“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalm 119:105
Sowing and Reaping

There are not as many farmers in our brotherhood as there used to be, but nearly all of us have planted something at one time or another. Whether it’s acres of corn in a field or rows of peas in the garden, we expect to reap a harvest that is like unto what we sowed. We don’t expect to pick green beans from a melon patch.

Springtime provides many reminders of God’s law of the harvest. One of the many verses that speaks to this is Galatians 6:7-8, which says in part “…whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

So as we work in our yards, gardens and/or farms this Spring, let the seeds and plants prompt us to consider how we might be careful in our spiritual plantings so that our harvests can be joyful!

Sincerely,

Bros. Rick Plattner and Tom Stock
Silver Lining Counseling Elders
The Father Calls His Children to Sanctification

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

Much could be written about sanctification. For this article, the focus will be on definitions, the scriptural basis, the “source”, and the results of sanctification.

Sanctification means being set apart for and belonging to God, cleansed from sin and made holy. Thus we become separated unto God and away from the evils of the world. We are set aside for a sacred or holy purpose.

Our heavenly Father has no pleasure in anything less than the best for His children. In the beginning God created a perfect world and set man in the Garden of Eden. Satan destroyed the perfection that was in the Garden of Eden. However, Satan was not successful in destroying God’s perfect plan for eternity because God, in His righteousness, and mercy, provided a way to salvation through Jesus. So great was God’s love for His people that “…he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17). “Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1).

One of the definitions of “call” is to invite. God has called His children to perfection. He has invited us to be restored to the condition for which He created us. An invitation requires a response. If we do not heed His invitation, we have rejected it.

Many scriptural principles direct us to sanctification. God separated the children of Israel from the Egyptians and said to them “…ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy” (Lev. 11: 45). To help them understand holiness, God charged the priests with a high calling: “And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean” (Ez. 44:23). They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the Lord do sanctify them” (Lev. 22:9).

How is sanctification accomplished?

It is accomplished through the work of the Father, His Son, the Holy Spirit, and by fulfilling the responsibilities that God has given us. We must allow God to work in our hearts and lives and keep His commandments.

Our heavenly Father and His Son have always been holy and pure, yet they sanctified themselves. “Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord” (Ez.38:23). Jesus, the perfect example on earth, not only asked John to baptize Him to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:15), but as He prayed for His disciples (and ultimately for us), He said “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy Word is truth…And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” (John 17:17 & 19). “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate” (Heb.13:12). “…even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word. That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish:” (Eph. 5:25-27).

— Please turn to pg. 64
We are thankful to be assembled on Mother’s Day. We’re thankful our country has set aside this day to honor those that have borne and cared for children, have reared children, have taught children, have shown what God originally intended for love for His children through the mothers, the aunts, and the grandmothers who cared dearly for children. There are a lot of things that could be said on Mother’s Day, and there are a lot of things in Bible that refer to mothers. There are examples of God-fearing mothers. Let’s read about one of them in Exodus chapter 2.

Of course when we think of Exodus we think of the departure of the Israelites leaving Egypt and going into the Promised Land, but they didn’t get there of course. They went through the wilderness first, but this is the beginning of Exodus. This is the story of a mother of a little boy who would become the leader - God’s chosen leader to direct the people from under the bondage of Pharaoh. This is how it all started, and this shows in the few verses we are going to read how even in persecution, even in times of governmental interference with people’s lives, God’s work is still going to be done.

In that time, we learn a lot about Moses. He’s out of the tribe of Levi. We find his mother knew there was a law that said he had to be thrown in the river. All the Hebrew males were supposed to be tossed in the river and drowned. Can you imagine the horror, the sadness, the screaming, and the bereavement that took place as those children were thrown to drown? This dear mother is thinking. She’s thinking if I can just hide him. These are desperate times, but I’ll do what I can. I’ll make a little waterproof vessel. She didn’t just turn him loose on the river; she put him among the flags - tough enough to keep that little vessel in place so it wouldn’t be swept downstream in the current - hoping, perhaps, that God would provide, hoping and praying that there would be a way out for this little boy. Being directed perhaps by God, she didn’t even realize it, but this is what God was planning to do to save this little boy to become a leader.

Any time you hold a little child in your arms, you don’t know what God has intended, but we do everything we can to nurture that child, to teach that child so one day that child can do God’s will. Well, this dear mother has provided for one of the other children of the family to watch where that baby would go. Did the baby drift down river? What happened to it? Well, no, Pharaoh’s daughter came and found it, and that little sister was thinking. She immediately goes and said do you want me to find a Hebrew to nurse that child? Sure!

So the mother got to keep Moses a little bit longer, but can you imagine the day when she had to fulfill the promise and turn the baby back over to Pharaoh’s daughter? It’s not a very complex verse - it says “And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh’s daughter…” (Exodus 2:10). I bet she cried all the way home. I wonder how many times she looked at that palace and thought my little boy’s in there growing up. I hope he’s ok. I hope they’re feeding him. I hope they’re teaching him the love of God. We don’t know much more about her. We don’t know if she would get to see Moses again, but she did what she could.

I guess when we think about the supreme sacrifice, we think about Jesus Christ, don’t we? But we could also think about our mothers, grandmothers, and aunts. There were times at home when we were more obedient to our aunts than we were our mothers. We wouldn’t dare talk back to our aunts or our great aunts. We didn’t dare talk back
to grandma. We respected them. We were taught to obey them. It’s in God’s law that obedience and sacrifice are two of the virtues we need to maintain.

“God with us! We need not fear; Jesus crowns with life eternal; Faithful let us be while here, Till God ends our pilgrim journey; Trumpets for the conflict sound; Up, ye valiant, stand your ground!” (The Supreme Sacrifice, Zion’s Harp #100)

During the civil war, there were all kinds of soldiers. Some were in combat, but some were guarding bridges in Minnesota. The guys in Minnesota didn’t have any battle. Their job was pretty simple. They never heard the trumpet sound. They never saw a battle. They didn’t have to be valiant because there was nobody challenging the bridges in Minnesota. When General Grant took over, he said I want everybody into combat. Let those bridges alone. Up ye valiant! Get down here and fight! He brought everybody to the front to fight.

Is everybody here today on the front lines? Is everybody here today standing up for the cause of Christ? Is everybody here today involved in holding fast to what we’ve been taught? Is everybody here involved in making sure the people find their salvation so they don’t go to hell? Is everybody here in support of our mothers? Is everyone here in support of the Word of God? Does everybody here believe? Does everybody here love? Does everybody here forgive? Or are we guarding a bridge in some obscure place, just holding down our little spot and not caring and letting someone else do it? No church will survive like that. No body of Christ can go on without pillars. No building can be held up without pillars. I challenge you today as we sing this song to think about becoming valiant and standing your ground for the cause of Christ.

We recognize this as the story of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9-20), and I think every time we encounter somebody whose name is Hannah or perhaps a child that’s been named Hannah, we think of this story. We think of this faithful one and how she was the wife of the priest, Elkanah. She had no children, and she prayed diligently. She’s very bitter in her heart and sad.

There was going to come a point in her life where she too would turn the child over to the household of the Lord. I wonder how that went, and I wonder what the thoughts were in her heart as she followed through on her promise to God that she would deliver this child to the service of the Lord.

You know, there are times in a parent’s life when you’re so thankful and rejoice in the things that happen to your children, the buttons on your shirt may want to burst, and then there are times when you can’t find enough handkerchiefs to soak up the tears. Parents realize that. Mothers especially know that.

When God made mothers, he was showing the world what His love for people was like. How many times have we as fathers held a child, tried to comfort them, tried to talk to them, tried to get them to quiet, maybe sleep. Finally we just hand them over and say, here, mother. Take the child. You’ve got the touch. You know what to do. God has given you this uncanny ability.

God works through people. Don’t ever forget that, and be ready to go to work for Him. We all have gifts. Our dear sisters have a gift that we marvel at, and we recognize it as a gift that God has given - God-given gift.

I sometimes look out at the flower bed, and say, look at all those colors! If I was in charge that would just be grass. It would be drab, but look at the color the ladies of my life have brought into my life. It’s that touch that God has given because God made all those flowers, designed every one of them, made the little rose, the Knock-Out Rose, the big rose, the
Cassamajor Jean Chavannes is a 26-year-old Haitian man who had been struggling with shortness of breath and poor energy since he was 18 years old. He is from Cavaillon, a city not far from Bonne Fin, Haiti and Hospital Lumiere. He was getting progressively worse and in October of 2012 he was admitted to Hospital Lumiere with congestive heart failure. Haitian doctors treated him with the medications that were available eventually allowing him to get out of the hospital.

Unfortunately his chronic symptoms persisted even with the medications. In December of 2012 a World Relief medical team traveled to Hospital Lumiere. As a part of this mission trip the team brought a small portable echocardiography machine. This instrument allows the doctor to perform an ultrasound on the heart and make an accurate diagnosis. Cassamajor underwent an echocardiogram which revealed Rheumatic Heart Disease, something doctors don’t see very much anymore in the United States.

Cassamajor’s particular valve abnormality, caused by Rheumatic Fever, cannot be cured, or even slowed with medications. The procedure he needed, a mitral balloon valvuloplasty, was not available in Haiti. Cassamajor’s medications were adjusted in an effort to help control his symptoms.

**God’s provision**

That’s when God intervened. Upon return to the U.S. the team prayed for God’s will to be done. Team members from Minnesota went to administrators from St. Cloud Hospital, a facility with the capabilities to perform the procedure, and requested that they consider performing a charity case. Amazingly the St. Cloud Hospital administrators agreed to cover the cost of the procedure and hospitalization.

Next Cassamajor needed to obtain a medical visa, a complicated process that can take many months, but in October of 2013 the visa was finally secured. Having never been on an airplane before and unable to speak English, Cassamajor flew from Port-au-Prince to Minneapolis with connections in Ft. Lauderdale and Dallas. Miraculously he arrived safely in Minneapolis, but not without some help from an American Airlines pilot who noticed that Cassamajor looked “lost” after de-boarding the plane in Minneapolis.

**All things in His hands**

A couple days later, the afternoon before his procedure, the scheduled interpreter canceled at the last minute. Unbelievably, a Google search and a prayer resulted in a Haitian interpreter named Rose, agreeing to be picked up at 4:00 am and travel 70 miles to the hospital to assist with communication. Rose was not only an interpreter, she was an angel sent by God. She quickly formed a deep connection with Cassamajor, and when he was nervous before the procedure she prayed with him and sang him hymns to ease his nerves.

Testing prior to the procedure actually showed that Cassamajor’s valve problem was worse than expected. Doctors considered canceling the procedure because it was too risky, but many people were called to prayer and the procedure went forward as planned. Needless to say, by the grace of God
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
John 5:24

The vision
The Mission Committee Vision Statement is: “The Mission efforts of the Apostolic Christian Church exist to embrace and respond to Jesus’ vision: Behold! Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest…pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers…” (John 4:35; Matt. 9:38), to make disciples of Christ wherever God opens doors, so that Jesus may receive His harvest of sanctified believers (Matt.28:19-20; John 14:26).

The work
God has called us to share His Word. Due to the interest of the brethren and the desire to make Bibles available to all who want to share the Word with others, a church committee was established in 1958 to oversee a fund for the distribution of Bibles. Since that time, by the grace of God, Bible Distribution has grown dramatically.

It has been a blessing to the brotherhood and a light to many around the world. The pleasures of this world cannot bring lasting satisfaction, leaving the heart of man in desperate need of meaning and hope, only to be found through God’s Word. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Offering Bibles to a lost world is an opportunity to show the love of God, the power of His Spirit and the promises to those who place their faith in Jesus Christ and are truly born again.

Opportunities available
As a brotherhood, we have had the opportunity to distribute around 60,000 Bibles and New Testaments last year around the world. Bibles are sent to prisons, hospitals and nursing homes. We send Bibles overseas to countries including Haiti, Mexico, Jamaica, Romania, and many more. Bibles are distributed to college campuses, truck stops, restaurants, gas stations, motels and businesses.

Bibles and some other materials such as 101 Favorite Stories are available in English, Spanish, and Creole. The stories of how God has inspired brethren to be involved in sharing His Word are many and varied. To God be the glory. On one college campus students delivered a Bible to a needy international student and encouraged him to read the Gospel of St. John. The student innocently and sincerely asked, “Who is this Jesus you talk about?” What an opportunity.

The Word of God being planted in young hearts is also part of the ministry of Bible Distribution. In this ministry, Bible story books have blessed many families and young children, including international students through brethren sent as missionaries, on college campuses and the Child Sponsorship program. Last year, there were 30,000 Bible story books distributed. What a joy to imagine the seeds of faith bearing fruit in years to come as these children grow up with an understanding of the beauty of God’s Word. The placement of the Word is just one step in the process of delivering
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 discussed the love of God for His people and His sovereignty over this world. This month we conclude our discussion, focusing on the final hope in a believer’s life and God’s goodness.

Paradise Awaits The Believer – “Will the pain ever stop?”

Hebrews 12:1-3 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.”

These verses from Hebrews can be encouraging to the suffering soul. When tragedy hits, we feel excruciating pain and often wrestle with difficult questions. The resulting weight can feel like too much to bear. We are encouraged in Hebrews to “run with patience” the path that is before us. Healing after tragedy means restarting daily tasks and reengaging in life. It also means shifting our focus from our circumstances to our hope, Jesus. We are not to avoid or discount the pain but to purposefully shift our focus from what has happened toward where we are headed. Jesus gave us an example of how to walk through tragedy.

He hurt -> He questioned -> He overcame -> He is in Paradise

One of the most comforting truths in Scripture is the destination that awaits the believer. Scripture paints Heaven as an unimaginably wonderful place where God’s people are in perfect communion with Him and each other. Knowing the end of the story can give us strength and motivation to endure in the midst of great difficulty. One way to think about this truth is to consider how your current situation will look in 30, 50, or 100 years when you will have been ushered into eternity. For the believer, this means we will be in a place so wonderful that words cannot fully describe it. This reality leads the Apostle Paul to write the following in Romans:

Romans 8:18, “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

We cannot imagine a place so wonderful that it would so greatly diminish our current pain, but the Word of God tells us we have such a place to look forward to! Knowing Heaven is our destination does not take away the pain of tragedy, but it does give an anchor of hope we can hold onto. We hurt and are invited to express our pain to the Lord who welcomes us into His presence (Hebrews 4:15-16). We trust that according to God’s grace and mercy, we will one day experience the fulfillment of Revelation 21:4.

Revelation 21:4 “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.”

Tragedy is not the end of the story for the believer. While we hurt today and see so much suffering around us, we anticipate the reality of eternity in a place where tragedy, suffering, and pain do not exist. Can you imagine the wonder and excitement of being in a place where we no longer have to wrestle with Satan, the flesh, or a fallen world? All that will remain is peace, harmony, and joy. The only questions we will have are ones that
promises and truths we have been given in His word.

Lamentations 3:21-26 “This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. 26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.”

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 begin a new series on the topic of estate planning and its implications on families and relationships.

ACCFS News - Bible studies available
ACCFS has recently finished its latest IVP Bible study adaption. This study, Images of God, looks at ten biblical examples of imagery descriptions of God in order to help us properly view God in our lives. This study adds to the growing library of adapted studies which also includes the topics of:

- Grief
- Forgiveness
- Hope
- Faith
- Fruit of the Spirit
- Integrity
- God’s Comfort
- Prayer (summer 2014)

These Bible studies are an excellent resource for individuals or couples who are seeking further study and knowledge in any of these areas. Each Bible study booklet is available for $8.50 either at our facility or from our website (www.accounseling.org). We encourage you also to sign up for our resource emails and newsletters which you can do on the website.
Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped

Mike Prevo

Scene 1: One of the residents here at Timber Ridge loves balloons—real balloons, pictures of balloons, paper cut-out balloons, anything to do with balloons. Almost every day he comes to the front office and asks for paper that he can color. After coloring, he asks that it be cut out in the shape of a balloon. As it’s being cut, he gets very excited, and begins a series of emphatic “thank you’s”, and perhaps even a kiss on the cheek. Have you ever noticed how someone’s sincere appreciation of what might be a relatively simple overture on your part helps make you want to do it for them again the next time they ask?

Scene 2: I was clerking in an auction truck a year ago, and someone working with me unexpectedly complimented me on the clarity of my numbers. Have you ever noticed how a compliment, like appreciation, also gives you a lift and encouragement in fulfilling your task, and a willingness to repeat it?

I think we all enjoy being appreciated and complimented. I am thankful that I am able to witness many such exchanges on a daily basis between residents and care-giving aides here at the Home. It does make me stop and think, however, as to whether I am appreciative enough, and do I compliment/praise others who are a help to me in this life, or could I do better at recognizing their efforts?

And then there’s the bigger picture—not just other people, but what about God? We are told that God made us in his image: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” (Genesis 1:26) Thus, if we desire appreciation and praise, how much more does God, our Maker? We can read in scripture that God does desire both—in Luke 17, after cleansing the 10 lepers, only one of the 10 returned to Jesus and gave him thanks. Jesus responds in verse 17: “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?” And then in his example of how to pray—the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6, Jesus begins and ends the prayer with praise to God.

Reflecting on our recent Easter celebration for what God did for us—the sacrifice of his innocent Son upon the cross in order to reconcile us to Him, perhaps we could each “brighten the corner where we are” (Ina D. Ogdon) a bit by being more appreciative and complimentary to both our fellow man and to our Creator.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Ross Feller, Communications Coordinator

A Calling from God

I received an email several weeks ago that reminded of a side of Gateway Woods that I very often forget about. It’s easy to remember that the work at Gateway, and in this case specifically the Residential Program, has a great impact on the children we serve on a daily basis. It’s also fairly simple to see that the counseling and time we spend with the parents and siblings of those children can have a profound impact on them.

However, there is one group that I often forget, who we also deal with on a near daily basis. I’m referring to government employees such as parole officers and DCS caseworkers. These people often have regular contact with our houseparents, management staff, counselors and teachers.

As many of you know, Chad & Kristy Kaeb recently announced that they were leaving houseparenting. They sent out an email informing the government employees that they regularly work with of the coming change. This was the response from one of the parole officers:

“You will be greatly missed on campus. I have really come to
learn that what the houseparents do is a calling from God. I can actually say all houseparents on campus and, everybody else for that matter, walk the talk consistently, [and I] can’t say that about any other place. I wish you many blessings and enjoyment in your next chapter of life. Thanks for all you did.”

Many lives are changed by Gateway Woods and we praise God for all of them. We know that it is for us to sow and water, but it is up to Him to provide the increase. We praise God for the times we get to see the impact His work has on others.

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 person 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. More information is available at www.gatewaywoods.org/scholarships.

We are searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2014. Please see the notice in back of this issue 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 back of this issue 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 three different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods: one opening for a Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker, openings for Alternate Houseparents, and one opening for a Teacher. For more information please see the notices in this edition or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at www.gatewaywoods.org/careers. 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 April 2014 were the color green, Spring, and Easter. We finished up our alphabet curriculum this month and took a week to focus on what Jesus did for us and why we celebrate Easter.

We are ready for warmer weather here at the preschool so the children can see the signs of spring in the playground. We had our Easter party on the 17th. The students sang a few songs and
recited some lines that told the story of Jesus’ last week on earth as a man. We ate an Easter snack and hunted Easter eggs. Each student also dyed two Easter eggs and took them home. We talked about how the eggs represented how God is three in one. Jesus is like the shell that takes on the dye because He took on our sins as His own.

I was talking to Ms. Kalla about the Palm Sunday story and she said it struck her how the donkey responded to Jesus riding him. This unbroken colt did not balk or throw Him off, but accepted the extra burden and obeyed His commands. This reminded us of how we need to take up our cross (or our extra baggage and burden) and follow Him. We can allow God to take away the shame of our sins and help others avoid them. Praise God that He created a way for humans to be acceptable in His eyes through the death and resurrection of the perfect man, Jesus Christ!

“He is not here, for He is risen.”
Matt. 28:6

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 an informational packet.

Alabama, Athens
Roger and Becky Roberts

Many of our congregation were blessed to be able to travel to Smithville, OH to attend a supper and singing in appreciation of retired Elder Bro. Andy (Sis. Roberta) Stoller. We appreciate the time he has spent serving our church over the years.

Our Sunday School children brought us the Easter message on Palm Sunday. They opened with a question: “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” Gospel Hymns #826. At the end they reminded us that “Jesus is living this glad Easter Day, How do I know? How do I know? The Bible tells me so.” Children’s Harp #125.

Those who ministered to us this month were Elder Bro. Tom (Sis. Sue) Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Elder Bro. Ted (Sis. Cindy) Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL), Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Daron (Sis. Monica) Price, (Milford, IN). We thank these brothers not only for ministering to us, but also for serving on the preschool board.

Bro. Milton (Sis. Joyce) Ray is once again able to assemble with us. Keep him in your prayers as he continues to regain strength. Bro. Doug and Sis. Mae Haggenmaker have also been under the weather and would appreciate prayers.

A guest apartment is available in the Fellowship Hall across from the church. Reservations can be made by contacting Sis. Susan Koch (309) 202-4897 or Sis. Kalla Knobloch (309) 231-1755.

We have several campsites with water & electric available at the TN Fellowship area if you are traveling through the region. We would be delighted to have you with us.

Arizona, Phoenix
Heather Hinrichsen

Bringing the Gospel to us in truth and simplicity this month was Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville).

We welcome Sis. Carolyn Hari who has recently moved to Phoenix from Cissna Park.

Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leon) had knee replacement surgery that went well and we pray for a speedy recovery and healing.

Austin Lindenbaum, son of Sis. Aubrey, had a tumor removed from his brain. We petition with prayer and fasting the Great Physician for miraculous healing. Please also pray for strength and comfort for Sis. Aubrey and the family: Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge, Luke and Sally Lindenbaum.

Bro. Dick Beery, a longtime resident of Phoenix, passed away in Rittman, OH. Our prayers are extended to Sis. Marie and family.

On March 29 and 30, we heard the testimonies, witnessed the baptisms and welcomed as sisters in Christ Katie and Megan Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene).

Arizona, Prescott
Richard Manz

Greetings from Prescott!

This past month we were privileged to have Bro.
Duane (Sis. Bonnie) Rocke from Minneapolis MN. As chairman of the small church committee, Bro. Duane shared some of the efforts of this committee. As a small church, it is truly a blessing to know there are efforts by our brethren on our behalf, and that we are part of a larger body of believers all striving on for the furtherance of God’s kingdom.

Other visiting ministers this month included Bro. David (Sis. Beth) Hartter from Sabetha KS, Bro. Alan (Sis. Sarah) Schambach from Remington IN, Bro. Jon (Sis. Nancy) Kokanovich from Phoenix, Bro. Herbert (Sis. Laurie) Knochel from Phoenix, and Bro. Keith (Sis. Tammy) Hinrichsen from Phoenix. Being a small church, we appreciate all of our visitors, ministers and brethren alike. We thank each of you that took the time to make Prescott a travel destination this past month.

In mid-March we bid farewell to our dear Sis. Elena Kornja who has assembled with us for many years. Sis. Elena moved to Columbus, OH to live close to some of her family there. We will miss her in Prescott, but trust the Lord will bless her and her family there in Ohio.

**Arizona, Tucson**

*Lisa Knapp*

We were blessed with a visit from Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) and his wife, Sis. Darlene, this past month. We so appreciate their visit and ask God to richly bless him and Sis. Darlene for their efforts.

We enjoyed a picnic for our April fellowship supper before our weather gets too hot to enjoy being outside. Our winter visitors are leaving and we are adjusting to the smaller numbers that summer brings. We miss them and ask for God’s protection as they travel and resettle in their home congregations.

We are enjoying spring with its cool mornings and evenings and warm daytime temperatures in the 80’s. We know what’s coming, so we get to practice “living in the moment” and trying not to think about the looming summer temperatures.

**California, San Diego**

*Janelle Brewer*

We were blessed this past month to hear the Memorandum read to our congregation. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) was able to come assist our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR). Also here that weekend was Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN). Their willingness to help proclaim the Word to us as we worshipped is greatly appreciated. We pray God will reward them for their efforts.

> "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Tasha Petrovic (Bro. Phillip) on the passing of her Grandpa who lived in Oregon.

May God provide comfort to their family.

We want to welcome Sis. Ethel Bednarski and her daughter Connie, who recently moved to the area from Minneapolis, MN. We hope that they will feel welcome here.

On a recent Sunday afternoon we enjoyed a picnic with the Altadena church. It is a blessing to fellowship with those that we have known for many years and also those who we have just met. We look forward to more gatherings like this in the future, Lord willing.

Our winter services in the Palm Desert/Palm Springs area concluded in March. Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel) and Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) all shared the Gospel in the month of March to those gathered there. We are thankful for each one who helped support this gathering. It was a true blessing to meet brethren from many places! Lord willing, we look forward to holding services again next winter.

**Canada, Kitchener, Ontario**

*Johanna Fortenbacher*

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**Canada, Kitchener, Ontario**

*Johanna Fortenbacher*

We all feel wonderfully blessed to have ministers and others come and spend the Sundays with us. Lately we had Bro. Matt & Sis. Deanna Manz from Toledo and then Bro. Randy & Sue. Gasser, as well as Bro. Jesse & Sis. Bonnie Bedolla from Detroit. Detroit Choir also came and
gave a wonderful program, as well as providing us a meal on Saturday and then on Sunday.

Bro. Mike & Sis. Kim Leman came from Silverton and Bro. Todd & Sis. Lydia Graf came from Akron.

We grabbed the children that came from Akron and Rittman and had them help our Sunday School class with an Easter Program which was very nice.

Last week we had Bro. Duane & Sis. Karen Farney from Croghan.

We just got a book published this month called “Stinging Nettle”. It is a book about Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher’s lives during their childhood, World War II experiences, and until the time they immigrated to Canada. There are copies available here in Kitchener, as well as in U.S. churches. You can contact johannafortenbacher@bell.net to ask for a local contact person. The proceeds of this $15.00 a book will go toward World Relief. Thank you.

“Then said Jesus unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat of the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.” John 6:53

**Connecticut, Rockville**

**Lauren Gottier**

**Sheila Gerber**

On March 10, Bro. Benjamin Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn) exchanged marriage vows with Sis. Jessica Richards (Al Richards and Laurie Richards). We trust that this couple will look to our Heavenly Father for guidance and direction.

Bro. Rob and Sis. Ann Marie Widmer welcomed their first child, a son, on March 20. Precious Zeke Robert is also the grandson of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia Widmer of Rittman, OH.

Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Jane Moser (Bro. Jim) and Bob Dombek (Sis. Lorraine) in the passing of their sister, Willa Norwood.

“Almost persuaded, come, come today; Almost persuaded turn not away; Jesus invites you here, Angels are ling’ring near, Prayers rise from hearts so dear, O wandr’er come.”

**Almost Persuaded, Hymns of Zion, #212 vs. 2**

The angels in heaven are singing as we rejoice as a congregation with the news of three new converts. Jean Marie Currier, Josie Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole), and Jake Schneider (Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana) have answered the call unto repentance. We pray that each one will seek the Lord’s direction and His will in their lives.

We are thankful for the labors of Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marsha, Washington, IL) as he ministered to our congregation on April 6.

**District of Columbia, Washington**

**Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretaker for March was Sis. Bonnie Dotterer (Forrest, IL). 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 the back of this issue. If you are
interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL). Our other visitors this month were from Remington and Wolcott, IN; Gridley, Eureka, Princeville and Tremont, IL; and Rockville, CT.

The Sunday Bro. Ben was here he shared the Memorandum, such an encouragement. May we ever pray for our elders as they watch for our souls.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe 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, North Ft. Myers**

**Victor Beer**

The Lord willing, Sunday April 27, 2014 will be the last meeting in our “borrowed” church where we have worshipped since last October. Our new edifice should be available in May 2014. We will be welcoming all who can come to worship with us on 19690 Cypress View Drive, just off of Estero Parkway, the last street east of Three Oaks Parkway. The official dedication is being planned for next fall, when more of the winter congregation is present.

This last month we were wonderfully blessed by visiting ministers. Bro. Ryan Bertsche (Sis. Jessica) of Bluffton North, IN brought us the Word, as well as Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda) of West Lafayette, IN.

We are trusting God’s hand of mercy and healing on these of our church family: Sis. Jeanie Haerr, Sis. Virginia Schock, Sis. Mary Ann Mann, Bro. Mel Getz and Bro. Perry Neihouser. We submit them to you for your prayerful support.

**New Beginnings**

Jesus’ sermon on the mountain from Matthew 5 was about being salt of the earth and light to the world. How can we be like salt and light? What are their qualities and usefulness? If you look up salt, you will find that not only is it used to flavor and preserve foods, but it has 14,000 different uses! What about the salt that has lost it savor? Jesus said that type of salt is good for nothing! We certainly don’t want to fit into that category! So, as Christians, how do we retain our saltiness or usefulness to advance God’s kingdom? Matthew 5 has many directives.

1. Don’t be angry with your brother without cause.
2. If your brother has something against you, reconcile with him.
3. Settle your differences quickly.
4. Guard your mind from evil.
5. Etc, etc, etc.

Webster defines light as a form of energy that makes it possible to see things. When we consider the phrase, “Jesus is the Light”, most of us realize from scripture that Jesus makes it possible to see truth through following His actions and teachings. Is the light of Jesus being shown by our actions and words, or is it cloudy and dimmed by our intolerance and rejection of others?

At the New Beginnings, we are starting a study of personality types which brings in to focus how each of us is unique. Sometimes we get the mistaken notion that the way we see and do things is the “right way”, but the Bible teaches that there are many parts that make up the body and each part has its own unique function.
Of course, we must always reference the scriptures to have full understanding and make certain that our knowledge lines up with the truth of the Word. We can begin by asking ourselves:

1. Will this activity make the things of the world more appealing than the things of God?
2. Will it keep me from praying?
3. Will it diminish my hunger for God’s Word?
4. Will it pull me away from other believers?

May God help us to be controlled by the Spirit which brings life and peace.

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Kim Ott*

“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had brought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him……

And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.” Mark 16:1,5 & 6

What an awesome miracle! To have this wonderful plan of salvation available to all mankind is almost unfathomable. But yet, God created each one of us with a need for a Savior and He lovingly longs for each soul to live with Him in heaven forever. How truly humbling to know the lengths Jesus went for us so that our sins could be forgiven.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this month including: Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). May God bless each minister and their families for their efforts in sharing the Gospel.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Miklos and Sis. Aranka Bozzay as they are facing health concerns. We are thankful that God, our Great Physician, not only cares about each one of us in our struggles, but He is also able to provide the strength and healing we need as He wills.

**Georgia, Atlanta**

With immense joy, we welcome Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana, Sis. Lexi, Seth, Megan, Micah, Joshua, Caleb and Paige Knapp into our Atlanta church family! We stand in awe of God’s grace to lead this family to Atlanta. Our hearts hurt for the friendships and family that they have left, knowing through the short time we have shared with them, they are a treasure. As we approach the Easter season, the Knapp family’s testimony of abandon and sacrificial action to leave all and follow Christ’s leading, has drawn our eyes to Jesus.

Our hearts rejoice with Joel Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) as he made known his desire to follow Christ! As he walks through this season of repentance, we are excited to watch the Lord work in Joel’s heart and life!

Sweet Charis Dorothy was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Erica Kipfer and big sister, Ellie. Charis’s grandparents are Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller and Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). Charis’s name is the Greek word for “grace.” May Charis’s life be a living example of God’s beautiful, unending, and sacrificial grace!

Family and friends gathered around the baptismal as Naomi Steidinger (Bro. Philip and Sis. Lana) verbalized her covenant vows to her Heavenly Father. The weekend was a beautiful testimony of God’s faithfulness to gently reveal Himself to hearts that earnestly seek Him! May our Sis. Naomi continue to seek Jesus Christ as her first love!

Over the last weeks, we have been blessed with visiting brothers who have traveled and preached God’s Word. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN; Sis. Leonda) joined Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser for the weekend of Sis. Naomi’s testimony and baptism. In addition, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN; Sis. Linda) came to serve our congregation, while visiting his newest granddaughter, Charis! We want to also thank Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto, MI), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Bill Waibel (Bay City, MI).
Illinois, Belvidere
Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen

Our youngest Sunday School class, under the loving guidance of Sis. Darcy Steffen, sang with willing hearts a song I had never heard before for the Easter Program.

"Many are the lovely flowers blooming with delight,
Many are the joys of living, when you're living right,
Love is growing, just in knowing someone cares for me;
In my heart this Rose is blooming, Rose of Calvary."

A small part of “living right” is keeping God’s earthly house clean. We thank all those who attended our annual church cleaning. It could be considered a joy of living when we all work for His glory.

We thank retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and his wife, Sis. Nancy (Elgin, IL), for bringing God’s word and for encouraging us and reminding us about the importance of communion and our preparation for it.

"Heaven’s fragrance, lovely flower, Lamb of God divine;
Lovely Rose of Sharon dying for your sins and mine.
Love so pure and so refreshing, given full and free;
Crushed and broken, bruised and bleeding, Rose of Calvary."

The Sunday School Easter program reminded us once again of the love so pure that the Lamb of God had for us when he died for your sins and mine.

We thank the Sunday School children and the teachers for their efforts in their songs and pieces of love.

"Many wounded hearts are bleeding, crying in despair,
Many are the lost and lonely, burdened down with care.
Who will share a lovely flower for someone to see?
Tell them of the Rose of Sharon, Rose of Calvary.
When you want to reach somebody, show them that you care;
Say it with a lovely flower, fragrant and so rare;
Such a lovely, kind expression let it always be,
From the heart this lovely witness, Rose of Calvary."

We continue to pray for Jeff Waibel. We hope that he knows we care as he continues to struggle with health issues.

"Share a blessing, so refreshing, fragrant flowers grow;
Lovely tho’ts and words and actions, ev’rywhere you go.
Share the fairest, share the rarest, for the world to see;
Lovely Rose of Sharon blooming, Rose of Calvary."

Heartland Hymns, #127

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal
Gina Hodel
Terri Huber

We are thankful that the Word of God is faithfully preached over the pulpit for our encouragement, chastisement, and edification. Recent visiting ministers were Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). Their labors and those of our local ministering brethren are very much appreciated.

We continue to keep those who are suffering in the physical body in our prayers. Among others, our congregation is mindful of Sis. Kay Nazarzuk. We rejoiced when Kay was able to be baptized in her home. Prayers for God’s comfort, guidance and healing continue to be uttered for Kay and Mike, and their children and grandchildren.

When the tulips bloom, we start thinking of Easter and spring. The Sunday School Easter Program was held on Palm Sunday and it is a delight to see evidence of children learning about the Lord.

Another spring event is graduation. Congratulations to our nine high school graduates: Sis. Allison Metz, Sis. Grace Zimmerman, Brandon Cargill, Jordan Schwartz, Carolyn Eastman, Megan Edelman, Ashlyn Gramm, Sis. Katheryn Balch, and Aaron Fehr. Bro. Craig Huber is graduating with a Bachelor’s Degree in Flight Science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ.

Sympathy is extended to Bros. Brandon (Sis. Mindy) and Jarod (Sis. Heidi) Rinkenberger at the death of two grandparents. Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger (Cisna Park, IL) passed away within ten days of each other. They were in their nineties and had a long legacy of faith and marriage that is passed on to future generations. May God be praised!
Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl
Sandi Joos

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

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles welcomed a new grandchild into their family circle. Jase Howard was born to Shane and Mindy Pyles.

Bro. Clarence Bruell passed from this life into eternity. We lift up in prayer his wife, Sis. Sharon; along with his family: John (Chris, Varina, IL), Charles (Lisa, Sparland, IL), Larry (Donna, East Peoria, IL), Michael (Terri, Fort Pierce, FL), Dann Lampe (Rosa, Moore, OK), Michael Lampe (Tonia, Lyng, England); and his sister, Sis. Elizabeth Kimble.

Bro. Ed Ehnle (Sis. Verla) and Bro. Ralph Joos (Sis. Jenny) both had back surgery and are on the road to recovery. Bro. Paul Nenadov (Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Esther Streitmatter have also spent time in the hospital in recent days. May they all feel the hand of the Great Physician.

Bro. Philip Rassi (Bern, KS) and Sis. Cyrena Baer (Sis. Janna) were united in marriage on March 23. Bro. Philip’s parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont, IL). We rejoice with this new couple, but will miss seeing Sis. Cyrena in Bradford.

Ministers sharing the day with us were Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont), and Bro. Tom Troxell (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse).

Andy Kieser and Megan Bess announced their engagement. Parents of this couple are Bro. Robb and Sis. Kelly Kieser and Kimberly and Seaby Bess.

Shannon Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Brianna Rinkenberger (Doug and Beth) are engaged. Bro. Daniel Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy) is engaged to Sis. Allaina Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill). Our prayers are with these couples as they plan their lives together and that they will look to God for guidance in all things.

Our annual Easter program was held after Good Friday service. We thank the students for bringing us the message.

Illinois, Champaign
Sarah Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana!

Champaign Church hosted Single Focus Weekend the weekend of March 22-23. The theme was “The Power of Connection”. We appreciated the speakers, many visitors, and committee members who helped make the weekend a success.

Thank you to Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie; Bloomington, IL) for traveling to share the Word. We appreciate all that you do.

On April 12, John Tucker passed away peacefully at his home, with his family at his bedside. We extend sympathy to his wife, Mary; son, Ross; daughter, Sis. Laura Furrer; and son-in-law, Bro. Joel Furrer. We pray for God’s nearness during this difficult time.

We rejoice with Seth Waibel (son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy) in that he has answered the call of the Lord and begun his repentance. We encourage him and lift him up in prayer.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

In April, we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) join us for Sunday worship. Bro. Ron also visited us on a Wednesday evening to share an informational presentation on the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped.

On Palm Sunday, we enjoyed the Sunday School Easter Program.

We welcomed Sis. Rebekah Herrmann (Princeville, IL) who will be with us for a couple of months for an internship in the south suburbs.

Our prayers are with Sis. Lucille Koehl as she recuperates from a fall and Bro. Charles Stoller following his cataract surgery.

We offer condolences to Bro. Blake and Sis. Christine Stahl and their family for the loss of her grandfather, Bro. Harold Hodel (Eureka, IL).

Aridio and Sis. Katrina Cordero welcomed their fourth
son, Xiony on April 15. Happy siblings are Yirenny, Zahony, Schandy, Yoshanny, and Venny. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**

*Janie Waldbeser*

*Sandy Rudin*

We neglected to report the birth of a new grandson in the family of Bro. Wayne & Sis. Gloria Laubscher. They are thankful for August Rio who was born on December 4 to Bro. Jason & Sis. Rebekah Stoller (Washington). Bro. Les & Sis. Joyce Stock are his great grandparents.

We are thankful Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North) came and presented our monthly Bible Presentation in March. His topic was “God’s Revealing Power through Creation”. Bro. Doyle encouraged us to be watchful for things that are being fulfilled according to the Biblical prophesies.

Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Stock in the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless them for their efforts and thank them for encouraging us to a closer walk with our Savior.

Our church was uplifted in spirit as we hosted Invite-a-Guest on April 6. Visiting ministers for the day were Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Gridley), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign), and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN.)

“**In sorrow and pain,**

**Thy trust do retain**

*In Jesus the merciful Saviour. When burdened with care, When thou wouldst despair, Then call on thy loving Redeemer.”

*Zion’s Harp #46*

We bid farewell to our dear Bro. William Rinkenberger on March 23. Then, 9 days later, his beloved wife of 70 years, Sis. Marjorie Rinkenberger joined him in Eternity. It is so touching to think that for all those years they were so devoted to one another, and now God granted them to both depart this world so close together. We continue to pray for their children: Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Devon) Rinkenberger of Morton, Robert (Sally) Rinkenberger of Congerville, Sis. Ann (Bro. Richard) Steiner of Tremont, Kathleen (Richard) Sutter of Ft. Lauderdale, FL., Sis. Karol (Elder Bro. Tom) Stock of Cissna Park, and daughter-in-law, Sis. Velma Rinkenberger also from Cissna Park. We also pray for their siblings, their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj will always be remembered for their unwavering devotion to God, and their kind, unconditional love for family and friends.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of our dear Sis. Sylvia Knapp who passed away on April 8. She is survived by her loving husband of almost 59 years, Bro. Lynn Knapp, her daughters, Sis Melinda (Bro. Larry) Gramm (South Bend, IN.) and Darlene (Bill) Medler of Hoopeston, IL., and three granddaughters. Also surviving are several siblings from our congregation: Wes (Judy) Knapp, Sis. Lucille Knapp & Sis. Marilyn Knapp.

We also pray for the family of John Tucker from Champaign. He passed away on April 12. Surviving are his wife, Mary (Greiner) Tucker, his children, Sis. Laura (Bro. Joel) Furrer and Ross Tucker of Champaign, and his mother-in-law, Sis. Vi Greiner from our congregation.

We gathered on the evening of Palm Sunday to listen to the beautiful Easter Story brought forth by our Sunday School children through hymns and verses. May this Story never grow old in our hearts and minds as we think of what our Blessed Redeemer did for each and every one of us! Let us thank Him daily for the wonderful Plan of Salvation!

We continue to pray for Sis. Grace Bauer, Sis. Gladys Knapp, and Curt Knapp as they are experiencing medical issues.

**Note of Thanks:**

I would like to thank all those who remembered me with cards, food or prayers after my heart surgery. May God bless each of you! Bro. Stan Maul

**Illinois, Congerville**

*Erica Steffen*

We were encouraged to hear of God once again leading two of His dear children to unite their lives together as one in the Lord! Our Sis. Jessica Dietrich is engaged to Bro. Noah Teubel of Washington.
Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Dietrich and Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti Teubel of Washington. Our prayers are for them as they begin this new journey together!

We rejoice with Bro. Jesse and Sis. Mary Knapp as they have welcomed their first child into the world! Praise to God for the safe arrival of Tyson James on March 18. Also welcoming baby Tyson are happy grandparents Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle Virkler and James and Lisa Knapp.

"Then trust in God thro’ all the days; Fear not, for He doth hold they hand; Tho’ dark thy way, still sing and praise, Sometime, sometime, we’ll understand.”

Hymns of Zion #165

Our hearts ache for our dear Bro. Ralph, Sis. Linda Knapp and their family on the unexpected passing of Bro. Ralph’s sister, Doris Knapp-Baldeon of Gilroy, CA. Please especially keep her husband, German, and son, Michael, in your prayers during this difficult time.

As always, we are very thankful for the many visiting ministers that have come to labor for our benefit in the past month. Thanks and prayers to Bros. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley), Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), Jeff Niehouser (Sis. Sue, Morton), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest), Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield), Ed Fritz (Washington), and Retired Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago). May they and their families be blessed.

A note of encouragement:

The other day I found a note I had written from a sermon a few months back. It went something like this: “We must stay on the straight and narrow way, but always looking up— for that is where our Redeemer will come when He returns. Sorrow and grief come from looking back. The left or right ditches on each side of the way are deep and treacherous. Anxiety would have us looking around corners. Keep going straight and looking up!”

Thank you to the brother that was inspired to share this thought that is so helpful in keeping a good perspective on our walk with our Risen Lord!

Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

There were a number of visiting ministers during the past month, including Elder Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Dale Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). Thank you for your labors in the Lord.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Heather Schambach welcomed their first child on March 23, when little Addison Berkley was born. Her delighted grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach.

Sis. Ginny (Bro. Norm) Schock recently had surgery and is now recovering at home.

We extend sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Anne (Bro. Dan) Moser lost her grandfather, Bro. William Rinkenberger, on March 23 and her grandmother, Sis. Marjorie Rinkenberger, on April 1 in Cissna Park, IL. Jo Ann Conrad passed away on April 8 in Bremen, IN. She was the sister of Bro. Dick (Sis. Judy) Klopfenstein.

Our Sunday School students presented the Easter program on April 13.

Illinois, Eureka

Debra Blunier

Linda Rocke

We were blessed again this month with brethren who were willing to come and share the Word. These were Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont), and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA).

Communion is always a special time of year when we reflect on what the Lord has
done for us. Elder Bro. Trent exhorted us each to prepare our hearts by reflecting on our walk with God, repenting of wrongdoing, remembering Christ’s great sacrifice, and then rejoicing together as we partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) assisted Bro. Trent in this work.

“For I know that my redeemer liveth.” Job 19:25

The beautiful story was told once again at the Easter Program. Thanks to the students and teachers in preparing for this so that we could be blessed by their songs and verses.

Bro. Jared and Sis. Sarah Fehr gave birth to Jayla Grace. She is welcomed home by big sisters, Audrey and Serena. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller and Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr.

Our dear Bro. Harold Hodel went to be with the Lord on April 17 after a brief illness. May God comfort Sis. Mildred and her daughters, Sis. Beth (Bro. Curtis) Rocke and Sis. Karen (Bro. Doug) Martin, and her son, Kent (Janet) Hodel.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Angela Herr*

*Janelle Stoller*

Our congregation was blessed to gather on March 29 and partake of Holy Communion. Although we daily strive to remember the great sacrificial love of Christ’s suffering and death, this is a special time to sincerely search our hearts. May God bless Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Rick in this blessed evening. We also appreciate Bro. Mark’s service on Sunday.

The Sunday School children reminded us of the great price Jesus paid and the wonderful plan of Salvation at our Easter program on April 13. Our prayer is that each of them will kneel at the foot of the cross and let the Savior in.

April 13 was also the wedding day of Sis. Katie Schaffer (Lynn and Becky) and Bro. Philip Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Steph, Forrest, IL). May God bless this union and keep them close to Him, His Word and each other. We’ve appreciated Sis. Katie in our congregation and will miss her.

Our hearts rejoice each time we hear of a soul who has answered God’s call. We are thankful Hannah Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) is making a beginning in repentance. Our prayers are with her as she gives her life to the Lord.

Sis. Ronda Stoller (Bro. Randy) had back surgery and spent time in the hospital. Bro. Wayne Davis (Sis. Verla) and Sis. Marguerite Lorch also spent time in the hospital. May God grant each of them healing according to His will.

We wish Kaleb Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine) God’s blessings as he relocates to St. Louis, MO for employment.

We’re thankful for the many opportunities to worship and fellowship together. We appreciate the willingness of faithful brothers to stand and preach God’s word. May God bless the following brothers who have lent themselves in God’s service: Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bros. Paul Zimmerman and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA).

**Illinois, Forrest**

*Karla Zimmerman*

*Molly Zimmerman*

In the spring we are always reminded of new life, the trees budding, tulips and daffodils poking out of the ground, and even baby squirrels scampering about. How amazing God’s creation is!

As we think of new life, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Brooke Kuntz welcome home Charity Kay. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rollyn Kuntz (late Sis. Brenda) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal Miller (Fairbury, IL). Also first-time parents Bro. Mark and Sis. Emily Kuntz welcome home little Raelyn Kay. Her grandparents are Bro. Rollyn Kuntz (late Sis. Brenda), Dan Kraft and Andrea Schumm. May each of these couples look to God as they raise these sweet little girls.

“Sit and pause awhile my spirit,
This great miracle behold; See the
King of highest merit, On the cross,
so bare and cold! Out of heaven
God has given His own Son in love untold." Zion Harp #226 vs. 1

What a wonderful moment when we could sit and pause and really remember what our Lord did for us, as we were able to share Holy Communion together as a church family. Helping Elder Bro. Marvin were Elder Brothers Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). We are so grateful for these dear brothers and the time they willingly gave. We also thank Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL) for coming and sharing the Word. May each of these brothers be richly blessed.

Sis. Lou Ida Steffen (Bro. Richard) was in the hospital and is now home recovering. Little Molly Brown had heart surgery and came through it well, but ended back in the hospital. She is now home again and doing well. Our prayers have been with Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia Gerber and their little 4-year-old granddaughter Brynlee Gerber, as she is fighting leukemia. Also spending time in the hospital was Bro. Rich Wenger (Sis. Jill). May each of these families feel our prayers and God’s nearness.

“Be true; be true! The Lord is by thee standing; Joyful with Him at last will be the ending! Tho’ hard the strife and long the conflict be, Through faithfulness the Lord will honor be!” Zion’s Harp #172

Our prayers have been with Sis. Melba and Bro. Al Zimmerman in the passing of her sister, Sis. Irene Stoller (Latty, OH). Our prayers are also with Sis. Katie and Bro. Matthew Schneider and family in the passing of her grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Marj Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL). We know these dear ones will be missed.

We rejoice with Bro. Philp Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Stephanie) and Sis. Katie Schaffer (Lynn and Becky of Fairbury) as they were joined together in Holy Matrimony. May they be richly blessed as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

Illinois, Gridley

Perry Klopfenstein

“If you want light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is shining.”
Author unknown

We had Holy Communion on Wednesday evening, April 2. Elder Bro. Bruce Endress of Bradford helped with this occasion. It was a blessed evening as we “re-remembered” the Lord’s suffering as one minister mentioned. The singing was especially beautiful, and the lyrics had great meaning.

We rejoice that Bro. Don Gilmore can be called our brother in faith as he was baptized at home on March 27. His wife is Sis. Alice Rose Gilmore. He is in his eighties.

A daughter was born on March 19 to Bro. Garrett and Sis. Courtney Yackley. She was named Lyla Kay and is their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Funk and Bro. Joe and Sis. Jerilyn Yackley, Taylor, MO. May God be with this couple as they nurture this child in God’s truths.

Covenant Dean Miller was born on March 27 to Bro. Arlan and Sis. Katie Miller. His sister is named Haven. Grandparents are Sis. Linda Kellenberger, Lester, IA, and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller. May God bless their “raising up” of this dear child.

Sis. LeAnn Ringger was engaged to be married to Bro. Galen Huette, Tremont. Her parents are Sis. Coleen and the late Bro. Stan Ringger. He is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan Huette, Tremont.

Illinois, Morton

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Mothers are like “Precious Fine Collectibles” who have tremendous value as they teach their children to be a part of a family team. It is of critical importance to the kind of adults that they will become. In Titus we are given instruction to set an example in EVERYTHING we do.

We appreciate the Holy Spirit’s powerful work in the Gospel messages spoken to us by Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago) and Bro. John Zeller (Sis. Christie) for our Family Worship Topic “One Way-God’s Way”. Our hearts were stirred also when our Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. gave our Good Friday Evening message and fully described our Lord’s terrible
suffering while experiencing all of hell upon Himself, ALL for a way to cover our sins with His precious Blood so we can be presented blameless to our Holy Father!

Our church Easter program that was presented this year was entitled “He Is Alive! Celebrate the Resurrection!” What a Precious Hope we have as Christians!

Our love and sympathy is shared with our Sis. Diane Grimm who grieved the loss of two of her brothers, Ron Grimm and Jack Grimm.

Our Bro. Ken Rinkenberger (Sis. Devon) experienced much sorrow in the loss of both of his aged parents in the span of about 1 week. Bro. Bill and Sis. Marjorie Rinkenberger from Cisna Park passed from this life into their Heavenly Home.

We share our sympathy with Sis. Mavis Hermann (late Bro. Don) in the loss of her sister-in-law Florence Witter. Our dear Sis. Betty June Buttrick passed away recently. Sis. Betty’s family has our love.

We ask God’s presence to be with our Bro. Daniel Martin (Megan) as he grieves the loss of his grandfather, Bro. Harold Hodel, Eureka.

We ask God’s blessings on the marriage of Grant and Yuru Zimmerman. Grant is the son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman.

Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm experienced the joy of the marriage of their son Alex Neukomm to Brittany Esterling. Brittany’s parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanie Esterling, Morris.

We share in the joy of Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr as they announced the engagement of their daughter Katie Bahr to Mike Slack, Bloomington. An August 31 wedding celebration is planned.

**Illinois, Peoria**

**Pam Fritzenmeier**

Harold and Marilyn Stickling have been blessed with two new grandchildren! Levi Joel was born January 20 to Micah and Sara Stickling, Danvers, IL. Levi has a big brother, Silas. Mike and Sandy Talbert, Bloomington, are maternal grandparents. Mason Eli was born March 11 to Bro. Eric and Sis. Martney Huber, Bloomington. Mason has a big brother, Cohen. Bro. David and Sis. Debbie Huber, Bloomington, are paternal grandparents.

We welcome Kathy Waddel as our sister-in-law to the family of Bro. Russ Rumbold, Sr., who passed away April 7. He was baptized in the hospital two days before his death, so we can’t help but also rejoice in his victory in Jesus! Please pray for his wife, Sis. Roma, and children: Sis. Marsha (Chris) Stickling, and Russ Jr. (Peg), and their families. Then on April 13, Allison Stickling, 16 year-old daughter of Chris and Sis. Marsha, received her long-awaited kidney transplant and is doing well. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sis. Vera Kibler, age 101, passed away April 12 and Sis. Loretta (Bro. Harry) Eisenmann’s sister, Shirley Buckles (Burlington, IA) also passed away recently. Please pray for their families.

Others with various health issues desire our prayers also. These include Bro. Peter Weber, Sis. Kathy Huthmann, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Melissa) Waiibel, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Mary See, Sis. Maria Graham, Andrea (Aaron) Staley, Mary Funk, Sis. JoAnn (Bro. Tom) Rieker, and Keyla (6 year-old girl...
from CVE, Magdelena, who had surgery for a brain tumor).

Please do keep in your prayers our local families serving far from home. These include Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Bro. Zach and Sis. Daniela Knobloch, and Bro. Jason Grassi, Magdelena, and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti.

**Illinois, Princeville**

_Gloria White_  
_Renee Herrmann_

We were thankful to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Ethan and Elizabeth Martin, children of Bro. Ed Martin and Sis. Gladys Martin, on March 29 and 30. May their light shine in this dark world as they continue their walk of faith. Visiting Elder Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) shared the weekend with us.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner in serving Communion. We thank these brothers for teaching the Word.

“What glorious state to be a lamb of Jesus, to feel the faithful shepherd’s loving grace,  
In all the earth, there is no higher standing than this...to follow in the Saviour’s ways.”  
_A Lamb of Jesus, Zion’s Harp, #16_

We rejoice with our new convert, Todd Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann), as he has begun his walk with the Good Shepherd.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Janet Martin-Joos, Sis. Marie Menold, Sis. Grace Streitmatter and Bro. Roy Mueller. Bro. Dave Ehne has also had some health concerns and is currently staying at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. We pray for God’s nearness and His healing touch in their lives. We congratulate Bro. Ron and Sis. Jackie Rumbold as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. God bless them for their example of love and commitment.

**Illinois, Roanoke**

_Barb Schwind_  
_Judy Sauder_

_Psalms 37: 4: “Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”_

This was one of the verses that our Scripture Memory Class presented in a program of Bible verses set to music on March 19. What an encouragement to see that our youth are hiding God’s word in their hearts! May He bless those who so faithfully teach the youth of our church.

The Bible Class students meet monthly for “Worship on Wednesday”. Our junior high boys meet in a group called “Active” and our junior high “HOPE” girls meet monthly to do service projects and other activities. We are so thankful for those who willingly lead these groups and help encourage the students in ways of righteousness.

The junior and senior Bible Class students along with a number of parents and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Tim Hohulin travelled to Knockpatrick and Kingston, Jamaica over spring break on a work trip. The group enjoyed a blessed time of fellowship and serving others by working together on constructing building additions and bonding with the children at the Deaf Village.

2 Cor. 2:15, 16: “For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other the savor of life unto life.”

This verse was shared at our Sunday School Easter program held on April 13. It was a joy to see our youth proclaim the message of Christ’s death and resurrection in word and song.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) was our guest minister on April 13 and then assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in serving Holy Communion that evening. It was a blessed evening of worship and remembrance.

We rejoice with Sis. Janet Knepp who welcomed another grandson, Crue Richard Knepp on March 22. His thankful parents are Bro. Alex and Sis. Cassie (Goodfield). His older brothers are Dierks and Hudson. His maternal grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield).

Bro. Gary & Sis. Elna Wettstein have been twice blessed as grandparents recently. Charlie Edward was born to Ed &
Stephanie Wettstein of Secor on March 30. His older brother and sisters are Lydia, Hank, and Lucy. His maternal grandparents are Kent & Cindy Kamp of Eureka.

Then, Lincoln Russell arrived to bless the home of Andy & Rebekah Wettstein on April 11. His older sisters are Aylee and Mya. His thankful maternal grandparents are Russ & Angie Bradle of Eureka. We pray for God’s blessings on these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

We also mourn with those who mourn. Sis. Marie Hohulin lost a brother-in-law and sister recently. Bro. Bill Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) passed away on March 23. His wife, Sis. Marge Rinkenberger (Cissna Park) went to be with the Lord on April 1.

Sarena Weyeneth of Dallas, NC passed away April 9. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Leona Weyeneth and Sis. Marilyn Roth. May our Lord comfort these families in their sorrow.

Jake Braker (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Janice) is engaged to Amanda Pila of Washburn. Her parents are John and Marian Pila of Plainfield. We ask that God would bless Jake and Amanda as they look forward to being united in marriage.

We rejoice with Sis. Kay (Michael) Nazarczuk who was baptized in Bloomington on March 23. We continue to lift her up in prayer as well as Sally Achterberg, Bro. Jerry Sauder, Bro. Russ (Sis. Marge) Plattner, and Sis. Esther (Bro. John) Sauder who are dealing with health issues.

**Illinois, Tremont**

*Teresa Rowell*  
*Janice Sauder*

Today as I write this letter, the sun is shining and the wind is blowing. It reminds me of a March day, however, it is the middle of April and Easter is fast approaching. Our Sunday School students told us that old, old story on a Sunday evening and we were inspired and touched by their willingness and enthusiasm.

We are thankful for brothers who are willing to be God’s mouthpiece on our behalf. Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria) was with us for a Wednesday Family night. Elder Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest), Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria), and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign) were also with us on a Wednesday evening to give us an exhortation for choosing an ordained deacon. Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) was with us for Communion.

We are very happy for 2 engaged couples in our church. Darci Stoecker (Darryl and Sis. Peggy) will marry Leo Halverson (Errol and Lisa), and Bro. Galen Huette (Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan) and Sis. LeaAnn Ringger (Sis. Colleen and the late Bro. Stan, from Gridley) made their engagement known to the church.

We also celebrated with Bro. Phillip Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Cathy) and Sis. Cyrena Baer (Sis. Janna Baer) as they were united in marriage in Bradford. We wish all these couples God’s richest blessings as they begin their new lives together.

We always enjoy hearing about new babies. Derek and Meaghan Kaiser are enjoying their first girl, Kennedi Raine. Excited sibling, Blayne, and grandparents Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Kaiser welcome her also. Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynette Menold have become grandparents. Dan and Jessica Menold welcome Magdalena Rose into their family.

Several in our church have experienced the pain of earthly separation. Sis. Ann Steiner (Bro. Richard) lost both of her parents in less than 2 weeks. Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Rinkenberger will be missed by their family, but thankfully they have that glorious Hope of seeing them again in Heaven. Sis. Nola Koch has also gone on to her eternal reward. We extend our sympathy to her son, Bro. Dirk, Sis. Erica Koch and grandchildren and many other relatives in our church. Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister’s brother-in-law, Bro. Russell Rumbold (Peoria) passed into eternity. We pray for God’s comfort for each one as they endure difficult times.

Sis. Ruth Koch (Bro. Vernon) has spent some time in the hospital. Our prayers are with her as she recovers from her illness.

**Illinois, Washington**

*Marlene Prather*  
*Jodi Fehr*

“There are friendships that we cherish…” Hymns of Zion #91
Our church enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship for our Invite-a-Guest on March 30.

We warmly welcome Bro. Kaleb and Sis. Angela Beyer and their children: Taygen, Boston, Keyston, and Eden, who have recently moved from Sabetha.

We are excited to have several more engagements in our congregation. Bro. Noah Teubel was engaged to Sis. Jessica Dietrich of Congerville. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti Teubel and Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy Dietrich of Congerville. Bro. Brad Ricketts was engaged to Sis. Katherine Pucovsky of the Windsor, Canada Apostolic Christian Nazarene Church. Their parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Cheryl Ricketts and Michael and Ana Pucovsky of Windsor. Our prayer is that God will bless these couples.

We were privileged to participate in Holy Communion on April 12 and were blessed to have Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol) of Cisna Park with us for the evening.

On Palm Sunday, we were reminded of Christ’s death and Resurrection through an Easter Program from our Sunday School children.

We extend a heartfelt appreciation to our other visiting ministers this month including Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn) of Taylor, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne) of Sabetha, and Bro. John Lehman of Wolcott.

**Indiana, Bluffton**

**Suzie Fiechter**

**Kim Meyer**

“Great is thy faithfulness.”

*Lamentations 3:23b*

Several women from Bluffton and Bluffton North were able to enjoy another evening at LIFT (Ladies In Fellowship Together). This year’s theme was “God’s Faithfulness.” We were blessed to hear from two sisters who shared how God has been and continues to be faithful in their lives. When one of the sisters was asked to share, she wondered what she would talk about. However, when the committee member listed a number of things where God had been faithful in her life, she was humbled. One thing that struck home with me is how we need to take time to stop and reflect on how God has been faithful in our own lives. If we would stop and think about God’s faithfulness in our lives, a majority of those times would be in the simple things. Hallelujah! Most of us would agree we are not too grand on our own two feet. But at the same time I think “ugh” how faithful am I being to God in those “simple” day-to-day events? How many opportunities am I missing in allowing God to show His faithfulness in my life?

God continues to show Himself faithful as He draws new hearts to repentance. Several months ago, we had a couple girls surrender their hearts to God, Hannah Rinkenberger (Bro. Linc & Sis. Catrina) and Sydnee Reinhard (Bro. Marvin & Sis. Kim). Sorry to delay in announcing such praiseworthy news! And just recently, Lydia Steffen (Bro. Wayne & Sis. Jeanne) began her repentance as well.

We were blessed to witness the union of two hearts as they vowed their faithfulness to one another until life’s end, Bro. Jim Frauhiger (Bro. Lynn & Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Amy Gerber (Bro. Greg & Sis. Joan).

We have four other individuals who sought out God’s direction and will in their lives regarding marriage. Bro. Ron & Sis. LaNae Macklin are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Olivia, to Bro. Matt Kaehr (Bro. Sam & Sis. Connie). Bro. Nathan & Sis. LeAnn Gerber also announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Leah (Sabitha), to Bro. Jordan Rokey (Galen & Nancy) of Bern, KS.

God shows His faithfulness every Sunday in the lives of each minister as they stand before us to speak God’s Word. Bro. Richard (Sis. LaNae) Aberle from Atlanta, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Val) Leman and Bro. Doyle (Sis. Jane) Frauhiger from Bluffton North, and Bro. Dan (Sis. Deb) Beer from Milford were at Bluffton over the past month. We thank them for their visits and welcome them back any time!

In the birth of each baby, God shows His intricate creation and care as He faithfully delivers them from the womb to the mother’s arms. Bro. Jon & Sis. Jennifer Isch
were blessed with another little girl, Ginger Rebecca, on March 18. She is loved by her big brother, Corbin, and sister, Morgan, along with her grandparents Bro. Barry (Sis. Imogene) Isch and Bro. Gene (Sis. Becky) Gerber.

Sometimes God’s faithfulness is so pure and good we may doubt it. I think of this in the sudden passing of our Bro. Dave (Sis. Sharon) Imel. But God’s ways are so above ours! May we as a congregation show our faithfulness through prayer, hugs, and however God would use us for this family. Bro. Dave is also survived by his children: Bro. Josh (Sis. Kasha), Jami (Jake Ringger), Bro. Justin, and Sis. Jenna (Bro. Mitch Fiechter).

Another family hurting from the loss of a loved one is the family of Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Robert-dec) Yergler. Her children are John (dec.) (Peg) and Sis. Marlise (Bro. Tim) Steffen. In these times of grieving, may we with God’s grace seek His faithfulness.

The next few events that I am going to list are opportunities that bring us together around one event, but bless far more than those present. None of these could happen without commitment and trusting in God’s faithfulness to bless it. Our high school students took part in a special Sunday at ACYF in Lafayette. The young group enjoyed the company of our widows and widowers during an evening dinner and singing. The congregation pitched in for our annual church cleaning. Several of our home school students put on a play “Anne of Green Gables”. Sis. Alyssa Eisenmann (Bro. John & Sis. Trudy) left for Laos to help Jonathan & Lisa Ringger for a couple of months.

Sometimes the events in our lives make us stop and think. Others, we sometimes miss. Whatever the case, God sees us through! It’s in these moments where we see God’s faithfulness and our inadequacies. So where is God asking you to trust His faithfulness? Maybe it’s faithfully visiting a loved one, continuing to pray for missionaries, encouraging converts and engaged couples, sending another card, raising children, teaching Sunday school, or even just refilling ice water. Whatever God calls you to do, do it unto the Lord. It may be the simplest of acts that so clearly shows God’s love and faithfulness! God’s message really is simple; it’s we that complicate it.

During this Easter season, we revisit God’s message of love and faithfulness played out to its fullest. We may find ourselves on our knees seeking the Father like Jesus in the garden or just trying to stay out of the rut of our daily routines. Just remember…

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” Lam. 3:22, 23

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner
Amy Moser

Jesus wore the crown of thorns so we could wear the crown of life.


Bro. Dave Imel (Bluffton) passed away on March 20. He is the father of our Sis. Jenna (Bro. Mitch) Fiechter. He is also survived by his wife, Sis. Sharon, and children, Bro. Joshua (Sis. Kasha) Imel, Jami (Jake) Ringger, Bro. Justin Imel. We hold these families up in prayer.

Sis. Carolyn Yergler, 89, passed away. She was the widow of Bro. Bob Yergler. She is survived by a daughter, Sis. Marlise (Bro. Tim) Steffen. She is also survived by four brothers, Bro. Truman (Sis. Marge) Baumgartner, Bro. Howard, (Sis. Joyce) Baumgartner, Bro. Galen (Sis. Joyce) Baumgartner, and Bro. Gene (Sis. Elaine) Baumgartner. Our prayers go out to these families.

Sis. Virginia (Bro. Jerome) Rauch had a heart procedure. We wish her God’s healing power as she recovers.

We were very thankful to have Bro. Jeff Wiegand and Sis. Janel of Goodfield visit our congregation. We were blessed by Bro. Jeff sharing God’s Word.
We are rejoicing with the angels and two Bluffton-North families. Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister are celebrating their son Benjamin as he has made a beginning in repentance. Bro. Toby and Jayla Steffen also celebrate the beginning of repentance of their daughter Tori. We wish them God’s richest blessings as each begins their new walk with the Lord.

Bro. Adam Lehman and Sis. Jenna Mueller (Magdalena, MX) were engaged on April 13. The couple’s parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Lehman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller. We wish them grace and wisdom as they begin their new lives together.

We entered into a blessed and sobering evening as we partook of Holy Communion on April 5. We thank Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) of Winthrop for assisting with this important event.

Our Bluffton-North Sunday School students presented the Easter story to the congregation in song on April 13. We are very thankful for all of the hard work that the students and teachers put in to make such a blessed event.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss
Indiana, Francesville
“God’s love elevates us without inflating us, and humbles us without degrading us.” B. Nottage

It was a time of self-examination and of renewing our love for Jesus and for each other as we prepared for Communion which we partook on Sunday evening April 13. We were blessed to have Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris) from West Lafayette as our visiting minister on Easter Sunday. We also enjoyed the Sunrise Service and the Sunday School Program.

Jacob Zeltwanger (son of Bro. Dave & Sis. Kelly) is now at peace with God and we look forward to his baptism.

Bro. Ryan & Sis. Tanya Westfall are thankful for their baby boy, Landrey Gene, born on April 5. His siblings are Cayden, Cohen, and Laney. His paternal grandparents are Bro. Dave & Sis. Julie Westfall of Chicago.


Our prayer is that the Lord will bless these dear young parents as they seek to “train their children in the ways of the Lord”. (Pr. 22:6)

Bro. Chris Welker has been a hospital patient, but is now at home and his condition is stable. Bro. Wendell Gudeman suffered a fall that required surgery on his shoulder. He is now recovering at home and is improving nicely, but he will still need several weeks of therapy. We know the Lord will grant grace and patience to these dear ones as they wait upon Him to restore them to good health.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle

On April 6, Bro. Lance Schwab and Sis. Ashley Creigh were married before loving family and friends, who were warmed by the sure knowledge that a three-fold cord binds this new union. We rejoice with them that the Lord has brought them together and stand ready to support and encourage them as they begin their lives together.

Assisting in the service were Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Ken Wuehrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). Two visiting ministers shared the service the morning of the wedding – Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Richard Aberle (Sis. LaNae, Atlanta, GA).

To begin a Bible study series on future Wednesday nights, Bro. Scott Bahr (Detroit, MI) taught on the topic “Grasping Truth through a Biblical Worldview.” The information he provided gave us much to consider as we navigate through post-modern America.

Palm Sunday brought together both the spring 2014 Indy Outreach and the Sunday School Easter program. Young people from throughout Indiana and surrounding states served both physically (indoor and outdoor improvement projects) and spiritually (sharing the Good News of the Gospel). They added much to the day and joined the Sunday School at the Easter
program to sing, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”. Many form close bonds of friendship at these edifying endeavors. What a privilege to host these energetic servants for Christ! They encourage us all.

We appreciated the visiting ministers who came to be with their grandchildren at the Easter program. They were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL).

On Good Friday evening, we gathered with Edye Mayer’s family to celebrate a birthday milestone and a beautiful life lived gracefully in God’s will. Then, in Good Friday services we acknowledged and gave thanks for the amazing gift of salvation offered to all who will come and repent. Our ministers exhorted us to reflect on the meaning of “take up your cross and follow Me,” and then to do that very thing.

Indiana, Lacrosse

*Betsy Virkler*

**Meagan Frank**

“Christ the Lord is ri’s’n today, Alleluia! 
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia! 
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! 
Sing, ye heav’ns, and earth reply, Alleluia!”

Christ, the Lord is risen Today, Hymns of Zion #102

Our Single Group, Bible Class, and Sunday School students all the way down to the 4 & 5 year-olds, blended their voices in singing this beautiful hymn at the end of our Easter Program. Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) assisted Bro. Curt the night before in serving Holy Communion. We want to thank them for their labor of love and for sharing God’s word so beautifully. It was a blessed weekend of remembering our Lord’s sacrifice and suffering, and the matchless joy of His resurrection through our precious bond as brothers and sisters, and the voices of our children.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Karen Feller (Bro. Todd) as her sister, Alberta Germann, recently passed away. Lately there have been several deaths of loved ones, not from LaCrosse church, but from nearby or having ties to some in our congregation. We pray for peace and healing for the families of each one.

Sis. Jo Frank had surgery on her shoulder. We are thankful she is now at home and we continue to intercede to the Father for His healing. Several from our church recently took a weekend bus trip down to Lamar, MO, adding to the fellowship there and supporting Bro. Mark & Sis. Karen Wettstein in the minister rotation. While their trip was eventful, they all were bountifully blessed! We also had the opportunity to work together in our spring cemetery clean-up. The efforts of each one was greatly appreciated.

Indiana, Leo

*Kirby Reutter*

Ixtlan, Mexico is probably a strange place to be writing an article for Leo, Indiana. (Or perhaps this is just another reminder that we are truly “members one of another.”) Since my beautiful wife is from this region, we are currently in attendance at the first-ever Mexico-wide Apostolic Church conference in this country. It was amazing to hear “saludos” (greetings) expressed from all over the country: Ixtlan, Morelia, Barra Vieja, Magadalena, Tecate, and San Jose. Perhaps those names mean little to you, but let me assure you, these saludos meant the world to these believers. In fact, some believers travelled up to 29 hours by bus just to sit in church for three days.

Do we love and need each other that much here in the United States?

Since one of my many weaknesses is a poor emotion control, I have to admit that I fought back tears as I saw the conference theme—“Working Together as the Body of Christ”—in addition to the following sub-topics: “Following the Lord—Together; Knowing the Body of Christ; The Mission of the Church; Nobody is Alone; Faithfulness in Sharing the Gospel; Faithfulness in Doctrine; Faithfulness in Edifying the Believer; and Faithfulness in Serving Others.”

Are our precious brethren to the South really the only ones who could benefit from these topics?
As I observed the weekend from behind the scenes (which apparently is where I cause the least amount of damage), I noticed the following did not happen. The delegation from Tecate did not say, “We have been here the longest; everyone should follow our example.” The contingency from Magdalena did not say, “Just look at our amazing orphanage; surely we are the model to emulate.” The local believers from Ixtlan did not say, “We are the ones hosting this conference, therefore, everyone should do things our way.”

Rather, this is what I observed: Brother deferring to brother, sister preferring sister, each esteeming the other higher than self—and all focused on Christ. I could be dead wrong (don’t worry, it won’t be the first time), but sometimes I have the following thought, “Is it possible that our precious brethren to the South just might have more to teach us about Christ in some areas than we have to teach them?”

Finally, lest I get in trouble (again) for failing to report something from Leo, there were at least two significant highlights this month. First, we were blessed with 60 precious Gateway Woods representatives from many regions of the United States, who joined us on-campus for a day of instruction and fellowship. We know it is not possible for every representative to attend every year. However, with the right hand of fellowship, we warmly welcome all 78 representatives to join us whenever the way opens. Secondly, we were even further blessed with five precious new converts: Hudson Schrock, Hunter Schrock, Jenna Reimschisel, Braden Beyer, and James Kinsinger. The Spirit remains faithful!

I look forward to the day when greetings will be expressed from “all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues” Rev. 7:9. I will be the least worthy, but I want to be there anyway.

Indiana, Milford

Minnie Beer

Jodi Beer

We thank the Bluffton/Bluffton North Choir for visiting and blessing us with beautiful singing and fellowship.

We thank visiting ministers: Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North), Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis Val, Bluffton North), Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley), and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty).

God bless them for their willingness to serve.

Ted Brooks, Bro. Ray Haab and Sis. Dorothy Steffen have spent time in the hospital and our prayers have been with them.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Jodi Beer (CVE, Magdalena, MX-daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) and little Keyla whom Sis. Jodi cares for. Keyla has spent many weeks in the hospital.

Our sympathy to Bro. Larry, Sis. Melinda, Nikki, Cassie and Jasmine Gramm as Sis. Melinda’s mother, Sis. Sylvia Knapp (Cissna Park) passed away. God bless and comfort them during this time.

Thankful for a new grandson are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman and Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel as Eli William was born to first-time parents, Rhett & Laura Mikel.

“. . . Hosanna in the highest.”

Matthew 21:9

On Palm Sunday, we enjoyed our Easter Program. Our Sunday School children sang and told us of Jesus’ love.

“And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.” Mark 16:2

We gathered together Easter morning for Sunrise Service and breakfast at the Fellowship Hall. It is a special time to be together and remember that Christ arose victorious over grave.

We are thankful that Ryan Schlipf (Bro. Rich & Sis. Kathy) and Anne Beer (Bro. Randy & Sis. Deb) have found peace with God and man. We look forward to the time when we get to hear their testimonies and witness their baptisms.

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger

Marcella Tyler

Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther) from Lester was a visiting minister this month. We are thankful for their fellowship, and we pray the Lord will bless them for their efforts.
We had our Sunday School Easter Program this past week. What a blessing it is to reflect on how very much our Savior loves us and to hear our young people tell us once again the old familiar story of Jesus’ suffering and death and resurrection. Their sweet voices make me think of what pure and innocent worship there must be in Heaven!

Please pray for healing for our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) and Sis. LaVina Beckley as they were both hospital/surgical patients this month. Sis. Velda Beckley is now home from rehab and we ask for your continued prayers for her healing as well.

Sis. Lois Bahler has been back in church recently after being absent for several weeks. We are so thankful for her faithful witness and example and encouragement to the church, and we are very glad to see her again!

Bro. Earl Kilgus’s sister, Alice Myer (Gene) formerly of Bloomington, has passed away recently. We pray for comfort for Bro. Earl and for the family in their loss.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

Following an early Resurrection Sunday service, we shared our traditional Easter breakfast. Later that morning, the Sunday School children shared a celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection in word and in song. We are happy to share the wonderful news that Bro. Ed, Sis. Tricia Lester and their boys will not be relocating. Bro. Ed has accepted a Nurse Practitioner position in the Elkhart, IN area.

May the Lord bless Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN) for their words of Truth and Life Eternal from the pulpit.

“We pray for Bro. Marty (Sis. Lavilla) Langhofer’s safe return from a Christian Veterinary Mission’s trip to Jordan.

“Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.” Galatians 6:18

Indiana, Valparaiso
Marguerite Hoerr
Sherry Meiss

Our loved Valpo church had a most joyful experience recently when Logan Weiss, son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha, realized his need for the Lord and gave his testimony before God and man the first Sunday of April. What a lift it gives to all of us to hear about the joy one finds in seeking and finding the Lord. Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) and Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) heard his testimony on Saturday night. Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Ronda, Bluffton) assisted with his baptism on Sunday. Logan has been loved by every one of us and is now our brother-in-faith. In a small congregation like ours, one convert increases us by a significant percentage and we welcome him warmly into our fellowship.

We wish Bro. Dan Kilgus a speedy recovery from the shoulder surgery he had previous to the weekend of the baptism. No doubt Bro. Lynn felt a special satisfaction in helping with Logan’s baptism because he helped Bro. Dan, too.

We experienced true sorrow this past month, too. Bro. Merle Bucher, one of the stalwarts of our congregation, has not been feeling well for some time and has since been able to go Home to be with his Lord. His loving wife, Sis. Leona, cared for him during the time of his illness. Bro. Merle was one of God’s faithful servants and the evidence of his love for God was plain for all of us to see. We will miss his presence among us and will always remember his dedication to our little Valpo church and the father role he played. Our deepest sympathy is felt for his large family, and for Sis. Leona. Bro. Merle’s absence from our pews leaves a very large vacancy. Our loss is Heaven’s gain.

When Bob and I walked into Valpo church for the first time it just happened to be the Sunday of Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona’s 50th wedding anniversary. It was thirteen years ago. We’ll never forget the love they showed us by immediately inviting us, as newcomers, to the celebration dinner they were having after church. They showed us that same Christian love ever since.

We had a special blessing
on Easter after church. Our daughter Becky, who suffered a stroke nearly 8 months ago, was able to come for dinner. She also returned to work last week. She uses a wheel chair intermittently, but is able to walk slowly with a walker, too. Her left side was completely paralyzed at the onset of this stroke. Bob and I and her family are thanking God for his healing mercies, and so is she. Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has prayed for her.

Our attendance was small this Easter morning, but I always marvel at the love that radiates between us. When I think of Valpo church, I see it as small in numbers but large in love. I would hope that same love can radiate throughout our churches so you will all feel it coming from Valparaiso, IN straight into your hearts. Remember we are just South of U.S. 30 on State Road 49. Come see us!

**Indiana, West Lafayette**

*Katie Widmer*

*Andrea Furrer*

We are thankful for our visiting ministers and are blessed to have many PYG Dad’s visit our pulpit. Bro. Randy (Sis. Becky) Gudeman from Francesville came to share with us the Thursday night of PYG parent appreciation. We had a great turnout of parents, and can’t express what it does for our church, when we see such support.

It was a blessing, as always, to see the joy on the Sunday School children’s faces as they gave our Easter program. Could we be more blessed, than to watch such young children sing so clearly about Jesus?

Praise God for this Easter season!

**Indiana, Wolcott**

*Michelle Earney*

*Beckie Lehman*

We rejoice as we see signs of new life after a long winter. We are thankful for the warmth of the Word as it is shared each week. We thank Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) for sharing the Bible topic of “The Four Pillars of the Church”. Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie) willingly shared the Word one Sunday.

We enjoy the blessing of hearing our children repeat the wonderful story of love at our Easter program each year. Good Friday is a time of deep reflection and a time of rejoicing as we hear the children tell the story once again of Christ’s victory over death in resurrection.

Our prayers go out to several families as they laid loved ones to rest. Bro. Mike Minnear (Sis. Glenna) and his family are sorrowful at the loss of his sister, Diann Reynolds. Sis. Nancy Kyburz (Bro. Jerry) and her family said farewell to her mother, Clarice Wortman. Sis. Shari Schwab and her family laid her father, Bro. Merle Bucher (sis. Leona) to rest. We trust that God can give comfort to each one in the coming days.

We are praying for Roger Kyburz (Brenda) as he is battling with cancer. He is recovering from an extensive surgery and we pray that God will extend healing and comfort.

We are excited to announce the birth of Brooke Lee. She joined her big brother Blake and parents Bro. Tyler and Sis. Michelle Earney. We wish them God’s blessings as they enjoy their new little one.

**Iowa, Bloomfield**

*Teresa Schock*

The excerpt for today on my daily calendar started with, “God calls us to duty, and the only right answer is obedience.”

We appreciated Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City) being here to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. May we always remember to pray for our dear under shepherds who ‘watch for our souls’. We were exhorted to seek to do our part and not make our elder’s duty more difficult.

Little Ava Karoline Wuthrich
was born, April 8, to joyful parents Bro. Eric and Sis. Katie. Also rejoicing are her grandparents Bro. Kenny and Sis. Lori Wuthrich and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi (Silverton OR). Ava was born premature, but is getting along fine. May God be with this family as Ava will be at the University of Iowa Hospital for several more weeks.

April 6, we had two visiting ministers. Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) spoke to the Sunday School classes. We hosted the 5th – 8th grade students from Morris, Winthrop, and Garden Grove that weekend. We also enjoyed having Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka) here. He shared with us his experience of beholding a flock of one thousand sheep, and how they all followed the shepherd out of harm’s way. He said the whole flock was calm and orderly as they went down the mountain. They trusted their shepherd.

Bro. Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn) had back surgery. May the Lord be near him as he recovers.

Spring planting time is here. My husband heard someone say, “Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing not to put it in a fruit salad.”

As May includes Mother’s Day, we pray a blessing on all dear mothers.

Iowa, Burlington

Ivy Steiner

Monica Eisenmann

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville-Mediapolis) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) with us to serve Holy Communion on April 12. May we always remember and be thankful for God sending his Son to save us from our sins!

Other visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend). We truly appreciate their visits!

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Ingrid Buster (Bro. John) in the loss of her mother, Nadine Johnson. Services were held in Red Oak, IA. Our condolences also go to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Sis. Ivy (Mike) Steiner and family, and Clay and Karl Buster and families.

We were recently made aware that 97-year old Esther Landes Van Houe is residing at the Davier Health Center, 101 North B Street, in LaHarpe, IL. She was born in Morton, IL, then grew up in Donnellson, IA. She spent many times visiting relation, especially in the Goodfield and Congerville area. She would welcome cards or visits from friends and relatives.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

We are thankful the Lord continues to send messengers of His Word. We were taught by Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Ed Strahm (Bern, KS). Many loved ones came with Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie. We enjoyed a pizza supper on Saturday evening. The fellowship was enjoyed by young and old alike.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Paul & Sis. Mildred Butikofer in the passing of Sis. Mildred’s sister, Sis. Margaret Grimm (Mediapolis, IA). May God give them His comfort and peace in this difficult time.

“Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go…” Hymns of Zion #179

We welcome Bro. Trent & Sis. Tiffany Schmidgall and their family into our Elgin congregation as they have recently moved here from Forrest, IL. It is wonderful to have another couple here to support our beloved church.

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound…” Hymns of Zion #97

We're thankful Kent Schupbach has surrendered to the Lord’s call in repentance. May he find the grace to build his faith firmly on the Rock, Jesus.

“Lord speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of Thy tone…” Hymns of Zion #208

Bro. Duane Metzger ministered to us one Wednesday night this past month. May God bless him for making the effort to be with us.
Where your debt was paid by His precious blood That flowed from His wounded side?
Have you read how they placed the crown of thorns Upon His brow for you,
When He prayed, Forgive them, oh, forgive; They know not what they do?
Have you read how He saved the dying thief, When hanging on the tree,
When he looked with pleading eyes and said, Dear Lord, Forgive Me?
Have you ever said, “I thank Thee, Lord, For giving Thy life for me”?"
Gospel Hymns #816 vs. 1-4

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofer

We were blessed to have Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Caroline, Oakville/Mediapolis, IA) visit and minister to us this month and trust our Lord will bless him as well.

“Out onto Calv’ry’s hill
Where Jesus died, I’ll go,
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.”
The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross, Zion’s Harp, #89

The story of Jesus’ death is so well-known to some of us that we sometimes neglect to ponder other aspects of His woe. But when we really pause a while to ponder the motives, words and actions of Jesus and others during the week leading up to the Crucifixion, it is truly humbling to behold this great miracle described in Zion’s Harp #226. May the many sufferings of the King of highest merit and the continued blessings He gives even today fully persuade us of His love untold and bless us as we respond to Him in gratitude!

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger
Joyce Moser

It was a very encouraging and uplifting weekend when we heard the provings and witnessed the baptisms of six dear souls March 22 & 23. Sam Meyer (Bro. Denis & Sis. Jill), Jacob Meyer (Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda), Blaine Knobloch (Bro. Vern & Sis. Chalea), Tyler Moser (Bro. Brad & Sis. Gloria), Lynelle Mogler (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Lois) and Nichole Barber (Mike & Sis. Donna) became our brothers and sisters in the Lord. Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) were here to assist Elder Bro. Rod, along with visiting ministers Bro. Kevin Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN). May the Lord bless each one for their labors on behalf of the church.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Bro. Vern Knobloch (Sis. Chalea). We pray the Lord can grant them comfort and strength as they heal.

We were blessed to have so many brethren with us from various congregations on April 5 and 6 for our Invite-a-Guest weekend. Among them was visiting minister Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We thank him for sharing the Word of God.

We extend our sympathy to Nettie Roemen in the passing of her brother, Roy Roemen (son of the late Sis. Amelia Roemen). May the Lord comfort all those who bear the cross of sorrow.

Bro. Tristan and Sis. Chalea Kuenzi are first-time parents with the birth of Kaidan Robert on April 17.

Happy grandparents are Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea Knobloch and Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). We wish them much happiness as they raise their precious little boy.

“Word of Life, the fountain flowing, purely from the throne above, Life and strength to him imparting, who accepts the Word in love. . . . . Sinners by the Word are wakened, from their sleep; they stand dismayed, yet the penitent finds mercy; thus his sorrow is repaid.” The Word of Life, Zion’s Harp #176

We rejoice with Caleb Moser (Bro. Wes & Sis. Esther) as he has awakened from his slumber of sin and began his repentance. We pray he can feel God’s grace and power in rich measure as he begins to build his life on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ.

It is always with sincere thankfulness and deep appreciation for the Lord’s death and suffering that we partake of
the emblems of His shed blood and broken body at our Communion service on April 12.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for his willing service to assist our Elder Bro. Rod in the work of the Lord. May we never forget the price that was paid there on Calvary so we could have this blessed hope of eternal life with our dear Savior. Visiting minister Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) was with us that weekend also. We are so thankful for each servant that is willing to bring forth God’s Word in its truth and power.

“Full redemption is the promise made to him who heeds the Word. They, who in their hearts retain Thee, shall receive the great reward. In my heart I’ll strive to keep Thee, Word of truth and strength and love; Conquering as a sword in battle, then I’ll wear the crown above.”

The Word of Life, Zion’s Harp #176

**Japan, Tokyo**  
*Marie Inoue*

According to the calendar, the Easter season has come and gone, but as one of our brothers mentioned, Easter should remain in our hearts and lives each day as we remember what our Lord has done for us.

We were privileged to take part in a skype service for our brethren on Friday evening, and then our service on Easter Sunday. In the afternoon we were blessed by our children and some adults as the Easter message and songs were shared along with the story of Zaccheus. We were thankful that some of the children’s parents could also attend. The mothers and children sang, “What a Friend,” Sambika, p. 312. One mother said that song was sung at their wedding.

We are enjoying Reika Murakami from the northern island of Hokkaido, who gathers with us since she has taken employment as a nurse in Setagaya, Tokyo. We appreciate her friendship and godly ways.

This month we were richly blessed with U.S. brethren who shared the Word. All were here for their employment, but took time to gather in the House of the Lord. The Schrenk’s arrived here from Mexico, where Bro. Loren (Sis. Betsy) was caring for loved ones’ eyes. Here in Tokyo they attended the World Ophthalmology Congress, could gather with Shioda brethren on Sunday, and some of the rest of us during the week. Bro. Doug Hoerr (Sis. Peg, Washington) shared in our Bible class about Luke 7 and John the Baptist. Likewise, Bro. Kevin Kipfer from Atlanta taught us from Acts 4 about our possessions. We thank the Lord for these brethren who labored for us, often short of rest, and in one case, severe back pain. It seemed the Lord inspired them in a mighty way as they taught us. We hope they can all return again.

**Kansas, Bern**  
*Jill Meyer*  
*Rita Menold*

We are thankful Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) joined our church family as we partook of Holy Communion. It is such a solemn and joyous occasion and a wonderful blessing to feel the closeness of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We also thank Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS) for ministering the Word.

Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) spent a Wednesday evening with us and presented a topical Bible study on ‘The Shed Blood of Jesus Christ’. We send a heartfelt thanks for all the time they have invested in our church family.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Cyrena Rassi were recently married in Bradford, IL. Bro. Phil’s employment brings him close to our area, and now he gets to bring his new bride to

**Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis**  
*Sharla Wiegand*

We were thankful to have Bro. Mike Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Greg Fehr (West Bend, IA) here to share God’s Word this past month.

“He is not here: for he is risen”!  
Matthew 28:6

May we rejoice in the empty tomb!
worship with us! We pray that Sis. Cyrena will feel a warm welcome and soon feel at home.

We rejoice at the engagement of Bro. Jordan Rokey (Galen and Nancy, Sabetha, KS) to Sis. Leah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leann, Bluffton, IN). Marriage brings many wonderful changes, and we pray that God will give them guidance and direction as they make preparations for a life together.

A couple nights ago I heard our 8 year-old singing at the top of her lungs……”Onward Christian soldiers, marching on to war……”. In the busyness of the joys and frustrations of the day, I had to stop what I was doing and just listen as she kept singing. Yes – we as Christians must continue marching on in the light of Jesus! Our children can share such innocent, and good reminders to us as Christians.

Blessings to each of you!

**Kansas, Fort Scott**

*Karen Kellenberger*

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley) assisted our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) with reading the memorandum of the general brotherhood conference.

Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen returned the following Wednesday evening (April 2) for Holy Communion service. Retiring Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) was present to lend a hand to Bro. Randy in serving the sacrament tokens. As we pondered that this sharing of Holy Communion may have been the final one served to our congregation by Bro. John, we reflected on our deep appreciation of the past years of dedicated service Bro. John provided as Fort Scott’s Elder Brother, and Sis. Connie for her faithful love and support.

Early Easter morning found our church family seated outdoors enjoying a picturesque sunrise as Bro. Larry Bahr opened the scriptures and led us in worshipping our risen Lord. Following, we fellowshipped as we partook of breakfast in the dining room.

Someone once said, “If Jesus Christ is still in that grave, nothing really matters. But if Jesus Christ came out of that grave, nothing but that really matters.” (author unknown)

**Kansas, Kiowa**

*Jenny Stewart*

What a blessing to have groups coming through on their way to Oklahoma City, OK relief work. Thank you to Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) for bringing God’s word to our congregation.

We continue to pray for Sis. Kathleen Miner and God’s healing hand.

“Christ the Lord is risen today, 
Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: 
Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, 
Alleluia!” Hymns of Zion # 102

We rejoice with the blessing of Christ’s death and resurrection. The sacrifice He has made for all of us can never be repaid.

**Pasture burning in the Flint Hills of Kansas is an arresting sight.** If you live here, it is a common sight during late March and early April of most years. It is also a frightening sight when the area is dry and Kansas winds come up quickly and shift directions even more quickly. This event is used by locals to burn off weeds and brush and old prairie grass and to renew the native prairie grasses that are so fertile and full of nutrition for the livelihood of the farmer-stockman who runs cattle for his livelihood. Flames burn several feet high, smoke billows and floats across roads and requires the earnest attention of the people who are burning pastures. Within 2-3 weeks, the blackened pastures turn lush and green with an abundant source of food for livestock. Usually cattle are turned into these lush pastures by April 15 for about 3-4 months of grazing.

Liken this phenomenon to renewal in the life of one who comes to the Lord thru repentance. Our sinful nature must be burned off before the grace of Christ can be instilled in our life. Yes, we do this thru an
initial repentance and conversion by God’s grace. But, I have found that during my 50+ years of being a child of the King, rejuvenation or repentance is an ongoing work in me. Sometimes I feel so lacking and wonder how God continues giving me grace for the day. Only through the suffering and death of Jesus, our Savior, can this grace continue in the life of a believer. Like gold being purified, the heat must come to burn off the dross. With the coming of Easter and Communion for many of us, let us pray for a revival in each of us for His glory.

Sis. Liseten (Bro. Loren, deceased) Strahm was a surgical patient.

Bro. Darren Fehr from West Bend, IA visited us and blessed us one weekend. A billboard caught his attention as he drove along the road—"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere." Isn’t that true? Billboards send good messages, suggestive messages, and helpful messages. We must guard our eyes and what they take in. Are we ‘feeding’ our minds with good things as we remember that “The eyes of the Lord are everywhere”, even as He knows what our eyes see and what our mind takes hold of and retains?

We were also reminded that Jeremiah 6:16 tells us of the old paths that we should walk in and 2 Timothy 2:22 gives us the stepping stones on the old paths--namely fleeing youthful lusts and following after righteousness, faith, charity, peace and a pure heart.

On the weekend of April 12/13, students from K-State came for a work day of assisting the church and widows with some bucket list jobs. The energy, vitality, cheerfulness and willing hearts and hands to help was a delight to see. And the fellowship was sweet, not only for the church as a whole, but having fellowship in our homes was special--the meeting of the minds and hearts of young and old will be a wonderful memory of that weekend.

Bro. Klint (Sis. Kara) Beyer from Sabetha, KS was a visiting minister that weekend. He spoke about offenses in our lives. Matt. 18:7 “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!” Bro. Klint likened offenses to hunting traps. If you step on the trigger, you are caught quickly. If you are the offender you ‘catch’ a loved one by deceit, unkindness or outright sin. If you are the ‘caught’, the hurt and disappointment are so hard to turn loose of. Wanting forgiveness for “catching someone’ and giving forgiveness if you are ‘caught” are both necessary to help restore fellowship. If we can’t forgive, we are only hurting ourselves.

Mother’s Day is May 11. How thankful we are for our mothers who work diligently to feed and clothe us and loving us when we are unlovable. Remember your mother with love and a note and appreciation for God created someone special to care for each of us and that is a wonderful blessing.

Kansas, Sabetha

Crystal Hartter

Dawn Strahm

We rejoice with Sis. Leah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn, Bluffton, IN) who is engaged to Bro. Jordan Rokey from Bern, KS (Galen and Nancy). May they feel God’s nearness as they look forward to becoming one in the Lord.

Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (Bro. Jay) was a surgical patient this month. We pray for her complete recovery.

Our minds turn toward our dear Savior’s death and resurrection when we gather together for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter. These blessed events are the foundation of our belief in salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ. We thank Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) who ministered to us on Easter Sunday.

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” Proverbs 31:28

We are thankful for believing mothers that taught us the way of salvation from our youth! As Mother’s Day approaches, we want to thank our mothers and grandmothers for their love and guidance. For those of us that are mothers, let us ask God for grace and wisdom to be the mother God asks us to be.

We were also reminded that Jeremiah 6:16 tells us of the old paths that we should walk in and 2 Timothy 2:22 gives us the stepping stones on the old paths--namely fleeing youthful lusts and following after righteousness, faith, charity, peace and a pure heart.
**Mexico, Ixtlán**  
*Issa Sibaja Leon*

We would like to share the testimony of our Sister Socorro Chávez Aguilar, who was baptized in January. “The word of God helped me to forgive. I felt a lot of hatred in my heart for some people, but I thank God and His word because now my heart is completely clean. I learned to love my fellow man. I hope that God will help me to keep my life in righteousness and in obedience to follow forward and not turn back.”

We thank the Lord for bringing ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and his wife, Sis. Betsy, to our Church 17 years ago to initiate a ministry to help people with their eye problems. Countless people have been operated on during their 25 visits. Both eye clinics (his and Bro. Bryan Stoller’s) were held in our church and were instrumental in breaking down barriers to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God’s name be glorified and may all those who participated in these two eye clinics over the years be blessed.

**Alto, Michigan**

*Renee Steffen*  
*Shelli Oesch*

“…weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” Psalm 30:5

We share in the sorrow and lift up in prayer, Tanya, Brooke, Cheyenne, Savannah and Logen Steffen, as they say goodbye to their beloved grandpa, Russell Puth. May they feel the comfort of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Carole Meyer (Bro. Vern) as her brother-in-law, Bro. David Imel (Sis. Sharon) from Bluffton, went home to be with the Lord. Also my dear roommate, Linda Wierda, passed away after a long battle with MS. Many continue to pray for her family as she will be sorely missed.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with many who have had surgery and been hospitalized this past month. May they feel God’s healing touch: Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan); Tom Barry (Carolyn); Sis. Jolene Ramsier (Mansfield), who has many family members in this church; Linda Wierda (Sis. Renee’s roommate); Sis Loretta Steffen (Bro. Aaron).

We rejoice with Bro. Andy and Sis. Listyn Oesch as the adoption of their son Elyas was made final.

As we anticipate the warmth and sunshine each spring brings, we continue to have very cool days and cold nights. Yet, through it all, we can see the beauty of newness unfold in the colorful flower and the trees beginning to bud. Praise be to God for His marvelous creation.

It was a blessing to host the National World Relief Meeting this past month. Many came from miles around to learn and understand what is being done and what more we can do spreading the gospel by sharing the abundance that we’ve been given. A special thanks to all who participated.

At this time, we would like to extend our thanks to the visiting ministers who came for the meeting and stayed to share the Truth: Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody) from Altadena, and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen) from Sarasota. What a precious and spirit-filled weekend we had together.

Bidding farewell to Bro. Brandon Wettstein, we pray he will know guidance and grace as he moves back to LaCrosse, IN.

With joy we welcome back many who have been gone from our congregation during the winter months: Bro. Ed Sanders, Stan and Elaine Wingeier, Bro. Martin and Sis. Michele Blough, Sis. Luanne Kaeb, Bro. Otto and Sis. Pat Schlatter.

*Notes of thanks:*

Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan) wishes to express his deep appreciation for the prayers bestowed upon his behalf during his surgery and hospital stay.

Dear Alto Family, I want to thank you for the cards, gifts, surprise party and love shown to me for my birthday. I have never felt so much love between people and I am blessed to know all of you. God bless you, Peg Vasbinder

*A Heartfelt Thanks*

My deepest most humble gratitude.

*For your Christ-like and gentle attitude.*

Tender expressions of grace and love,
Lifted me up on wings like a dove. I felt the prayers of each one said, For my moments of sorrow, for what is ahead. So many gave in word, gift or deed, Helping and caring in my time of need. Never before have I experienced such peace, In the midst of a storm that life did lease. Above and beyond all my expectations, God provided for me without limitations. A new journey begins for my life now. I really do wonder what God will allow? Where will He take me? What will He do? How will He use me? What will ensure? The questions go on but one thing I know, My God will go with me wherever I go. Renee Steffen

Michigan, Detroit
Manuela Denes

“Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.” Romans 6:9

What a powerful statement! There are so many people who believe that death is the end. How fortunate are we to be able to say that Christ’s supreme sacrifice for is only the beginning.

We were a large group gathered together on a sunny Sunday afternoon to have this message shared at our annual Easter program. It is so heartwarming to see our youngest children reciting verses and singing songs! May the Lord richly bless them as they grow in His Word and a special thank you for those who work so tirelessly to teach them.

Spring is the season for graduates and new life beginnings. Graduating from nursing programs are Sis. Pam Gleichman (Bro. Alan) and Ann Marie Mason. Sis. Angie Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) graduates with a degree in Business Administration, accounting as her major.

Congratulations to Laura Kujawa (Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene) and David Stevens on their wedding. Special prayers for their children Andrew, Jacob and Maddy on such a special occasion!

Our Sis. Alice Mehl has relocated to Woodhaven in Livonia. We wish her God’s blessings as she transitions into a new place and surroundings.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

We were blessed to have Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) “home” for Easter. We are thankful that he was willing to be used by the Spirit to preach the Word.

Our prayers are with many loved ones within our congregation who are suffering from various infirmities of the flesh. Our prayer is that God would provide healing, according to his will.

A warm welcome is extended to Sis. Alice Mehl from Bay City, MI as she makes Woodhaven her new home.

A big “thank you” is extended to Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna) who came to minister during the week at Woodhaven. Along with them came Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller and Sis. Jessica Wenninger. It means so much to have groups come to visit during the week.

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner
Betty Rassi Lindwall

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Karen) from Kansas City, MO here to help administer the holy sacrament of Communion.

“For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” Matt. 26: 28

Our hearts just melted when the Sunday School children performed their Easter program with the theme of “The Seven Words of Jesus”. Watching them reminded us of our monthly memory verse.

“But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” Luke 18:16

Note of thanks:

Words can’t express how grateful I am for all the prayers, love, deeds of kindness, cards, visits and phone calls received following my recent surgery. How wonderful to have a caring church family. Thank you! Diane Stewart
Minnesota, Morris
Amy Ekren
Heidi Pfaffmann

We are again thankful for those who have come to fellowship with us. We have had several invite-a-guest weekends this month, testimonies and baptisms of three young men, and a blessed evening of sharing Communion together. Among those visiting and lending of themselves were Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), along with ministering Bros. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA), Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

“Now it is accomplished! I’m no longer mine; Lord I will forever and always be Thine, For Thou hast created and purchased me too, Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.” Now it is Done, Zion’s Harp, #209, vs. 1

It was refreshing to go back to the time in our lives that we sat in the front pew of the church to give our testimony, and then that same weekend partake of Holy Communion with three new brothers in Christ: Bro. Eric Wulf (Bro. Stan & Sis. Pam), Bro. Mason Metzger (Bro. Dick & Sis. Gail) and Bro. Travis Moser (Bro. Lowell & Sis. Karen). God has been so good to us and like the hymn writer wrote... “God with us! We need not fear...” The Supreme Sacrifice, Zion’s Harp, #100, vs. 1

We had our annual business meeting and church cleaning this month. It’s so neat to see the church family working together... side by side.

Kyria Gramm (Bro. Taylor & Sis. Tanya) was hospitalized overnight with viral pneumonia, but we’re thankful she’s out and doing much better.

As we look forward to the upcoming Easter Season, may we thank God for the Supreme Sacrifice He made for us. We are a fortunate people to know of this true way!

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

We laid to rest another dear one this week. Sis. Stella Moser (Bro. Calvin-dec.) has gone from this life to eternity. Our prayers are with her siblings, nieces and nephews as one by one their family is going Home. We were encouraged in her funeral to inspect our lives to be sure we are ready at any moment, if we'd be taken next from this life. Life is serious and God wants our all!

Minnesota, Morris North
Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

Are we ready? Do we look forward to that day or does it bring us fear? GOD is EVERYWHERE.....so PRAY ANYWHERE.

Sharing God’s word with us this month were Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdelena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris, MN), Bro. Duane Dill (Sis. Larae, Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller, Smithville, OH, and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). We sincere appreciate your labors.

Great fellowship in Christ was enjoyed when we held and gathered for an Invite-a-Friend weekend. It is such a blessing to gather with believers who love the Lord.

Special thanks to our Sunday School and the Sunday School teachers who presented their Easter program with enthusiasm and respect in relaying the Easter story.

On Good Friday evening, we assembled following services, as brothers and sisters in the Lord, and shared in Communion. Our Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Bill Schlatter led us through the service. We were all, once again, reminded of the great sacrifice that our Lord and Savior made for our sins.

Once again, we gathered for our annual Easter Breakfast. It
was a beautiful Sunday morning with our congregation praising and worshiping our risen “LORD and SAVIOR”.

When JESUS comes first, everything else comes into focus.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

**Lindsay Schmidt**

**Julie Schmidt**

Our Sunday School students had the blessed opportunity to travel to Bloomfield, IA the weekend of April 5. They were able to travel with the Morris Sunday School and appreciate the extra opportunity to kindle friendships. The students and teachers had a wonderful time and are thankful to the Bloomfield church for the invite and warm hospitality.

Our sympathies go to Bro. Marvin Messner, Jerry Messner, Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Doc), Idabelle Witt (Don), Shirley Demm, Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce), and Melvin Messner (Vernita) on the loss of their brother, Harvey Messner. Our sympathies also go out to Sis. Bernadine Messner and Eldwin Schmidt (Lois) on the loss of their sister, Arlene Lindstrand. May God grant comfort in this time of loss.

May we remember what a blessing it is that Christ has instructed us to remember His suffering and shedding of His blood, that we may have remission of sin, that we may be set free from the bonds of Satan. We thank our Elder Doug Shock and retired Elder Bro. Don Braker for serving our Communion service.

**Missouri, St. Louis**

**Kary Mangers**

Our congregation enjoyed a visit by some of the Champaign Jr. High, Bible Class and college students. We appreciated the time they took as part of their
weekend visit to St. Louis to help do some yard work on the church property. Thank you also for the love and support shown to us by the visiting ministers. We had Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel (Champaign), Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder (Roanoke), and Bro. Dave and Sis. Jackie Eisenmann (Champaign) this past month. We were blessed by the Body (whether it was by their hands, feet, or voices) of Christ!

Missouri, Taylor
Marcia Sutter

The Taylor church enjoyed our Invite-a-Guest weekend on March 29-30. We were blessed with a good number of visitors including 2 visiting ministers: Bro. Jedd (Sis. Marsha) Rocke from Goodfield, IL and Bro. Barry (Sis. Rachel) Dietz from the Bradford, IL. At the start of the afternoon service, we sang, “The Little White Church on the Levee” that was written by my great-grandfather, Bro. Edward Grimm one Sunday morning while he was starting the heating stove at the first little white church. Bro. Barry Dietz is also his great-grandson. We enjoy remembering our heritage and how our parents and grandparents preserved our church so that we have a wonderful place to worship.

For monthly Wednesday night Bible study on April 2, Bro. Fred (Sis. Nancy) Witzig came from Washington, IL to teach us about Genesis 3. We were truly blessed and appreciate his willingness to come and give us an insight into who God is and how much He loves us.

On April 5, the Taylor church had their Communion service. Elder Bro. Rod (Sis. Sue) Bajema from Lester, IA came to assist Elder Bro. Kent Heimer to serve Communion. Bro. Wes (Sis. Esther) Moser also accompanied them and helped with the services on Sunday, April 6.

On April 13, the Sunday school children gave their Easter Program telling the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Our hope is that the children will give their hearts to Jesus and serve Him their whole life.

New York, Crogham-Naumburg
Hope Graves

We would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to the Rockville, CT single group that came to serve our lunch on April 13. This was a blessed weekend of fellowship with a potluck dinner and singing on Saturday evening.

We loved listening to the Sunday School children present their Easter Program the following weekend. How special to hear them share the story of Christ's death and resurrection with us.

Our thanks go out to Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler and their family from Rockville, CT for serving our lunch on Easter Sunday. May we never take this fellowship between our brethren for granted.

We rejoice with Brian and Danielle Graves in the birth of Mayliana Brielle on March 26. She joins Mikaedyn and Bennett at home. Another new arrival came to William and Rebecca Kaufmann on April 7. Baby sister Avery Elizabeth joins older brothers Patrick and Stephen. We pray for the Lord's guidance in the raising of these precious new babies.

Our prayers have gone out to Bro. Lowell Virkler and Sis. Polly Farney in their recent hospitalizations.

We read in John 18:37 that Jesus answered Pilate “Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” We pray that we may be among those that hear His voice!

Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) were our visiting ministers this month. We appreciated their willing service.

We are thankful that Benjamin Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan) has peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

Ohio, Junction
Vicki Boroff

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield), Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo), and Duane
Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville) ministered to us.

Bro. Derek Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) was engaged to Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sarah, Rittman). We wish them many blessings as they plan their wedding.

Kennedy Grace was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joy Manz on March 28. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller of Latty.

Ohio, Latty

Carmen Stoller

Mindy Stoller

Greetings in our Savior’s name! We are thankful to report two souls who have turned to the Lord in humble repentance this month. They are Abbey Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane) and Andrew Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy and Deb). May God bless these dear souls as they begin their walk with Him.

We are also grateful to announce two of our converts as having found the wonderful peace of God. May God be with Zach Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene) and Abram Klopfenstein (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry) as they prepare to share their testimony and are baptized.

Our prayers and sympathies go out to the family of Sis. Irene Stoller (the late Bro. Melvin) who has gone to be with Jesus. May the Holy Spirit be their great Comforter during this time.

Finally, we are thankful to Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) for his willingness to share the Word with our congregation this month.

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

It is always a blessing to share Holy Communion together. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL) for travelling to be part of this special evening, and for ministering to us the following day.

We also thank Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) for visiting and bringing forth the Word. May each one of us strive to be a vessel fit for the Master’s use, in whatever capacity He has called us.

Trusting in God’s omnipotence, we remember our loved ones who have suffered from illness or surgery this month: Bro. Phil Keiper (Sis. Theresa), Sis. Jolene Ramsier, and Jean Myers.

We always enjoy hearing the sincere praise of our children as they tell the Easter story through verse and song. Thank you to all those who participated in our annual Easter Program!

“Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign;  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!Christ arose!”

Christ Arose! Gospel Hymns #323

Ohio, Rittman

Anna Bauman

Julie Steiner

Song of Solomon 2:12 “The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;”

We are thankful for two new converts! Regina Bernadine and Joanna Gasser (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janice) have made a beginning of serving the Lord. May God be with them and provide His grace.


Also, Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach welcomed new granddaughter Paige Anne, born April 8. Thankful parents are Bro. Josh and Sis. Megan Riggenbach (Smithville, OH).

There have been several individuals in our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. Our sympathies are with Sis. Yvonne Beery as her brother-in-law Bro. Dick Beery (Sis. Marie) was laid to rest. Also, our condolences are with Sandi Flynn upon the passing of her husband, Tom. May God be with Bro. Art Maibach (Sis. Janet), Joe Maibach, Dale (Dixie) Maibach, and Sis. Margaret Calame as they have recently lost their nephew, Robert Maibach, Jr. We also extend our sympathies to Sis. Rowene Howell, Bro. Nelson...
Ramsier, and Sis. Marie Gasser in the passing of their brother Ed Ramsier. May God be with all of those dealing with the loss of loved ones and provide them with His grace.

In the hospital this month were Olivia Gasser (Bro. Adam and Sis. Jackie), Bro. Ron Winkler, Jim Reminder, and Sis. Bev Moore (Randy). May God be with each one as they recover.

We are thankful to report the engagement of Sis. Hannah Steiner to Bro. Derek Schlatter (Junction, OH). Parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara Steiner and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie Schlatter. May God bless this couple as they plan for this step of faith.

We have several weddings to report! Michael Dotterer and Gina Caserta were married March 22. Parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer and Frank and Joyce Caserta.

Bro. Nathaniel Steiner and Sis. Rebecca Tieche were united in the Lord on March 30. Parents are Bro. David and Sis. Lynn Steiner and Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche. May the Lord bless this couple and be with them as they plan to make Columbus their home church.

Brian Zollinger and Brooke Bauman were married April 19. Parents are Mike and Helen Zollinger and Bro. Bill and Sis. Monica Bauman. May God bless all of these couples and be with them now and always!

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Ned Bahler (Fairbury, IL), and Tom Leman (Denver, CO). We are thankful to these brothers for bringing forth the Truth.

Our prayers and best wishes are with Sis. Julie Bauman and her children: Riley, Rhianna, and Reagan as they are moving to Rockville. We will miss you, but we wish you God’s blessings as you start a new chapter in your life!

Ohio, Sardis

Faith Beard

How wonderful it has been to see Baylee Figel back in church with us again. She is back home from her hospitalization, yet has been returning frequently for follow-up and testing. We are so grateful to the Great Physician for His healing power in her life, both mentally and emotionally.

We send our thankfulness to Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) who gathered with us to help serve Holy Communion. He ministered to us the following Sunday. Also sharing the pulpit this month was Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We pray that their efforts will be blessed here and in Eternity.

“Then come into our midst today; Impart Thyself to us, we pray. This cup and loaf are proof and sign
Of this, Thy covenant divine
In Jesus’ blood.”
Zion’s Harp #200

Ohio, Smithville

Sara Crist

Kara Stoller


May God richly bless the brothers who have ministered to our church this past month: Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH), Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT), Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa, Silverton, OR), Bro. Mark Claus (Sis. Rebekah, Athens, AL), and Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara, Athens, AL).

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Sis. Marie Beery on the death of her husband, Bro. Dick on March 17. We also
want to remember Bro. Dick’s sisters, Sis. Delphine Nieman, Sis. Christine Dotterer and Sis. Alma Maibach. May God grant you His peace and healing as you say goodbye to this dear husband and brother.

Our church welcomed many visitors recently from Athens, AL for an appreciation dinner for Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller. It was such a blessing for us to meet and fellowship with so many of you. Thank you for coming to remember this dear couple in their retirement.

On April 7-9, we were privileged to be able to participate in canning pork at our local World Relief building. We were thankful for the many hands that helped and pray that the meat packaged will be a blessing and testament of God’s love to those who receive it.

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:34-35

Ohio, Toledo

Deanna Manz
Jenny Manz

This month we were blessed in many ways. On Saturday April 12, we spent the evening partaking of Jesus’ blood and body in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) assisted our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emmy, Junction) in carrying out this work, and they spent Sunday laboring on our behalf from the pulpit. We cannot thank them enough for their efforts on our behalf, and we believe the Lord will reward them richly. Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction) also visited us this month, and we wish to thank him also for instructing us from God’s Word.

On Sunday evening April 13, our Sunday School children sang and told us of the Easter story and God’s love during their Easter program. It was a blessing to hear and see the joy they have in serving the Lord. We thank each one who took part in this special evening.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Clark Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Sis. Jessica Wenniger (Latty, OH) as they have completed their bachelor degrees. As they move forward in their lives, we pray they will lend themselves to God’s will wherever it may lead them.

Bro. Willie Hofstetter recently took a position in Kansas City, MO. Although we will miss him here, we trust God will bless him in his new home.

Oregon, Silverton

Kelsey Walder
Ann Kuenzi

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) from Portland, OR.

Our love and sympathy goes to the family of Ben Scharer. He is the father of Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Bro. Bob) and Ginge Lichty (Ron). Ben was known by many of us, and will be missed for his loving, kind way.

Recovering from back surgery is Sis. Renee Angstrom (Bro. Andy). Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Bro. Lee - dec.) also had cataract surgery. Also having surgery is Sis. Elizabeth Peasley. We pray for a speedy recovery for all of them.

April 5, we enjoyed a Jamaican dinner hosted by World Relief. Following the dinner we had an informational evening about
World Relief activities locally, nationally and internationally. We were all challenged to step out of our comfort zones and be stretched in our work for The Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi in the birth of another granddaughter, Ava Karoline Wuthrich (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kathryn).

April 13, we enjoyed the Easter program by the Sunday school. It is always amazing to listen to the children recite their verses and sing our hymns. We are blessed with a large group of children and young people in our Sunday school. As they are the future of our church, it gives us all hope and encouragement.

Note of thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks for your prayers, expressions of love and compassion during the time of our dad’s (Ben Scharer) death. The Ben Scharer family

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“Sit and pause awhile my spirit, This great miracle behold;
See the King of highest merit
On the cross, so bare and cold!
Out of heaven God has given His own Son in love untold!”
Zion’s Harp #226 v. 1

We were blessed to come together on Good Friday to remember our Lord’s death and suffering. We read how He bore His cross, and calls us to do the same. The fact that it His cross should make it lighter and easier for us to bear ours. May His loving sacrifice inspire us to walk faithfully after Him.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike and Monica Fritz

Recently we welcomed Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder back from Zapata, TX and said goodbye to Edith Henry (mother of Bro. Buck and Sis. Taunia) who returned home to Illinois after spending the winter in the Nashville area.

We have been blessed by God’s Word, brought to us by our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest), Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman), and Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse), and Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty) and Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto).

We have also appreciated brethren and friends visiting from Athens, AL; Champaign, Chicago, Congerville, Forrest, Gridley, Princeville, and Roanoke, IL; Mediapolis-Oakville, IA; and Akron, Columbus, Junction, and Latty, OH.

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: Denver (5/25), Goodfield (6/1), Bradford (6/8), Rockville (6/15), Mansfield (6/22), Wolcott (6/29).

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

This is a beautiful time to visit Austin, Texas. We welcome anyone passing through to worship with us.

We were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for midweek services. On April 13, Bro. Leland Plattner gave a kind exhortation in preparation for Communion which is planned for April 26.

We are thankful for our recent visiting ministers, Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT).

It is such a joy to see our little ones coming out of Sunday School so excited about what they have learned and anxious to tell the stories. We are thankful to have Sis. Katie Koch as our Sunday School teacher for the younger children and Bro. Scott Hartzler to teach the Bible Class. We feel God’s love and His presence in our precious Austin church and
we have been continually blessed. We are always so thankful and encouraged by all our visitors.

The following is the minister schedule: 4/18, 4/20 Bro. Earl Beery-Rittman, OH, 4/27-Gridley, IL, 5/04-Silverton, OR, 5/11- Elgin, 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 willing servants who recently ministered the Word to us: Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR).

Other visitors who added to the blessings of our worship services were from Silverton, OR and Tremont, IL.

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 May 11, Princeville, IL; May 25, Goodfield IL; and June 8, Altadena, CA.

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 Street. Take the 10th Street exit off I-83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

Vermont, Clarendon

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

As much as last month was quiet, this month was busy. We had many blessings in the form of those visiting us and supporting us in various ways. Two brothers and their wives came to support us in the ministry. A Sunday school Bible class and a young group came and served us lunch. We enjoyed a singing with the young group. A family came to visit us from Ohio. We do appreciate all of their unflagging support and wish them God’s blessings.

The two visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi Walder and Bro. Tom and Sis. Lanae Bahrler. As Jonah was instructed, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD” (Jonah 3: 2, 3), so these brothers willingly came to us to preach the Word that God bid them to preach.

In another type of church work, the young people of the Rockville church served us lunch twice this month. We are thankful for the movement of God’s Spirit in their hearts to do this act of service for us. As Deborah was moved in heart to witness the willingness of the governors of Israel to offer themselves (Judges 5:9), we are also moved in heart to witness the willingness of the young people of the church to offer themselves to help us. God bless the willing generosity of those who buttressed us this month.

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.
News & Notices

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.
Plan to Attend 2014 Athens/Tennessee Fellowship Weekend
May 24-25, 2014

During this year’s TN Fellowship weekend held during Memorial Day Weekend, 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 mrpipes@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)232-0303; 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
**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 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
  - Cell: 260.466.6712
  - lynnstieg@gmail.com

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**Alternate Houseparent Needed - Gateway Woods**

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**
  - 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
  - Cell: 260.466.6712
  - lynnstieg@gmail.com

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**Interested in receiving a printed sermon?**

To order, contact:

**Printed Sermons**

P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741

(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com

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**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       Lynn Stieglitz
Director of Clinical Services    Counseling Elder
PO Box 125      15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765      New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283      Cell:260.466.6712
jeff.waibel@gatewaywoods.org    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    Lynn Stieglitz
Director of Education    Counseling Elder
PO Box 125      15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765      New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283      260.466.6712
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org 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    Lynn Stieglitz
Director of Education  Counseling Elder
PO Box 125, 15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765    New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283 260.466.6712
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org 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    Lynn Stieglitz
Residential Program Manager  Counseling Elder
PO Box 125, 15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765    New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283 260.466.6712
Clint.Plattner@gatewaywoods.org 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.
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

Reminder for your Silver Lining subscription payments

Please send ALL Silver Lining subscription payments to:

Apostolic Christian Publications
P.O. Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530

(Please **DO NOT** send any payments to the Silver Lining address!)
English Teacher Needed in Ixtlan, 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 their 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 Ixtlan.

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 Ixtlan: Mike Leman

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

Facilities Director at Hospital Lumiere

Hospital Lumière, Bonne Fin, Haiti is seeking a qualified person to be assigned as Facilities Director of the hospital. Our present Facilities Director is planning to relocate January 1, 2015.

Position description
The Facilities Director is directly involved in managing the maintenance and repair of all hospital vehicles and non-medical equipment, and managing the renovation and construction of hospital buildings and facilities. This management includes developing programs of preventive maintenance and supervision of all personnel involved in the stated maintenance. The Facilities Director is a member of the Hospital Lumiere Leadership Team.

The applicant should have experience in construction, vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair, be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church, be willing to learn Creole and willing to relocate to Haiti for a minimum of two (2) years and up to five (5) years.

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

www.acworldrelief.org
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

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**Give a Child Hope**

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

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

If possible I would prefer:
☐ Boy – Age ________
☐ Girl – Age ________
☐ No Preference

Cost: $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

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**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

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**April 2014 SILVER LINING**
Haiti Construction Work Teams

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<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2014</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
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Haiti Medical Work Teams

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Jamaica Work Teams

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<td>Rick Plummer</td>
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<td>Todd Schambach</td>
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Mexico Work Teams

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Questions?
Contact Mike Fiechter
mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
260-597-7330
climbing rose, the tulips - they're just miracles; they just come up. Year after year they are there. I have a neighbor whose tulips are coming up right in the middle of the cow lot. Just everywhere. They’re miracles! Miracles that you and I can observe. Then do we turn and thank God for those kinds of miracles, and do we recognize He can do that? He can do wonders in our lives.

Let’s go to Matthew 20. When a child is born, what is it we want for that child? What is it we’re going to put our emphasis on? What do we really want them to know and never forget? What outcome do we want for our children? Let’s read about a mother who had some very high expectations for her boys. Well, Jesus encountered a mother, and he encountered some blind men - similar people coming and pleading with God for something. He asks them both, what will you have me to do? What wilt thou? (v.21 & 32) The blind men had only one concern, didn’t they? They wanted to see. They knew He had the power, and they wanted to see. Then they followed Him. They knew this was the Son of David. They knew this was the Son of God. They knew this is who they wanted to become followers of. They knew this was the Christ.

Does everybody here today acknowledge and believe that Jesus is the Christ? He’s the Son of God. He is due reverence, and He is due our praise and our worship. He’s due our respect, and He’s due our obedience.

Is it possible here that as Jesus was walking and healing these blind men that He was just going to show His disciples what it’s like to be a minister, what it’s going to be like to serve somebody? He could have told these two blind men to bug off, I’m busy. I’m on the road. I’m headed out of here. I’ve got a ministry, but He stopped and He healed them. He took time for blind men.

Anybody here blind today spiritually and need to be saved? Anybody here blind today that’s going to hell? Anybody blind here today, and you want to be saved? Today is the day of salvation! Don’t put it off until tomorrow! Satan’s best trap is to wait, to wait one more day. He’s got you and I convinced that there’s going to be tomorrow and there’s going to be next year and you may live forever! You’re feeling good right now. You’re young, you’re old, you’re taking your pills, you’re taking your vitamins, but we could all be dead tonight. We could all be gone! So Jesus is saying that today is the day of salvation.

You think this mother was out of place when she asked Jesus that these two boys could sit on the right and the left hand? You have to give her an “A” for effort. She was bold. She came to Jesus boldly. She was able to make her prayer in person. Just like you and I pray to God through Jesus now, she came to Jesus personally, and she asked if these two boys could be on the right hand and the left hand. Did she know they were going to be right in thick of it? Did she know what lay ahead for them? Did she know there was going to be persecution? Did she know that people were going to die by the sword? Jesus told them you don’t know what you’re asking about, but you are, indeed, going to drink of the cup that I drink of (v.23). You are going to get into it. But, she wanted her boys close to Jesus.

Is that what we always want to teach our children - to follow the Lord? Is that our most important cause in being a mother and being a father - that our children would know the Lord, that our children would serve God, that they would be faithful? James, John, and Peter were going to be three disciples very, very close to Jesus. These three were going to be the inner

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circle so she was going to get something of what she was asking for.

The world is full of people who just say well I sit in church. Isn’t that good enough? The world is full of people who say well I believe. Isn’t that good enough? But she was asking if her boys could be right in the middle of all this. She was wanting her boys to be part of the ministry of the glory of God. Is that what we want for our children? Ask yourselves what am I really wanting for my kids? Where do I want them to be a million years from now? We can all acquire trophies, and we can have this and that. We can have business success, but do we really pray and plead and teach that we want our children to work for the cause of Christ and to help other people find the Lord?

Jesus went to Jericho and a great multitude followed Him. That’s good news that people were following Him. Today could we say that a great multitude of people are following Jesus Christ? I wish we could say there are. I wish we could say that churches are being built right and left and people are coming and the churches are bulging and ministers are overworked with counseling. We’re not. We’re not. So, are we as a church representing Christ like we should be? Are we letting our light shine like we should be? Are we making self-sacrifice like we read about in Romans (Romans 12:1)?

Let’s read about another mother if we could. Let’s go to chapter 2 in Matthew, verse 11. This is regarding the wise men visiting. Imagine today if a young couple was told we’re going to ask you to travel south and maybe go all the way into Missouri, maybe all the way into Kentucky. You don’t have much money, and you don’t have many possessions. But, that’s where you have to go to, and you’re going to travel on foot. We may have a beast to burden, but most of the way it’s going to be on foot. You may not have shelter, but that’s what you have to do to preserve this child. They did it. It couldn’t have been easy to be a mother and a wife under those circumstances. It couldn’t have been easy to pack up and go, leave the family again, and away we go into hiding, but she did that to preserve the life of the Son of God. What would the grandparents have said in today’s world? Children, you’re not going to go. We’ll drive you down. We’ll find a place for you. But this was the only way, and this was God’s way of fulfilling the prophesy that “…Out of Egypt have I called my son”. (v.15) That was written many years before, and now it’s coming true. They were going to go hide in Egypt, and then come back after Herod had died.

Let’s read about another batch of mothers here in verse 16. Sin makes consequences that are grievous. A very, very sad time. Can you imagine the mother’s whose voices were going up in sadness and weeping that night because of the death of their children? All because of one jealous man. Jealousy is a terrible thing. He was worried about a king rising up and replacing him. He was afraid of a little baby! Satan can take one little bad virtue and run with it, can he not? He did that with Herod. He prompted him to kill all those babies two years and under. Sad, sad day in Bethlehem. Sad, sad day in Israel. Little Jesus had to travel all the way to Egypt, through desert conditions, to survive.

You know, there’s another story of a mother, and that’s found in Luke. This is the cousin of Virgin Mary. Let’s go to chapter 1, verse 39. Sister Darleta referenced this morning over in the Sunday School class in the fellowship hall of how it was announced that Mary was going to have a child, and this was an unexpected pregnancy for Mary. She was told this by the angel, and she did say be it unto the handmaid of the
Lord as thou has said (v.38). But, she had to go away for awhile.

So we have two mothers. We have Mary and we have Elisabeth who both know they are carrying children who are going to be the Savior of mankind, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ himself. Think of the thoughts that must be going through these people’s minds. Elisabeth being older, Mary being younger, Mary going and enjoying and appreciating the mentorship of Elisabeth. Let’s never undervalue experience. Let’s never overestimate what we can do one for another. Experience can help the younger.

The day would come when these boys would leave the house, when they would begin their ministry, and John the Baptist would go out and be wearing the most common, the most basic of all clothing, eating the most basic of diets, locusts and wild honey, living in the wilderness. I wonder where that man slept, but he was out preaching the Word of God. He began to baptize. People would come confessing their sins. People wanted to change. People wanted Jesus in their life. They wanted to serve God, and along comes Jesus Christ. Instead of saying this is my cousin, this is Jesus, I’m related to this guy, he said “Behold the Lamb of God”. (St. John 1:29 & 36) He said, “He must increase, but I must decrease”. (St. John 3:30) I’m just a little forerunner. Here’s the Man you’re looking for. Here is the Savior. Here is Jesus. Here is Christ! I hope everybody today believes in Jesus Christ with their whole heart, mind, soul, and body. I hope we have nothing else that we put as a priority ahead of Him because everything else is going to burn! Everything else is going to melt with a fervent heat! It is Jesus that saves! It is Jesus we will see in heaven!

Think of these dear mothers who kissed their boys goodbye and watched them go into the service of the Lord - just like the mothers of James and John, just like Hannah, just like Moses’ mommy kissed them goodbye. Then to think what these mothers would have to observe. We don’t know for sure if Elisabeth would have been alive when John the Baptist was beheaded, but imagine what that news would have been - they just cut the head off your boy. They just killed him because he was telling the truth. They just killed him for preaching righteousness.

Then for Mary to stand at the foot of the cross and watch Jesus be nailed to a cross. Can you imagine? Can you imagine - were there enough handkerchiefs to hold her tears? Can you imagine what it was like - this is my boy! They are crucifying Him, and He’s the Son of God. He’s perfect. He’s never done one thing wrong, and you’re crucifying Him for a bunch of people who are going to ignore Him, for people who are going to procrastinate and say not today, for people who say show me some miracle before I believe - oh come on, where’s your faith? - for people who would reject the mercy and the love and the salvation of Jesus Christ? These were faithful mothers.

I had to ask myself if one of my children was going to be crucified, if you were experiencing a loved one’s about to be crucified for the cause of Christ, could you have gone to the sight of the execution and watched? Could you have stood there and heard what Jesus said, asking for something to drink, asking for God to forgive the people that crucified Him? Could we have stood there and taken that? What would our reaction have been? But Mary did that - the love of a mother.

I think we’ve all seen that throughout the years. There was a military family in Arizona, and the service man was injured and wasn’t able to stay any longer in the Air Force. The family was

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A little boy, David, was frail and he tried to work. Every morning they would get up and would be sent in different directions. Father, you go with the heavy work. Mother, you go over here. Boys, you do this. Every night they would come back and try to find each other in these smelly, lice-filled barracks. The father would grab all the family to hold them together and say let’s thank God that we’ve survived another day and we’re together tonight.

One day he came home from work. He franticly searched through the barracks and couldn’t find his family. Eventually he found his older boy, Joseph, in the corner weeping and crying. He looked around. There was nobody else there. The father said, Joseph, tell me it’s not true. Joseph said, Oh, Papa! Papa, it’s true. David couldn’t work today. He was too frail. He was too sick so the guards came to haul him off to the furnace. He was crying. He said, I don’t want to go! I’m scared! Mom, I don’t want to die! Mom stood up, she smiled, she took little David’s hand, and she said, I’ll go with you so that you won’t be afraid. Daddy, they’re gone. Daddy, they’re gone!

That mother didn’t have to die, but she gave her life so that her little boy wouldn’t be afraid. God didn’t have to send Jesus down here to die, but He did it for you and for me. How often have we seen a mother’s love expressed in a godly way? How often have we seen mothers express God’s love just like Jesus did for you and me - died for the whole world before we were born, died for people that never knew Him, died for people that are going to continue to reject Him, died for people who were sinners, died for the worst, died for all the uncleanness that you and I have committed. This is Jesus. This is love.

It would be a shame, wouldn’t it, if Jesus would have died and we will have turned Him down. It will be a shame if we’ve said, Jesus we really don’t care. Jesus is offering a home in heaven for you and for me. He’s given us mothers, he’s given us dear family members who have shown us what God’s love is like, who are ready to sacrifice so that you and I could find the Lord so that we know what it’s like to be loved and cared for.

You may not remember this but I think it was in the late nineties, we buried a grandmother here who had thirty-some grandchildren. In the last year before she died, the last one of those grandchildren became converted. We thought about a song that the men’s group here in Gridley used to sing. It’s entitled
“Are All The Children In?” When you think about how many times a mother gets on her knees and prays for her children, that woman was ninety-nine years old when she died. She probably had her first kid in her twenties. Can you imagine how many prayers she offered from the time she first knew she was carrying a child until the day that she died? She was conscious and able to pray until her very last hours. Could you count those up? Could you do the math? How many years, seventy-five years of praying for children and for grandchildren. Those prayers are still at the altar of God interceding, being heard by God.

The song goes like this: “When I’m alone, I often think of an old house on the hill and a big yard hedged in roses where we ran and played at will. And when night time would come and hush our merry din, Mother would look around and ask, ‘Are all the children in?’ Well, it’s been a long time now and that old house no longer has my mother’s care and the yard seems still, so still. But if I listen, I seem to hear her say one more time, ‘Are all the children in?’ And when the curtain falls on this our earthly day and when we say goodbye to all of this, our work, our cares, our play, when we step across the river where mother so long has been, will we hear ask her the final time, ‘Are all the children in?”

Children, are we in? If not, today is the day. Please... please... come to the foot of the cross and repent. On Mother’s Day many years ago - this was mentioned also this morning in Sunday School - on Mother’s Day in the 80’s, Brother Elmer Witzig stood here and said the best gift you can give your mother is to surrender your heart to the Lord on Mother’s Day. Very true. We’ve been blessed by godly mothers. May we reverence them, and may most of all we reverence God for giving them to us.

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

Ezra 9:6-7

And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens. Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day...
Sanctification...
— Continued from pg. 3

Paul reminds us of the importance of the role of the Holy Ghost in directing the lives of believers and enabling them to be sanctified “…for which cause he (Jesus) is not ashamed to call (us) brethren” (Heb.2:11). “That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:16).

Finally, we must recognize that individually we have a responsibility in yielding to God’s work that we may be sanctified. After Israel was defeated by Ai, the Lord spoke to Joshua and said “Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to tomorrow: for thus saith the Lord God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you” (Joshua 7:13). Paul reinforced the importance of taking responsibility for our behavior when he wrote: “If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work” (2 Tim. 2:21). Ph.2:13 exhorts us, in humility and faith, to walk in the power of God’s grace, recognizing “…it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”.

What are the results of sanctification?
Sanctification relates directly to a son/daughter relationship with God, by grace through faith. It, by definition, calls us to love God and His Word, to a spiritual mind, and to yield or present our bodies a living sacrifice, consecrated and devoted to God, walking in the Spirit. Sanctification becomes evident through a born again experience in which we have been converted from the desire to serve Satan to the desire for total submission to the will of God. When we are sanctified, our actions and our attitudes will display the fruit of the Spirit. The absence of the works of the flesh should be apparent to those who observe us. Do we abhor sin? Have we allowed worldliness to reenter our lives? Do we fill our minds with evil thoughts by reading unwholesome material? Do we give Satan an advantage by allowing inappropriate thoughts to remain in our minds? Do we seek entertainment that will draw us closer to the world, or do we spend our time on activities that will edify us and those who are with us?

The children of Israel were separated from the Egyptians. In faith they made this separation obvious by obeying God’s instructions to prepare for the coming of the death angel. As a result of this separation, manifested by their obedience to God’s command regarding the Passover sacrifice, the life of their oldest child was spared. Likewise, we must also separate ourselves unto God and, in obedience to His Holy Word, walk in holiness, apart from the evils of the world. The death angel saw the blood of the lamb on the homes of the children of Israel and in mercy spared them from the judgment of sin. When we are called “…to give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead”, (1 Peter 4:5), our faith in the overcoming power of the blood of Christ will serve as a testimony for us so that the Lord in His mercy will “pass over” judgment of our sin and we can live forever with the Lord.

How strong is God’s love for His children? It is so strong that He allowed His Son to suffer so grievously for our sins that, in agony, Jesus cried “…My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me” (Mark 15:34)?

Therefore the Father calls His children to sanctification.
Helping Hearts... 
— Continued from pg. 6

the procedure went better than anyone had even hoped.

Cassamajor has now returned home to Cavaillon and is doing much better. He is very grateful to Hospital Lumiere, the World Relief missionaries, St. Cloud Hospital, and most of all to God.

How you can help
Hospital Lumiere is currently attempting to raise funds to purchase a cardiac ultrasound probe of their own to aid doctors in diagnosing heart conditions. There are three ways to contribute:
1. Through your local WR representative.
2. Mail your donation to: AC World Relief 16448 S US Hwy 231 Remington, IN 47977 Checks should be made out to AC World Relief with a note indicating Hospital Lumiere.
3. Donate online with a secure credit card donation. Specify: Haiti - Hospital Lumiere. www.acworldrelief.org

The Living Word
— Continued from pg. 7

the Truth to a troubled world. Just handing someone a Bible may still leave them far behind. We should be willing to take the time to build a relationship with people who have an interest. If we use the opportunity to discuss the Word and disciple others, it will bless them, and it can also help us appreciate the Word more ourselves. When we become involved in humble service for others, we find a greater motivation to diligence in our own devotions, Bible reading, and obedience.

Through local congregations, individuals, a special committee, or as a young group activity, Bibles have been given to individuals who have been richly blessed. We hope each Bible is a treasure to its recipient. We pray that they will be read, and the will of God revealed to many. Please consider taking these opportunities if your congregation is not currently involved. Any willing heart can help.

New center for Bible distribution
This past year the central Bible distribution center has moved from Bluffton, IN to a part of the new Publications building located near a World Relief Distribution center just east of Goodfield, IL on highway 150. More information on Bible Distribution can be found at www.acmission.org.

Contact information for the Bible Distribution center:
Bible Distribution Center 651 E Peoria St Goodfield, IL 61742 309-965-2141 bibledistribution@ acpublications.org

How you can help
A humble and Christ-like life is the most effective distribution of the Word. The continued faithfulness of our Brotherhood is greatly appreciated. There could be no Bible distribution without your support.

Through your prayers, financial support, and participation in the work, this ministry serves a needy world. May it always be done to the glory and honor of our great God.

Contributions to support Bible distribution can be sent to the Mission Committee at: Apostolic Christian Mission Committee PO Box 322 Bluffton, IN 46714 Or donate online with a secure credit card donation. Specify: Bible Distribution. www.acmission.org
This is the second installment of an article that appeared in the October, 1951 issue of Mennonite Life magazine. It was entitled “Background of the Apostolic Christian Church”. It was written by Delbert L. Gratz who was head of the Bluffton College Library at Bluffton, Ohio. His article was a review of a book by Elder Herman Reugger 1948 entitled (in English), “The History of the Apostolic Christian Church”, Volume 1).

Their missionary zeal as well as the methods they used, remind one of early Anabaptist activities, yes, even of those early days of Christianity. A typical example is given on page 127:

“In the summer of 1839 two Hungarian locksmith apprentices, Johann Denkel and Johann Kropatschek, journeyed to Zurich. Here they heard Froehlich preach, accepted his teachings and were baptized by him. Denkel spread his convictions to his fellow workers in Budapest, one of whom was Ludwig Hencsey von Szent-Peter-Ur. He introduced them to the new teachings in November, 1839 and on May 8, 1940 they held their first worship service in the workshop of their employer.

“In time Hencsey and his brother wrote on paper their new confession of faith and the newly-acquired members spread copies of it in Hungary, Bosnia, Slavonia, and Rumania where 226 churches now stand.”

As good as the book may be, there are certain shortcomings that should be noted. A completely unbiased account of the movement is not given nor should it be looked for in a study as this which was written by and intended only for the group it concerns. Several notable omissions occur, such as a complete lack of a bibliography or index. The addition of a few statistics of the church (in Europe) would add greatly to the book.

The paucity (scarcity) of space given to the churches in the Balkan countries, as well as in the United States, leaves a certain incompleteness. For example, no mention is made of the heroic stand made by members in Yugoslavia who for the past seventy years have continually had to face ten-year jail sentences for refusal to do military service. Neither is adequate mention made of the division that took place in their ranks in the United States, Germany, and Switzerland at the turn of the century, primarily over the wearing of the moustache. The story of the five thousand members who now find themselves as refugees in Germany and Austria is also conspicuously absent.

For the person interested in Mennonite and Anabaptist history, this book presents a valuable addition to his knowledge. This is the first writing on this topic to appear, so it makes a worthwhile contribution in a hitherto unworked field.

Editors note:

While the review of this book about the Apostolic Christian Church is praiseworthy, reviewer Delbert Gratz also listed some of the things he felt the author left out. It is only fair that we include them as they appeared in the article. Overall, he surely pointed to the positives of the Froehlich movement -- the origins of a spiritual revival that attempted to re-establish a church based on the Word of God.

Delbert Gratz, in a phone conversation with me, once declared that the origins of the Froehlich churches in Europe “were like the time of the Apostles.” It is both instructive and inspiring that in his book review in this instance he refers to the church’s early zeal in Europe as similar to “early Anabaptist activities, yes, even of those early days of Christianity.” Surely, we should build on these historical traits.

-by Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue: More history of church development.
The Light of Hope

The Devil Attacks the Church

I have wondered why there are, in my estimation, more human relation problems within the churches than there are in other groups of people, such as farm organizations, corporations, schools, etc. At least there are many more splits in churches than in any other group, if my observation is correct.

Matters of faith run very deep and therefore we human beings have more difficulty getting along in such matters, compared to matters pertaining to this life only. That is probably true, but, if I understand the Bible correctly, the devil is involved.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8

Peter addresses his letter, as recorded in chapter 1, verse 2, to the “Elect”, which indicates that he was surely writing to converted people. This tells us then, that the devil attacks the believers, rather than the unbelievers. Yet we seem not to be aware of the devil’s influence on us. We seldom acknowledge, or realize, that the devil influenced us to be lacking in love or humility, or a willingness to reason together, with love and respect for each other. On the contrary, we all tend to feel that we are doing fine, but others are going far from what the Bible teaches.

I’m thinking about all church denominations, beginning with the church at Corinth, which had contentions and divisions among the believers.

“For it has been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.” 1 Cor. 1:11

Yet, if there is any place on earth where we would expect to find perfect love and harmony among a group of people, it is in the church, where love for God and for one another takes precedence over all other rules or commandments. I fear that the devil uses contentions within the church to discourage those who have not yet turned to the Lord in repentance or been converted to Christ.

“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.” 2 Cor. 11:14

In the Old Testament, the devil is called Satan. In the New Testament, both terms are used. In this verse, we are taught that Satan is transformed into an angel of light.

Does this raise the possibility that the devil engineers divisions in the church? My understanding is that all divisions in all denominations throughout church history, have been caused by an effort of some believers to improve the church. However, even in a case where a group of believers start an independent so-called Bible Church, so they can have the perfect church, divisions develop so that the person who led the division may no longer be recognized as their leader. Let’s avoid splits in the future.

What can be done? We sometimes feel quite helpless. Regardless of failures of the past, we can still love and respect others as wonderful human beings for whom Christ died. We can be willing to reason together about differences of opinions, about differences in doctrine, about differences in our understanding of how best to serve God. Always, we must be willing to be admonished and corrected where we are plainly not in harmony with God’s Word. To avoid the issues doesn’t seem to help.

In the future, let’s face the issues while being very respectful and loving toward those who may disagree with our viewpoint on the Bible. It is Christ who is our Savior, who gave His life as a ransom for the whole world. We all agree He died for us and arose again, and ever liveth to make intercession for us. We have much in common. May God help us to go the second mile. We are dead with Christ, so we must not do anything selfish, and we must work for peace.

-by Willis Ehnle
“Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, ... Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.”

Psalm 84:3-4