I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

Psalm 121:1-2
To Our Readers

Your opportunity to contribute

As the brotherhood’s only official periodical, *The Silver Lining* belongs to all of us. Each issue requires contributions from congregation correspondents, writers from World Relief, Mission Committee, ACCFS and so on.

**Now, starting this month, you, dear reader, are also invited to contribute.** Specifically, we are seeking insights, advice, encouragement, and/or admonishments around the topic: What things have you and your spouse done that have successfully strengthened your marriage?

We encourage you to share your thoughts, believing it can be a blessing to many of our brethren. Submissions should be 150 words or less. They will be reviewed and then selected articles/comments will be published in the May issue.

Please send your contributions to readerinput@acsilverlining.org by March 15. If you have questions about this new opportunity, please see your *Silver Lining* correspondent.

Gratefully your brothers,
Silver Lining Counseling Elders
Rick Plattner and Tom Stock

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches:

1. Bay City  
2. Burlington  
3. Cisna Park  
4. Elgin, IA  
5. Kiowa  
6. Roanoke  
7. Taylor  
8. Winthrop  
9. Toledo

Suggested donation: $18/subscription.

Send all payments to: Apostolic Christian Publications
P.O. Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530

Periodical non-profit postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561 and additional post offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

Postmaster send address changes to:
The Silver Lining
1523 County Road 400N
Congerville, IL 61729

Photos courtesy of: Front cover: Mt. Rainier, WA; Bro. Eric Virkler, Rockville, CT
Back cover: Ptarmigan Falls, Glacier National Park, MT; anonymous
Editor’s Note: Each quarter of this year will feature articles related to the Four Pillar Mission of our church respectively: Presenting the Gospel, Nurturing the Believer, Preserving Sound Doctrine, and Offering Deeds of Service.

An Enduring Invitation to Repent

God has consistently called men to depart from sin. From the beginning of time, men have done things that were hurtful to others and to themselves. God never intended for man to hurt (sin against) himself or others. Before Cain murdered his brother Abel, the Lord entreated him to resist sin and change his attitude, calling on Cain to repent. But Cain did not turn from his evil.

Through Moses, Joshua, and many Judges, the Lord patiently called generation after generation to turn from sin and choose righteousness. As the Israelites repeatedly rejected the Lord—worshipping idols, committing great evils, and justifying themselves in all manner of evil—the Lord sent prophets over and over to call them back to truth and justice.

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye” (Ezek. 18:30-32).

This consistent call continued through John the Baptist and was amplified by Jesus. As He taught the ways of peace and righteousness, His call to forsake sin touched many hearts; moving corrupt bureaucrats like Zaccheus, promiscuous women like the “woman at the well,” and simple fishermen like James and John; to renounce sin and live transformed lives. When asked by his countrymen what they should do in response to the realization that Jesus was the Son of God, Peter replied, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38).

The Creator of all has consistently desired and invited His creation to turn from evil and choose good. From the beginning, God spoke of a Redeemer and had His prophets confirm the promise. As the first sin in history was discovered, God rebuked the deceiving serpent by prophesying of the coming Redeemer who would defeat the very root of evil. “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15).

To Abraham, God promised, “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice” (Gen. 22:18). As Abraham raised his son, Isaac, even in the middle of a great test of faith in God, Abraham prophesied of the coming Redeemer, saying, “My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together” (Gen. 22:8).

Hundreds of years later, John the Baptist proclaimed the fulfilling of Abraham’s prophecy. “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).

Throughout the Old Testament, men of God spoke and wrote prophecies of Jesus that were fulfilled and witnessed by thousands who followed Jesus – hearing Him teach and observing the miracles He performed. David wrote of His

— Please turn to pg. 63
Monthly Sermon

Sermon by Bro. Nathan Walder, Cissna Park, IL

1 Samuel 10 & 2 Corinthians 12

We greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ this morning as we come to His house. As we come and sit there in the cross benches and you sing, it’s stirring. It’s moving! It’s touching! Not only were my hands sweating and my knees shaking, but then this comes too: I don’t know what God has in store, but He does. We trust in His Spirit this morning, Loved Ones, and trust that you’ll be prayerful for the Word.

Again I would like to echo the words of Brother Gary this morning that we ashamedly become a little bit too busy in life. A few years back, I sat exactly where you sit this morning. It’s the blessing of a lot of years I spent traveling across this fair land of ours, visiting probably just about every church that’s out there that has single people, single brothers and sisters. What a blessing! As I came, I hardly even remembered that you’d be gathering this morning. It’s a good reminder for me. It’s a good reminder of those blessings that have built up to where we are today. Take courage, single people. Take courage in the fellowship you experience. Take courage in the opportunities that you have. Hold tightly to those memories and those moments, and be strengthened in your God and in your holy faith.

Chapter 12 in 2 Corinthians is before us this morning. Perhaps we’d rather read in the gospels on a Sunday morning or we’d rather read of the words of Jesus Christ. Yet we trust that through His Spirit this morning, we could receive a blessing for we know all of His Word is authored by Him. It’s all given to us for doctrine, reproof, for edification, for the encouragement here for His saints.

We read about fear in both chapters this morning, Loved Ones. In the address that Samuel gave, he said, “If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God...” and then he gives the opposite “…But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as it was against your fathers.” (1 Samuel 12:14-15).

After Saul was made king, he addressed them there. So we see a man that was no different than you and I. We see a man named Saul who God raised up for His purposes. What was God’s sovereign will in this matter? Let’s never forget that. Let’s go back to that root. What did God really want for His people? Did God present to them a king? Did God say you should go for a king? No, He didn’t! He said I will be your King. I’m the King of Kings. I’m the Lord of Lords. I gave you everything you need, but what did the people use? They used what they could see, didn’t they? They used their senses, and they borrowed trouble from their neighbors, didn’t they? Samuel came to them, and it says in the Egermeier’s just so simply, doesn’t it? God said, give them a king, but tell them they will be sorry. That’s kind of condensing some of this down into a singular thought.

We can be the same way, can’t we, when we are united with God in that love that He gives and He desires for us to have towards Him. When we are united with Him in that, we don’t need a king here, do we? We don’t need someone on a throne. We don’t need some idol to fall down to. When we have that love of Jesus Christ, when we have that experience and I appreciate so much how the Word said it there. Even in the Old Testament we have to remember that Jesus Christ was not on the scene yet. They were still living under the law. They were still following their
God as they had direction. What happened? Saul went on an errand. He went on a mission. Throughout that whole process, everything that was prophesied before that would come to pass, came to pass, didn’t it? It was fulfilled right in front of his eyes.

In the midst of that, he meets the prophet Samuel, and he goes home with a new spirit. He goes home with a new mind. It says his heart was changed, and he was given another heart (v.9). Loved Ones, that’s still what has to happen today, isn’t it? There’s no other way. We can’t just accept a Christ for who He is up in heaven. Oh, we have to accept that He is and that He is God and that He is King and He sent His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. We have to accept that that plan exists, but He has to change us from within. He has to change us from the inside out, doesn’t He? He has to create in us a clean heart; He has to renew in us a right spirit (Psalm 51:10).

You know friend, today there is still opportunity, isn’t there? There’s still a day called the day of grace. There’s still a way. It’s the same way as Jesus brought when He came. It’s the same way that Peter went through there when he looked at the Lord in the hall of Praetorium when he had sinned three times against Him. When Peter looked at the eyes of Jesus Christ, he melted, and went out and wept bitterly for his sin. (St. Luke 22:54-62) He understood and realized, Loved Ones, that he could not change himself. All be it very strong in nature and in desire and even very strong in his will, he was no match for the enemy of our soul. He was no match for Satan, and we aren’t either. We aren’t either.

So we need a higher power, don’t we? He comes to give us this higher power. He has come today to call us to this higher way. It’s a way where we don’t have to walk here and follow the law and when we sin go back into the temple and put another animal on the altar and sacrifice blood again and keep going through that on and on and on. That’s not our God! Our God sent Jesus Christ. Our God sent a man that went in and ripped the veil in two and made once and for all an offering for you and for me. We don’t have to keep going back to that high priest, do we? He paid it all. We need to humble ourselves before such a God, don’t we? We need to humble ourselves before such a King.

King Saul started off so good, didn’t he? That’s what just makes you bleed inside, isn’t it? He started off right. When the people wanted to exalt him, he had the spirit of God and he went and hid. Can you picture that? All the baggage collected there on the cart and he’s underneath it, trying to hide so he doesn’t have to come up and stand before all these people. (v.22) That’s what I felt like this morning. I said as we got out of the van, ‘You go on; I’ll just stay here.’ It’s not our desire to stand up and to take the lead or to speak or do whatever. He had the right desire.

But what happened? It changed, didn’t it? He found victory. God gave him victory over the enemies. God gave him power. He gave him position. He gave him wives and riches and honor. We’re not made to handle that, are we? We’re not made to be in those positions. He ended up caving in to his own self, didn’t he, and what happened to that precious pearl that God had put into his heart? You know that Scripture says when once the heart is clean and the spirits are cast out, and a spirit comes in and finds that heart not watchful, what happens? That spirit takes seven other spirits and goes back into that heart, and it said the last state of that man is worse than the first (St. Matthew 12:43-45).

That’s exactly what happened to Saul. He allowed Satan to toy with him and to tempt him and persuade him. He started just being tormented by that spirit of the devil. What did they seek after? Maybe this was mentioned in the prayer; I don’t recall right now. What did they seek after? They sought after a man
Providing Medical Help to Nazareans

Assisting the Medical Needs in Eastern Europe

The healthcare environment in Eastern Europe can at best be described as challenging, and at worst as overwhelming for the people who live there. The current environment and the difficulties in transitioning from communism are described in a book entitled, The Dying Breed: Healthcare in Eastern Europe, written by Sam Vaknin, Ph.D. Some of the excerpts from this book are as follows:

“Transition has trimmed Russian life expectancy by well over a decade. In the republics of former Yugoslavia [which includes the countries of Serbia and Croatia where the Nazarean brethren live], respiratory and digestive tract diseases run amok. Stress and pollution conspire to reap a grim harvest throughout the wastelands of Eastern Europe. The rate of Tuberculosis in Romania exceeds that of sub-Saharan Africa.

As income deteriorated, plunging people into abject poverty, they found it increasingly difficult to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Crumbling healthcare systems, ridden by corruption, ceased to provide even the appearance of rudimentary health services. Healthcare under communism was a public good, equitably provided by benevolent governments. At least in theory. Reality was drearer and drabber. Doctors often extorted bribes from hapless patients in return for accelerated or better medical treatment.

Country folk were forced to travel hundreds of miles to the nearest city to receive the most basic care. Medical degrees were — and still are — up for sale to the highest, or most well-connected, bidder. Management was amateurish, as it has remained to this very day.

Hospitals and other facilities are left to rot for lack of maintenance or shut down altogether. The much slashed government paid remuneration of over-worked medical staff was devoured by hyperinflation and stagnated ever since. Equipment falls into disrepair.

Medicines and other substances — from cultures to vaccines — are no longer affordable and thus permanently in short supply. The rich monopolize the little that is left or travel abroad in search of cure. The poor languish and die.

In the public’s mind the idea of “free health care” survived and continues to survive from the Communist period, as does the idea that all of us are equal as long as we are healthy. The sick man in many cases loses this equality and cannot himself pay by legal means for what the state or rather the insurance companies, have no resources to provide.

The main problem is the gap between grandiose expectations and self-image — and shabby reality. East European medicine harbors fantastic pretensions to west European standards of quality and service. But it is encumbered with [poor] financing and [shoddy] infrastructure. Someone must bridge this abyss with... cash. Either the government or the consumer must cough up the funds. The sooner everyone come to terms with this stressful truth — the healthier.”

With so many of the Nazarean brethren being elderly, this healthcare environment has a significant

— Please turn to pg. 64
Accomplishing His Purpose in Japan

Update from Tokyo

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-11

What a promise that God’s Word will achieve His purposes! As we strive to spread the Truth of the Gospel, we can be certain that God’s Word will not return to Him void. We pray that we can faithfully present the Truth of God in all its fullness. Our churches in Japan are thankful for the ongoing prayerful support and the visits from brothers and sisters around the world. We ask that you continue to join us in praying for the people of Japan, where less than 1% claim the Christian faith. Our Sunday school continues to be an opportunity to reach out to the community, as well as the monthly ladies meetings at the Tokyo church. Our prayer is that God uses these outreach opportunities to draw souls to Himself.

Easter Sunday the benches were full — for the first time of the year. Parents filed in to their seats and children made their way to the front pews. While most Sundays only a modest number of believers gather to worship, program Sundays bring a welcome contrast. The students sang songs, recited their lines, and listened to the Easter story. Following the program, a woman who attends our monthly ladies meetings came to say goodbye. Her daughter and young grandson had come with her. Though she comes to church once a month for the ladies meeting, she does not usually attend on Sundays. As she expressed her gratitude, she explained that this was her first time to celebrate Easter.

For each program, several of the Sunday school students prepare a portion in English. This year, the students asked one another what they would like for Christmas. After each student gave his/her answer, they would remind each other that we already have the best gift: Jesus. He is the gift we received nearly 2,000 years ago. A twelve-year-old student pointed out that the gift of Christ is still being received. It was more than a one-time gift. Christ came to earth over 2,000 years ago, to be born in a humble manger. He was received then, but He is still being received into our hearts. Indeed, we have been receiving His grace and mercy continuously. Let us always give thanks to God for His indescribable gift! We are thankful for the students and their families who are learning of Christ through Sunday school and the programs. The holidays provide a unique opportunity to share the Gospel. We pray that the message of Christ’s salvation can be clearly communicated through the programs at Easter and Christmas. Please join us in praying that we can present the Word of God with boldness.

In addition to programs, monthly ladies meetings provide an opportunity to share the Truth of the Word. For more than thirty years, women have been coming to our church in Tokyo once a month for ladies meetings. Meetings consist of a Bible lesson, a
Hopefully the topic of addiction is not at the forefront of the minds of most people. However, it is an increasing problem in families and with those we love. In this two part series, the foundations of addiction will be explained, as well as various treatments.

Definitions

1. An addiction is a compulsive or physical dependence upon a substance, person, or behavior that provides a temporary release from pain or discomfort. There are various addictions.

2. A drug addiction is characterized by drug seeking and using, despite harmful consequences. Although the first use of a drug does not typically happen because the person has a disease, with repeated use there are changes in the brain that drive the user to further using. The drug changes the structure of the brain and how it works; therefore, drug addiction is classified as brain disease. This can make stopping the use of the drug nearly impossible, but the believer can hold to the promise in Matthew 19:26, “…but with God, all things are possible.”

3. There are also process addictions, in which the individual is dependent on some kind of behavior, as opposed to being dependent on some kind of substance. Process addictions include addictions involving gambling, sex, internet use, shopping, or even work.

4. With the advances in brain chemistry, it is now apparent that in process addictions similar changes occur in the brain as in drug addiction. Such changes increase the difficulty in stopping.

5. The addiction cycle can be illustrated by this diagram, going clockwise from the top. It can be very binding in the life of an individual. Through the addict’s willingness to do whatever it takes to heal, God’s intervention, and those God chooses to use as helpers in the process, the addict must break loose from this cycle at some point.

6. Addiction results in harm to the person’s health, relationships, spiritual life, vocation, emotional well-being, and/or finances. However, there are certainly differences in the severity of an addiction. Professionals will classify an addiction as mild, moderate, or severe, depending to what degree the individual’s life is affected.
   - Tolerance occurs when one needs an increased amount of a substance/behavior in order to achieve the desired effects. Another sign of tolerance is when over time, a person obtains a diminished effect from using the same amount of a substance/behavior.
   - Withdrawal effects occur when the addicted person stops using the addictive agent. Withdrawal effects are specific to the addictive agent and cause physical and emotional distress.

7. When individuals are trying to overcome addictions, periodic setbacks are common. One example is a slip or lapse, which occurs when a person makes progress, falls back into his old ways for a short period of time, but then
quickly returns to doing what is necessary to live an overcoming life. A relapse occurs when someone slides back into his old ways and isn’t immediately willing to return to doing what is necessary to overcome.

**Commentary on the Definition of Addiction**

1. Using the term “addiction” does not excuse sin. Rather, the term describes the process Satan uses to hook someone into sin. James 1:13-15, “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

2. Some addictions do not occur to a degree that is overtly damaging. Because of this we don’t choose to invest the energy necessary to overcome them. Certain eating habits are an example. Many people do not correct their eating until a heart attack, diabetes, or other condition forces them to invest the effort.

3. Some addictions are so powerful they are life-threatening. Also, certain addictions create a dependency which makes withdrawal life-threatening. Withdrawal symptoms to this degree can require hospitalization. Some alcoholics and drug addicts actually die from the withdrawal.

4. Some addictions alter a person’s physiology in ways that make him very vulnerable in the future. Many drugs can reduce the chemicals in the body which give the person the experience of pleasure. When he stops taking the drug, an addict may be incapable of experiencing pleasure for a long period of time. This creates a significant period of vulnerability because the drug is the only agent that can bring pleasure when he is trying to cope with the realities of life. Also, certain addictions are powerful because they help to mask pain or hurt in someone’s life. When the person feels the pain of life or is under significant stress, the temptation and memory of escape by using the drug is very powerful and may lead to a fall.

**Addiction and Sin**

1. Because of the scriptural instruction to keep our bodies under subjection, all addiction leads to some level of sin. Romans 6:16, “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

2. Certain addictions lead to clearly sinful behavior. For example, getting drunk, gambling, taking illegal drugs, or behaving in a sexually immoral way violates scripture and is clearly sinful. Colossians 3:5, “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.”

3. Even in cases where the behavior itself is not a sin (e.g., workaholism), refusal to get help may be considered a sin because we are not bringing ourselves under subjection. 1 Corinthians 6:12, “. . . I will not be brought under the power of any.”

4. When an addict’s behavior affects the lives of others yet he refuses help, this attitude is clearly sinful. Proverbs 28:13, “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

5. An addict is responsible for finding some way to avoid sin (e.g., treatment, environmental control, accountability, etc.). Isaiah 55:7, “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and

— Please turn to pg. 65
I was talking with a resident and she was telling me she couldn’t believe how fast the year had gone. She then asked me what I thought of that, I told her that I think Jesus is coming soon. She then let out a squeal, gave a huge smile and nodded her head, yes. Do we get as excited about Christ as we do about a snowstorm?

“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season…” 1 Peter 1:4-6

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Alyssa Knobloch – Assistant Houseparent

Praise Him! Praise Him in every circumstance! I can recall one evening at Hickory House, we had a very difficult situation with young female resident. The situation was not very pleasant and in my heart I became very frustrated and upset. During the midst of it all, Ryan (the head houseparent) kindly reminded me that we needed to praise God, even in this situation. That was hard, because it flew in the face of all the emotions I was feeling at the time. The fact is that it goes against human nature to give praise and thanks to God for things that hurt us, cause us to struggle, are unjust, and the list can go on. Yet, it is so crucial to give God the praise and glory in those times, because it forces us to refocus our vision back on Him. Doing so caused me to surrender to Him, telling Him that I may have been hurt, I may have feelings of anger, that I may not understand what He is trying to do, that I might not see how good can come of this. Yet I know who He is, I know I am His child through the shed blood of Christ. I know He loves me and that I can trust Him! Therefore, I will praise Him and offer up my thanksgiving in circumstances like these!

Here is the chorus of a song that I feel captures what I just talked about.

“And I will praise You in this storm,
And I will lift my hands.
For You are who You are,
No matter where I am.
And every tear I’ve cried,
You hold in Your hand.
You never left my side,
And though my heart is torn,
I will praise You in this storm.”

God has given me an incredible opportunity to work at Gateway! The lessons, experiences, and relationships I have received here will remain with me for a lifetime!
News:

We are thankful to be able to welcome Bro. Matt & Sis. Rachael Ringger (Indianapolis) to the Houseparenting team! Matt & Rachael began training in January and are now integrated into the team. Please pray for their transition into the houseparenting role.

We are searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2015. Please see the notice in this issue or contact Bro. Clint Plattner at clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org or 260.627.2159 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 this issue or contact Bro. Adam McAfee at adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org or 260.627.2159 for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience while impacting our residents!

We have begun the process of launching a new program! The Linking to Attain Responsibility & Community, or LARC initiative seeks to build organic relationship between former Gateway Woods clients and community partners. These relationships will lead to employment opportunities, mentorship, spiritual growth and more. More information about this program is available at gatewaywoods.org/LARC. We are currently in the process of hiring a LARC coordinator. See the ad in this addition for more information.

There are four different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods, including: openings for Alternate Houseparents, one opening for a Counselor, one opening for a Home-Based & Adoption Case Worker, and one opening for a LARC Coordinator. For more information please see the notices in this month’s issue 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!

Gateway Woods Illinois Adoption Program is open for business and seeking to serve our Brothers and Sisters in Illinois. Visit GatewayWoodsIL.org or contact Sis. Luci Koch at 309.266.0767 or Luci.Koch@gatewaywoodsil.org.

Alabama, Athens
Roger and Becky Roberts

We were blessed by visits from ministering Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Duane Reutter.

Our prayers have been with Kendra Coulter (David and Sis. Barbara Coulter) who has experienced health problems, but is on the mend.

Arizona, Phoenix
Heather Hinrichsen

Bro. Justin Moser (Altadena), Bro. Nick Gutwein (West Lafayette), Bro. James Fehr (Tremont), and Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria) shared the Gospel message with us this month. We thank them for their service.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huette and family in the passing of Bro. Doug’s mother, Sis. Marilyn Huette, in Tremont, IL.

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

James Morse was born to Jessica Chandler on January 1. Bro. Steve and Sis. Lisa Widmer welcomed Easton Everett on January 6. He is welcomed.
home by Parker, Eilash, Elin and Hadleigh.

**Arizona, Tucson**

*Dean and Jackie Knobloch*

Greetings to all across the miles.

We continue to pray for all who have had serious health issues in the last months. We know God is faithful and He does not make mistakes. We trust He will be near all who call on Him.

The Bauer family was saddened by the loss of Bro. Don’s (Sis. Glo.) brother, Sam Bauer (Cissna Park). We extend our heartfelt sympathy and love to each of them.

Sis. Joan Knapp (Bro. Loren) has undergone foot surgery and hopefully will soon be able to be assembling with us again.

We are seeing more winter visitors as the winter progresses. They are truly a blessing to our small congregation. I have recently been reminded that life is not about “us”.....It’s about HIM. I pray Jesus Christ is our focus today and forever.

**California, San Diego**

*Janelle Brewer*

This month we were blessed with many visitors. It is always encouraging to have a full church and enjoy the beautiful singing as we blend our voices together praising God.

“O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation”

*Psalm 95:1*

We wish to extend our sympathy to Kathy (Don) Stokes on the passing of her brother, Bro. Phillip Keiper of Mansfield, OH. May God provide comfort to their family.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” *Isaiah 41:10*

If anyone is vacationing in the Palm Springs/Palm Desert area this winter, please feel free to contact Bro. Doug and Sis. Janelle Brewer at djbrewer2003@gmail.com or 309-256-9606. We plan to have services on Thursday evening starting in January until the end of March. Also, if you know of anyone with church connections living in the area, we would also like to know about them so we can reach out to them.

**Colorado, Denver**

*Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman*

Greetings from Colorado!

There have been a lot of changes in our little church over the last couple of months. It has been a time of travel for us! We welcome home Sis. Dominique Braun for a few months before she heads back to Iowa for schooling this fall. She has been working in Garden Grove, Iowa for over a year and half. We also welcome Bro. Brandon and Sis. Tess Wiegand as they make Denver their new home! We are excited to have another young couple among us and look forward to deepening our relationships with them.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Tess Leman have returned after spending two months in Haiti where Bro. Dan completed an international clinical rotation for his schooling at Bonne Fin Hospital.

Bro. Douglas and Sis. Mandy Andrej have decided to move to California, as Sis. Mandy has accepted a traveling nursing job in the San Diego area. Wherever traveling nursing takes them, our prayers accompany them! They will be greatly missed! Demetrius, the son of Bro. Charlie and Sis. Naomi Wiegand, has recently moved to Illinois to live with his aunt and uncle while finishing his last year of high school. Though we feel the void of his presence, we pray that he will find the Lord ever present wherever he is.

Our hearts ache for Bro. Joe and Sis. Lorraine Hohulin at the passing of her father, Robert Faustin of Bay City, MI. May the Great Comforter make Himself very evident to the family during this difficult time.

The Bible says, “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.”

*Proverbs 16:9*

Wherever our steps may lead this year let us make sure they are aligned with His! May His Word be a lamp unto our feet, and light unto our path. *(Psalm 119:105)*

**Connecticut, Rockville**

*Lauren Gottier, Sheila Gerber*

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the
dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Romans 6:4

We rejoice with our converts Josie Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole), Susan Ercolano and Jean-Marie Currier (Keith) who have been announced for baptism. The weekend of January 24 and 25 has been set for their testimonies and baptisms.


We bid farewell to Sis. Sarah Lanz (Bro. Greg and Sis. Linda) as she recently moved to the Latty/Junction, OH area. We wish her the Lord’s nearness as she adjusts to her new home.

Hilda Kayan (Edward, dec.) passed away. She was the sister of Sis. Millie (Melvin) Gerber and a cousin and aunt to many in the congregation. Edward “Ted” Sweeney (Laurie and David Sweeney) of Stuart, FL, passed away December 24. He was the grandson of Bro. Wilbur Schneider (Sis. Marge, dec., Rittman, OH). We extend our sympathies to these families.

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for part of December were Bro. Ron and Sis. Donna Hodel from Bloomington, IL. While it may be too late for this winter, something to keep in mind is that our winters are usually milder than those in the Midwest. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Sis. Jami, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). Our other visitors this month were from LaCrosse, IN; Rockville, CT and Philadelphia, PA. Thanks to all who have included us in your plans.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale

Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Sharing the Lord’s word with us were: Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest, IL), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN), Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith), Elgin, IL. We pray for a blessing on these willing servants.

With the return of our winter residents and visitors, we are resuming Wednesday night services at 7:15 PM. One of the blessings of having a small church is the intimacy of our home congregation and then the growth of our numbers through the winter when we get to meet new people, hear new ministers and renew our fellowship with those that regularly return. When our numbers are small, I am in constant awe of how the Lord provides for each of our needs.

Recently this scripture struck a chord within me without my even knowing why, but God knows.

“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:8

Florida, Fort Myers

Victor Beer

On January 11, 2015 in deep appreciation to our Almighty GOD, our Fort Myers Apostolic Christian Church came to a new beginning (that actually started about 30 years ago in 1984, in North Fort Myers). Of course only the building God has given
us is new, and we can worship Him in Word and Truth as we are used to doing every Lord’s Day. We were so thankful for the large crowd, many with us for the first time. We appreciated our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynn, Sarasota) being with us and the others that shared the Word with us each service. The other ministers were Bros. Mike Thomas (Sis. Claudia, Valpariso, IN), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL) and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). We pray God’s blessings on each one that served us, along with our ministers: Bros. Marvin Steffen, Bill Masters, and Chris Huber, and our so very capable building committee and all the others that blessed us with our new sanctuary. We all are truly thankful for this great gift of God.

The New Beginnings

“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14

At a recent breakfast with our New Beginnings family, the question was asked, “What is the best gift you could receive?” Our seven year old at the table answered, “Jesus dying on the cross!”

The conversation turned to earthly presents and he was asked, “What did you get for Christmas?”

He answered back, “A bike.”

“What do you do with it?”

“I ride it.”

That’s what we need to do with the gift of salvation. We need to show it off! We need to share it! We need to let others know how great it is and that they can receive it too!

As we continue to share the good news of the greatest gift to the moms at The New Beginnings, we continue to see evidence that some of the ideas are sticking. Recently, one of the children ran into a bit of trouble as he stole a phone from another mom. The evidence of his spiritual awakening and understanding was evident as he wrote his mom this note:

“Dear Mom, today I learned that in the Bible God says to honor thy mother. It also says thou shall not steal. I now know that in stealing from Valerie’s purse, I broke God’s commandment. I also dishonored you. I know this is wrong. I am sorry for doing these things. I will work harder to obey and do the right things.”

If you are interested in playing a role in the healing and mentoring of these single mothers and their children, please prayerfully consider giving us a call at 239-541-4312 or emailing us at thenewbeginningsofswfl@yahoo.com.

If you are considering a move to the Naples/Fort Myers area and would like to talk someone, please call Bro. Marvin Steffen at 239-353-0508. He will help you gather information on anything from serving in a small church to job opportunities and housing in the area.

Florida, Sarasota

Kim Ott

“And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.” Matthew 14:29

Our church was blessed to be able to host a singles invite over the third weekend of January. This was a special time not only for the singles, but also for the many who volunteered their time and effort. We pray that God would bless Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye, Fort Lauderdale, FL), Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne), and Bro. Matt Koehl (Sis. Emily) for leading the Bible study themed topic of “Getting out of the Boat.” This topic of walking by faith according to God’s will is important for the youth as they are possibly considering life-changing decisions, but it also applies to people of all ages, as no matter where we are in life, God may be calling us to act in obedience according to His direction.

We were grateful to our numerous visiting ministers this past month including: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin,
Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI), and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). May these brothers always feel the nearness and presence of God throughout their ministry.

Our annual business meeting was held this month and openings in church positions were filled. Votes of support were given to Sis. Bev Miller (Bro. Terry) to serve on the kitchen committee, to Bro. Timm Kaeb (Sis. Sandra) for another term of Sunday School teacher, and to Bro. Bill Roscher (Sis. Beth) to serve as trustee. We thank those who completed their years of service.

Georgia/Peachtree City, Atlanta

Lexi Knapp, Elise Waldbeser

Throughout the month of January, our church building remodel has been in full swing. We have been so privileged to have many volunteers come and pour themselves into the project. Among them, we have enjoyed visiting ministers Bro. Tom Lanz (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). Thank you so much for giving of yourself physically and spiritually to serve our church!

We have had incredible progress on our church over the past few weeks. Demolition is finished and, thanks to many hard workers, the walls are framed. Also, we have been seeing changes in the area of electrical work and drywall. We are thankful for all the volunteers we have had in order to renovate our church!

Our new address is: 202 Robinson Road, Peachtree City, GA, 30269. Come visit us. However, please call ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or 678.416.6586 or Richard Aberle 678.364.0507.)

Illinois, Belvidere

Doreen Moser, Shayla Steffen

“Concentrate my scattered mind On Thy word, O Savior! For apart from Thee I find torment and disfavor. Mortal foes will confuse, But in thee is given rest and joy in heaven.” Zion’s Harp #238

We have had many opportunities to concentrate our minds on the Lord’s word this month…

We were blessed to have visitors this month, families traveling for Christmas and New Years and traveling potluck. Such blessed fellowship and sweet communion.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL). The Word was shared and our minds were focused on the eternal path, where we can find rest and joy.

Our monthly Bible study continued this month concentrating on the parables. By studying God’s Word and hiding it in our hearts, it is certainly easier to find ways to combat mortal foes.

Praying that each and every day our minds will be concentrated on the Lord.

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal

Sarah Maurer, Terri Huber

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! With the Christmas season ended, we are starting to find our routines again while still remembering to share the gift of Christ with those around us. It has been nice to brush the dust off of our routine and regularly have Teen Night, S.W.A.P., Scripture Memory Class, and sewing group nights once again. We also plan to have a very special Sunday School winter party this month.

The family of Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling is excited to announce the arrival of Kellen Adedotun to their daughter, Dava, and husband, Dotun Adeniyi.

Bloomington is happy to celebrate the marriage of Bro. Drew Banwart to Sis. Hannah Zimmerman. Bro. Drew is the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart from Fairbury. Sis. Hannah is the daughter of Bro. Denny and Sis. Pam Zimmerman also from Fairbury. We pray God blesses this new union in Him.

We express a special thank you to Bro. Matt (Sis. Dana) Knapp from Atlanta, GA who ministered to us at the wedding of Bro. Drew and Sis. Hannah, as well as, Bro. Bill (Sis. Joan) Schick from Magdalena, MX and Bro. Tim (Sis. Christa) Wiegand from Leo, IN who also ministered to us this past month.

“Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the
end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.”
James 5:11

Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl, Sandi Joos
“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation.” Psalm 68:19

As in every month, we again experienced many blessings in our congregation. We were blessed in the birth of two baby boys and one baby girl.

Wade Charles was born to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tonya Joos. He is welcomed home by his siblings: Tori, Lane, Alex and Rhea. Grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny Joos and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman.

There is also joy in the household of Bro. Adam and Sis. Brittany Endress as they welcome Abraham Thomas. He is also welcomed by his sisters, Kylie and Sierra, along with his grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter (Princeville, IL).


We also experienced the benefit of having visiting ministers to bring forth the Word. Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Janelle, San Diego, CA) were with us this past month.

On Sunday, January 11 we were blessed to have the Princeville congregation join us for an evening of singing praises to our Lord.

We are thankful that Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Ev) has returned home from his stay at Mayo Clinic. We continue to pray for him as he receives outpatient treatments locally. Our prayers have been with Bro. Ed Ehnlé (Sis. Verla) and Sis. Bonnie Kieser as they have been hospitalized this past month.

Illinois, Champaign
Sarah Eisenmann
Greetings from Champaign-Urbana!

During the first full week of January, many from our local college group participated in a week-long mission trip to support Isaiah 55 Ministries in Reynosa, MX. We are thankful that they had a blessed, fruitful trip and returned home safely.

We had several visiting ministers during the Christmas season, including Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary; Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle; Philadelphia, PA), and Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane; Silverton, OR). Thank you for your efforts in sharing God’s Word.

We hope you had a blessed Christmas season and had a chance to reflect on the Savior’s birth. God be with you as we begin the new year.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

In January, our church once again had the wonderful opportunity to host the annual Elder Forums. We were blessed to have several of the visiting brothers worship with us while they were here, including Elder Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), John Lehman (Bern, KS), Gerry Hertzel (Sabetha, KS), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta/Peachtree City, GA), Duane Farney (Crogan-Naumburg, NY), and ministering Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

Lucy Jane Graf was born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Graf on December 20. Excited grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf (Leo, IN). Jerime and Staci Barrett welcomed a baby girl on Christmas Eve, Bronwyn Eve Barrett. Staci is the daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). We rejoice with these couples for the new addition to their families.

We request continued prayers for Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Boyd) in her ongoing battle with cancer. Please lift up Sis. Rachel Meyer (Bro. Rick) as well, as she recovers from a recent foot surgery.
We offer prayers and condolences to Sis. Christine Eckel and her family as they mourn the loss of her daughter, Janet Eckel. May God provide grace and comfort, as only He can, in this difficult time.

Illinois, Cissna Park
Sandy Rudin, Janie Waldbeser

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

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers here to encourage us through God’s Word. Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bro. John Cottrell (Eureka), and Bro. Ned Bahler (Fairbury) were here to bless us this month.

There was a group from Cissna that spent a week in Magdalena, Mexico. We are so thankful they could be about our Father’s business in helping those in need. Sis. Belinda Frank resides there, so I’m sure she was happy to see some ‘home-folk’ come down!

We had our annual church business meeting in January. There were many positions in the church exchanged. Among them were Bro. Mark Waldbeser as Trustee, and Bro. Ben Kaeb and Sis. Janie Waldbeser in Sunday School. We thank all those who diligently served in all areas of the church, and give our prayerful support to those who are taking on new positions.

We are sorry we failed to include our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Les Walder, Sis. Dorothy Walder, and Sis. Wilma Walder in the recent loss of their brother/brother-in-law Melvin (Irma) Walder of Eureka.

Those of our loved ones who have been in the hospital are Sis. Grace Bauer and Bro. Gerald Rudin. Mason Maul (Bro. Dave & Sis. Vicki) underwent outpatient surgery on his shoulder. We continue to remember these loved ones in prayer.

Sometimes God leads us through stormy waters not to drown us, but to cleanse us!
(Unknown)

Illinois, Congerville
Erica Steffen

“Precious father, loving mother,
Fly across the lonely years;
And old home scenes of my childhood,
In fond memory appears.” Gospel Hymns #408a

Precious tears and memories were shared at the passing of Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach (Bro. John, Mediapolis), the dear mother of our Sister Beth Steffen (Kent). Though the pain of loss is surely felt, the joy and hope of a life well-lived in the Lord is truly a blessing at such a difficult time for the family.

We also bid farewell to our dear Sis. Esther Troike (Bro. Wilmer, dec.). Surviving are a sister-in-law, Sis. Alma Wackerle (Eureka), and a brother-in-law, Lester Troike (Wheaton, IL), and many loving nieces and nephews, including Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber and Bro. John and Sis. Alice Schieber of our congregation. Passing away at age 101, Sis. Esther lived a full life and was truly an example of a servant heart. Her cheerful countenance will be missed by all.

Our Bro. Bill Dietrich (Sis. Sherri) recently spent some time in the hospital, and we are thankful he has now been able to return home. We pray for peace and comfort as his body continues to recover from illness.

Our church was blessed by our Sunday School and Bible Class through their Christmas program this year. What a joy to hear young voices proclaiming the birth and the life of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The singing from the Bible Class was especially moving this year and we thank them for their many efforts.

“...and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed.” Esther 10:3

Throughout the Christmas season, we often have a renewed sense of joy and peace, remembering the significance of our Savior coming to this earth for the benefit of all mankind. This Christmas, joy and peace was also brought to our church as Bro. Zach Anderson, along with his wife, Sister Karla, accepted the calling to the ministry of our church. May the Holy Spirit guide and comfort them and their young family in the time to come as they learn and lead in this new mission.

Bro. Zach, as well as the rest of our church surely continues
to be thankful for the ministers who visit our church each Sunday and Wednesday evening. This month’s visiting ministers were: Bros. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), (Elder) Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka), Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington), Ed Fritz (Washington), John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka), Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest).

Illinois, Elgin

Amy Gasser

On January 17-18, we gathered to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Shelby and Shania Young (Tom and Sis. Jolene). We rejoice with them and thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for coming to assist Bro. Brad Eisenmann. Other visiting ministers on the pulpit that weekend were Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL). We also thank Bro. Mark Wettstein (Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Dan Cargill (Prescott, AZ), who visited during the holiday season.

Mary Krueger (the late Jim) welcomed a new grandson on January 13, when Tyler Jay was born to first-time parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Beer (Milford, IN). His paternal grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Patsi Beer of Milford, IN.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Jacob Schambach of Janesville, WI (formerly of Elgin), who passed away on December 29, 2014. Survivors include his mother, Melody (Jim) Lipscomb of Janesville, WI; his father, William (Josey) Schambach of Elgin, IL; brothers: Kyle (Julie) Schambach, Colton and Jensen Schambach; his grandparents, Bro. Elvis and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger and Bro. Bill and Sis. Cora Schambach; and other relatives.

Jonathan M. Buehler of Seattle, WA, passed away on January 6, following a two-year battle with ALS. Surviving are his wife, Emily, three young daughters: Brianna, Kaylin, and Kiera, and other family members. Emily grew up in Elgin and is the daughter of Ed and Gayle Schambach and the granddaughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Jenny Schambach. We extend our sympathy to this family in their time of loss.

Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Nate) Steffen underwent valve replacement surgery on January 12 and is now recovering at home. We pray for her continued recovery.

Illinois, Eureka

Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

Family is a very large part of the joy of the Christmas season. We are grateful for family ties that brought us many visiting ministers this month. Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR), and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) all preached the Word, as well as Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise) and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie) both of Junction, OH. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) also served us. Hearing the inspired Word reminds us that our blessed ties within the Family of God are the most important of all!

As one year changes into another, we realize that the hopes and dreams for 2014 now pass away, as the plans and hopes for 2015 dawn.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Helen Knecht, Bro. Ervin (Sis. Sandy) Knecht, Bro. Ed (Sis. Judie) Knecht, Bro. Ernie (Sis Judie) Knecht, Bro. Richard (Sis. Janet, dec.) Knecht (all of Eureka), and Bro. Wally (Kay) of Roanoke on the death of their brother-in-law Si (Thelma) Hoffman of Garden Grove, IA.

Sincere sympathy is also extended to Bro. George Saathoff on the loss of his wife, Sis. Thelma. She was the mother of Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Mark) Zimmerman and Sis. Deb (Bro. Bruce) Fischer of Roanoke. Our special prayers are offered for these loved ones who suffered loss over the holidays, as the parting then seems especially difficult. We also pray for many going through their first Christmas without a dear loved one, and for all those feeling a special ache at this time. One of the best things to anticipate about Heaven is no more ache of separation.
Certainly the best way to start afresh is with the direction and blessing of the Lord. We rejoice that Andrew Zimmerman has responded to God’s call and is seeking a new way of life and a new heart as the new year begins. He is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl. Another new convert is Hannah Martin, daughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Becki. Hearing that souls are repenting lifts our spirits. We pray the converts will find 2015 to be their best year yet as they lay their foundation of faith.

New babies brought the joy of new beginnings and dreams to two families. Avery Kay was born to Jeremy and Kayla (Hartter) Myers of Congerville. Avery is the granddaughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet Hartter. Also, Kaitlyn Mae was welcomed by parents Michael and Brenda (Stoller) Geiger and her brothers, Ben and Joshua, of Hudson, NH. Kaitlyn’s grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller.

Illinois, Fairbury

Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller

“…there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10

We also rejoice and are thankful to have several new converts. Tyler Steiding (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Josiah Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), Patty Bunch, Andrea Teubel (Bro. Ed and Sis. Melanie), and Trevor Hartman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy) have recently turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that each one can build a firm foundation on Jesus Christ.

Bro. Drew Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Hannah Zimmerman (Bro. Denny and Sis. Pam, Bloomington, IL) were united in marriage on January 4. We rejoice with them and wish them God’s blessings as they walk the path of life together.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. We thank Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegang (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Matt Knapp (Atlanta, GA), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX) for preaching the truths of God’s Word to us.

“In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Saviour.” The Best Refuge, Zion’s Harp #46, verse 1

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Pat Hartman in the death of her sister-in-law, Freida Bell (Frankfort, IN), on December 31 and to Sis. Marguerite Lorch in the loss of her sister-in-law, Karan Kilgus (Rudy, Congerville, IL), who passed away on January 1. Arlene Farley (Charles) and Sis. Carol Virklar bid farewell to their sister, Sis. Thelma Saathoff (Bro. George, Eureka, IL), on January 4 and we extend our sympathy to them at this time of loss.

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell and their family during the recent illness and death of her father, Fred Voeste (Helen), who passed away on January 6. He was also a brother-in-law to Bro. John (Sis. Eunice) Stork. May God comfort this family.

Sis. Lucille Steffen passed away on January 17. We extend our deepest sympathy to her sons, Bro. Keith (Sis. Cathy, Washington, IL) and Jerry (Elizabeth, Miami Beach, FL), and her sisters, Frieda Schupbach and Rosella Bauer both of Cisna Park, IL. May God’s peace and nearness be felt by each one who has lost a loved one.

Bro. Ralph Buhler (Sis. Jeannette), Sis. Marguerite Lorch, and Charles Farley (Arlene) have recently undergone surgery or spent time in the hospital. May each one feel our love and prayers.

Illinois, Forrest

Karla Zimmerman, Molly Zimmerman

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

As the New Year has arrived and we reflect on 2014 and look forward to 2015, there are probably many regrets and many resolutions being made. We rejoice that we don’t have to bear our past burdens anymore and we don’t have to go forward alone. Jesus Christ has made us new and we can trust in Him as we reflect on our past and look forward to our future! To God be the Glory!

We extend our thanks to visiting Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Mark Klaus...
(Athens, AL) for being willing to preach to our congregation this past month.

We rejoice as a new little boy was born into the world! Owen John Mueller was born on January 6 to our Bro. Tim and Sis. Myra Mueller. Siblings are older brothers, Conner and Cody, and older sister, Olivia. Excited grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Bro. Ron and Sis. Loida Mueller. We also rejoice as a new little girl was welcomed into the world! Cassia Morgan Zimmerman was born in Haiti to our Bro. David and Sis. Janella as they serve in the mission field at Hospital Lumiere. She was welcomed by her older brother, Orrin. We are excited to meet little Cassia the next time they make it home, but, for the time being, we wish them congratulations. Excited grandparents of little Cassia are Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman and Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA).

We are saddened by the passing of Cindy Whitehouse due to a heart condition. She is the mother of Tonda Mueller (Bro. Stacy). Our prayers are with the Mueller family as they feel this loss. We also extend loving sympathy to Sis. Robin Kupferschmid (Bro. Dean) and Vicki (Ron) Schaffer and their families at the passing of their brother, Greg Gee, in Arizona.

We thank our Bro. Jeff Mueller (Sis. Sarah) and Bro. John Schmidgall (Sis. Janet) as they have served in Sunday School and have now finished their terms. Your care and devotion to teaching our children has been a wonderful blessing.

**Illinois, Goodfield**

**Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey**

“For this child I prayed;…”

*1 Samuel 1:27*

A belated, but loving welcome to little Zane Randall, born October 27 to Bro. Randy and Sis. Roxy Blunier. His siblings: Katie, Nadia, Nicholas, and Rachel are thrilled to include him into their family circle. His grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand, and Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy Blunier (Eureka, IL).

Bro. Curt and Sis. Larisa Wettstein welcomed a little girl on December 28. Her name is Ebony Maelynn. Her siblings are Isabella and Brodie. Her grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke, IL).

On December 29, precious Zailey Grey was born to Drew and Katherine Bauman. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bauman.

Clayton Jay was born on January 7 to Bro. Fred and Sis. Megan Rokey. Clayton’s grandparents are Sis. Judy Knapp and the late Stan Knapp, and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey.

We want to keep Bro. Barry & Sis. Joyce Kloter in our prayers as they will be in Arkansas with World Relief until April.

Additional prayers extend to our Sis. Erin Davis (Jamaica), Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan Plattner and family (Haiti), and Bro. Eric and Sis. Carrie Wiegand and family (Zambia) as they serve in the missionary fields away from home.

“The Gospel bells are joyful, As they echo far and wide, Bearing notes of perfect pardon, Thro’ a Saviour crucified. Good tidings of great joy To all people do I bring, Unto you is born a Savior, Which is Christ the Lord and King.”

*Gospel Hymns #125*

Through the Christmas season and into the New Year, we were blessed with many visiting ministers, including Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL), Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. DonnaLou, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL).

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

A daughter, Brooklyn Marie Ringger, was born on July 13. Her parents are Bro. Jamen and Sis. Whitney Ringger. She has a sister, Abrie, 2. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold, Princeville, and the late Bro. Stan, and Sis. Colleen Ringger, Gridley. May God grant grace to this couple in training up this young child in the ways of the Lord.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Brandon
Emch, Kansas City, MO, Ron Bollier, Indianapolis, IN, and Ed Fritz, Washington, IL. We thank God for their efforts. We were blessed by their messages, as led by the Holy Spirit.

A daughter, Chandler Grace, was born to Brandon and Cathy Jones on December 3. She was born with some heart difficulties and underwent surgery in Chicago. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, and Skip and Carol Jones, all of Gridley. Surely we pray for this infant’s survival and well being.

In early January the old Apostolic Christian Church on Route 24 (the predecessor to our current facility) was demolished. The tearing down of this old structure paves the way for a new bank to be located on this site. The building was not used as a church since 1970 when our congregation moved to our current one on East 6th Street. Old things eventually give way to new. As one brother noted, “God is no respecter of bricks and mortar.”

Our current church building is being remodeled, fairly extensively. More space and a new carport are being constructed on the north end, and many improvements are being made inside, including an enlargement of the dining room, and fellowship areas.

Tyler Gramm is recovering from dental surgery. Sis. Gerry Sievers has congestive heart failure. Bro. Clyde Kuntz is recovering from a heart attack. Randy Funk has been transferred from the hospital to the Eureka Home.

December 21 was the beautiful wedding day of Sis. Lynnae Braker and Bro. Jay Fiechter. Sis. Lynnae is the daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker. Bro. Jay is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter, Bluffton.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane Zimmerman are thankful grandparents to a precious new granddaughter, Lucy Jane, born on December 20 to first-time parents Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Graf of Chicago. Bro. Ed and Sis. Deb Graf (Leo) are the paternal grandparents.

Our love and sympathy is shared with the family of our dear Bro. Jack Krantz as he bid farewell to this earthly home. Bro. Jack is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Dorothy; a son, Greg (Stacy); and a daughter, Angie Krantz; along with three stepdaughters: Carol (David) Robertson, Jean (Jack) Miller, and Sheri (James) Arnold. Our Bro. Eric Clark is one of his beloved grandchildren.

A sister, Elma Rinkenberger, to our Bro. Orman (Sis Kathryn) Kaiser and Bro. Harold (Sis. Helen) Kaiser passed away. We wish them our sympathy.

Our love and sympathy also is extended to Sis. Kim Zeller (Bro. Dane), Bro. Wayne Rocke (Sis. Opal), and Sis. LaVerne Kaiser in the loss of their loved one, Sis. Marilyn Huette, Tremont.

Our precious Morton Church asks for the prayers of our entire church body as we are in the planning stages of building a new house of worship. Prayer is definitely the power house that is the fuel of our beloved church body.

ILinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

Celebrate Valentine’s Day by taking a moment to receive and also ask for a special blessing for those beloved to you! “Father, I lift my beloved (spouse or family member) to you! I know that you love them even more than I do and you understand just what to do to meet their need. Please teach us how to really love those beloved to us. Help us to just commit them to your care! Help us to be thankful and silently hand them over to Jesus.”

We are thankful and appreciative for our visiting ministers. We want to thank: Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville), Bro. Matt Koehl (Sis. Emily, Sarasota), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago). Also, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington) assisted Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. with sharing the memorandum.

Illinoizes and Sis. Marilyn Huette, Tremont.
Illinois, Peoria

Pam Fritzenmeier

Bro. Brad Baurer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ), December 21, and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX), December 31, both families traveling for the holidays, brought us the Good News of Jesus.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Barb Thomas on the passing of her mother, Sis. Mazie Thomas, December 29.

The Bible Class pancake supper was held at the Fellowship Hall, January 10. Thank you to all who worked and attended this worthy fund-raiser.


Bro. Chris Kummer (Sis. Patty) was elected to the trustee board and Sis. Joan Reinhard (Bro. Tim) as a Sunday school teacher at our annual business meeting January 11.


There are always loved ones needing prayers for health reasons. These include Bro. Don (Sis. Velma) Hoerr, Sis. Maria Graham, Bro. Mike Wiegand, Sis. Karen Dunbar, Sis. Nanette David, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Mary Funk, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Sis. Dee Metzger, Sis. Linda Miller, Mary See, Andrea (Aaron) Staley, and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Melissa) Waibel.

Illinois, Princeville

Gloria White, Renee Herrmann

Blessings have come to us through visiting ministers. This month has included Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Peoria), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago) and Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH).

Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter are thankful to be grandparents again. Abraham Thomas made his arrival on January 8 to Bro. Adam and Sis. Brittney Endress (Bradford, IL).

Those needing our prayers for infirmities of this earthly body are Harvey Stahl and Sis. Edith Stahl. Sis. Edith has decided to recover this winter at our Skylines Nursing Home in Peoria.

Our prayers are with Bernice Streitmatter in the passing of her beloved husband, Andrew. Their children are Ricky (Bruce) Kiesling of Belleville, WI, Chuck (Linda) Streitmatter of Edelstein, IL and Sue (Brian Gass) Abel of Trivoli, IL.

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna Gehrig bid farewell to their mother, Helen Gehrig of Edelstein, IL. Let us beprayful for those who have lost loved ones.

Bro. George Baer has moved to the condominiums in Eureka. We will miss him. but we hope he can return often to worship with us.

Illinois, Roanoke

Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

We thank our visiting ministers, who shared God’s Word with us: Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver), Bro. Mike Leman (Portland), Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena), and Bro. Brad Metz (Bloomington).

On January 14 Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Frank Sauder read the Memorandum to our church.

Our prayers are with those who face health challenges or are recovering from surgery. We pray for Bro. Denny (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Sis. Karel (Bro. Nate) Hoffman, Sis. Louise Fehr, Bro. Fred (Sis. Cheri) Janssen, Sis. Pearl Leman, and Bro. Tom (Sis. Mary) Sauder.

We give our love and sympathy to the families, who have lost loved ones. Floyd Schroeder of East Peoria passed away December 22. He was a brother of Bro. Duane (Sis. Rachel) Schroeder.

Sis. Thelma (Bro. George) Saathoff (Eureka) passed away January 4. She was the mother of Sis. Debbie (Bro. Bruce) Fischer.

Bro. Richard (Sis. Dorothy, deceased) Fischer died January 16. He is survived by his children: Shirley (Steve) Willard of Cape Coral, FL, Sonya (Doug) Davee of Charleston, IL, and Bro. Steve (Sis. Joyce) Fischer of Bluffton, IN; sisters: Lila Decker of Roanoke, Sis. Laverne (Bro. Albert) Butikofer of Elgin, IA, Velda (Dick) Fisher of Aurora,
IL, and Ann Freesmeyer of Pekin; sisters-in-law, Sis. Marge Fischer, Sis. Sara (Bro. Jim) Byrd, and Sis. Pat Fischer; 9 grandchildren; and 1 great granddaughter.

We welcome five precious babies. Avery Esther was born to Chris and Emily Miller of Eureka on December 19. Bro. Tim and Sis. Linda Martin and Dr. David and Bonnie Miller of Eureka are grandparents.


Bro. Curt, Sis. Larissa, Brodie and Isabella Wettstein added Ebony Maelynn to their family on December 28. Grandparents are Br. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein.

On January 3, Benjamin Andrew was born to Andy and Lindsey Pfister of Plymouth, WI. His grandparents are Norm and Marti Deets of Milledgeville, IL and Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Pfister.

Cecelia Amy was born on January 13 to Jon and Jessi Schwind. Her grandparents are Bill and Janet Rosecrans of Brimfield and Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Schwind. What a gift from God each of these little ones are!

On the morning our little Cecelia was born, fresh, white snow was falling. Before the sun rose it looked like sparkling diamonds on the ground. Our hearts were overflowing with thankfulness for the gift of new life. The snow made me think of Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” How wonderful that our Lord offers us new life in Him!

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Teresa Rowell, Janice Sauder**

We were blessed again to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Among our Christmas-time visitors were two visiting ministers: Bro. DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN). We were thankful for each one who assembled with us.

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Romans 12:15

We are rejoicing with Bro. Dallas Haerr and Sis. Rebecca Bolliger (both of Taylor, MO) at the news of their wedding plans for June, 2015. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger and Bro. Shon and Sis. Peg Haerr (Taylor) are the parents. We also wish God’s blessings for Brooklyn Sinn and Brianna Schwandner, as they are planning to be married in September, 2015. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail Sinn and Andy and Roberta Schwandner (Morton, IL) are their parents.

For our dear families that weep, we weep with you. Our Sis. Marilyn Huette has gone to her eternal rest. We extend sympathy to her husband, Bro. Bill; children: Susan (Rick) Berchtold, Bro. Dave (Sis. Susan) Huette, Sis. Barb (Bro. Dave) Kaeb, and Sis. Anne (Bro. Dave) Dill, all of Tremont; Bro. Doug (Sis. Jill) Huette of Peoria, AZ; and Greg (Sallie) Huette of Elmhurst, IL and their families. We mourn the passing of our Sis. Frances Koch (the late Bro. David). We also extend sympathy to her four sons and their families: Bro. Dave (Sis. June), Bro. Ken (Sis. Amy), Bro. Roger (Sis. Sally) and Dennis (Michelene), all of Tremont. May God’s comfort be very real to our dear loved ones at this time of sorrow.

We are happy to announce three little ‘firstborns’. Jason and Lisa Leigh welcome a little son, Garrett Jeffery. Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach are his happy grandparents. Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi welcome another grandson, Joel Andrew. His new parents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Cyrena Rassi of Omaha, NE/Bern, KS. John and Sarah Howell also have a newborn, John Thomas M. Dale Howell, Jr. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Blunier. We ask a special blessing on these little ones.

May God continue to grant His healing and care for our dear ones that have had surgeries or suffered illness. They are: Bro. Elmer Kaeb, Bro. Gene Koch, Bro. Vernon (Sis. Ruth) Koch, Jon (Nichole) Zimmerman, Della Schweigert, Sis. Lori (Bro. Simon, III) Wagenbach, and Sis. Ann (Bro. Richard) Steiner. We need the prayers of those we love!
Illinois, Washington

Marlene Prather, Jodi Fehr

We appreciate the brothers who ministered to us this month including Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri) of Princeville, Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) of Portland, Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan) of Magdalena, and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo) of Leo.

We have been blessed with two new babes born recently. Jadon Elijah was born on November 7 to Maria Kellenberger and welcomed home by big brother Josiah. Jadon’s grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger.

Bro. Drew and Sis. Jodi Fehr and big brothers, Teyden and Bowen, lovingly welcomed Ellia Rae on January 15. Grandparents are Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker of Eureka.


We continue to lift Sis. Betty Klaus up in prayer as she battles health concerns.

Indiana, Bluffton

Suzie Fiechter, Kim Meyer

“Now thank we all our God with heart, and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices, Who from our mother’s arms has blest us on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.”

Zion’s Harp #236

Martin Rinkert, the author of “All Come and Thank the Lord”, lived in the early 1600’s. He penned these words while pastoring a church in Eilenburg, Germany, in the midst of the horrors of the Thirty Years’ War. As pestilence and death swept through the city, he officiated at many funerals each day. Yet, he was able to look beyond his circumstances and praise the Almighty God!

We were recently challenged by ministering Bro. Dewayne Dill to think about how we view life. Do we follow God because He is all we have, or do we follow Him in confidence that HE IS GOD?! May we lift our eyes off our earthly bonds to our loving Father, put our trust in Him and praise Him for all He has done and is doing!

It’s challenging to praise Him in times of uncertainty and sickness. Our prayers are with our loved ones who face many forms of illness: Sis. Brenda (Bro. Troy) and Taylen Kipfer, Bro. Keith (Sis. Ruth) Baumgartner, Jeremy (Bro. John and Sis. Trudi) Eisenmann, Bro. Harold (Sis. Violet) Meyer, Sis. Millie Schladenhauffen and Sis. Luella Geisel.

Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. Luann, LaCrosse) of Detroit and Sis. Alyssa Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Trudi) were united as one in Christ. We were blessed with many visiting ministers. Thank you to Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Waldbeser (Atlanta), Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit), Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser (Detroit), Bro. Dwayne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Minneapolis), Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (LaCrosse), Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Isch (Philadelphia), Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (LaCrosse) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringer (Bluffton North). We will miss Sis. Alyssa and her beautiful smile, but know our Detroit brethren will welcome and take good care of her.

We are rejoicing that Cody Walburn (Bro. Jim and Sis. Lora) has come to the Lord in repentance. We pray that he would experience God’s converting power as he surrenders all to Him.

Our love and prayers follow our Bro. David Wolf, as he has accepted a job and has relocated to Phoenix.

to Ben and Hannah Reinhard.

God has given Bro. Aaron and Sis. Cassie Gerber little Corrie Joelle to love and nurture. Her grandparents are Bro. Darryl and Sis. Ginny Gerber and Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch.

Our congregation has embarked on a year-long New Testament reading program. We are reading 5 chapters a week and anticipate its guiding our hearts and conversation. We have also started a church-wide Bible Study, where we will be closely examining five specific New Testament passages. We look forward to growing together through the power of His precious Word!

“Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace, His full redemption send, And free us from all ills, Sustain us to the end. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, The Son and Holy Ghost, who dwell in highest heaven, The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore, Who is and shall survive, Now and forevermore.”

All Come and Thank the Lord, Zion’s Harp #236

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser
You’re writing a Gospel, a chapter each day,
By the deeds you do and the words you say.

Others read what you write, faultless or true,
So what is the Gospel according to you?


On December 14, our congregation was treated to the blessed story of our Savior’s birth through song. The Sunday School students did a wonderful job at our annual program. We thank them for their time and effort.

Our congregation was blessed to have Bro. Jeff (Sis. Margo) Waibel from Leo visit us. He shared God’s Word with us on December 21. We thank both of them for their time and encouragement.

New Year’s Eve Services were held at Bluffton North. What a blessed way to welcome the new year and remind us of our true focus for the future.

We rejoiced with the angels with the testimonies and baptisms of Olimpia Gerber (Levi) and Daniel Shorb. We wish them God’s richest blessings with their walk with the Lord.

A new year has recently started, and we are so thankful for God’s mercy that is new every morning, not just every year! Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne) from Denver, CO shared God’s Word with us on a recent Sunday. We are always thankful for visitors.

At the end of 2014, church services and the annual New Year’s Eve program were a wonderful way to prepare our hearts and minds for 2015. We are thankful for all who contributed to make it a special evening.

We want to extend our loving sympathy to the family of Bro. Carroll Messer, including his dear wife, Sis. Annabelle, their son, Michael (wife Dawn) of Crescent City, CA, and his brother, Paul Messer, Jr. of Big Bear City, CA. We also extend sympathy to Dick Boehning of Lafayette, IN in the death of his dear wife, Phyllis (Albrecht). Dick, Phyllis and their family assembled with us for many years.

Sis. Rosella Bucher, Sis. Diane Clevenger (Jon), and Arial Gudeman (Darin) have spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray for continued healing for each of them.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Gail Bradford, Sandy Lichtle

On December 17, we enjoyed a blessed evening of Christmas caroling to several families in our community. It was an encouragement to share the good news of Jesus’ birth through song and fellowship.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

Lamentations 3: 22 & 23 “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 engagement of Bro. Daniel Bollier (Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie) and Sis. Kaylin Leuthold (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doreen) was made known on December 21. We rejoice with them and pray for God’s blessings to be with them as they plan a May wedding.

Our annual church business meeting was held on January 14. We appreciate the servant hearts of those who have completed their terms and are prayerful for those who will serve in the coming year. The new officers for this year include: Trustee - Bro. Matt Ackerman, Usher - Bro. Jonathan Wales, Head Song Leader - Bro. Morgan Langhofer and Kitchen Committee - Sisters Marcelle Gress and Heather Hoerr.

Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler have moved to Ft. Myers, FL to work for the new Midwest Food Bank there. We appreciated worshiping with them and wish them God’s richest blessings going forward.

Indiana, Lacrosse

Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

The holiday season is a wonderful time to spend with family. We were blessed this season to have many families of our home brethren come for a visit. Among these visitors were ministering Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN). The month of January also brought a special evening in which we shared a meal, sweet fellowship, and then gathered for the reading of the Memorandum. We send our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Jim Plattner and his wife Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Curt, ministering to us on Sunday, and adding to the rich blessings of the weekend.

We also shared times of sorrow this month as we laid two loved ones to rest. Sis. Margaret “Sis” Heinold passed away on December 18, at the age of 86. She had been weakening for some time. While we will miss her smile and energetic personality, we are thankful she could be released to her heavenly home. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Bro. Harold Heinold, daughter Donna (Heinold) Hall, and second husband Bro. Richard Zimmerman. Our prayers are with her daughter, Ann, and husband, Dan Hanson of Bozeman, MT, son-in-law, Steve Hall of Greenwood, IN, and her loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We will also miss the faithful presence of Gene Stoller who came to church for many years. He continued to attend our services at the Parkview Haven nursing home in Francesville, IN where he lived the past several years. He passed away on January 12, at the age of 89. His funeral was held on January 17, his 90th birthday. We pray his family will feel our Lord’s comforting hand.

Sis. Pearl Nuest recently spent some time in the hospital, but we are happy to report she is now feeling better and back in her apartment at Parkview Haven and has even felt up to attending church with us again. Makayla Martin (Jason & Karla) had her second foot surgery done just before Christmas, and we are thankful to see her up & about again.

Ending on a joyful note, Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom & Sis. LuAnn) and Sis. Alyssa Eisenmann (Bro. John & Sis. Trudy) were united in marriage in Bluffton, IN on January 4. We rejoice with this dear couple and look forward to whenever they can visit us from their new home near Detroit, MI!

Indiana, Leo

Kirby Reutter

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

In Jerusalem:

First I received the following email: “Challenge: Be a praying church and stay connected! Converts: Connor Beer, Brianna Dailey, Dayla Drayer, Hope Fischer, Kelsey Kaeb, Abby Kaufman, Abrey Plattner, Holly Rager, Michaela Slagel, Aviah Wieland, and Bethany Young.”

In Judea:

Then I received the following note, which our most difficult Gateway resident gave to his
House Mother: “I wanted to say all that I’m doing, I would not have been able to do without your help. I’m also starting to see a change in myself. So I thank you guys for helping, and for praying for me, and I thank you guys for continuing to help me, even after I have disrespected you guys. It really means a lot to me. You guys are like another family to me. Anyways I am going to continue to work on my behaviors; there is always room for improvement. But anyways, thank you guys so much; it really means a lot to me that you have not given up on me.”

**In Samaria:**

Then I received this email: “Here is a reminder of the board members who will be coming to campus this weekend to serve us. Please take a moment to pray for them and their families today: Bro. Ken Roth (Forrest); Bro. Brian Furrer (West Lafayette); Bro. Troy Reimschisel (Leo); Bro. Don Lehman (South Bend); Bro. Marvin Beer (Mansfield); Bro. Mark Herrmann (Washington); Bro. Dave Kaeb (Bloomington); Bro. Jeff McAfee (Bluffton); Bro. Warren Rauhe (Alto); Bro. Carlton Schlatter (Smithville); and Bro. Brent Stoller (Congerville).”

**Uttermost Parts of the Earth:**

And then I received this email: “Challenge: Be a praying church and stay connected! Leo Church Family – Out of the Country: Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tricia Fiechter (Jordan); Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy Gerst (Ethiopia); Sis. Ruthie Kaufman (Nepal); Bro. Josh and Sis. Kaitlyn Ramsier (Dominican Republic); Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schumacher (Dominican Republic); Bro. Blake and Sis. Tashi Widmer (Jamaica); Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand (Zambia); and Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa Beyer (Mexico).”

**Back at the Ranch:**

Now that 2015 is in full swing, I have realized that the only constant is change. Consider the first email update from our fearless Residential Manager: “Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachael Ringer (our newest recruits) plan to begin in January of 2015. Once they are up and going, the House Parent configuration will be as follows: Oak House: Drayers / Donaghys; Maple House: Bahlers / Strahms; Cypress House: Ringgers I / Fischers; Pine House: Hubers / Ringgers II.” (The good news is that I still haven’t learned the old configuration, so hopefully the new one doesn’t confuse me too much.)

And then I realized that some things never change at all. Consider the second email update from our fearless Residential Manager: “Hickory House update: We are still working to receive a permit from the Indiana Department of Health. It has been a frustratingly slow process. Once we have the permit, we have contractors lined up to begin work to open up the central part of the Hickory House.”

In conclusion, I am so thankful that our salvation does not depend on the Indiana Department of Health. Rather, let us all be thankful for the Spirit which empowers us to witness—both in Leo and in all Gateway—and in Forrest, West Lafayette, South Bend, Mansfield, Washington, Bloomington, Bluffton, Alto, Smithville, Congerville—and even in Jordan, Ethiopia, Nepal, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Zambia, and Mexico.

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”

**Indiana, Milford**

**Minnie Beer, Jodi Beer**

We appreciated having visiting ministers: Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Athens), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman), Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty) and Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley). God bless them for their willingness to serve.

We were thankful for a safe trip for our High School Sunday School students and parents who went on a work team trip to CVE in Magdalena, MX over Christmas Break.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab are thankful for a new grandson. Tanner Drew was born to Greg and Kelli Koutsouros. Tyler Jay was born to first-time parents Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Beer. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer and Sis. Mary Krueger (Elgin, IL). God’s blessings to each one!

Our thoughts and prayers...
have been with Bro. Walt Steffen as he had surgery, spent time in the hospital and is now at a local nursing home. Bro. Walt has always been an encouraging example wherever he is and we pray that God will bless him as he adjusts to being in a new place.

Our annual business meeting was held recently. Our thanks and appreciation to everyone who has completed their terms and to those who have accepted new positions.

**Indiana, Remington**  
*Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler*

Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie) from Bloomfield was our visiting minister this month. We always appreciate our visitors and hope they will come again soon.

Sis. Lucille Steffen, Ron Getz (Sis. Jeanne), Kevin Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Mary Kilgus, Sis. Diane Isabell (Bro. Phil), convert Wes Corbin, and Bro. Kurt Bahler (Sis. Patti) have all recently spent some time in the hospital. We have been prayerful for each one as they recover and ask God to heal them and comfort them in their afflictions.

We had our annual business meeting and elections this month. We want to thank all those who have completed their terms of service, whether it was as a Sunday school teacher or a trustee or various other committees and offices. Our church couldn’t function and thrive without each member giving and sharing their gifts for the benefit of all. We also want to welcome those whose terms are just beginning and give them our prayerful support.

As we look forward to the month ahead, we want to remember to be prayerful for our Elder Body as they prepare for their winter conference. May God guide their thoughts and discussions and may their decisions reflect His will for our church.

**Note of thanks:**  
Thank you all for remembering us during the death of our brother, Elmer, with cards and food. Also for the Christmas cards and caroling this Christmas season – all is appreciated.

Sis. LaVina & Sis. Velda Beckley, Nancy Beckley and family

**Indiana, South Bend**  
*Joshua Martinez*

“Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.”  
*Psalm 150: 1-2*

We recently met for an evening of pizza, fun and soup packaging for World Relief. We appreciate Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky Langhofer’s efforts in organizing our gathering.

Arlene Kaehr shared the news of the safe arrival of her newest great-grandchild, William Jackson.

On December 18, Sis. Sharon Flis joyfully welcomed granddaughter Elora Miriam (Ben and Barbara Flis) into her family. God’s blessings to you in the New Year!

“He let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”  
*Matthew 5:16*

**Indiana, West Lafayette**  
*Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl*

Blessings abound as the New Year greets us!

Counting our many blessings...Bro. Luke and Sis. Dani Furrer welcome a daughter, Stella Kate, born January 18. Little Owen, and grandparents Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich (Francesville) rejoice as well.

Our church family welcomes Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab! We were blessed by their hospitality as they opened their home for an evening of food and fellowship...praise God for His gift of sweet fellowship!

We also rejoice in the Good News of the Gospel reaching out to souls willing to surrender. Avery Pritts, son of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kelli Pritts, grandson of Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel, has answered that call!
We are thankful to report that Ron Getz has been able to assemble with us again after a short hospital stay.

Thank you Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler (Wolcott) for beginning our new semester with the Word!

Indiana, Wolcott
Erica Blume, Beckie Lehman

Another year has begun and we are looking into the unknown months ahead. Because God knows all of our tomorrows, we can look forward without trepidation or fear. He has promised to walk with us every step of the way.

In December we were able to enjoy the presentation of the Nativity story given by the Sunday School children. We appreciate the effort that the students and teachers alike put forth to share the story of the birth of our Savior.

We extend our sympathy to Ron and Donna Kyburz with the passing of her mother, Betty Criswell. We pray that God will bring comfort at this time of loss.

Scott and Sis. Diane Mailloux welcomed two new grandchildren to their family in December. Wesley and Charity Mailloux are thankful for the safe arrival of their twins, Wyatt and Winston. We wish them many blessings as they watch their babies grow.

Congratulations to Hannah Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) and Andres Salazar on their recent marriage engagement. God be with them as they look forward to their future together.

Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy) from Washington, IL served us one Sunday recently. We are thankful for his willingness to share the Word with our congregation.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller celebrated their 60th anniversary. We rejoice with them and are thankful for their godly example of Christ’s love.

We met this past week for our annual meeting as a church. God bless each one who completed a term in an office at church. Our prayers are with each one who was newly-elected and will willingly serves.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Teresa Schock

It was such a blessing to have Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver CO) here to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. It was mentioned that the strength of the family is the key to a strong church. (You have to BE THERE.) We were encouraged in the love of God and the faith of the Gospel.

May God reward Bro. Mike for ministering to us on Sunday also.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger have another granddaughter, Elena Joy. She was born January 10 to Anthony and Sarah Esslinger of Mediapolis. She has a sister Norah. Maternal grandparents are Bob and Edra Kuntz.

Our sympathy to Sis. Kendra and Bro. Chet Schlatter in the loss of their grandma, Sis. Pauline Wieland (Latty, OH). “Jesus knows thy sorrow…”

We remember those that have special health issues and are at times unable to assemble with us: Sis. Mary Wiegand (Bro. Dave) and Bro. Bill (Sis. Gloria) Wuthrich.

Food for thought: Wouldn’t it be nice if we could find other things as easily as we find fault? (taken from the Elgin, IL cookbook)

Iowa, Burlington
Ivy Steiner, Monica Eisenmann

Greetings! We thank Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) for visiting our congregation and ministering to us. We also appreciated the Princeville brethren who came with him. It’s a blessing to have Sis. Charity Scheitlin assembling with us again after a hospitalization and long recovery.

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer’s family in the passing of Sis. LaVerne’s brother, Bro. Richard Fischer (Roanoke, IL). May God comfort and sustain them in this time of loss.

We appreciate the efforts of the two visiting ministers we had this month: Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). May God richly bless them.

“Hasten gladly to the labor. Consecrate to God your heart. Say this day unto your Saviour, Lord, I’ll gladly do my part.” The Golden Harvest,
Hymns of Zion #46
Our annual business meeting was held this month. Bro. Trent Schmidgall was elected trustee. The following brothers were elected to serve on our cemetery committee: Bro. Kent Getz (counseling minister), Bro. John Schupbach, Bro. Dean Rocke and Bro. Jim Knobloch.

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk
We are enjoying warmer weather than usual for January. We are thankful for the fragile baby lambs that arrive on these sunny days. I have to think how God nurtures, warms and cares for a new lamb that has sought the Lord in repentence.

Bringing the Word to us this past month were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Gerry Wagenbach (Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Greg Fehr (West Bend, IA). We are thankful for the teachings these servants bring and for the loved ones who travel with them.

All are welcome to come visit!

Iowa, Iowa City
Diana Butikofe
We were thankful to have Bro. Jon and Sis. Sharon Pratt (Valparaiso, IN) visit again this month and appreciate Jon’s willingness to serve us from the pulpit as well.

Our Sunday School children presented the stories of men and women throughout the Bible who, despite mistakes, were used by God for His purpose and will. If we have faith and are willing, He can still use us as well.

Iowa, Lester
Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

“Another year is dawning. Dear Master, let it be, on earth or else in Heaven another year with Thee.”

Hymns of Zion #150

When the annual statistics were read to us at our New Year’s Eve service, they showed 16 births, 5 deaths, and 8 baptisms in our congregation for 2014. May we remember that in times of happiness, as well as times of sadness, God is our refuge and our strength.

Over the Christmas season and in the past month, we were blessed by several visiting ministers who shared our pulpit. They included Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville/Mediapolis, IA), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzl (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Matthew Manz (Toledo, OH), Bro. Fred Domka, (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Curt Walter (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris North, MN), Bro. Mitch Fehr (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), and Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN). We thank them for bringing the inspired Living Word.

We want to congratulate semester college graduates, Bro. Tad Meyer, on his graduation from ISU in Ames, IA, and Sis. Janae Mogler, who graduated from SDSU in Brookings, SD. We wish these young people well as they pursue their life’s work. Sis. Janae has moved near the Winthrop, MN area for her employment, while Bro. Tad plans to remain in the Ames area while his wife, Sis. Kendra, completes her education there. Sis. Kayla Feuchtenberger (originally from Morris, MN) also graduated from SDSU in December, and we congratulate her and welcome her as she assembles with us in Lester now that she has accepted employment in our area.

On January 1, Deanne Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam) married McTeer Millington. We are glad to have them worshiping with us in Lester and wish them God’s rich blessings as they establish their home! On January 4, Sis. Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie) became the bride of Bro. Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). We will miss Sis. Whitney’s presence here, but know she will be an asset to the Toledo, OH congregation, where she will now be at home. We wish both of these dear couples God’s love and direction in their marriage.

Congratulations are extended to Kayla Larson and to her parents, Jerry and Debbie, on her engagement and upcoming marriage to Tylor Koepp. We wish this young couple God’s blessings as they plan for their lives together.
Spending time in the hospital this past month were: Sis. Beth (Bro. Myron) Knobloch, Bro. Vern (Sis. Chalea) Knobloch, and Bro. Delbert (Sis. June) Knobloch. We pray for God’s healing touch where possible, and for His grace and strength to see us through times where healing is not a reality.

Bro. Morris & Sis. Tonya Metzger were blessed by the birth of their second son, Easton Morris, on December 30. Big brother, Cullen, is excited for a future playmate. Happy grandparents are Bro. Glen & Sis Joyce Metzger. We pray for God’s blessings and guidance on this young family.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Dale & Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch and family on the death of her brother, Bro. James Metzger (Morton, IL). Family ties are so precious, and help to draw the circle tight again, even when one link is broken.

“For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?” 1 Cor. 14: 8

This verse opened to me twice in as many days over the weekend of January 17-18, when we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two young men, and welcome Caleb Moser (Bro. Wes & Sis. Esther) and Vance Metzger (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Polly) as our newest brothers-in-faith. How thankful we can be that we still hear the trumpet sounding clearly and that there are still those preparing for the battle! These are uplifting times, when each of us remember to renew our own vows to serve God, renouncing sin, and living our lives dedicated to Him!

The annual church services at Clyde Park, Montana will be held the weekend of June 27-28, 2015. Please contact Bro. Gene Metzger at 712-472-2187 or Wes Moser 712-478-4622 with any questions, or email: wemoser@juno.com, or gdmetzger@hickorytech.net.

Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis

Sharla Wiegand

Our Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach passed from this life into eternity on December 16. Her sweet smile and encouraging ways will be missed. We extend our love and sympathy to her husband, Bro. John Wagenbach and their children: Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene; Sis. Beth and Kent Steffen (Congerville, IL), Sis. Jerilyn and Bro. Joe Yackley (Taylor, MO); Heidi and Nathan Larson; Sis. Mary and Bro. Tom Lanz.

Visiting ministers on December 21 were Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Bro. Dallas Massner (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Aaron Frank (Elgin, IA). We were thankful to have Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Greg Fehr (West Bend, IA) minister to us on Christmas Day. Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) shared the Word with us on December 28. May the Lord richly bless all who labor in His vineyard.

Note of Thanks:
The family of Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach sincerely thanks everyone for their many loving and varied expressions of sympathy. We also appreciate the efforts of those who were able to attend the visitation and funeral. God bless each one. Bro. John Wagenbach & family

Iowa, West Bend

Yvonne Bruellman, Becky Virkler

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) were here and shared the Word of Life. What a blessing to know that each time we assemble in God’s house, the Lord will provide.

Martha Demiter, wife of the late Bro. Paul Demiter, passed from this life into eternity. Our sympathy and prayers go out to this family in their loss.

Bro. Philip and Sis. Colleen Virkler have been blessed with a baby boy, Liam Samuel. Elma Grace welcomes her little brother home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr and Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler.

January 3 was the wedding of Mike Zaugg and Tiffanie Dau. Mike is the son of Sis. Dorothy Zaugg. May God bless this union of hearts.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to John and Cindy Bruellman in the loss of their son-in-law, Dan (Jonna) Quinn. May God’s arm of comfort be around this entire family during their time of grieving.
Tokyo, Japan
Marie Inoue

The new year of 2015 is well underway. January brings bright sunshine to the Pacific Rim side of Japan. That includes us, and we are very thankful even though the evenings are very cold.

Our guests have departed for home. The Kellenbergers, as mentioned in last month’s news were able to visit Bro. Yamazaki in the hospital. Bro. Keith was Yamazaki-san’s first friend of our American brethren. After they visited a while and time passed, most thought Yamazaki-san could recall and possibly recognize Bro. Keith. We thank the Kellenbergers for their love and care for those here in Japan.

We also enjoyed Bro. Wesley Schlarb of our sister church in Ancaster, Ontario, Canada. He attended a wedding here of a friend in Hokkaido and was able to visit both our churches here. We thank him for his visit and fellowship.

On a recent holiday several of our friends and brethren hiked up Mt. Jimbaya and several other high places in the Hachioji area. The winter view of Mt. Fuji in the distance was beautiful as were other scenes. The Lord God, our Creator has made everything beautiful in His time.

Kansas, Bern
Jill Meyer, Rita Menold

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven…a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance…” Ecclesiastes 3:1,4

This past month has brought both joy and sorrow to our congregation. But, how thankful we are that no matter the change in our lives, we can place our trust in the One who changes not!

We were joyful to hear the engagement of Sis. Jody Goodman (Michael and Sis. Luci) and Bro. Almanzo Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) on December 21. May they feel the Lord’s nearness as they plan for their wedding on March 29.

Also establishing a Christian home are Sis. Amanda Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) and Bro. Marcus Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori), who were united in marriage on January 18. May God bless them as they look to Him as the foundation of their home!

We extend thanks to our visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata). Our prayers are with all those that bring us the Word of life!

Bro. Phil and Sis. Cyrena Rassi welcomed little Joel Andrew into their lives on December 31. May God bless them and give them wisdom as they raise him!

We are thankful Bro. Wayne Strahm (Sis. Claudia) is home and doing well after being hospitalized for a short time. Good health is certainly a blessing and something we often take for granted.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Waneta Plattner as her dear husband of over 50 years, Bro. Eldon, was called Home on January 4. Sympathy is also extended to their children: Angela (Richard) Robuck, Sis. Beth (Bro. Dave) Hartter and Craig (Raelynn) Plattner and their families.

Also grieving the loss of a precious loved one is Sis. Linda (Bro. Wayne) Edelman and family, who bid an earthly farewell to her mother, Sis. Marian Sinn (Silverton, OR). May God comfort both of these families as they adjust to this change and grant them peace in the hope of a great reunion someday!

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Karen Kellenberger

Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine, Sabetha, KS) kindly filled in for our two ministers the Sunday after Christmas. More recently, Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA) shared the Word with us. We lovingly thank these ministers and their families for their support and fellowship.

“Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5

One minister made the point that we are building our spiritual
house every day and we only get one lifetime to complete it. The recipe for a crumbling spiritual house and disastrous ruin is the introduction of weak materials (our self-willed, complacent self). It is imperative to mindfully build on Jesus Christ our Solid Rock.

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Jenny Stewart

We appreciated the time and efforts put forth by our elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern) and Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) when they shared the memorandum. We pray for their efforts and the time they dedicate for each and every one of us to strengthen and protect our church with love.

“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” 1 Cor. 13:13

We have had a number of our church down with the cold and flu season. Our prayers are with each of you. May the Lord comfort and strengthen you.

“Love of all gifts is the greatest which the spirit does bestow. Though I had a voice like angels, lacking love, I truly know that I’d be a tinkling cymbal or a wretched sounding brass; For although the sound were present, lifeless through this world I’d pass.” Zion’s Harp # 37

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger

Our annual election was held the first Sunday of January. We so appreciate the willingness of each servant heart as they filled or will be filling positions. May the past and future endeavors of each servant be blessed as we labor together in the service of the Lord.

On Sunday, January 11, Elder Brothers Gerry (Sis. Ellen) Hertzel of Sabetha and Randy Kellenberger of Kansas City shared the Word of God with us. It was also made known that a recent voting for help in our pulpit has resulted in the addition of two brothers in this capacity. Bro. Justin (Sis. Liz) Isch and Bro. Aaron (Sis. Maria) Luthi received united support. Bro. Justin & Sis. Liz have 3 children. Bro. Aaron & Sis. Maria have one child. It behooves each of us to hold these young brothers up in prayer as they take their positions in proclaiming God’s Word and support Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Bro. Ron Isch in this work.

Romans 10:14-15 “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard: and how shall they hear without a preacher? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

May the following lyrics be an encouragement to all who find themselves as ministers of the Gospel (as well as each child of God).

“What a fellowship, What a Joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh, how sweet to walk In this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
What have I to dread, what have I to fear;
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near;
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, Leaning on the everlasting arms.”

Amen and Amen.

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Hartter, Dawn Strahm

“Keep Him for your gain, Earth’s pleasures are vain; Sweet rest is found only in heaven. In patience then bear All trial and care; Above streams of bliss will refresh thee.” Zion’s Harp #46

Bro. Henry (Hank) Plattner (Sis. Loree, deceased) passed away on Sunday, December 28. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his daughter, Sis. Sue Meyer, as well as children: Sis. Sandra (Bro. Doug) Aberle, Doug (Sue) Plattner, Janet (Dean) Strahm, and Joan (Kevin) Nussbaum, and their families.

Sis. Beth Hartter (Bro. Dave) and family are also in our prayers as her father, Bro. Eldon Plattner (Sis. Waneta, Bern), died on January 4. Bro. Don Plattner (Sis. Ada) is a brother to Eldon and their family has our sympathy as well.
Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) was here for both funerals. We appreciated his willingness to be used in God’s service as we bid farewell to these two dear brothers.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 13. It is always a time to be reminded of and thankful for the many acts of service on behalf of our church body. Often we fail to pray for those that go unnoticed, but faithfully work to keep the church running smoothly.

May each one do our part in praying for our elder brethren as they gather in Washington, IL for the mid-winter elder conference.

Kansas, Wichita

Max and Judy Reimschisel

The Christmas singing is still ringing in our ears, but oh what joy! As Christmas has passed and a new year begins, we are grateful to hear the Word and let it give us new encouragement.

In Sunday school, we talked of salt as an enhancer for flavor and the desire to want more. Jesus spoke to his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour , wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Mathew 5:13-16.

May we want more of God’s Word in our life this coming year, that it may be fruitful.

We are thankful, Sis. Emma Miller has been able to return to church, after being homebound for a while.

Sis. Anna Marie Warner is out of the hospital, but has not had the strength to return to church yet. It was a blessing for all of us to go out for pizza with her and then to have a singing in her home. Our prayer is for added strength and courage for our dear ones to press on.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jeff Frieden. He has had hip surgery and is recuperating at home. We trust he will have a speedy recovery.

Our little church has been blessed by a new family. You can’t imagine how thrilled we were when the Lord opened up the way for Bro. Josh & Sis. Bethany Johnson, and three lovely little girls (Emily, Erin and Ava), formerly from the Latty, Ohio congregation to move to Wichita. We are so glad to welcome them to our church. We are thankful for his employment and fellowship.

Bro. Ryan Kellenberger was part of our gathering for a while, but he has returned to Fort Scott. We are thankful for his engagement to Sis. Adrienne Bahr. We wish them God’s blessing as they take this new step together.

Mexico, Ixtlán

Ruth Gerber

What was your Christmas program like? Precious! That’s what we would say too. To hear the youngest children sing out wholeheartedly (the one that sang out the most isn’t even from a believing family, but her grandmother is a believer)...To see our adolescents participate with the Scripture readings and to look forward to the day when they will hear God’s call in their own lives...To realize that it doesn’t take angelic voices to tell of the glory of Christ’s birth...To welcome many visitors and share a meal together...To see so many of the brothers and sisters serving...

We were blessed!

We’re thankful for the new teachers that will be stepping into the middle and youngest Sunday School classes: Sis. Silvia de Ugalde and Sis. Berta de Gonzalez. We appreciate the time that Sis. Elsa Sibaja (de Cabrera) and Sis. Carmen Garcia served. As one of them said, “What will I do now that I’m not teaching? I guess I’ll take advantage of the extra opportunities to be fed.”

We pray this will be a year full of spiritual nourishment and growth for all of us. Bro. Marshall Heinold encouraged us all to consider a Read-the-Bible-through-in-a-Year reading plan and one of our new brothers promptly typed up and printed out a Spanish plan for all who would be interested.
Mexico Phone #011-52-328-551-8162, or r091681@yahoo.com

Michigan, Alto
Renee Steffen, Shelli Oesch

With visitors coming and going from near and far during the holidays, we were excited that Bro. Bjorn, Sis. Tasha and baby Alana Taba from Briedenbach, Germany, and Bro. Jon, Sis. Amy, Adia, and Jada Gerst from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, were some of our special guests.

Those who were hospitalized or had surgery this past month include Bro. Martin (Sis. Michele) Blough and Bro. Aaron (Sis. Loretta) Steffen. As we ask for the healing touch of our Father’s hand, we also continue to lift Sis. Laura (Bro. Aaron) Kaeb and her family up in prayer, as her mother, Sis. Beth Knobloch, struggles with cancer.

We wish to extend our prayers to Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) and the family, as his brother, Bro. Eldon (Sis. Waneta) Plattner, from Sabetha, KS, passed away.

We were blessed to have visiting minister Bro. Matthew (Sis. Deanna) Steffen from Princeville, IL with us on December 28. He asked if, as the bride of Christ, “Do we do everything to please the One we love?” It seems that lately God has been reminding me over and over again that I am His bride! He revealed to me that, I am not a single sister! I am promised to my Groom, Jesus Christ, betrothed to Him, a bride in waiting. I am not single, because I’ve made a covenant with Him. We must prepare for our wedding day, with much anticipation.

“And the Spirit and the bride say Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” Revelation 22:17

We certainly miss and pray for the nine couples who either go to a warmer climate, or on World Relief work teams for the winter months. May our Father watch between us all, across the miles.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

We rejoice with two of our couples who recently welcomed new grandchildren. Bro. Brian & Sis. Char Wieland welcomed a new granddaughter, Nina Grace. Nina’s parents, Matt & Jessica and older siblings, Matisin and Eli, also welcomed Nina into their hearts and home.

Bro. Rod & Sis. Evelyn Wieland welcomed a new grandson, Brennan Lee. Bro. Steve and Sis. Tiffany, Lexi, Gabe, and Austin (Detroit, MI) all were blessed by Brennan’s arrival.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have spent time in the hospital. We want to remember Sis. Linda (Norm) Andrzejewski, Sis. Connie (Bro. Dean) Pashak, and Sis. Illean Wackerle as they recover from their time in the hospital.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Pauline Wieland. Sis. Pauline had been living in Latty, OH for the last several years. Sis. Pauline was previously married to Bro. Howard Wieland from our congregation. We especially want to remember Bro. Howard’s son, Bro. Rod (Sis. Evelyn) and her sisters-in-law, Sis. Edie Meier and Sis. Laura Wieland from our congregation.

We are thankful Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) spent Christmas with their families in Michigan and were able to assist with our Christmas eve services.

At our annual business meeting in early January, the following positions were filled: Kitchen Committee: Sis. Joan (Rick) Long, Secretary: Bro. Rod (Sis. Evelyn) Wieland, Treasurer: Bro. Kurt Munsel, and Trustee: Bro. Jay (Sis. Carola) Schlatter.

On January 17-18, Glorify Hymn, a group of 9 brothers from Goodfield, Congerville and Washington visited our congregation. It was a beautiful weekend of fellowship for our congregation. We are thankful that Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield, IL) was able minister to our congregation on Sunday.

“*The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.*” Zephaniah 3:17

Note of Thanks:

With very grateful and humble hearts, Mike and I thank each
and everyone that reached out these past 10 months with your overwhelming amount of love, cards, words of encouragement, food brought into our home, gifts of love, and prayers!

We have been tremendously overwhelmed! A church family is one of God’s richest blessings, in which we are most thankful for!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
May God Richly Bless You!
Mike & Sis. Cheryl Schmidt

Michigan, Detroit
Manuela Denes

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:14,15

It’s always sad to say goodbye to those who have worshipped with us, but we’re so thrilled when they come back for visits! Recently we were happy to hear from two families and of the work they are doing out in the world, preaching the Gospel of Peace. On a recent Sunday, Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa (Bahr) Beyer came for a final goodbye before moving to Magdalena, Mexico with their five children. After church, Bro. Keith gave a testimony of how God called their family and worked in their hearts to prepare them for this move. He also informed the church of the mission, goals and status of the work at CVE—House of Life and Hope. In closing, he requested prayers from the church for the work there.

On a Wednesday evening, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller returned to the Detroit church with their four children. They have been doing intensive missionary training with New Tribes Mission and are in the final year of preparation before moving long term to Papua, New Guinea. Their responsibility will be to become assimilated into the lives and culture of a remote civilization. In addition to establishing relationships with the people, the Mueller’s will also be documenting the tribe’s language with the eventual goal of translating the Bible into that language for evangelical purposes. Some are called to go while others are called to stay back and provide prayer and other types of ministry support.

Congratulations and blessings to Bro. Jon and Sis. Alexis (Gasser) Stoller on the birth of their son, Asher Jonathan Stoller, who was born New Year’s Eve. What a wonderful gift for his three big sisters! Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller of Latty, OH.

Congratulations to Bro. Ned Troxel on his recent marriage to Sis. Alyssa Eisenmann in Bluffton, IN. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Lu Ann Troxel, Lacrosse, IN and Bro. John and Sis. Trudy Eisenmann, Bluffton North, IN. We wish them many years of happiness together. It is our hope and prayer that Alyssa will be very happy with us here in Detroit. Welcome!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Bonnie (Bro. Jesse) Bedolla, Bro. Steve Wieland (Sis. Tiffany) and Bro. Andy Wieland (Sis. Krista) on the passing of their grandmother, Sis Pauline (Stoller) Wieland of Latty, OH (formerly of Bay City, MI).

Recently, none of our home ministers were able to be at home. How thankful we were for the Lord’s provision to our membership! Much appreciation goes out to Bro. Howard Plattner of our neighboring Alto, MI church for his willingness and flexibility to come to Detroit for the day. We thank him and his son, Spencer, for being with us. Thanks also to Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Doreen) for being with us this month.

Thanks to Elder Bro. John Jackson of Bay City, MI for ministering to the residents at Woodhaven this month. We were also glad that Sis. Janet Kober and Sis. Vicki Ramseyer could accompany him.

Note of Thanks:

On behalf of my family, we are so thankful that our mother, Sis. Sanche Denes, could be released from the hospital after suffering a heart attack. God’s great love and mercy are never more evident than at times of great distress. We thank everyone
for their continued prayers and appreciate it more than can ever be expressed in words.

**Minnesota, Morris**  
*Amy Ekren, Heidi Pfaffmann*

We are ever so grateful for all of the brothers across the land that preach the Word. Visiting us this month were ministering Bros. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN).

We have many facing medical adversity, Fede Figueroa Martinez, Bros. Eric Koehl, Dennis Wulf, and Bill Moser, along with Sis. Sandy Fehr. Let’s remember to comfort those in affliction and keep them in our prayers.

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”  
1 Cor 3-4

We reflected on the past year at the New Year’s Eve service. The Morris congregation had four births, one wedding, five funerals, and three baptisms in 2014. We are thankful for God’s goodness and mercy and look forward to what He has in store for us in the New Year!

“Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.”  
Psalm 106:1

---

**Minnesota, Morris North**  
*Lois Schmidgall, Wanda Gramm*

As we start this new year …”let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”  
Col. 3:16

Our church has started two Bible studies. Some are participating in a study about Prayer, and others in the Crown Financial. It’s such a blessing to be able to study together and to learn from The Spirit, and from one another.

We have been praying for Carter (Sis. Amanda) Feauchtenberger and family. Carter has recently had back surgery. May God restore him to good health, again.

We thank our visiting ministers: Bros. Kevin Fehr from West Bend, IA, and Bro. Lowell Moser, from Morris Country Church. Thank you brothers for giving of yourself to further The Word.

Tristan Feauchtenberger (Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay) and Jordan Nelson have announced their engagement. They have set their wedding date in March. May God be with them as they start their new life together.

We are thankful for a mild winter thus far. In Minnesota, we don’t always have a winter that we can get around as freely as we have this year.

We serve an AWESOME God!

---

**Minnesota, Winthrop**  
*Lindsay Schmidt, Becky Braulick*

“As from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”  
Ephesians 4:16

Welcome to Sis. Janae Mogler (Bro Dwight & Sis Donna, Lester, IA) who has moved to Winthrop and will now worship with us. We hope she feels the love and support we have for her.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”  
Luke 2:11

The Sunday School children had their Christmas Program on Saturday December 20. What a fun and uplifting evening we had. It was another chance for family and friends to gather to hear the story of Christ’s birth. This month we also had many visitors. It was good to see families come home for the Christmas Holiday and to assemble with us.

“For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.”  
Psalm 33:4

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). We thank them for sharing God’s Word with us.

It doesn’t seem possible, but another year has come and gone. It’s good for us to take this time and be able to look back and reflect on our lives and to see how we served Christ and others and also to look forward into the New Year knowing that there is more that we can do.

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

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt, Sis. Donnabell Nelson, Andric Rubendal (Vanessa Isaacson), Bro. John Elder (Sis. Joleen) and Rich Messner were our hospital patients this month. We pray for God’s continued healing and strength for them.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” John 14:16

Our prayers and sympathies go to Bro. Jerry Messner in the loss of his wife, Millie, who passed away on December 31. Condolences also go out to their children and grandchildren. Also mourning are his Winthrop siblings: Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce), Bro. Marvin Messner, Shirley Demm, Idabell Witt (Donald), Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer) and Sister-in-law Vernita Messner (the late Bro. Melvin). We pray that they may feel God’s comfort in this time.

Missouri, Kansas City
Brittany Fehr

We were blessed to have our youth present the Christmas story to us in Word and song. We are thankful for our teachers and their time and love. Later that afternoon, we caroled at several nursing facilities and followed with our church chili supper.

Our convert, Ron Trayford, recently passed from this life. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, including his wife, Lois; daughter, Sis. Michelle Meyer; daughter, Melinda Trayford; son, Marvin (Cheryl) Trayford; son, Mike Trayford; and grandchildren, Sis. Allison, Sis. Lauren, Grant, and Blake Meyer. What a comfort to know that Ron recognized his need for his Savior and turned his heart to the Lord during his last months on earth.

Our congregation has been blessed by the labors of Elder Bros. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) and Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) who have visited recently. Elder Brother Brad shared the Word on New Year’s eve. Elder Bro. Ted assisted our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) in reading the Memorandum. We enjoyed a church supper together with them and are thankful for their willingness to share the Gospel with us on Sunday also. May the Lord bless these efforts and bring the increase.

Andrew Kellenberger, parents Bro. Brent and Sis. Beth, born October 30 at 24.5 weeks, has had some surgery and remains in the hospital. He continues to grow, and we pray for his continued progress.

Missouri, Lamar
Venetta Banwart

Our visiting ministers this month were: Kim Sutter, Taylor, MO (Sis. Vonette), Retired Elder Bro. Ron Shambach, Elgin, IL (Sis Nancy), Bro. Darren Fehr, West Bend, IA, Bro. Scott Wegman, Taylor, MO (Sis. Dawn), Bro. Ryan Schock, Bloomfield, IA (Sis. Melanie). We would like to thank each of our visiting ministers for coming to feed us from God’s Word each and every Sunday. We are blessed by each of them and all that come with them. We have enjoyed those that have taken the time to stop on their way to Arkansas for the World Relief Project there.

As we start a new year, I am reminded of the blessings that God has blessed not only me, but also those here in Lamar this past year. We need to remember to be ever thankful and praise God for His rich blessings (even when those things around us seem like they aren’t going the way it seems they should).

Several months ago we asked for memories from those that were stationed near Lamar in the armed forces. Here is the recollection of Elias Manz (Junction, OH).

“The first time I remember going to Lamar Congregation was in 1945 after I was in the service. My mother and father came to visit me at camp and took me to Lamar Church on Sunday. I was in an intense training program and had been on KP (kitchen police). KP is actually helping in the dining area and kitchen. I was so tired I went to bed and slept at the people’s home where we went for supper. I think it was Lou Marti’s.

I was at Ft. Leonard Wood
for basic training and then I was transferred to Camp Crowder for further training. Camp Crowder was about 50 miles from Lamar church. I was later assigned as a clerk at Camp Crowder. The time was in 1945-1946 which is about 68 years ago and I don’t remember everything so clearly anymore. The Lamar folks were very hospitable to us soldier boys. They appeared to me to be rather poor for the most part, but very hospitable. Their own young men were about all away in the service which caused anxiety, concern, and sadness, but we soldiers coming on weekends seemed to cheer them up. We were certainly made to feel welcome. I remember sometime in 1945 Bro. Noah Schrock came to an evening service and the congregation voted for a minister. I was not present, but some of the soldiers were. The two brothers that were chosen were Fred Marti and Lester Braker. Fred Marti soon started ministering, but Lester did not start until September 26, 1956. From what I recall, Lester didn’t feel he was worthy of such important duties.

When I first went to Lamar, they had two ministers Ben Banwart and Andrew Obergfel. Andrew died in 1945 and I didn’t go to the funeral, but I am pretty sure some of the soldier boys sang at the funeral. Ben Banwart was the only resident minister at Lamar a lot of the time when I attended there. Services were conducted what I thought was normal and similar to ours at Junction. It was a smaller church as was my home church at Junction. I remember they used a paper back songbook for noon singing. It was the only church which has that songbook of our faith that I know of. I did acquire a copy at one time later, but I don’t know where it is and I don’t remember the title any more.

I didn’t really make my home away from home at any particular place as some of the boys did, but stayed all night at different places. I remember some of the places I stayed, which were Ben Banwart, Lester Braker, Lou Marti and others.

We started having reunions of veterans and their families that had been to Lamar church. This was a very pleasant time for us, and the Lamar people were very good hosts and planned it so we could have a place to stay all night. There were quite a few people to keep and house.

The Fred Lanz’s lost a son in the service. As far as I know, that was the only casualty of those Lamar boys that were in the service while we attended church there. I do appreciate the love that we were shown. They would drive us to Joplin or part way back to camp so we could get back in time by bus or hitchhike.

Some of the other Apostolic Christian brothers and friends that attended Lamar church while I was there were John Dotterer, Victor Stoller, Rolland Leman, Orin Rufener, Edwin Ringger, Dave Steffen, Alvin Klopfenstein, Melvin Steffen, Herb Bauman, Wally Ramsier, Russell Wuthrich, Charles Sauder, Elmer Graf and Vernon Gerber.”

**Missouri, St. Louis**

*Kary Mangers*

We are excited to share in the joy a new precious baby brings. Ebony Maelynn Wettstein was born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Larisa Wettstein, and siblings, Isabella and Brodie on December 28. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elma Wettstein of Roanoke and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand of Goodfield. May they be blessed with godly wisdom as they continue to raise their children.

Thank you to our visiting ministers and their wives who shared from the Word about being able to have new life in Christ and the joy it brings. They were Bro. David and Sis. Jackie Eisenmann (Champaign), Bro. Jon and Sis. Christie Zeller (Morton), and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago).

We are also very thankful that Bro. Loren Schrenk has had a relatively smooth recovery after having surgery in December. Praying that the Lord continues to bring healing.

**Missouri, Taylor**

*Marcia Sutter*

We rejoice with Bro. Dallas Haerr and Sis. Becca Bolliger at the announcement of their engagement on 12/21/14. Parents are Bro. Shon and Sis. Peggy Haerr of Taylor and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger of Tremont, IL. May God richly bless them and their families.
We were privileged to have the following visiting ministers this month: Bro. Tom (Sis. Jane) Bolliger from Tremont, and Elder Bro. John (Sis. Connie) Lehman from Bern, KS.

Sis. Nerys (Peter) Lightner fell causing three breaks in her arm and is unable to come to church. Our prayers have gone up to God for her quick recovery. Sis. Nerys is always has a positive and happy disposition every time we see her and wish her God’s healing hand to heal her broken arm.

Sis. Annalynn Knochel, daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny Knochel, has been ill and in the hospital. She currently resides at the Home for the Handicapped at Morton, IL. We are praying that God will heal her and give her comfort.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Ellen (Bro. Brad) Gehring and her family at the death of their dear mother after several weeks of critical illness.

“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:” Revelation 21:4

We welcome Vincent Dawson, the participant in “Our Neighbors House”, a new program started by Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck. Our Neighbors House provides a person that has been in jail and does not have a positive support group at home with an apartment and a job working with Bro. Adam on his construction crew. Vincent Dawson was chosen taking in consideration Vincent’s desire to serve God and his desire to change his life around. There are ways that we can help in this endeavor including financial support, being a host family, mentors to help with accountability and prayers.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year and the New Year comes with anticipation. One of the ministers this month read out of Romans 15. The following verses stood out for me and are goal for the yearly meetings held with the Taylor Brothers during the past few weeks and our yearly business meeting that was held on 1/14/15.

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 15:5-6

Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH).

Caleb Marvin Steiner joined the family of Bro. Matthew, Sis. Rachael and Miriam on December 20. His grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol Indermuhle.

Bro. Andy, Sis. Mary, Mya, Naomi, Gwen, Amos, Grant, and Marta Steidl are thankful for Lanna Grace, born December 20. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman, OH).

On December 25, Bro. Adam,
Sis. Jeni, Elsa, Chloe, and Logan Henico welcomed Haley Sonora into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico and Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Smithville, OH).

With gratefulness we share that Brianna Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

Many thoughts and prayers for God’s provision have been offered for Sis. Barb Graf (Bro. Dave) as she has spent time in the hospital.

We want to remember Adam Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) as he has relocated to the Dallas, Texas area.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Margaret Zarkovacki (Bro. Peter) in the passing of her sister, Martha Quackenbush. Our prayers and sympathy are also shared with the family of Sis. Mary Leidal who has passed away.

Bro. Michael Andras (John and Angie) and Sis. Meredith Klotzle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane, Rittman, OH) were united in marriage on January 18.

Oh, Latty
Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

Happy New Year to all! We recently were given the statistics of our Latty church from 2014: 3 weddings, 4 babies, 4 deaths, 4 baptisms, and 9 converts. We thank the Lord for growth and pray we can also be growing in grace!

We voted in new offices at our business meeting. New Sunday School teachers include Bro. Ben Stoller (Sis. Kendra), Sis. Amy Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce), and Sis. Marlene Sinn (Bro. Tim). New trustee is Bro. Calvin Sinn (Sis. Bekah). Elected to the kitchen committee were Sis. Barb Stoller (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Shirley Stoller. We continue to lift up all those who have offices in our church and thank them for their contributions that keep our church running smoothly.

We are thankful to hear of Andrew Klopfenstein (Bro. Roy and Deb) finding peace with God and man. We praise God for this and await his testimony and baptism.
Bro. Carl Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb) was recently engaged to Sis. Angie Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). We rejoice with them and wish them the best as they begin their engagement!

We bid farewell to Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Johnson as he accepted a job in Wichita, KS. We will miss them and their three little girls. May they feel God’s nearness in their new home!

Sis. Pauline Wieland (Bro. Howard, dec.) took her final breath on January 14. On January 5, Dr. James Boyce (Penny) passed away. He is the son-in-law of Sis. Lillian Schlatter and brother-in-law to Sis. JaNahn (Bro. Stan) Sinn. We also recently heard of the passing of Sis. Marian Sinn (Bro. Otto, dec., Silverton, OR). She was the mom of Sis. Diane Sinn (Bro. Mark). We hope these families can feel our prayers and God’s peace at this time of parting.

Rev. 2:10 “…be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”

We rejoice with two families that welcomed a baby this past month. December 14 was the birthdate of Avery Elisabeth (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Michelle Stoller, Leo, IN). Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam Stoller are elated grandparents, and thankful for another girl to join their clan. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Alexis Stoller welcomed their first son, Asher Jonathan on December 31. Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller are happy grandparents. Asher joins big sisters: Faith, Sophia, and Eden at home.

Brianna Sinn (Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette) was hospitalized this month. We continue to keep her in our prayers!

As always, we wish to thank the visiting ministers who willingly gave of themselves to preach the Word to us. Many thanks to Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH).

ACCFS came to visit January 17 to present a talk on Relationships in the Church. The talk was given by Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) and Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie). It was a truly wonderful and uplifting evening. Thank you for giving of your time to help us grow!

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

Many of us enjoyed singing Christmas carols to our loved ones in nursing homes. May each one who supported these special opportunities be blessed.

We were thankful to have Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) share a day of worship with us. May the Spirit continue to provide for all those who willingly preach the Word.

We extend sympathy to Shirley Roberts and Frank Graszl (Ruthanne) in the loss of their sister-in-law, Marty Graszl (Tom). We thank God for His provision and comforting Spirit.

We remember Sis. Theresa Keiper and her family in thought and prayer, as her husband, Bro. Phil Keiper, has gone on to his eternal reward. Bro. Phil and Sis. Theresa’s children are: Butch (Linda), Dave (Paula), Linda (Dean) Sabo, Rick (Lisa), Mark (Sandy), Paul, and Diane (Sam) Katanic. May God bring comfort to each one.

Our love also goes out to Sis. Kelly Beard in the tragic loss of her grandson, Jesse Beard (Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn) from Toledo, OH. We pray the Comforter would be near each loved one in the Beard family.

Bro. John Miller (Sis. Lillian) recently spent time in the hospital, following surgery. We trust God will heal according to His will.

Ohio, Rittman

Anna Bauman

This past month, we also give thanks for the lives He has touched, offering grace to come to the waters. Turning to the Lord through repentance are Tory Hartzler (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue), Tresa Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer), Sarah Hartzler (Bro. Sam and Sis. Gail), and Emily Hartzler (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille). While the waters stir, we just give God thanks for each one, and yet there is room.

Welcoming new grandchildren
this month are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman, thankful for little Lanna Grace born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl (Akron). Then, Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner’s grandson, Caleb Marvin, was born that same day, (parents are Bro. Matthew Jr. and Sis. Rachael Steiner, Akron). Then, on January 6, Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer welcomed grandson, Easton Everett Widmer, along with parents Bro. Steve and Sis. Lisa Widmer (Phoenix, AZ).

Many have felt the loss of health, and experienced pain, or time alone at home this month. Also, our dear Sis. Jody Calame (Bro. John II), and Bro. Irwin Klotze (Sis. Jane) endured time at the hospital this past month. We are very thankful for the peace of God, as we come to the end of our days here, several experienced the loss of loved ones this past month. Bro. Reinhart and Sis. Betty Keiper’s dear brother, Bro. Phillip Keiper (Sis. Theresa, Mansfield), passed away this past month. Also, Sis. Martha Walder and Bro. Andy Maibach’s niece, Lynne Tollafield (Bob), passed away on January 1, 2015.

“We are thankful to God for His work in leading two souls together, to live as one for Him. May God continue to be near and bless Bro. Nelson Stoller (Bro. Scott & Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Jessica Steiner (Bro. Rod & Sis. Jill, Rittman, OH) as they approach their April 12 wedding day. “Lead me, O Lord… make your way straight before my face.” Psalm 5:8

Ohio, Toledo
Deanna Manz, Jenny Manz

This past month has brought an array of emotions for our congregation. We are thankful to again experience how the Lord is faithful to care for His children, whether it be in joy or pain. Several were able to make a trip to Lester, IA to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) to Sis. Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie, Lester, IA). We warmly welcome Sis. Whitney to Toledo and pray the Lord’s blessing as they begin their married life together!

We also extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Stuart Kilgus as he has found employment in our area, and will be gathering with us! We look forward to getting to know him!
“Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to thy God to order and provide; in every change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: thy best thy heavenly Friend, thro’ thorny ways leads to a joyful end.” Hymns of Zion #191

Many prayers have ascended to the Fathers’ throne on behalf of Jesse Beard in the past weeks. Jesse was hospitalized in serious condition for a brief time and then passed from this life into eternity on January 14. Our sympathy and prayers continue for his dear family left behind: his wife, Gina; children: Wyatt, Brooklyn and Katelyn; parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Geralyn; and siblings: Aaron (Tanya), Nathan (Amie), Matthew, Sis. Rebecca, Michael (Lindsay) and Sis. Suzanne. We pray for comfort and peace from our Heavenly Father as they face the days ahead.

Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) were in town for the funeral. We are thankful they stayed over to worship with us on Sunday. We trust the Lord will bless Bro. Dana for willingly preaching the Word.

**Oregon, Silverton**

*Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi*

Our love and prayers are with Bob and Cynthia Glass. Cynthia’s father, Charles Robinson, passed away recently. Also, Cynthia broke her ankle, and we pray for a speedy recovery for her. Our prayers also continue for Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Bro. Nick), as well as others who have on going health issues.

We rejoice with Bro. Denver Slagel in his engagement to Sis. Katy Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) from Magdalena, Mexico. We pray for many blessings on them.

Another engagement we are happy to announce is of Austin Kraft (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne) and Hannah Tschiegg (Ken and Peggy). An early fall wedding is being planned.

We have four new babies to love and welcome in Silverton. James and Shari Klopfenstein have a new little daughter, named Audrese Lydia, born January 10. Adessa is her big sister. Grandparents are Harry and Dee from Latty, Bro. Ned & Sis. Heidi Stoller from Alto, and Bro. Mark & Sis. Julie Rufener from Mansfield. Thank you for giving us a blessing.

Bro. Chad Leman from Fairbury, IL also came here during the week. He used to live here in Kitchener, but kept the same job only working from Illinois. So about once a month he comes to Kitchener for a work trip. He also used to be a minister here, and so we’re glad he’s willing to give us a sermon when he is here.

“He smiles on thee who promised Never to leave thee alone. No, never alone, no, never alone! He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.”

Hymns of Zion #127

**Oregon, Portland**

*Louisa Gallup*

Almost half of the Portland families were traveling over the Christmas season to be with far away loved ones. We are thankful for safe travels and being back together again.

The annual business meeting was held and we are grateful for The Lord’s provision and willing hearts to do the work necessary to maintain His House of Worship. We thank Bro. Rick Hoach for his efforts as he finished his term as Senior Trustee. Bro. Mark Gallup was voted in to serve as Junior Trustee. Sis. Miriam Hoach was asked to remain on the Dinner Committee for another term, which she readily agreed to. We appreciate everyone and their willingness to help out with responsibilities and duties.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bro. John (Sis. Jane) Wiegand, Bros. Harvey (Sis. Jennifer) Kuenzi, Don (Sis. Linda) Sinn, and Ron (Sis. Liz) Jones (all from Silverton, OR). We enjoyed all visitors and their families and supporting song leaders as well. May the Lord bless them all for their love and support.

**Ontario, Kitchener**

*Johanna Fortenbacher*

Though God has promised to never leave us alone, we’re all so thankful when visitors come.

This month the ministers and wives that came were Bro. Mark & Sis. Bev Bahr from Detroit, Bro. Gary & Sis. Paulette Sinn
Klopfenstein, and Leonard and Cheryl Schurter.

Also on January 10, Bro. Duane and Sis. Adriana added Otto Brier to their little family. His big sister, Dakota, is looking forward to a playmate. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones, and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.


The fourth baby was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth Metzger January 13. Their new son, Ty Jacob, joins his excited siblings: Lee, Trisha, Wyatt and Serena. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane and Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA).

Bro. Marvin Kuenzi (Sis. Lana) recently had an ACL repair. We hope he feels our love and prayers, as he recovers.

Sis. Marian Sinn (Bro. Otto, dec.) passed away January 19 very peacefully. Her beloved family and her church family will miss her very much, as she has been a wonderful example of a godly woman, wife and mother. Her children are Sis. Linda Edelman (Bro. Wayne), James (Irene), Sis. Shirley (dec.), Bro. Don (Sis. Linda), Bro. Tom (Sis. Edith), Bro. Mark (Sis. Elsie), Bro. Dean (Sis. Heidi), Sis. Carol Edelman (Bro. Kenneth) and Sis. Diane Sinn (Bro. Mark). Her many grandchildren and great grandchildren will miss their special grandmother as well.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

The Philadelphia church joyfully welcomes Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl back from their work in Haiti. We pray they sense our love and support and will have a smooth transition back to life here in the United States.

We had our annual business meeting on January 18. It is such a blessing to work together as a church! May God bless each one for their efforts, seen and unseen.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been strengthened from God’s Living Word by our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis), Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction), and Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of visitors from Athens, AL; Leo, IN; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contact Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615-866-5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com; or Bro. Buck & Sis.

Taunia Henry, 615-920-9584.

Texas, Austin
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin!
We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us!

We have been strengthened in recent weeks by God’s Word shared by our recent visiting ministers: Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction), Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester), and Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke).

Ministers scheduled: 1/25: Champaign, 2/08: Fairbury, 2/15: San Diego, 2/22: Cissna Park
Daily we are reminded of God’s faithfulness, not only in the beauty that surrounds us, but in the joy of answered prayers.

“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.” Lamentations 3:22-23
“Great is Thy faithfulness”, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!!
Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness: Morning
by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand
hath provided “Great is Thy
faithfulness” Lord, unto me!

We appreciate and love the many visitors who share their love in so many ways. May we continue to “Let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

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

Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth

Services are generally being held the second 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.

McAllen, Texas

Mary Plattner

We are thankful for all the visiting ministers and other visitors who have attended services with us in McAllen. We were blessed to have several ministering brothers come the past two months, including our Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy), Forrest; Bro. Steve Fraughiger (Sis. Irene) Bluffton North; and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane) Austin; for the testmony and baptism of Bro. Andy and Sis. Kristi Plattner. We wish them many blessings as they continue their walk with the Lord. We appreciated everyone that made the effort to come for that weekend.

We welcome anyone coming to South Texas to make a visit in Zapata. Our regular church services begin at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Sundays, and Wednesday at 7 p.m. during the winter months.

Vermont, Clarendon

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

The last couple of weeks have seen some cold weather, but we seem now to be in the midst of our mid-winter thaw. The ups-and-downs of the weather so well symbolize our lives. We hardly know what to expect from day to day. We simply trust the Lord to provide for us.

Toward the end of December, our Sunday school presented to us their annual Christmas program. We were reminded of why our trust is in the Lord. He provides our needs, spiritual and otherwise. Our busy, distracted minds were once again brought to bear on the simple Gospel message. Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a humble manger, yet was and is Lord of all. We appreciated the students’ willingness to share their songs and verses with us.

Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter, Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) Zahner, Bro. Dan (Sis. MaryLou Goric), and Bro. Brent (Sis. Naomi) Walder, all from the Rockville, CT church, came to assist Bro. Mark Hoffman in the ministry this past month. We so appreciate their continual support of our small outpost in Northern New England.

Speaking of supporting our little church, we want to encourage our brothers and sisters to consider relocating to this beautiful corner of New England to be spiritual lights in the area with us. We live not ten miles from the birthplace of Annie Hawks, the writer of I Need Thee Every Hour, and within an hour of D. L. Moody’s childhood home. These two people, in their time, had a large impact for the Gospel in the Northern New England
area. We wish to make an impact like they did, but feel we need more brethren here to be a strength to our little congregation and a light in a place that needs to see the light of Jesus in your life. Please contact us if you feel moved or directed of the Lord to consider this in your life. We will be delighted to hear from you.

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.

Matthew 5:38-48
(the words of our Lord Jesus)

Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: .... For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.
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 on going ministry at Gateway Woods. Due to a change in staff, we have a need for an Alternate Houseparent couple. This position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore this possibility, please call one of the brothers listed below.

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

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

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

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

Mid-week Service: (held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507) 281-2875
Announcing Tennessee Fellowship Memorial Day Weekend
May 23-24, 2015

Topic: Being Bold Ambassadors for Christ

As you start thinking about your Memorial Day Weekend activities, plan to attend the TN Fellowship Weekend in Pulaski, TN and Athens, AL. Scheduled on May 23 and May 24 this year, the weekend topic will focus on being “bold” ambassadors for Christ.

In Hebrews 4:16, God instructs us to come boldly unto the throne of grace, so that we can find mercy and grace to help us do this. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Ministering Bro. Tim Drayer (Bluffton North, IN) will be exploring how we can become bold Christians and why this is of utmost importance as we see the days growing more evil and the time of Christ drawing near.
Caretaker Needed for Tennessee Fellowship Area

With the planned relocation of the current caretakers, Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their family, in May 2015, the TN Fellowship Board of Directors is seeking to fill the position of Caretaker for this property which includes a two-acre lake. For those who may consider God’s call to this work, this is a fulfilling opportunity to care for this property, support the Athens, Alabama church and spread the Gospel into the surrounding communities.

Position Description
As caretakers, the couple or family would live in the property apartment, which can comfortably accommodate 2-6 people. In addition to keeping up the apartment, they would also be responsible for:

- Grounds Keeping -- primarily mowing the grass, weeding flower beds and spraying weeds.
- Lake Richard Maintenance -- feeding the fish, chemical administration for moss and algae and aerator maintenance.
- Preparation, hosting (as applicable) and cleanup for activities held on the property annually including Memorial Day Weekend and Homecoming Weekend.

Desired Personal Qualities
- Servant Heart -- willingness to serve as a caretaker and support a smaller Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Alabama.
- Enjoy working outside.
- Integrity – demonstrate high spiritual standards and be a committed Christ-follower.

For More Information Contact:
Tom Waldbeser, TN Fellowship Board and Elder of the Athens church
Phone: 678.416.6586  Email: twald2010@att.net
Phil Witzig, TN Fellowship Board President
Phone: 815.200.9555  Email: pwitzig@kuhlco.com
Mark Klaus, TN Fellowship Board and Athens Church Minister
Phone: 256.777.7777  Email: flyhi55@aol.com

About the Tennessee Fellowship Area / Athens Church
The Tennessee Fellowship Area is a place where Apostolic Christian people can come from across the nation to worship God in a quiet country setting, enjoy fellowship and/or hold events. In all activities, our Heavenly Father and His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be honored. In addition to Memorial Day Weekend activities (that have occurred for 22 years) and Homecoming, the area is also used for picnics and fishing. Families traveling in the area can also stay overnight using camping facilities and RV hookups.

The Athens Apostolic Christian Church is located approximately a half-hour south of the property. The property and the church are located in the Bible Belt where Southern hospitality abounds. The church is also home to the Athens, AL Preschool.
**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 Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or a related field, experience working with children and families preferred.

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

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

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

**Counselor Needed - Gateway Woods**

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Counselor. This position provides the opportunity to work directly with struggling children and families in need of help and guidance. Requires a Master's Degree in social work, psychology, or counseling from an accredited college or university.

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

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

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

**Light from the Word**

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

After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”. The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 to current*).
LARC Services Coordinator Needed - Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods has an opening for a brother or sister to manage our LARC (Linking to Attain Responsibility and Community) Services Program. We are seeking someone who desires to serve in a ministry that serves troubled and broken children and families. The LARC Services Coordinator is a key full-time position that offers the opportunity to create and manage connections between youth transition to independence and partners in the community. If you have strong organizational, interpersonal and relationship building skills, please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information and a job description.

Ed Graf
Executive Director
PO Box 125
Leo, IN 46765
888.443.4283
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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

COMING SPRING 2015...

Apostolic Christian Central
a new church-operated system for accessing sermons

The system includes:
- Mobile apps
- Online database of sermons
- Embedded players for your congregation’s website

Through an agreement with Route24 Computers, AC Central will eventually replace AC Sermon Streamer.

AC Central is currently being tested by a small number of congregations. More information will be shared when we get closer to full rollout in April 2015.

Learn more by visiting apostolicchristian.org/sermons
## Education Intern Needed - Gateway Woods

Gateway Woods is in need of an Education Intern for the summer. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adam McAfee</td>
<td>888.443.4283</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Adam.Mcafee@gatewaywoods.org">Adam.Mcafee@gatewaywoods.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Stieglitz</td>
<td>260.466.6712</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynnstieg@gmail.com">lynnstieg@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Summer Volunteer Coordinator Needed - 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clint Plattner</td>
<td>888.443.4283</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Clint.Plattner@gatewaywoods.org">Clint.Plattner@gatewaywoods.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Stieglitz</td>
<td>260.466.6712</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lynnstieg@gmail.com">lynnstieg@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Chorus:**

So lift your head weary pilgrim, for soon He is coming  
We know not the moment when we’ll see His face.  
Fight on wounded soldier, hold on a few more days.  
It will be worth it all, when He calls us away.  
Press on it won’t be very long,  
Until we reach that land of song.  
In Heaven some sweet day, I know we’ll live to stay.  
Press on it won’t be very, It won’t be long.  
Fight on wounded soldier, hold on a few more days.  
It will be worth it all when He calls us away.  
Lift your head weary pilgrim, for it won’t be long.  
It will be worth it all when He calls us away! - Author Unknown
Top Quality Coordinator Needed - Gateway Woods

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

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

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

Administrator Position - Highland Oaks
(Apostolic Christian Resthaven)

Highland Oaks, a 50 bed long term care facility with attached apartments, located in Elgin, Illinois has an immediate opening for an Administrator. The job of Administrator includes managing and directing the complete operation of the long-term care facility and its departments. The position requires a Bachelor's Degree in any field or a Nursing Diploma/Associates Degree with prior nursing home administration/management experience.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. Contact one of the brothers below for more information concerning this position.

Boyd Metzger
Board of Directors – President
847-980-5488
bem@northwestern.edu

Brad Eisenmann
Counseling Elder
815-693-9533
bdeisenmann@comcast.net

Matt Kinsinger
Board of Directors – HR
847-774-4015
Bible Distribution: Sharing His Word in Love

Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. Psalm 96:3

Together we can provide Bibles for seeking people. This may be someone you attend school with, someone you work with, or someone God has shown you at a gas station. Bibles and approved Bible story Books are available. Carrying a New Testament to distribute can help you remember what our real task is. To order, contact:

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria Street
Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141
billedistribution@acpublications.org

9th Annual Midwest Gospel Sing, Saturday, April 25, 2015

Five Points, Washington, IL
Congregational Singing 5:45pm
Program 6:00 - 8:30pm

The Midwest Gospel Sing is an evening of worship and fellowship. We will enjoy some congregational singing, listening to a few groups of singers, and hearing a testimony from a family who has been touched by the Home for the Handicapped.

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

Live too far away to attend? You can still be a part! We will be hosting a live internet streaming of the event that evening. Go to our website (www.midwestgospelsing.org) prior to the start of the program and click on the Watch Live button.

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

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

Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed. AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Patient Care Manager Needed at Hospital Lumiere

Hospital Lumiere is seeking a qualified person to be assigned as Patient Care Manager of the hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti. This is a full-time position.

**Description**
The duties of Patient Care Manager include planning, supervising & training employees and coordinating & implementing programs of nursing care for all hospital patients.

**Requirements**
Applicants should hold an RN degree and have at least 3 years of nursing experience, some management capability, be able to learn the Creole language, be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church and be willing to relocate to Haiti for a term of up to 5 years.

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

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

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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief
www.acworldrelief.org

HOSPITAL LUMIERE

56 SILVER LINING  February 2015
## Haiti Medical Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Jan 10-17</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-6110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory Team</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Feb 7-14</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-6110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye Speciality</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Mar 7-14</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-6110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Screening</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Apr 11-18</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-6110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventory Team</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>May 9-16</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-6110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Team</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Jun 13-20</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-6110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Screening</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Haiti Awareness Tours

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumièrè and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about the hospital, see the completed renovations and work in process, and visit some of the other World Relief projects in southern Haiti. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand.

**To learn more, contact:**
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or lemangm@mtco.com or
Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.com

## Haiti Work Teams for Hospital Lumiere

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Co-Ordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Maintenance/Painting</td>
<td>Mar 21-28</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Maintenance/Painting</td>
<td>Apr 25 - May 2</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Construction</td>
<td>Jun 20-27</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Electrical</td>
<td>Jul 18-25</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Plumbing</td>
<td>Aug 22-29</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Construction</td>
<td>Oct 3-10</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Lumiere Maintenance/Painting</td>
<td>Nov 28 - Dec 5</td>
<td>David Zimmerman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Haiti Work Teams - Les Cayes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Jan 2-9</td>
<td>Ron Palitto</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH/Ohio</td>
<td></td>
<td>330-336-5373</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ronp@palittoconsulting.com">ronp@palittoconsulting.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Jan 9-16</td>
<td>Maurice Schaefner</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWA</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-253-9003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:schaefs2@gmail.com">schaefs2@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Jan 30-Feb 6</td>
<td>Richard Kraft</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH/Silverton</td>
<td></td>
<td>503-364-3103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:richard@kraftmasonryinc.com">richard@kraftmasonryinc.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Feb 6-13</td>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti Trade Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:andy@getzitdone.com">andy@getzitdone.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Feb 26-Mar 6</td>
<td>Larry Kaufmann</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEED</td>
<td></td>
<td>815-716-6018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:ljkaufmann@juno.com">ljkaufmann@juno.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Feb 27-Mar 6</td>
<td>Steve Leuthold</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH/Peoria</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-645-2208</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sleuth@speerbank.com">sleuth@speerbank.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Mar 6-13</td>
<td>Maurice Schaefer</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AWA</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-253-9003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Aid</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:schaefs2@gmail.com">schaefs2@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Mar 27-Apr 3</td>
<td>Rich Bertschi</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH/Roanoke</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-467-2351</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lemgm@mtco.com">lemgm@mtco.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Apr 15-20</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH Support</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-266-9009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Apr 20-27</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEBSH</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-266-9009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Haiti Lifeline Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dumay</td>
<td>Jan 20-27</td>
<td>Darren Fehr</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life line</td>
<td>Jan 27-Feb 3</td>
<td>Ted Steidinger</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Concrete</td>
<td>1-815-674-9363</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dfehr@maxwire.net">dfehr@maxwire.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumay</td>
<td>Feb 3-10</td>
<td>Matt Kinsinger</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life line</td>
<td>Feb 10-16</td>
<td>Paul Zimmerman</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Concrete</td>
<td>1-815-848-4015</td>
<td><a href="mailto:steffenrahn@comcast.net">steffenrahn@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumay</td>
<td>Feb 24-Mar 3</td>
<td>Paul Zimmerman</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life line</td>
<td>Feb 24-Mar 3</td>
<td>Paul Zimmerman</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Concrete</td>
<td>1-815-848-2173</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pallen2@frontier.com">pallen2@frontier.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumay</td>
<td>Mar 3-10</td>
<td>Neil Bahler</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life line</td>
<td>Mar 3-10</td>
<td>Neil Bahler</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Concrete</td>
<td>1-815-848-3861</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nbahler@gmail.com">nbahler@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mexico Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reynosa</td>
<td>Jan 3-10</td>
<td>Ryan Eisenmann</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>University of Illinois</td>
<td>815-953-1443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jan 10-17</td>
<td>Steve Kaeb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>217-781-4709</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jan 17-24</td>
<td>Troy Lanz</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>217-202-5959</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Feb 11-21</td>
<td>Jon Barer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-370-3153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Mar 7-14</td>
<td>Caleb Hoerr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-370-3153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Mar 28-Apr 4</td>
<td>Mike Zobrist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Congenive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Mar 21-28</td>
<td>Linc Rinkerberger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bluffton/BN Senior Class</td>
<td>260-273-3566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Mar 28-Apr 4</td>
<td>Mike Rokey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bern Bible Class</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jun 13-20</td>
<td>Jon Baner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>309-370-3153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jun 20-27</td>
<td>Kevin Gutwein</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Indianapolis Bible Class</td>
<td>765-427-0697</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scheduling Questions? Contact Mike Fiechter mfiechter@onlyinternet.net

Jamaica Work Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year 2015</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>May 22-30</td>
<td>Mark Lindberg</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>815-641-4065</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lindboma@Email.Phomix.edu">Lindboma@Email.Phomix.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Jun 27-04</td>
<td>Harvey Landis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCD</td>
<td></td>
<td>330-466-8274</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:landziv@aol.com">landziv@aol.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rittman SS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Smithville SS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at ldettwyler@gmail.com
ACCFS has numerous resources to assist someone who is going through a wide range of mental health issues. Each resource, either created by or reviewed and recommended by ACCFS staff, is meant to help others live overcoming lives in the Lord. For more information and resources, please visit our website at www.accounseling.org/mentalhealth.

**ACCFS Administrator Needed**

The *Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services* is seeking to fill the position of Administrator of the organization. For those who may consider God’s call to this work, this is a fulfilling opportunity to lead a devoted team whose desire, focus, and mission is to help, nurture, and encourage growth in Christ within our brotherhood.

If you—or someone you know—has an interest, please contact one of the brothers listed below. You can also find information regarding this job posting on the ACCFS website: www.accounseling.org.

Scott Aberle, ACCFS Board of Directors  
Cell: (309) 208-9863  
sraberle@yahoo.com

Tom Hoffman, ACCFS Board of Directors  
Cell: (309) 360-9468  
tkhoffman@verizon.net

Mailing Address: ACCFS  
515 E. Highland Street  
Morton, IL 61550 309-263-5536

**About ACCFS - Apostolic Christian Counseling & Family Services**

ACCFS (www.accounseling.org) is a chartered organization of the Apostolic Christian Church of America and is headquartered in Morton, IL, with a satellite office in Paulding, OH. ACCFS provides Biblically-based counseling, outreach programs, and mental health services in support of the Apostolic Christian Church Elder Body for our congregations, our brotherhood, and church families. ACCFS seeks to fulfill Christ’s commandment as its mission: Helping the Hurting, Nurturing Hope, and Encouraging Growth.
who could play sweet music. It wasn’t the stations you hear on the radio today, was it? It wasn’t the things with the beat and the pomp and all that. Sweet music! It was the psalms. It was the hymns. It was ones we believe even that David had made up inspired of God. It’s the ones we could read here today put to music.

David - I just read it the other day - a man after God’s own heart, came. Isn’t that interesting? You know God has a plan for each one of you today. You’re not just wallowing out there somewhere and figuring things out on your own. He has a plan for you individually. Little did David know standing on the side of the hill as a shepherd tending the sheep that he was asked to do. The Bible said he was a ruddy boy, just a boy! Little did he know when he was summoned by the king to go and play before him and little did Saul know that he would usurp that throne. He went there as a little boy and he played sweet music. What did the hymns do? What was the cause of *To My Redeemer* (Zion’s Harp #227)? “*Thee will I love, Oh, love eternal, Thy heart for me in death did break.*” Think of all the hymns that we would sing here. What happened before Saul when David played that sweet music? The enemy had to flee. Guess what? Saul started feeling better.

It’s the same with us, Loved Ones. When you are down, when you’re depressed, when you’re struggling, when we’re in trouble, whatever it is, turn on the hymns. Turn on the tape player or whatever you use now today; I’m kind of behind. Turn on what is of God; Satan will flee. Your heart will be lifted up. You will be encouraged upon the way of God. Just think of that - David spending all that time alone there out on the hills with just a bunch of sheep and his staff and maybe his dog or whatever he had, but alone! Yet, he wasn’t alone. God inspired him in that time to write hundreds of psalms that we enjoy today. He had opportunity to express his thanks to God. You read those psalms, and so many times he said help, Lord, I’m in distress. Then at the end of the psalm he’ll say and praise be Thy name who lifteth me, who guideth me with Thine eye. He knew God didn’t leave him comfortless. He knew God didn’t leave him sit, but God visited him in a mighty way. He will do that for us. He has promised. We read it here.

I mentioned before I opened the book, I even feel ashamed that we’re not reading the words of the Lord. We read a passage here that was said directly by the Lord because it’s in red. It’s says, “*My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.*” (2 Corinthians 12: 9). What better verse could you pick out of the Bible to read this morning? What better verse could comfort your heart? My grace is sufficient! It doesn’t say it’s fun. It doesn’t say life’s a bed of roses. It simply said wherever you’re at, whatever pitch you’re in, whatever struggle you’re in, think of David. It’s sufficient.

He said no temptation hath taken you but such is as common to man, but God said I will with the temptation make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13). He’s not going to bring on us today anything greater than what we can overcome or be strengthened by His grace.

Picture Paul in that setting. Paul, now changed from Saul, isn’t that interesting? We read of two Sauls this morning. One who followed the way of Satan from a way that was good. One who followed the way of good who was following Satan - a man that was converted by God. This man says “*It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.*” (v.1). We know what happened after Saul was converted there, his road to Damascus experience. After Ananias came and laid his
hands on him and led him back to Damascus, he didn’t go up to Jerusalem and talk to Peter and James and John and all those and say, what do you think? He said I went into the desert of Arabia and there communed with my God (Galatians 1:17). Loved Ones, what do we do? What did David do out there on the hills? He didn’t have a counsel to sit in front of and say, what do you guys think about the Word? Or what do you take for interpretation? No! The Spirit of God was upon him. He listened to it. The still small voice was there speaking to him, giving him words to pen. What do we do today? Paul did it too.

God poured out His revelation to Paul. God sent him visions, he said, I can’t even speak about. He said, whether it’s in the body or out of the body I cannot tell. He said, I felt like I even went to heaven and talked with God almost personally. He said, “God knoweth” (v.2) He said he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words which is not lawful for men to utter (v.4). How could it have affected Paul? The same way it affected Saul in the Old Testament. He could have come back, and He could have put his coat on and said, listen to me, I’ve been with God! I know! I have the answers! Just ask me! What would have happened? The church would not have flourished. Souls would have not been converted. The Word would have not been spread. Churches would not have started. God knows what we need, doesn’t He?

Even Paul, who was humble above so many people we can think of, could have been lifted up. The Lord is so good, isn’t He? He stuck him with a thorn. He would say, why? Such a one that the Lord was going to work through in such a mighty way and He was going to build churches off of and write half of this Word, such a one that He was going to stick with a thorn? That isn’t even fair! Loved Ones, life isn’t fair! If life was fair, we would have hung on the cross. If life was fair, I would have given my life that Jesus could go free! Be thankful life isn’t fair. Be thankful that you have a substitute. Be thankful that you had Someone to stand in the gap and come for you, come for me and take my place on Calvary. Life isn’t fair and we should be very thankful.

Stuck in his side, and three times he asked God. I just pulled a splinter out of my little boy yesterday, and I pulled one out of my own hand yesterday. It hurts, doesn’t it? It always hurts. You rarely pull one out that doesn’t hurt. Paul felt that hurt, whatever it is. We muse maybe it was his eyesight because he mentions several times about that you’d even pluck your own eyes and even give them to me if you could (Galatians 4:15). We don’t know, but let’s say it was his eyesight.

So think of that. He could have said to God, ‘God, I’m supposed to go all these distances and preach Thy Word and start the churches and I can’t even see right!’ Maybe blinded by the road of Damascus light, we don’t know, but if that were the case, it would have made a lot of sense, wouldn’t it? The man who was able to raise people and give them their sight back and yet he doesn’t have sight that’s very good? So Lord this doesn’t make any sense! The Lord didn’t lay it out in front of him and give him a book that he had to read through to understand all this. That’s not our God! But our God gave him exactly what he needed. He said just a few words, my grace is sufficient! To me this says, be quiet and get back to work. Get over your own pity party and get back to what I’ve asked you to do. My grace is sufficient for thee!

And then the second part is where He wants us to be. What does it say? Today it’s something different. I remember as a kid lifting weights in school. I remember those slogans that were up on the board in the room and all these things about meekness
is weakness and you’ve got to do this to get this and on and on - all these masculine things. That’s not our God! That’s not my God today! He says for my strength is made perfect in weakness (v.9)!

He didn’t need Peter’s strength. He didn’t need Peter to pull out that sword and cut off the servant’s ear. He didn’t need Paul to get on his mule and go to Damascus to persecute people. He didn’t need that! He needs our weakness! He needs us to do as the hymn writer says, “Oh, to be nothing, nothing, only to lie at His feet. A broken and emptied vessel…” (Oh, To Be Nothing, Hymns of Zion #76). We get it all wrong so many times. A broken and empty vessel, not a vessel that’s full of our own self and pride! For the Master’s use made meet. It’s totally opposite of what we’re taught here. It’s totally opposite! We experience that when we come to the cross, when we bring our backpack and our baggage. We come to God, and we lay it at His feet. We pour out our heart, and we get rid of self. We crucify it, and we say, ‘Lord help me, a poor, lost sinner!’ Loved Ones, He’s very near to a soul like that. He is very near!

How did Paul respond? The Lord chastised him here. He had asked the Lord several times, Lord I need this taken away. I can’t deal with it! I can’t do the work I’ve been asked to do. The Lord chastised him here pretty hard, but he was thankful. He counted it as gain. We read his response there in verse nine. It says, most gladly! He totally turned how he looked at it, Loved Ones. He no longer looked at it as a burden, something he couldn't carry, something he didn’t want anymore. He said “…Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities…” (v.9) Glory in your infirmities? I’m not there yet, Loved Ones! Rarely do I glory in my infirmities. Why? He had a vision that was further than mine. He had a vision that was higher than mine that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Get out of the way with myself and give honor to God and to His Son Jesus Christ.

“Therefore I take…” - another step - “pleasure in infirmities…” (v.10) You can read that if you pick up some of those documentaries of Martyr’s Mirror. You can get a glimpse, I can’t understand it but I can get a glimpse, on those who have suffered for the name of their Lord. They even get to the point where they would take pleasure in that. Why? Because it gives God honor! What happens so many times as you can read in some of those accounts? Even the persecutors afterward came to the Lord. They experienced a living witness and a person that could not have taken that themselves. They could experience by watching a power that was higher. “Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.” (v.12)

We won’t have time to consider it, but the latter part of the chapter is a warning to us. We read some of those words there: debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbittings, whisperings, swellings, tumults. (v.20) He said he’d come back to the church, and he saw these things among the brethren. “And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already…” (v.21) Loved Ones, let’s be very careful as we view our life, as we view our actions, as we view our conversation, as the Word says in the light of God’s Word - every bit of it, not just a chapter, not just our favorite section, the whole counsel of God. As we put that mirror before us, what is the Lord’s Spirit revealing to us? We have opportunity to change in this day. Whether we have tasted that the Lord is good or whether we have not yet, today is the day! Loved Ones, let’s be ready in all things as Paul was to meet Him. Tomorrow might not come.
An Enduring Invitation to Repent

— Continued from pg. 3

confirmation that Jesus is the Son of God.

Just as there were false teachers and prophets in the earliest days of the church, there are many false prophets and teachers who speak in the name of the Lord today. Some have falsely prophesied of Christ’s return, and others have declared various men to be “the Antichrist.” Some teachers err, subtly insinuating that sin is unavoidable, saying “it’s just human,” to excuse sin. Others more obviously and overtly declare that evil is good and good is evil. Others presume to declare that all men sin each and every day, “having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof” (2 Tim. 3:5). The Lord commanded John to write to the church at Pergamos: “I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent ...” (Rev. 2:14-15).

The truth is that we were not redeemed to go back to sin. Jesus became sin for us that we might be made righteous in Him. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

Those speaking by the Spirit of God will demonstrate the truth of their teaching by obedience and good works. Paul (The Apostle of Grace) warns Titus of such times and teachers, saying, “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16). God’s call today is the same as it has always been: that men should repent, believe that Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world, and live overcoming lives in the power of the Holy Spirit.

“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye” (Ezek. 18:30-32).
Continued Articles

Providing Medical Help to Nazareans

— Continued from pg. 6

effect on their lives. Also, many of the brethren are poor and do not have the funds to bridge the gap and obtain the necessary medical care.

Medical help from World Relief is generally provided in one of two ways:

1. Ongoing assistance for purchasing medicine for individuals in need.
2. Assisting with the cost of special medical needs for unusual situations.

Some recent cases of special medical needs where the European committee provided help include the following situations:

• Hospital, medical care and medication for a brother who was repairing his roof and fell from the roof onto his back on concrete resulting in a broken skull and a broken spine in three places. The brother has severe headaches, cannot speak and must stay in bed for three months.
• Surgery and six sessions of chemotherapy for a brother with cancer.
• Transplant and special procedures for a sister who had fractured her foot, but in the initial care, the broken bones were not properly set and she was no longer able to walk. In order to correct the problem, they needed to remove part of the foot and do a transplant.

Your contributions allow the European Committee of World Relief to help provide the necessary medicine and medical care to the Nazarene brethren in need. Because of the age of many of the European Nazarenes, medical needs are extensive and continue to increase. In addition to providing financial support, please pray that Nazarean believers can continue to reflect the light of salvation to their world where economic and political turmoil are a constant reality of everyday life.

PSALMS THAT HAVE INSPIRED HYMNS

Psalm 23  The King of Love My Shepherd Is
My Shepherd Shall Supply My Need
The Lord Is My Shepherd

Psalm 46  A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Psalm 61  Hiding in Thee (O safe to the Rock that is higher than I . . .)

Psalm 87  Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Psalm 90  O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Psalm 100  All People That on Earth Do Dwell
Before Jehovah’s Awful Throne

Psalm 103  Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Psalm 104  O Worship the King, All Glorious Above

Psalm 126  Bringing in the Sheaves
...in Japan
— Continued from pg. 7

Although most of the women do not come to Sunday services, they hear the message of the Gospel from these meetings. Several months ago, during a Bible study discussion, a fascinating question was raised. “If I do choose to be a Christian, then where will I be buried?” she wanted to know. To someone who grew up in a Christian environment, the question may come as a surprise. To a Japanese with a Buddhist background, however, this very issue can become a stumbling block to acceptance of the Gospel. Many families with Buddhist ties have specific burial sites exclusively for Buddhists. If one converts to Christianity, that person is unlikely to be buried in a Buddhist cemetery with their families. In a culture where respect for ancestors runs very deep, and family grave sites are considered sacred, this can be a serious issue. It was sobering to consider that one might not accept Christ for fear of not having a place of burial. Please pray for the women who attend these monthly meetings, that their hearts would be softened to the message of salvation, and that God will provide.

Please continue to pray for those who come to church, regularly or for the first time. Pray that their hearts will be receptive to the Truth of the Gospel and that they can repent and accept the gift of Jesus — a gift we are still receiving by grace through faith. We are thankful for God’s Word, which will accomplish His purposes.

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38.

...Addiction
— Continued from pg. 9

6. Overcoming addiction involves a spiritual battle. While Paul’s writings in Romans 7:14-25 certainly applies to sin of all kinds, people struggling with addiction can particularly relate well to his description of the battle with sin. “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. …O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

In next month’s article, we will look at some methods used in treating addictions.
Learning from our history

Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the last in the series of articles on the development of the church of our faith in Hungary. The data is taken from a book by a Hungarian professor entitled “The Nazarenes.” It was first published in 1900, and written by Karoly Eotvos. It is instructive in how the deeply-believed precepts of repentance and conversion found fulfillment, and multitudes followed the Lord and gathered themselves into a church model that reflected New Testament living, and a Bible-patterned form of worship and church leadership. Excerpts follow.

A Place of Worship
The small community of believers was without a place of worship where they could gather together for worship services with the feeling of proper security. Also, they missed an atmosphere wherein women could be a part. They needed female companions who could share the joys and sorrows and smooth away the wrinkles of care on their faces.

Hencsey found such a woman at last, and she was the good old widow, Anna Nipp, who asked Hencsey (eventually) to accept her into the community. In her workshop was employed a journeyman, John Klein. Almost every day, after work, Hencsey came and spent time with Klein.

The widow was struck by Hencsey’s serious and rather sad countenance. She was also very impressed by his honest behaviour and convincing speech. Her curiosity was soon stirred up and she began to inquire about why he visited so frequently. Hencsey sincerely opened his heart and revealed his faith to the widow. Her eyes were filled with tears, and she asked Hencsey to hold a worship service in her home. She indicated she wished to be present.

A Converted Woman
Hencsey gladly consented to her wish and the next Sunday it came to fulfillment. After the service was over, Anna Nipp expressed her heart’s desire to join the little community. Much was gained by her decision.

A Shelter For the New Believers
Hence, the home of Anna Nipp became a veritable shelter for this small community. Perhaps it is interesting to note that, except for Joseph Kovacs and his wife, all the members of this new community came from the lower classes of society -- those of the craftsmen.

They had little money or other resources. They traveled from town to town, despite frost or heat, hunger or privation, and they faced bitter disappointments and many trials. They often roamed about with any jobs.

Budapest
In Pest, as well in Buda, there sprang up some hostels where a journeyman could get accommodations -- a bed and meals -- but only for a few days if they could not afford to pay for it. This was the custom of those days, and the trade unions (and sometimes the police) made sure that when a few days passed, the journeyman had to pack his bags and move on to the next town. In these cases, no one cared if the journeyman was without food or a place to sleep. A dear soul provided for them by providing shelter and food. Anna Nipp was one the benefactress of the new believers.

-By Perry Klopfenstein


NOTICE:
This book, The Nazarenes, is available from:

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

Perry Klopfenstein
P. O. Box 404
Pontiac, IL 61764
God Knows in Advance

There are three Scripture verses that I know of, which speak of God knowing in advance. They are Acts 2:23, Romans 8:29, and 1 Peter 1:2. Let’s examine these verses in the order in which they appear.

Acts 2:23 reads, “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.” Peter was speaking on the day of Pentecost after the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. He was telling the people that they, by wicked hands, had crucified Christ and put Him to death. However, he points out that all this was known in advance by God. In fact, as recorded in John 3:16, it was for this purpose God sent Christ into the world, that whosoever believeth on Him might be saved. When Peter said, “By the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God,” he was saying that, not only did God know about it in advance, but that Christ’s death for the sins of the whole world was in accordance with His purpose and plan for offering salvation to all people.

Romans 8:29 reads, “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Here we are told by the Apostle Paul that God did predestinate, or predestine (those words have the same meaning) for some people to be conformed to the image of His Son, that is, not only to be saved, but to live as Jesus lived. Now why did God so predestine some people and not others? Is it not because God knew in advance who would repent and live for Him and who would not do so? It seems very important to me that we know and remember that God knows everything in advance, which explains some of the things He has done and will do in the future.

It is also written in this verse, “That he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Of course I may be wrong, but I understand this to mean that it was God’s intention and purpose that many people would repent and come into His family, after Christ’s crucifixion. Christ was with God from the beginning so He is called the firstborn.

1 Peter 1:2 reads, “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

The word “elect” tells us that God elected or chose these believers to whom Peter was writing this letter. Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle Peter write of God having elected or predestined the believers, and both write that it was in accordance with His foreknowledge or the fact that He knows in advance. The question then arises as to what God knows in advance, which is associated with His having chosen or elected believers to be conformed to the image of His Son, or to be sanctified by the Spirit. What do you think God knows in advance which enables Him to choose some people to be saved? I believe it is that He knows who will repent and serve Him faithfully all the days of their lives, and that those are the ones He chooses. While some believers may not abide with Christ, and return to the mire, as Peter writes, in 2 Peter 2:22, these elected and chosen believers are safe and secure as written by John in the Gospel of John 10:28.

I may be mistaken in some of the things I have written, but surely we all agree that God knows in advance what is going to happen. It seems reasonable to me that this would have an effect on what God does and who He chooses to have eternal life.

-By Willis Ehnle
He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow. Psalm 147:18