Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

Hymns of Zion #207 vs.2
The older teaching the younger

Throughout the Bible we are instructed to teach or mentor others: parents to children, elders to their flocks, or the older to the younger.

When it comes to parenting, those of us who have been through it have learned a lot from that experience. Although we may not necessarily consider ourselves wise, young parents are often eager to hear what worked – or didn’t work – when we were raising our families. This can be a great encouragement and help to them.

Our next reader-submitted special topic is: What advice would you give to today’s young parents? Please send your contributions answering that question to editor@acsilverlining.org by June 20. We’ll publish the submissions in the August issue.

In Him,

Jeff Grimm & Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders
2 John: Rejoicing in the Truth

Editor’s note: this month continues a four-part series of teachings from some of the shortest books of the Bible; Philemon, 2 John, 3 John, and Jude.

“I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.”

Throughout Scripture God entreats and instructs his children to willingly obey his commandments. We are reminded of the examples of Noah, David, Daniel, Joshua, Deborah, and many others who, in the midst of a world focused on fulfilling its own desires, denied self and their own will and were submissive to God’s commandments. Each of these patriarchs and matriarchs of faith had to make the critical daily decision not to love the world, or the things that are in it, but rather to trust in God with all of their heart, not relying on their own understanding, allowing God to direct their path, walking in truth.

While thousands of years have passed since the times of the Israelites and two thousand since Jesus walked on earth, Christ’s teachings still ring true, “If you love me, keep my commandments.” Jesus taught his followers how to fulfill the purpose of the Levitical law—which had hundreds of laws for many different situations—when He taught his disciples: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

We are encouraged in 2 John, to know of the great rejoicing of our Heavenly Father, and in our spiritual family, when we love one another as Christ did. We are reminded that this Christ-like love is not measured by great human acts devoid of love, even if we would bestow all of our goods to feed the poor or give our bodies to be burned, but rather is shown by the fruit of the Holy Spirit living in our hearts, action compelled by love. It is exemplified by giving a cup of cold water to those who are thirsty, a shoulder for the tears of the hurting, or by speaking the truth of the Gospel in love to those who are lost. It is not something that happens on rare occasions, but is the calling of each believer, every minute of every day the Lord gives us. The believer with spiritual vision behaves as the Good Samaritan who, as he passed by and saw someone in need, “had compassion on him, went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.”

This example of love—not worrying about our own needs, but the needs of the others—reflects the love of Christ in our hearts and causes the Father to rejoice.

So with such clear teaching and a wonderful example in Jesus Christ—the Word that was made flesh and dwelt amongst us—why does the believer struggle? What is it that distracts us from walking in truth? Paul reminded us that while we have been called unto liberty, we are not to use this liberty for an occasion to the flesh. Satan approaches us as a wolf in sheep’s clothing. Temptation doesn’t always come in a way that is obviously wrong. We are taught to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Although we live in a time of relative peace and plenty, we are warned not to be complacent, nor “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

This deception often starts in the little things of life, changing the focus of our lives from trusting in God to a life focused on fulfilling our own desires. This can show up in accepting a little of the...
Greetings, Brothers and Sisters and Friends. It’s a blessed day when we can come into the house of God and worship Him, sing praises, enjoy fellowship, and think about the things that He has here in His Word, the things that teach us how to live, the things that teach us about salvation and how we can make it to heaven. So we’re thankful for each one who has gathered here. Welcome to those who don’t regularly gather in Forrest. We’re thankful to have you with us. Today is a day that our nation has set aside to honor our mothers so I wish each of you mothers a blessed Mother’s Day.

I was thinking about it a little this morning, and I thought most of us here have our mothers to thank for why we are here and where we are now. There are some who maybe can’t say that, but for most part, our mothers brought us even as little babies. We’ve known all our lives that on Sunday we go to the house of God and we worship. It’s a mother’s love that has brought us here. It’s a mother’s prayers that God has answered every time a sinner repents, and so we can all be thankful, if not in a direct way, at least in some way because of our mothers we are here. We thank God for mothers.

There are several places in the Bible that mention mothers. There is Eve, the mother of all living. There was a woman named Hannah, I believe, that prayed in the temple for a child because she was barren, and Eli told her that she will have a child and her prayer would be answered. I don’t know that he knew what her prayer was, but he told her that her prayer will be answered. It was, and then she brought Samuel and dedicated him to the service of God. In Proverbs we could read about Solomon’s mother and her message to him about a virtuous woman. But, I thought about Mary. In St. Luke chapter 1, an angel comes and visits Mary and tells her that she is to be with child, and it will be the Son of God. I don’t know that Mary feels worthy of that. She wonders how it could be, and yet she’s willing.

We get a little picture of the heart of Mary as a mother. She couldn’t understand how it would be or why it was her that was chosen. She was fearful, and yet when the angel told her that this is to be and she needed to trust in God, he said, “…with God nothing shall be impossible.” (v.37) Then Mary accepted it in faith. She said, “…Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word…” (v.38) How many of us can just say that — I don’t need to know how it will be, I don’t need to know the end from the beginning, I don’t need all this information, just be it unto me according to Thy will.

Then as I thought about her response to what the shepherds said, all the people were wondering about it. They maybe discussed it and talked about it and what does this all mean and who is this Baby that was just born and on and on and on, “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” (ch 2:19) She had a mother’s love for this Child who she had carried for the appointed time and gave birth to.

You mothers can know how that is that the love for that child grows and grows. Before you’ve ever seen the child, you cherish it, and you think about what will the future be like for this child? What kind of things will he or she face? Will they seek God? Already we pray and we pray and we pray for that child that God would be with them. Often it’s in silence that you think about these things. Maybe you don’t always talk about it or bring it up with those who are around you or maybe even not with your husband, but you pray for that child and wonder and ponder in your heart what it will be like.

Mary had to see some very hard and tragic things in her life culminating in the death of her
Son Jesus on the cross. I don’t think any of us would wish that we would have to see that, that we’d have to experience the pain, the sorrow, the utter despair maybe. But, Mary did and we really don’t read much of how she reacted, but she must have been crushed to have to see Him go through that. Even throughout His life, from what we read in the few years He walked and preached, He was rejected of men. There were those who mocked Him, and she saw that. She knew that, and she never stopped loving her Son.

What joy it must have been to her when she knew He arose again! She could get the whole picture of just what it was all about, that it wasn’t just about life here, that it wasn’t just about this man Jesus who was her son living for a short time and teaching people how to live and preaching and then just dying. That’s not what it was all about. It was about God’s love. It was about His plan for mankind that they could be reconciled to Him and that it was her son that could do this. Her perfect son could shed His blood and could die there on the cross and could arise again that all men might be saved. We praise and thank God for His great love toward us!

I thank God for the faithfulness that was in my grandmothers and the faithfulness that is in my mother and the grace and the mercy of God. When Paul considered Timothy, that’s what he thought about. He thought about his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, and he knew them both. That unfeigned faith — it wasn’t fake, it wasn’t just words, it wasn’t just, ‘Well yes I believe’ — it was a faith that wrought acts, acts of love, acts of kindness. Really, a lot of this chapter is about those who have been helpful to Paul. It talks about Onesiphorus “for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain” (2 Timothy 1:16). He was very loving and helpful to Paul.

I know I fall far short of the deeds of kindness that I have witnessed in my mother and in my grandmothers. It’s not that we want to raise you mothers up on pedestal or think too highly of you, but really it’s God’s love shining forth in your lives. The sacrifices you make are evidence that you love God and you love Jesus Christ and you love your children and you love God’s people and you want nothing more than to serve Him. Unfeigned faith.

Paul talks about being a prisoner, talks about being an apostle, talks about being a messenger for Jesus Christ. The things he has learned he wants to pass on. He wants others to learn them as well. Paul’s experience was quite powerful. He really was going entirely the wrong direction. He knew of this Jesus Christ and he hated Him — this is not the way, this is not how we serve God, we need to obliterate this way, and he persecuted the people that believed in Jesus Christ. He had a zeal that was probably far beyond what most of us can even think of, and God saw something He could use.

He was struck down on the way to Damascus, and he saw a great light and was blinded. Jesus told him, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.” He said, “Who art thou, Lord?” He knew this was somebody far more powerful than him, somebody that needed to get his attention. “…what wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:1-9) He was a broken man as we all need to be broken before our God.

I don’t think Paul would desire that any would have the same experience that he did, that we would have to be struck down in order for God to get our attention. Sometimes there are those of us who are stuck down or we know of one who is struck down or we hear of it, and we are reminded of the mortality of man. We are reminded of our own short span in this life on this earth. It causes us to pause and take stock and say where do I stand before an almighty God who cannot tolerate sin? How is my life before Him? Are my sins covered by Jesus’ blood? Are they erased?

— Please turn to pg. 72
Ministry Program Updates

Haiti Dairy Program
Caribbean Committee

A farm in southwest Haiti is the center of the HarvestCall outreach currently known as the Haiti Dairy Program. After months of delays due to challenges in obtaining certificates and permits, the doors have opened to begin constructing the buildings necessary for beginning the physical operation of this program, which is to create a demonstration dairy farm and eventual dairy milking hub. The gospel will be shared and Christian principles exhibited as we work together with the Haitian community to improve dairy production.

Les and Christine Kaeb, along with their daughter Lana, are currently in Haiti overseeing the development of this program.

Obstacles Removed, Excitement Growing

In early April, over 30 Haitian farmers, representing nearly 70 milking cows, gathered in the farm’s gazebo to hear updates about the progress of the program.

HarvestCall committee members were present, witnessing first-hand the interest and questions coming directly from the people most closely affected by the program. The Haitian people first sang a verse of “How Great Thou Art” in Creole, the familiar melody wafting over the beautiful Torbeck plain. Then Les expressed what appreciation he felt as God led them safely from the devastation of Hurricane Matthew to the excitement of receiving the go-ahead to begin construction. Clearly, the program has shifted from a time of waiting and planning to a time of forging ahead. It was a surprise to learn that the farmers who intend to participate have significantly increased their interest in raising heifers. The Haitians seem especially interested in improving genetics and learning how to care. The language is Creole; the gospel is Jesus.

Gospel Being Spread in India, Despite Government Opposition

How does a group of dedicated ministers in far away India continue to share the true word of God despite growing opposition from governmental authorities? The conditions to carry out this responsibility are far different than what we experience in the USA. Your prayers and support for RGMMI gives them the courage and strength to do the work God has called them to do. These ministers of the gospel are also inspired when they see souls responding to God’s word, receiving forgiveness for their sins and peace, knowing they have a real purpose for living and a wonderful promise awaiting them in heaven.

The spiritual staff must be very sensitive in their approach to sharing God’s word. They are ministering in a culture that has many festivals relating to the various god’s they worship. During this time, many of the spiritual staff remain in their villages. They are always eager to return to preaching the message of salvation. In some villages, they must change worship times to avoid conflicts with regional festivities.
interested in improving genetics and learning how to improve the way they feed cows. They are paying close attention to seeing just how effective brachiaria grass will be for dairy feed.

On the animal side, two heifers were just purchased at a local Haitian market. Lana Kaeb has affectionately named them Ivory and Ebony, and they appear to be in excellent condition. Some heifers are also housed in Rittman, Ohio, and they will be bred in May. These are Gyr crossbred with Holstein. The Gyr breed has been identified as tolerating the Haitian climate better than some other dairy breeds. These animals will calve in early 2018, creating some expediency that we be ready.

Currently, the shop/depot is nearing completion. Plans are to start more construction projects, including a missionary home and guest quarters, a feed center, simple animal handling structures, and finally a milking center. A sea container filled with farm equipment and seed will be loaded in late April for delivery in May. Forage is being grown; heifers are being raised. Construction will require work teams that are currently being planned, including electrical and plumbing.

**Missionary Opportunity**
With all these plans, the need for additional help has become obvious. Prayers are being offered to the Father to move hearts to consider moving down to this beautiful area to serve the Lord in this program. There is such a need for preaching, teaching and modeling the gospel while performing duties related to agronomy, soil preparation, crop selection, and animal care. The language is Creole; the gospel is Jesus. For more information on this opportunity, please see the HarvestCall website or contact Bro. Brent Hodel at htf94@gmail.com or 309-231-7467. – by **LuAnn Troxel**

A large English Medium School was constructed several years ago to provide English teaching in rural India. The building was designed to hold many different classrooms. However, the initial permit only allowed classes up to five grades. RGMMI has made attempts to increase classes only to be met with resistance from various parties. Recently, approval was given to add a new grade. RGMMI will now be able to reach more children with the truth of the Holy Word.

We are thankful RGMMI continues to share God’s word in India and that souls are still responding to the plan of salvation. – by **John Lehman**
A Church Planting Case Study—Part 1 of 2

Keys to Establishing a Church — The Denver Story

Church Establishment Committee

Deep in the roots of our Apostolic Christian Church heritage, we have been planting and bolstering churches for many, many years. Just leaf through the pages of Marching to Zion or take a look at the history of your own church. Most of our churches started small and then grew larger through God inspiring men and women and “giving the increase”. In many journeys, key “enablers” of growth included having church leadership at inception and a goodly number of people who worshipped regularly--people who had a heart for sharing the gospel and willingly used their gifts and talents for the glory of God, working together in unity.

The Denver, CO church is one example. The brethren tell their story to hopefully inspire others in small churches and encourage those who will lead efforts to start churches in the future. Their story is presented in two parts. Part 1 focuses on the formative years while Part 2 will talk about their continued learning and adaptability in their journey toward establishment.

Woven into this Part I story are experiences and learnings which we can apply to future church establishment efforts.

God opens the doors

In the Summer of 1980, anywhere from 20 to 50 Apostolic Christian (AC) visitors were coming to the Rocky Mountain area weekly for vacation. One sister, a widow, was living in the area. Faithfully, she listened to taped services each Sunday and prayed that regular services might start in the area. Her prayers were answered in the Spring 1980 when Elder Bro. Nate Steffen (Elgin, IL) paid a Sunday visit. He was there because the elder body had sent him to work out the logistics for church services. She invited him in and said that he was “just in time for services”.

During the 1979-1980 Elder Conference, Elder Bros. Nate Steffen and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) had been asked to explore holding services in the Denver area. As a form of outreach and exploration, they sent letters to all Apostolic Christian Churches asking for people living in the Denver area with AC connections. The list came back with over 80 names. Letters were written inviting all to come to church. Several came as a result.

The Denver gathering was boosted in the Summer 1981 by Bro. Tom (Sis. Marlene) Leman (Elgin, IL) and their family, who spent the summer in Denver. As a minister, Tom’s presence provided continuity and organization to the meetings along with ministers who came to vacation. On Sunday afternoons, both visitors and home folks were invited to enjoy potlucks at the Leman’s. These potlucks continued for many years, providing the opportunity for fellowship and fostering a “family” atmosphere. The Lemans also hosted a Bible Study on Wednesday evenings in their home. Six to eight came, in addition to their family. Overall, average church attendance increased to 30 that summer. Services were held in a rented facility called the Victory Grange Hall.
Growth continues
With the support of Bro. Nate Steffen and the elder body, the Leman family moved to Denver permanently in Spring 1982. In the fall, several single sisters from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana moved to the area. In early 1983, the congregation purchased an existing church building and remodeled it. The first services were held on March 6. In 1984, Bro. Mike Leman was added to the ministry.

Planting Churches in the Future
As the Denver church grew, they utilized key elements of how we are proposing to start and establish new churches going forward...beginning with prayer and leading of the Holy Spirit. There was also intentional exploration done prior to starting a church. Further, church leadership was also evident from inception. Elder Brothers Nate and Leo were asked to collaborate together in the work, and Bro. Tom provided ministry leadership and continuity to the gathering. Additionally, a goodly number attended services from the beginning. In addition to those who moved, visitors from various congregations provided support. In the future, the intent will be to have several ministers and a goodly number of people “sent” from inception to provide support and fellowship and share the gospel message into the surrounding community.

In next month’s issue, the Denver Story continues with a look at various forms of outreach, lessons learned and the church today.

Visiting the Denver Church
The church doors are always open if you are interested in visiting the brethren in Denver. See the Church and Ministry Directory for service information and directions. If you would like additional information about the Denver establishment journey, please contact Bro. Tom Leman (lemantom@comcast.net) or Elder Bro. Mike Leman (mike.leman@singinghillsinc.com).

Engaging in Church Planting and Bolstering
If you are interested in becoming more actively engaged in planting and bolstering beyond your local church, talk with your elder or e-mail CEC@harvestcall.org. Also, learn more about opportunities in the work through the HarvestCall website: harvestcall.org, e-mail updates, Silver Lining, Facebook and various events led by HarvestCall representatives.
Training Your Child:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.”

A consistent thread throughout Scripture is that God uses challenges and experiences to train his children. Parenting is both a joy and a challenging journey. One of the aspects of parenting that makes the journey both full of joy and full of challenge is navigating the shift from a helpless infant to a person who has their own thoughts, beliefs, and ability to engage those thoughts and beliefs. Through this journey the parent is encouraged to “train up a child” (Proverbs 22:6) so the child is able to know and follow God’s commandments as they get older. This journey is often full of disagreements between the parent and child about how much freedom vs. parental oversight is needed. The child often feels more confident to engage in choices and challenges than they should, and often the parent has difficulty giving additional freedoms to a child who is still growing and maturing. Technology can be a battleground for parents and children. It is a venue by which the contents of the heart of a child can be revealed, whether good or evil (see Matthew 15:17-19). This insight into their heart can provide tremendous teaching moments. It also lays out why it is so important to start engaging this topic while your child is young and continue to see the topic as an opportunity to train your child in truth throughout their life.

Some further ideas for parents to consider in regards to technology:

Technology: Be Intentional

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

Technology can be used for many different purposes, and there are many different ways to access technology. Being intentional about how you and your family will approach the topic of technology can help ensure technology is seen with a proper perspective. This article is meant to help with this intentionality and point toward some resources in this area. It is not meant to be exhaustive in nature, but it is meant to give guidance and begin the discussion for families and individuals.

Technology is neither good nor evil—it is a tool that can be used for both. It is important to recognize the different uses of technology, from typing a school paper to reading an e-book to keeping up with social media to viewing inappropriate material. It is helpful to identify ways technology can be used for evil and engage in ways to teach and protect against those things in your home. It can also be helpful to identify ways technology can be used for good and allow for the proper stewardship of technology.

Some beginning questions to consider as a family:

- What aspects of technology do we consider good, evil, and morally neutral?
- How much of your child’s day do you want him/her interacting with technology?
- How much time will your child need to spend interacting with technology to complete necessary tasks? (i.e. school work)
- How much time do you want technology to be used for pleasure or relaxation? (i.e. learning about trivial things, engaging social media, reading/listening to/watching things they are interested in)
• How will you train your child to think about technology?
• How will you teach your child to avoid evil, engage good, and develop self-control?
• Communication and modeling are two significant aspects of training and teaching.
  • How, when, and with what frequency will you communicate with your child concerning the topic of technology?
  • What and how will you model what you desire to grow in your child? (consider the teaching above in Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Questions to Consider When Developing a Technology Plan:
As you begin to craft a technology plan for yourself and/or your family, there are several key questions to consider. Some of these questions are very practical while others are more directional in nature. Your answers to these principled questions will begin to shape what type of technology environment is present in your home.

Teach:
• Are you using technology as an opportunity to teach proactive principles?
  • Ex. – are you teaching the difference between the “accidental exposure” to inappropriate content vs the “intentional pursuit”?
• How will you use technology to build relationship and as a springboard for discussion?

Engage:
• How much time each week would you like your entire family to be together? What do you want this time to look like?
• What are the ages of your children

in your home? How many and what type of devices do you have in your home which connect to media?
• When and where will access be allowed?
  Who will be accessing technology with them (parent, friends, alone) and what determines which is appropriate?

Learn:
• What resources do you need in order to make good decisions?
• When and how will you review your plan in order to see if changes need to be made?

Protect:
• Do you have appropriate boundaries on all of your devices?
• How will you allow greater access to technology but also maintain the ability to monitor and protect your family? When does a child “earn” greater access?

While the above article gives an initial understanding of technology in the home, there is much more to consider when creating a plan for your family. The complete Family Technology Plan resource is available on the technology portion of our website. There you will also find other resources which can help as we seek to apply God’s principles to this important area today.

Key resources
(www.accounseling.org/technology):
• Breaking Bread Podcast Technology Episodes #3aa3ae
• Internet Filtering/Monitoring Quick Reference
• Technology Teaching Principles Discussion Aids
• Technology Principles
• Guidance on Using Technology
Apostolic Christian LifePoints

That is right, Apostolic Christian LifePoints, not Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. On April 30 we announced the new name of our agency. After many years of soul searching, Bible dictionary searching, thesaurus searching, etc., we were able to work with a professional branding agency, Fishhook, and came up with the name Apostolic Christian LifePoints as the name of our agency. Many of you are familiar with the names of Timber Ridge, Oakwood Estate, Linden Estate, and CILA Services. These are the names of specific buildings or programs, but we needed an agency name to identify who we are as an agency.

So what is in a name?
Isaiah 43:1 "But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." It is how we are known by others and how we know ourselves. For an explanation of the name, we encourage you to go to our web site www.ACLP.org or www.ACLifepoints.org and listen to the videos that were used to explain our history, tell the story of the new name and hear a testimony of how the name describes the experience of one of our residents and her family.

We want our residents, our families, our staff and our supporters to know us by a name that is respectful and comfortable for each of them. We are about serving people at different points in their life and in locations (points) that best meet the needs they have at that point in their life.

We know it might take some of you a while to adjust to a new name, but we believe that you will grow to like it and it will be a part of how you “know” us.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Britni Eisenmann
– Foster Care Manager

May is National Foster Care Month, and around here at Gateway Woods that is big reason for reflection, thankfulness, and prayer. Children who are in foster care are orphans. They may be biological orphans, having lost one or more parents to death, or they may be situational orphans for a time. Many not only need a family for the short term here on earth, but also need to accept adoption into God’s family. Often, introducing a child to the Gospel begins by first establishing a compassionate relationship with the child.

Romans 15:7 invites us to “… receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." Jesus showed us the way to receive others, so that we may point them to God and give Him the glory. He showed us over and over with His actions that the key to connecting someone with God is starting with relationship. He displayed unbending acceptance of the person, and then leveraged the subsequent relationship to show people the stumbling blocks they had placed between themselves and God’s unselective love. Over and over, with the woman at the well, with a paralyzed man in Matthew 9, with Martha, Lazarus’ sister, and especially with his 12 disciples, He waded into relationship for the purpose of pointing the person to eternal salvation.

Who are the orphans in your circle of influence? Who are those with whom you already have a relationship, that need further pulled and pointed toward relationship with Jesus? Who are those among your friends who are missing a father, a mother, or are alone in their family in their faith in Jesus? How can you dig deeper to leverage your connection with them to encourage and support? And if you can think of no one in your circle of influence, family, or friends who needs to be further received to the glory of God,
perhaps it is time to pray that God lead you to those who need a relationship with you, to help them understand His relentless, unbending, eternal love for them!

News:

We are very excited to announce the hiring of Sis. Emily Fischer (Leo) for the position of PR/Admin Assistant. Emily has been working in the office as secretary for the past five years.

We are very thankful to announce the hiring of Sis. Beth Ringger (Leo) as our new part-time Adoption Case Manager.

We are also grateful for Keith & Emily Schambach (Elgin) for joining our houseparent team. They will be serving in Oak House with Paul & Leanne Fischer.

Summer is upon us and that means there are lots of volunteering opportunities at Gateway Woods! If you are interested in giving your time and talents, please contact Zach Romersberger at vol.coordinator@gatewaywoods.org or via phone at 260.627.2159.

We have many job opportunities at Gateway Woods: Home-Based Worker, Home-Based Counseling Intern, Foster Care Case Manager, Summer Education Intern, and a New Counselor. For more information, please see our ad in this issue or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at 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’.

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God’s work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at gatewaywoods.org/subscription-form or by emailing jon.ringger@gatewaywoods.org.

Alabama, Athens
Jessica Edelman

May is here! We are delighted to host our annual TFA Memorial Day Weekend on the 27th and 28th of this month at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. We would like to encourage each of you to join us. It will be a fun-filled weekend of fellowship, praising God, and exhortation through singing, outdoor activities, a live auction, and good ole Southern food! It’s not too late to RSVP. Please contact Bro. Bruce or Sis. Lisa Aschliman at (260) 824-5160 or bash412002@yahoo.com to do so.

It was great to have Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL) and family spend Easter Sunday with us while they were here on rotation. It was also a special treat to have their whole family sing a special number for us. Since it was Potluck Sunday, they even got to stay and try some of Sister Corrine’s famous Chicken and Dumplings! We were very grateful for their encouragement, fellowship, and for ministering the Word to us.

The ladies of the Athens church have been doing a Bible study on the life of Jesus, what it means to truly be a disciple of Christ and to walk as Jesus walked. This past week, we discussed the topic of suffering and persecution. If we are in Christ, we are part of the whole body of Christ. Just like our physical bodies, when one part of the body is injured, the whole body feels and responds to the pain. If someone were to ask if you are suffering, would your answer be yes? If I am not suffering, I am...
not thinking of the whole body. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have been persecuted for the sake of the Gospel in order for us to worship freely today. We have much to be thankful for.

If you are planning to visit the south, we’d love to have you! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815) 674-541.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: ...” Daniel 9:24-25

When the Jews hailed Jesus as King on Palm Sunday, they must have known the prophecy of Daniel was near to fulfillment. The disciples were confused by Jesus’ teachings about the temple being torn down, and how the city would be trampled by gentiles until the gentiles’ time was fulfilled. (Luke 21:24). They might well have believed all these things would be fulfilled within seven years, the remaining week of years from Daniel’s prophecy. In response to their questions about the end times, in Luke 21 and Matthew 24, Jesus provides more explicit details about what to expect and illustrations to demonstrate how the world will move toward the end and what it will be like when the end is near. In Matthew 25, He describes the Kingdom of Heaven and reveals the things that will mark the time of the end. The record of the last week of Christ’s life on earth is full of meaningful revelations for all who will consider. It instructs us of His plan; how He died for us and lives again to intercede, and what it will be like at the time of the end. Among the things He told them to watch for were false prophets, wars and rumors (threats) of war, famines, pestilence (disease), earthquakes and the love of many waxing cold due to abundant iniquity. He informs them there will be great persecution of God’s people. He warns them not to be deceived – that when He returns it will be quickly, like lightning. He points out people will take no heed of the warning signs, as in Noah’s day. Life will go on as if nothing is going to change.

The disciples may have just begun to realize there would be a pause between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel’s vision – the Church Age. The Church and Rapture were still a mystery, unrevealed for the most part. Jesus charges His followers to take heed and be aware of the signs, so they would not be caught unaware. We are to watch and pray always, that we might be counted worthy to escape these things, and to stand before the Son of man. How close are we to the complete and final fulfillment of all these words? Let us be watchful and praying always.

We continue to serve the Lord with our HarvestCall works of packing food (1600 packs each month!) and quilting.

We appreciate the service of several visiting ministers, and thank Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena), Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette), and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North), for lending themselves! You are such a blessing to us.

Several of our brothers and sisters are in need of prayer, as Sis. Deanna Beyer fell and fractured her ankle, requiring surgery. Sis. Nancy Baumgartner had surgery and anticipates additional procedure(s) on her lower extremities. Bro. Howard Maurer continues to experience a great deal of pain as a result of a fall in December, and we ask you to continue to lift him and Sis. Eileen up. Sis. Cathy Emch is struggling with many issues, and we ask that you bring her and Bro. Jerry before the Throne, as well.

Our ACTIVE program has our children preparing many useful things for the homeless. We pray a blessing on that work and all those involved and affected by it.

Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

Most of us don’t have manicured grass yards in Arizona. We have plenty of green if you
Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch
Our winter visitors will have returned home by the publication of this Silver Lining. We do appreciate their attendance here and will miss them in our assembly. We want to give special thanks to Bro. Ron Allenbach (Sis. Lois) for his service on our pulpit during their stay here in Tucson. May God richly bless his efforts in preaching the word.

We would be amiss if we did not thank our winter visitors who took a turn to serve lunch. We appreciate their help to our small congregation.

Our prayers continue for those who are dealing with grave health issues. Rom. 12:12 gives good advice “Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer.”

California, Altadena/Los Angeles
Kali Sauder
Resurrection Sunday is the most hopeful day for the Christian. We celebrate because Jesus is alive, yes, but we also celebrate what that means for each of us! His coming back from the dead after sacrificing His life means we have full access to the same power, the same resurrection life He gloriously displayed when He rose from the grave that first Easter day!

God’s promise in Ezekiel 36 comes true: “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (verses 25-27)

The Creator gave His fallen creation the “perfect” path back to communion with Him: all the rules to follow in order to be righteous, a community of chosen people to support and help one another, a calendar of feast days to keep reminding us of Him and His ways, a temple filled with His very presence, and so much more. But even with all this, we could not be righteous or stay close to our Heavenly Father. In His perfect plan, He was not surprised by our inability to keep His covenant. He knew we would fail, and that is why He came in the flesh to do what we could never do and make a way for us to receive His Spirit, His resurrection power at work within us, making us new and bringing about our full redemption.

This is what Easter means to the church. This is why we meet early on a Sunday in the spring and journey together to a mountaintop overlooking our city. This is why we sing songs of hope and new life from that beautiful hilltop. This is why we break bread together as a community and worship together.

This is what Easter means!
California, San Diego
**Annaleise Wagenbach**

Thank you Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Goric (Rockville, CT) for serving us with the Word.

We are so thankful for Ashlyn Petrovic’s (Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha) decision to surrender her life to Jesus Christ. She is a sweet young lady who we love dearly and praise God for His call.

It was a blessing to gather and worship our risen Lord with our neighborhood care center across the street this Easter. It is neat to see how worship songs and a Bible reading can cheer souls. We also enjoyed Easter breakfast as a church family. A memorable song from the weekend was Ten Thousand Angels.

“They bound the hands of Jesus in the garden when he pray
The led him through the street in shame
They spat upon the Savior so pure
And free from sin
They said crucify him he’s to blame
He could have called ten thousand angels to destroy the world and set him free.
He could have called ten thousand angels but he died alone for you and me."

We are rejoicing that three dear souls have chosen to seek the Lord in repentance. We wish God’s grace and strength to Grace Kloter (Bro. Jason & Sis. Sue), Naomi Luginbuhl (Bro. Matt & Sis. Heidi), and Lydia Gerber (Bro. Dale & Sis. Mary-Ann) as they take this step of faith.

Our families continue to grow as we welcome new babies. Troy & Nicole Foote welcomed their first baby girl, Eloise Renee. Happy grandparents are Bro. Arthur, Jr. “AT” & Sylvia Foote (Bro. Dave, Jr.), and Carolyn Minich (Kevin). We want to keep his family including his brother, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in our thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Arthur Foote, Sr. passed away from his life here on earth. He will be missed by his wife, Emily, and children: Bro. Arthur, Jr. “AT” (Sylvia), Sis. Ellen Galat (Bro. Dave, Jr.), and Carolyn Minich (Kevin). We want to keep his family including his brother, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in our thoughts and prayers.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Ron, James, Paul, Bro. Lloyd Luginbuhl, and Charlene Abrahamson in the passing of their mother, Dorothy Luginbuhl.

We would also like to keep Sis. Heather Mangold in our prayers in the passing of her Grandmother, Mary Monti.

We wish God’s blessings to Shawn Zahner and Anna Healy who were united in marriage on April first. Their parents are Bro. Warren & Sis. Bonnie Zahner and Suzanne & Bill Healy.

Bro. David Beutel (Bro. Gene & Sis. Lynne) and Sis. Lanae Christ (Bro. Fred & Sis. Tina) were united in Holy Matrimony on April 2 in Peoria, IL. We want to wish them God’s grace as they begin this new chapter in their lives. Bro. David grew up in Rockville and has since moved to Peoria.

Dan Gerber (Bro. Loren & Sis. Anne) and Elisabeth Ballasy (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Jane) have announced their engagement and are planning a June wedding. We wish them God’s nearness throughout their life together.
**District of Columbia, Washington**  
*Henrietta Meyer*

This month are caretakers are Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy Ifft from Bloomington, IL. The blessings go both ways in getting to know someone more than meeting just one Sunday over the lunch table. If you feel led to support one of our small churches, being caretakers here would be a wonderful way to do so. If you are interested and are free to spend 3-4 weeks in the DC area, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Don Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH; Leo, IN; Chicago & Bloomington, IL.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Sis. Deborah Galat and Bro. Nathan Galat at the death of their grandfather, Bro. Arthur Foote from Rockville, CT.

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

**Florida, Ft. Lauderdale**  
*Renee Mangold*

We were blessed to have visiting ministers share God’s word. The visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl) of Eureka, IL; Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki) of Gridley, IL; and Bro. Tom Leman of Denver, CO. We pray that the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

Our traditional Easter dinner was held at the fellowship hall and enjoyed by all who could attend.

We will be suspending our Wednesday night services for the summer months until our numbers grow again, Lord willing, next winter. We will, also, begin a Bible study in place of afternoon service on the Sundays. We don’t have a visiting minister during this summertime period.

**Florida, Ft. Myers**  
*Dustin Hodel*

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”  
*Hebrews 10:24-25*

At my job we rely heavily on teamwork. We are striving for the same goal, but we all play different roles. In my particular showroom we have a showroom manager and two measurers and we work together to make sales. Now I have sales appointments that are fairly blind; the customer called and simply scheduled an appointment and I’m basically starting from scratch when I go to their house. However, the best and easiest appointments are when the customer has talked to my showroom manager first. Usually when this happens, I go out to the house and my schedule has notes on everything the customer has already picked out. I go over the logistics of what we’re dealing with and then close the deal. It’s incredibly easy when this happens.

The Bible is pretty clear that this is true of our church family as well. We each have different roles we play while striving for the same goal. Over the past month we’ve seen this played out in front of us in several ways.

First, we shared a tremendously special afternoon partaking in Communion. Elder Bros. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota) and Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) oversaw the ceremony. The trustees made sure everything was where it should be and ready to go. The song leaders led the congregation in song worship. As each member did their part, the church strove toward that goal of godliness.

We also have seen the principle of working together in the fact that our snowbirds have skedaddled as spring and summer start. We miss their presence in the church as we can feel the loss of their help in making a church run smoothly. Sometimes it’s easy to take our brothers and sisters for granted until they are gone and we realize what a tremendous effort they give to the body. It’s always a
sweet reunion when they return in the fall.

Finally, we continue to think of our Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bro. Dave) battling cancer. From time to time we know our siblings in salvation go through a trying time and we ache for them. To know one of our teammates in the Lord’s Army is suffering physical ailment can be a difficult thing to work through. Would you please join our congregation in continuing to pray for our Sister Wilma? Let’s do our part and play our role for our sister as we all strive for that heavenly goal.

I encourage all of you to valiantly and diligently do the work God has set before you in the church. Just like at my job, when we all do our part, none more important than the other, pressing toward the mark becomes just a little easier!

The New Beginnings

This past month we said goodbye to dear friends of The New Beginnings, Bro. Dennis Steidinger and Sis. Ann Kachelmus. Both of these wonderful people spent their winter pouring out love onto The New Beginnings. From the staff to the moms, we all felt their presence. Ann’s motherly care and compassion was surely a bright spot for us mentors. Invites to Ann’s includes swimming, pizza, Bible Trivia and excellent company. Just when we thought she couldn’t give anymore and be any more loving, she brought out the Monical’s dressing!

Bro. Dennis was never hesitant to give as well. Time and talents he shared with us in the hopes of giving the moms a welcoming atmosphere. Planting new shrubs and trees to spruce up the curb appeal was a great help, but I think everyone here would agree that Bro. Dennis is very adept when it comes to desserts. I can’t count the times there was a random dessert in the fridge and someone would ask where it came from.

The usual answer was, “Who do you think?”

Ann and Dennis, we love you. We can’t thank you enough for the compassion and example you both set in giving to The New Beginnings. We are grateful to have been blessed by you and can only hope that others get to feel the love that you’ve poured out on us.

“And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”

Matt. 10:42

Florida, Sarasota
Mary & Vera Martin

We have again been blessed with another Easter, with time to reflect on this most holy season, beginning with Good Friday Services, Easter Sunrise services, sharing Easter Breakfast together and morning church services. Our church has a small attendance again. We welcome everyone to join us in the sunshine state. We wish our winter residence a blessed summer and look forward to having you join us again next winter.

Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) shared serving Holy Communion with our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter. Other visiting ministers that shared their time and talents this month were Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit) and Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville). We appreciate your service to us.

May is a special month to me, with a day to remember our faithful Christian mothers and when we can take time to thank God for the precious mother that He gave us.

“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; but a woman that fearth the Lord, she shall be praised.” — Proverbs 31:28-30

Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta
Lexi Knapp

He is Risen!! We were thankful to have our Easter program and to celebrate the fact that the tomb is empty! It is always a special time of joy and thankfulness for the great
workings of our God.

At the beginning of this month, we were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Sis. Ashlynne West (Bro. Brad and Sis. Stephanie) and Bro. Drew and Sis. Ashley Pelc. We are so thankful for them and wish them God’s deepest blessings during their walk with Him.

We have also chosen 3 new Sunday School teachers: Sis. Dana Knapp (Bro. Matt), Sis. Lexi Knapp, and Sis. Sheree Waldbeser. We are thankful for their willingness to serve and be used in this way.

Likewise, we were blessed to be ministered to this past month by Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Cindy). We are thankful for their service to us.

If anyone is coming to the area, we would love to have you worship with us! Our address is: 202 Robinson Road, Peachtree City, GA 30269. However, please all ahead! (Tom Waldbeser 770.463.4788 or Matt Knapp 815.674.1498). For photos and additional information, visit our website at www.ptcacchurch.org.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere

David and Janella Zimmerman
Rick and Komari Aberle

“And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answered and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.” Mark 8:29

Having just celebrated the Easter season, we appreciate the simplicity of this truth. May we all share that message in our interactions daily, through our lives and communication.

The winter and spring season has been very busy with many teams and visitors here in Bonne Fin. In March and April, we appreciated visits from families of missionaries, an Ophthalmology Team from Ohio that did the first cataract surgeries here in Bonne Fin during HarvestCall’s management, and a Pediatric Team from several of our churches that served four rural communities with their love and care.

Sis. Anna Tieche, Rittman, OH, served as a Medical Department Intern for 6 weeks and completed her service in late March. Lord willing Sis. Anna will be returning to the same role here for approximately 6 months beginning in May. Sis. Carrie Stoller, Latty, OH, also visited the hospital in March. Sis. Carrie is moving to Hospital Lumiere in early June to begin a long-term mission assignment as an Advance Practice Nurse. We ask for the prayers of the church for both sisters as they prepare for their service.

The missionary team also wants to express thanks and encourage continued prayer and support of the mission, the missionary team, and the governing board. Christ sent His disciples out to share “the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick”. The hospital is one of several wonderful opportunities we have as a church to follow that commandment.

Haiti, Les Cayes

Mike & Susie Walder

Greetings of love from Haiti! We are looking forward to our annual Easter sunrise service and breakfast where around 100 gather to rejoice at the dawning of the day. It is a special blessing to see who comes and who the visitors are. It always takes every chair we can find to seat everyone. We are individually so thankful for a risen Savior, and now together we can praise and worship our Redeemer and Lord!

Visitors were here this month to help with long-range planning for the Dairy program and Child Sponsorship. Construction teams continue to roll in to help the Construction department replace church and school roofs. And in all of this, God continues to protect our travel and prosper the work as many brethren work together for His glory. Many thanks to each of you and praise and thanks to God for His goodness!

We were thankful for those visiting who also take time to share with us out of God’s Word. We were blessed by the visit of ministering Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. Luann, LaCrosse, IN). We can share special times and close communion as we see how God’s Word applies in every circumstance, especially as we seek answers to cross-cultural differences.

Haiti Snapshot:

• About the size of the State of Maryland, and only 700 miles from Miami.
• With a population of 10 million, Haiti is a young country where 33% of the population is under the age of 14, and with over one million orphans or abandoned children.
• A literacy rate of only 41%.
• Half of Haiti’s children never attend primary school, with 50% not enrolled at any given time, and only 25% ever enrolled in secondary school.
• Approximately 30% of children attending primary school will not make it to third grade; 60% will abandon school before sixth grade.
• Only 15% of teachers at the primary level have basic teacher qualifications (including university degrees), while almost half of public sector teachers lack basic qualifications.
• Average worker salary of $55 U.S. per month.
• 80% of the population lives under the poverty line, and more than half, or 54%, in abject poverty.

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

Illinois, Belvidere
Krista Anliker, Amy Hanson

Greetings from Belvidere!

We had the opportunity to hear the old, precious story of Jesus and His blood from the lips of the youth in Sunday School on Palm Sunday during the Easter Program. As the seed is sown in young hearts, may it not fall on stony ground. Thanks to all of the Sunday School teachers for their efforts. We would also extend thanks to Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda) from Winthrop for sharing the Word.

May God give much comfort to Sis. Carol Steffen (Bro. Dean) as her sister, Sis. Connie Lehman, went home to be with the Lord.

A loving welcome to Sis. Betty Lindwall, from Minneapolis, as she moves to Rockford to be closer to family. May she continue to feel the love of the brotherhood as she assembles with us.

We are thankful that Bro. Kevin Braun (Sis. Pam) is healing and able to assemble with us again after having a mini stroke and open-heart surgery.

We have an encouraging opportunity to hear many of the experiences of and get acquainted with a gentleman who was a third generation member of the Chinese underground church.

God is faithful.

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal

Jenae Herrmann, Megan Kaeb

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.” John 12: 46

The daylight is growing longer as we move into spring, a lovely visual reminder to us as we celebrated the light of Jesus, His death and resurrection last month as a church family.

We were reminded of this great gift through the songs of our Sunday School students in our annual Palm Sunday Easter Program, through our Sunrise Service on Easter morning, and again as we shared Communion together as a church family. We are so thankful for the many reminders this month of the great gift of salvation and the light Jesus brings to our dark world.

We praise God that He continues to call souls to follow Him. We were thankful to witness the baptism of Sis. Sara Teran and Sis. Lucia Garcia on March 19. We were also blessed by the testimony of Sis. Natalie Steiner that weekend who, following the call of God, has made our church her home church. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Harvey Kaeb (Sis. Judy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) for ministering that weekend and sharing in our joy.

We were also blessed by visiting Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janelle, Goodfield, IL). He ministered to us along with high school students from many of our churches when we hosted ACYF day on April 2.

This past month, we also rejoiced to hear of the engagement of Bro. Bryce Wegman (son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen) to Sis. Natalie Steiner (daughter of Dale and Pam Steiner). Finally, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie) made the announcement that after many years of faithful service as
a minister to our congregation that he will be stepping down and retiring from the ministry. We are beyond grateful for his influence on our church, as he has shared the Word of God with us over the years. It is hard to imagine the Bloomington pulpit without him! We will miss seeing him on the pulpit on Sunday, but know that his influence will continue in our congregation for years to come. We give thanks for the countless ways God worked through Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie to further His purposes and glorify His name as a minister to our church and wish them tremendous blessings as they continue to serve our Heavenly Father in this next stage of their lives.

Illinois, Bradford
roseann stahl, rebecca endress

“And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.”
Mark 15:15

We ponder what Barabbas heard and felt when Jesus was crucified and put ourselves in his place. The crowd cried out saying, “Away with this man,” and Barabbas knew that he had committed murder and was guilty of death. He was not anticipating being released; but he who was guilty was released, and Jesus Christ took his place. This, too, was us. We were guilty of sin and deserved to die, but Jesus took our place.

Easter Sunday was a message of joy and gladness. Christ arose after 3 days in the grave!

The same message was shared by our children at the Sunday School Easter program.

Our congregation was blessed with many visiting ministers the past month. We were thankful for the service of Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), Bro. Paul Zimmerman, (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL)

On April 2, we hosted ACYF Day and enjoyed having Morton and Tremont Bible Classes.

Our invite-a-guest was March 19. The sweet fellowship we shared with many guests warmed our hearts.

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

We rejoice with Emma Kieser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy) as it was announced she is at peace with God. We look forward to her testimony and baptism.

Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

Psalm 127 says that children are a heritage from the Lord and we are sharing the joy of two new arrivals here in Champaign! Bro. Joel & Sis. Mindy Stickling, along with big brothers Leo and Abe, welcomed Tate Benjamin. Denver Elliot was welcomed by Bro. Cory & Sis. Michelle Rudin.

Along with the new arrivals, it seems we’ve reported on a number of departures in recent months. Bro. Lester Walder (Cissna Park), father of our Sis. Pam Furrer, passed into eternity on April 8.

We would like to extend gratitude to Elder Bro. Greg Lehman, and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas for visiting and sharing the Word.

We are preparing to bid farewell to Bro. Nelson and Sis. Janelle Eisenmann, as they plan to re-locate to Austin (Bastrop), TX. We wish them God’s blessings as they transition from college to work, as well as move across the country.

Our Sunday school students brought us an Easter program with the theme ‘Who Missed Easter?’ They led us through the story character by character to examine each reaction to the Easter events. It was a challenge for each of us to make sure we don’t miss the power of Easter in our own lives.

That power is summed up completely in the Resurrection. According to 1 Cor. 15, without the Resurrection our preaching is vain (empty, of no purpose), our faith is vain, we are false witnesses, and we are still in our sins! Everything hinges on the Resurrection.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

Greetings from Chicago!
In March, we held our Spring HarvestCall activity day,
assembling approximately 1000 school kits and 500 first aid kits. We are thankful to report that Santos Lopez shared his testimony at the Austin, TX. He previously worshipped with us in Chicago prior to his move to Texas. We rejoice to welcome him as a brother in Christ!

Also in March, we bid farewell to Sis. Abbie Kuntz (Gridley, IL) as she completed her student internship in Aurora. We wish her God’s guidance as she graduates and seeks employment.

We praise God for another addition to our church family! Rylee Ann Kaisner was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Michelle on April 7. Older siblings are Brooklyn, Levi, and Addison.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School children presented our annual Easter program, celebrating the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our prayers are with Bro. Chuck Stoller as he recovers from a recent surgery. May God provide healing mercies.

Illinois, Cisna Park
Amber Stuckel, Pam Walder

We were blessed to work together helping others at the Fellowship Hall for HarvestCall Family Night.

Our congregation was privileged to host Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) for the memorandum in the month of April. We also enjoyed the opportunity to share Holy Communion and appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) in sharing in this work.

We enjoyed our Sunday school students bringing us the Easter story in a special way through song and memory during our Easter program this year.

We also thank Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) for ministering the Word on Easter Sunday.

Our church rejoices with Sis. Julia Kaeb and Bro. Tyler Eisenmann as their engagement was recently made know. Sis. Julia is the daughter of Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb. Bro. Tyler is the son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann.

We look forward to the day when we will never say goodbye to those we love. We bid an earthly farewell to our dear Bro. Lester Walder. We extend sympathy and prayers to his loved ones left behind: Bro. Doug (Sis. Julie) Walder (Cisna Park, IL), Sis. Pamela (Bro. Samuel) Furrer (Champaign, IL), and Patti (Guy) Percy of Gibson City, IL. Bro. Les leaves behind several grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well. Bro. Lester was also a brother-in-law to two of our sisters: Sis. Wilma Walder and Sis. Dorothy Walder. We are thankful ministering Bros. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) and Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN) could be with us for the funeral.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Marge Alt with the recent passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Irene Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

We rejoice when souls heed the call to repentance and begin their lifelong journey with Christ. We are thankful that converts, Jared Waldbeser and Nathan and Hillary Kaeb, have testified to having peace and are desiring baptism. Lord willing, we look forward to upcoming testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

Grandchildren are such a joy. Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LanaE Rudin have once again been blessed by the arrival of another grandson. Denver Elliot was born to Bro. Corey and Sis. Michelle Rudin. Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn welcome another granddaughter, Tori Elaine, born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice Kaeb.

Thoughts and prayers are appreciated for Scott Beer who has recently had ankle surgery and is recuperating. May he feel God’s healing hand as he is recovering.

Illinois, Congerville
Erica Steffen

Our church was blessed by our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Tom Leman (Denver), Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucille, Eureka), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis) and Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville). I also neglected last month to mention Bros. Jeremiah Psnias (Morton) and Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna,
Princeville). We wish to thank them for their service to our church. May they all continue to feel the Spirit working in their ministry.

On March 25, we came together to celebrate Holy Communion as a body of believers. What a special time it is of common union as a church body, as well as with our Lord! Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) assisted Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in the duties that evening.

Hudson Lee was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Zimmerman on March 28. Big brother is Myles. Grandparents are Sis. Gay and the late Dennis Knapp and Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman. They are delighted by this new addition to the family.

Another sweet baby boy was born on March 28! Denver Elliot Rudin is the firstborn son to Corey and Michelle Rudin (Champaign). Denver is the grandson of Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman.

Structured exercise seems to be something I struggle with, as I would rather get my exercise by working around the yard or in my garden. After working in the landscaping for the first time this year, my muscles were very sore for the next few days! They hadn’t had to work that hard all winter and my body was letting me know of my weakness! In his recent visit, Bro. Brent spoke about patience being like those muscles in our body, in order for them to be strong, we must exercise them. We must have opportunities to exercise patience in order for that trait to be developed in our lives. Overcoming the instinct to be impatient is how we grow our patience, just as we must be willing to exercise our body to not become weak. This was a good reminder when we find our patience tested, to view it as an opportunity to grow stronger!

“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.” James 1:4

Note of Thanks:
A special thanks for the many prayers and cards that I received in the hospital and the “Home.”
God bless you all,
Sis. Doris Williamson

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We gathered on Saturday evening, March 18, for Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) came to assist Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL).

On the following day, Sunday, March 19, Elder Bros. Ron and Kevin assisted Elder Bro. Brad in an ordination service for Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne) as Ordained Deacon for the Elgin congregation. We will keep Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne and their family in our prayers as he assumes new responsibilities. We also appreciate other visiting ministers who shared God’s Word on that day: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL).

On April 9, our Sunday School students presented the beautiful Easter story through verse and song.

“Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Blessed morn of life and light;
Lo, the grave is rent asunder,
Death is conquered thro’ His might.
Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Friends of Jesus, dry your tears;
Thro’ the vail of gloom and darkness, Lo, the Son of God appears.
Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
He hath risen, as He said;
He is now the King of glory,
And our great exalted Head.”

Chorus:
“Christ is risen! Hallelujah!
Gladness fills the world today;
From the tomb that could not hold Him, See, the stone is rolled away.”

Gospel Hymns #527

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke

This season of the year is one of the most special in that we share Communion in memory of our dear Lord’s sacrifice. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) assist Bro. Trent in this work.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Fred Funk (Sis.
Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). A heartfelt thanks goes to each one for their willingness to share the Word.

We’ve had several this past month who God has led into holy matrimony. Sis. Abbie Wettstein (Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi) and Bro. Sawyer Cottrell (Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla) announced their engagement. Sis. Larae Schumacher (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne) is engaged to Bro. Jordan Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) from Forrest, IL.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Shelly and Bro. Chance Knapp in the death of her mother, Cathy Appleyard (Ernest) of Eureka.

“…Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

We rejoice in two dear souls who are turning to the Lord in repentance. They are Malea Cottrell (Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla) and Lena Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Sara).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have had hospitalizations and surgeries in this past month. We are thankful that Bro. Merle Rocke (Sis. Bev) is making a speedy recovery. We pray that God’s healing mercies may also be with Sis. Nancy (Bro. Jack) Knobloch and Bro. George Saathoff.

Kyle Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Sarah) is moving to Taylor, MO. May he feel God’s guidance in the days ahead.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger**

Fairbury was privileged to host the Princeville, Peoria, Washington, and Taylor Bible Classes for ACYF Day on April 2. The youth, as well as our entire congregation, received much good instruction from the brothers who lent themselves in God’s service. May God bless Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH) for spending the day with the Sunday School students. We also appreciate the labors of Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) who ministered to us that morning.

Other visiting ministers who labored among us were Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Al Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN). We appreciate them coming and sharing God’s word.

We often take good health for granted and want to remember those who have been battling physical afflictions. Our prayers have been with Sis. Nancy (Bro. Lloyd) Bachtold and Bro. Wes (Sis. Brenda) Kaeb who both spent time in the hospital.

We enjoyed having Bro. Taylor Fehr (West Bend, IA) in our area the last several months and will miss him as he returns home. May God be with us till we meet again.

Our annual Easter program was April 9. We appreciate the efforts of our students and teachers who brought us the message of salvation through verse and song. What a price Jesus freely paid for our redemption!

**Note of Thanks:**

We wish to thank all who sent expressions of sympathy during my illness. It was very much appreciated. May God bless each one. Wayne and Norma Fehr

**Illinois, Forrest**

**Carissa Knapp, Shannon Brown**

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

As Easter is upon us, we remember the suffering and death of our Savior and the empty tomb. We thank Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), who helped Bro. Marvin serve Holy Communion.

Our Easter Program was the evening of April 12. What a blessing it was to hear the Sunday School tell the Easter story through verse and song.

Other visiting ministers we were blessed to have this month were: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN), Bros. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL), Scott Aberle
(Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL), Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue Ann, South Bend, IN), and Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN).

The engagement of Bro. Jordan Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Larae Schumacher (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne) of Eureka, was announced. We want to wish them God’s blessings.

We are thankful and rejoice with Ty Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim) as he has begun his repentance.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Wayne Honegger (Sis. Eleanor) and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman in the passing of their sister-in-law, Mary Lee Honegger.

“I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

Our high school students and their parents recently returned from a spring break work trip to Bastrop, TX. It was a blessed time for the students and their parents to work and to serve together.

We pray for God’s healing hand upon each one who spent time in the hospital this month: Bro. Dean Kupferschmid (Sis. Robin), Rustin Slagel (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jodi), and Reagan Zimmerman (Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel).

**Illinois, Goodfield**

**Judy Knapp, Melissa Rokey**

We want to congratulate the newly-married couple, Bro. Matt and Sis. Hannah Grimm on their recent wedding. Their parents are Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm, and Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN). The Goodfield congregation extends a warm welcome to Sis. Hannah.

We rejoice with Bro. Jared & Sis. Angie Schieber as they were blessed with a baby girl named Ella Joy on March 28. She is welcomed home by a brother Harvey, and sisters, Lena and Lydia. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall. We also rejoice with Bro. Nate & Sis. Abby Bauman as they were blessed with their first child, a baby girl named Tinley Sue on March 30. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita Bauman.

Our Sis. Irene Rinkenberger passed away on March 16. We offer sincere condolences to her son Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg) of our congregation.

We welcome our new brothers in faith: Bro. Roman Bauman (Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie), Bro. Trevor Rocke (Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha), and Bro. Cade Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi) following their testimony and baptism on March 18 and 19. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle (Chicago, IL) were here for the special weekend.

It was a day of rejoicing as we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Connie Allen to Bro. Rick Gerber (Roanoke, IL) on March 26. Visiting ministers here for the occasion were Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bros. Tim Hohulin(Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), and John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL).

All Sunday School and ACTIVE teachers and their spouses were invited to a night of encouragement and teaching from Bro. Craig Stickling March 27 at the Fellowship Hall.

Bro. Nate Sauder (Sis. Emily) received strong support for being our next assistant Sunday school superintendent. We want to thank all who diligently teach our children.

We would like to give a special thanks to all the willing hands who helped with the Church housecleaning the last weekend in March.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School children presented the Easter Program with the theme; It’s All About The Cross. Their verses and songs were beautiful. Then on Friday, April 14 we held Good Friday service followed by Communion. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) joined us for this solemn occasion of reflection. We also are thankful that Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN) was visiting us.
at this time and helped with the Good Friday message. We were reminded of the fulfillment of His resurrection at sunrise service on Easter Sunday, followed by our regular Easter Sunday services. Our prayer list is longer than usual and we lift up prayers for each one. We pray for Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand (Bro. Steve) as she had knee replacement surgery. Bro. Cecil Nohl was in the hospital and is back home and recovering from a bout of pneumonia. Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Don) had a recent biopsy, and we are thankful it was benign. Sis. Allene Steffen (Bro. Jerry) is now in the Eureka Home following some time in the hospital and is improving. Sis. Elna Grimm had cellulitis on her leg and spent time in the hospital, before returning to the Home. Sis. Karen Wiegand (Bro. Gary) was hospitalized. Sis. Terry Hart (Bro. Bill) had surgery which went well and she is back home. Continued prayers are very much appreciated for all of these dear souls.

We appreciated the opportunity to have visiting ministers Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) and are thankful for each of those who take the time to visit us.

**Illinois, Gridley**

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Twins were born to Bro. McLane and Sis. Leah Steidinger on March 6. They were named Nora Lucile and Grey Clark. There are two siblings: Jean, 4, and Harper, 1. Grandparents are Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller, Gridley, and Bro. Ted and Sis. Sara Steidinger, Fairbury. Great-grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler, Fairbury, Sis. Alice Steidinger, Bloomington, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel, Gridley.

Ministering Bro. Byron Stoller announced his retirement from the ministry, after a long tenure. He was instated into the ministry on April 20, 1975 at age 24. God has been with him, and he has been a loyal and dutiful servant of the Lord for many years, to our benefit. We surely thank him and Sis. Carol for their services to the church, and wish them grace and strength in the days that lie ahead. May the Lord reward them.

We were privileged to receive Holy Communion on Sunday evening, April 2. It was a blessing to remember the Lord’s suffering as we partook of the bread and wine. Elder Brothers Earl Ringger and Harvey Kaeb served us, and we are thankful for their labors. We have several converts seeking baptism, and dates have been set. We thank God that souls still seek Him in repentance.

As of April 18, farmers are readying their fields for planting, but progress has been intermittent due to sporadic rains. God always seems to open the way as sunshine and rain alternate, and the crops get planted. In a spiritual sense, may seeds continue to be planted, so many hear, and thence prepare their hearts for that long and endless eternity.

**Illinois, Morton**

**Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr**

Happy Mother’s Day - Our Days are fleeting and we only get one shot at each Day!! Create memories for your families, but give them the most precious priceless gift of the characteristics of Jesus Christ! You, as a woman, when connected to the Spirit of Christ, become lit from within with radiance so fantastic that it shines from your very soul. Notice ... that no matter what your physical characteristics are when you as a woman are genuinely content in the spirit, you will radiate the most magnetic kind of beauty because it comes from the inside out! MOTHERS let the SON shine through!!

We deeply appreciate those who come to visit our Morton church family. We especially appreciate our visiting ministers this past month who were Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago), Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield), Bro. Scott Schaffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), and also Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley) for coming to give our Family Worship topic of “God Is Just” from our “I Believe” series.

Aren’t we just so thankful that our God ‘IS JUST’ and doesn’t impose on us what we really do deserve, as human beings? With all we have within us, we have to exclaim
“Thank You Father!!”

We wish to share two more exciting engagements! Bro. Michael Leman became engaged to Sis. Tami Steffen. Bro. Michael is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth Leman. Sis. Tami is the daughter of Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen from Fairbury. A May 21 wedding date is set.

The engagement of Sis. Stephanie Braker to Bro. Aaron Baer was made known. Sis. Stephanie is the daughter of Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky Braker. Bro. Aaron is the son of Tom and Martha Baer of Tremont.

Illinois, Peoria

Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach

“Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice.”

Psalm 96:12.

The Skylines Home spring fundraiser benefit supper, bake sale, and music program was held in March. We are so thankful for all the services provided by our Home through all the many phases of life. The Lighthouse School also recently held a spaghetti dinner and auction. The Peoria Midwest Food Bank provided a 10th anniversary update for the church in April.

The Easter sunrise service was another joyous event where we gathered early in the morning at our Fellowship Hall for a wonderful breakfast and Easter service. Special numbers were sung by several singing groups followed by a message that gave us a glimpse of the Easter week through the eyes of those that were with Jesus at the time, reminding us they didn’t know how the events of that week would transpire nor the profound effect it would have on world history forever.

We rejoice with two new converts. Twila Hire and Margaret Muiruri are serving the Lord and remind us it is never too late to answer His call!

The wedding of Bro. David Beutel and Sis. Lanae Christ was a blessed weekend. Parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynn (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ. We were thankful for visiting minister and uncle to the groom, Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT). Also ministering to us that day was Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). We pray for many blessings to this new union!

Bro. Dan Messerli passed away on April 11 and is celebrating his first Easter in Heaven with our Lord and Savior. Our prayers are with his wife (Sis. Miriam), with whom he had recently celebrated 70 years of marriage, daughters: Linda Wales, Diana Emerick, Brenda Block, Debra (William) Hart, Ronda (Jason) Patterson, Kayla (Clifford) Behm, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Our prayers are also with Kathy Rampy, a longtime employee at our Skylines Home who many have come to know through the years, who is grieving the untimely death of her young 11-year-old grandson. We pray the Lord will comfort these families as only He can do.

Illinois, Princeville

Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ

We are thankful for God’s direction for the future of our church as we held the ordination service for Bro. Craig (Sis. Terri) Martin to become our elder. We appreciated that Elder Bros. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville-Mediapolis, IA) and Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) were able to share this evening with us.

Other visiting ministers who have shared God’s word are Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Sis. Heather, Peoria, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Keri, Tremont, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH). As you can see, we have certainly been blessed and we thank these brothers for their service to our congregation.
On March 26, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Hannah Martin (Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany) and Bro. Seth Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg, Washington, IL). Sis. Lanae Christ (Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina) and Bro. Dave Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynn) were married in Peoria, IL on April 2. Ethan Rumbold (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce) and Katelyn Chandler (Chuck Chandler and Michelle Meinders) gave their wedding vows to God on April 8.

May God guide these couples as they establish new homes that they might bring glory to His name.

We were privileged to host Sister Heart and hear the beautiful blending of their voices. We appreciated the effort of many sisters who came to share their talent with us for the weekend.

The “Old, Old Story” was brought to us on Palm Sunday by our Sunday school children. We cannot be reminded too often of the great love that Jesus showed us by laying down His life in our behalf. We trust that the seed planted in the children’s hearts will sprout and grow to full maturity. Thank you also to our teachers who faithfully teach the children.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner, Sis. Loretta Rumbold and Bro. Dick Graham as they laid to rest their brother-in-law, Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie) of Lester, IA. We also offer condolences to Bro. Vernie Berchtold (Sis. Joan-dec.) and Ray and Joan Rumbold at the passing of their sister, Katherine Peterson. May God comfort these loved ones with His presence and many wonderful memories.

Bro. Stevan and Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter rejoice at the safe arrival of a new grandson. Jackson Wyatt was born to Ben & Esther Cozadd on March 17. We pray that God will provide wisdom as they raise little Jackson and his siblings.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Eleanor Baer (Otto, dec.), Sis. Lillian Elsasser (Bro. John, dec.), Sis. Luann Endress (Bro. Jerry), Bro. Howard Herrmann (Sis. Mary Ann) and Bro. Ray Wagenbach (Sis. Betty). Please pray that God will bring these loved ones to renewed health.

“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

We were reminded recently of just how short a vapor really is. As Bro. Erik Givens reminded us…We are so temporary and God is so eternal. We only deal with beginnings and endings here on earth. God only deals with eternal. We have to be intentional about seeking the eternal. May God grant all of us the grace to be intentional about investing our lives in the things that will last.

Illinois, Roanoke

Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

3 John: 4 “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

This verse was special to Bro. Lyle Moser who went to his heavenly rest on March 24. His survivors include his daughters, Gladys (Tom) Carr of Secor, IL and Susan Garber of Roanoke; sons, Bro. Greg (Sis. Sharlene) and Bro. Todd (Sis. Kathy) Moser both of Roanoke; a son-in-law, Bro. Rick Gerber; a sister, Sis. Barb (Bro. Rich) Stoller; brothers, Harley (Gerri) and Bro. Glen (Sis. Christa) Moser, 20 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Bro. Lyle served as a Sunday School teacher for a number of years. He loved to sing and was a pillar in the church. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to this dear family and pray for our Lord’s comfort upon them.

Bro. Rick Gerber was united in marriage to Sis. Connie Allen (Goodfield, IL) on March 26. Also, Cody Barth (Bro. Mike & Sis. Joyce) and Kimberly Holdenrid of Eureka (Chris & Cindy Holdenrid of Mendota, IL) became one on April 8. We rejoice with these dear couples and ask that God would bless them as they begin life together.

Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) served us on the pulpit on March 26. We thank him for his faithful service.

Our church was privileged to host our youth from Congerville, IL, Eureka, IL and Forrest, IL for ACYF Day on April 2. It is a privilege to worship with our young people. After church the students sang a number of songs for us.
On April 7, a Ladies Evening was held at our Fellowship Hall. The theme was “In Christ Alone My Hope Is Found.” Four sisters shared about a particular struggle they had gone through in which they found that their hope was truly in Jesus alone. It was a blessed evening of sharing and fellowship.

Revelation 1:18 “I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore,”

Our Sunday School Easter program was held on April 9. We thank our youth for presenting the wonderful story of Christ’s death and resurrection in word and song.

Hebrews 10:10 “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion on April 9. Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Frank Sauder in this work. It was a beautiful evening of worship and remembrance.

Philippians 3:10 “That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;”

The Prairie Choristers and our Youth Choir presented an inspirational selection of songs and Bible reading to commemorate the Easter story on Good Friday and again at our sunrise service on April 16. We thank them for their inspiring programs.


Colton Durand (Tom & Sis. Marsha) is entering the Marine Corps and plans to travel to San Diego, CA for boot camp. We pray for God’s peace and blessing for Colton and that He would bring Colton safely back home again.

We continue to lift up Bro. Jim Wiegand, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Rita) Schwind, Wally & Sis. Marilyn Leman, and Sis. Ali (Bro. Jason) Knepp for our Lord’s strength and healing. Each of these brothers and sisters is such a blessing to our church. When one hurts, we all hurt and when one rejoices, we all rejoice. What a privilege to be a part of the body of Christ!

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder

Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie, Champaign, IL) came for a topical lesson, “Who, How, Why, When?” Beginning with the first earthly parents Adam and Eve, we are all given a choice to obey. We are commanded to love God with all our soul, heart, and mind.

Hebrews 11:6 “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 rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

We also appreciated Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) coming to help serve Communion.

Our Sunday School children presented us the Easter story through Word and song.

St. Luke 23:33-34 “And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.”

Lead me to Calvary. What will you do with Jesus? The Man on the Middle Cross...was my Lord!

We rejoiced to hear the engagement of Bro. Aaron Baer (son of Tom & Martha Baer, Tremont, IL) to Sis. Stephanie Braker (Bro. Brent & Sis. Becky, Morton). We wish them God’s blessings as they plan for their life together and look forward to welcoming Sis. Stephanie to our congregation!
Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Ray & Sis. Cleda Rinkenberger as they are recovering from injuries sustained in an accident. We also continue to miss and pray for Sis. Sandy Dill (Bro. Ken) as she is recovering from her surgery.

Babies and grandbabies bring such a joy, and are truly a blessing!
Bro. Curt & Sis. Kathy Rassi, along with Nic, Amanda & Elliot Rassi (Normal, IL) welcome Daniel Ray into their family circle.
Bro. Darel & Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess, Michael & Alisa, & Lilian Wartick (Chicago, IL) are thankful to have Daisy Louise join their family.

Illinois, Washington
Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp
We rejoice with Bro. Joshua and Sis. Amber Pfaffmann on the birth of their son, Weston Joshua, on April 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily Pfaffmann and Bro. Philip and Sis. Jessica Fritz. May the Lord grant them wisdom as they raise their precious son!

On March 26, Bro. Seth Hoerr and Sis. Hannah Martin were united in holy matrimony. We rejoice with this new couple and pray that God will bless their marriage. Parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Peggy Hoerr and Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin (Princeville, IL).

We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary; Fairbury, IL) for assisting and sharing in Holy Communion with us.

Bro. Kevin Wulf (Sis. Annie; Morris, MN) shared the Word this month, also, and we thank him for his willing service to us.

Our Sunday School students shared the message of Christ’s death and resurrection in our annual Easter Program on April 9.

Note of Thanks:
I want to take this opportunity to thank all who remembered me on my 90th birthday. We are blessed with a rich fellowship and a love toward one another. May God bless you all in this lifetime and much more in all eternity.
Andy Mogler

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Moser
“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”. Is. 53:5

This past month, has been a sobering time of reflection and pausing to think of our Savior and His sufferings on the cross. We were blessed to be served Holy Communion on April 8. Visiting with us that weekend were Elder Bros. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) and Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO). It was a blessing for our local church family to be together for an evening and focus on the One we were made to serve!

The following day during the afternoon service we were able to witness our Sunday School Easter Program. What a joy to hear songs of worship to our King from our students of all ages.

When we think about spiritually “cleaning up” our lives as we prepared our hearts for Communion, our annual spring cleaning of the church building and Fellowship Hall happened earlier this month. It was a great evening for all who attended and a neat picture of the body of Christ working together toward a common goal. The Kingdom Academy staff gave an informative presentation about the school after an abbreviated family hymn singing.

We have multiple loved ones who would appreciate prayers. Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer received some disappointing news, as it seems his cancer has grown. Our Bro. Ken Isch (Sis. Carolyne) covets prayers as he is undergoing several more weeks of radiation treatment for cancer. Bro. Gary Tonner (Sis. Diann) is still laid up after hip surgery and a broken femur. Also, Sis. Suzie Fiechter (Bro. Don) was hospitalized after an infection that concerned a recent hip replacement which led to another hip surgery. We are rejoicing in the fact that she is now home, but know that prayers are still needed as she recuperates.

Several exciting things have happened within our congregation lately. Our Sunday School Senior Class was privileged to travel to Mexico over Spring Break. It was a refreshing and encouraging week for the students and parents who went, and we trust that the Lord
was glorified through it! It was also an exciting announcement that Bro. Ryan Isch (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia) is engaged to Sis. Alivia Topp (Bro. Chip and Sis. Angie). We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Bethany Dubach as their daughter Adelaye began her repentance, and want to support her with our love and prayers.

As we celebrate this season of new birth, we rejoice with the families blessed with newborn babies this month. Ava Mae Aschliman was born to Bro. Kreigh and Sis. Bekah. Jaylee is the proud big sister. Bro. Adam, Sis. Beth, Bennett, and Brooklyn welcome little Beckett Callahan Stoller. Bro. Tim and Sis. Angie Pfister are the proud grandparents of Millie Lou Pfister, born to TJ and Shelby.

Bro. Les Schwartz passed into glory. We wish to extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Sally, and their children: Bro. Scott (Sis. Patti), Steve (Julie) and Sue (Terry) Lehman. We would like to include Bro. Jim (Sis. Jeanne) Rinkenberger and his family in our thoughts and prayers as his mother from Illinois, Sis. Irene passed away.

As we think about the Easter season, we are humbled by our Savior’s unending love for us on the cross, but also know that we cannot forget to focus on His resurrection that conquered death. We can’t help but think about all He’s done for us and realize that we have so much to praise God for!

“And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.” Luke 24:2-3

Indiana, Bluffton North
Corinne Stettner, Amy Moser

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.” Psalm 24: 9-10

Jesus is our King of glory, and we praise His name. We praise Him because He overcame death to set us free. Cody Shively, son of Bro. Andy and Sis. Cindy, claimed that freedom. Cody has been walking with the Lord for some time, but now desires a deeper level of fellowship and accountability through membership in our congregation. We are thankful that our young people are still seeking and answering the call to follow Christ.

Combined Easter Sunrise Services were held again this year for Bluffton and Bluffton North churches. We were blessed to have Bro. Joe Sprunger (Sis. Tara) from Indianapolis share a message.

Our Sunday School Easter Program is a wonderful worship experience we all look forward to, and this year was no exception. Each time our children sing of Christ’s great sacrifice and love may it sink deep into their hearts, so that they will never forget what He has done for them. We are so thankful for our Sunday School teachers who invest so much of themselves into our children.

Our dear Bro. Daniel Shorb, son of Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy, is on our hearts and minds as he faces another confirmed cancer diagnosis. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

Little Jakob Gearhart, grandson of Bro. Arlin & Sis. Roxanne Heyerly, recently had an infection return in his arm. He is recovering, aided by an IV pump, and is able to return to school for half days now. Please pray that he is able to regain his strength and that his body can finally rid itself of the infection.

We grieve with the Schwartz family as our Bros. Kyle (Sis. Kyann) and Ryan (Sis. Mandy) and their families said goodbye to their grandfather, Bro. Lester (Sis. Sally) Schwartz.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Mildred Clauss

“We like someone BECAUSE. We love someone ALTHOUGH.”
-H. DeMontherlant

“We love him because he first loved us” 1 John 4:19

Easter is the ultimate reminder of God’s Love for us; and it was a very blessed time for our congregation. We are happy to have Bro. Brent and Sis. Alisha Wagenbach and their son Silas relocating here after their time of service in Haiti. Bro. Jonathon Pelsy (Bro. Roger & Sis. Lily) has also returned from mission work in Uganda.

Our Junior High Sunday School Students recently spent a weekend visiting the Ark/Creation
Museum. We are grateful to the Sunday School Teachers who put forth much effort for these encouraging activities.

We sincerely appreciate a recent visit from Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN). We trust the Lord will bless him for the message he brought.

The engagement of Bro. Jesse Wuethrich and Sis. Victoria Stoller from Gridley, IL has been announced. We rejoice with them and their families. Their parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich and Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller.

Sis. Annabelle Messer has gone to be with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to her son, Michael and his wife, Dawn of Crescent City, CA; her brother, Bro. Irvin Yaggie and to her nieces and nephews. Her husband, Bro. Carroll Messer, preceded her in death.

Indiana, Indianapolis  
Becky Ringger, Nancy Pfeifer

Spring is here. While out for a walk, I was enjoying the beauty of spring, birds chirping, trees budding, and flowers blooming. Then I noticed a flower growing through a crack in the concrete. How hard was it for that flower to push through the concrete? Doesn’t matter where you are or what’s going on in your life, just bloom where you are planted.

HarvestCall activity was filling 500 school bags for Jamaican school children. When the bags were complete, the kids did a handwritten note to express their love and care. It was great to see the joy of the Sunday school kids working together for a good cause.

April 9, the Easter program, the Sunday school children had an inspiring Easter message. That evening was the ordination service for Bro. Ken Wuethrich. The scriptures and encouragements to Bro. Ken Wuethrich, his family and church were filled with the Holy Spirit’s presence.

Visiting elders for the ordination service were Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN).

We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart for years of service to the Indy Church.

As God works in all our lives, Brandy Bradford is at peace with God and is ready to give her testimony and looking forward to baptism. We are thankful to have a new convert Bill Bradford (Brandy’s husband) come to peace with his faith in Jesus.

We pray for grace and comfort for the family of Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) who passed away April 7. She is the mother of Sis. Leann Banwart.

In the Good Friday service, we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as a sacrifice for our sins. Easter Sunday follows with the blessing of a glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, proclaiming His victory over sin and death. We are looking ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to Him by faith. So, let’s live with joy, peace, grace, and faith in our lives.

Indiana, LaCrosse  
Julie Rocke, Meagan Frank

“…They said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.”  
Luke 24:5,6

The weekend of Palm Sunday was a beautiful reminder of our Lord’s love and sacrifice. On Saturday evening we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) share the Word, and then assist Bro. Curt as we shared Holy Communion. Sunday afternoon our Sunday School students, with help from their teachers and the single group, told the story of Christ’s death and resurrection. What a joy it is to see the seeds sprouting in their tender hearts! We would like to thank each one for their efforts!

Special thanks also goes to our visiting ministers who served us at different times this month: Elder Bro. Dave & Sis. Barb, and ministering Brothers Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO), Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA).

Saturday, March 24 saw several van loads of occupants heading to Chicago to fly to Tucson for a mission trip to CVE, Magdalena, MX. About 20 loved ones from the LaCrosse congregation joined
with 19 people from 11 different congregations across the nation for a week in Mexico. They were blessed with safe travels, new friends, strengthened relationships and renewed purpose in serving the Lord. Our prayers went with them all week and the reports back home were very encouraging. We pray that our group was as much a blessing to the CVE staff and children as they were to us!

Our prayers are with Sis. Bobbi Ann Heinold (Bro. Eric) and her family, as her dear grandmother, Sis. Frances Bahler (Wolcott, IN) went to her heavenly home. We are so thankful when a soul can be released from the pain of this world and join their Savior and loved ones, but there is always an ache in our hearts as we miss their earthly presence, and long for that heavenly reunion!

Joanie Cambern has recently been hospitalized for health problems, and is now in a center for rehabilitation. We pray the Lord will grant her comfort and healing!

We recently had a farewell singing for Bro. Brandon Wettstein as he has relocated to Lamar, MO. We will miss his presence in LaCrosse, and pray for him as he follows God’s leading. We trust that the Lamar congregation will be blessed richly by his presence, as we were.

The Easter season is so precious to believers that it is hard to put into words. So let me simply echo our Sunday School children and say “Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!” (Hymns of Zion, #102).

Indiana, Leo
Kirby Reutter

“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.” Habakkuk 3:17-18

This month in Leo, ACCFS put on a marriage seminar. The reminder for faithfulness “in both sickness and health” was quite timely. Here is a small fraction of the prayer requests we received this month. As you can see, this was not exactly “Health and Wellness Month” here in Leo!

1. “Our dear Leo church - Over the recent months of praying, planning, back surgery, leg complications and therapy, we have been so blessed and overwhelmed with the your abundant prayer, care, kindness, and encouragement. We’ve received far more than we expected or deserve from the Body of Christ. Despite setbacks and limited progress, the Lord has ministered peace and hope to us. You have been appreciated partners in His work of healing and teaching.”

2. “Josiah is having surgery this morning to get tubes put in his ears. At the same time they will be removing his tonsils and his adenoids. Sis. Beth will be with him during the whole surgery. Please pray for both of them along with the doctors!” Fast forward: “Surgery was successful! Thanks for your prayers. They are heading home! Doctor said the next week or so will be a slow recovery. Please continue praying. It will be a challenge to try and slow down an active five-year-old. God is good!”

3-4. And it certainly was not a good month for hips! Hip update A: “Sis. Lavada Stieglitz fell Friday morning and broke her hip. Surgery was Saturday morning to insert a rod. Everything went as planned according to the surgeon. The goal is to have her sitting up for dinner and taking steps by Sunday. Please pray for her as she is in unfamiliar surroundings and pray for family close here that is supporting her. Thank you!” Hip update B: “Bro. Bob Pfister had a hip replacement this morning. His wife, Sis. Janice, said it went well and she asked that we pray for a speedy recovery for him, and that he can return home soon. Thanks for praying and caring!”

5A. “Please pray for Bro. Aaron and Sis. Michelle Stoller and their little two-year old daughter, Avery! Friday afternoon, Michelle went to check on Avery during her nap and she found her in a seizure. They are unsure of how long it was occurring, but it was well over an hour before they got her to respond to medication at the Van Wert hospital. She was transferred to Lutheran Children’s late last night and they are supposed to be having some
tests run today. She slept most of the night, although Michelle said that she tries to fight it and gets really restless at times. Please be prayerful for Avery and also Aaron, Michelle and Jeremiah as they walk this with her!”

5B. Update from Bro. Aaron and Sis. Michelle Stoller on their daughter, Avery: “Feeling very thankful, the MRI results came back clean. No tumors, aneurysms, brain bleeding, etc. and for that we are grateful. However, we’re still uncertain as to what triggered the seizure and are being referred down to Columbus to work with a pediatric neurologist group. We will be working with them over the next few weeks. We feel so blessed to have such a supportive network of family and friends who have helped and prayed over these past few days. Your continued prayers are much appreciated as we continue down this journey. Obviously there are unknowns and questions still unanswered, but Michelle and I take comfort knowing Avery was created and designed by the Great Physician and Gentle Healer. Thank you all for the support. It means a lot and we love our church so much!”

6. “Please pray for Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Maria Stiegitz. She will be having surgery tomorrow to remove her gallbladder. She is 24 weeks pregnant, and that makes it a little more difficult.” From Jeremy: “We’re confident in our Lord’s care, and we’ve got great doctors. We’d be grateful for prayers for surgery, recovery, and peace this week.” Fast forward: “Gallbladder removal went great and Maria was able to come home tonight. We’re so thankful for all of you that took time to lift her up to our Great Physician. She’s feeling okay, but sounds like we can expect a couple days of pain, nausea, and discomfort. Maria felt this afternoon a sense of peace, so thank you again for lifting her up to the Father!”

7. Through all the ups and downs of life, the Lord remains faithful. Here are three recent examples:

• Congratulations to Bro. Jason and Sis. Rachel Klopfenstein on the birth of their son, Quinn Dabo!
• Congratulations to Bro. Alex and Sis. Traci Steidinger on the birth of their son, Maverick Ryan!
• Congratulations to Bro. Marcus and Sis. Jena Schwab on the arrival of their new baby boy, Everett Allen Schwab!

Finally, we just celebrated Holy Communion, Good Friday, and Easter last week…and my thoughts went back to the marriage seminar. When the Father asked the Son if He would cherish His wife the Church in both life and death, He said: “YES! Absolutely! Yea and Amen!” And then He lived for the Church. And then He died for the Church. And then He lived again for the Church! And He still loves us…after everything we’ve put Him through!

“And be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”
Hebrews 13:5

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel

Our church celebrated Easter with a program one Sunday afternoon and then Sunrise Service followed by church services on Easter Sunday. What an inspiration to see the young ones sing and recite their love of Jesus and the gift of salvation He gave us. Many others participated and gave us a blessing. We appreciate those who give of themselves. Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) and Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee Beer, Rittman, OH) ministered on Good Friday evening. Bro. Chris shared insights into the trial that Jesus went through and the men that judged him. He asked us to compare how we respond to Jesus and how we judge His gift.

Another visiting minister was Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela Gerber, Latty, OH). We thank him for his service.

We miss seeing Bro. Andreas Schlatter who worshiped with us for several years as he worked in our community. He has now moved to Bluffton and we wish him God’s blessings.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honeyger, Marcella Tyler

We want to thank visiting minister Bro. Stan Schambach (Sis. Norma, Prescott, AZ). We are so grateful to our faithful brothers...
who travel the miles to fellowship and share the Word!

The children and young people of our Sunday School and Bible class shared the Word as well, albeit in a different way, when they presented their recitations and songs during our Easter program. One brother remarked recently that “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so” is one of the most profound statements ever uttered. It was so encouraging to hear our students sing this song (and others too, of course) to remind us of the tremendous love that Jesus displayed at the cross. Thanks to all the students, teachers, and parents who prepared for the program!


Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“Tell me the story of Jesus. Write on my heart every word; Tell me the story most precious, Sweetest that ever was heard.”

The Children’s Harp # 84

On Easter Sunday, we enjoyed breakfast as a church family.

Later in the morning, our Sunday School youth shared the story of our Savior’s birth, life, death and resurrection though Scriptures, songs, and poems.

We are thankful that Arlene Kaehr has been able to worship with us again.

May the Lord bless Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) for sharing the Good News this month.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15:13

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

Many thanks go out to our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and their families for taking the time to minister and share with us.

As we prepared ourselves for Holy Communion, Good Friday Services and Easter Sunday, it made for a very thought-moving and emotional month. Just thinking of what all Jesus did and went through brought tears to my eyes. Maybe, it’s because I’m getting older that my understanding as a mother and parent, make His love for me all the more serious. His Father had to allow it to take place in order for Jesus’ blood to wash away our sins. By the Love of God I am saved!

What a wonderful surprise to see some of our snow birds back home with us in fellowship and worship. Now there are just a few holding out down south enjoying the warm weather before they take the plunge to come back north. We pray for safe travel and are looking forward to their return home as well.

It has been so nice to have Ted and Audrey Hitz, and Dave Kotzer worship with us when they can. Please continue to pray for them. Also, Bro. Garry Bucher has had some surgery and sure could use a prayer or two. Sis. Dawn Ailes will have another procedure for her heart, so keep her in prayer. Then, don’t forget Bro. Bob and Sis. Marguerite Hoerr and Sis. Rachel Feller and the families.

If you ever find yourself in our area, stop in and worship with us, we are just south of HWY 30 on HWY 49.

Indiana, West Lafayette
Libby Wahl

If you really want to evangelize, come alongside someone, and let them walk with you 24/7 for a week.

The Purdue Youth Group (PYG) hosted College Weekend with the topic of Evangelism. Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis.Margo, Leo, IN) and Bro. Andy Kaufmann (Sis. Marie, Bloomington, IL) were a great support along with our local ministry on Sunday.

We are blessed and thankful to report hearts that agreed with God on their current condition and surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ: Caden, son of Bro. Corey
and Sis. Erika Gerber, and Kray Klopfenstein, Leo, IN of the PYG.

Our Easter sunrise service was well supported. Thank you to those who served with touching harmony and words of grace, and to those who ministered through our delightful morning brunch. Easter was the last Sunday for our Sunday School classes for two months. Our church addition is progressing on schedule; it’s time to move some interior walls.

Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) warmed our hearts at our last midweek service. There are myriad ways to warm a heart. Don’t miss this powerful opportunity with the love of Christ to break a smile, to soften loneliness, to loosen tension in a soul.

Indiana, Wolcott
Erica Blume, Teresa Earney

“O, the man on the middle cross was my Lord,
Dying to save me from loss!
Sinless and Blameless I see him now,
Looking down from the middle cross.”
-Mosie Lister

We were privileged to witness the baptism of two young people who have taken advantage of the plan of salvation. Our new Sis. Kenzie Bahler (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jodi) and new Bro. Kurtis Allie were baptized on the weekend of March 18 and 19. Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) came to help with the testimonies and baptisms.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Liz), both of Lamont-Gridley, KS. They were here for the baptisms. Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN) was here to share the word with us on Palm Sunday. We are always thankful for visitors.

Our Wednesday evening Bible discussion was led by Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Andy Getz. The topic was Faith Through Adversity, which covered their recent trip to Haiti. The pictures showed many examples of the difficulties of life in Haiti and how even in their difficulties, these people are trusting and leaning on the Lord.

We are so excited and thankful to have a new convert. Trenton Kyburz started his repentance. He is the son of Bro. Phillip and Sis. Sasha. Our prayer is that he will have a firm foundation as he begins his life for the Lord.

Our Sunday School children blessed us with many poem and verse recitations for the Easter Program. They told us the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection through their lines and songs. The chorus written at the top of the column is from the hymn “The Man on the Middle Cross” by Mosie Lister. This song was sung at our Easter Program. The last verse is “I’ll cling to my Savior and never depart. I’ll joyfully journey on. With a song on my lips and a song in my heart that my sin debt has been paid.” Jesus paid the price for us, and we have a hope of eternal life in heaven if we follow Him faithfully.

Elder Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth Lehman have a new granddaughter. Adeline Mae was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Maria McCormick from Alto, MI. Her big brother is Calvin.

We are saddened to have a dear sister depart from us. Sis. Frances Bahler passed from this life into eternity after an extended decline in health. Her husband, retired Elder Bro. Alfred, preceded her in death. Our prayers go out to her children: Steve (Brenda, Lebanon, IN), Sis. Luann Gerber (Bro. Bob), Chris (Sis. Teresa), and Jake (friend Holly); and a daughter-in-law, Sis. Elaine Bahler. Sis. Frances will be greatly missed by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and also by those of us in her church family.

Iowa, Bloomfield
Teresa Schock

A quote from Simply Said: “Your mind is a garden. Your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers or you can grow weeds.”

We thank Bros. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, (Tremont, IL), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) and Nate Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) for bringing us the Word of Life.

Little Drake Ryker was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Stacy Joos. His thankful grandparents our Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Joos and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carly Wettstein (Bro. Derek) on the loss of her
dear grandma, Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Mediapolis, IA).

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers!

Iowa, Burlington

Ivy Steiner, Elaine Eisenmann

“According to thy gracious word,
In meek humility,
This will we do our dying Lord,
We will remember Thee.”
Zion’s Harp #301

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Randy Beer (Milford, IN) and Jon Schmidgall serve Communion.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schulz and family with the passing of Sis. Melody’s father, Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Lester, IA). Titus Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy) was announced for having peace with God and man.

We wish God’s blessings to our high school graduate, Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy).

Iowa, Elgin

Maria Rocke

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

My husband, Bro. Dean, & I were blessed with another girl on March 31. Natalie Jane joins her sisters, Rylee & Myra. We’re thankful she is healthy and are humbled by God’s goodness in giving us this little miracle. Her grandparents are Lon & Sis. Sandy Butikofer and Sis. Kathy Rocke (Tremont, IL).

We appreciate the labors of Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) as they shared Communion with us. Also, Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL) was with us for both Good Friday and Easter Sunday. May God bless each one.

Iowa, Garden Grove

Laura Funk

We want to thank our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. John Steiner (Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS). Our congregation thanks you, and pray God will bless you.

We are enjoying beautiful spring weather, flowers, fresh cut green grass, birds singing, baby lambs...Have you ever considered the detail in the colored feathers of a bird?

We will soon be celebrating Mother’s Day. I had the opportunity to observe a daughter intently looking into her dying mother’s face and remembering the details of each line and wrinkle. The mother passed away a few hours later. Focus on remembering your Mother’s love, spiritual teachings, gentle reminders and patience.

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

The Christian Mother

Sometimes I take for granted The Christian Mother who is there.

The Mother who has raised me,

Who gave her love and care.
The Mother who helped me grow
In a fine, Christian home.
The Mother who has taught me
With God we’re not alone.
The Mother who has laughed with me,
When all was going well.
The Mother who has picked me up
The times that I have failed.
The Mother I didn’t appreciate
Until I was fully grown.
The sacrifices she made for me
As time quickly moved along.
The Mother with such
Christian faith
That helped me from the start.
The Mother who I
love and cherish,
And treasure in my heart.

-Author Unknown

Iowa, Iowa City

Diana Butikofer

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” 1 Peter 3:15

Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) presented a Bible study regarding having an answer when asked about the hope that lies within us as believers. I found it to be very thought-provoking and helpful as we were encouraged to consider the different ways—such as an actual question or merely a comment—that people notice the hope we have. We also discussed the opportunities we have to respond or to start a helpful...
conversation. May the Lord bless Bro. Bruce and his sons for making the trip on a Wednesday evening for His service.

Iowa, Lester

Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

“The grave of Christ, the risen Lord, is vacant where He lay: The Son is victor over death; Who’er believes is saved. Hallelujah! The Lord arose. Our ransom now is paid. The Son is victor over death. Who’er believes is saved!” Christ Arose, Hymns of Zion #257

The precious plan of salvation, so simply stated in this beloved hymn, is made new to us each time we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. He was born into this world simply to become the sacrifice for our own sins. He died and shed His blood to ransom us. “Who’er believes is saved!”

We were afforded the opportunity to ponder this, not only during our Good Friday and our Easter services, with Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita—Cissna Park, IL), but also the week before, when Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) was here to help Bro. Rod in serving us Holy Communion. These were all precious times of spiritual renewal for us. We thank these brothers for serving us.

We have also been blessed and inspired by other visiting ministers this past month, when Bro. Arlen Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) shared our pulpit on other Sundays. We thank these brothers, and their families for making the effort to be with us and give of themselves in His service.

The marriage of Kendra Mogler (Bro. Dwight & Sis. Donna) to Alex Ita was celebrated on Saturday, March 25. We pray that God will truly bless this young couple as they begin their lives together, and that they look to Him to be the Head of their home.

We also rejoice with Bro. Chad Knoblock (Bro. Troy and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Lynelle Mogler (Bro. Rodney & Sis. Lois) on their recent engagement! They plan to be married on June 4. We pray for God’s blessings as they plan their lives together.

A new baby girl, Sidney Jean, was welcomed into the family of Dustin & Catherine Lefdal on January 28. Sidney’s siblings, Gretchen and Austin, as well as maternal grandparents, Bro. Chuck & Sis. Vicki Leuthold, are also thrilled to have a new little bundle to love! We pray that God will bless this young family as they raise this sweet little one!

Our converts, Harlan Knobloch, Trent and Sadie Loger (Bro. Dan & Sis. ReJean Knobloch), and Alvin Metzger, have all expressed that they are at peace with God and man. We pray for God’s continued grace in their walk with Him, and look forward to hearing their testimonies at a future time.

We wish a complete and speedy recovery to those who were hospitalized over the past month: Sis. Estelle Leuthold, Bro. George Meyer, and Brayden Meyer (Bro. Alvie & Sis. Alice). May God’s healing hand be with all who suffer illness or injury across the land.

We bade “farewell” to our Sis. Gladys Knobloch on March 27, after she suffered a series of strokes. Surviving family members from Lester are her brother, Dale (Sis. MaryEllen) Knobloch and sister-in-law, Sis. Elgeva Knobloch, as well as many nieces and nephews. We extend our sincere sympathy to each one. Her funeral was held March 31.

Our Bro. Ezra Knobloch left this life suddenly on April 5, and we extend sympathy to his family as well. In addition to his loving wife, Sis. Marie, he is survived by his children: Bro. Myron (late Sis. Beth), Sis. Brenda (Silverton, OR), Sis. Gloria (Bro. Brad Moser), Sis. Melody (Bro. Gary Schultz, Burlington, IA), Bro. Neil (Sis. June, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Lance (Sis. Kristi) and many grandchildren, as well as his sister, Elsie Leuthold, and sister-in-law, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Glen Metzger), from Lester. His funeral service was held on April 10. This marked the third death of elderly brothers- and sisters- in-faith in one month from our congregation. We appreciate the steadfast examples of faith each of them provided for us.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the kind expressions of love shown to us at the time of Ezra’s passing. The cards, phone calls, food and gifts
have been appreciated. Ezra loved his church family and by the outpouring of support shown to us, we have felt the love from this family of God.

May God bless you. Sis. Marie Knobloch and family

Iowa, Mediapolis

Kelsey Banwart, Tami Lanz

Communion is a special time for a church body to be together and remember what Christ has done for us so we can find salvation through Him and be together someday in Heaven. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) here to share Communion this past month.

We were excited to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Vienna Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly) to our Bro. Bill Massner (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois). We wish them God’s blessings as He guides their future together.

We had a blessed weekend April 8-9 as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls: Sis. Marie Schulz (Roger and June), Bro. Justin Massner (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois), Sis. Amanda Massner (In-laws, Corbin and Diane Massner), and Sis. Noelle Stoller (Bro. Dave and Sis. Stefanie). May they feel God’s nearness always. Visiting ministers for this weekend were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL).

Also visiting us this month and ministering the word were Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA).

Our hearts are always saddened when we lose a loved one. Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach passed away on April 3 and we will miss her presence as she was a faithful pillar in our church. Our hearts go out to her husband of 69 years, Bro. Paul, their children: Gail Hudson, Bro. Marc and Sis. Monica (Taylor, MO), Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb, Craig and Michelle, and their grandchildren and great grandchildren. May they feel the comfort and love of God.

Iowa, West Bend

Becky Virkler, Jenny Banwart

Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) brought forth God’s Word on Palm Sunday. Holy Communion was served that evening with Bro. Bill assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm. May God bless their efforts and the sacred rite.

Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) brought forth God’s Word on Good Friday. He was able to be with us again on Easter Sunday along with Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA). We appreciate the Lord speaking through each ministers and pray His blessing will continue to be with us all.

Erica Nohl, Sis. Judy Fehr (Bro. Dennis), and Bro. Dave Gerber (Sis. Diane) have been hospitalized. We are thankful to report each one has now returned home.

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

“A time to be born,”

God has blessed the home of Bro. Philip and Sis. Colleen Virkler with the safe arrival of little Cora Naomi. She is welcomed by siblings Elma and Liam. Grandparents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr and Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler.

“A time to die,”

Three family circles have been in our prayers with current losses: Bro. Ervin Banwart’s loss was his brother-in-law, Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Lester, IA). Fred Wirtz and Irene Blair’s loss was their sister Lori’s husband. Frank Jones, and Betty Banwart’s loss was her brother, Frank Crotts. May God’s arms of love rest over the many, far and near, touched by these losses.

As graduation approaches, a special prayer goes out to our graduating seniors: Bro. Adam Fehr (Bro. Kevin & Sis. Lonnie), Charlie Fehr (Bro. Cory & Sis. Jennifer), Garth Fehr (Bro. Byron & Sis. Anita), Laura Fehr (Bro. Mark & Sis. Janet), Michael Fehr (Bro. John & Sis. Wendy), Haley Wirtz (Doug & Angie), and Abigail Zaugg (Bro. David & Sis. Melissa). We love and appreciate each one of these graduates and ask God to gently lead them as their future unfolds.
Japan, Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

We are thankful for Jesus and the victory we have in Him. We enjoyed visitors: Bro. Doug and Sis. Tricia Rocke from Elgin, IA and Sis. Anna Dietz from Bradford, IL. They are all relatives of Gary and Yoko Kellenberger who live near Tokyo.

We always enjoy the fellowship of believers. Our church also went to a local nursing home to sing about Jesus’ resurrection.

Once again this year, our Sunday school students and a few other friends gathered to dye Easter eggs and practice for the Easter program. On Easter Sunday, two women joined our morning worship for the first time. We always enjoy celebrating our Risen Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday when we have our Easter program. Following the program, the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the church yard. We continue to pray for the hearts of all who attended, that they may come to faith in Jesus. May we continue to place our hope in Him.

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold

As we watch the Hand of God bring forth new life in all of nature, we can’t help, but compare that to the resurrection of Christ, and the new life we have in Jesus. Miraculous. Beautiful. Clean. Spotless. It is this new life that Taylor and Allison Meyer desire to have as they repent for their sins and turn back to God. We rejoice with them and pray that God will bless them.

“When we all get to heaven, What a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, We’ll sing and shout the Victory!”
Gospel Hymns #792

On April 7, after a nearly two-year battle with cancer, Sis. Connie Lehman (Bro. John) went to be with Jesus. Our hearts weep with Bro. John and his family and rejoice that she has won the Victory. Our prayers for comfort and healing are with all of Sis. Connie’s family.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS), and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Connie Lehman wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to the many brethren and friends across the miles who have reached out to Connie during her illness and the outpouring of love and support at her passing. Words of thanks are impossible to express, as individuals and churches have shared with a multitude of deeds that were so meaningful to her and her family. May God richly bless each of you.

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Karen Kellenberger

In a recent sermon about Jesus’ encounter with two disciples on the road to Emmaus (after His resurrection), it was pointed out that Jesus inserted Himself into the situation. He met them where they were, instead of just coming in and lowering the boom on them for being confused and concerned unnecessarily (like Job’s “friends” might have done). Jesus draws nigh in our lives and wants to know what's troubling us, confusing us, and burdening us. In addition, Jesus motioned to the two men like He would move on, when they stopped for the night. The minister likened it to Jesus not wishing to force Himself into our lives. Jesus lays it all out there and the table is set. It is incumbent on each of us to invite Him to stay, particularly so when our heart “burns within us”.

On Easter Sunday, our congregation gathered for an inspirational sunrise service followed by a potluck breakfast. The children’s Sunday School Easter program was the next Wednesday evening, April 19. It was a joy to listen to the heartfelt songs and verses.

A remodeling project has been started in our Sunday School area. The classes have been temporarily transplanted to the empty house beside the church.
Kansas, Kiowa

Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

Did you ever notice, concerning Job’s children, that when God gave him twice as much substance as he had before, He gave him only the same number of children as he formerly had? The Lord gave him twice as much gold and twice as much of all sorts of property, but He only gave him the exact number of children that he had before. Why did He not give the patriarch double the number of children as well as twice the number of cattle and goods? Why?? Because God regarded his children who had died as being Job’s still.

They were dead to Job’s eye, but they were visible to Job’s faith. God numbered them still as part of Job’s family, and if you carefully count up how many children Job had, you will find that he had twice as many in the end as he had in the beginning. In the same way, consider your friends and loved ones who are asleep in Christ as still yours---not a single one is lost.

Our congregation was heartbroken for our Elder Bro. John Lehman, Bern, who laid his sweet wife, Sis. Connie, to rest after a 20-month struggle with cancer. Several from Kiowa attended the service of Sis. Connie and supported Bro. John and his family at the beautiful tribute for our loved one. We know our loss is Heaven’s gain and that we will see our sister again if we are faithful to our Lord and Savior, as she was.

Sis. Nelda Ott is currently a hospital patient and we pray that God will send His healing blessings to her and restore a measure of health to her very soon. Several others have experienced flu, pneumonia, and health related issues also this month. May you soon be feeling better and back in church again!

We welcome Sis. Jaela Gudeman from Lacrosse, IN who has been assembling with us the past month. She is a college student who is doing an internship in Oklahoma City, OK and makes the 3 hour drive up to our Kiowa church every Sunday morning! We will truly miss your smiling face when your internship is completed, Jaela!

May is also a time of ending the hard work and long hours of study as graduation is a new beginning for Keeli Hostetler, who is graduating from Kansas State University and for Kacee Hostetler, who is doing early high school graduation as a Junior from Kiowa’s High School. Both girls are daughters of Brian and Cammi Hostetler and granddaughters of Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie Frieden. We extend our congratulations and God’s Grace and Protection as Keeli enters the work force and Kacee pursues further study at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI.

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley

Dorene Metzger

Little Bryn Kraft, daughter of Bro. Kurt and Sis. Alex Kraft, spent several days in the hospital. Many prayers were offered for this very sick little girl, but her sweet smile is giving us joy again.

Layke Edelman, son of Bro. Victor & Sis. Hope, moved into an apartment. Our church held a shower for him to help him furnish his new home.

A large group of young brothers and sisters from Wolcott and Remington, IN blessed us one weekend recently. Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft invited our church to their home to join these young people for supper and an evening of singing praises to our Lord. We thank them for their spending time with our fellowship.

Elder Bro. Mike leman (Denver, CO) came to share with our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi in an evening of sweet Communion, partaking of the bread and wine, as we remembered out Lord unselfishly giving His life and blood. What a wonderful hope each of us can have in our hearts and minds because of His suffering, shed blood and death, and then, the glorious Resurrection on the third day!

When I think of how quickly the joy of Palm Sunday became the saddest, darkest day in just a few days, I wonder how different I would have been from the
followers of Christ. I can see from this side of the grave, and have glorious HOPE. But think how sad and possibly utterly discouraged His followers must have felt. Seeing the stone rolled away from the empty tomb gave then all JOY and COURAGE once again, as they came face to face to Him once again! The promise of the HOLY SPIRIT that was to come when Jesus ascended to heaven is a promise still given to each of us today who cast our lot with Jesus.

Luke 24:46-49 “Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you.”

After church on Sunday, Bro. Mike gave us an eye-opening view of the concerns that face those in our fellowship in Mexico. We need to hold them up before God daily as they work in His service.

Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) also spent the Sunday following Communion with us.

Kansas, Sabetha
Crystal Hartter, Brenda Nenadov
We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Dena Weiss in the passing of her sister, Sis. Gladys Knobloch from Lester, IA.

Our Single Group hosted an Invite-a-Guest weekend here on April 1 and 2. It was an encouraging weekend for all as we enjoyed the fellowship with those from near and far and were blessed with the many full benches in church on Sunday as we worshipped together.

We appreciate and thank Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for visiting and sharing God’s word this past month.

Even as the angels in Heaven rejoice when a sinner repents, our congregation is rejoicing with and very thankful that Ted and Miranda Grimm have begun upon this way and acknowledged their need for a Savior. May God grant them His grace and nearness as they begin their new walk of life with Him.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day, we want to remember our mothers and all they do for us, both physically and spiritually. May God richly bless them as they give of themselves to meet the needs of their families.

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber
“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;” 1 Timothy 2:1

This exhortation to pray makes my prayer life look very weak, but I trust that I can continue to grow in this area as I see God working.

These are a few of the things we in Ixtlán are praying, interceding and thanking for:

- The school Board for Colegio de las Américas. We thank God for each of the brothers that is serving on the Board for this Christian School that the church started 8 years ago: Bro. Dean Herrmann (Princeville, IL), Bro. Kevin Wulf (Morris, MN), Bro. Bill Schmidgall (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena, CA), and Bro. Todd Stoller (Magdalena, MX). We were blessed to have them all visit in March. We continue to ask that God would grant His wisdom and grace for the direction of the school.
- Other visitors. We were blessed to have Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer (Milford, IN) and their children back for a week. It was so good to renew friendships and we appreciate Bro. Regg sharing with us from 2 Chronicles 16:9. What an encouragement to think that God is desirous to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.
- The church in Barra Vieja and particularly Bro. Bartolo and Sis. Kike’s family. We were all saddened by the tragic accident and death of their little granddaughter Odalis (Ricardo and Ana). We pray for God’s strength and comfort for them in this trial as in all others. Pray with us also that God would provide for a local minister to shepherd the small church there.

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who
will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2: 3-4

México, Magdalena

Alisha Ramirez

“And he said unto them, go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Many people read Mark 16:15 and think, “That’s the minister’s job.” Bro. Seth reminded us this month that preaching the gospel is every believer’s responsibility. That doesn’t mean you must leave your job and become a missionary. “All the world” includes your world, not just the global world. Your world consists of your family, friends, neighbors, the people you work with, and your community. So, start up a conversation with someone. Many times, you’ll start out talking about something else, and before you know it, you’ll have an opportunity to share the Gospel.

We are always thankful for our visiting ministers. This past month Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lyla, Lacrosse, IN) shared the Gospel with us.

Our all-church singing was held on March 18. We all lifted our voices unto the Lord in one accord. It is always a blessing to gather together with fellow believers to praise Our Lord with our voices, and fellowship.

Bro. Duane Wulf has fulfilled his term as trustee. Our congregation is prayerfully seeking a brother to fill the new opening. We pray that God has been preparing a brother to take on these responsibilities and the election process will go smoothly and according to the will of God. A trustee’s term is six years with one trustee rotating off every two years. Current trustees are Bro. Jason Grassi and Bro. Denver Slagel.

The Lacrosse Bible class work team joined us in worship and fellowship on March 26. This team is a combination of many churches including: Altadena, CA; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; West Bend, IA; Bradford, IL; Remington, Valparaiso, & Wolcott, IN; Bern & Sabetha, KS; and Latty, OH. It is always a blessing to have a group here to fellowship with us. May the work of their hands and the relationships built be a blessing during their week at CVE.

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

Easter season is a joyous time when we are reminded of the gift of God’s son and our redemption through His blood. On April 9, we heard the message of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection brought to us in song and verse by the Sunday school children and the teen choir. It is always a blessing, and a great outreach, to have families visit and see their children participate in the program. Through the children we are able to share Christ with these families who do not normally attend church. We pray that the Spirit would move these families to continue to come to church and accompany their children. We commemorated the death of Christ with a Good Friday service held on April 14.

We appreciate your continued prayers for our converts, our outreach to the Magdalena community, and the mission at Casa Vida y Esperanza.

Michigan, Alto

Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb

“My mommy told me something that boys and girls should know, and it’s all about the devil and how I learned to hate him so. He always causes trouble, when he comes in the room. And he’ll never ever leave you till your heart is filled with gloom. So let the sun shine in, face it with a grin, smiler’s never lose and frowner’s never win. So let the sun shine in, face it with a grin, open up your heart and let the Son shine in.”

-Author unknown

This little song was one our mother taught us that we sang with gusto on the way to church. This memory comes back to me as I am now spending more time outside in the sun. But I am also reminded of the promises of the Son, Jesus Christ, who came to teach us about His Light shining through us.

This month has been one where our cup is truly running over. The memorandum was read on April 1 with Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Sis. Bev here from...
Detroit to assist. What a beautiful evening and we thank Bro. Mark for coming and serving us. Palm Sunday was the children’s Easter program and they brought such joy to all who were privileged to watch and listen. We want to thank each child and teacher who participated. On April 12 we were taken to the cross through sharing Communion of the bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. We were thankful that retired Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen was willing and able to help Elder Bro. Ted. Memorandum and Communion were wonderful to share so close to Easter Sunday when our thoughts and desire to draw closer to the Master are in the forefront of our hearts and minds. We would like to extend our thanks to Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Marybeth, Wolcott, IN) who was here to serve on the pulpit Easter Sunday.

We have several here who are struggling with ongoing health issues, have been hospitalized or quietly suffer with trials and tests we know not of. We pray that our Mighty Father would give His sustaining grace and touch and heal them according to His will. Judah Oesch (Bro. Matt and Sis. Shelli) has been ill for quite some time and it hurts our hearts to see him not feeling well. Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan) was hospitalized for a stroke and we praise God that he was able to come home and be back at church. Harry Erikson’s sister, Helen, had surgery. Bro. Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva) has had some health issues.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Laura Kaeb (Bro. Aaron) in the loss of her grandfather, Bro. Ezra Knobloch from Lester, IA.

With excitement and joy we congratulate Ron and Michelle Zaagman on the birth of their daughter, Julia Violet. Sharing in this blessing are grandparents, Ed and Joy Zaagman. A darling little girl was added to the family of Bro. Jim and Sis. Maria McCormick. Adeline Mae was welcomed home by big brother, Calvin. The thrilled grandparents are Elder Bro. Greg and Sis. Marybeth Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Tim and Laurie McCormick.

Notes of Thanks:

A ‘Thank You’ feels so inadequate, but we are so grateful for the love and prayers, cards, gifts and acts of kindness our church family has shown through this past year of Shannon’s leukemia battle. You allowed God to move through you with love and as a result we had the privilege of witnessing the BIG Church become Christ to us here on earth. May we continue to give God the glory---as Shannon did in her short time here, and is doing now to a degree we can’t even imagine! Justin, Selah and the Schamback family.

Dear Alto Church Family,

We thank you for your loving concern, cards, prayers, memorial gifts, and the beautiful floral arrangement at Larry’s funeral. We love and appreciate each one of you. Larry was severely handicapped, but was still able to serve others his whole career. The Lord has released him from this earthly life and welcomed him to his new home and body. The Bocka Family

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

“Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

Isaiah 43:1-2

Over the last few weeks, our congregation has had opportunity to both rejoice and weep with those who need it.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who underwent surgery or spent time in the hospital this past month. They include: Sis. Barb Knochel, Bro. Clinton Ruegsegger (Sherry), Sis. Gail Szabo, Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary).

We extend many prayers for comfort to the family of Bro. Clinton Ruegsegger as he passed away on April 20. We especially pray for his wife, Sherry, and daughter, Hallie. Bro. Clinton is also remembered by his siblings: Sis. Winifred Gorney and Anita Hine and many other family members from our congregation.

We rejoice with those who welcomed new grandchildren into their hearts. Sis. Gail Szabo rejoices as Wyatt Archer Moser joins the family of Bro. Clint, Sis. Moonlight.
and Ty (Garden Grove, IA). 
Bro. Jack and Sis. Debbie Knochel rejoice in the safe arrival of George and Nora Bishja. The twins were also welcomed by parents Jaclyn and Mirjon and older sister Eva. Great grandmother is Sis. Elinor Knochel.

Visiting ministers Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN) were in Bay City visiting family for the Easter holiday.

**Michigan, Detroit**

**Carrie Ramseyer**

Almost 2000 years ago, the world changed forever. God’s only Son gave His life for a world full of lost sinners. But it didn’t stop there – He rose again and went to be with His Father, promising to be with us even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). Since that time, faith in Jesus has been passed from person to person, generation to generation – who could keep such joy to themselves?

April in the Detroit church has illustrated the beauty of a never-changing, multi-generational faith. In late March, it was announced that Stephanie Rauhe had found peace with God. She celebrates with her parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie Rauhe; her siblings: Bro. Tyler, Trevor, Joshua, Amber, Megan, Abigail, and Caleb; and her grandparents, Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress, and Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe.

The Men’s Bible Study has been studying together for 20 years as of this April. It is a group comprised of men in their 20s to their 70s, truly a multigenerational group that studies the Word on a regular basis. It will be interesting to see their insights into Revelations as they again study the book of prophesy.

Palm Sunday brought the anticipated Sunday school Easter program. Children ages 4 through high school proclaimed God’s Word as parents and grandparents watched with joy and amusement. Easter – or, rather, the Saturday before – was the Easter Outreach event. Sunday School children and their friends from the community listened to the Easter story, crafted a cross for each child, and enjoyed the sweet taste of candy. It is amazing to see the power of Jesus and the motivation of candy.

As we give thanks to our God for this season of celebration, we also urge that petitions, prayers, and intercession be made (1 Timothy 2:1) for Bro. Bill Kujawa and Maria Paroski. Bro. Bill Kujawa recently had shoulder replacement surgery. Maria Paroski is the mother of Sis. Mira Matejin. She was recently in an accident and remains hospitalized at this time.

Sis. Kristie Meyer and honored guests traveled to Texas to celebrate the wedding of her daughter. Cecily Meyer (Sis. Kristie Meyer and Mark & Inger) married Jesse Russell in Plano, TX on April 7. Thankfully, Sis. Kristie was able to bring some of the sun back with her, as we have been enjoying warm and sunny weather in Michigan.

Bro. Doug Harmon and Sis. Lana Harmon, as well as her parents, Bro. Gayle and Sis. Janet Stoller, ministered to the residents of Woodhaven this past month. We were thankful to have them drive up from Toledo.

So, from old faith to new faith, from generation to generation, the story of Jesus has been passed down through time, as it will until the end of the Earth.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

**Betty Lindwall, Brenda Messner**

Grandparents Todd & Sis. Renee Messner and Terri & Howie Kangas (Motley, MN) are happy to announce the birth of their precious granddaughter, Charlotte Elizabeth born March 14, 2017 to Andrew & Erin Messner. We wish this family God’s richest blessings!

The Sunday School children blessed the congregation with the Easter Program, “Tell Me the Story of Jesus.” The little preschool-Kindergarten were so precious singing, “B-I-B-L-E”. All of the students learned and recited the books of the Bible, which is a wonderful skill to remember. The program ended with the Sunday School and congregation singing “Jesus Loves Me”. We would like to give a special thanks to the Sunday School teachers for giving of their time and talents.

Our congregation was reminded of Jesus’ sacrifice and His love for us with Communion on Saturday, April 1. We are so thankful for visiting Elder Bro.
Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for willingly attending and sharing the Communion sacrament with our church family.

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Ashley Knobloch, Heidi Pfaffmann*

“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Hebrews 13:17

God has been so good to us in providing local leadership. We had a blessed ordination service for Bro. Lowell Moser. He and his dear wife, Sis. Karen have our support and prayers. Laboring on our behalf were Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN). There were also several ministering brothers with us, including Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North, MN), and Doug Moser (Morris North, MN).

Sweet little Damon William was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Savannah Wulf. He is welcomed home by big brothers, Emmit, Lane, Reid, Nolan, Todd, Chad, Quinn, and Jed. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Wulf and Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm.

The Easter program was good for all of us to remember what Christ has done for us in dying, shedding His blood, and then arising anew. How precious to hear the story out of the mouths of the young children!

**Minnesota, Morris North**

*Lois Schmidgall, Amanda Feuchtenberger, Wanda Gramm*

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

Our Sunday School presented their Easter Program through song and verse. What a BLESSING it was to hear and remember the sacrifice of JESUS and then His rising from the tomb so we could have forgiveness of our sins and life eternal, if we heed the Master’s call. We thank our teachers and students.

We also gathered for our annual Easter breakfast on Easter morning to celebrate the resurrection of our dear Lord and Savior.

Our prayers are with Bro. Lowell Moser, along with his wife, Sis. Karen, as he will be serving the Morris Country Church as an ordained deacon.

Special prayers for Bro. John Cox (son-in-law of Sis. Chrystol & Bro. Reuben Luthi) who is going through health issues. Our prayers for him and his family that he will be blessed with expedient healing.

Thank you to our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter who worshiped with us and served Communion this past month.

As the summer months approach here in Minnesota, we extend a heartfelt invitation to come and visit us during this wonderful time of year.

Anyone wishing to send a card of encouragement to Sis. Josie Esterling, her address is SCMC Courage Cottage, 409 East First Street, Morris, MN 56267.

Words to Treasure - Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

*Becky Braulick, Julie Schmidt*

“God sent His Son, They called Him Jesus, He came to love, Heal and forgive, He lived and died, To buy my pardon, An empty grave is there To prove my Savior lives. Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives All fear is gone, Because I know Who holds the future, And life is worth the living Just because He lives.”

-William and Gloria Gaither

Celebrating Easter reminds us of the greatest example of God’s love... by giving HIS only Son to redeem us from OUR sins so that we may have eternal life with Him. What a wonderful gift. Let us be thankful for this ultimate gift, not just during the Easter season, but throughout the year.

We were once again blessed
as our Sunday School children, teachers and some parents served us with a wonderful Easter breakfast. Thank you for the time and effort on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Donnabell Nelson and Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. Mary Lou) who had surgery and were in the hospital this past month. We continue to pray for all those that are having on-going health issues. May they feel God’s strength and healing.

Missouri, Kansas City
Julie Webel

This past month we partook of Holy Communion in remembrance of our Savior’s sacrifice on the cross. We thank Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for assisting Bro. Randy with services over the weekend.

We also grieve with Sis. Janice Lehman on the passing of her sister-in-law, Sis. Connie Lehman (Bro. John, Bern, KS). May God give comfort to the family during this difficult time.

Thanks to all who helped in a recent Work Project.

Missouri, Lamar
Jayla Wettstein

We were blessed this month with many visitors. Bloomfield Jr./Sr. High Sunday school class came and helped us sort clothes for our local Good Samaritan store. We were also very thankful to have a group from Fairbury come down and help us clean our fellowship hall. Many thanks to all our visitors. We appreciate all of you very much.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Ester, Lester, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL). We thank you for preaching the Word!

Our prayers this month are with Sis. Corrine Marti, as she had fallen and broke her hip. May the Lord bless her as she recovers.

Missouri, St. Louis
Sarah Fehr

Thank you to our visiting ministers this month, Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Kent Helmer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, St. Louis).

Our Sunday School Easter program was held on Palm Sunday. After a time of fellowship over a church-wide breakfast, we were privileged to see the results of our students’ hard work learning songs and memory verses. The students reminded us about the “I am” statements that Jesus made while He was on Earth: the Bread of Life, the Door, the Vine, and the Light of the World. A big thank you goes to the teachers who worked so hard putting the program together!

Missouri, Taylor
Anneliese Lindberg, Rachel Reinbeck

Hello, all!

This month, we are humbled to remember the greatest sacrifice made by our wonderful Savior. His death has given us new life. His grace has set us free from sin. So, let us live as though we are free!

Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Kent Heimer in commemoration of the Last Supper at the end of March. All those who could not attend then were given another opportunity on Sunday, April 16 at 9:00 a.m.

For this month’s topical Bible study, we were honored to host Bro. Mike Grimm (Sis. Amber, Goodfield, IL). He preached on the topic of living a justified, sanctified, and glorified life.

Finally, on April 9, our Sunday School put on an Easter Program. It was a blessing to see the children and young adults tell the story of our Savior’s sacrifice. It is wonderful to see how God has perfected His praise out of the mouths of babes. (Matthew 21:16)

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Hope Graves

Our prayers are with Sis. Lois Virkler in the loss of her brother, Leslie Mattoon, on March 30.

We rejoice with Christopher and Cassie Moser in the safe and healthy arrival of Chrysa Avagale on April 8. She joins Callie and Clay at home.
We were thankful to read the memorandum on March 26. May God bless the many efforts that go into providing this letter to our churches.

It was a blessing to have ministering Bro. George and Sis. Tina Gal with us from Akron, OH for Easter weekend. On Good Friday we enjoyed a meal hosted by the Ohio brethren before church services and on Sunday our meal was provided by Rockville, CT brethren. It was an additional blessing to have several visiting children join our Sunday School in their Easter program.

“Jesus bids us shine as we work for Him, bringing those that wander from the paths of sin. He will ever help us, if we shine. You in your small corner, and I in mine.” The Children’s Harp #64

Ohio, Akron
Carla Miller

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Andy Demrovsky (Sis. Vera) as he has been in the hospital.

We rejoice with Deborah Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona) as she has been announced as having peace with God and is awaiting baptism.

Sympathy and prayers are extended to Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner in the passing of her brother, Bro. Ron Winkler (Rittman, OH).

We are grateful to share that Orin Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia) has turned to the Lord in repentance.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

This is a beautiful time of the year as nature begins to wake up from its winter’s nap. What a joy to work outside and hear birds singing and leaves rustling on the trees.

On March 25, we had the privilege of sharing Communion together as a church family. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) joined us for the weekend.

We were blessed to have other visiting ministers with us this month: Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH). We thank each one of these brothers for their willingness to preach the Word.

We were thanked to have Sis. Cheryl Gehres return to church and pray that she will continue to gain strength during her recovery.

Ohio, Junction
Elizabeth Manz

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

There have been many different “seasons” that have taken place within our local congregation this past month. Some have been joyful and some have been more painful. We have the great blessing of walking life together with our brothers and sisters, sharing the joys and helping bear the sorrows.

Sis. Cathy Manz (Bro. Mark) said good-bye to her step-mother, Darlene Leatherman. We lift Sis. Cathy and her family up in prayer.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine Schlatter welcomed another grandson, Andrew Lee on March 21. Andrew’s parents are Darius and Gina Scott.

We wish God’s blessings for Aaron and Jerrickah Manz as they begin their life together. They were united in marriage on March 27. Sis. Verginia Manz is thankful for a new daughter-in-law.

We rejoiced to hear that our converts, Kyle and Casey Schlatter have found peace. We look forward to their baptisms in the near future.

We lift up Bro. Ralph (Sis. Sheila) Schlatter in prayer as he recently had surgery.

Sis. Renae Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) has taken an internship in Virginia and will be gone for the next 7 months. We pray that it will be a productive time and that she will make it home often.

Ohio, Latty
Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller

“Joy to the Lord, He is Risen!” was the message in one of the songs the choir sang on Easter morning during our annual benefit breakfast for our Sunday School Jamaica trip.
Our prayer is that you had a joyful Easter celebration!

We were thankful to have many visitors for our Invite-A-Friend weekend on March 25 & 26. Special thanks to the ministers that served us that weekend including: Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH).

We are thrilled that Haley Linder (Jim and Sis. Jane) has expressed a need to repent for her sins and turn her heart to the Lord! May God bless her with His grace, mercy, and love.

Our congregation is also grateful to hear that our convert Clint Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) is professing peace with God. We look forward to the time when he can share his testimony and be baptized.

April 8 was the wedding day for Dalton Yenser and Staci Wenninger. Staci is the daughter of Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni. May God bless this couple with much love and joy as they begin a life together.

Sis. Josephine Stoller has finished her fight of faith on this earth. We continue to remember her family including her sisters, Sis. Ann Plummer and Sis. Dolores Riggenbach in prayer, along with many nieces and nephews as they will mourn her loss. Sis. Josephine had a great love for children and we will surely miss her sweet smile.

We want to remember Bro. Oliver Stieglitz (Sis. Emma Jean) as he spent some time in the hospital this month. May God continue to heal according to His will.

Ohio, Mansfield

Elizabeth Walter

Bro. John, Jr. and Sis. Madalyn Ramsey are thankful to welcome Heidi Dawn into their hearts and home. Joyful grandparents are Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dawn Ramsey, and Marc and Elizabeth Contrascere. May each one be blessed with godly wisdom as they love and nurture this precious new soul.

We were thankful for a visit from Elder Bro. Trent Meiss and his wife, Sis. Luci, from Eureka, IL. Bro. Trent assisted with our Communion service and willingly preached the Word on Sunday. Our hearts were strengthened and encouraged as we considered what Christ bore in our stead. May God bless our leadership as they labor so diligently for our spiritual welfare.

We often think of our loved ones who are suffering from physical ailments. Our prayers go out to Sis. Theresa Keiper and Sis. Lydia Chant (Bro. Jacob), who have recently spent time in the hospital. May God’s comforting presence be near them.

The Sunday School Easter Program always brings joy to our hearts. We thank the students for bringing the message of hope and salvation to us through their songs and verses. We also appreciate the efforts of the teachers and parents. May the clarity and simplicity of the Easter message touch and guide us all, as we live in a world that is filled with confusion.

Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) and his family were with us for Easter Sunday. We appreciate Bro. Matt’s willingness to share the Gospel message, and pray he will be blessed for his labor of love on our behalf.

Our Sis. Clara Zimmer (Bro. Jim, dec.) passed away on April 15. We express our sympathy to her children: Jim and Cheryl Zimmer (Bluffton, IN), Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker, Clair and Sis. Bev Keever, Rick and Sis. Susan Foss, Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters, and Steve and Sis. Melinda Robertson, as well as to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We will miss Sis. Clara’s loving and generous heart, but thank God for the eternal reward granted to His faithful servants.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

Ohio, Rittman

Julie Steiner, Maria Beery

“This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” Ps. 118:23

We rejoice with Bro. Mason Hartzler (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Joanna Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail) as they were united in marriage on April 9.

This month, the engagements of Bro. Jeriah Riggenbach (Bro.
Bob and Sis. Lorie) to Sis. Shayleen Hartzler (Fred and Mindy) and Sis. Adeline Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) to Bro. Derrick Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth, Silverton) were made known. May God bless these couples!

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Delores Maibach in the passing of her brother, Bro. Lester Walder (Cissna Park) and with the family of Bro. Ron Winkler as he was laid to rest. Bro. Ron will be missed by his brother, Delbert, and his sisters, Sis. Evelyn Baumgartner (Akron) and Sis. Kathleen Shane (Bill), and many nieces and nephews.


Sis. Linda Zollinger, Sis. Kathleen Shane (Bill), and Sis. Doris Gasser spent time in the hospital this month. We appreciate these sisters and trust they will continue to heal.

We appreciate the many ministers who have visited us this month. Thanks to Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction), Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit), Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron), Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus), and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis) for serving us.

Ohio, Sardis

_Scripture_ (1 Cor. 11:24-25)

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 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.

_Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle_

At the end of March, we enjoyed two evenings of packing soup that was distributed to local shelters and organizations for those in need. It was a blessing for all involved, but it is always an extra blessing as we witness the happiness and fun our children experience when working for others.

Good Friday and Easter services were truly uplifting as we again heard of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection. Although this precious account is very familiar and never grows old, I felt uplifted by the Hope that the thought of redemption through Christ truly brings. We were encouraged, during the Easter service, that as the Bible is Christ, we should try to live as close to His Word as we can because that is His instruction for us.

We look forward, Lord willing, to hosting the annual New Martinsville Memorial Services the weekend of June 24-25. All are invited to attend. Ministers and their families are welcome and needed. There is a Saturday evening service at the Sardis church. If you have questions about the weekend, please contact Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593.

Ohio, Smithville

_Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich_

We thank each of our many visitors who came to bless us this month. Among them were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) and Bro. Tom Lehman (Denver, CO).

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 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 Cor. 11:24-25.

Our souls were filled with thankfulness when Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) came on Palm Sunday weekend to assist our Elder Bro. Vic Bauman in serving Communion.

Sis. Carol Bauman and Sis. Jennifer Bauman (Bro. Roger) spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful for God’s healing hand on them.

Keaton John Pelfrey was born April 3, bringing joy to the family of Bro. Jason and Sis. Crystal, Harper and Griffin. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey (Rittman, OH)
and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty, OH).

We wish God’s richest blessings on Becca Maibach and Brandon Graham as they have announced their engagement and look forward to an October 2017 wedding. Their parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb Maibach and Dale and Shelley Norris and the late Tom Graham.

Ohio, Toledo
Whitney Masters, Alisia Schlatter

We had the privilege of having several visiting ministers this month. Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) visited us in the middle of March. Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH) came for our invite-a-guest weekend. It was a blessing to have our church so full. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) visited our congregation. Also, we failed to add that Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH), preached the Word to us in February. We are blessed by these brothers and their willingness to bring forth the Gospel.

Kurt Rager (Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon) and Sis. Clara Beard have been in the hospital. We continue to lift them up in prayer. Prayers also go out to Sis. Deanna Manz (Bro. Matt) and Bro. Aaron Masters (Sis. Whitney) in the loss of their Grandma, Sis. Clara Zimmer (Mansfield, OH).

Our Sunday School children presented their Easter program. They are always so exuberant and excited to share their verses and songs. Such a reminder to all of us to give that same amount of enthusiasm in our walk with Christ!

Ontario, Kitchener
Johanna Fortenbacher

We’re enjoying the time our ministers take for the sake of our small group here. We had ministers Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Sis. Heather, Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Mark (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni Rittman, OH), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglietz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). God bless you all for coming and we hope you can come again!

As Jesus prayed to God that his disciples, “...all be one; as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they may be one in us...” (John 17:21), we hope we can also be united in thought and purpose as He was with God.

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

On Palm Sunday, The Lord’s sacrifice and resurrection were remembered through song and verse by our six Sunday School students as they presented their Easter program. It was a joy to hear them sing. We wish The Lord will bless them as they learn of Him and grow.

We were privileged to have visiting Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI) minister to us. Since he was traveling alone, we also want to thank his family for lending him to us. We were glad to be able to spend some time in fellowship and sightseeing in the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest.

Our gratitude also goes to our local ministering brethren from Silverton, OR who supported us this past month: Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa) and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz).

Oregon, Silverton
Kelsey Walder, Ann Kuenzi

Sis. Jane Wieand (Bro. John) and Sis. Tresa Sinn (Bro. Mark & Sis. Elsie) have had surgery recently. We pray for a speedy recovery for them. Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen) continues to have health problems, and our heartfelt prayers are with him also.

Silverton is looking forward to hosting the 2018 mid-winter elder conference. Bro. Troy & Sis. Sherri Kuenzi and Bro. Jeremy & Sis. Kristy Kuenzi are coordinating this event.

Our hearts are sad for Sis. Brenda Knobloch in the loss of her father, Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie, Lester, IA). Also experiencing loss is Sis. Alicen Sinn (Bro. Kenton) in the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach (Bro. Paul, Mediapolis, IA). They both will appreciate the encouragement of the brethren as they go through this time of loss.
It is always a sad, but uplifting time when we think of Easter. The sadness comes with knowing our sins nailed the Lord to the cross, but the joy comes with realizing the gift Jesus gave us when He took those sins away. Our prayers are for those who don’t know this joy yet.

We enjoyed the Sunday School Easter program so much this year, on April 9. The children put their hearts into their verses and songs that they presented. We could feel their enthusiasm.

Here for Easter weekend, was Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA). We appreciate when they come to visit and he is willing to minister to us.

Believing in faith that she has peace with God and man, Erinn Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) has expressed the joy in her heart that she has for Jesus. We will look forward to her testimony and baptism.

We rejoice with Bro. Derrick Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth) in his engagement to Sis. Adeline Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika, Rittman, OH).

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death.” Revelation 1:18

Easter is such a blessed time of year! I am so thankful we use this special time to focus on the cross and resurrection. The Philadelphia church spent part of our Easter Sunday hearing our Sunday School’s program. We appreciated hearing the songs and verses from the lips of our children and friends. We also appreciated the delicious breakfast they prepared!

We appreciated Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and his wife, Sis. Cheryl (Rockville, CT), for being with us this month. May God bless Bro. Kevin for being willing to speak the Word. May we all seek to apply it to our hearts.

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We are blessed to have Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder back with us after returning from their winter home. We have been encouraged in our Christian walk by our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Athens), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), and Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL). Likewise, we have appreciated the love and fellowship of visitors from Athens, AL; Elgin and Forrest, IL; and Bluffton, IN.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. We meet for worship every Sunday and the first and third Wednesday evenings of the month. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don Sauder, 615.373.8928; Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; or Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop.

We are so very thankful for the HarvestCall VBS committee that is assisting our Austin/Bastrop church, as we organize our VBS 2017 for the week of June 5. Our theme is “Serving Christ”. This morning as I was seeking God’s guidance for songs for our VBS, I came upon a song, “ Busy” that was published in 1995 (was that really 22 years ago) as a VeggieTune from the VeggiTales series. Please read the words and see if you are also convicted to have more of a servant spirit and make better choices with your time.

“I’m busy, busy, dreadfully busy. You’ve no idea what I have to do. Busy, Busy, shockingly busy. Much, much too busy for you. ’Cause we’re busy, busy, frightfully busy. More than a bumble bee, more than an ant. Busy, busy, horribly busy. We’d love to help, but we can’t.”

Are we really too busy to help others, show them God’s love and teach them The Way? Are we really too busy to Serve Christ? Let’s use our time wisely. It is one of the greatest gifts we can give.

We enjoyed our Sunday School Easter Program. It included our Sunday School and Church Choir. We are thankful for our
Sunday School teachers, Sis. Tania Bazzell and Bro. Garret Ball for all their hard work in preparing for the program. It was such a blessing to hear the story of Jesus dying on the cross and then hear the little ones sing with joy, “Alive, Alive, Alive forevermore, my Jesus is Alive, Alive forevermore!”

We have enjoyed fellowship with John and Bria Pikalova and their little son who have travelled from Houston many times to worship with us. They plan to move to Phoenix, AZ. We will miss them and will pray for God’s direction and blessings during this transition in their lives.

Communion Service is planned for Sunday, April 30.

Luke 22:19 “And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

We are thankful that Adam Graf (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika, Rittman, OH) desires to share his testimony with the church and, Lord willing, be baptized the weekend of April 29, 2017. Let’s be prayerful and rejoice as we see God’s plan of salvation in action. Adam lives in Dallas, TX and has been worshipping there with us. We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers this past month: our Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel ((Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriett and girls, Bern, KS). We pray a blessing on each for their labors of love.

“What a mighty God we serve. What a mighty God we serve. Angels bow before Him; Heaven and earth adore Him. What a mighty God we serve.”

We are so thankful for our visitors and encourage everyone passing through to stop and worship with us! We appreciate your continued prayers for our converts, our outreach to the Stoney Point families, and for those who have recently moved to the Bastrop area.

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

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth

Mary Plattner

Services are generally being held the second Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX. There are several singles and couples who gather and enjoy visitors. Please call ahead to verify. Bros. Wayne Banwart (217-493-2383), Leland Plattner (956-265-0351), or Dennis Rassi (512-321-2345).

Texas, McAllen

Kristi Plattner

We were blessed to have the following ministers’ visit and share God’s Word this past month. They were Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville, IL). We appreciate their willingness to minister God’s Word.

We welcome anyone coming to South Texas. If interested in housing on South Padre Island or in McAllen while visiting the McAllen area, please contact us for further details.

Occasionally there is a schedule change, so if you plan to be with us on Sunday, please verify the date by calling the Plattners’ at 956-607-8329 or you may access www.harvestcall.org and view the updated minister rotation schedule.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Smart iStay Hotel, 1921 South 10th Street. Take the 10th Street Exit off I-83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.

Texas, Zapata

Mary Plattner

We appreciate our visitors from West Bend, IA, Winthrop, MN and McAllen, TX, that made the effort to be with our small group on Easter.

Anyone coming to South Texas is most welcome to visit in Zapata. We would certainly appreciate your visit, but please notify us if you are coming. In the summer months, we begin to worship with those in McAllen and Austin-Bastrop.

Vermont, Clarendon

Nathan Reutter

During this Easter season, on Good Friday, I read the crucifixion account as told by Mark in chapter 14. In it a woman came to Jesus, broke an alabaster container containing 300 pence of an ointment called spikenard,
and poured it on Jesus’ head. There are a couple of curious points to be noted about this account: 300 pence was a year’s wage and the woman did not hesitate to use it to anoint Jesus for burial.

Some questions came to mind as I read this account. Is there something I cling to more than Christ? Is it technology? Money? My house? And furthermore, am I willing to give up a year’s wage without any hesitation?

Another aspect of spikenard needs attention. It has an intense and long-lasting smell. The woman who poured it on Jesus’s head knew that he would smell with an intense smell for days. Still, she did not falter in her purpose to anoint him. It made me wonder in my life about what kind of impression I leave about Jesus. After a conversation, do people leave me with the idea that Jesus is incredibly important, something like the sharp and pungent odor of spikenard in their minds? Do thoughts of Jesus linger in the people around me for days because of how I talk about him?

Talking about Jesus within the house of God is the special lot of ministers. We are thankful for both our home minister and our visiting ministers. This past month our visiting ministers included Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT). We appreciate these stalwart supporters of the visiting minister rotation of our congregation. God bless you each one.

We are also thankful to hear that the granddaughter of our summer attendees, Emery and Claire Fellows, had successful open heart surgery. God has graciously extended her life through the work of the surgical team. We praise God for that.

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**Christian Friendship**

*There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life.*
*Friends with whom we meet and labor in our early toil and strife.*
*Friends among the aged and youthful friends that live from us apart.*
*Friends of higher rank and station find a place within my heart.*
*But I prize the friendship highest of the one whose heart is true.*
*Friends who live by truth and goodness and who live in Him anew.*
*Friends whose hearts are up in heaven though their feet traverse this sod.*
*There’s a tie of noble kinship in a soul who loves the Lord.*
*There’s a friendship warm and lasting if he heads the Master’s word.*
*There is mutual understanding and a sympathy so kind.*
*In the tie of Christian friendship as on earth we oftimes find.*
*When at last these ties are riven and we’re called to go on high,*
*Oh how sweet to meet in heaven friends forever you and I.*
*When at last these ties are riven and we’re called to go on high,*
*Oh how sweet to meet in heaven friends forever you and I.*

Hymns of Zion #91
What do you Appreciate about the Apostolic Christian Church of America? Part 2

WHAT we love about our church:
• True doctrine
• Heritage handed down from family to family through generations
• Infrastructure and organizational assets that have taken years to put into place (i.e. satellite churches, fellowship halls, outreach to needy, even internationally.)
• Churches where we can fellowship with our brethren from coast to coast
• Leadership of the elder body (safety in a multitude of counselors)
• Brotherhood conference as depicted in the Bible
• Format of worship, with separate seating, to make singles feel included
• Multiple ministers on the pulpit speaking by inspiration of the Spirit. This is unique to most religions, and one of our greatest blessings, as the Holy Spirit knows what the audience needs that day.
• Everything about it — too numerous to mention!

Anonymous

“AND THAT from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15)

Our church, the Apostolic Christian Church of America, has kept its focus on the preservation of the Word. There are many reasons why I have come to love and appreciate that emphasis and why I am committed to supporting our church.

First, I treasure the Holy Spirit. He has been my guide and faithful companion since my conversion to Christ. It is through the ministry of fellow believers that I first heard of and learned to discern the spirits. I know how strong Satan can be, but our God is all powerful.

Another thing I love, is our like-minded fellowship. No, we aren’t all on the same page, so to speak, with our understanding and thinking, but we can be united in God’s love through the unity of the Holy Spirit — a bond of perfect-completeness in Christ.

Finally, I became aware of the need to be willing to let go of the past, embrace the moment, and look forward to the future. We can do this by growing in and through Christ, learning from past mistakes, and boldly embracing God’s direction individually inspired by the Spirit in our personal lives and collectively united in one body sharing and reaching out to those around us.

All of this I have acquired because of the teachings from my beloved church. Christ is our answer, and through His shed blood we can embrace, through repentance and conversion, a relationship with Him that far surpasses anything this world has to offer. May we all continue to observe these precepts.

Helen Woerner, Tremont, IL
Brotherhood Benefits

It is a priceless station – this
Close relation in Christ.
To join as Sister, Brother
And love one another, we prize.
We share a kindred spirit
As we inherit God’s grace.
We value being humble,
So no one will stumble mid-race.

Labor on. Keep the faith. Watch and pray
Each day. Show others the way.
Souls in the world watch what you do and say.
Members of Christ the Lord – He, our
Body’s Head. Recall that He said,
He knows ev’ry need and will heed.
Sometimes we’re His hands and feet!

So firmly joined together,
Sin’s stormy weather shall not
Succeed to separate us –
Though the devil berate us – from God.
This fellowship is precious.
It sure refreshes our soul –
Such mutual desire that we one day acquire the Goal.

What peaceful living to combine thanksgiving – it’s true!
It’s godly pleasure to embrace Heaven’s treasure with you.

Bro. Sam Manz, Junction

I TREASURE THE healthy community (or culture) of our church! It is our church culture (our “oneness”) that rallies behind someone facing tragedy or death. It is our church culture that sends prayer requests to our local church and on to our many churches throughout the country.

It is our church culture that makes sure the widow or single person has someone to sit by during a church service. It is that same culture that quickly fills the sign-up sheets on bulletin boards and guarantees fantastic turnouts at benefit auctions. And it is that culture that helps our young people choose to seek their salvation in our church.

I believe this is because our church has taught us that by helping each other here on earth we help each other toward heaven. I am so thankful to be part of this beautiful church culture! It is something we can so easily take for granted, and yet so depend on it in times of need.

Anonymous
I was born into a family who was part of the Christian Apostolic Church, a community that originally broke away from the German Apostolic Christian Church during the mid-20th century, as the German church had broken away from the main body of Apostolic Christians decades before.

I was only a child the first Sunday our family visited the Apostolic Christian Church, but vividly remember being given a visitor sticker and invited to return. As I have grown into adulthood my spiritual journey has not been without challenges, and yet I give thanks for the brotherhood which has helped shape who I am today.

A good friend’s grandfather put it nicely when he welcomed visitors to the Apostolic Christian church, often saying, “We are imperfect here, but we are on a journey.” Three specific aspects of our church community stand out to my wife and I as especially valuable:

**Community Focus:**
Throughout the NT we see the call for lives of non-selfish, communal, living. When community is the focus, we are able to nurture a church, a body, of many parts working together for a common, higher, good. One, of many, programs we have with this focus is the Alms Fund. With it, those gifted in financial stewardship, organization, entrepreneurship, and management give and work with those, within our believing community, experiencing a rough time. When community comes first, we soon experience the fruit, and quickly realize the whole of the kingdom is more than the sum of its parts.

**The Work of Jesus is Practiced:**
The custom we have of sending those with the gift of evangelism to foreign lands (and soon to be local church plants), without leaving the fund-raising on their shoulders, is unique. This is wonderful. We send. We support, as a brotherhood, by His provision. The Kingdom of God is all about opportunities to work in local, national, and international medical, construction, teaching, clerical, and administrative roles (for a week, year, or longer) to assist in presenting the gospel message to the lost and perform loving deeds of service to all mankind. From Haiti’s well drilling, to the seed and heifer projects, to micro loans, orphanages and child sponsorship, single mothers in Ft. Meyers, troubled teens, disaster victims, and the spiritually hungry - there are opportunities for all to participate in work fused with purpose, meaning, and eternal value.

**A Living Witness:**
Our pulpits instruct with messages to live lives in sync with our profession of faith, following in our master’s footsteps and imitating his life. This includes calls to cut off distractions from serving our Lord with a life of faithfulness to His calling (with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength), by denying ourselves and bearing our cross, which is central to a healthy church (2 Thessalonians 1:10-12).

I am easily distracted and often complacent. Some of the important messages I soon lose sight of with the busyness of work and family: Not cheating others (when in doubt taking the short end of the stick), doing violence to no man, honoring our parents, our vows, and the law, and caring enough to bring orphans and the homeless into our homes and lives. The Christian call from antiquity was, “we don’t speak great things: we live them.”

*Anonymous*

**W**e could list many things we love about our brotherhood. Here are a few: We love the doctrine based on God’s Holy Word and the encouragement given to brethren to hold each other accountable to the truth. We love the harmonies of voices raised together in song to worship the Lord with a cappella singing. We love the fellowship between churches and the opportunity to meet brethren of like-minded faith from all walks of life. We are continually blessed by the weekly fellowship that is available during Sunday noon lunch. We love the opportunities to serve others in our home church, in our brotherhood, in our communities, and beyond. We have been truly blessed.

*The Jeff Stoller Family, Nashville*
WHAT DO YOU love/appreciate/like about the Apostolic Christian Church of America?

The first word that comes to my mind is love. I consider our body of believers diverse in a lot of ways — everything from church preferences to politics. I can honestly say, and I think every one of my fellow brothers and sisters would say this as well, we will not let Satan sever the love we have for each other.

I know, without a doubt, if something would happen to my husband and me, then my church body would step in and take care of all of our children emotionally, spiritually, and financially. We would do the same for any of our brothers’ or sisters’ families.

I love our multi-generational church, because it allows us to understand the church family that the apostles’ first churches emulated in the New Testament. Because our church has multiple generations, my children experience the love of grandparents in the faith. Our church also has many babies and children in Sunday School. I truly believe that, from the beginning, the Body of Christ is most well-depicted in a multi-generational church.

We are a very driven church, providing activities and lessons on life for our children to grow deeply in Jesus on Sundays and on Wednesday nights. Our Bible Class and Young Group are active in missions locally and in other countries. Our social life IS our church and our church body! Yes, our children were, and still are, active in school activities, but there was never a question as to the most important social piece in their lives — our church body and activities.

We are also driven as a church body to support our Harvest Call worldwide. We are very fortunate to have several of our own church families as missionaries across the globe. The joy we have when we go to them or they come home is indescribable! We are so blessed with these families!

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the leadership and ministers on our pulpit. Every one of them credits God for their gifts of knowledge, wisdom and presentation. I am always excited when our ministers come up to the pulpit. I wait on their words to expound on what I need to do to serve. They teach history and background so my understanding of why and how I should serve is clear! In my heart, I am crying, “Hallelujah!” as tears run down my face many Sundays. All glory goes to God!

We can only continue to be thankful, so thankful, and continue to pray for our church body continually.

With this being said, I want to exhort ALL of my sisters and brothers across the world to PRAY for your church bodies. One of the ways that individuals in our local church pray, is to walk around our entire church property to pray for the church body as a whole and for individuals that we know are hurting. We do this alone or with one another in audible prayer. We walk inside our church and pray over the pulpit. This includes commanding Satan and his demons to leave every part of our church property and to pray for a huge shield to blanket our church property so that no evil can tear us apart. Some of our brothers and sisters take the church directory and pray for each and every person in it. As your church grows closer as a body and to Christ, you will feel Satan’s efforts to tear you down. Prayer needs to be stronger than ever. Our ministers have told us over and over that they feel the prayers and protection. This makes us want to continue.

There are so many other reasons why I love our church that cannot be contained in article form! Is it a perfect church? No, there is no “perfect” church body. We are people; Therefore we sin. However, I am so thankful for my brothers and sisters in Jesus from my church! To God be the glory forever and ever!

Anonymous
THERE ARE many things that I appreciate and love about our church, but one thing that I love the most is the brotherly love, trust and respect that we have for each other and each other's families.

A conversation with a lovely Christian mom from our community opened my eyes to this blessing of trust and confidence that I have taken for granted. While working together, I shared of our teenage, converted son traveling to a different state for a weekend visit. She asked me who he was going to be with. I explained he would be with other young people from our church from different communities.

She then asked who he was going to stay with. I admitted I didn't know.

Did I know them? Probably not.

Was I going to check? No, I didn't plan to.

Who else was going to be staying there. I didn't know that either.

What did they plan to do? I assured her that it would be fine and I was sure they had planned activities.

Would there be girls at the activities? Most likely.

I could sense her firm disapproval with my parenting. Even with my reassurance that he would be with a nice group from our church's Young Group.

Her response was: "It doesn't matter if they go to the same church. You are letting your son travel with other teenagers to a different state, stay with someone you don't know, and you don't know who he is going to be with or what they have planned?!

I hadn't thought of it like that.

I felt so blessed and peaceful knowing where my son was going and that I was not concerned about who he was with, what was being planned and I had full confidence with where he would stay. I love my church!

Anonymous

Our Love Shall Not Diminish

Our love shall not diminish nor fade nor wane away;
Bind us till life we finish and in the grave we lay.
Our love shall not diminish it is our Lord’s command,
And free us from all blemish before our God to stand.
Though all this world be fleeting true love will still abide,
And when our journey’s ending Lord lead us to Thy side.
Yea, greater love shall be there more perfect and complete,
When freed from pain and sorrow our Lord and God we meet.
Earth’s trials and temptations make true love manifest,
To gain for us salvation and heaven’s joy and rest.
Pure love leads to perfection joy of our soul and guide,
Gives us true satisfaction and leads to heaven’s light.
Zion’s Harp #137
AC Central is More than Just Sermons

Update to the latest version to find a hub of Apostolic Christian content:

- **Hymns**: Search by keyword to find music and lyrics to Zion’s Harp songs.
- **Silver Lining**: Download and read any Silver Lining issue since Jan. 2013.
- **Sermons**: And of course, access past and streaming sermons and topical Bible studies from over 40 congregations.
- **Job Postings**: View employment and long-term volunteer opportunities at our national Apostolic Christian ministries.

More new features are already in the works and will arrive the first half of 2017. Be sure to regularly check Google Play or the App Store for updates.

Want to support new feature development? Donations for AC Central are appreciated and are currently routed through HarvestCall. Write AC Central on your check memo or choose it when making an online donation at harvestcall.org

Bible Distribution: Sharing His Word in Love

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

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

Apostolic Christian Church Bible Distribution
651 E. Peoria Street, Goodfield, IL 61742
Phone: 309-965-2141 Email: bibledistribution@acpublications.org
**Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN**

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**Sunday Service:**
(by request only)
10:00 AM and 12:30 PM
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork
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**Mid-week Service:**
(held on 3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507) 281-2875

For church services schedule please visit
www.acmission.org/minister-rotation

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**Sunday School Teacher needed in Austin, TX**

Do You Have a Heart for Teaching Children?

If you answered “yes” to this question, please prayerfully consider answering the call for Sunday School Teachers in the Austin, Texas congregation. The congregation is very blessed to have approximately 20 children (half of their attendees) worship each Sunday as a result of outreach efforts. With this dynamic, they are requesting assistance in teaching the children about Jesus’ love and His gospel message.

Couples, families or singles are encouraged to answer the call. The Austin congregation is praying for God to direct hearts and would love to have you join their congregation. To express interest or find out more information, send an e-mail to cec@harvestcall.org. Your response will be directed to the Austin Church leadership.

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**Mentors Needed – The New Beginnings of Southwest Florida**

TNB is currently looking for mentors. Want an opportunity to serve in your own backyard? We are looking for someone who is called by God to be involved with helping single mothers and their children. We are in need of a single sister or couple between the ages of 45-60 to assist us in helping bring God’s word into these young women’s lives. This person must be committed to sharing God’s unconditional and sacrificial love. If this resonates with you, please prayerfully give TNB a call for more information.

The New Beginnings,
4810 Marine Dr., Cape Coral FL, 33904
239.541.4312 | admin@thenewbeginnings.org

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**Light from the Word**

Now available by downloadable PDF at www.acpublications.org

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Year 2017</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Year 2017</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>May 27 - Jun 3</td>
<td>Marshall Witzig Phoenix Bible Class 602-918-0088 <a href="mailto:mowitzig@edgeconstruct.com">mowitzig@edgeconstruct.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jun 10 - 17</td>
<td>Mike Zobrist Congerville 309-660-7004 <a href="mailto:zobfam@gmail.com">zobfam@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Jun 17 - 24</td>
<td>Dave Roberts Indianapolis Bible Class 317-225-6112 <a href="mailto:daveroberts5594@gmail.com">daveroberts5594@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Nov 18 - 25</td>
<td>Rod Schmidt 303-718-1432 <a href="mailto:rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com">rod.schmidt@watershedfoods.com</a></td>
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**Jamaica Work Teams**

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<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JDV</td>
<td>Jun 09-17</td>
<td>Mark Lindberg 815-641-9065 <a href="mailto:Mark.Lindberg@Hyatt.com">Mark.Lindberg@Hyatt.com</a></td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCD</td>
<td>Oct 28-31</td>
<td>Loren Dettwyler <a href="mailto:landv@aol.com">landv@aol.com</a></td>
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**Haiti Medical Work Teams to Hospital Lumiere**

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<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Year 2017</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>May 13 - 20</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Jun 10 - 17</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Jul 8 - 15</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Aug 6 - 12</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Sep 9 - 16</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Oct 7 - 14</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Nov 4 - 11</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonne Finn, Haiti</td>
<td>Dec 9 - 16</td>
<td>Lydia Bertschi</td>
<td>Hospital Lumiere 309-253-0402 <a href="mailto:lydiabertschi@yahoo.com">lydiabertschi@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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**Haiti, Bonne Fin -- Work Teams**

The Hospital Lumiere renovation program continues to restore and improve the facility to an environment that honors God and provides an atmosphere that contributes to the wellbeing of the hospital staff, our patients and their families.

Hospital Lumiere has an ongoing need for maintenance and/or construction teams and especially for skilled electricians. Rather than listing predetermined dates and asking people to fit into them, if a team, or individual, is interested in coming, they should contact the Facilities Director Bro. David Zimmerman to discuss possible dates and available projects.

Contact: David Zimmerman
Phone: 011-509-344-62800
Email: dlzimm4@hotmail.com

**Haiti Awareness Tours**

If you'd like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumiere 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 you 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 HarvestCall projects in southern Haiti. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand.

2017 Haiti Awareness Tours: Fall 2017 – Sept. 23-27

To learn more, contact:
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuehrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuehrichfarms.com
SPONSORSHIP: Giving Children Hope for the Future

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

The goal of this program is to provide an education so these children can learn life skills to enable them to become more productive adults. In addition, its purpose is to present a spiritual opportunity to be exposed to the gospel message and eventually be called to serve our Lord and Savior, 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 or School

Fill out this form and send to the office. You’ll be assigned a student or school and sent further information. Learn more about child sponsorship, including costs, at: harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship

Name _________________________
☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss
Spouse _________________________
Address _______________________
City ____________ St ___ Zip _____
Home Ph _______________________
Cell Ph _______________________
Email _________________________

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

If possible, I prefer:
☐ Boy – Age _______
☐ Girl – Age _______
☐ No Preference

Send to:
HarvestCall Child Sponsorship
PO Box 36
Morton, IL 61550
Phone: 309-266-6080
Fax: 309-266-5281
Email: childsponsorship@harvestcall.org

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professionals with training, skills and experience in the medical field who have a desire to serve at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti are encouraged to contact us. Terms of service are very flexible, ranging from 1-2 weeks to several months. Current specific needs include: any board certified physician surgeon or specialist, ultrasound technician or anesthesia provider (Anesthesiologist and CRNAs).

If you are led to the mission field but your skill set and qualifications are not a good match for any of the listed positions, please contact us. While the above positions are needed, there is flexibility on requirements listed as well as job description(s). Many times, the role that is filled can be developed to fit the gifts of the applicant.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact:
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HarvestCall

PROFESSIONALS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD
Short Term Opportunities at Hospital Lumiere

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Qualifications include: knowledge and understanding of business administration including financial control and accounting, general knowledge of human resource management, business work processes, ability to lead and manage people, be a believer in Jesus Christ, willing and capable of learning the Creole language and Haitian culture, willingness to reside in Haiti (with your spouse/family if applicable) for minimum of 3 years, willing to learn and manage other areas critical to a successful hospital — such as security, data systems and IT and labor law.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact:
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HarvestCall

Terms of Service
- Full time residing in Haiti
- Housing provided adjacent to other brethren and missionaries
- Initial year of service requires a significant period of time studying Haitian Creole and culture.
- Training will be provided prior to placement in the field. It is also desired that time will be allowed for a three month minimum transition period between the new Director of Operations and the existing, to allow for a successful transition in leadership.

Candidate selection, preparation, training, sending and supporting will be conducted using HarvestCall’s established Outreach Policies and Procedures.
FACILITIES DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR OPENING

at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

Seeking to fill this full-time paid position at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti. Qualifications include: understanding of and ability to work with electricity, general diagnostic and troubleshooting skills, general knowledge of construction and plumbing, ability to lead and manage people, be a believer in Jesus Christ, willing and capable of learning the Creole language and Haitian culture, willingness to reside in Haiti (with your spouse/family if applicable) for minimum of 3 years, willing to learn and work with the broad range of systems and equipment necessary to the hospital — such as electricity generation (hydro, diesel and solar), medical equipment and water distribution.

For more information on Hospital Lumiere positions, contact:
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748

Terms of Service
• Full time residing in Haiti
• Housing provided adjacent to other brethren and missionaries
• Initial year of service requires a significant period of time studying Haitian Creole and culture.
• Training will be provided prior to placement in the field. It is also desired that time will be allowed for a six month minimum transition period between the new Facilities Department Director and the existing, to allow for training in the hospital’s many different systems.

Candidate selection, preparation, training, sending and supporting will be conducted using HarvestCall’s established Outreach Policies and Procedures.

TEACHER OPPORTUNITY

Missionary School, Bonne Fin, Haiti

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti is presently seeking a teacher for missionary children. This position involves full-time teaching in the multi-level classroom setting of the Bonne Fin Missionary School on the Hospital Lumiere compound. This is a full time missionary position with a service term of 11 months, with the opportunity to extend the term of service.

Qualifications include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church. A minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree is preferred, especially in the field of Education or Child Development. Applicants should possess the ability to communicate effectively with students, parents and visitors to the school, and have a nurturing and caring attitude toward children, and a heart and desire to serve others through service to Jesus Christ.

For additional details for this exciting and worthy position contact
Robert Beebe. Email: robert.beebe1@gmail.com, or Phone: 574-276-6748
Openings at Cite Lumiere, Les Cayes, Haiti

Mechanic, Construction Department Assistant

The HarvestCall Caribbean Committee is seeking to fill several missionary positions based at the Cite Lumiere compound in Les Cayes, Haiti. The specific job description may vary depending on the applicant’s interests and skills. Help is specifically needed in the following areas:

**Equipment mechanic**
An equipment mechanic is needed in the Construction Department in Haiti to maintain the vehicles, generators, and construction equipment at Cite Lumiere and Bonne Finn, Haiti and order, purchase, and maintain inventory of parts to support the HarvestCall programs in southern Haiti. This position would also involve training and mentoring a Haitian assistant to provide future mechanical maintenance. The equipment mechanic would reside in the Cite Lumiere compound in Les Cayes and report to the Construction Operations Facilitator. The applicant should be experienced in mechanical maintenance.

**Construction Dept. Assistant**
An assistant is needed in the Construction Department at Cite Lumiere as the work has expanded for the program and related ministries. This applicant could be a single brother or couple. Skills that would be valuable in the ministry include:
- Carpentry
- Mechanical experience

All applicants must be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, willing to learn Creole and relocate to Haiti for a minimum of 3 years, and have a heart to serve the Haitian people.

**If you feel led to serve or have questions, contact:**
Bro. Jon Zeller
309-208-0639
Jczeller1972@gmail.com

All applicants must be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, willing to learn Creole and relocate to Haiti for a minimum of 3 years, and have a heart to serve the Haitian people.

**Used Bible, Bible Story Book, and Song Book Distribution**

Used Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Zion’s Harp, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacle Hymns are needed.

AC Publications is now the collection center for your donated books.
651 E. Peoria St, Goodfield, IL 61742
Tennessee Fellowship Weekend Event Schedule for May 27-28

For those planning to attend the Tennessee Fellowship Weekend, below is the schedule of events, directions and options for overnight accommodations. Also, it's not too late to RSVP to attend the event. Contact any of the coordinators listed below. “Living a Fruitful Life” will be the overarching theme for the 2017 Weekend. Bros. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN) and Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) plan to speak about living the fruit of the Spirit in our individual lives, within our families and as a “family” of God.

The Athens, Alabama congregation invites all to come and join them for this uplifting weekend filled with spiritual insights, fellowship and bringing glory to God through song.

Saturday – May 27
8:00 a.m. -- Work project - Contact Bro. Bruce Aschliman if you are interested for planning/coordination.
2:00 p.m. -- Auction to raise funding for upkeep of the property. Donated items for the auction will be greatly appreciated.
If you can’t make it to the event this year, tax-deductible auction/monetary donations can be sent to Bruce Aschliman at 181 Old Hwy 64 in Pulaski, TN 38478. (Make checks payable to Tennessee Fellowship Area.)
6:00 p.m. -- Supper followed by congregational and special group singing and Bro. Jeff’s message.

Sunday, May 28
10:00 a.m. -- Worship with the Athens congregation.
3:30 p.m. -- Afternoon activities resume at the Fellowship area including singing, fellowship and Bro. Scott’s message.

Central Illinois Bus – For those who are interested in riding a bus to the Tennessee Fellowship Weekend, there’s still time to sign up. Please contact Bro. Phil or Sis. Cindi Witzig. The bus will leave from the Morton, IL area.

Overnight Accommodations -- 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. Lisa Aschliman at the info listed below for more information.

Choirs, Quartets and Ensembles – If any of you are interested in attending the 2017 weekend, please contact Bro. Phil Witzig as listed below.

For questions or to RSVP, please contact any of the coordinators below.
Bro. Bruce or Sis. Lisa Aschliman – (260)824-5160 or bash412002@yahoo.com
Bro. Phil or Cindi Witzig - 309.263.0152 or pw@itv-3.com
Bro. Mark or Sis. Rebekah Klaus - 256.777.7777 or mklaus777@gmail.com
Bro. Daron or Sis. Monica Price – 256.445.2853 or daronprice@gmail.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

Tennessee Fellowship Area Hotels - Motel 6 (931)363-4501
Athens, Alabama Area hotels- Best Western (256)233-4030; Travel Inn (256)232-2704; Fairfield Inn (256)233-4530; Days Inn (800)329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256)232-0030; Hampton Inn (256)232-2377; Holiday Inn Express (800)465-4329 or (256)232-7931; Sleep Inn (256)232-4700; Super 8 (256)233-1446.

Location: The Tennessee Fellowship Area is located in Southern Tennessee at 181 Old Hwy 64 in Pulaski, TN, just off of Interstate 65 at Exit 14 (Pulaski). If you use GPS, some units may not take you to the correct location with the town of Pulaski. For Mapquest and Garmin, for example, use the town of Frankewing instead of Pulaski. Directions have also been provided below.

Directions: From the North, turn left onto Hwy 64 after exiting (from the South, turn right onto Hwy 64). Travel approximately 1/2 mile and turn left immediately before the bridge onto Old Hwy 64. You will see the Fellowship Area on the left.
Lord willing, the Fairbury congregation will be hosting the 2017 Apostolic Christian Men’s Hymn Sing on August 26 and 27. We are looking forward to a blessed weekend of singing and fellowship. We have been blessed with a rich heritage of hymn singing. 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, 2017 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 congregation.

If you are unable to access the internet, you may write or call:
Bill Schmidgall
305 E. Mirlynbeth Ln., Fairbury, IL 61739
Phone: 815-848-4730  Email: baschmidgall680@gmail.com
Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel...

Is God calling you to live, love and serve His Kingdom? Serve to show God’s grace and love to vulnerable and hurting youth and families. It’s challenging, tough, gritty work with people from some very difficult circumstances. Lives will be changed, you will be challenged, God’s kingdom will be blessed.

We currently have these opportunities to serve. If you think it’s possible this could be your calling, please pray. Then contact us for more information.

Counselor  
Full-time position

Home-Based Worker  
Full-time position

Summer Internships  
Summer positions

For more information:  
gatewaywoods.org/careers  
888-443-4283
Helping the Hurting
Nurturing Hope
Encouraging Growth

Podcasts
26 Breaking Bread podcast episodes totaling over 24,000 downloads.

Reach
Provided services to 68 Apostolic Christian Churches last year.

Donations
75% of our operating costs are covered by your generous donations.

Missions
Partnership with HarvestCall to provide ongoing missionary care.

Counseling
3042 client sessions in 2016.

Published
27 We have adapted Bible Studies & published Keys to a Healthy Marriage, written by ACCFS staff.

Teaching
85 In 2016, 85 presentations & trainings were conducted to 30 churches with over 5,500 individuals in attendance.

Triage calls
498 individuals called for help and information last year.

www.accounseling.org
515 E. Highland St, Morton, IL 61550

Proverbs 11:14
Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.
Our focus may be diverted from "considering one another to provoke unto love and to good works," towards comparing ourselves amongst ourselves, and trusting in our own works. This is not wise. Rather than fall into these traps, let's be inspired with the example of Christ, who saw a world of scattered sheep and focused on their needs.

So, how are each of us doing? The test of our love for God is measured by our trust and obedience in Him—that He will provide us all that we need, and that His will is best for us. We know that, if we trust Him and if we are not just hearers but doers of the Word, this faith-based action results in a happiness in our lives, as well as God's blessing. Just as John rejoiced when he observed "thy children walking in truth," as this unfeigned Christ-like love for all mankind is expressed in every aspect of our lives, it leads to the "astonishment" of those who come in contact with us. They no longer see us, but rather Jesus Christ, as we are crucified with Him, living in us. It is His love, the fruit of the Holy Spirit living within us that can draw all men to the truth.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God."18

(Footnotes)
1 2 John 4
2 1 John 2:15
3 Prov. 3:5&6
4 John 14:15
5 Matt. 22:37-40
6 1 Cor. 13: 3
7 Luke 10:33
8 John 1:14
9 Gal. 5:13
10 Matt. 7:15
11 Eph. 4:14
12 Heb. 10:24
13 2 Cor. 10:12
14 James 1:22
15 John 13:17
16 James 1:25
17 2 John 1:4
18 1 John 4:7

1 John 5:13

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
Are they paid for? Am I now striving to live a sinless life? Am I looking to serve my God every day as Lois and Eunice and Timothy and Paul?

Most of us don’t think of being a prisoner as a good thing. We are bound. We are unable to go and do the things we would like, but what is it that we would like to do? Our flesh has all kinds of desires, most of them not good for us, but our spiritual man, our inner man that is fed by the Holy Spirit, by God, and by Jesus Christ desires and longs to serve Him.

Our spiritual man wants to be a prisoner, unable to do the things that are not edifying, unwilling to do the things that are detrimental that won’t lead us on the pathway to heaven. We want to be a prisoner of Jesus Christ. We want to live according to His will.

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” (v.8-9) If we remember in the Gospel of John chapter 1 (v.1-4, 10), “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” - speaking of Jesus Christ - “The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men…He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.” That Word, Jesus Christ, was sent to earth, and he references that when he says, “his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” Jesus was alive with God. Jesus was God. Jesus is God. Before the world began He was present with the Father. He created the world, and He had to leave the glories of heaven and come to earth. He was rejected of man. We can read all about that in John chapter 1. He was the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, and He was rejected by them. The world knew Him not. Men would choose darkness rather light because they are the prisoners of Satan.

How do we escape that? How do we go from being a prisoner of Satan and bound by sin to being a prisoner of Jesus Christ, saved by His blood and by His grace and by His love toward us? It’s not by our works. It says that here - “…not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace…” Because God loved us and He knew we could not reconcile ourselves, He sent Jesus. That’s the way. That’s the only way. We have to put our trust in Jesus. We are called to repentance. We are called to turn away from the old life, to be sorry for our sins, to walk away from it, to become converted, to allow ourselves to be taught of God. This is now how you live. This is the new life, focused on God and on His works and on His love and on what He wants us to do.

“But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” (v.10) The Gospel is very simple, very concise, easy for any of us to grasp - I was a sinner. There was nothing I could do to rectify that. Jesus called me to repentance, and it’s His shed blood on the cross that saves me from my sins and saves me from hell. Now, I want to live for Him.

All of the Bible that we read, all of the Scriptures, all of the Gospels and the letters to the churches and the letters to individuals are teaching us how we can live for God. What a comfort that God has laid it out so clearly to us that even a fool cannot err! We like to make it pretty complicated sometimes. We like to bring in scenarios - well, what about this or what about that? It sounds kind of trite maybe, but we can answer almost every question
with ‘What would Jesus do?’ How would Jesus have reacted in this situation? If there’s any question as to whether it’s good and right and edifying and building up, then I don’t think Jesus would have had anything to do with it. If it’s about helping someone else and we have a question in our mind, I think we could say Jesus would have done it.

We read about the marriage in Cana and how His mother said, ‘Just do what Jesus tells you to do.’ He says, ‘Mine hour is not yet come.’ Yet He was willing to help. (St. John 2:1-11) Jesus wants to help the sick. Jesus wants to help those who are lost in sin. Jesus wants us to do the same. There are no shady areas with Jesus. There are no questions if this is right or if that is right or just how wrong is it, how much bad can we accept with the good that might come with this activity, or whatever you have. Are we focused on God? Are we focused on what He wants for us?

“Heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, help the afflicted, and serve the Lord in all laws.”

(St. Paul) I think our mothers would go to great lengths to see their children. Is that our desire as God’s children that we would go to great lengths to just do something nice for each other, to be kind, to be loving? In Timothy’s mother and his grandmother, it was evident to Paul that they had unfeigned faith. Is that evident in our lives? I’m thankful I can say, ‘Yes!’ and when he was back there in Rome, he desired to see Paul again. Yes, when it’s easy for us we sure enjoy visiting and fellowshipping, but do we go out of our way for that?

I know it’s been talked about times before, but when we go on a vacation and we’re going to be away from our home church, do we seek a place that has a church? Or, is that too inconvenient? Are we willing to go a little out of our way that we can gather with God’s people? Onesiphorus did. “The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well.” (v.18)

I think our mothers would go to great lengths to see their children. Is that our desire as God’s children that we would go to great lengths to just do something nice for each other, to be kind, to be loving? In Timothy’s mother and his grandmother, it was evident to Paul that they had unfeigned faith. Is that evident in our lives? I’m thankful I can say, ‘Yes! It is!” in my mother’s life and in my grandmothers’ lives. I strive for that as well that it could be evidenced in my life and that the glory and praise would be to God, that Jesus Christ would guide us, and His Holy Spirit would be with us in this life and one day we could all be together with Him in heaven.

“That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.” (v.14) God with us. Immanuel. Jesus was with us for a time on earth, but when He needed to go back to heaven, He said, ‘I will not leave you comfortless. I will send the Holy Spirit that He may guide and direct and comfort and encourage you.’ (St. John 14-16) He dwelleth in those of us who have a pure heart that can be indwelt by the Holy Spirit, that is solely purposed toward Him, dedicated, sanctified, and willing that our will would be in line with His.

He talks about Onesiphorus. “But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.” (v.17) I’m a little ashamed at times. When I go to a place where I know someone is who maybe would be happy to see me or happy to share memories or maybe to hear the greetings of someone from back home, am I diligent in seeking them out? Or very simply, if I am away and someone says, ‘Take greetings to this person’, by the time I get home, I can’t even remember who it was that wanted to send the greetings. That was very precious at that time. They saw very little of each other. Maybe it was someone who Paul had taught years ago,
This article continues our focus on the immigration of our foreparents, who came from Europe to settle in America. There is a high focus today on the processes of immigration -- and it’s interesting to look back at the practical aspects of travel to America by our loved ones. Excerpts are taken from “Marching To Zion” and other sources.

Frederick Guth
“A vivid account of the trip to America was provided by Frederick Guth, who came in 1882 when he was seven years old. He was one of eight children. “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 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. 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 these memories still haunt me because of my intimate sympathy for the hopes and aspirations 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 all when, early in the morning, the word was given -- we are here, there is New York.”

Jacob and Mary Wittmer
“Both Jacob and Mary Wittmer were good sailors as neither became homesick. Their children became quite sick, but survived the trip. These two children, along with another child, were the only three of thirteen children on the boat who survived to reach American shores.

When this family reached a hotel in New York City, they found it was completely full. The proprietor of the hotel, realizing their crestfallen countenance, very kindly offered his personal quarters for the night. The bone-weary Wittmers were very grateful for this deed of kindness. They eventually found their way to Monroe County, OH (Sardis) where they lived for one year before moving to Elgin, IA. The route they took was down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi River until they reached McGregor, IA. They chose to settle near Elgin because of the plentiful supply of water and trees.”

Aeschlemans
Samuel Aeschleman, who served many years as the elder of the church at Bluffton, IN, recalled how his grandparents came to America in 1853 and settled initially at Sardis, OH. The ocean trip took forty-nine days on a sailing vessel. During the Atlantic crossing, one of their children died and was buried at sea.

Nicholas Bach
The Bach family arrived in New York City and stayed overnight before boarding a train for Nebraska. Young Nicholas Bach, age 8, was anxious to see the wide-open spaces of America. Yet, in riding the train, it was so cold the windows became frosted and he had to scratch off the inside of the windows to get a view of the countryside. At the Chicago hotel where they resided, their quarters were on the third floor — the immigrant floor — which was one huge hall where immigrants slept on the floor with straw for a mattress. This was the land of the free and the home of the brave. A little discomfort was readily tolerated. Nicholas Bach eventually resided in Fairbury, IL.

-By Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue: More on immigrant traveling.
The Opportunity to Love

All of us human beings have a great need to be loved. Somewhere in the back of my mind I remember telling my mother as a small child, I believe when I first started to school in the first grade, “Nobody loves me.” Everybody loved me, but the thought that nobody loved me was devastating. I must have been thinking how it would be if nobody loved me. I was crying and my mother asked why I was crying. I replied, “Nobody loves me.” My mother assured me that I was very much loved. I still have a great need to be loved, as do we all.

Recently, since I lost my wife, Lois, on February 28 of last year, a different thought has crossed my mind. We not only need to be loved, but we desperately need someone to love, someone on whom to pour our admiration and care. Anyone who has lost a spouse or someone else who was near and dear, feels incomplete. No longer is that person’s love forthcoming for us, but perhaps even more troubling, is the fact that our reason for living has been undermined.

The solution to this problem is to love God more, and to love others more. 1 John 4:16 reads, “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” God loves us. The Bible teaches that over and over again. The first and greatest commandment is that we are to love God with all our heart. We are to reciprocate that love. One way we can show our love for God is to love other people, all people. When Jesus taught about the judgment of the nations, He said, “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.” Matthew 25:40.

In the Scripture quoted from 1 John, the term “Dwelleth in love,” is used. That is a thought provoking phrase. It seems to indicate that we are swimming or bathing in love, that it surrounds us constantly and is evident to everyone we meet. It is not something that we turn off and on. As God is love, we should be love. The Bible teaches that we are to walk as Christ walked and He was God in the flesh. “He that sayeth he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” 1 John 2:6.

If we do not show love to those around us, it is an opportunity lost. To show love to those around us is not an inconvenience, it is a basic need that we have if we want to be a whole person as God intended for us to be. To live for self is not fulfilling in the real sense. It is only a facade. The Bible tells us that we are to die to self and we shall live. That is the true life which God wants for us.

God takes full advantage of His opportunity to love us. The Apostle Paul writes, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20. Paul realized that Christ gave Himself for us and that it follows that we should give ourselves for Him. One way to do that is to love others more and more. All human beings have their faults, but I have never met anyone who didn’t have something to teach me, or from whom I could not learn something. Let’s emphasize each other’s good points and only in love make suggestions as to how others might possibly be able to improve or do better. God is right. You and I are wrong, by comparison.

It is absolutely wonderful to be loved by God and by other human beings, but it is also wonderful that there are people all-around us, waiting and longing to be loved by us. It is an opportunity to love.

-By Willis Ehnle
He gave us eyes to see them
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

Hymns of Zion #207 vs.5