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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
Encouraging one another

In our February issue, we invited you dear readers to send in thoughts, advice, observations and encouragements around the topic of, “What things have you and your spouse done that have successfully strengthened your marriage?” We are pleased to present those contributions in this issue. You’ll find them starting on page 48.

Thanks to all of you who contributed. Sharing in this venue is one way that we in the Apostolic Christian brotherhood can “exhort one another,” “edify one another,” and “provoke unto love and to good works.”

Our next topic is **The Non-Combatant Experience: Stories from Those Who Served.** If you, or perhaps a father or grandfather, served in the military, please consider sharing how God worked through that time. It can be a great reminder for us of the value of not bearing arms.

Send your contributions to editor@acsilverlining.org by June 15. Thanks for helping make the Silver Lining an encouragement to us all, both young and old.

Pressing on,
Silver Lining Counseling Elders
Rick Plattner and Tom Stock
Light from the Word

**Righteousness by Faith**

Theme verse: “The righteousness of God…is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe.” (Rom. 3:21-22).

One comes to God in faith. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarde of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6). This faith in the redemptive gift of Jesus Christ on the cross is also manifested (made known) as we bring forth fruits of repentance such as humility, contrition, confession of faith and sin, and a forsaking of sin. These works, often referred to as spiritual fruit in the Bible, give evidence to our faith (James 2:17-26). Through faith in the propitiating sacrifice of Jesus, God deems us right (justified) in His eyes and we receive His imputed righteousness.

God imputes (credits to our account) His righteousness unto the believer. “And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed (had faith in, reliance upon, and adherence to) God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God” (James 2:23). For us to share the same blessing of righteousness based solely upon our belief in Him might seem somewhat incongruous to us. Indeed, grace has often been referred to as “amazing!”

The essence of the gospel is that a lost sinner who repents and believes in the power of the shed blood of Christ is saved for eternity. Paul repeatedly preached, “that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Truly, we are amazed at the profound simplicity of the promise, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:9-10).

As we study the Scriptural teachings regarding righteousness by faith, per the definition of faith noted above, we see that we are called to walk in faith and love, and by His grace we earnestly seek to keep His commandments (1 John 5:3). Indeed the soul who has grasped the glorious gift of salvation—and its incredible cost on Calvary’s cross—must truly desire to give his whole life to Christ, to love Him with heart, soul, mind, and strength (Luke 10:27). To do this is to “yield (ourselves) unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and (our) members as instruments of righteousness unto God” (Rom. 6:13).

We see that the righteousness which is by faith is not a matter of our works but rather the exact opposite. The fruit of a Christian life is a result of the faith that one has in his heart towards God. Just as Abraham believed God—long before the law was given, or even before he was circumcised as evidence of his belief—so our faith precedes the converting of the heart which results in fruit as evidence of faith (Rom. 4:1-8, Eph. 2:8-10, Gal. 3:6-18, James 2:17-26).

As was addressed in the April issue, we know that the righteousness of man (self-righteousness) is condemned in Scripture. The children of Israel had “a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth” (Rom. 10:2-4). We must avoid the deception of self-righteousness, and rather follow the pattern of God’s Word which describes various characteristics of a righteous person: such as walking in faith and the love of God (Gal. 2:16; John 3:23; Matt. 22:34-40), being an overcomer of sin (1 Cor 6:12-14), being a bearer of spiritual fruit, (Eph. 5:9; Gal. 5:22-23); and having the breastplate of righteousness as an essential part of the armor of God, (Eph. 6:14).

— Please turn to pg. 66
Greetings, Brothers, Sisters, and Friends as we gather together on this beautiful Lord’s Day morning. I think we’re all appreciative of the beauty of the day. We’ve come through a long winter that we kind of wondered if we would ever feel warmth and experience the sunshine like it seemed we had in the past, and yet here it is. We don’t question, do we, because we knew that God is going to be faithful. He’s going to provide.

This is a day that our country has established as a day that we remember our mothers. It’s kind of interesting. I was working with a brother yesterday at church. His wife is from Mexico, and he was saying in Mexico, May 10th is Mother’s Day. It’s always May 10th. So it reminds me that our Mother’s Day doesn’t always fall on a certain day, and that’s our custom here in America. In Mexico it’s different. I would imagine — and that’s as far as my understanding goes — how Mother’s Day in other countries is celebrated. How are they remembered? I would imagine there are a lot of countries, a lot of governments that recognize the value and the asset that a mother is. It’s a blessing for us to remember them.

King Lemuel had a mother who loved him, who gave guidance and direction to him. It’s kind of interesting because he shared some of the things that she had said, some of the things that really stuck in his mind, and first she acknowledged you are my son, the son of my womb, the son of my bowels. She wanted him to know that he was extremely precious to her, and isn’t that, dear mothers, oftentimes the thought that you want to express to your children — you are so precious to me! There are times when they’re not feeling that. Sometimes that preciousness that you feel toward them isn’t really recognized because they’re somewhat sensing their independence, and they’re just not thinking.

King Lemuel’s in a spot here where he’s probably passed that area of rebellion in his life, and he’s coming back and thinking about that, reminiscing how that was wonderful. That was something that was wonderful to be loved and to be cherished by a mother. By the things that she said — “Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.” (v.3) — she was just imparting unto him knowledge, and perhaps there was a point in his life where he rejected that. Maybe he had to learn the hard way. Maybe he had to get to the point where he experienced some heartache and remembered that mom told him it could go this way. Maybe that’s where he was brought back to remember. It’s wonderful, isn’t it, if we could take those teaching from our parents, from our mothers and not have to set them on a shelf, go out and learn the hard way, and come back, look at them, say these were pretty good teachings, and take them and dust them off, and then remember the goodness of mom. Far better that we from the very beginning understand it and recognize it.

He goes on to speak, and I think this is King Lemuel speaking. He begins to speak of this virtuous woman, and this is from his perspective of a son who looks back and he sees the beauty of what his mom did and perhaps what a wife had done. Again, Sisters, this is the perspective of a son. Maybe she was gone, and he looked at her and said that “…her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants’ ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her
maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.” (v.10-21)

We’re about half way through it, and perhaps by this time, Sisters, you’re thinking, ‘I don’t measure up to that. I don’t know that I am all that a virtuous woman is supposed to be.’ But again, this is a son’s perspective.

Let’s keep going. “She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain…” - and this is the answer - “…but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” (v.22-30)

So the whole chapter, Sisters and Brothers, really hinges upon the second half of the 30th verse: “…but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” So instead of worrying about how I am going to fulfill all of these expectations that I feel are laid out here in the 31st chapter of Proverbs, the only thing that really needs to be considered is that we acknowledge God, that we fear God. It isn’t just for the sisters, Loved Ones. It’s for all of us to come to a point where we understand that it’s up to us. In a few weeks there’ll be a Father’s Day. It’s easy for us to look at the heavenly Father. It comes right down to we have to look and we have to consider that there is a God in heaven that we need to look to. We need to ask for guidance and direction. We need to look to Him that He blesses us, and that when our heart and our focus are on serving God, Dear Ones, these things just happen. God helps us. He helps us to speak with that kindness. He blesses us with things that we really don’t have all that much power over.

So let’s understand what God is really asking us to do and who He is asking us to be. He’s asking us to look to Him, to consider Him, to acknowledge our nothingness before Him, to repent of our sin, and to make Him the focal point of our life.

“…and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.” (1 Corinthians 12:31) Then we can go on and read about the more excellent way and that being the way of charity, of a godly love, a love for God, and a godly love for one another. So, Loved Ones, as we stop and think now about the Apostle Paul and we think of the teachings we read here in Proverbs 31, do we recognize what’s needed? We come together — and there is a nice amount of people here — and we all recognize that we don’t have the same gifts. There are a lot of different occupations that are probably represented here. I know that Satan at times would love to come and say, ‘Boy! That brother. My! He is gifted! Look at what he can accomplish! Look what he can do in a day’s time. Look at this and look at that.’ That’s how Satan works.

Sisters, I know he works the exact same way on you. Look what she can do! She can turn the world upside down. She can do this, and she can do that. The Lord is saying, ‘I have made you. I have placed you in this body, and I have loved you with a love that is undivided and is as strong for you as it is for anyone else.’ There’s no division or lack or excess of love that the Father has for one over the other. It’s kind of hard

— Please turn to pg. 68
Jamaican Deaf Overcome Obstacles

Growth and Development

Cheyenne, a young woman in Jamaica, has encountered many obstacles in her life. She was born with a degenerative retinal disease that is leading to blindness, she lost her father to cancer as a teen and her mother has struggled to provide a living for the family as a market vendor. While these obstacles would have sent many Jamaicans into cycles of despair, Cheyenne has a future with opportunity and hope, through education, Christian mentoring, and a desire to develop her God-given talents to help others in need and glorify God with her abilities.

Being blind or deaf creates obstacles in life, but that doesn’t lessen the value or purpose of the person in the eyes of their Creator, and although both deaf and blind face some of the same barriers, their challenges can also be quite different. For the deaf youth of Jamaica, the biggest challenges are not things present, but things that lack. An effective way to communicate these challenges is with an acrostic:

- **L** – Language acquisition delays.
- **A** – Attitudes that do not affirm.
- **C** – Culture that wars against truth and causes confusion.
- **K** – Knowledge that does not edify and build up.

Language is critical to the cognitive, emotional and psychological development of any child. A hearing child passively acquires language as they hear it from before they are even born and can communicate well before they enter their first classroom. It is not so for the majority of deaf children who are born into hearing families that speak a different language, with their first exposure to language typically occurring when they enter school for the first time and see sign language all around them. But too often students enter school after age five, and therefore miss critical years of development. This is why residential schools for the deaf are so critical to facilitating an environment where language can be acquired.

The attitude with which a child is nurtured and taught may very well have the most profound impact on the long-term development and health of any person, and may also be one of the biggest obstacles to the Gospel. When a child grows up in an environment that belittles them, tells them they are not as good as the “hearing” children and that they will never be able to succeed in life, they eventually believe that lie and along with it, develop a distorted understanding of God as their Creator. Imagine the paradox within one’s mind when you would attempt to reconcile the false-claim of “you are inferior and broken because you can’t hear” with the truth-claim of “before you were born, God fashioned you in your mother’s womb, and you are fearfully and wonderfully made and loved by your Creator.” The two do not align and this has ripple effects into the deeper psyche and understanding of being made in the image of God.

Culture is a unique phenomenon, and although many times we fail to recognize the influence and role of culture in our own lives, it is always present and impacting our thoughts, beliefs and actions. Today there are many carnal and vain cultural values that permeate society and influence the deaf youth of Jamaica, which we have to war against by presenting a culture that is filtered through the Word of God.

— Please turn to pg. 67
Providing Clear Direction for New Integrated World Relief & Mission organization

For many years, the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee has shepherded the spiritual outreaches of our brotherhood. Specifically, the Mission Committee had three main objectives: 1.) Establish and aid new and existing churches, 2.) Send brethren on specific assignments, and 3.) Provide spiritual oversight. Our “sister” organization, Apostolic Christian World Relief initially focused primarily on humanitarian aid. As each organization developed over the years, their work began overlapping more and more. This is one of the many reasons why it was decided to integrate the two, a process that is now well underway.

With any significant undertaking, it’s important to have a clear purpose and sense of direction. That is why in late 2014, the counseling elders of both organizations met in joint session to establish guiding statements for the forthcoming new entity. (This could not have been possible without the work that happened prior to this meeting. Each elder had enlisted representatives from their local congregation to get their input. All of this information was compiled and sorted to provide a solid starting point.)

The elder brothers who participated were: Wayne Banwart, Jim Plattner, Steve Ringger, Tom Klortzle, John Laukauf, Jon Schmidgall, Doug Scock, Steve Sauder, Earl Ringger, Tom Hoffman, Mike Leman, Marvin Dotterer, and Phil Stettner. Meeting facilitation was provided by Kevin Ryan. The Holy Spirit’s presence was felt in a profound way as the brothers worked through the day.

The resulting guiding statements align with the mission statement of the Apostolic Christian Church of America, embody priorities from World Relief and Mission, and set forth principles that will guide and guard the outreach arm of the brotherhood into the future as the Lord leads.

Since Mission and World Relief operate under the authority of the Elder Body – and the new organization will as well – these guiding statements were presented and approved by the entire Elder Body at the Feb. 2015 conference.

Purpose
Enable the brotherhood to proclaim Christ and serve others beyond the capacity of the local church.

Vision
God is glorified as despair and suffering are alleviated, hearts and minds are transformed, and churches are established and nurtured.

Mission
Our mission is to equip and mobilize brethren to proclaim the gospel, disciple and nurture believers, and demonstrate the love of Christ with deeds of compassion.

Guiding Principles
1. Biblical Truth: We will teach and practice the whole counsel of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit.
2. Submission to God: We will pray and fast, seeking the Holy Spirit’s direction and the Lord’s will, consistent with the Word of God.
3. Establish Churches: As the Lord wills, we will seek opportunities to establish local churches, applying the four-pillar mission of the Apostolic Christian Church of America.
4. Love of Christ: The love of Christ and the glory and honor of God will be the motivation of our ministry, never to be diminished by self-

— Please turn to pg. 65
Although the word “mentor” is not mentioned in the Bible, the concept occurs frequently throughout its pages. In the Old Testament, Moses received advice from his father-in-law that enabled him to delegate responsibility. In the New Testament, Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry mentoring His disciples. He taught them how to pray, instructed them in the way of salvation, and helped them grow spiritually. The apostle Paul was a mentor to many, especially Timothy and Titus. Paul’s letters to them are beautiful examples of mentoring instructions, warnings, and godly advice. A few examples are found in Titus 2:3-4 and 2 Timothy 2:1-2:

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,” (Titus 2:3-4)

“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

What is Mentoring

A simple definition of mentoring is “coming alongside and helping someone.” A mentor establishes a relationship with another in order to give wisdom, help, encouragement, support, or guidance. The desired result is that all parties will grow closer to Christ in their daily walk and grow closer to the fellowship of believers making up the Body of Christ.

“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” (Proverbs 27:17)

Some of the purposes and goals of mentoring can be:

- Helping others attain spiritual growth.
- Providing support with general issues in life such as singleness, marriage, parenting, etc.
- Giving encouragement during major transitional periods of life.

Mentoring is a Gift of the Spirit

Mentoring is listed as one of the gifts of the Spirit in Romans 12:8. The gift of “exhortation” is a translation of a Greek word that literally means “coming alongside to help” and implies such activities as admonishing, supporting, and encouraging others. Actually, the role of a mentor is closely related to the mission of the Holy Spirit – comforting, guiding, warning, chastening, instructing, convicting, encouraging, and helping.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul mentions a list of various duties that are assigned to members of the Body of Christ. One of those listed is “helps” which is a translation of a different Greek word that refers to the act of rendering assistance to the poor, supporting the weak, and ministering to the needy. It is important that members of the Body of Christ be willing to take on that role in the church as given opportunity.

Characteristics of Mentoring Relationships

Mentoring typically occurs between two individuals of the same gender or couples. Mentoring relationships allow for the opportunity to mutually encourage one another and help each other draw closer to Christ in our daily walk and draw closer to the Body of Christ. In order to be a mentor, one must have a desire to relate to others and see them grow. Individuals being mentored need to have respect for the mentor, a desire to grow and learn, and a willingness to be held accountable and challenged.

Healthy mentoring relationships are often focused around three principle concepts:

- Commitment – All relationships take time and energy.
- Clarity – Having clear goals and expectations
will give purpose to mentoring.

• Change – Progress should be made toward the desired goals over time.

Within the context of these concepts, mentoring can take multiple forms depending on the needs of the one being mentored. A couple of such forms are:

**Mentoring as Discipling**
In this type of relationship, a more experienced follower of Christ shares wisdom, knowledge, and skills related to growing in one’s walk with Christ. The mentoring relationship impacts both the character and behavior of the one being mentored as the mentor holds them accountable for what is being learned. In discipling, a mentor may help an individual in developing devotional habits for reading the Word and prayer, sharing one’s faith with others, or identifying and developing one’s spiritual gifts.

**Mentoring as Coaching**
In this type of relationship, someone who knows how to do something very well shares skills/knowledge with one who wants to learn. The coaching mentor first demonstrates the skill and/or imparts knowledge. Then, he or she motivates and helps the individual develop confidence to use the new skills. Next, the learner is given the opportunity to practice the new skills. Finally, feedback and encouragement is provided as the individual practices the new skill/knowledge on his or her own. Some examples of skills/knowledge which can be passed on in a coaching type of mentorship: financial or time management, relationship skills, parenting advice, public speaking skills, etc.

There are three key types of relationships which can encourage us to a deeper walk with the Lord and with each other. Having each of these relationships in our lives can help allow us to more fully appreciate the Body of Christ as God designed it in His Word:

• A Mentor who teaches and encourages you.
• A Peer who encourages and holds you accountable.
• A Mentee who you are investing in to teach and encourage.

**Getting Started**
While mentoring relationships can take many different forms, the most important factor is a Christ-centered relationship mutually focused on growth and development according to biblical principles. Take some time to pray about the possibility of developing a mentoring relationship as a mentor or mentee.

Consider the following steps:

• **Pray:** Pray specifically and pray believing God will supply all your needs; ask God to prepare your heart so it can be soft and moldable.

• **Evaluate and define:**
  - If seeking a mentor, evaluate and define your needs and desires for a mentoring relationship.
  - If seeking to mentor, prayerfully evaluate and define your strengths and gifts you could share with others. Also, be honest about the level of time and commitment you can give to these relationships.

• **Seek guidance:** Ask a minister or elder for suggestions for an appropriate mentor or express your desire to help as a mentor if needed. Perhaps he knows of someone who would appreciate the opportunity to form a mentoring relationship.

• **Connect:** Approach a potential mentor with the idea of developing a mentoring relationship.

— *Please turn to pg. 65*
God likes numbers, as evidenced by the fact that He named the fourth book of His Word “Numbers”—I heard that one this morning on the radio. Bear with me, this month’s column has to do with numbers.

About a year ago, one of the Timber Ridge residents and I did a presentation to some Sunday School students at one of our churches. Some of the questions we covered involved costs of running ACHH. With an annual budget that is now at just over $11.4 million, we sometimes hear a comment like “that’s a lot of money for 160 residents”, and it is. BUT, when you start breaking down some of the numbers, I think you can gain a much better understanding.

For instance, wages and payroll-related items for everyone who works at ACHH comprise 78% of the budget, but that amount works out to direct pay of only about $5.10 per resident per hour. I don’t know about you, but I feel like it would be quite a sacrifice, even if I was able, for me to take care of anyone in my home for 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, for $5.10/hour. Could you do this?

We also looked at resident food costs, both groceries and work lunches. This number is a little over 2% of the budget. Food costs compute to about $4.50 per day per resident (I should note here that most residents supplement their diets with foods and snacks purchased with their own wages or other income). How many of us spend that much or more on just one of our 3 meals/day, or even just on a special cup of coffee? It would be interesting for me to try to spend only $4.50 a day for my food. I’m not sure what I would be eating—maybe I’d call it the “$4.50-A-Day Diet”?

One more interesting breakdown—resident transportation. This includes commutes to work, church and outings. It includes gas, oil changes, tires, depreciation and repairs for our vehicles, plus outside bussing. This expense is about 1% of the budget. Our cost per resident per day for this expense is about $2.30, about the current cost of a gallon of gas. For me to average spending only $2.30 a day on my transportation would involve a major lifestyle change. I don’t think I would be able to afford a car on $2.30/day—that’s only $840/year.

Other budget items include home depreciation and maintenance (5%), supplies—for cleaning, laundry, nursing, resident activities and the office (4%), State of Illinois assessment fees (2.5%), utilities (2%), professional fees—tech support, legal, auditing, etc., (2%), insurance (1%), consultants for the special needs of some of our residents (5%), and smaller category items totaling about 1.5%.

That’s probably more numbers than many people want to try to wade through, but I think breaking them down on a “per-resident, per-day basis” gives us a much better perspective that we can then compare to our own spending. It certainly made spending at ACHH look very reasonable to me.

God bless you for your financial and prayer support of the Home.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home

Gateway Woods Foster Care

May is National Foster Care Month, and around here that is big reason for celebration, thankfulness, and prayers. For over 25 years we have depended on you and your families bringing us to the throne of God, over and over. There is no better work for God’s people than to serve the hurting and fatherless, and a big part of that service is prayer. Thank you for praying for our Foster Care Department here at Gateway Woods. Our foster homes are full, and every day
many children are settling into families who are teaching them about Jesus and taking them to church. While there is much grief and pain in these children’s lives, God is not done writing their stories, and His plans for them far exceed our wildest imaginations!

We have foster parents who are in their early 20s and haven’t started their own families, but have felt the calling to use their homes for service. We have families who are teaching their school-aged children selflessness and grace by showing them how to love hardened foster children. We have couples that have long-since been empty nesters that stand in as grandparents in the lives of their foster children. God uses a variety of His people for His service! Likewise, God calls a variety of us to work as staff in the Foster Care Department. His calling is our privilege, on tough days and mountaintops alike.

As you say your prayers tonight and throughout the rest of the month, please consider praying for:

- The hearts of the foster children placed into Gateway Woods foster homes across northeastern Indiana, ranging in age from 1-18.
- Foster parents, as they daily strive to point these children to the Cross, and to the hope we have in the shed blood of Jesus.
- The Gateway Woods Foster Care staff, as we are serving foster families and children, both in their homes and from the office.

Thank you for your prayers!

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ…” Col 4:2-3

News:

Gateway Woods is awarding scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by contacting Chad Kaeb by phone at 888.443.4283 or email chad.kaeb@gatewaywoods.org. More information is available at gatewaywoods.org/scholarships. Applications should be submitted by June 15, 2015.

We are thankful to announce that Bro. Brad Gasser has accepted the Education Intern at Gateway Woods School for the summer of 2015. Please pray for Brad as he joins the school staff for the summer.

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 a Top Quality Coordinator for the upcoming summer. Please see the notice 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.

There are three different career positions available currently at Gateway Woods, including: several openings for Alternate
Houseparents, one opening for a Counselor, and one opening for a Home-Based Case Worker. For more information please see the notices in this edition or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at www.gatewaywoods.org/careers. We trust that God will provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is ‘Turning Lives Around’.

Alabama, Athens Apostolic Christian Preschool
Susan Koch

The themes for February were winter, health/nutrition and the color white. We want to thank all of the people who came in to talk to the students about their jobs. We learned about pilots, surgical nurses, painters, pastors, firemen, landscapers, and carpenters. The students especially loved trying on the heavy fireman coat and wearing the surgical masks and caps. The highlight of the month was our Valentine’s Day party. The children sang songs about how Jesus loves us and read the Bible story about the children coming to listen to Jesus. One of the songs we sang is called “Love Grows”.

“Love grows one by one,
Two by two and four by four
Love grows around in a circle
And it comes back knockin’ at your front door.”

This song makes me think of how demonstrating the love of Jesus acts like a chain reaction and eventually comes back to you. It challenges me to check my attitude each day and purpose in my heart to exhibit the love of Christ as I am one of His ambassadors to the world.

I don’t know how the rest of the country fared, but Athens had an interesting last couple months of weather! In early March, we even had six inches of snow on the ground. The students were able to enjoy several snow days this year.

The themes we studied for March were Habitats/Our Neighborhood, spring, and the color purple. We had our annual Trike-a-thon fundraiser this month as well. The students got to bring their bikes and trikes from home and ride in circles for money. We use this money to buy fun toys and other items for the students.

This month we have been practicing for our Easter Program which is scheduled for the beginning of April. I love watching as the children learn their new songs and poems about the Reason any of us have HOPE. One of my favorite parts is when they say the line, “The people waved their coats and palm branches in the air shouting, ‘Praise God the King is coming!’” It’s hilarious because they stumble through the first part of the line, but once they reach the word “shouting” they shout the rest!

April 2015 is upon us which means the school year is winding down. After taking a week off our normal curriculum for Easter, we studied letters W, X, Y, and Z. The students have done such a wonderful job this year working on saying their ABC’s and recognizing the letters and the sounds they make. We also focused on the themes Spring, wild weather, and the color green. The students enjoyed taking walks around the preschool grounds looking for signs of spring. We have a few trees in the area with gorgeous blossoms that the students watch bud. They also love finding the first flowers popping up through the fresh green grass, even if it’s just dandelions and clover.

Of course with spring comes tornado season in Athens. We do conduct monthly fire and tornado drills, but focus a little more on tornados in the spring since our students are very familiar with these storms. They learn safety skills about what to do during a storm whether they are inside or if they are outside. The best thing we can teach them is to trust in God’s protection and remember that no storm is bigger than God! I love how Psalm 18:2 describes God’s strength and protection:

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

The students and parents have been extremely patient with us as we have made many changes to the physical look and functionality of the preschool. We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with those changes: those who donated time and labor, those
who made financial contributions, those who donated their skills, those who helped us look after the students, and especially those who prayed for us; thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

In other news, we currently have a need for a preschool teacher at the Apostolic Christian Preschool. For more information, please see our ad in the back of this issue. If you are interested in applying to teach at the Apostolic Christian Preschool, please email your resume to acpreschool2015@gmail.com. You can find more information about us at acpreschool.org or follow the Apostolic Christian Preschool on Facebook.

We are looking for summer volunteers. Please email or call if you are interested! The preschool number is 256.233.059. Susan’s number is 309.202.4897. Kalla’s number is 309.231.1755.

**Alabama, Athens**

*Kristy Moore*

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Revelation 22:1-2

What a beautiful glimpse of heaven we had this past month as we completed our Bible study in Revelation. The timing couldn’t have been more perfect, as it coincided with the story of Christ’s Resurrection from the mouths of our beautiful children. It emphasized Christ’s purpose for hanging on the cross… eternal life with our Lord and Savior.

This month, our small church was blessed by and grateful for Bro. Darren (Sis. Sue) Plattner from Champaign, IL, and Bro. Duane Reutter from Rockville, CT for serving on the pulpit. Bro. Tom (Sis. Sue) Waldbeser and their family from Atlanta, GA served us by having our Communion service, for which we are grateful. We were also appreciative for the group who came from Phoenix, AZ and Rockville, CT to help rejuvenate our preschool. For those who have helped out at the preschool in times past, feel free to stop by, if you are down this way, as you will be in for a treat.

Planning for Memorial Day Weekend has also become full-fledge this month. We thank you for all your prayers and support, as this weekend would not be successful without them. If y’all are interested in attending, please see the ad in the back for more information. Love and prayers!

**Arizona, Phoenix**

*Heather Hinrichsen*

Sharing the Word of God with us this month were Bro. Darren Metz (Gridley) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend).

“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” Matthew 28:6

The Sunday School children and the choir proclaimed the resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Resurrection Sunday morning. We thank all those who make our sunrise service a blessing.

**Arizona, Tucson**

*Dean and Jackie Knobloch*

We have been blessed with a wonderful Easter remembering our Lord and Savior and His sacrifice on our behalf.

It is refreshing to see the desert bloom and to see God’s beauty in creation.

We continue to pray for Bro. Bob Haas and Rob Wilson. God is in control and for that we are eternally grateful.

We have to bid farewell to our winter visitors. We wish them God’s blessing in traveling back to their homes and we look forward to their return, Lord willing.

It seems there is a lot of turmoil in the world today, but we can be assured God is the same yesterday, today and forever. May we focus on His eternal promises available to all.

**California, San Diego**

*Janelle Brewer*

This past month, we came together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) was here to help Elder Bro. John Wiegand that evening. It was special to have them spend the weekend with us. May God bless these brothers for their efforts on our behalf.
We are thankful that the doors have opened for Sis. Marie Luthi to move to our area from Lamont-Gridley, KS. We welcome her to our congregation and pray that God will be by her side as she settles into the area!

On Easter morning, we gathered as a church family to have breakfast together. It was such a beautiful morning as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

“He is not here, but is risen”
Luke 24:6

Our prayers are with Sis. Linde Zimmer as she fell and broke her arm. May God grant her a speedy recovery.

We were able to assemble with a large group for Wednesday evening services in Palm Desert this past month. We appreciate Bro. John Wiegand serving us again. We are appreciative to all those who were able to gather with us throughout the winter. It was a tremendous blessing and encouragement!

Colorado, Denver
Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman

Greetings from Colorado!

Here I sit at the computer trying to figure out how the deadline for the Silver Lining got here so quickly. It seems like it wasn’t very long ago that we sent in the last article. As I stare at the blank screen, it seems impossible that there is no Denver news to report. How could there be nothing to write about when life has been so busy since the last deadline? Could we really just have spent a whole month without having anything to share that would be spiritually encouraging to others? We were reminded this month in church about making sure God is our first priority. With all the activities we are a part of and all the things that keep us busy, are we making sure that our top priority is seeking out God and making Him number one in our lives? Are we putting our families next and ourselves last? This may seem like an oversimplified or obvious message, but if I reprioritize, I don’t think I will be lacking in things to report next month.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Mt. 6:33

Connecticut, Rockville
Lauren Gottier, Sheila Gerber

“For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him”
1 Samuel 1:27

Three couples have been blessed with the safe arrival of newborn babies this past month. Wade and Lauren Mattesen welcomed their first child, Warren Andrew, on March 23. Grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Sherry Skinner and Louis and Laurie Mattesen. Also welcoming their first child were Bro. Benjamin and Sis. Jessica Luginbuhl. Nash Benjamin arrived on April 6. His grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn Luginbuhl and Alan Richards and Laurie Richards. Bro. Louis and Sis. Deb Lipton welcomed their second daughter, Evelyn Jo on April 6, joining her sister Eliza at home. Evelyn’s grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman (Clarendon, VT) and Jeff and Joanne Lipton.

Our prayers continue to go forth for many who are have or are spending time in hospitals and nursing homes. Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Marilyn) was recently hospitalized and is now working toward rehabilitation. We are thankful to have Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) back worshipping and serving on the pulpit after his recent surgery and recovery.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

“For, lo, the winter is past … The flowers appear on the earth.”
Song of Solomon 2:11-12

The cherry blossoms, for which Washington, DC is well-known, are just the start of our prettiest time of the year. For the following six weeks to two months we have many kinds of blooming trees, bushes and flowers. Many of us think April and May are the best times to visit or come be a caretaker. 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 have been Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH). Other visitors were from Bluffton North, IN and Forrest, IL. Thanks to all who have included us in your plans.

With the warming of the weather, many turn their thoughts to vacations. There are many free attractions in Washington, DC, things for all the family. 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, Fort Myers**

**Victor Beer**

Our Easter morning service was solemnly held with these words from the Hymn “The Resurrection”, as we rejoiced together.

*“Why come ye at break of morning. To the Lord’s grave in such deep mourning; Who’ll roll the heavy stone away? Tis away; oh, do not murmur! Ye faithful ones, come now draw nearer, The stone is gone, Oh, look there-in! See angels in the cleft! Bring joy to you bereft Hosanna, hosanna Why seek with tears the Master here? He is not dead, rejoice—He lives! Hymns of Zion #45*  

If you are considering a move to the Naples/Fort Myers area and would like to talk to someone about it, 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.

**The New Beginnings**

This past month has been a very exciting time for The New Beginnings. We are officially at full capacity with the arrival of Amber and Alysia to our ministry. Both of these young mothers brought with them little newborn souls that are such tiny little bundles of precious joy. When I ponder where these mothers came from and see the tiny little babies I think of the words written by Wess Stafford:

“*At the moment of birth, all heaven stands in breathless anticipation and breaks into shouts of joy and praise. Each child is born into the world loved and full of potential to bring joy to the heart of God. A little flame flickers deep in the child’s being. It reflects a dignity and worth, made in the image of God Almighty. Meanwhile Satan and his evil hosts stand ready to pounce and destroy that life as quickly and completely as possible, knowing how that will break the heart of God. All of heaven and hell are present and focused on the newborn life - for vastly different reasons. Both have strategic designs for this little one.*”

We implore you to pray for these babies and their mothers. Satan wants nothing more than to break them, to make them feel worthless and that nobody cares. We pray they feel the Father’s love and pass it on to their little ones. Please pray that with us and for them.

This past month was also filled with a presentation and a church supper. We celebrated Easter with our annual Easter church dinner at the Fellowship hall. We were reminded again of the beautiful story of the promise made and kept of Jesus’ rising from His tomb, ascending to Heaven and interceding on our behalf with our Heavenly Father.

We will not be meeting on Wednesday evenings for services until the next winter season.

**Florida, Ft. Lauderdale**

**Renee Mangold**

We were grateful to have three visiting ministers this past month. The ministers that came to share God’s word were Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Ft. Myers, FL), and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO).

We were delighted to host a presentation by The New Beginnings, a ministry to single moms in Cape Coral, FL. We had a nice group from Ft. Myers that joined us for a day of worship, followed by The New Beginnings
with old and new friends taking the time to come spend some time with our TNB family. A cookout, a potluck, a coffee and a dinner with new friends were all happening and they were all special.

If you are going to be in the Ft. Myers area, look us up and come spend an evening with us. We’d love to get to know you and make you one of those “old friends”! If your church is interested in The New Beginnings making a presentation, please contact us at thenewbeginningsofswfl@yahoo.com.

Florida, Sarasota
Kim Ott

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

We have appreciated so much the visiting brothers who have shared the Word with us. These brothers include: Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO), Bro. Mike Thomas (Sis. Claudia, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN), and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Pam, Francesville, IN). May God bless them and their families for their service of love.

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta
Lexi Knapp, Elise Waldbeser

“No turning back, no turning back. The world behind me, the cross before me; The world behind me, the cross before me; The world behind me, the cross before me; No turning back, no turning back. Though none go with me, still I will follow; Though none go with me, still I will follow; Though none go with me, still I will follow; No turning back, no turning back.”

Our hearts join the Lord in great rejoicing that Megan Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana) has made known her commitment to follow Jesus! What a wonderful Savior we serve – how faithfully He draws us to Himself and supplies everything we need for life and godliness! Megan, may your journey of walking with Jesus be like the path of the just in Proverbs 4:18: “But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” May Jesus become more and more precious to you and your life glow more fully of Him with each new day!

For the Easter program, we gathered upstairs in the new sanctuary. Despite the fact that we are awaiting the arrival of pews and carpet, we thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful acoustics which swelled from the sound of young voices! What a special time of remembering the Cross of Jesus Christ and the absolute wonder of the life He has given us through Himself!

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank those who have been part of the most recent stages of our church building remodel: the carport, laying tile, putting up trim, brick work, and the retaining wall. We are so thankful and have been so blessed by all of the volunteers who have come and helped with the work! To see photos or additional information about the church remodel, our church website is: www.ptcacchurch.org.

If there is anyone coming to the area, we would love to see you! Our new address is: 202 Robinson Road, Peachtree City, GA, 30269. However, please call ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or Richard Aberle 678.364.0507)

Illinois, Belvidere
Krista Anliker, Shayla Steffen

Greetings from Belvidere!

Our church family has recently been blessed with a little miracle! A healthy, little boy, Elim Wayne, was born to Bro. Jordan and Sis. Shayla Steffen. Siblings are Elaiah and Adler. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen and Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda Messner (Winthrop). While visiting his new grandson, Bro. Dean Messner also brought forth the word from the pulpit.

Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis) shared a topical Bible Study with us on a Wednesday evening about Discipline, Restoration and Reinstatement. May God bless
him and all of our elders and ministers for their efforts and labors of love on our behalf.

We are thankful that Amy Hanson (Rich) has made known her desire to serve the Lord. May God give her much grace during this time.

We were able to be together on Good Friday for services. There was also a community meal at church that Friday evening.

Illinois, Bloomington-
Normal
Sarah Maurer, Terri Huber

Our thanks to Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev. Detroit), Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), who visited and preached the Gospel. What a wonderful tradition of travel, truth, and togetherness our denomination provides! It is a blessing to arrive on Sunday with no other expectation than that we will be uplifted by our brethren and that the Word of God will be expounded on—much as it was centuries ago when Paul preached every Sabbath in Corinth for a year and a half, then traveled to Ephesus to do the same.

Our traditions that date back to Bible times also include sharing meals and singing hymns, and both were evidenced at our Easter Sunrise Service. Our Risen Lord was extolled in song by the choir and special groups and then we “broke bread” as they did in Acts. The previous Sunday we listened to the same message as expressed by the Sunday School children.

A dear sister in faith and long-time Bloomington church attendee, Evelyn Beyer, passed away in Eureka this month. We offer our condolences to Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher and their children at the passing of his mother, Sis. Betty Lou of Eureka. Others in our congregation recently lost a grandmother: Sis. Kristi (Bro. Ben) Luglinbuhl’s Grandma Dorothy Stoller passed away. Sis. Pauline Rocke (also of Eureka) left this world at the age of 98 and will be missed by her granddaughter, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Court) Sauder and their children.

Isn’t it hard to imagine a period of 98 years—past or future? However, we envision years of promise for a new soul, Merritt Lee, who is the precious new daughter born to Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim Schlipf of Indiana. Local grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young.

What a privilege it was for ISU and Bloomington to host College Weekend! I can’t imagine a better use of our church building than the gathering of young Christians. On Sunday, the young people filled our front benches and we praise God that the generations are being renewed. We know that the future of a denomination’s identity depends on the extent to which successive generations identify with the traditions, values, and practices they receive. It warms my heart to remember the College Weekends of my youth and to know that the tradition continues!

Illinois, Bradford
Roseann Stahl, Sandi Joos

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville-Mediapolis) assisted Elder Bro. Bruce in serving Holy Communion. We are thankful for his willingness to come and help with serving and remembering Christ’s suffering and death.

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

Zion’s Harp #209

On two different Sundays we welcomed four souls into the family of God. March 29 was the baptisms of Sis. Candace Stahl (Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Joel Stahl (Bro. Wendell and Sis. Linda). We thank Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest) for assisting Bro. Bruce. Other guest ministers that weekend were Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville), and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville). On April 12, we witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Allisa Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill) and Sis. Erica Kieser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy). Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville) helped Bro. Bruce and ministered to us along with
Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park).

Our prayers for God’s healing mercies are with Bro. Jack Knobloch (Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Esther Streitmatter.

John Joos (Sis. Rebecca and the late Bro. Robert) and Anna Dietz (Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel) were announced for peace. We look forward to hearing of God’s work in their lives in the near future.

**Illinois, Champaign**

*Sarah Eisenmann*

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana!

Our Sunday School Easter program took place on Palm Sunday. The program focused on the Easter story through the eyes of the Apostle Peter. Thank you to the students and teachers (and parents who urged their children to practice their parts) for all of the hard work that went into the program.

On Easter Sunday, we had our first-ever “sunrise” (8:00 am) service. An informal service was held at a local park, followed by a breakfast at church. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to worship God together, whether in a church building or outside admiring His creation.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber; Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam; Washington, IL), and Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn; Forrest, IL). Thank you for all you do!

**Illinois, Chicago**

*Diana Eisenmann*

Thanks to visiting ministers Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City/Atlanta, GA) for worshipping with us in April.

On Palm Sunday we were blessed by the Sunday School Easter program. In April we gathered for Holy Communion. We are thankful for this time of year where we remember the wonderful sacrifice of our Lord and Savior and the hope offered to all through His death and resurrection.

We offer prayers and condolences for Sis. Tiera Wiegand in the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL) as well as Sis. Laura Lindberg (Bro. Mark) and Bro. Brian Vercler (Sis. Amber) in the loss of their grandfather, John Vercler of Chenoa, IL.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**

*Sandy Rudin, Janie Waldbeser*

*How God Created Mother*

“The grace of a bird in flight,  
Then God fashioned from  
these things  
A creation like no other,  
And when His masterpiece was through,  
He called it simply...MOTHER.”  
-Author Unknown

Our prayers are with Sis. Bonnie Kaeb and Sis. Marilyn Young. Sis. Bonnie lost a mother, Sis. Jean Kieser of Bloomington and Sis. Marilyn lost her father, Aaron Neukomm of Cissna Park.

We are thankful that Bro. Jeff Grimm could help our Bro. Tom Stock serve Holy Communion recently. This is always a special evening to renew our faith. We have also been blessed this month to have Bros. Dan Moser, Dennis Kaufmann and Curt Rassi visit us. Several in our congregation have been in the hospital or received injuries that have kept them from being able to assemble with us. These dear ones are Gary Rudin, Bro. Kenny Weerts, and Sisters Kathy Stock, Sandy Kaufmann, and Marilyn Knapp.

**Illinois, Congerville**

*Erica Steffen*

Bros. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley), James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest), Ron Palitto, (Sis. Lynell, Akron), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis-Oakville), Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest), Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington), Ned Bahler (Sis.
Anna, Fairbury), and Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield) all shared the Word this month. We appreciate their willingness to be used by the Spirit to feed our little flock in Congerville.

This month, we had the blessing to witness the uniting of two hearts and lives in Holy Matrimony. Bro. Craig Steffen and Sis. Camille Sauder were made one in the Lord on March 29 in Tremont. Their parents are Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen and Bro. Richard and Sis. Carol Sauder (Sis. Evelyn, dec.) from Tremont. May they feel the Lord’s nearness as they establish their new life together!

I neglected to include in last month’s issue the passing of our beloved Sis. Lulu Zimmerman who ended her earthly battle on March 15. Her sweet spirit and kind nature will truly be missed each time we gather together. Our prayers are extended to members of our church family who lost their mother and grandmother, including her children: Bro. Fred Zimmerman (Sis. Maryellen), Bro. Ben (Sis. Kathy) Zimmerman and Bro. Chuck (Sis. Ginny Zimmerman).

Our Sis. Phyllis Miller (Bro. Chris) also bid farewell to her mother, Laura M. Kupferschmid of Eureka on April 5. May Sis. Phyllis and all the family feel our heartfelt sympathy and prayers during their time of loss.

Our church held Good Friday service on April 3. It was a blessing to be reminded of the sacrifice for each one that the Savior paid. I saw a quote on that day that said, “Jesus paid a debt He did not owe, because I owed a debt I could not pay.” What a stunning phrase to put us in the right mindset to realize the tremendous price that was paid for our sinful souls. What joy we felt then on Easter Sunday, knowing that the debt has been paid and there is HOPE awaiting us in Heaven, if we surrender our lives and will to our Savior.

Thank you to all those who joined us for our Invite-a-Guest weekend on April 12. We enjoyed the fellowship and the beautiful singing of those from near and far who spent the day with us!

Do you ever feel like you have to always be “on the move?” I was convicted a few weeks back by the devotion I read in my Streams in the Desert devotional, which spoke on the importance of being still. Too often when faced with difficulties or decisions, we feel as though we need to be doing something, rather than just being still and allowing the Lord to either fight for us, or wait for His order to advance. “We must be doing something at once—we must do it, so we think—instead of looking to the Lord, who will not only do something, but will do everything” (pg. 121, Streams in the Desert). I felt encouraged to just take time to listen for the “still, small voice” of the Spirit, rather than reasoning within myself of how best to take action in life. The Lord is always willing for us to lean on Him, rather than our own perceived strength.

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We gathered for Communion on March 21. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) was here to assist Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann with this meaningful sacrament.

We thank Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) for visiting this month.

Our Sunday School students presented the Easter program on March 29 in song and verse. We appreciate the efforts of their teachers.

Sis. Sydnee Reinhard (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Kim) is engaged to Bro. Clint Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi, Goodfield, IL). The wedding will be in Bluffton, IN. We wish them God’s blessings in their new life together.

On April 19, the Bible Classes from Forrest, Tremont, and Washington, IL came to Elgin for ACYF. We thank Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) for speaking to the students in the morning. Thanks also to Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann for serving in the assembly.

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

Easter is such a special time to remember and rejoice in our salvation and that Christ rose from the grave. On March 25,
the Sunday School youth shared the story of Easter in song and scripture. Thank you to all the children and their teachers for their efforts. This was also a time of remembrance for the Lord’s broken body and the suffering He endured for our sakes. We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion together on March 23. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton) was able to assist Bro. Trent with this.

“Ring the bells of Heaven! There is joy today, for a soul, returning from the wild; see the Father meets him out upon the way, welcoming His weary, wandering child.” Gospel Hymns #622

We are rejoicing with two new converts who have begun their repentance and conversion. They are Andy Meeks (Liz), and Bryce Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky).

Bro. Pete and Sis. Holly Wettstein had a baby boy on March 24. His name is Ezra Samuel, and he’s welcomed by big sister Everly.

Our thanks are extended to our visiting ministers this month. They included Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke). May we all continue to lift up our ministers’ hands in prayer that God’s truth can continue to be told.

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

Sis. Pauline Rocke (Bro. Virgil, deceased) passed on to be with her heavenly Father on March 20. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Curtis (Sis. Beth) and Bro. Merle (Sis. Beverly) of Eureka, and Sis. Jane (Elder Bro. John) Wiegand of Silverton, OR.

Also, our sympathy is extended on the death of Shirley (Craig) Johns of Woodland Hill, CA. She is the daughter of Bro. Milton (Sis. Caroline, dec.) Leman and a sister to Bro. Terry (Sis. Shirley) Leman.

**Note of Thanks:**

I wish to thank everyone that remembered me with card and gifts for my 100th birthday. Thank you and God bless you.

Sis. Frieda Gerber

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Angela Herr, Janelle Stoller**

“He is not here; for he is risen, as he said…” Matthew 28:6

We gathered with our Sunday School children the evening of March 29 for our Easter Program. We were blessed as our children so wonderfully shared the plan of salvation through verse and song.

Sis. Esther Kiefer passed away on April 4. It has been quite some time since Sis. Esther was able to assemble with us. We are thankful she could be relieved of her earthly affliction. We extend our sympathy to her nieces and nephews and all those who were dear to her.

Bro. Denver and Sis. Sharon Rassi were blessed with a little girl, Kenna Marie, on April 5. Kenna’s big brothers are Cayden and Brendal. Her grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Austin, TX) and Bro. Morris Kaeb and Brenda (Chuck) Mueller (Arrowsmith, IL).

“After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.” 1 Corinthians 11:25

We gathered as a church family on April 18 to partake of Holy Communion. We appreciate Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) who ministered to us and assisted Bro. Rick in serving the Lord’s Supper.

Our prayers are with Layne Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Kendra) as she makes a beginning in repentance.

Bro. Mark Hartman (Sis. Judy), Sis. Jan Schieler (Bro. Harvey), Mariah Walter (Katie) and Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) all underwent surgery and spent time in the hospital. Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne) also was a hospital patient. Our prayers have been with these dear families. We wish them grace and patience through their recovery.

We’re thankful for brothers who are willing to stand and minister God’s Word. Visiting ministers the past month were Brothers Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Kevin Fehr (West Bend, IA), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and...
God sees the little sparrow fall,
It meets His tender view; If God
so loves the little birds, I know He
loves me, too. He loves me, too;
Because He loves the little things,
I know He loves me, too.”

Children’s Harp #3

What a precious message we heard from our Sunday School students this past month on what our Lord and Savior did for us. How He cares, and loves us so much, that He sent His Son to die for each of us. How humbling it is to listen to our children tell us through songs and verses at our Easter program.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers whom we had this past month. To help Elder Bro. Marvin serve Communion were Elder Brothers Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). What a special time for us as we can reflect and examine ourselves. Also with us this past month were Bro. David Eisenmann and Bro. Brian Waibel, both from Champaign, IL. May they be richly blessed for their willingness to serve.

We have three new babies this month. Bro. Joe, Sis. Rhonda, and Ryleigh Rudin welcome Taylor Jo to their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin. Welcoming little Logan Craig into their family are Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenise Rudin. He has two excited big sisters, Lydia, and Rosanna. Logan’s grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin, Bro. Morris Kaeb and Brenda Mueller. Bro. Reuben & Sis. Krystle Leman welcome Koen Michael to their family. Big brother, Rylan, and grandma, Sis. Brenda Leman, are thankful he’s here safe and sound. May each one of these families feel God’s continued guidance as they raise their children.

Our prayers have been with our hospital patients this past month: Sis. Gladys Koehl, Sis. Melba Zimmerman (Bro. Alan), Sis. Earlene Hamilton (Tom), and Bro. Alan Gerber (Sis. Marcia). May they each feel the healing hand of our Lord.

We rejoice with Wade Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen) as he has answered the call of God to repentance. May he feel God’s grace and mercy as he begins this new walk in life. We were also thankful to hear that our convert Logan Mueller (Bro. Stacey and Tonda) has peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

Our deepest sympathy and prayers go to our Sis. Paulette and Bro. Kent Zimmerman on the loss of her mother, Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). We pray for our Sis. Jane and Tom Bounds at the passing of his mother, Orel Bounds. We also remember in prayer our Sis. Janita Koehl, whose sister, Laura Kupferschmid, has died. May each of these families find the comfort and nearness of our Lord during this time.

Sis. Janae Stork has moved to Haiti to volunteer with a charity organization there. We uplift her in prayer as she has felt called to this work.

Graduation is coming upon us quickly. We pray for each of our seniors as they start a new chapter in their life. May they each look to Him for guidance and direction. Our seniors this year are Bro. Tyler Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Jesse Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol), Candis Mueller (Bro. Stacey and Tonda), Bro. Lincoln Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen), Nicole Mueller (Bro. Stan and Kristen), Reagan Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), Brody Ricketts (Kevin & Nicole), Bro. Philip Ricketts (Sis. Marie), Gaige Rinkenberger (Bro. Dan & Sis. Abby Eisenmann), Chad Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly), and Weston Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra).

Illinois, Goodfield

Kayla Wiegand, Melissa Rokey

We were blessed with our communion service that was held on April 3 following Good Friday service. Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Rhonda, Bluffton, IN) was here to help with the occasion.

We rejoice with Bro. Herman & Sis. Sara Glueck as they were blessed with a baby girl named Brenna Hope on March 25. Brenna was welcomed home by her sisters, Miriam and Nora.

Bro. Robert & Sis. Melissa Rokey were blessed with a baby.
girl named Morgan Louise on March 29. She was welcomed home by her siblings, Meredith and Trent. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Rokey and Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

Bro. Ed Sauder from Roanoke came and did our monthly Bible Study. The topic was “Speak with grace, listen with love.” Base scriptures were: Col 4:6 “Let your speech be with grace.”, and James 1:19 “Be swift to listen”. We were encouraged and instructed by scripture on our communication at home, church and in the workplace.

Bro. Jeff Niehouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) came and spoke to the Sunday School and ACTIVE teachers. It was a blessed evening of being reminded of the responsibility we have in teaching our youth.

We rejoice with Jacob Fehr as he has come with a broken and repentant heart. We will lift him up in prayer as he commits his life to the Lord. Jacob is the son of Bro. Jon and Sis. Jill Fehr from Roanoke.

We also want to remember Bro. Gary Allen (Sis. Connie) as he is facing some tests and possibly some procedures this week and our Bro. Steve Wiegand (Sis. Mary Ellen) is planning on having knee surgery.

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

Bro. Trent Witzig was announced to be married to Sis. Rebekah Klopfenstein from Latty, OH. Her parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein. He is the son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig, Gridley. We surely wish this couple the blessings of God as they follow His leading.

Bro. Don Gilmore, 90, passed away on March 31, 2015 at the Meadows Home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Alyce Rose Meiss; and by his children, Dennis (Brenda) Gilmore and Sis. Kathy (Dan) Kincaide, Gridley; a daughter-in-law, Marj Gilmore, Shirley, Il; and a brother, Lawrence Gilmore, Caledonia, MO. He is further survived by 8 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Richard, and a brother, Lyle. He is remembered as a very hardworking man and loved farming. He was a quiet and gentle man.

Jacey Marie Stoller was born on March 4. Her parents are Dustin and Eva Stoller. Jacey has a sibling, Clayton, 1. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Peg Stoller; and Jodie Rossman, Roanoke, and Chad Rossman, Bloomington.

Sis. Lucille Wagner moved into a rehab nursing home in Flanagan in late April. She had lived in her home the last few years and was cared for by a granddaughter. May God be with her in this transition.

Springtime has come alive in our Gridley area. Our brethren who farm, and other farmers, are hard at work in planting corn and soybeans. And as the Lord wills it, soon the plants will blossom and corn and soybean fields will glow forth as far as the eye can see. Our fore parents from Europe surely settled in an area of great potential for crops, and today’s descendants are benefiting. It is surely God who gets the credit, and we thank Him for all our blessings.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

This month we had the privilege to have Bro. Jay Knapp teach us from The Holy Word. Thank you, Bro. Jay and Sis. Lisa, for worshipping with us during your travels from Tucson, AZ.

On Palm Sunday, we enjoyed our Easter program entitled “Redeemed”. We were blessed to hear the story of Jesus’s death and resurrection in word and song. We were inspired by the many groups who sang for us from the youngest three-year-olds up to and including our Mortonaires. Especially touching was the enthusiasm of our special class of residents from the Home for the Handicapped. May we all be filled with that childlike faith and trust in our Lord Jesus.

April 11 & 12 was a special weekend for our Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue Zimmerman as they were able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of their son and daughter-in-law in Tremont, IL. We welcome Bro. Jon and Sis. Nichole Zimmerman as our new brother and sister in faith. We rejoice with their families.

Illinois, Peoria
Pam Fritzenmeier

Bro. Gabe and Sis. Molly Stickling, Josiah, Eden, and Asher,
welcomed Daphna into their home in November, 2014. She was born in Haiti two and one half years ago. Grandparents are Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister and the late Bro. Ben Stickling.


Congratulations to Rhoda Sceggel and Lee Bork, who were joined in holy marriage March 21 in Bloomington. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel and Lynn and Debbie Bork, Bloomington.

We are thankful to report a convert, Jamie Schwenk, who is living with Bro. Hans and Sis. Mandy Schmidgall. We pray for her as she begins and grows in her walk with Jesus.

Apostolic Christian Skylines is very grateful to all who, with their participation and generosity, made the spring fundraiser a success. Money raised at this March 20 event will be used for a new transportation vehicle.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families who laid loved ones to rest this last month. Sis. Sherry (Bro. Ken) Sauder’s mother, Sis. Dorothy Stoller, Princeville, passed away March 21. Sis. Christiane Erkert passed away March 25. She was Sis. Carol (Bro. Mike) Rieker’s mother, and Sis. Christa (Bro. Eddie) Meister’s grandmother.

The Sunday school students presented their annual Easter program Sunday afternoon, March 22. It is such a privilege to observe their enthusiasm in life and their love for Jesus as they recite verses and sing.

Our church family celebrated Holy Communion Sunday, March 29. What a special time of remembering what our Jesus did so we may be saved from our sins.

There are many with health issues who desire prayers. These include Sis. Ida Schwenk, Bro. Melvin (Sis. Margaret) Getz, Bro. Mike Wiegand, Sis. Karen Dunbar, Sis. Nanette David, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Rosalie (Bruce) Johnson, Sis. Dee Metzger, Mary Funk, Sis. Linda Miller, Mary See, Andrea (Aaron) Staley, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Melissa) Waibel, and Wilma Schubert. Also please pray for Aleah Hartter, Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Harter’s new baby, who is not eating or gaining weight as she should.


Illinois, Princeville

Gloria White, Renee Herrmann

We said our earthly goodbye to Sis. Dorothy Stoller (widow of Bro. Floren). Our sympathies are extended to her children: Bro. William and Sis. Kathleen Stoller and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sherry Sauder and their families. In addition, Sis. Martha Streitmatter (widow of Bro. Burton) has gone to her heavenly reward. We pray for her children: Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Martin, Bro. Allan and Sis. Rose Herrmann, Duane and Barb Streitmatter, Bro. Stevan and Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter, and Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller and their families and her sister, Sis. Esther Martin. May God comfort these families with the promise of a heavenly reunion.

Our Sunday school children brought us the Easter story in verse and song as we were reminded of what Jesus has done for us. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cisna Park, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim Plattner for our Communion service and shared the Word with us. We are thankful also to Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) for ministering to us. May God bless them for their willing service.

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

Bro. Phil and Sis. Barb Ehnle and Mark and Kathy DeDecker welcomed granddaughter, Emma Rae. Emma was born to David and Amy Ehnle on April 6. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller and Lloyd and Denise Passage also welcomed granddaughter, Noelle Grace on April 7. She was born to Kendal and Hannah Stoller.

Susie Herrmann, daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann, has moved to Forestwood Cilla at Morton, IL.
We pray that God will help her in her adjustment to her new home.

Bro. Al Hartzler received hospital care this month. We thank God for His healing touch and medical care in time of need.

Sis. Rhea Berchtold (Bro. David and Sis. Leann, Princeville) and Bro. Adam Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary, Washington, IL) announced their plans to marry. We wish them God’s guidance and blessings as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

We were reminded of the importance of praise and prayer in our lives. As the disciples watched Jesus’ communion with His Father, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray. (We need to have a teachable spirit to make humble requests of God.) Jesus’ simple response commanded them to recognize God’s holiness, to seek for His will to be done on earth, to honor Him as the giver of our daily needs and to seek His forgiveness and deliverance.

“Restraining prayer, we cease to fight; Prayer makes the Christian’s armor bright; And Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees. Were half the breath oft vainly spent, to heaven in supplication sent, our cheerful song would ofter be, ‘Hear what the Lord has done for me.’”

What Various Hindrances We Meet, Hymns of Zion, #202

**Illinois, Roanoke**

**Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder**

Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him: and with His stripes we are healed.”

Our Sunday School Easter program was held on March 22. We thank our youth for bringing us the wonderful story of Jesus’ death and resurrection in word and song.

*Joshua 24:15 “...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”*

Bro. Brian Sutter (Washington) of ACCFS gave a presentation “Establishing Godly Family Worship” on March 25 at our Fellowship Hall. Then, Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign) spoke on “Evaluating Family Goals” on April 15. We thank these brothers for their timely exhortations on parenting.

On March 29, Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota) served us on the pulpit in the morning and then in the evening assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Frank Sauder in serving Holy Communion. It was a beautiful evening of worship and remembrance.

We thank our Young Group for providing babysitting for our church families on Saturday evening, March 21. What a thoughtful way to serve us!

We extend our love and deepest sympathy to the family of Robert (Barb) Isaia of Roanoke who passed away March 30. He was a brother to Bro. Rich Isaia.

*St. Mark: 16:6 “...Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here.”*

The Prairie Choristers, our Youth Choir and a men’s singing group presented a beautiful program of songs and scripture “O Glorious Day” on Easter morning to further commemorate the Easter story. We then shared an Easter breakfast together. Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) were our guest ministers for the morning service. Bro. Dan Beer (Milford) was also in attendance that day. We thank all those who helped make it a memorable and blessed day.

Bro. Jonathan Hodel shared about Roanoke’s recent work trip to Haiti to assist Bro. Scott & Sis. Mandy Yordy and their family and to help with the work there. We are so thankful for the Yordys’ faithfulness in serving with MEBSH and look forward to seeing them when they return for a couple months this summer.

Bro. Daniel, Sis. Larissa and Taelyn Stoller have welcomed baby Nikolas into their family as a foster child. He is a brother to Yezme, their current foster daughter. We pray for the Lord’s blessing on the Stollers as they minister to the needs of these precious children.

Bro. Bill & Sis. Jeanne Leman are thankful for their new granddaughter, Shiloh Savvy, born on April 14 to Mark & Laura Dugger of South Bend, IN.

Then on April 15, Colette Marie was born to Sam & Carrie Sauder of Peoria, making Bro. Tom & Sis. Mary Sauder...
grandparents once again. We rejoice with these beloved families!

Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont) was our visiting minister on April 8. And Bro. James Fehr (Tremont) served us on the pulpit on April 19. May God continue to bless these brothers as they faithfully serve in the ministry.

Titus 2:11: “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.”

David Leman (Bro. Dennis & Sis. Karen) and David Moser (Bro. Greg & Sis. Shar) gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized on April 11-12. We are so thankful for the Lord’s redeeming work in the hearts of men and women and rejoice with our new brothers in Christ.

Mary Beth Knapp (Sis. Carol) and Brian Banwart (Bro. Jeff & Sis. Lisa) of Eureka were united in marriage on April 3. We rejoice with them and pray for the Lord’s blessing upon them as they take this important step.

We pray the Lord’s healing, strength, and nearness for Bro. Dennis (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Sis. Donna (Bro. Dan) Schwind, Sawyer Kaufman (Bro. Matt & Sis. Melissa), Bro. Calvin (Sis. Jan) Moser, Jake Achterberg, and Aleah Harter (Bro. Ben & Sis. Heidi of Peoria), and their families as they go through health issues.

Illinois, Tremont

Teresa Rowell, Janice Sauder

We welcomed a number of visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) was here for Communion. Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonnie, Cissna Park) was here on our Wednesday evening Family Night. Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) were here for a wedding. Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) joined us for Easter Sunday. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) were here for testimonies and baptisms. We so appreciate these brothers coming and preaching the Word.

We rejoice with Sis. Camille Sauder (Bro. Rich and Sis. Carol and the late Sis. Evelyn) and Bro. Craig Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth, Congerville) as they were united in Holy Matrimony. We pray God’s richest blessings on them as they begin their new life together.

We welcome three new sisters: Sadie Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti), Kayla Streitmatter (Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean), and Megan Steffen (Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvilla) who shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized. We thank Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) of Gridley, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) of Kansas City, Bro. with Him and with one another as the three fold cord is not lightly broken.

Sis. Kathy Rocke’s (the late Bro. Nelson) mother-in-law, Sis. Pauline Rocke (Eureka, IL), has gone on to her eternal reward. We pray God’s comforting hand upon her during this time. We pray also for Bobby Hodel’s family (the late Bro. Bob and the late Sis. Royaldine) as they mourn his passing from this life into eternity.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber have a new grandson. Stuart Ervin Nohl was born to Doug and Amber Nohl (Morris, MN). He is welcomed home by siblings: Crystal, Lewis, Archie, Allison, Lacie, and Chloe. May God give grace and wisdom to all who are raising children for Him.

Illinois, Washington

Marlene Prather, Jodi Fehr

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth on the marriage of their daughter, Laura. She wed Clint Davis on March 12 in Chicago. His parents are Mark and Elaine Davis of Fairbury. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they begin their life together.

We welcome three new sisters: Sadie Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti), Kayla Streitmatter (Bro. Paul and Sis. Jean), and Megan Steffen (Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvilla) who shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized. We thank Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) of Gridley, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) of Kansas City, Bro.
Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally) of Oakville/Mediapolis, and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas of Morton for being with us for the weekend.

He is risen! We recently had the privilege to partake of Holy Communion on March 28 and then witness our Sunday School children share the Easter story the following day. We extend our deep appreciation to Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra) of Alto for assisting Bro. Ron in serving Holy Communion. It was a special evening of remembering.

We have had several engagements in our congregation and pray that God blesses these dear couples as they prepare for their upcoming weddings. Bro. Adam Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary) is engaged to Sis. Rhea Berchtold (Bro. Dave and Sis. Leann) of Princeville. Katlyn Rumbold (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lori) is engaged to marry Bryan Sandeen.

Our Washington congregation had two losses on the same day. Sis. Betty Schumacher was 86 when she passed away leaving behind her husband, Bro. Lloyd Schumacher, four children, and eight grandchildren. Her gentle spirit and sweet personality will be missed.

Richard Goldsmith was 81 when he passed away peacefully. Our prayers extend to his family including his sister, Loretta Wettstein, and nieces, Sis. Janine (Bro. Kevin) Rocke and Sis. JoEllen (Bro. Todd) Martin. Richard loved his many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews very much!

**Note of Thanks:**

We would like to thank each of you who prayed, sent cards, and gave food and other gifts of love during our mom’s illness and since her passing. Our mom had wanted her love to be expressed to as many as possible. She appreciated people praying for her, and was thankful to the Lord. We are grateful for the love of the church, expressions of sympathy and deeds of kindness. May God bless you. The Sis. Betty Klaus family

**Indiana, Bluffton**

**Suzie Fiechter, Kim Meyer**

Greetings of love to you all!

We pray this month finds you peacefully resting in the shadows of another precious Easter season. How good it is to reflect on the suffering of our Savior and the empty tomb. Through Good Friday services and our Sunday School’s Easter Program, we were reminded to take part in Jesus’ suffering and remember how He died to cleanse us from sin, if we accept His gift. This was also the second year that we held a sunrise service. Like always, when we take the time from our busy schedules to be with God, we are always abundantly blessed.

We don’t know what the next year holds for each of us. However, as we think on the sweetness of Jesus’ love for us and the bitterness of His sufferings on our behalf, we can rest assured that God will lead us and guide us through, if we willingly trust in His sovereignty.

We were blessed to hear the testimonies of four individuals: Brandon Kaehr (Bro. Brent & Sis. Allison), Jenna Meyer (Bro. Denny & Sis. Kathy), Kyra Gerber (Bro. Kent & Sis. Kim), and Kylie Baller (Bro. Todd & Sis. Shelly). What other way to reflect on what God has done for each of us, than to rally around these four individuals with love and support. May their love and desire to give Him the glory only continue to grow.

We also had two engagements this month. Bro. Todd and Sis. Shelly Baller were pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Alexa, to Bro. Troy Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn & Sis. Ronda). Bro. Marvin & Sis. Kim Reinhard also announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Sydney, to Bro. Clint Schumacher (Bro. Daniel & Sis. Heidi) of Goodfield.

Our dear Bro. Sylvan (Sib) Ringger (Sis. Violet) passed away this month. His children are Sis. Carol (Bro. Dennis) Klopfenstein, Bro. Sam & Sis. Becky Ringger, Elder Bro. Steve & Sis. Myra Ringger, and Lela & Greg Leman.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family as they grieve the loss of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Grant Eugene was born to Bro. Kyle & Sis. Kyann, Delaney, and Joel. His grandparents Bro. Scott & Sis. Patti Schwartz and Bro. Dan & Sis. Jacki Kershner (Bluffton North) are thankful for the delivery of their healthy grandson. Bro. Ryan & Sis. Haley
Neuenschwander gave birth to their first baby, Averi Sue. She will be loved and embraced by her grandparents, Bro. Eric & Sis. Marcia Steffen and Bro. Tom & Sis. Sue Neuenschwander. Coy Matthew brings a little blue in to the home of Bro. Lance & Sis. Sara, Maeley and Tessa Fiechter. His grandparents are Bro. Rick & Sis. Beth Fiechter and Bro. Kevin & Sis. Shelly Reinhard. Bro. Justin & Sis. Kelsey Grube are blessed to give birth to a healthy baby boy, Kade Michael. He has two big brothers, Cole and Trevin. His grandparents are Bro. Jay & Sis. Rhonda Grube and Bro. Gary & Sis. Jean Compton.

We have much to be thankful for this month.

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalm 100:4

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

To get into the Book of Life, we must first “get into” the Book of Light.

Spring has come and we are thankful. During this season of renewal we are reminded of God’s perfect timing in all things. The cycle of life continues and we trust in the One who works all things according to His perfect will and plan.

Our dear Bro. Sylvan “Sib” Ringger (Sis. Violet) passed away on Friday, April 10. Bro. Sib has awoken to his promise of a new life and we rejoice, but we feel, too, for those who remain and have said goodbye to a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Please keep Sis. Violet, along with her children: Sis. Carol (Bro. Dennis) Klopfenstein, Bro. Sam (Sis. Becky), Elder Bro. Steve (Sis. Myra), and Lela (Greg) Leman, and their families in your prayers.

New life has also blessed two families within our church. We welcome Axel Grey, born February 28, to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Jamy Steffen. Elyse Victoria was born March 14 to Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter.

We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord with an Easter Sunrise Service again this year. The beautiful day began at 7 a.m. at the Fellowship Hall with a service and a breakfast that followed. Normal Sunday services were held afterward, and our congregation was blessed with a Sunday School program worshiping Jesus and the new life He brought through His death.

Our Bluffton and Bluffton North churches were given a unique opportunity to remember the persecuted church. Our Foundations group recently set aside three separate nights to give us a glimpse into the lives of what those who must worship in secret experience.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Nancy Pfeifer, Sandy Lichtle

We were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn) serve us Holy Communion on March 21. May we always be thankful for the price Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

March 25 was a special day for Sis. Ginny Zeller as her granddaughter, Lily Phoenix Zeller, was born. Lily’s parents
are Michael and Hannah Zeller (Leesburg, VA). We rejoice with the Zeller family.

Our Easter program was held on Palm Sunday. It was a joy and blessing to hear the Sunday school students proclaim the Easter message through verse and song. We appreciate the servant hearts of the visiting ministers who came to be with their grandchildren for the day. They were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL).

“...And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

Matt. 25:40

On April 8, four employees from the Indianapolis location of the Midwest Food Bank gave a presentation about the work the Lord is doing. Starting in 2003, in central Illinois and locally in 2008, they continue to grow, feeding people physically and spiritually.

We are thankful and rejoice with Bro. Tyler and Sis. Janna Gerber for the safe arrival of their daughter, Braelyn Breeze, born on April 9. She joins sister Bexleigh at home. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn (Latty, OH), John Gerber (Fort Wayne, IN) and Ricki Gerber (Sterling, OH).

**Indiana, Lacrosse**

**Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke**

“And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him” Mark 16:6

What words are more powerful or hopeful for a Christian’s soul, to know that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is alive forever more?

We remembered the Lord’s death and suffering as we shared Holy Communion together on March 28. Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) spent the weekend with us and shared, not only the labors of the Communion service, but also the labors of the ministry on Sunday. We thank him and his wife for their efforts on our behalf.

Sunday, March 29 was the day of our annual Sunday School Easter program. From the youngest children who shared their songs and verses with joy and delight, to the oldest students whose verses were poignant and moving, we relived all over again the sorrow and joy of the greatest act of love ever shown to mankind.

Ministering Brothers Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) brought forth the Word on Easter Sunday. God’s Word through these willing servants reminded us of His power, His purpose and the personal nature of His plan. As we touched on the reactions of several of Jesus followers, the fact that God loves each of us individually and personally became very evident. We were also exhorted to answer that personal call to salvation, if we have not already done so.

Brother John Leman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) also spent a day with us and labored on our behalf. Many thanks!

We are thankful to have a few of our winter travelers returning home as spring arrives. We welcome home Bro. Elvin, Sis Jan, and Bro. Ron Nuest.

While we thankfully have no illness or hospitalization to report, our thoughts and prayers are extended to those of our loved ones and community that have experienced health problems, hardship, or loss this month. May God continue to hold each of us closely.

**Indiana, Leo**

**Kirby Reutter**

“So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.” 1 Corinthians 3:8

Whenever you want to find out what’s going on here in Leo, your best bet is to check in with the Trustee Brothers: “You’ve been waiting all year and now the time is here! The Annual Spring Church Luncheon and Cleaning Event is coming on Saturday, April 25. Come one, come all! Sign up to use your gifts and talents to give back to the church. All are welcome, necessary, and vital. We can’t do this without you. Young an old are welcome and encouraged to participate, as this is a great way to give back to our congregation!”

And whenever you want
to find out what’s going on at Gateway, your best bet is to check in with Bro. Clint Plattner. Here is his most recent round of “residential updates.” (I followed him fairly well all the way up to the part where he said “hang on.”)

“Here’s what’s going on in the Residential Program. Hang on! Drayer’s will be leaving Oak House in April. Fischer’s have been named heirs to Oak. However, we are currently pursuing the possibility of an Oak House renovation. If everything goes as planned, Hickory will absorb the Oak residents upon its grand re-opening, which is currently slated for May. At that time, Donaghy’s will resume their lead position at Hickory while Fischer’s help lead the renovation at Oak and provide alternate coverage at Hickory. Sis. Alyssa will return to her rightful spot as the Assistant in Hickory. Unfortunately, Sis. Kristi will be displaced when Oak moves across the parking lot. Meanwhile, Sis. Lindsey plans to leave Cypress in May to pursue additional schooling. Sis. Kristi has agreed to temporarily join Cypress at that time. Sis. Kimmie will continue to follow doctor’s orders and keep healing so she can resume her role at Maple. Sis. Sarena will for sure stay put at Pine, where she is needed. Fischer’s will continue to alternate at Cypress until another couple is hired. So, they will be two-house Alternates beginning in April and ending when a new couple arrives. The new couple will join Cypress, freeing up Fischer’s to focus on supporting Hickory and working to get Oak ready to re-open as the teen mom program.”

Just when I thought the updates were done, one more trickled in from Bro. Clint: “I’m excited to announce that Bro. Jesse and Sis. Karla Zimmerman from Forrest plan to join the Gateway team. They have an 8-month-old daughter named Wren. They plan to move at the end of April and join Cypress beginning in May. Please join me in welcoming them and praising God for providing workers!”

And whenever you want to find out what’s going on with the rest of the denomination, your best bet is to check in with Sis. Danielle Sauder: “Bro. Eli Manz from Junction passed away yesterday. For those who may not know, Eli and his connection to Gateway, he was appointed to the ‘permanent committee’ and served from 1972-1979. The permanent committee is essentially the founders group for Gateway Woods. Several of his descendants have volunteered, interned, and served on the Board.”

And then it was time for spiritual Spring Cleaning. This year Holy Communion was held on the first of April (April Fool’s Day). Elder Bro. Art Ingold from our beloved Rittman church collaborated with local Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz. I had several thoughts as I reflected on both Communion and the month of April. First, I marveled that the plan of salvation is so simple that even a fool (such as me) would not err! Then I thought of the words of Jim Elliot: “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” Then I thought of how Paul considered himself a “fool for Christ.” Then I marveled at how foolish the Galatians must have been for trying to complicate the gospel. And then I marveled at my own folly for so often complicating such a simple plan!

And then, last of all, I marveled at the beauty of the Body working together—from spring cleaning to spiritual cleaning, from founding an organization to serving as House Parents. I marveled at precious Hoosier believers and beloved Buckeye brothers sharing together at the Lord’s Table. I marveled at Sis. Danielle’s gentle reminder that we all have been blessed by other believers outside of our own local circles. And I was personally humbled that God would be willing to send a delegation from the mighty Forrest in Illinois to our own puny, insignificant neck of the Woods here in Leo. When we all work together, some plant and some water—but praise GOD for the increase!

Indiana, Milford
Jodi Beer, Minnie Beer
Brooklyn Esther, born August 5, 2014, came to brighten the home of Bro. Abe and Sis. Julie Habegger. The happy grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer and Bro. Ted and
Sis. Jane Habegger of Bluffton, IN.

Our surgery patients were Sis. Kim Schlipf (Bro. Rob) and Bro. Matt Pamer (Sis. Karen). They have returned home and back to church for which we thank God. Juanita Osbun, mother of Sis. Pam Lehman (Bro. John). has passed from this life. We pray Sis. Pam can feel our prayers and support.

On March 29, we enjoyed hearing our children sing and speak about “our Lord’s death”. May God bless our teachers who give of their time to teach our children.

On April 5, Sunrise services were enjoyed by those who were present.

We were blessed by several visiting ministers: Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi) both from Eureka, IL, and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica) from Athens, AL. It was our pleasure to host the National World Relief Board here the weekend of April 10 through 12. Remaining with us for Sunday, April 12, were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL). We thank our brothers for visiting and serving us. We ask God to bless them.

Indiana, Remington

Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

Two visiting ministers have gathered with us this month. Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie) from Bloomfield, IA gave us an inspiring message one Sunday morning. Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta) from Forrest, IL presented a topical Bible presentation on the subject of “Giving”. He challenged us to remember our ability and need to help the millions in this world who are struggling to provide their families with the basic necessities of life each day. Many thanks to both brothers for sharing their time with us!

Good Friday and Easter services were once again a blessing to us. Commemorating our Savior’s death and resurrection is a solemn, but also, a joyful time as we reflect on the enormous amount of love and sacrifice and power He showed during those three precious days so long ago. Thanks be to God that we serve a risen and triumphant Lord! And may we never forget the awful price He paid for us to be able to be a part of His victory.

Bro. Earl Kilgus spent some time in the hospital, but is now back at Parkview Haven. Please pray that God will continue to help him recover. Our convert Wes Corbin is again in Philadelphia receiving an experimental treatment that we hope will be successful in preventing a relapse of his leukemia. We know that God is the ultimate Healer, and we are at peace knowing that Wes is resting in His perfect care. Please continue to pray for him and his family.

Indiana, South Bend

Joshua Martinez

“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.” Job 19:25

We pray for Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe as they travel to serve at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Our Sunday School children celebrated with Scripture and song the events of Jesus’ life culminating in Resurrection Sunday. We were also blessed with the fellowship of loved ones from near and far. May the Lord bless Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Ft. Myers, FL) for sharing the Good News from the pulpit. We are especially thankful for the visit from our friend Valerie, her son, Demere, and our extended church family serving in the New Beginnings ministry of Ft. Myers, Florida.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.” 2 Cor. 13:14

Indiana, Valparaiso

Sherry Meiss

Our dearly loved Sis. Marguerite Hoerr wrote her last article for this publication last month. I would like to thank her for her service and the eloquent way of writing that allowed God’s love to flow through her onto paper. If you have ever met our sweet sister in person, you would also feel the warmth of God’s love radiate from her. The twinkle
in her eye, the smile on her face and the words she speaks to you come from her heart. She is a great example to me of how we should care for one another and show God’s perfect love as brothers and sisters in Christ. Her writings will be missed and I could only hope to even come close to her example. Thank you Sister Marguerite for believing in Jesus and sharing Him with all of us.

As we eagerly await the return of our snow birds, I have come to a new understanding of this concept. God blessed me with a trip to Florida for a number of days, staying in a condo just down the road from Bro. Mike & Sis. Claudia Thomas. How funny to find out we were so far away from home to be so close down there. They gave me the opportunity to visit the Fort Myers church where I surprised Sis. Gwen Bucher and was greeted by so many others from Indiana. The love that I felt there was as warm as the weather and as bright as the new sunshine. Oh, how God works in mysterious ways showing us the love He has for us. I pray that we keep our eyes, hearts and minds ever open to Him.

The new carpeting is being installed in our Valpo Church from the foyer into the sanctuary over to the cafeteria and down the stairs. How nice it looks and thank you to our committee for their hard work on this project.

Our Sis. Tasia Weiss, daughter of Bro. Dennis & Sis. Marsha Weiss, accepted a new job in Dallas, TX. All of us will miss her dearly, but I marvel at how she has grown and cheer for her, for how she continues to follow God’s plan. We will continue to pray for her and her family while she is on this new journey that is before her.

Please keep Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger in your prayers.

All are welcome in Valparaiso, IN. We are just South of US Hwy 30 on IN State Road 49.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Kris Widmer, Libby Wahl

“For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle (dove) is heard in our land.” Song of Sol. 2:11

Like the new love of a man and a woman, spring arrives. And with it comes life...energy, expectation, a new beginning.

Jesus has risen. He is life. He is love. The first fruit. Hope for sinners. Comfort for saints. We had a special Easter program and an engaging sunrise service.

Our one-day Ladies Retreat was a support to the women of our fellowship. Bros. Jeff Waibel, Leo, and Reggie Beer, Milford, sowed good seed from our pulpit.

Sharing Communion in the dusk of a peaceful, Saturday evening was refreshment as Bro. Bruce Endress, Bradford, ably assisted our elder Bro. Curt Frank, LaCrosse. We are grateful for the blessings of Christian community that fall as soft mist on our souls.

An anonymous, reminder quote: “When you get to your wits end, you will find God lives there.” Ps. 107:23-27

Indiana, Wolcott
Beckie Lehman, Erica Blume

Sunshine and rain, God sends them both to refresh the earth. Just as He provides for the earth which He created, He also cares for each of His children. Sometimes it is joy and sometimes it is a time of weeping. In times of pain or in times of peace, we can rest in the assurance of His care.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elaine Bahler at the passing of her mother, Sis. Priscilla Anliker (Francesville, IN). We pray for God’s comfort to be with each of her children and grandchildren. On a different note, we also rejoice with Sis. Elaine at the birth of a new granddaughter, Reagan Faye Bahler, who joined parents, Kent and Jordan, and big brother Eli. God’s blessings to each one as they care for a precious new life.

Bro. Randy Lehman has graduated from medical school and plans to start residency with Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Our prayers go with him as he begins this phase of his training.

We have been praying for Sis. Rebekah Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) as she has been student teaching in India the past few weeks. She will be back in Wolcott in a matter of weeks and we look forward to hearing about her experiences.
Thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus for sharing the Word with us one Sunday recently. We appreciate his willingness to share his time.

We were blessed on the evening of Good Friday to sit and listen to our Sunday School children recite and sing at the Easter program. They related the story once again of Christ’s suffering and victory over death. We are grateful to be reminded again of God’s mercy and love.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Teresa Schock

Bringing us the inspired Word this past month was Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington). Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was here Easter Sunday. Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka) came for Communion. On Sunday, he seemed to talk a lot about time. We have so many time-savers, yet we don’t have enough time. And, the more material things we have, the more of our time they take.

Brent and Erica Wuthrich are excited to have a baby girl, Ally Jean. She has a brother Brock. Ally’s grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann Wuthrich and Roger and Debbie Knapp. We rejoice with them.

Those who have had surgery are Sis. Mary Wiegand (Bro. Dave) and Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Chris). May they try to remember that “Up in heaven all our hard times will be left so far behind us, And when we look back they will all seem so small…” -The Eshes

For Mother’s Day, I thought of the song, “You Can’t Be a Beacon”. “A child can only judge what’s right by what he sees in you… You can’t be a beacon if your light don’t shine.”

Iowa, Burlington
Ivy Steiner, Monica Eisenmann

We recently held our annual business meeting. Our newly elected trustee is Bro. Leroy Wulf, and Sis. Dixie Messner and Sis. Judy Gerst are our new food committee members. After many years of faithful service, Bro. Leo Banwart submitted his resignation as church treasurer and Bro. Bill Gerst has agreed to accept this position. We thank all those who completed their terms and our prayers are with those with their new responsibilities. We also thank Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall for his service that day.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elaine Eisenmann in the passing of her brother, Bro. Tom Steiner (Oakville-Mediapolis). He is deeply missed.

Note of Thanks:
I wish to thank everyone who remembered me on my 85th birthday. I am humbled by the attention. God bless each of you. Thanks again! Sis. Marilyn Anderson

“O praise the Lord, all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us.” Ps 117:16-2

Our Burlington church rejoices with Bro. Blake and Sis. Josie Wulf on the birth of precious Kate Edith. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn Wulf and Bro. Dan and Sis. ReJean Knobloch (Lester, IA).

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN), Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN). For Holy Communion Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall. It was a blessed night of remembering our Savior’s death and suffering. We thank all of these brothers for their ministry to us.

Iowa, Elgin
Maria Rocke

Babies are such little blessings! Elisa Bernice was born February 26 to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla Frank. Keana, Clinton, Hannah and Andrea were glad to welcome home their baby sister. Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) are Elisa’s grandparents.

Iowa, Garden Grove
Laura Funk

We are thankful for the willingness of Bro. John Baumgartner (Bern, KS) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) to serve us this past month.

Bro. Brad, Sis. Laura, Jaelah and Joel Funk are thankful when visiting ministers are willing to travel to Garden Grove on holidays so they can visit grandparents and attend family gatherings.
Last month, a special weekend was set aside to remember the death and resurrection of God’s Son, Jesus. This month, a special day is set aside to honor our earthly mothers, another gift from God. God’s gifts are abundant each and every day. Are you opening these gifts and using them?

**Iowa, Iowa City**  
*Diana Butikofer*

Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst were blessed with another grandson. Silas Joseph Pratt was born March 26 to thankful parents Bro. Jon and Sis. Sharon Pratt (Valparaiso, IN).

**Iowa, Lester**  
*Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser*

We stand in awe and are humbled as we remember Christ’s death and suffering once again with our Communion service. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) was with us to assist our Elder Bro. Rod in this work. We want to thank him and his wife for taking the time to travel and minister to us that weekend.

Spending time in the hospital were Sis. June (Bro. Delbert) Knobloch, Bro. Bill (Sis. Charlotte) Metzger, Sis. Kristy (Bro. Art) Metzger and Bro. Bob (Sis. Rosella) Metzger. We pray for them as they recover from surgery. At this writing, Sis. Alice Metzger and Bro. Vern (Sis. Chalea) Knobloch remain in the hospital as Bro. Vern battles cancer and Sis. Alice recovers from a serious fall. We lift these dear ones and their families up to the Heavenly Father as only He can see their every need.

We thank Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) for sharing the Word at our Good Friday service and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) ministering to us on Easter Sunday. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Our congregation enjoyed blessed fellowship the weekend of April 11 and 12 as we hosted another “Invite-a-Guest” weekend. Visiting ministers that weekend were Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Michael Wagenbach, (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). We appreciate their labors on our behalf.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Willie and Sis. Helen Knobloch, Sis. Vera Knobloch, and Sis. Pauline Knobloch in the passing of their sister-in-law, Helen Knobloch (Ernest).

As our nation sets aside a Sunday in May to remember our mothers, may we take the time to thank our mothers for their untiring love, care and concern. For many, their mothers are no longer here to express their love and they cherish the precious memories of them in their family circle.

**Iowa, Oakville-Mediapolis**  
*Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz*

Spring has arrived, and after the long winter, we are so thankful to see new signs of life everywhere. The grass and trees are “greening up” and flowers are beginning to bloom. We are also thankful for new life in our congregation. Bro. Clinton and Sis. Kyrstin Wagenbach were blessed with the arrival of Carter John on March 24. Happy to welcome their little brother into their family were siblings Macy, Mariah, and Garrison. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus (Forrest, IL).

On March 21, Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) came to help with Communion. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) who were both here for an invite-a-guest weekend on March 28-29. We are thankful for their labors on our behalf.

On April 12, Princeville, Eureka, Bloomfield, and Burlington Bible Classes and teachers came to spend the day with our Bible class. It was encouraging to see the youth with such life and energy. They had a great opportunity to meet and make new friends. What a blessing this is in our church.

**Iowa, West Bend**  
*Yvonne Bruellman, Becky Virkler*

As springtime is a new beginning, so shall we begin anew in remembering Christ’s death and suffering. Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was here to help Bro. Wayne with this sacred and blessed time.
Palm Sunday, the Bible Class sang hymns remembering Christ death and resurrection. May the Lord bless the youth and all those that willingly gave of their time.


Loss of a loved one always leaves an empty seat on earth. Eric and Diana Mogler mourn the loss of Diana's father, Charles Harmon. Sis. Kay Eisenmann (Bro. Dave) said farewell to her brother Francis (Fritz) Malloy. Sis. Betty Wirtz also said farewell to her sister-in-law, Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN). The family of Martha Demiterr (Bro. Paul-desceased) is also in our prayers.

Among our many guests this month have been those willing to share God's Word. Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis Christy, Burlington, IA), and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN).

We are looking forward to spending time with Sis. Joyce and Erika Nohl who have moved here from McAllen, TX. We welcome Lyubka (Neka) Nikolova, bride of Mark Bruellman to our congregation.

“Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusteth in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.” Psalm 28:6-7.

For those in our congregation who have met with a challenge this month, let this be our prayer.

Tokyo, Japan
Marie Inoue

We were very thankful for a blessed month as we remembered the cruel death for our sins and the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior. On Easter Sunday, our services were in the morning and a program in the afternoon. Songs were sung and parts of the Easter story were memorized and read. Sis. Hiroko Utsuki told the Easter story with picture cards that had a Mexican theme. After the program, we once again gathered on the second floor for snacks and cake with the children and their parents who attended.

The blessed story of the cross continued with our Communion service held April 19 as our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) was with us.

It was mentioned that whether we are partaking of this sacrament for the first time or have done it for many years, we should still feel renewed in our faith each time and be a living witness of Christ's love in our daily lives. We so enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev as they shared the Word and experiences in faith with us on several occasions.

We thank their home church of Detroit and loving family for sharing them with us twice a year. May God be their rich rewarder.

Two of our brethren spent time in the hospital this month: Bro. Sanada for surgery involving a heart procedure and Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta for medical care. Bro. Sanada is back in church, and our Sis. Yoshiko remains at home under the care of her beloved husband and family. Our love and prayers are with both of these dear ones.

Kansas, Bern
Jill Meyer, Rita Menold

We are always thankful to have ministering brothers share in a weekend of worship with us! We appreciate Bros. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice; Kiowa, KS), Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber; Goodfield, IL), Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria; Lamont, KS) and Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne; Sabetha, KS) for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Almanzo Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) and Sis. Jody Goodman (Mike and Sis. Luci), joined hearts as one in the Lord on March 29. We wish them God’s blessings as they establish a life together.

Many from our congregation enjoyed an Easter Sunrise service at the home of Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jennifer Meyer. Despite the chilly temperature, it was a beautiful morning as we sat on the hill singing hymns and remembering Christ's resurrection, as we watched the gorgeous sunrise.
We rejoice that Michaela Strahm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane) has given her heart to Jesus and has expressed her desire to join us in our fellowship together! Our prayer is that her joy for Jesus will radiate to others!

The weekend of April 18-19 our hearts were filled with joy as Michael Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori) and Trever Wendler shared their testimonies of faith and buried their sins in the watery grave. We were reminded in the testimonies if we keep our trust, hope and focus on Jesus, He will always be there for us.


**Kansas, Ft. Scott**

*Karen Kellenberger*

On March 31, the sacraments of Holy Communion were served by visiting Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) and our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). We thank these brothers for lending themselves for this solemn occasion.

Good Friday, we were reminded of the Lamb of God’s terrible suffering and sacrificial death on the cross as He paid in full the price of our sins. During the second half of the service, we were greatly blessed with a program of song and verse given by the Sunday School youth.

Early sunrise service on Easter, we were pleasantly graced with the visit of Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), who added to the Easter message before continuing the journey to Lamar, MO to assist in sharing God’s Word to those brethren. The Fort Scott congregation enjoyed a hot potluck-style breakfast following the sunrise service.

Bro. Tom Leman (Denver, CO) spent April 12 with us. We appreciate that he included us in his travels and brought us the good news of the Gospel.

Sis. Wanda Kraft is an extended hospital patient and Bro. Rick Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) is recuperating from two surgeries this month. May God provide strength and healing to all in our congregation who are having health trials.

“A Tribute to Motherhood”

“Motherhood is more than a stage. It’s a lifelong calling from God. With it He gives us hearts that love deeply, hands that serve tirelessly, and vision to see His blossoming image in the precious ones entrusted to our care.”

*author unknown*

**Kansas, Kiowa**

*Millicent Frieden, Janice Bahr*

On April 23, 1945, Bro. Joe and Sis. Mildred Frieden were married while Joe was on furlough for the army. This month they will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. Bro. Joe turned 90 years on April 9, and Sis Mildred is 88 years, and will turn 89 on July 16, the good Lord willing. God has blessed their marriage with 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren (with #9 due in October). They are very thankful to God for their measure of health, their wonderful family, church family, and many friends. May God continue to bless them with His abiding love and ever keep them in His care.

Elder Bro. John Lehman, Bern, was here on a Wednesday evening this month to share a Bible Study. The study had so many good thoughts about our relationship with our Lord and God. We truly appreciate Bro. John’s effort on our behalf to come and share as he had to travel back home the same evening for a meeting the next day.

I was recently looking through some papers to see what to keep and what to throw away, and found this writing. I was so touched that we used it for part of our Sunday School Easter Program, and I thought I would share it:

Footprints in the dust by Donna Hosford:

“When it was all over, they came across His footprints in the dust, but He was gone. They were alone with each other"
and the rest of the world; His body was there, but His Spirit had flown, the healing hands mutilated, tortured by the hardness of nails and men’s hearts grew cold. His head hung lifeless his chest no longer heaved and by the wound there in His side, they could painfully see He was made of flesh and blood and water like any man. Where had He gone? ‘Follow Me,’ He had said, but how could they follow Him? His footprints in the dust led only to the cross.”

**Kansas, Lamont-Gridley**  
**Dorene Metzger**  
Sis. Marie Luthi has accepted a job in the San Diego, CA area. She will be living near her sister, Sis. Andrea Luthi and be fellowshipping with the San Diego brethren. Tyler, Heidi & Kylie Heil have moved to the Kansas City area for employment. Friendships and loving fellowship are an added blessing to a church family and we cherish the blessings Marie, Tyler, Heidi, & Kylie have graced us with.

Sis. Liseten Strahm was in the hospital for two days after suffering a TIA.

Elder Bro. Brad & Sis Cindy Eisenmann from Chicago spent a weekend with us. A bridal shower was held for their daughter, Sis. Julie, and Bro. Michael Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay & Sis. Jane) who will be married May 24. Bro. Brad also was on the pulpit with our local brothers. We appreciated his kind manner and his encouragement to be faithful followers of our Lord.

Good Friday and Easter are always so touching to my spiritual being. What parts of this event touch you the most? The betrayal? The Last Supper & His servant heart washing the apostles feet? The mockery of His trial? The scourging that marred Christ’s visage so terribly? The mockery of His Kingship? The crucifixion and the shedding of His blood? The darkness at mid-day? The rending of the temple veil? Christ’s request for God to forgive those who knew not what they did? The glorious resurrection?

John 19:9 really cuts into my heart and mind. Pilate asked Christ, “Whence art thou?” BUT JESUS GAVE HIM NO ANSWER. And to think Christ could have had legions of angels deliver Him. Christ could have answered with truth. Would Pilate have recognized the Truth? And all this was done “for the likes of me!” Sadness, heartache and pain press my heart and mind, but also glory and thanksgiving are in great abundance in this special time of remembrance.

**Kansas, Sabetha**  
**Crystal Hartter, Dawn Strahm**  
Our Sabetha congregation has been blessed with a new baby. Lanae Ann was born to Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla Metzger. Welcoming this precious soul into their family are siblings: Leah, Logan, Laban, Laura, Luke and Lucy. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger (Lester, IA).

God has been calling many unto repentance and we are thankful for a new babe in Christ. Megan Grimm (Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci) has begun a walk with our Lord. Rachel Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia) has found peace and looks forward to baptism.

Along with joys there are also trials and several dear ones need our prayers. Hospitalized this month were Bro. Doug Metzger (Sis. Betty) and Reid Plattner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle).

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Betty, West Bend, IA) shared God’s Word with us. His labor of love was appreciated.

We look forward to sharing Communion with our church family on May 2.

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”  
1 Corinthians 11:26

**Kansas, Wichita**  
**Max and Judy Reimschisel**  
Easter morning is always a special event each year. As we sing and pray, it revives our love for our Savior who died, shed His blood and rose from the grave to give us an amazing hope. The part that stood out in the Easter morning sermon was the heartfelt word that Mary spoke--”Master”-- after seeing Jesus alive again. John 20:16. Thomas also gives us a revived spirit when he said, “My Lord and my God,” after seeing Jesus and His nail-scarred hands.
The question I ask myself each day: “Am I in awe when I think of Jesus and the sacrifice He made for my sin and the promise of my salvation?” What a wonderful Savior! Praise his Holy Name!

A special surprise 90th birthday party was given for Sis. Emma Miller. Many of her friends and family came to share best wishes with her. May God bless her for her faithfulness.

Bro. Gary Anliker and his wife, Sis. Edith, pulled us together for a good time of fellowship and singing. How wonderful it is to have an opportunity to visit and get acquainted with brethren from different congregations.

We are thankful for the words of wisdom brought to us through the Spirit.

Zion’s Harp Hymn #172 gives us hope.

“Be true; be true! The Lord is by thee standing;
Joyful with Him at last will be the ending!
Tho’ hard the strife and along the conflict be,
Through faithfulness the Lord will honored be!”

Words of encouragement were given from our elder conference. Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Bro. Cory Metzger, shared the Memorandum.

Philippians 2:1-2. ”If there be there for any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels of mercy, Fulfill me my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.”

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber
“Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.” Jeremiah 17:7-8

The heat is coming here in Ixtlán. It’s the dry, dusty time of year. Much of the vegetation will be drying up, making us anxious to take trips out to “the river” to walk under all the shady trees. This is also the time of year when we start planning for Vacation Bible School. Our theme will be the life of Daniel this year. The dates are set for July 27-31 in Morelia, August 3-7 in Ixtlán and August 10-14 in Barra Vieja. We do ask for your prayer support as it’s a large undertaking involving many children. Please pray for Bro. Lalo and Sis. Silvia as they organize it all, for each of the teachers and helpers, for the children that will attend and for all the families that will be exposed to God’s Word.

Michigan, Alto
Renee Steffen, Shelli Oesch
Spring is finally here, and we see God’s fingerprints everywhere! Beauty surrounds us on every side...As we were reminded of the pain and agony that our precious Lord and Savior suffered on the cross of Calvary, there is a realization of the beauty of Hope we have, because of His sacrifice. May His torture not be in vain, but be glorified in beauty through our faithfulness.

It was March 22, all the children gathered in the front benches to witness the baptism of our new sister in Christ, Peggi Vasbinder. Joy and excitement filled the room and amazingly enough, a quiet stillness settled as Sis. Peggi made a covenant with the Lord and was finally ‘dunked in the bathtub.’ I must say many tears fell from my eyes as I witnessed something I had never seen before, as far as I could tell, every single person who went up to greet her, hugged her. Welcome to the family of God, Sis. Peggi. We love you.

Many prayers have gone out on behalf of our dear Bro. Wally (Donna) Gerst as he has begun chemotherapy for his CLL leukemia. We lift not only him up in prayer, but his family also. This brings to the forefront of all our minds that we are not promised life without sickness. We continue to pray for Sis. Sandy (Steve) Schutte, as she battles serious health issues, dear little Judah Oesch (Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli) who was hospitalized overnight, and Sis. LaBeth (Bro. Dale) Dunham who had surgery.

Our prayers for comfort through loss, are with Sis. Loretta (Bro. Aaron) Steffen, as her brother Michael Bocka (Karen) of Galion, OH went home to be with his Heavenly Father.
Grandpa Dave and Grandma Bonnie Stouffer, along with great grandparents Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva Oesch, are thrilled to tell of a new bundle of joy born into their family. Adelynn Mae was born to Bill and Rachel Stouffer and is also welcomed home by big brother Jackson and big sister Rylee.

How wonderful it is to have most of our loved ones home who travel south for the winter months. You were certainly missed.

“May the beauty of wrinkles worn on your face, mark of battles fought, victories won, conquered with grace.”
- Inspired by God-res

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) spent Easter Sunday with our congregation and ministered unto us. We are also thankful Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) traveled to Bay City to assist with Holy Communion on April 11.

On April 25, our annual Women's Luncheon was held. This event is a special opportunity for fellowship for all who attend.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Char Wieland (Bro. Brian) as she had surgery recently. We pray for Char and others from our congregation who are suffering from illness.

“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come...” Song of Solomon 2:12
We are thankful for the evidence of spring and the renewal of earth. Just as the signs of spring bring us hope of warmer days, may we also live in hope that God’s peace and love will radiate in our hearts to show others the benefits of a life in Christ.

Michigan, Detroit
Manuela Denes

Did you happen to see a big, beautiful rainbow on Tuesday, April 21 in your neck of the woods? I happened to be out driving that evening. With a dark, rainy sky on one side of the street, the sun was streaming its rays on the other side, creating this colorful miracle. What an inspiring sight to remind us of the promise that God made to us all!

“And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.” Genesis 9:16

A word to the wise: pull over when you see one while driving!

A warm invitation is extended to all to attend the 27th Annual Choir Benefit on Saturday, July 18. Dinner at 5:00 will be followed by the musical program at 7:00. No RSVP is needed, so, if you're free, please come visit us!

Minnesota, Morris
Amy Ekren, Heidi Pfaffmann

We welcome sweet little Raegan Marie, firstborn child of Bro. Nate & Sis. Ashley Knobloch. Her grandparents are Bro. Gary & Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Dan & Sis. ReJean Knobloch (Lester, IA).
“Rejoice with them who do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”
Romans 12:15

Bro. Howard and Edna Goll’s son, Aaron, died after a battle with cancer. Our prayers continue with this dear couple and their family.

It’s such a blessed time of year as we remember Christ’s crucifixion and rising again. We had an evening of self-reflection as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) and Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) were here to serve us. We thank these dear brothers and their wives for their labors of love on our behalf. We truly have something worth striving for!

“Christ is the world’s dear Paschal Lamb He is the great ‘ I was, I Am’ Through Calv’ry’s pain and dismal gloom, He conquered over death and tomb. He rose His own to justify, And draws all men up to the sky. If you have found the Christ, His way, Then you can keep this Easter day.”
Hymns of Zion, Easter, #89, vs. 3

Minneapolis, Morris North
Lois Schmidgall, Wanda Gramm

“The grave of Christ, the risen Lord, is vacant where He lay; the Son is victor over death, who e’er believes is saved.” Hymns of Zion #257 “Christ Arose”

Special thanks to our Sunday School and Sunday School teachers who presented their Easter program by relaying the Easter story. Again, we gathered for our annual Easter breakfast and were blessed with worshiping our risen Lord & Savior!

Sharing God’s Word with us this month were our Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily Junction, OH) and Earl Ringe (Gridley, IL) whom also led our brothers and sisters in the Lord through our Holy Communion service.

Once again, we were reminded of the great sacrifice that our Lord and Savior made for our sins. We sincerely appreciate the labors of love of our elder brothers.

Congratulations to Tristan & Jordan Feuchtenberger (Bro. Dwayne & Sis. Kay) who were married on March 28. May the Lord bless their marriage as they begin their life together.

“...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to GOD must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

Missouri, Kansas City

Greetings to our loved ones across the land. May the Lord grant us grace to cling to Him and “love one another with a pure heart fervently” (1 Peter 1:22) as the days draw on.

We have been blessed with the visit of ministering Brother Dave (and his wife, Sister Lori) Marquart from Taylor, MO. We appreciated their time and efforts to bless our church with their fellowship and the ministry of the Word on March 15. “...he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” Acts 9:6

May our hearts be open to His Word and Will. May God bless their sharing. We are thankful for all our visitors and the love we share and encourage anyone to come and visit our small church.

Holy Communion was held on Saturday eve March 7. Elder Brother Duane Farney was here to assist our Elder Brother Randy Kellenberger. We were thankful that he and his wife, Sister Karen, were able to spend the weekend with us and give us the Gospel message and encouragement. What a joy to consider and remember the price paid for us and the love shown to us through our Lord Jesus.

“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.”
John 17: 9,10

Let us ponder, are we glorifying our Savior and Lord?

On that Sunday evening, we had an all-church potluck and singing. We are thankful for the planners and those who work so hard to encourage and aid our fellowship. It was such a blessing to see the young children sing and toddle around. How precious it is to have the children and their sounds and voices in our church family.

As the flowers are blooming and trees have budded, we thank God for the renewal of the earth in springtime and above all the gift of His lifeblood and the resurrection so that we could have
life eternal. We enjoyed having ministering Brother Scott Aberle and his wife, Dorine, and family “home” again to share Easter Sunday with us. It was a blessing to hear the Gospel and share memories and see their family again. Thank you, Brother Scott and family, and come again soon.

“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.” Matt. 28:5-6

A big thank-you goes to those that helped get supplies and prepare an evening of assembling health kits for World Relief on April 17. We started at 4 pm and had a pizza supper together. Then we finished the kits by around 9 pm. We had some very hard workers and that included our children. May God bless the efforts and help those in need to feel the love of God in the delivery.

Missouri, Lamar
Venetta Banwart

As we think about the spring time of the year, our minds drift to the Easter season and what it means to us as Christians. May we never get tired of hearing the Easter account of Christ’s death and suffering on the cross and then His arising from the grave and the glorious ascension up into heaven to sit at God’s right hand and intercede for our sins.

“The mighty tree, the cross is spreading its arms of suffering every where, For where so e’er man’s foot is treading, the cross is certain to be there.
With thousand figures dark and dreary, The cross comes nigh with pain and dart; reproach, contempt and suffering weary Will hold their sword close to thy heart.”
Zion’s Harp #171 vs.1-2

We would like to thank our visiting ministers this month: Retired elder Bro. John Lehman, Bern, KS (Sis. Connie); Bro. Doyle Frauhiger, Bluffton North, IN (Sis. Jane); Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha, KS (Sis. LaVonne); Elder Bro. Jay Luthi, Lamont-Gridley, KS (Sis. Jane); Bro. Craig Stickling, Peoria, IL (Sis. Jacqueline). May God richly bless them for their efforts in feeding us from God’s Holy Word and spending the weekend with us.

Missouri, St. Louis
Kary Mangers

Who doesn’t love Spring? New life beginning. God created us to have life, to have it more abundantly through Christ Jesus. What a reminder He gives through nature and the celebration of Easter! Our Sunday school children ended a poem with these words, “the tomb is now empty and we can be free!” The winter tomb is now gone and life is everywhere. We can wonder how so many eyes and hearts can be closed to our Lord when there is this wonderful display of life all around us. It happens when we take our focus off the Source. May each of you turn your eyes upon Jesus and look full in His wonderful face and continue to marvel at the Life He provides to all who believe!

Thank you to the following visiting ministers and their wives who came to share this Life only Jesus can provide. They were Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne Beery (Rittman), Bro. Scott and Sis. Doreen Aberle (Washington), Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman (Taylor), Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder (Cissna Park), and Bro. David and Sis. Jackie Eisenmann (Champaign).

Missouri, Taylor
Marcia Sutter

“Hallelujah. The Lord arose. Our ransom now is paid. The Son is victor over death, Whoever believes is saved.”
Hymns of Zion, #257 vs. 4, Christ Arose

On 3/29/15, the Sunday school students told the Easter story. The verses and beautiful songs help us remember that God loves us so much, that He gave His Son to die for us. And not only pay the price for our sins, but Christ arose from the grave so that those of us that take advantage of salvation will arise with Christ when our life here on earth is done.

On 4/5/15, a second Communion service was held at the Fellowship Center early Easter morning.

The Taylor church extends our sympathy to Bro. Jeff (Sis. Carrie) Rocke and their family at the death of Bro. Jeff’s grandmother, Sis. Pauline Rocke from Eureka, IL.
Bro. Vernon (Sis. Judy) Huber and Bro. Gerald (Sis. Marjorie) Sutter were hospitalized this month. We wish them God’s healing hand to care for them. Many prayers have been sent up for 15-year-old Eli Johnson, son of Andy and Erin Johnson, who has a brain tumor and is starting treatment. He is the great grandson of the late Bro. Bill and Sis. Naomi Heimer.

On 4/8/15, we had our monthly Wednesday evening Bible Study given by Bro. Steve (Sis. Donnalou) Baner from Gridley, IL on Philippians 1:9-11. He gave us ideas on how to study the Bible for daily Bible studies. Many thanks from the Taylor church for taking time to come and minister to us.

Spring has come to the Taylor area with the trees and grass becoming green and the early spring buds springing forth. It reminds us of God’s almighty power and that His promises are true.

New York, Croghan-Naumburg
Hope Graves

We had a blessed Easter Sunday with several visitors from Rockville, CT joining us. We thank Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler and their family for serving us lunch. We enjoyed their grandchildren taking part in our Sunday School Easter Program. What a blessing to have our children remind us of our Savior’s life, death and resurrection. May the seeds that have been planted in these young hearts continue to grow.

“Thou cam’st to us from Thy throne in the heavens, to bear for us our sins and every grievance. For us to die and unto all creation, to bring salvation.”
Zion’s Harp #232, vs.3

We pray for God’s blessing upon Ministering Bro. Daniel Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville, CT) for coming to share God’s Word with us on April 12.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Michael Kevin Pelo on April 20. Baby Michael is the first child for Kevin and Buffy Pelo. We wish them God’s grace in the raising of this precious new life.

Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

With thankfulness, we welcomed Sis. Carola Laubli into our congregation after hearing her testimony on March 22.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) coming to serve us that day.

We are grateful for the willingness of Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) to assist in serving Communion and ministering to us. We also appreciate the ministers who visited this month: Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), and Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Tom, Sis. Laura, Zalán, and Eszter Bako as they have relocated to Hungary. We also want to remember Bethany Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona) while she spends time in Hungary.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly) in the passing of his grandfather, Bro. Eli Manz (Junction, OH).

Ohio, Columbus
Julie Grimm

Our pulpit has been blessed with many visiting ministers. Sharing the Word were Bros. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL), and Kurt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH).

It is a blessing to remember the Lord’s suffering and death on our behalf. A sincere thank you to Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for serving us Holy Communion.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Larry Banks who required hospitalization. We trust the Lord to provide return of strength and health.

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz

Greetings! It has been a busy month for us as a church family. There have been some joyous occasions and some sad partings, but we know that God is faithful and have felt Him close. He is our Solid Rock in the midst of life and
we praise Him for that!

On April 5, Sis. Angie Manz and Bro. Karl Klopfenstein (Latty, OH) were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein. We pray that God will bless them in this new chapter in their lives.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz were blessed with another granddaughter, Caroline Joanna, born to Dan and Angie Manz (Rittman, OH) on March 22. On April 10, Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy Stoller welcomed Aiden Walter into their family. Aiden’s siblings are Emil, Adam, Ellie, Katrina, Katie, Rachel, Kara, Kathleen, Amber, Corbin and Shawna. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Walt and Sis. Renae Sinn (both of Latty, OH).

We had the privilege to take Communion together this month. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) was able to share the evening with us.

God’s peace is a wonderful gift and we are grateful that He has extended it to 5 converts in our congregation! Shana Manz (Bro. Chris and Sis. Erica), Heather Manz (Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise), Jaci Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie), Catrina Wright and Susanna Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) have all found this peace. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

Bro. Eli Manz finished his course and passed into eternity on April 7. Our prayers go out to his children: Bro. Dave (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Don (Sis. Connie), Bro. Ken (Sis. Gwen), Bro. Les (Sis. Karen), John (Diane), Bro. Russ (Sis. Vera), Sis. Sue (Bro. Roger) Gasser, Bro. Roger (Lisa), Barb (Rob) Brink, and Peggy (Keith) Wiemken (all from our local congregation) and Emily (John) Rufener, Sis. Becky (Bro. Ken) Zollinger, Sis. Alice (Bro. Darrell) Widmer and Sis. Millie (Bro. Jeff) Stoller (all of the Rittman area). May God be their comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers are with several people from our congregation who have been sick and have not been able to assemble with us. Sis. Linda Lord (Chuck) and Eleanor Gerber have spent time in the hospital and we wish them a speedy recovery.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers who shared the Word this month. They were Bros. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville-Mediaopolis, IA), Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH) and Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH). May God bless them for their labors.

Ohio, Latty

Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

Greetings of love! We were thankful to have several visiting ministers with us this month. They included Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). We thank these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

We are thankful to report that Tanya Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) has turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that she would feel God’s grace each day as she begins her walk with Him.

April 5 was the wedding day for Bro. Karl Klopfenstein and Sis. Angie Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, Junction, OH). We rejoice with them and welcome Sis. Angie to Latty!

Two couples have announced their engagements this month. We rejoice with Sis. Jessica Wenninger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni) as she has been announced to be married to Bro. Matthew Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise, Rittman, OH). Sis. Bekah Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma) who is currently serving in Haiti with her family is engaged to Bro. Trent Witzig (Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma, Gridley, IL). May these two couples feel God’s nearness and love as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

We were saddened to hear of the death of Michael Bocka, Sr. (Karen). Our sympathy and
prayers go out to all of the Bocka family and especially to his brother, our Bro. Larry Bocka. May God comfort each one.

What a blessing to share Holy Communion together each year. We are thankful for the ministry and efforts of Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) to serve us during this special weekend.

The joy of Easter filled our hearts as we listened to the Sunday School children proclaim the good news with their songs and recitations. May the victory found in those words draw each one closer to an eternity with our risen Savior.

We are grateful to Bro. Matt Maibach (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise) made known his engagement to Sis. Jessica Wenninger (Toledo) (Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni, Latty). Bro. Nelson Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene, Smithville) and Sis. Jessica Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill) were united in marriage on April 12. We wish both of these couples God’s blessings as they begin their lives together.

“*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” Matthew 6:33

We are thankful that Allison Steiner (Bro. Joel and Sis. Katrina) began her repentance. May she feel God’s grace.

Our prayers were with Sis. Alice Widmer (Bro. Darrell) in the passing of her father, Bro. Eli Manz (Junction). Bro. Dan Baltic, Sr. (Sis. Betty), Sis. Irene Gasser, Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion), and Bro. Everett Beery (Sis. Carol) all spent time in the hospital. We hope they continue to recover.


We are thankful for the many ways that God has blessed our church this month.

**Ohio, Smithville**

*Sara Crist, Kara Stoller*

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Millie Stoller (Bro. Jeff) and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Bro. Ken) upon the loss of their father, Bro. Elias Manz on April 7.

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces;” Isaiah 25:8a

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryann), Bro. George Schuster (Sis. Carol) and Annabel Zieker. We praise God for His power to carry our loved ones through uncertain health situations.

We are grateful for the many brothers who ministered to our church this past month: Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Debra, Milford, IN), Bro. Michael Wagonbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH), Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Bro. Brett Lanz
(Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH),
Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lori,
Rittman, OH). May God grant
you grace and strength to continue
proclaiming His Word for His
Name’s sake.

Ohio, Toledo
Deanna Manz, Jenny Manz

We wish to congratulate Sis.
Jessica Wenniger (Bro. Randy
and Sis. Joni, Latty, OH) on her
engagement to Bro. Matt Maibach
(Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise,
Rittman, OH). We pray that the
Lord will guide them as they build
their lives together. We’re also
thankful Bro. Matt will be joining
our congregation here in Toledo.

On March 29, we gathered
together to listen to our Sunday
School children tell their version of
the Easter story. What a privilege it
was to hear of God’s love and also
see it on the children’s faces as they
sang and recited their verses. Thank
you to all the parents and Sunday
School teachers who made it a
special evening.

We wish to thank Bro. Regg
Beer (Sis. Bev, Milford, IN) and our
Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emmy,
Junction, OH) for ministering to us
this month. We trust the Lord will
bless them richly for their efforts.

Bro. Bill also gathered with
us on Saturday April 11 to share
Communion with us. It was both
a sobering and uplifting evening as
we reflected upon Jesus’ death on
the cross and the love that led him
there. We wish to sincerely thank
Bro. Bill for his work.

Ontario, Kitchener
Johanna Fortenbacher

We are very thankful we had
ministers come this month. Bro.
Rick & Sis. Michelle Kaiser from
Chicago and Bro. Todd & Sis.
Lydia Graf from Akron came for
the Easter weekend. The Graf’s, as
well as their friend, provided the
lunch for us on Sunday. Minister
Bro. Matt & Sis. Shelli Oesch
from Alto came last weekend. All
the ministers and others that have
come along with them make us
feel so blessed. We wish you God’s
blessings and extra grace in your
lives.

“For God is not unrighteous to
forget your work and labour of love,
which ye have showed towards His
name, in that ye have ministered
to the saints, and do minister.”
Hebrews 6:10

The Metzger family just got
back from their trip to Germany.
They had a memorable time
there. Sis. Esther unfortunately
spent some time in the hospital
there. They were missed by us
all and thank God everything is
ok with Esther.

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

A number of people have
suffered injuries and are hopefully
healing well. Among the injured
are Bro. Andy Angstrom (Sis.
Renee) who injured his shoulder,
Nathan Dettwyler (Bro. Kevin
and Sis. Jill) with a broken leg,
and Maria Kuenzi (Bro. Jeremy
and Sis. Kristy) who cut off part
of a finger. Sis. Becky Von Flue
(Bro. Dan) needs our prayers, as
she has had another surgery on
her hip, and continues to have
difficulty healing.

Bro. Darwin and Sis. Jenna
Sinn have a new baby daughter,
Fiona Kathryn, born March 18.
Grandparents are Bro. Dan and
Sis. Kathy Banwart (Forrest, IL),
and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn.
It is so precious to watch the love
blossom, in this new family unit. We were blessed with a wonderful Easter program by the Sunday school children, March 29. It was a joy to watch the enthusiasm, excitement, and the ability to sing with wonderful volume.

March 20, Sis. Jane Wiegand’s (Bro. John) mother, Sis. Pauline Rocke (Bro. Virgil, dec.) from Eureka, IL, passed away. Our love and prayers are with the family as they experience this sad time in their lives.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland, OR.

Justin Kuenzi (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet) is excited that Ingrid Anderson (Arlen and Linda) has said yes to his proposal. We are happy for them, and look forward to their future marriage.

Violet Kuenzi (Bro. Cliff, dec.) celebrated a milestone, when she had her birthday recently. Ninety years seems like a long time, but has a way of going very swiftly. We wished her many blessings, at a reception hosted for her, by her family.

The weekend of April 25, we were blessed with a number of young people from across the country. Our single group hosted an “invite-a-friend” weekend.

**Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**

*Laura Isch*

“As the tender flower,
Willingly unfoldeth,
To the sunlight gently yieldeth,

*May we be, glad and free,*
*Heav'nly light receiving,*
*Thou Thy work achieving."

*Walking with God,*
*Zions Harp #68*

It is so fitting that we can celebrate Easter in the springtime! The warmth and new life outside remind us of the joy and new life we have in the Lord’s resurrection. We appreciated hearing the Easter message in song from our Sunday School children this month. The Sunday School is such a blessing to our church. We appreciate all the efforts of the students and teachers.

We know we have the Lord’s nearness also in times of trial and sorrow. Our church was saddened with the passing of Bill Keene. Our prayers and sympathy go out to the family. Our prayers were also with Bro. Daryl Luginbuhl as he had surgery recently.

**Tennessee, Nashville**

*Mike and Monica Fritz*

We are blessed to have Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder back with us after returning from the sunny southlands. We wish Edith Henry (Bro. Buck Henry’s mother) well as she moves back home to Illinois after spending the winter in our area.

It was a joy to hear the Sunday School children share songs and verses in a short program as we commemorated the Lord Jesus’ death and resurrection.

We have been strengthened and encouraged by the Living Word so ably shared with us by our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville), Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign), and Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman), and Elder Bro. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto). We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of visitors from Champaign, Chicago, Elgin, Fairbury, Forrest, and Gridley, IL; Francesville and Wolcott, IN; Elgin and Oakville-Mediapolis, IA; Alto, MI; and Junction, Rittman, and Smithville, 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. Don & Sis. Faye Sauder, 615.373.8928; 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!

This time of year in Austin is beautiful with the many hues of wildflowers seen everywhere. They are especially vibrant on the roadway in front of church.

We have been strengthened in recent weeks by God’s Word shared by visiting ministers: Our
Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha). We appreciated the talk on “Israel in the End Times” that Bro. Gerry shared for our weekend service.

What a blessing to experience Easter in Austin this year. We had many special visitors including Bros. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis) and Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville). The congregation, including our visiting families, participated in an Easter program after services. It was a special time as we celebrated Christ’s resurrection.


We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us!!

Please refer to our 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.

**Texas, Zapata**

*Mary Plattner*

We were thankful that Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller of Latty, OH were able to be in Zapata for a Wednesday evening service. We appreciate Todd’s willingness to serve our congregation.

All our winter residents have returned to their summer homes and we are looking forward to next season. We will miss Sis. Joyce Nohl and her daughter, Erica, as they have moved to West Bend, but we are glad they can be closer to family. The Nohl’s assembled in Zapata and McAllen for over 37 years.

Anyone coming to South Texas is encouraged to call us before coming since we often travel to Austin or McAllen for services in the summer time.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

*Nathan and Miriam Reutter*

As winter was lingering, the water pipes, that lead to the building we rent for services, froze. As a consequence, we rented the gym of a nearby school for a few weeks. The disruption, of course, was uncomfortable, but it helped us to be especially thankful for the now-thawed water supply, and more importantly for the building we are accustomed to using, and most importantly for God’s providence in our lives. It feels good to be “home” again since spring has made her delicate appearance.

We are rejoicing in this long-awaited spring, but along with the glorious warmth and beautiful buds and flowers, come the inevitable pollen. The pollen can be an allergen. If heaven-sent prayers can be likened to the warm, sweet-smelling air in God’s nose, can we also make a similitude to impure thoughts and wayward desires being as pollen? If so, how much of the pollen do we add to the sweet, fresh air in God’s smells? And, are we allowing God to rid us of our pollen?

A breath of fresh air this month both to God and to us was the presence of visiting ministers. These include two brothers and their wives from the Rockville, CT church: Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole Gerber, and Bro. Brent and Sis. Naomi Walder. We are thankful they both brought their own families and others to be with us. Our own children benefited from their presence.

Another sweet-smelling event this month has been the reading of the Memorandum to our church. We were blessed to have with us for the occasion Bros. Kevin Ryan and Warren Zahner, our Elder Brother and Ordained Deacon, respectively, and their wives, Sis. Cheryl Ryan and Sis. Bonnie Zahner. Their loving, kind exhortations along with the added words of our home ministering Bro. Mark Hoffman in such an intimate atmosphere led to a remarkably edifying time.

With no other news to share, we wish to invite all to our little church. You are welcome to worship and fellowship with us anytime. Contact Bro. Nathan and Sis. Miriam Reutter at 802-447-2426 or nmrbenn@gmail.com to let us know when you are
planning to be in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times are as follows:

• Mid-week services (Contact local brethren)
• Sunday Morning Service: 10:10 AM
• Sunday Afternoon Service: 12:15 PM
• Sunday school held during the morning service.

“Angry Words! O Let Them Never”

Angry words! O let them never
From the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart’s best impulse ever
Check them ere they soil the lips.

“Love one another,” thus saith the Saviour;

“Children obey the Father’s blest command.”

Love is much too pure and holy
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment’s reckless folly

Thus to desolate and mar.

Angry words are lightly spoken,
Bitt’rest tho’ts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken,

By a single angry word.
The Union of Hearts (#79) in the Zion’s Harp has been a very impressive and encouraging song to us.

*When pure and upright hearts
By flames of love ignited.
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united.*

In verse 3 it tells us that Christ being in your marriage creates a three-fold cord, “Not lightly rent apart.”

Another song that is very important in our lives is “Angry Words! O Let Them Never”

*Angry words! O let them never
From the tongue unbridled slip;
May the heart’s best impulse ever
Check them ere they soil the lips.
“Love one another,” thus saith the Saviour;
“Children obey the Father’s best command.”
Love is much too pure and holy Friendship is too sacred far, For a moment’s reckless folly Thus to desolate and mar. Angry words are lightly spoken, Bitt’rest tho’ts are rashly stirred, Brightest links of life are broken, By a single angry word.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig, Gridley, IL, married 69 years

The best thing for couples to work on is communication, but not the “date night” type of communication that many couples tend to focus on. After a date you come back to real life and then what? The important thing is to work on the everyday communication to stay close.

As happens with most normal, young couples, the husband gets busy with work and the wife with the house and the children. There may not be a lot of communication on “the necessary things.” Then the children move out and you find yourself short on that skill.

While seeking to improve our relationship, I heard some advice that helped me think about the many different ways we communicate. The figures I remember are that communication is 7 percent words, 38 percent tone of voice and 55 percent nonverbal. As I applied it to our situation, I understood that when we were each preoccupied with our own responsibilities (children, the house or work) we could be viewed by the other as being distant. When we are silent, not using words, we can be easily misunderstood.

When I was preoccupied with the cares of my family, for example, and was deep in thought, my husband could enter the room and I may not even be aware of that and he could wonder what is on my mind and draw a wrong conclusion. I decided to make it a point to start the day off right: hugging, smiling, etc. A smile conveys appreciation and that communication help lessen the tension.

Anonymous, married 54 years

Fellowshipping with other couples that are believers. Having others there to help lift you up, and being there for them when they need to be lifted up.

*Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 40 years*
We have been married for over 60 years and God has blessed our marriage. About 30 years ago we were going through a reception line and the elder was in front of us. He told the couple to pray out loud together before bed. We had been married 30 years at this point and had not done this. We began praying out loud together and it has really strengthened our marriage the last 30-plus years. It was advice meant for the newly married couple but it helped us as well!

Anonymous, Princeville, IL, married 60+ years

I was married for thirty-three years before I lost my husband in 2005. He was diagnosed with brain cancer in 1995, yet lived for 10 years. Since I have had forty-three years to contemplate the institution of marriage, it has become sweeter as the years have gone by.

God instituted marriage as the perfect picture of Christ and the believer or the church – each one giving to the other, unconditionally, to love and to cherish forever. What a joyous, practical and companionable union!

Why then does everyone struggle with selfish desires and petty complaints? We are all still living in the flesh and yearn for our spiritual bodies. (Romans 8:23)

I remember how much I desired to be a submissive wife and even thought that I was. I see now how I struggled with my own desire to control my husband, to have my own way, to do my own thing. God has had to continually correct my thinking and discipline my heart. I think I had the kindest, most sensitive, loyal and loving husband alive, yet I still resisted his leadership in many ways.

I would like to challenge every wife, young and old, to cherish, honor and serve the husband she has – unconditionally – knowing life is short and the only time she has is now. In honoring and obeying her husband, she honors and obeys God.

Sis. Ginny Zeller, Indianapolis, IN, married 33 years (widowed)

Staying connected only happens by intentionally sacrificing one’s agenda to have that time of communication and prayer.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 36 years

• Praying all the time.
• Loving the Lord and making Him the center of our marriage.
• Not letting the little things bother us, and being thankful the other is there.

Our marriage keeps getting stronger.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 45 years

We read the Bible and pray together.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 65 years
• Pray and read the Bible together every day.
• Be attentive.
• When your spouse is talking to you, look him/her in the eye.
• Set aside time to spend with your spouse.
• Don’t assume. Keep the lines of communication open.
• Remember to say “I love you” and “thank you.”

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”
Ephesians 5:33
Anonymous, Indianapolis, IN, married 32 years

Our marriage was strengthened by acknowledging we needed professional help and taking action to find it. Facing and exposing the real state of our marriage – not the one we displayed on Sundays – was intimidating. We didn’t know what counseling would look like. However, we knew if our marriage was going to survive we had to reach out.

As is often typical, one of us reached out first, with the other still wanting to remain out of the realm of counseling. However, once we took the step to work with ACCFS we began a journey towards healing. We were able to individually take a marriage assessment tool and a personality assessment tool.

From the results, we learned why each of us act and react in specific ways and why so much conflict was arising. We had to make some serious personal changes, work on breaking patterns in which we had lived for years, own up to our individual contributions to a failing marriage, and learn to apply Biblical concepts to create a healthier relationship. This is a work in progress, but it is strengthening our marriage.

Anonymous, Chicago, IL, married 20 years

Self sacrifice on both parts.
Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 31 years

When we first got married we started reading through the Bible together. We would talk about what we read and what we understood. This created a strong bond between us. We try to do this each year.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 53 years
Doing the Crown Financial Course and Bible study groups together. We would have intense time in the scripture and then with others in the groups.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 43 years

We try never to go to bed mad at each other.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 56 years

Doing the Crown Financial Course and Bible study groups together. We would have intense time in the scripture and then with others in the groups.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 43 years

We try never to go to bed mad at each other.

Anonymous, Alto, MI, married 56 years

Begin your marriage with the assurance of this verse, as many forces in our secular world will attack your relationship.

“And if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes 4:12

Marriage is the unification of two sinners. No one is perfect and there is no perfect marriage.

“Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:8

Forgive each other. You will need to do it often.

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

Together you have a purpose. Trust God to show you what it is.

“In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:6

Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford, Indianapolis, IN, married 50 years

Our next topic is “The Non-Combatant Experience: Stories from Those Who Served.” Please consider sharing your (or your father’s or grandfather’s) story. Send your contribution by June 15 to:

editor@acsilverlining.org.
“Come Boldly to the Throne” is the Topic for Tennessee/Alabama Fellowship Weekend - May 23-24, 2015

What does it mean to come boldly to the throne? If you look up the word bold on the Internet, the words confident and courageous come up several times. As Christians, God encourages us to, “...come boldly (or confidently or courageously) unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16) Come hear Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Ministering Bro. Tim Drayer (Bluffton North, IN) as they talk more on this topic during the weekend.

At 2 p.m., a live auction is planned at the Tennessee Fellowship Area to raise money for the upkeep of the property. As this is the only fundraiser held during the year, donation of auction items is appreciated. After that, enjoy fellowshiping or strolling around the lake before supper at 6 p.m. In the evening, congregational and special group singing and one speaker is planned. On Sunday, worship with the Athens congregation beginning at 10 a.m. Afternoon activities resume at the Fellowship area at 3:30 p.m. and include singing, fellowship and the second speaker.

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

Plan to attend this uplifting weekend filled with spiritual insights, fellowship and singing to glorify God. Reservations for overnight accommodations can be made at the hotels listed below. Additionally, there are electric and water hookups for campers at the Fellowship area. Please contact Sis. Becky Roberts at the info listed below for more information.

Please RSVP to any of the following names if you are planning to come or have additional questions. Bro. Roger or Sis. Becky Roberts - 931.309.9335 or 309.208.5590 or mrrpipes@afo.net
Bro. Phil or Cindy Witzig - 309.263.0152 or pwitzig@kuhlco.com
Bro. Mark or Sis. Rebekah Klaus - 256.777.7777 or flyhi55@aol.com
Bro. Matthew or Sis. Kristy Moore - chewchew27@aol.com
Sis. Gwen Leuthold - 615.969.0958 or leutholdg@aol.com
Bro. Tom or Sis. Sue Waldbeser - 770.463.4788 or twald2010@att.net

Athens, Alabama Area Hotels:
- Best Western (256)233-4030
- Days Inn (800)329-7466
- Sleep Inn (256)232-4700
- Travel Inn (256)232-2704
- Quality Inn (800)424-6423
- Super 8 (256)233-1446
- Fairfield Inn (256)233-4530
- Hampton Inn (256)232-2377
- Holiday Inn Express (800)465-4329
In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following location: 100 South Park Avenue, Breckenridge, CO 80424
Office: (970) 453-4711

Breckenridge is located in Summit County. If you take the Frisco exit on Interstate 70, Breckenridge is about 9 miles past Frisco on Highway 9. It is less than 2 hours from Granby, Glenwood Springs, Denver, and Buena Vista. There is free parking available in lots north and south of the entrance that are only about a 5 minute walk away.

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

For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. (303) 696-1301 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

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**2015 Apostolic Christian Church Services**

**Clyde Park, Montana**

**Saturday June 27th**

Clyde Park Community Center
3:00 to 5:00 pm Registration and Fellowship
5:00 Evening Meal
Hymn Singing in Evening

For further information or to provide a count of those planning to attend by June 10th 2015, please contact one of the following Bros.

From Lester
Wes Moser 712-478-4622 wesmoser58@gmail.com
or 712-395-2025
Eugene Metzger 712-472-2187 gmetzger@hickorytech.net
Bob Metzger 712-478-4647 bobcmet@alliancecom.net
or 612-963-0089
From Silverton
Greg Wackerle 803-873-7463 gregwackerle@msn.com

**Sunday June 28th**

Clyde Park Community Center
Church Services
10:15 am and 12:30 pm

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT

Comfort Inn (406-222-4400) will have a block of rooms available under Apostolic Christian or Bob Metzger

There are a number of campgrounds and rental homes in the area.

It is helpful if those attending can bring their own: Bibles, Zion’s Harps, and Hymn’s of Zion
Free will donations serve to cover meal costs and facility expenses
A day tour of the area will be organized for those interested on Friday June 26th
Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Home-Based Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work with hurting children and families directly in their homes. Requires a Bachelors Degree in Social Work or a related field, experience working with children and families preferred.

Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children. 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

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

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

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

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

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     Lynn Stieglitz
Director of Education   Counseling Elder
PO Box 125,     15417 Doty Rd.
Leo, IN 46765     New Haven, IN 46774
888.443.4283     260.466.6712
Adam.McAfee@gatewaywoods.org  lynnstieg@gmail.com
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.
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

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

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

Mentors Needed – The New Beginnings of Southwest Florida

Mentoring at The New Beginnings is a way for those who feel called to share God’s unconditional love with hurting single mothers and their children. The New Beginnings is looking for mentor couples who are outreach-minded and called by God to come join us in building relationships with these mothers. We currently have a need for young families with children, couples who may be empty-nesters and have the experience of already raising their children and for experienced single sister mentors.

Please prayerfully consider this mission and helping single mothers. Contact us for more information concerning this opportunity.

The New Beginnings
4810 Marine Dr.
Cape Coral FL, 33904
239.541.4312
thenewbeginningsofswfl@yahoo.com

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

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

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Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing
Washington, IL
August 29 & 30, 2015

Lord willing, the Washington congregation will be hosting the 2015 Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend of singing and fellowship. We have been blessed with a rich heritage of hymn singing, and our goal for the weekend is to glorify God through song as well as record a CD that will be uplifting for many in the future.

The website www.acmensing.com has been updated, and will be the main source of information about the Men’s Sing and will also be used as the preferred method for sending out further communications. From the website, you are able to register, get directions, see the schedule of activities, view the music, and much more. Please bookmark this site, create an account, and register for the Men’s Sing.

If you plan to attend, please register by July 1, 2015 so we can accurately prepare for meals and accommodations. Please also spread this communication to any other brothers interested. It would also be helpful if there was a designated brother from each church who could keep us updated on the number of brothers attending from your church. If you are unable to access the internet, you may write or call:

Matt Wyss
216 W. Robinson St.
Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-397-5919
Email: mattwyss@yahoo.com

50-Year Commemoration of Fairbury Apostolic Christian Church
August 29 & 30, 2015

If you have previously attended the Fairbury Church, you are cordially invited to attend a commemoration in recognition of 50 years since our current church building was erected and dedicated.

Saturday, 6:30 P.M. at FAIRBURY FELLOWSHIP HALL
Singing and Historical Presentation

Sunday, 10:00 A.M. at FAIRBURY APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Worship services 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Light meal served immediately following afternoon service

PLEASE REPLY BY JULY 15 if you plan to attend the Saturday program, come to worship with us on Sunday, stay for the meal, and/or need overnight accommodations.
Contact: Duane and Arlene Kilgus: timberline44@frontier.com, (815) 692-2589 or (815) 848-2589
Haiti Medical Work Teams

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<th>Project</th>
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Jamaica Work Teams

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

Haitian Awareness Tours

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumière 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 and the next one is Sept. 12-16, 2015.

To learn more, contact:
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351
or lemanmg@mtco.com
Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163
or rick@wuetherichfarms.com
Medical Director Needed at Hospital Lumiere

If you are a licensed physician with a God-inspired desire to provide medical care and leadership in an under-served part of Haiti, this may be the opportunity of a lifetime.

The Need
A licensed physician is needed to replace our Medical Director, Dr. Lee Klopfenstein, when his term is completed in 2016.

To fill this full-time position, one must have a U.S. medical license, be Board-Certified in some aspect of medicine or surgery, be a Believer in Jesus Christ, have experience in leadership and management, be capable of learning the Creole language, and be willing to reside with your family on the Hospital Lumiere campus for up to five years. The position involves leading a team of excellent Haitian physicians and surgeons, and oversight of the nursing, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy departments of this 120-bed full-service hospital and out-patient facility.

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

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 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
Mexico Work Teams

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

Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

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

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

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

To sponsor a child

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

Name _________________________

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

www.acworldrelief.org
ACCFS has numerous resources to assist those who find themselves serving in a mentoring relationship. These resources and discussion aids can be found on our website. In addition, our Basic Mentor Training presentation gives practical skills regarding helping others. Please visit our website at www.accounseling.org/mentoring to gain access to these and other resources. If you would like more information, please contact Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services at (309)263-5536.

**Finally, brethren,**

*whatsoever things are true,*

*whatsoever things are honest,*

*whatsoever things are just,*

*whatsoever things are pure,*

*whatsoever things are lovely,*

*whatsoever things are of good report;*

*if there be any virtue,*

*and if there be any praise,*

*think on these things.*

Philippians 4:8
Volunteer Caretakers Needed – Washington, D.C.

The Washington, DC church caretaker program is entering its eighth year. It has been such a blessing for our visiting caretakers as well as our local members and friends. We are taking reservations for 2016. Our church home is located in Silver Spring, MD, and meets both church and residential needs.

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

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

For more information, please contact:
Barry and Doreen Steffen
Phone: 302-540-6574
Email: dkgsteffen@gmail.com.

Teacher Needed – Athens Preschool

There is currently a teaching position available at the Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, AL. We are looking for a preschool teacher who is willing to start in June of 2015. This is a wonderful opportunity to support one of our smaller congregations.

This is a paid position with medical benefits. Church housing is available. Applicants must be at least 19 years old and be a member of the Apostolic Christian Church. Basic computer skills are necessary.

If you have questions contact Sis. Kalla Knobloch at (309) 231-1755.
You may also e-mail your resume to acpreschool2015@gmail.com.
Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Kindergarten Teacher Needed - Light House Academy

Light House Academy in Peoria, IL, is looking to hire a part-time kindergarten teacher for the coming school year. Candidates should be born-again believers, with teaching certification a plus, but not a requirement. The position has the possibility of involving additional hours pending our incoming enrollment.

Please contact Perry Kieser 309.238.0300 or rsi.perry@gmail.com for more information.
Final Thoughts on Mentoring

So often we can feel alone and isolated in life and doubt anyone cares or notices. This feeling is one of Satan’s clever tactics. When we feel hopeless in our isolation, we tend to not reach out to other people, leaving us feeling even more vulnerable. While turning to others is not always easy and may feel uncomfortable, as we reach out to the Body of Christ, we can gain support and strength to overcome trials.

In addition, we need to be willing to invest in the lives of other individuals as God gives the opportunity. As Romans 12:5 calls us, we are to be “members one of another,” focused on building and encouraging each other to a closer walk in the Lord. May we each be willing to prayerfully consider our role in building up the Body of Christ.

Mentoring

— Continued from pg. 9

Allow him or her to take time to prayerfully consider the opportunity.

• Pray: Continue covering the process in prayer.

New Guiding Statements

— Continued from pg. 7

We will strive to minister in ways that are respectful and relevant to indigenous cultures, being careful to not create dependency.

9. Responsibility to the Church: We will promote a biblical understanding of outreach and service, while upholding and affirming the doctrine of the Apostolic Christian Church of America as defined in our Statement of Faith. We will operate transparently to the brotherhood.

10. Doctrinal Integrity: When associating with other Christian organizations, we will practice spiritual discernment, maintain sound doctrine, and be accountable to our Heavenly Father and the brotherhood.

To learn more about the integration of Mission Committee and World Relief, please visit www.acworldrelief.org/integration.
Righteousness by Faith
— Continued from pg. 3

As with faith, fear also serves as a motivation to obedience and righteousness. However, our fear of God should be of the type that causes us to “serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Heb. 12:28). The Apostle John put it simply, “There is no fear in love” (1 John 4:18). A healthy fear is born out of a genuine love and reverence for God. It leads us to abhor anything that offends or displeases Him (Prov. 8:13), causing us to strive for consecrated obedience to Him.

Just as there is a balance between fear and faith, there exists a proper understanding of the relationship between the truth of God and His mercy. We know that a holy and righteous God in the person of His Son will determine our eternal destiny based upon the absolute truthfulness of His Word. “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation” (John 5:28-29).

We know also that blood is the only remission for all sin (Heb. 9:22). Because of Christ’s perfect sacrifice upon the cross, God is able to remain righteous and still extend His grace, mercy and peace towards fallen and sinful mankind to those who believe.

The Psalmist of old eloquently expressed the promise of our hope: “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase. Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps” (Psalm 85:10-13).

“And if one prevails against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”
Ecclesiastes 4:12
and pleasing to Him. But Isaiah (6:5) offers a great lesson for us, when he said, “Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.” This teaches us that in serving others cross-culturally, we must first recognize our own sin (both of self and our culture) before we can effectively minister to the needs of others.

Knowledge is power, and nothing can be more powerful than knowing the Truth. Jesus said that the Truth will set us free. So regardless of the language development of a child, the attitude with which they are raised or the cultural norms they inherit, nothing is as important as knowing the Truth. Because of this, our ministry efforts in Jamaica strive to operate in such a way that the Gospel is never secondary. However, the depth of the Gospel is unsearchable, so how do we empower others’ ability to seek out the vastness of God’s love and truth? One way is by creating opportunities for gaining knowledge through advanced academic studies. Due to a lack of interpreters in Jamaican universities, students have to travel overseas to pursue a degree, yet very few will ever find such an opportunity. For this to happen we need families to host international students and we need funding for tuition and travel. Once a student receives a degree, they are not only more marketable in the workforce but they have also received an invaluable experience of living with a Christian family, being built up and exposed to a culture pleasing to God.

ACWR has responded to this need and opportunity by creating a Jamaican Education Fund, which currently is partially supporting Cheyenne (studying in Jamaica) and two other deaf students (studying in the US). Please pray for the dedicated students in the program and pray for opportunities for deserving and motivated Jamaican youth. If the Lord speaks to you regarding this aspect of our ministry and you would like to contribute to the education fund, please designate your World Relief donation to the Jamaica Education Fund. You can also participate in this ministry by volunteering to be a host family for a future student. For further information, contact Bro. Loren Dettwyler at lmdettwyler@gmail.com or 503-580-9629.

“Above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”
1 Peter 4:8
for us to understand that because we’re not made that way. It’s easy for us to love someone more than somebody else, but when God sees us truly laboring and truly striving to do His will, His love for us is equal. It’s as rock-solid for one as it is the other.

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.” (v.1-2) As the Apostle Paul was speaking to the Corinthian people, what I sense he was doing is looking at the issues that were there in the Corinthian church, and there were lots of issues. He said you really need to start looking at this through the eyes of God and not the eyes of men because what’s happening is you’re being carried away. Your carnal nature, your carnal eyesight is making a mess of things. He says you have to be careful. “Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Son of God, but by the Holy Ghost.” (v.2-3)

I was visiting with a convert this past week, and she asked me how you know if you have the Holy Ghost. I wish I would have remembered this verse because I know that she would have said, ‘I know that Jesus is the Son of God.’ I could have asked her, ‘Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?’ I know the answer would have been ‘Yes, I do!’ Then I could have said, ‘Well, you have the Holy Ghost.’ It’s just that simple. That’s the beauty and the simplicity of God’s Word.

But then he goes on, and He speaks of the differences that there are in individuals. There are many differences, Loved Ones. There are differences in how we understand the Word, differences of how we relate to people. Satan would often times come along, and he would exploit that and say, ‘But if you’re not all the same, if you’re not just exactly one like another, if you don’t see it eye to eye down to the very jot and the very tittle, you’re not together.’ That’s not how I read this Scripture, Loved Ones. Did we get that message from here? We need to be one in the Spirit of God. We need to be looking and focusing upon the heart of God.

There are diversities of gifts, but gifts are by the Holy Spirit (v.4). God has given gifts and instead of being jealous and envious of one another’s gifts, perhaps it would be well to be thankful for that gift that God has given that individual. Just be thankful for that gift.

“And there are diversities of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God…” (v.5-6) God inspired the Apostle Paul to write these words. He knows how Satan will work. He knows the heart and the mind of men that he can get in and make us start seeking our own. We read that in another part of the Scripture. It’s in the next chapter. Charity seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked (1 Corinthians 13:5).

So we come together, Loved Ones, for a purpose. The purpose is not to see how much we can gain. The purpose is not to see how we can outdo one another. The purpose is not to exploit any one or any thing. The purpose is to recognize God and to recognize the gifts that God gives to us, to recognize that He has given us His Son. Our purpose is to recognize that we were born into sin and that without coming to a point which we recognize that, admit it, and confess our sin and repent of our sin, there is a place called hell that we will spend an eternity in, but also to recognize that God prepared a way that we could be spared from that.

We can acknowledge our lost condition. We can acknowledge
that God gave His Son to come, to walk upon this earth, to experience sin and to overcome sin, and then to go to the cross and shed His blood so our sins can be blotted out. We understand that God gives us grace day by day to lead overcoming lives, to recognize there are times when we may not do so well with that, and to recognize that we need to go back and tell somebody, ‘I am sorry. I was wrong.’ That goes against our nature because our nature says that we want to be right, but it’s ok to say, ‘I made a mistake. In my insistence on saying I was right, I hurt you, and I am sorry. Will you forgive me?’ and to be able to go on.

We think about Mother’s Day, and I know between mothers and children there has been that conflict since the beginning of time where mother will say, ‘Please do this.’ and a child will say, ‘But why?’ There will be this insistence that I am right and you don’t know what you’re talking about. You know what, Dear Ones? Sometimes the moms could be wrong. Most generally the children could be wrong, but there comes a point in all of our lives where the children, the moms, and the dads need to recognize just because I’m a dad, just because I’m a mom, I can make a mistake, and I can apologize. We can show the goodness, we can show humility which then shines forth, and they can recognize that God is a part of our life and that God needs to be a part of their life as well.

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 4:32
Our church denomination came from Europe to America. God directed brethren across many miles and many states to establish congregations. Having arrived here in 1847, there were already many established denominations. Excerpts that follow are taken from Marching to Zion.

Toward A Better Land

The travel route in Europe for those emigrating usually culminated at Le Havre, France, the English Channel port some seventy-five miles east of the British border, and the same distance from the city of Paris. Emigrants from Switzerland, Germany, and France mostly traveled this route, often stopping overnight in Paris, and then boarding ocean-going vessels at Le Havre.

Previous to coming to America, many European forebears were forced to make decisions of enormous, lifelong implications. When they decided to emigrate, it meant leaving their homesteads and loved ones once and for all time. If a young man decided, due to reasons of conscience, not to serve in his country’s military units (as an armed person), he left for America knowing he could probably never return to his native land. Their dedicated willingness to leave their European homelands is difficult to comprehend.

The Story of Frederick Guth

“I personally remember when in 1882 in late summer, our parents with eight children left Lorraine, Germany, for America. Although I was only seven years old, the high-spirited enthusiasm which permeated us all is still fresh in my memory.

When, in the evening hours, the family circle would gather in the large living room in that massive stone house known as ‘Baersitter Hof’.

We delighted in hearing father read of the glowing reports out of American Land Company literature of the great success of those immigrants who had already preceded us.

Finally the day of departure for the far-away new world was at hand. It was early in the morning and still dark when all of us were securely placed on the wagon, and took a final look at the old home, and good byes were said to those servants, neighbors, and friends forever.

The trip to France where the Reebs lived, was over an ancient and rough road. Arriving there, we all had the assurance that now we were on our way to the promised land and opportunity. After a day’s rest there, we entrained for Paris and then to Le Havre where we embarked for New York. The long ocean voyage was mingled with fear and hope. All of us eight children were seasick most of the way.

All of those memories still haunt me, because of my intimate sympathy for the hopes and inspirations of our mutual desire to go forward and pioneer for a more full life in America. What a sense of relief and joy overcame us when, early in the morning, the word was given -- we are here. There is New York.”

Poem - The New Colossus

Had the Guth family peered up to the Statue of Liberty, they might have read the famous poem by Emma Lazarus:

“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

-By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue: More stories of families coming to America
Think Good Things

It is important that we get our rest in a peaceful atmosphere. Recently when I went to bed at night, the thought came to me, “Think good things when you go to bed.” It may not be possible to think good things all the time, but it seemed to me to be especially important when we are going to go to sleep. We want to avoid disturbing dreams and thoughts about bad things that have happened and are happening now.

I was once told by a psychologist that to reduce stress and get relaxed it is helpful to think about something very peaceful like a large herd of black and white Holstein cows grazing peacefully in a beautiful green meadow. What does the Bible say about this?

The best Bible verse which teaches us what to think is Philippians 4:8, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” We are commanded to think on these things, things which are good and comforting, like a herd of Holstein cattle, or vegetables popping through the soil in the springtime.

Most of us think that we really should keep up on current events, but the news is filled with disturbing information. We are told that modern technology puts the devil’s program at the fingertips of any one who falls victim to curiosity and checks it out. Can we handle all that negative and disturbing information and still rejoice in the Lord always? With God all things are possible, but it is difficult. What shall we do?

One of my favorite Scriptures is 2 Timothy 2:3,4, “Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself in the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” We can say then, that we should not become so entangled in the affairs of this life, current events, etc., that it interferes with our being good soldiers for Jesus Christ. We have to have some knowledge of the problems in our society in order to help solve the problems and to be the salt of the earth, but we do need to be careful not to dwell on the dark side of life.

In 2 Cor. 6:17 we read, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.” This also, is a warning against being too entangled in the things of this world and not to touch the unclean thing. We are not to get ourselves into a position where we are hemmed in and are no longer free to decline that which is not honest or pleasing in God’s sight. Let’s be careful and think good things.

What we think about has a tremendous influence on what we say and do. In Proverbs 23:7 we read, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.” Someone may be saying nice things about you while thinking how he can take advantage of you and get your money. Therefore, it can be said that what you think is more important than what you say. Our aim and intent should be to think good things, say good things, and do good things.

What do we think about other people? “In lowlines of mind let each esteem other better than themselves,” Phil. 2:3. In order to do this, we need to think about other people’s good points, not their bad or weak points. If we spend our time criticizing others, it may be an unconscious effort to build up ourselves, which is not lowliness of mind. However, we have to be factual, that is, we can’t say that which is contrary to Scripture is Scriptural and good, but we can form a habit to think about good things.

Is it possible to think good things instead of bad things? By God’s grace, I believe it is.

-By Willis Ehnle
He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 7:38