole, Maddie and Ross. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Lanz from Oakville/Mediapolis.

Along with joys, many experience the path of final farewells here on earth. Julie (Brad) Banwart bid farewell to her father, John (Janine) Berte. Bro. Dale (Sis. Lezlee) Leman bid farewell to his father, Bro. Gerald (Sis. Velma) Leman from Eureka, IL. Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler bid farewell to their son and daughter-in-law, Todd and Jennifer Mogler from Princeton, MO. Also left to mourn are their children Dakota and Aaron, as well as his siblings: Bro. Lynn Mogler (Sis. Amy), Sis. Wendy Fehr (Bro. John), Sis June Knobloch (Bro. Neil, Remington, IN) and Sis. Betty Rocke (Sis. Galen, Tremont, IL). Our prayers go to each family circle in their loss. May God’s comfort be felt.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.” Reflecting on Psalm 103, we find a wonderful exhortation on God’s mercy. May this bring a comfort to our hearts and thanking to God.

Recently hospitalized was Eric Mogler. We are very thankful he is now home. May God continue to provide him with the blessing of good health.

Each time we assemble in faith and prayer, the Lord provides abundantly. May God bless our visiting ministers: Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), Bro. Bradley Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern), Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN).
Japan, Tokyo
Marie Inoue

“...as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.” 1 Cor. 12:25.

This month we were reminded of these words as the highest form of remembrance of our Lord and Savior—what He did on the cross for us, yet today, how He loves and cares for us, and His faithfulness. These were the teachings of our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and retired Elder Bro. Akito as they served us. Following our service, Bro. Mark encouraged us to pray for several items for the future of our church.

They served not only us in our local assembly, but also journeyed to the southern island of Kyushu to serve our Sisters Kido and Iwama who reside there. It was a joy to visit with these dear ones who are the only believers in their families, but expressed joy in living for the true God. May they and our lights shine brightly wherever we are as we serve our dear Lord. We thank Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev for their love, kindness, and refreshing visit.

We had a one-day fellowship meet on March 21, a national holiday here in Japan. We were taught from the book of Galatians—Paul’s messages to them concerning the law and the teachings of Jesus. Bros. Kan Umemura and Makoto Inoue presented the lesson to us, and we thank them.

This month we rotated ministers of the Word. I am sure the Tokyo church enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie) and sons as we received much joy at the Shioda church. We passed Mt. Fuji on the way, and it was, indeed, a beautiful sight as it was covered with snow, another marvelous scene from our creator God.

Kansas, Bern
Jill Meyer
Rita Menold

It was a blessing to fellowship together for our annual Invite-a-guest weekend on March 1 and 2. Although the weather prevented many guests from coming, we enjoyed the potluck and singing and worshipping together. We appreciate Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester), Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha) for sharing the Word with us that weekend. Our thanks is also extended to Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington) for laboring on our behalf this month.

Congratulations are given to Keithen Meyer (Bro. Duane and Sis. Holly) and Valerie Hecht on their engagement and upcoming wedding on May 31, Lord willing.

Our annual church cleaning was held on March 3. What a blessing to be able to work together as we tend to necessary tasks. The trustees thank each one who was able to help in service to the Lord.

Prayers have been with Sis. Pearl Miller who has had some health issues. We are thankful she is again able to worship with us!

Note of Thanks:

We want to sincerely thank our family and friends for the cards and gifts we received on our 50th anniversary. God bless you all!

James and Lou Menold

Kansas, Fort Scott
Karen Kellenberger

The first Sunday in March, we were blessed with visiting minister Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA) sharing the Word.

This past weekend (March 16), we were privileged to hear Kelsey Kellenberger share a testimony of her repentance, conversion, and walk with the Lord. Elder Brothers Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) in the interview. We rejoiced to witness her baptism the following day and we welcome Sis. Kelsey (Bro. Kent) into our fellowship.

A visiting elder brother referenced God’s Word as His letters from Home, adding he has loved ones where he wants to be. A touching memory was the time almost exactly twenty years ago, when his mother and step-dad had been vacationing in the south for a month. A letter, penned by his mother, stated, “Tomorrow we’re leaving to come home and I’m so excited to see the grandchildren.” Little did she know – the Home she was coming home to was not on this earth. Her loving letter was received a day or so after her funeral....and very precious is that letter today.
March 1-2, 2014 was Invite-a-Guest weekend for us. It held some weather surprises for us, so most of our guests-to-be chose to stay home because of rain, sleet and snow that was forecast. It wasn’t as bad weatherwise as it could have been, but we enjoyed the few who braved the winter weather. Our fellowship was sweet.

Some questions voiced in recent sermons were thought-provoking.

For example:
1. Was there available space in the ark for more people—ones who could have believed Noah, but chose NOT to believe?
2. Do you serve a living God who is of great mercy and sure judgment?
3. Would you and I have been among those who murmured and weren’t allowed to enter the Promised Land?
4. Could we have had the heart of David who would not harm King Saul, God’s anointed? Saul pursued David to kill him, and when David had the opportunity, he would not retaliate.
5. What answer would I give if I was told these words of Mordecai spoken to Queen Esther—“And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”
6. Do I sow peace OR discord among those around me?
7. Am I a “builder” or a “wrecker” in God’s kingdom?
8. Could I sing praises to God while in prison and in stocks, suffering from a beating when I’d proclaimed God’s Word?
9. When Psalm 42:7 tells me “Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts; all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.”—Do I Remember Psalm 42:8? “Yet the Lord will command his loving kindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.”

Proverbs 15:4 “The eyes of the Lord are in EVERY place, beholding the evil and the good.”
“Noah’s ark long drifted…”
“Moses brave and dauntless…”
“Jonah’s hour of trial…”
“Daniel’s den of lions…”
“Three men in the furnace…”
“Jesus’ death arena…”
“He broke Peter’s fetters…”
“God is still with me.”

Zion’s Harp #148

Bro. Albert & Sis. Mara Jean Edelman have a new grandson, Riley Jay Miles, born to Tonya and John Mooney, Westminster, Co. Chloe is Riley’s big sister.

The Easter Season is nearing and plans are for Communion April 26. The sight of daffodils, snow drops, and tulips is such a vivid reminder of Christ’s resurrection to me. Sometimes they bloom in such cold and snow, and yet their radiance is breathtaking. Likewise, Christ’s death and resurrection is a wondrous event for the believer. The night can be ever so long and seemingly defeating, but “Then Comes the Morning”. We are so blessed.

SMILE: The song leader gave the pitch to start the hymn this morning. Immediately, Nyla, 12 mos. old, hummed the pitch.

Matthew 21:16b “Yea, have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings, thou hast perfected praise?”
Mexico, Ixtlán
Issa Sibaja Leon

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints.” Psalm 116:15

Death is a process for which every person has to go through some day. That is why it is so important to be spiritually prepared always, because we do not know the day or the time. Death is not a respecter of age and can happen in a moment that we are not expecting it. Our dear Sister Chuya, (Maria de Jesus Casillas Perez) suffered an accident and fractured her hip. She spent some time in the hospital and the doctors made the decision to do surgery. She did not look good after surgery and looked very weak. A group from church went to visit her and sing to her. Even though she could not sing, she looked so happy and thankful to listen to the hymns and praises. Our Sister Chuya had other illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure and pneumonia that worsened her health. She passed away February 12, 2014 at 84 years of age.

We will always have memories of her. One of them is that she would always sit at the same place in church and had favorite hymns that would always make us think of her. This event made us reflect that every member of the church is equally important. Everyone has different gifts and even though Sister Chuya was old in age, her presence and her words were very important for the church. We miss our Sister Chuya, but we are happy because we have the hope that some day we will see her again!

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12

Alto, Michigan
Renee Steffen
Shelli Oesch

“Take therefore no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself...” Matthew 6:34

Recently in a conversation with a young convert, I mentioned that one of our ministers might be alone the next day and her ‘child-like faith’ reply was, “Maybe we’ll have a visiting minister.” The next day, I was humbled to find that once again our Father had provided for us. We had a visiting minister. I did not need to think about the morrow, God already had a plan in place. That Sunday we were so blessed and thankful to have Bro. Dennis (Sis. Bonnie) Kaufmann from Bloomington to share the precious Word of Truth and Hope.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Bro. Eric Cooper and his family at this time of sorrow in the death of his grandfather, Cecil Cooper. Also, our prayers are offered on behalf of Alex Reed (Sis. Listyn Oesch’s cousin), who was in a car accident; Russell and Peggy Puth (Tanya Steffen’s grandparents), who have been struggling with health issues and hospitalization; Judah Oesch (Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli) as he is going through more testing; and our Ukrainian brethren who are being drafted into the military due to governmental unrest. May all know that we are lifting them up to our “…Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17 May they be comforted in knowing our Creator cares, Oh yes He cares, His heart is touched...

We are thrilled to see some of our church family returning home from where they were wintering. But needless to say, Michigan winter isn’t done yet and they will have to bundle up with the rest of us.

E-Earthly enduring
A-alone and in agony, our
S-Savior suffered in shame.
T-Then to the tomb,
E-our everlasting
R-Redeemer arose.

We were reminded last Sunday that it was ‘love that nailed Jesus to the cross’. My heart hurts knowing that because of my sin He had to pay the ransom, that I might have hope of salvation. Tears often fall when I think of what Jesus Christ had to endure for me. As we again enter the season of renewal and rebirth by remembering our Savior’s death upon the cross, may we feel burdened by unrepentant sin in our lives, desiring to be of a pure and contrite heart.

Note of Thanks:
Dear Alto Church Body, It is with deepest humility that we thank you for all of your cards, letters, support, prayers and
encouragement throughout the past two weeks following the death of our sister Sarah. In the hope that Sarah is now much better off than ourselves, we have found some measure of peace, but the shock of her seemingly untimely death still leaves us struggling with questions and a deep sorrow. Words cannot express our feelings of loss, nor can they explain our sense of gratitude for your loving support in this shocking and sad time. An event such as this leaves us confused and blindsided by thoughts of our own mortality and brevity of our own lives, while it also forces upon us a sadness that seems to have no end. However it also shines a light on the beauty of the relationships we have with those we love the most and increases the value of our relationships with them; with our spouses, our children, and our friends. And so we wanted to express our thankfulness and love for you, our friends and family that have supported and loved us throughout our lives, and even now in this time of sorrow.

In Christ love, Andy and Listyn and the Capman and VanderZouwen Families

During my morning devotions a week and a half ago, the Lord spoke to me and told me to write the following poem. Through encouragement from others, and knowing this was inspired from the heart of our Lord, I share it with you.

“I tried to stop running
Truly I did,
I know this is God’s house
This ‘fun’ they forbid.
But I’ve got the wiggles
And happy’s you see,
Running around
Is just natural for me.
I tried to whisper
Use ‘inside voice’,
But people keep saying
I make too much noise.
You see I do listen
And hear what you say,
But then I forget
When I continue to play.
Please try to remember
I’m just a child,
And being at church
Seems to bring out my wild.
I am not trying to
Embarrass or be bad,
It’s just that I’m bursting
With joyness and glad.”
Renee Steffen

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Several from our congregation were able to travel to Bloomfield, IA to witness the testimony and baptism of Sis. Kendra Schlatter (Bro. Ken & Sis. Pam). We rejoice at God’s faithfulness in the life of believer and pray that His peace would continue to rest on her.

Our prayers are with Bro. Floyd Knochel and Bro. Dean Pashak (Sis. Connie) as each of them spent time in the hospital recently.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Mabelle Wackerle as she mourns the loss of her sister, Madelyn Streu.

Easter is upon us and it causes us to remember the price that was paid at Calvary. How humbling it is to realize that we were the cause of Christ’s death and suffering on the cross. May our lives ever reflect the thanks and appreciation that we owe our Heavenly Father for giving us Salvation.

“Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain
Free to all, a healing stream
Flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.
Near the cross I’ll watch and wait
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.
In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
Till my raptured soul shall find
Rest beyond the river”
Hymns of Zion, #155 vs. 1,4, chorus.

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

I don’t care for peeling onions because the inside, flavorful part of the onion makes me cry. The last time I was peeling one, I thought about how a person could be compared to an onion because we also have “layers”.

We have an outer layer that everyone sees at a glance. Under the outer layer, there are a couple of layers that our friends and acquaintances see. These layers include our jobs, kids, friends, what we enjoy doing, what we drive, how we interact with people, our personalities, talents, and roles in the church. It shows how we accept others and serve the hurting. It is public health
challenges or grief from a loss of a loved one.

The next layer shows our home life. Our family sees us when no one else does. What are we doing or saying that we would not be doing or saying if guests were there?

As we go deeper into our “onion”, how do we act when no one is looking? Do we include God in our day and praise Him? Do we ask the Holy Spirit for grace when we are tempted? Do we find time to pray?

The core of our onion has the potential to make us cry (just like cutting a real onion). This is the protected and hidden part of us. Sometimes this core is good to leave alone. However, if it is unconfessed sin or bitterness or addiction or anything else that hinders our walk with Christ, it needs cut into and opened up even, if it causes tears and vulnerability. When it is done, this honesty will add flavor to our lives and the lives of others in time.

We would like to thank Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) who came to minister to the residents at Woodhaven.

We were blessed when the Indianapolis Choir came for a wonderful weekend of beautiful singing and fellowship. We sincerely thank our visiting minister brothers and wives. They were Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz, Bro. Ken and Sis. Lynn Wuethrich and Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier, all from Indianapolis. We also thank our visiting minister Bro. Fred Witzig and his wife, Sis. Nancy (Washington, IL).

Surgical patient was Bro. Ben Denes who is recovering well.

Sis. Sanche Denes continues to suffer with health issues. We want to remember her in prayer.

We grieve the loss of our precious Bro. Leonard Hitz, although we rejoice that he is in Heaven. He was a longstanding pillar in the church and everyone will miss him. He leaves behind children: Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz from Detroit; son, Rick and his wife, Judith; son, Bob; and son, Jim and his wife, Jill. He also leaves behind many precious and loved grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We also want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Chuck and Dot Lehman in the passing of her sister, Melba, in Tremont, IL.

“I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.” Psalm 91:2

Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev returned from their springtime trip to the churches in Japan. As always, we are so thankful they are back safely.

We were delighted to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Drew Schmidgall (Bro. Robert & Sis. Kathryn) to Sis. Lanna Meyer from Lester, IA (Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda). We are so thankful and welcome Sis. Lanna to our Morris congregation.

Our convert Travis Moser was announced for Peace. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1. We look forward to the upcoming proving
and baptisms of three dear souls: Travis, Eric Wulf, and Mason Metzger.

Sis. Thelma Dogotch recently went into the Courage Cottage. Let us remember to keep her in our prayers.

Our Sis. Corrinne Schmidgall (Bro. Richard (dec.) was laid to rest after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. Our condolences go to Bro. Robert (Kathryn), Sis. Brenda (Mark) Knobloch, Sis. Peggy (Bro. Tony) Ascheman from our Morris congregation and the rest of the children, grandchildren and family.

“Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling…..Come home, come home; ye who are weary come home” Gospel Hymns #324 vs. 1

Minnesota, Morris North
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm

After having a long cold winter, we are looking for signs of Spring. Little birds that are coming back, sing so sweetly as you step out into the March cold. It really brings to mind the promises of our Lord. He will provide for even the sparrow…are we not more than the sparrow to Him? We have an awesome God! Let’s put those promises in our heart and keep our eyes pointed to the sky to look for His return. Will He find faith?

We were so blessed to have visiting elders, and ministers share the Word with us. This month Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. John Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Anne, Morris, MN). Thank you for giving yourself to the Spirit and for sharing the Word.

Our Sis. Linda Yackley has gone to be with Jesus. Our sympathy goes to her family, Bro. Floyd Schmidgall, Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene Moser, Sis. Josie Esterling, Sis. Marion Schmidgall and many nieces and nephews from our congregation.

Sympathy and love goes to the family of Sis. Cortine Schmidgall, from the Morris Country church. Many of us have loving memories of Sis. Corrine. We certainly look forward to meeting her and Sis. Linda in those beautiful Heavens someday.

We were uplifted as we came together for a topical Bible Study which Bro. Earl Ringger presented. So much to take in and so much work to do. But our God is faithful, and He will give us grace. Thank you, Bro. Earl.

Let’s let our light shine in this troubled world…..we can’t help but see the signs of His return. Let’s pray for each other, that we can all keep running the race. We will soon see the finish line. This earth is certainly NOT our home, and aren’t we thankful!

Minnesota, Winthrop
Lindsay Schmidt
Julie Schmidt

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 1:3

On February 22, we were privileged to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Our home elder along with elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) delivered these wonderful exhortations in love. May each one take these teachings and nurture them so that our spiritual fruit may grow and abound.

“How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.” Psalm 36:7

We pray for each of our surgery and hospital patients. Our patients this past month were, Shirley Demm, Bro. Roy Howk, and Melvin Messner (Vernita). We trust that God will keep them under His wing and continue to provide and care for them.

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

Our congregation was blessed to be able to host the Regional World Relief Meeting here on March 8. It was eye-opening and humbling to be able to hear and see the needs of those around us physically and spiritually. However, it was a real encouragement and blessing to be informed of what World Relief, along with other organizations and our brethren, does to help these
people physically and spiritually. May we prayerfully consider how God would direct us to help those in need whether physically, monetarily or prayerfully.

We were also blessed to be able to sit under the sound of God’s Word on Sunday. Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) was here and expounded God’s teachings to us. We want to thank him for his willingness to serve.

Missouri, Kansas City
Brittany Fehr

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

We were recently privileged to partake of the Lord’s Supper together. Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) in serving Holy Communion with our congregation. We appreciate their labors.

Missouri, Lamar
Venetta Banwart

Many thanks to the visiting ministers this month for being willing to come a serve. They were: Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS). May God richly bless each of you for feeding us from His Holy Word.

Occasionally we are blest with a larger group of company, when the singing in our church assembly fills the air, or as we sometimes say, “fills the rafters”. It surely fills our souls with joy and imparts a blessing to young and old, for those who have a gift of song and music, and well as for those who simply appreciate listening and soaking up the blessings. We can take this blessing of congregational singing for granted, or we can gain appreciation for it by understanding how that this has not always been the case in the course of history.

Prior to the Reformation in Europe, hymns were only sung by the choirs or priests. The words were all in Latin, and very few people could even understand the meaning. But when the believers of that time began to assemble and worship as they believed the Scriptures taught, they needed hymns to sing that they could read and understand, and gifted brethren started to assemble hymnbooks. Over several centuries, hymns were gathered, and written for the worship services of the born-again believers. The Anabaptist movement was very committed to gathering and keeping hymns that reminded the worshipper of the struggles and persecutions that were endured for beliefs. Our Apostolic Christian hymnbooks are also very unique to our heritage. They tell of the struggles for the cross, as well as the blessings that the true believer realizes. Thank-you to all who have helped us realize this blessing.

Missouri, St. Louis
Kary Mangers

Our congregation would like to thank our Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor), Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne Beery (Rittman), Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park), and Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk (Morton) for joining us in fellowship and bringing God’s Word to us this past month. We were blessed by their servant hearts.

Missouri, Taylor
Marcia Sutter

The Taylor church extends our thanks to Bro. Justin (Sis. Marcia) Koch from Washington IL, who came on March 5 to give our monthly Bible study on John 21. This chapter has many wonderful teachings, especially that Jesus loved His disciples and used every opportunity to teach them their role in the New Testament church. The wonderful part is that these teachings are timely for us also.

Elder Bro. Herb (Sis. Laurie) Knochel from Phoenix AZ came to assist Elder Bro. Kent Heimer in reading the Memorandum on Saturday March 8 and preached both sermons on Sunday March 9. We appreciate them coming from such a distance to spend a blessed time with us.

Bro. Vernon (Sis. Judy) Huber continues to have health issues and is currently in the hospital. His wife, Sis. Judy, fell and broke her hand recently. The snow and
ice was the reason their son-in-law, Bro. Dan Winget, was in an accident on his way to church March 16. We are glad to report that he escaped serious injury and wish all three God’s healing hand for a quick recovery.

Those that had surgeries this month include Sis. Amy (Bro. Rusty) Adrian and Sis. Charlene (late Bro. Richard) Sutter. We wish them a quick recovery.

On March 12, admonition for communion was given by Bro. Kim Sutter followed by a few comments by Elder Bro. Kent. Our ministers and their wives serve us so wonderfully at Taylor and travel often to other churches to help with church services. They truly follow the instructions that Jesus gave in John 21 to “…Feed my sheep.”

**New York, Crogham-Naumburg**

**Hope Graves**

We were thankful to have our ministering Bro. Dan Goric and Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville, CT, on March 16. The next weekend we enjoyed having Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger and Sis. Karen with us from Kansas City, MO. We shared a potluck dinner together before reading the Memorandum. We appreciate the willingness of both of these brothers to come and share God’s Word with our congregation.

We would like to express our thanks to the Rockville, CT brethren that came to serve our lunch on March 23. This is always a special time for us to fellowship with those of like mind and faith.

We enjoyed the opportunity to get together to tie quilts for World Relief on February 26. Health, school and sewing kits were assembled on the evening of March 14. We appreciate the many that took part in this work.

We rejoice with Sis. Doris Steiner in the birth of two new great grandchildren. Twins, Ezra and Hazel, were born to Robert and Shannon Mabey in Vermont on March 3. May the Lord bless this family as they raise these two precious new lives.

We are thankful that Sis. Alice Virklser is doing well and home recovering after having hip surgery.

**Ohio, Akron**

**Carla Miller**

With gratefulness we share that Michael Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) has turned to the Lord in repentance.


Bro. Trent and Sis. Molly Gasser are thankful for Oliver Elias, born March 4. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser (Junction, OH) and Tim and Sis. Kim Hanzie (Rittman, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Sis. Mary Ann Weigele (Bro. Al) as she is in the hospital recovering from surgery.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Lisa Gherian (Bro. Justin) in the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Isaac Ruffener (Sis. Verna, Rittman, OH).

**Ohio, Junction**

**Vicki Boroff**

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto) help with communion.

Prayers go out for Sis. Joan Bauer as she recuperates in a skilled nursing facility.

**Ohio, Latty**

**Carmen Stoller**

**Mindy Stoller**

We had the pleasure of having a Women’s Day this past month, presented by the Apostolic Christian Counseling Center and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) and Sis. Amber Miller (Champaign, IL). We thank them from the bottom of our hearts as we women were encouraged and uplifted! Our church also had the pleasure of hosting an all-church Invite-A-Guest. It was a blessed weekend and we thank all those who attended!

Bro. Mitch and Sis. Ashley Maibach welcomed a baby girl, Emerson Dawn, into their home on February 26. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise Plummer. May God richly bless their new little family!
We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. We often fail to tell each of you how our hearts have been touched by the Spirit’s work in you. Many thanks to Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Elizabeth, Portland, OR), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Matt Oesch (Sis. Shelli, Alto, MI).

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

Mansfield’s annual World Relief Days are always a bright spot in the winter months. Thank you to all who gave time and effort to make the two-day event a success! We were thankful to pack 15,075 bags of soup, fill 75 Red Cross kits, sew numerous backpacks, and knot comforters. The opportunity to serve those in need, and enjoy the fellowship of each other, is always a blessing.

Our hearts go out to our loved ones who spent time in the hospital. May God grant healing and comfort to Bro. Phil Keiper (Sis. Theresa), Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue), and Tiffany Sauder (Andrew).

We appreciate the willingness of Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), to worship with us. May an extra measure of the Holy Spirit continue to inspire each one who labors to preach the gospel and encourage the believer.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Christine Dotterer and her family, in the recent passing of her brother, Bro. Richard Beery.

Ohio, Rittman

Anna Bauman

Julie Steiner

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1


We are thankful for our new convert in Rittman, Heidi Ramsier (Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni). May God grant her grace as she begins her walk with the Lord.

We were thankful for three new brothers baptized on March 16: Jacob Blough, Steven Klotzle (Bro. John and Sis. Cheri), and Evan Beery (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynn). May God bless them as they continue their walk of faith.

Several loved ones have passed on from this life this month. Our thoughts are with the loved family of Bro. Andy Hunyady as he took his last breath on this earth. Also, Sis. Diana Raifsnider will miss her father-in-law, Gerald Raifsnider. Grandchildren Sis. Amy Raifsnider and Bro. Andrew Raifsnider (Sis. Esther) will miss their grandfather.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Verna Rufener in the passing of her husband, Bro. Isaac. Also mourning the loss of Bro. Ike are Bro. James and Sis. Pat Rufener, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee Rufener, John and Judy Wachtel, Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne Kipfer, Sis. Sheila Kries, and Bro. Matthew and Sis. Amber Rufener. May God be with them during this time.

Several individuals have been in the hospital with health issues lately. They are Jeff Maibach (Elsie), Sis. Margaret Betz, Kaden Katanic (Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather), and Tom Flynn (Sandi).

We appreciate our visiting ministers who brought God’s Word to us, including Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN); and ministering Bros. Jim Zollinger (Silvertown, OR) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to serve.
Ohio, Smithville
Sara Crist
Kara Stoller

We share in the joy of Sis. Luella Stoller (late Bro. Harold) on the arrival of a grandson born to Doug and Rachel Stoller of Bloomfield, IA. Benjamin Paul was born February 15 and joins siblings Joseph, Mary and Anna. Congratulations also to first-time grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn Maibach, as they welcomed a granddaughter on February 27. Emerson Dawn was born to Bro. Mitchell and Sis. Ashley Maibach (Latty, OH).

February 23 marked the day of the elder ordination for Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda). They are touched by all of the love, prayers and support they have felt. Thank you to all the visiting elders and ministers that shared in this special day and who assisted in various ways: Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH).

Thank you also to Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman OH) who, on a later day, ministered to our congregation.

With both sadness for our loss, and joy knowing a loved one is now in the presence of Jesus, we said farewell to Bro. Darrel Indermuhle (Sis. Janet) on February 24. Bro. Darrel was the father of Bro. Dennis (Sis. Shari), Neal, Sis. Darlene Weber (Bro. Myron) and Bro. Scott (Sis. Patty). He was also a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather. Sis. Lilas Rufener (Bro. Joe) said goodbye to a brother.

Our heartfelt sympathy also goes out to Bro. Matt and Sis. Amber Rufener and their children after the unexpected death of Matt’s father, Bro. Isaac Rufener (Sis. Verna, Rittman, OH), on March 7. Bro. Joe Rufener (Sis. Lilas) will also miss a dear brother. We are comforted in knowing that although Bro. Isaac is “absent from the body” he is “present with the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 5:8

Hospitalized recently were Sis. Mary Ann Maibach (Bro. Gary) and Sis. Florence Hartzler. We are thankful we serve a sovereign God who has all events in his perfect control, and a God who also desires our fervent prayers for healing and comfort.

Ohio, Sardis
Faith Beard

Our church family has had some medical incidents this month. Stephanie Bissett (Mark), daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle, has continued to have medical procedures done and have required some recovery time. Then, on March 24, Bro. Andy and Sis. Cyndi Figel had two daughters, Baylee and Caydi, injured in a vehicle accident with Baylee requiring some extensive hospitalization. Anyone interested in following her progress may look up her Caringbridge site under “bayleefigel”. Our hearts and thoughts and prayers go out to these families now and in the days ahead with gratitude to our Lord for His healing and protecting hand. The hymn “God Will Take Care of You” has been especially comforting to the Figel family at this time:

“Be not dismayed what-e’er betide…
Beneath His wings of love abide,
God will take care of you.
Through days of toil when heart doth fail…
When dangers fierce your path assail…
All you may need He will provide…
Nothing you ask will be denied…
No matter what may be the test…
Lean, weary one, upon His breast…
God will take care of you,
Thru ev’ry day, O’er all the way; God will take care of you.”

Hymns of Zion, #137

The Sardis congregation wishes to extend an invitation to all to attend the annual Memorial Service at our New Martinsville church. This is scheduled to take place on the last Sunday in June, the 29th. In addition to this once-a-year Sunday song and worship service, we also have a Saturday evening service on the 28th at 7:30pm at the Sardis church. Please contact
Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593 for further information. Accommodations will be provided if desired. As always, single groups are appreciated, and special invitation is extended to visiting ministers.

**Ohio, Toledo**

**Deanna Manz**

**Jenny Manz**

Our elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) gathered with us on a recent Thursday evening to share a summary of the elder forums and the mid-winter elder conference. We are so thankful for our elder brothers, and all the time and effort they sacrifice on our behalf. May we always be prayerful for them, that God’s will might be accomplished.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Jenny Manz (Bro. Chet) in the loss of her grandfather, Gerald Raifsnider (Rosemary). May the Lord grant comfort and peace, as only He can.

**Ohio, Toledo**

**Deanna Manz**

**Jenny Manz**

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**Oregon, Portland**

**Louisa Gallup**

On February 16, Bro. Calvin Sinn (Bro. Todd & Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) and Sis. Rebekah Jones (Bro. Ron & Sis. Liz, Portland, OR) were married. The wedding took place at Silverton, OR, where Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) performed the service and both fathers of the couple delivered a sermon that day. We thank them all for their labor of love. We wish the newlyweds God’s blessings as they make their home in Latty, OH. Even though we will miss Sis. Rebekah, we look forward to any future visits she and her husband might make to Oregon.

On the evening of February 16, Bro. Raymond J. (Ray) Cooper went home to be with the Lord. He was 82 and had been in declining health for some time. We will miss this dear, faithful brother and his presence in our small church family. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Ginny (Miller); their sons: Ken (Linda), Don (Shirley), Bill (Janet), David and Gary (Diane); 13 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his sister, Sis. Connie Steffen (Bro. Garth, Portland, OR). Bro. Ray was preceded in death by his parents Bro. Ray, Sr. and Sis. Anna (Robertson) of Portland, OR; and sister, Anna Marie Day. He was drafted to serve in the Korean War in 1951, where he committed himself to serve the Lord. He was a member of our denomination close to 60 years. During that time, he and his family also attended Altadena, CA, and Tucson, AZ before settling in the Portland area. Married for 58 years, Bro. Ray showed unfailing devotion to his wife, visiting her daily at the care facility where she currently resides, despite his serious health conditions. Our sympathy and prayers go out to Sis. Ginny and the rest of the family.

Our annual Business Meeting was held February 23. Bro. Lee Jones (Sis. Chelsie) was re-elected to run the sound system and Bro. Rollin Nussbaum was elected to serve a term as Trustee. We thank those who have served in several duties and those who continue to give of themselves for the benefit of the church.

On March 15, the Portland brethren assembled with the Silverton church for the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen) traveling from Croghan-Naumburg, NY to assist Elder Bro. John Wiegand in this work. We appreciate the Elder Body putting the letter together. May we all receive blessings from it.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa) and Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) from Silverton, OR.

Note of Thanks:

The Cooper family thanks everyone who blessed Dad and Mom by visiting them at Hope Village. We thank those who showed Mom Cooper and us, such love and sympathy at Dad’s passing in February. The expressions of condolences and the lovely meal after the funeral service were such a blessing. Your love in action meant a lot. May The Lord richly reward you for taking the time to share with Mom and us. In Christian love, Ken and Linda Cooper and the rest of Ray Cooper’s family.

**Oregon, Silverton**

**Kelsey Walder**

**Ann Kuenzi**

Jordan Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth) and Alisha Yoder (Greg and Carol Dyke) announced
their engagement. We wish this couple God’s blessings as they make plans for their wedding on August 23.

March 3, little Abel Stadeli (Bro. Greg and Sis. Susan) had an adenoidectomy. We are thankful he is recovering well.

Bro. Denver Slagel came home for a visit and shared of the work that is going on at the Casa Vida Y Esperanza where he is serving. We were thankful to see him again and to be reminded of World Relief opportunities that exist to share of our blessings.

We rejoice with Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi and Annaleise Kuenzi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Sherri) as they each have been given the gift of peace with God and man.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen) from Croghan-Naumburg, NY assist our Elder Bro. John Wiegand in sharing the Memorandum on March 15. We wish to express our thanks to him for his service throughout the weekend, as well as to each of our elder brethren for their labors on our behalf.

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

**Laura Isch**

“Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease: ’Tis music in the sinner’s ears, ’Tis life and health and peace”

*Hymns of Zion, #291 vs. 3*

We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) with us this month.

We appreciate his willingness to be used by the Lord.

**Tennessee, Nashville**

**Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have appreciated the willing service of our recent visiting ministers: Bros. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke), Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City), and Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). We have also been encouraged by visitors from Chicago, Fairbury, and Roanoke, IL; Remington, IN; Elgin, IA; Bern, KS; and Taylor, MO.

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: Alto (4/20), West Lafayette (4/27), Chicago (5/4), Bloomington-Normal (5/11), Kansas City (5/18), and Denver (5/25).

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 often meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contact Bro. Don & Sis. Faye Sauder, 615.373.8928, or Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com.

**Texas, Austin**

**Candy Meiss**

It is a beautiful day here in Austin, Texas. Sunny, breezy and 63 degrees. We welcome anyone passing through to worship with us. Austin consistently rates as a top economy. It is the only city in the nation with double-digit percentage job growth in the last 5 years.

One year ago today we laid my dear father, Bro. Richard Wuethrich, to rest. The last week of his life was an extra blessing, a special time of sharing. He talked often of his love for Jesus, family, friends and our precious church. His last words, firmly spoken, as he was gazing straight ahead were “show me the way”- he was so eager to enter his heavenly home. May we diligently seek Him as we “carry on”.

It was such a blessing to have Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), and our Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX). We were also thankful to have Bros. Dan Beer (Sis. Debbie, Milford, IN), Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL), Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sab etha, KS), Bradley Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN), here to preach the Word.

Our Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner gave us a minister exhortation on 1/5 and encouraged the church to pray for direction. Brother Jim Meiss was installed as a minister on 2/2/2014. We appreciate your prayers as our Austin church
adds another brother into the ministry. We feel God’s love and His presence in our precious Austin church and we have been continually blessed. We are always so thankful for all our visitors.

The following is the minister schedule for March: 3/23-Princeville, IL; 3/30: Francesville, IN; 4/13: Rockville, CT; 4/20: Rittman, OH; and 4/27: Gridley, IL.

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

Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth

Services are generally being held the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. Please call ahead to verify. Leland and Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

Texas, McAllen

Gloria Walder

May the Lord richly bless His servants who recently visited us: Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH).

Other visitors who added to the blessings of our worship services were from Morris, Lester, West Bend, Burlington, Zapata and Tremont.

We heartily welcome anyone coming to South Texas and ask that you inform us of your plans so that we can prepare for meals and fellowship. Services are scheduled for April 20, Rittman; April 27, Mansfield; May 11, Smithville; and May 25, Goodfield.

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 at 956-581-8266.

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 ½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

Vermont, Clarendon

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

As in the days of King Asa the land was quiet, so this month had not much action. For this we are glad. The quietness helps to still our spirits in the busy age we live in.

We had one visiting minister this month, Bro. Warren Zahner and his wife, Sis. Bonnie. Bro. Warren faithfully took his turn on the rotation to support our Bro. Mark Hoffman in the pulpit ministry. We thank him and Bro. Mark for their willingness to preach the Word of God to us.

Bro. Warren also helped in officiating the yearly business meeting. He encouraged us to continue on in the work begun. By the grace of God we plan to do just that. We talked of duties within the church body and of how we might reach out to those of our community.

As we close this month’s article, we wish you the special presence of God’s Spirit until we visit again.

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

You are welcome to worship and fellowship with us anytime. Contact Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter at 802-447-2426 or nmrbenn6@gmail.com to let us know when you are planning to be in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times are as follows:

- Mid-week services (Contact local brethren)
- Sunday Morning Service: 10:10 AM
- Sunday Afternoon Service: 12:15 PM
- Sunday school held during the morning service.
8th Annual Midwest Gospel Sing
Saturday, May 3, 2014

Five Points, Washington, IL
6:00pm

The Midwest Gospel Sing consists of 4 groups of Apostolic Christian singers, each taking the stage for several song selections.

There will be congregational singing interspersed throughout and a testimony from a family who has been touched by the Home for the Handicapped.

In lieu of an admission fee, a free will offering will be collected to support the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped.

Doors open at 5:00pm. Seating is reserved for the first 1000 attendees.

Live too far away to attend? You can still be a part! We will be hosting a live internet streaming of the event that evening. Go to our website (www.midwestgospelsing.net) prior to the start of the program and click on the Watch Live button.
2014 Athens/Tennessee Fellowship Weekend
May 24-25, 2014

“And behold I come quickly;” (Revelation 22:12)

Jesus Christ could come back at any time of any day as he has foretold us in the scriptures. In preparation, we as believers need to be redeeming our time here on earth and sharing the gospel message of salvation with others. During the TN Fellowship weekend (Memorial Day Weekend 2014), Ministering Bros. Clark Stoller and Fred Witzig plan to talk about how we can witness to others within our families, in our communities, at work and abroad.

To begin the weekend, an auction is planned at the Tennessee Fellowship Area starting at 2 p.m. Donation of auction items will be greatly appreciated. Following the auction, enjoy fellowshipping or strolling around the lake before supper at 6 p.m. In the evening, congregational and special group singing and a speaker are planned. On Sunday, worship with the Athens congregation beginning at 10 a.m. Afternoon activities resume at the Fellowship area at 3:30 p.m. and include singing, fellowship and a speaker.

Bus planned from Morton, IL -- 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.

Plan to attend this uplifting weekend filled with spiritual insights, fellowship and singing to glorify God, our great creator. Reservations for overnight accommodations can be made at the hotels listed below. Additionally, there are electric and water hookups for campers at the Fellowship area. Please contact Bro. Roger or Sis. Becky Roberts at the info listed below for more information. If any standing choirs, quartets or ensembles are interested in attending the 2014 weekend, please contact Bro. Phil Witzig as listed below.

For questions, please contact any of the coordinators below. Also, please RSVP to any of the following names before May 5:

Bro. Roger or Sis. Becky Roberts - 931.309.9335 or 309.208.5590 or mrrpipes@afo.net
Bro. Phil or Cindy Witzig - 309.263.0152 or pwitzig@kuhlco.com
Bro. Mark or Sis. Rebekah Klaus - 256.777.7777 or flyhi55@aol.com
Bro. Matthew or Sis. Kristy Moore - chewchew27@aol.com
Sis. Gwen Leuthold - 615.969.0958 or leutholdg@aol.com
Bro. Kerwin or Sis. Sara Edelman -- 256.326.4353 or edelmanteam100@gmail.com
Bro. Tom or Sis. Sue Waldbeser - 770.463.4788 or twald2010@att.net

Athens, AL Area hotels- Best Western (256)233-4030; Travel Inn (256)232-2704; Country Hearth Inn & Suites (256)232-1520; Days Inn (800)329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256)232-0030; 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, TN--Super 8 (931)363-4501
Development Coordinator Needed – Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods is seeking 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.

Ed Graf
Residential Program Manager
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
Cell:260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Top Quality Coordinator – Gateway Woods

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 play a role in a group of residents lives this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Adam McAfee
Director of Education
PO Box 125,
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

To order, contact:
Printed Sermons
P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com

Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed. AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker Needed – Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work partially with adoptive families and partially with hurting children and families in our Home-Based Program. Requires a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or a related field, experience working with children and families preferred.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children and families. Contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position.

Jeff Waibel
Director of Clinical Services
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
jeff.waibel@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Education Intern – Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods is in need of an Education Intern for the summer of 2014. 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
Director of Education
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Light from the Word

Now available by downloadable PDF from the Apostolic Christian Publication website:
www.acpublications.org

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).
Teaching Position Available – Gateway Woods

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.

Adam McAfee
Director of Education
PO Box 125,
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Summer Volunteer Coordinator – Gateway Woods

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:

Clint Plattner
Residential Program Manager
PO Box 125,
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
Clint.Plattner@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260.466.6712
lynnstieg@gmail.com

Bible Distribution: Sharing the Word in Love

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” Prov 29:18

Bibles in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ. The inventory is computerized. These materials can be drop-shipped to nearly any address. To order, contact:

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Ph: 309-965-2141 • bibledistribution@acpublications.org
Registered Nurse Needed - Apostolic Christian Home, Rittman, OH

Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman, Ohio, is seeking a registered nurse to fill the Director of Nursing position that will be opening soon. Qualifications include a registered nurse license in Ohio and a heart to serve the elderly in a Christian atmosphere. Experience in a nursing supervisory role is preferred. General duties include directing and implementing nursing services including skilled nursing care, assisted living and independent living, along with supervising our nursing team of caregivers.

Should the Lord place on your heart the desire to make a difference in the lives of the elderly within a Christian ministry please contact:

Curt Walter, Administrator
10680 Steiner Road
Rittman, OH 44270
330-927-1010
cwalter@apostolichome.com

For more information about the community visit us at www.apostolichome.org.

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How to order: Order online at www.acpublications.org. During store hours, call 309-965-2611. Send a fax to the same number after hours or leave a message. Order forms are available either at your local church, for printing off our website, by calling AC Publications, or by emailing office@acpublications.org. Mailing address: 651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Alternate Houseparent Needed

Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time ongoing 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.

Clint Plattner       Lynn Stieglitz
Residential Program Manager      Counseling Elder
PO Box 125          15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765      New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283      Cell: 260.466.6712
clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org   lynnstieg@gmail.com

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, Lord willing, we plan to hold services at the following location:

July 20 and July 27, 2014
Breckenridge River Mountain Lodge in Summit County
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. Ministers from Denver church 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) 696-1301  E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net
English Teacher Needed in Ixtlán, Mexico

Colegio de las Américas is a church-funded elementary school in Ixtlán, MX. They have an opening for an English teacher to teach grades 1-6 for the 2014-2015 school year, beginning in August.

While options exist to hire a Mexican English teacher, they really desire Christian teachers that can be examples to our students. If you meet the qualifications below, please prayerfully consider becoming an English teacher in Ixtlán.

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. Ability to manage a classroom.
• Willing to be sent by the AC Mission Committee and to work together as a missionary team in Ixtlán.

El Colegio de las Américas is a private Christian school that is focused on teaching Biblical values to students while providing a solid education which is often difficult to find in Mexico.

Counselling Elder for Ixtlán:
Mike Leman

Contact:
Please contact Bro. Matt Gerber for more information about this opportunity to serve.
magerbe@gmail.com

ACCFS Announcements

ACCFS is thankful to announce the addition of two new staff members, Bro. Arlan Miller and Bro. Kaleb Beyer.

Arlan Miller recently joined ACCFS as Church Outreach Director. In this role, Arlan directs teaching services to Apostolic Christian congregations, including the offering of training, seminars, presentations, Bible studies, website resources, and publications.

Kaleb Beyer’s role at ACCFS is as a staff counselor. Kaleb’s clinical specialties are in pre-marital, marital, and family therapy as well as anxiety and depression. He will be working primarily with adults.

For more information and to browse our numerous resources, please visit our website at www.accounseling.org. There you are able also to sign up for our informational emails and newsletters.
Volunteer Caretaker Opportunity – Washington, D.C.

The Washington, DC church caretaker program is entering its eighth year. It has been such a blessing for our visiting caretakers, as well as our local members and friends. We have several openings for 2014, and are taking reservations for 2015 as well. Our church home is located in Silver Spring, MD, and meets both church and residential needs.

The fellowship that caretakers provide is vital to our small congregation and visiting ministers. Caretakers can be couples, singles or families who would enjoy spending time near the Nation’s Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast. Caretakers would perform routine household and yard maintenance chores, and should plan to stay at least three Sundays.

Families with children are urged to give this opportunity prayerful consideration. We have three children (pre-teen and teen), who would welcome other children in their Sunday School class.

For more information, please contact Barry and Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or dkgsteffen@gmail.com

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

Eastern Meeting:
Rittman, OH
November 8, 2014
8:00 am - 4:00 pm EST

Meeting Before Conference:
Lester, IA Fellowship Hall
August 7, 2014
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm CST
Child Sponsorships

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 child

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 _________________________
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: $30.00/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

Give a Child Hope

Director of Operations at Hospital Lumiere

Hospital Lumiere is a 120-bed primary care medical-surgical hospital located in the village of Bonne Fin, high in the mountains of southern Haiti. World Relief assumed management of daily operations at the hospital in 2011.

By God’s grace and mercy Hospital Lumiere will seek to transform the lives of the people living in the Bonne Fin area to the highest degree possible by delivering excellent medical care and sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Hospital Lumiere is seeking someone to fill the position of Director of Operations.

Position description

This position involves organizing employee policies and records, implementing procurement processes, supervising Information Technology, and working closely with the Hospital Administrator on many other matters. A relevant bachelor’s degree in business, personnel management, communications, education, or other related field, or equivalent experience, is required.

For more information contact:
Robert Beebe
Executive Director
Governance Board
robert.beebe1@gmail.com
574-276-6748
## Haiti Construction Work Teams

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<th>Year 2014</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
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<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td>ACWR-CC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haiti Support</td>
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<td>309-266-9009</td>
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<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Apr 15-22</td>
<td>Daryl Luginbuhl</td>
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<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:darylluginbuhl@gmail.com">darylluginbuhl@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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## Jamaica Work Teams

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<td>Ted Hirstein</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ted.hirstein@gmail.com">ted.hirstein@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Montego Bay CCD</td>
<td>Jun 28-Jul 5</td>
<td>Rick Plummer</td>
<td>Latty-Mansfield SS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>419-399-4226</td>
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<td>Todd Schambach</td>
<td>Elgin SS</td>
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<td>847-812-8985</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:tpschambach@sbcglobal.net">tpschambach@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
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## Mexico Work Teams

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<td>Magdalena Construction</td>
<td>Jun 7-14</td>
<td>Stan Schick</td>
<td>Contact Mike Fiechter</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Princeville Bible Class</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net">mfiechter@onlyinternet.net</a></td>
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<td>309-243-9281</td>
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<td>Taylor Bible Class</td>
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<td>Rick Kaisner</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>847-942-1174</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rick@kaisner.org">rick@kaisner.org</a></td>
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<td>Juarez Medical</td>
<td>Sep 10-16</td>
<td>Cheryl Herrmann</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com">cherrmann@frontier.com</a></td>
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moved out. We had visited with her a time or two, and we said if you need help, we’ll help you. Her son had moved to South Texas, and the work kind of looked like a mountain to her. So she called us and said she could use some help. So we went to help, and we were boxing things up. Those of you who have moved, you know how it is. What is it about stuff? There’s just too much of it, but at any rate, we’re trying to box up her stuff.

She’s a talkative woman, an open woman, and she freely says ‘I am an unbeliever.’ I’ve been around awhile, and there just aren’t too many people that say ‘I am an unbeliever.’ Then she proceeds to tell us that she’s an atheist and doesn’t believe there’s a God. Obviously I don’t believe that part of it. I think she believed there’s a God, but this is what she said. She proceeded to tell us about her experiences throughout her life in churches. Basically through the failings of man, she lost faith. She lost faith. I said to her, do you know why we’re here? You have to kind of get to know her, but she said, well, you came to convert me! I said, not necessarily. I said we’re here because of the love of Jesus. I don’t know what’s ahead for this woman, but I know that coincidence is not in God’s vocabulary. I pray that we’ll have more times that we can spend together.

The love of Jesus. If you have a son or a daughter, a husband or a wife, a friend or a neighbor, a mom or a dad - pray. Pray believing. Sometimes we think we pray believe, but remember Peter when he was in the prison? Remember that? The whole church - remember? - the whole church was praying that Peter would be released. Remember that? What happened? Peter was released, and he came to the house where the church was praying. A woman came to the door. Was her name Rhoda? She saw that it was Peter, and she shut the door in his face and said it can’t be Peter. So he went back and told the rest that Peter’s outside. They said it can’t be. It can’t be because that’s just what we were praying for. (Acts 12:1-17)

There are souls that are in a prison, just as much of a prison as in Pontiac (Illinois). They’re locked in a life that they feel like they have too much invested in that they can’t turn around and they can’t go back. Satan lies to them every minute of every day. But when we pray, when we pray believing, when we exercise the love of an almighty God, a Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who paid the ultimate sacrifice - in comparison, we don’t even know what sacrifice is - He can do wondrous things. May God bless each of us as we spend this Easter Day in His presence. I just encourage each one of you to exercise this precious, wonderful, immeasurable, unquenchable love of God.

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**Annual New Martinsville Memorial Service**

June 28-29, 2014

The Sardis congregation invites you to the annual Memorial Service at our New Martinsville Church, Sunday, June, 29. In addition to this once-a-year Sunday song and worship service, we also have a Saturday evening service June 28, 7:30pm at Sardis church. Contact Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593 for further information. Accommodations will be provided, if desired. Single groups are appreciated. A special invitation is extended to visiting ministers.
and taking sound advice will bring rewards already in this life. As an illustration, Abigail’s wise counsel was instrumental in calming David’s rage against her husband Nabal. Through exercising restraint, his victory over self was greater than wreaking a bloody vengeance upon his enemies. “And David said to Abigail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel which sent thee this day to meet me: And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which has kept me this day from coming to shed blood, and from avenging myself with mine own hand” (1 Sam. 25:32-33).

Faithfulness and good works substantiate one another when the believer exercises an active and sincere love for others (1 Cor. 13:2-3). The Apostles James and John challenge us to “show our faith” by our good works to both “brethren and to strangers” (James 2:15-17; 3 John 1:5). Jesus expands this list to even include our enemies. “But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest; for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil” (Luke 6:35). It is reward enough that we glorify our Father: “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).

Doing kindness unto others out of a sincere love for them has the added benefit of helping us maintain our sense of priority and true purpose in life. For example in the parable of the rich fool, we learn that his real sin was not his possession of riches, but rather his presumptive and selfish attitudes towards them (Luke 12:16-21).

Though we might prefer to avoid them, afflictions and persecutions also bring rewards and blessings when faithfully borne by God’s children. Indeed, Paul’s counsel to Timothy was, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). While facing deep trials, many believers have experienced a wonderful nearness to God: “When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee” (Isa. 43:2). God’s grace is sufficient that we “Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer… be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev.2:10). By so doing we have fellowship with Christ’s sufferings and will bring glory to God (1 Peter 4:12-14).

Faithfulness to God necessarily extends over a wide area of the believer’s life, but God asks very little of us in comparison to the promised reward, “And be said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities” (Luke 19:17). Indeed, Jesus tells us “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much:” (Luke 16:10). By God’s grace may we abide true and faithful to life’s end that “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” (Phil 1:6).
Haiti Dairy
— Continued from pg. 6

- Build a milk processing center
- Initiate a few research projects through cooperation with 3 other farms

These activities are concentrated in the Torbek plain which lies to the west of Les Cayes where many of our current World Relief activities are headquartered.

Opportunities to serve
As this began in response to a burden God placed on some brother’s hearts, they believe this will be accomplished by God providing what is required for the work. There are three specific needs they desire to present to our brotherhood.

1.) A full time administrator will be sought when our church is able to support another brother or family being sent to the mission field. This will be a multi-year commitment. It will require a passion and energy for the work. Specific requirements for the position are currently being drafted. But beyond specific skills and abilities, God must lay his hand of blessing upon the program administrator. Anyone feeling called to this work should speak to their local elder and then communicate their interest to Bro. Tom Neuenschwander.

2.) Over time it is expected that this program will eventually become self supporting, and with God’s blessing provide financial assistance to other programs such as school lunches, Hospital Lumiere, well drilling and MEBSH construction. But initially there is a significant investment that must be made. Start up costs to accomplish the activities for the next eighteen months will be substantial. Some of the specific investment details will be presented in informational meetings now being planned. Contributions can be made to World Relief and designated as Haiti Dairy Project.

3.) Work teams will be formed over the next eighteen months. A land acquisition team has been formed, and will be traveling to Haiti in late March 2014. Subsequent teams have not yet been finalized. Anyone with interest in participating in this project should contact: Bro. Tom Neuenschwander (260) 307-6026.

Opportunity for all
While not all brethren are called to a foreign or domestic mission field, there is a need and a place for anyone interested in serving. Prayers of the brethren back home are essential in this work.

“As the Father hath sent me, so send I you.” This commission to the church today contains many thoughts for us. In our Apostolic Christian Church, may we pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers. Then, by God’s leading, we will walk in obedience in working out this sending in humility and grace.

If you have questions about the Missionary Outreach Process, please contact:
Bro. Kirk Plattner
kirk@acmission.org
765-357-1496

So Send I You
— Continued from pg. 56

Gyr cow suitable for Haiti

April 2014 SILVER LINING 57
In the October, 1951 issue of Mennonite Life magazine an article was carried entitled “Background of the Apostolic Christian Church.” It was written by Delbert L. Gratz, who spent many years as head of the library at Bluffton College, Bluffton, Ohio. Over the years he has taken special interest in the Apostolic Christian Church, both in Europe and in the United States. It was he who said, “The Froehlich Movement in Europe was like the time of the Apostles.” This article is the first part of a two-part series. Essentially, it is a review of a book by Elder Herman Reugger in 1948 entitled (in English), “The History of the Apostolic Christian Church, Volume I). Excerpts follow.

This book presents the story of the Apostolic Christian Church. The history of this group is of special interest to Mennonites since its historical roots and spiritual heritage previous to 1830 are in common with those of Swiss Anabaptism. Its subsequent history reveals numerous contacts with Anabaptists in Switzerland and America resulting in such references as Neu-Taufer in Switzerland, and “New Amish” in central Illinois and New York.

The author is Herman Reugger, Sr., an 80-year-old elder in the Gemeinschaft living near Zurich. His long personal association with the church and his study of the writings of Samuel Heinrich Froehlich, founder of the church, make him well qualified for the task he has undertaken.

The book opens with the traditional cursory review of the spiritual heritage of Anabaptism tracing the various non-Catholic movements from the earliest Christianity to Reformation times. Reugger had as his main source for the first quarter century of the movement the writings, including diaries and many letters, of Samuel Heinrich Froehlich. This vast amount of documentary material had previously been untapped for a study of this nature, although certain letters of Froehlich had been printed and widely distributed. Archival materials at Bern and Zurich also supplemented the author’s use of the Froehlich papers.

The high point of the story of this group (Gemeinschaft Evangelisch Taufsinnter), which incidentally could also be a profound example to present-day missionary-minded Christian churches, is the narration of the spread of the Christian faith by Froehlich and his followers during its first fifty years of existence. While other Anabaptist groups were busy arguing with each other over church rules, the Neu-Taufer were spreading their faith, winning converts, and starting Gemeinschaften.

In a matter of three decades after its inception, active churches of this faith were to be found from one end of Switzerland to the other, in France, southern Germany, and in areas now a part of the countries of Austria, Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Rumania. Through migration and missionary endeavor churches soon arose in the United States, their present stronghold, and later in South America.

(Editor’s note: The seemingly fast pace of forming new converts and congregations was also followed by a church structure whereby elders were chosen as guides and leaders for the new churches -- and from this resulted a brotherhood that offered nurturing and good order for the new believers. It had good organization, as led initially by Bro. Froehlich and his early co-workers. In Switzerland, in the beginning, the church was known (in the English language) as Evangelical Baptist. In America, this name ultimately gave way to Apostolic Christian.

- by Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: The second installment of the 1951 article by Delbert Gratz
What’s Good About It?

In thinking about what we should do, or shouldn’t do, it is sometimes asked, “What’s wrong with it?” Then, if it is difficult to find anything wrong with the action being considered, we might conclude that it is perfectly all right for children of God to do it.

Recently, I’ve had the idea that maybe we should be asking, “What’s good about it?” There are Scripture verses which so indicate. “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” Acts 10:18. Should we spend our time doing things which simply aren’t wrong? Shouldn’t we spend our time doing things which are good?

Jesus is described as someone who went about doing good. We don’t have the power Jesus had, but we can do good. There are seven billion people on this earth and I believe all of them need help and encouragement. “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” 1 John 2:6. Maybe we can sweep the floor for someone. It doesn’t hurt to ask, “Is there anything I can do for you?” When someone is missing at church, we can call and ask about his or her welfare. We can go to a mission and be a mentor for children who need a role model. If you have any time to spare, there are needs on many fronts, so let’s not do anything just because it isn’t wrong.

Then what about taking a vacation? “And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while; for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.” Mark 6:31. Here Jesus tells His disciples to rest awhile. We do need to take care of our bodies which are the temple of the Holy Spirit. However, the Scriptures teach that it should not be for worldly pleasure. What about viewing beautiful scenery, God’s creation? I should think that would be good, but it is for your own pleasure and not to help others, so let’s not overdo it?

What do you think?

Let us turn now to Isaiah 38:3 where King Hezekiah is praying to God. “Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight.” In pleading with God in prayer for longer life, King Hezekiah made the case that he had not only refrained from doing anything evil, but he had done that which was good in God’s sight. God extended his life by 15 years.

Do we love the Lord Jesus Christ? Talk is cheap. Jesus said, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.” John 14:21. It follows that it is good for us to obey the teachings and commandments of the Bible. It is good for our appearance, actions, and speech to be becoming for a child of God. What lifts up Christ is good, what lifts up ourselves is not good. “Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” James 4:6.

It is good for us to bear the fruit of the Spirit, “Love joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.” Galatians 5:22.

Jesus said, “Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit.” Matthew 7:17. A fruit tree should produce good fruit. It is hardly commendable for it simply to avoid producing bad fruit. It looks to me like the Bible teaches that we children of God should not simply avoid doing anything wrong, but that we should spend our time doing that which is good.

Let’s go about doing good. As it is written, Christ did. I for one, need to improve.

- by Willis Ehnle
Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you

Matthew 7:7