Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 4:13-14
Our Savior

1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

As a believer, does a day ever pass without thinking of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross of Calvary? Does an hour or even many minutes go by where in some fashion our thoughts, and at times inner groanings, are directed toward him? What a joy it is to be joined to him, live for him, abide in his vine. What a comfort he is during difficult trials and temptations. What a deliverer he is when we surrender our will and hearts to him. As we immerse ourselves in his word during this special Easter time of the year may we feel his nearness, love, and forgiveness. “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

We are a truly blessed people!

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm and Rick Plattner, Counseling Elders

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Esteeming One Another

Editor’s Note: The Bible uses the term “one another” multiple times and it is clear God is very interested in our relationships. Jesus taught that the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourselves. In 2018, we will look at several of the “one anothers” in the Bible.

“In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

The word esteem means, to set a value on, whether high or low; to estimate. That definition reminds us of a couple of different but complementary thoughts. First, it reminds us that this is our own determination of someone’s or something’s value—it isn’t necessarily the correct value, but rather our perspective. We can understand this when we go to a garage sale. As we walk around, looking at the different items, there are price tags on them. The owner has set what they have perceived as the value of the item. We put our own value on them, and if there is similarity, we make a purchase. If not, we pass on by and potentially miss an “opportunity.”

Second, we are reminded that it is an estimation. We may never know the true or complete value of the object or individual. Have we ever experienced that in our own lives? This can happen not only when we are perusing items at a garage sale, but also when it involves other people. We often are so busy that we don’t really know their situation, their joys, their talents, their struggles. We often only see “one side” of someone and miss an opportunity to help or be helped on our Christian walk.

Who can help us see the true value of an item or an individual? We read in St. John, “All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.” As our Creator, He knows the “downsitting and uprising” of all men and if we ask Him in prayer, we will receive all that we need to have the right view of others. Throughout the Bible we read of the value that God placed on each individual, no matter what their background. He loved us so much, that He desired that not one would perish, but that all would come to eternal life. And He translated that desire into action by sending His only begotten Son here to the earth to shed His blood that all through faith in the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ would be saved.

Esteeming someone higher than ourselves is first placing the same value on them as God does, which then spurs us to action to help them (by God’s grace) in their need. How does this manifest itself in our lives? What examples do we have in Scripture?

The best example is Jesus. We are reminded that He left the glories of Heaven, to take upon Himself the robe of flesh, be tempted and tried in all ways common to men, to shed His blood on the cross, for our salvation. Eternal life – the ultimate gift, purchased at the ultimate price, His life. Now, think of the times when we may have been presented with a situation, where we were asked to “get out of our comfort zone” so that we could help someone else. What is our first reaction? Do we complain? Do we look for a way out? How does that compare to what Christ did for us?

In the Bible, we see how Jesus valued others differently than how the disciples and others around Him did. What examples come to mind? In each situation, Christ saw those in need, reached out to them and provided their need. We see this in the little children who wanted to come to see Jesus,

— Please turn to pg. 66
Monthly Sermon

Sermon by Bro.
Tom Bolliger, Tremont, IL


As we came in, Brother Kent said, “He is risen! He is risen!” As I think about the times we get together and celebrate special occasions and we think about Easter when we celebrate when Jesus Christ arose. Frankly, for a Christian, there is no other greater day than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We all love to hear about Jesus Christ as the Babe in the manger, and it is a very special time. We read about how He was here upon this earth and the things He said and did and the example He set, and even as we commemorated on Good Friday when He died, shed His precious blood, this is culmination of it. As we say, is any portion of that greater than the other, and we have to say if we didn't have all portions of it, the whole story couldn't be completed right. But, this has got to be the cherry on top, isn’t it?

As we think about that, as Brother Kent was saying what kind of sacrifice would you bring, there is nothing that we could bring. There is nothing but Jesus Christ. I hope and pray as we look into God’s Word that we can really draw close to Him and be thankful for what He did for us. It’s really kind of a struggle to know where to turn on this day because it is so aptly described in all four of the Gospels. It’s a little bit different in each one of the Gospels, but I’ve chosen to turn to the book of Matthew. The heading on this chapter here is the “Resurrection of Christ”.

As I think about the setting of this, Jesus was with His disciples for 3ish years, teaching them, encouraging them, chastening them, loving them, and they thought Jesus Christ was going to be their king here upon this earth. Even with all that instruction, it didn’t quite get through, and we probably would’ve been the same way.

Can you imagine the mindset of the disciples and Mary Magdalene and the other Marys and all the other women that followed Jesus and all the untold people whose names are not mentioned? Can you imagine how they felt because just two or three days prior to this, their Savior, their Redeemer, the One they believed was the Son of God, died on the cross. It seemed like it was all over. What are we going to do? I believe it even says that the disciples were assembling together in fear because they didn't know what to do (St. John 20:19). What were the Jewish people and leaders going to do to them? That feeling of hopelessness!

But, Jesus Christ wasn’t done with them, and Jesus Christ isn’t done with you either. So there may be times when you feel a little hopeless. Where do I go? It seems like maybe my feet have been swept out from underneath me. Why God? Why God? But, God is still there. We read about the hope that each one of us as God’s children can and do have.

I’m just thinking — sometimes we as people think we’re in control of events. I’m thinking about how the Jewish people, and you probably read about it on Good Friday, said, ‘They said Jesus was going to rise in three days, and we need to make sure that body doesn’t disappear so that they can claim that Jesus Christ arose.’ They were given the authorization to go and seal it, put guards there to make sure that this happens.

Can you imagine this morning 2,000-some years ago? It wasn’t any simple rock that could keep Jesus Christ in the grave. Can you imagine the power and the might that He came bursting forth from that grave, overcoming death? Satan thought he had Jesus right where he needed Him, right where he wanted Him — I’ve killed the Son of God. He was so wrong! Aren’t we thankful for that?

Can you imagine those soldiers as they quaked as dead men as the angel came down and removed that rock and Jesus arose? Think about that rock a little bit. Sometimes if we’re not careful, we can have a rock in our life, a rock between us and Jesus Christ. I think this is really important that we understand
what was done, the significance of what was done, and that we also understand how we apply this to us. We all know the account, and I’m so thankful that you do. But, how do we apply that to us?

When I think about the rock, I think about the time — and each one of us who are God’s children need to go back to that time when our heart was a stone. It was hard! It seemed like there was going to be no way that stone would be able to be moved. Do you remember that? Maybe not all of us had quite as hard of hearts as maybe me or you. You know your own experience. I think of mine, and I was a little bit older when I came to Jesus Christ. My heart was a heart of stone, but inside I knew there was life in there. I knew there was hope in there on the other side of that rock. That rock was moved.

For each one of us, whether it was a big rock or a little rock, it was there and it was an obstacle between us and God. I don’t know if in reality here if the stone was ever really an obstacle between Jesus and God because Jesus knew He was going to arise. He knew. But, sometimes in my own mind I didn’t know if I knew. I didn’t know. It was kind of a hopeless feeling, and maybe it was for you too.

I truly believe in a real sense, somehow someway, that God had His angel there, just like He did for Jesus Christ. When we reached out and maybe even touched that stone and wondered if we could move that stone away from our heart and our lives, that angel was right there on the other side, and that stone was rolled away. I don’t think of the stone just simply, slowly rolling away. I think it was slammed back! Satan was overcome!

Do we wander around that stone a little bit in our lives? Do we get ourselves in a position where that stone could actually roll back across the opening again? I think that’s a challenge to each one of us as God’s children. We could see that even in the Word as we see the challenges with the disciples. It’s really no different for us. We can shake our head at Thomas for doubting and say, “Thomas, Thomas, Thomas, how could you have done that?” But if we’re really honest and sincere with ourselves, we look at our own lives and we can put our own names in there. We’ve done it, haven’t we? We’ve doubted. That didn’t make it right, but it’s just a fact of life.

As I think about Jesus in these 40 days that He spent with the disciples after He arose, it says the acts that He performed, and not only in those 40 days but all the acts that He performed, I don’t believe the world could hold all the books if I was to write down all those things that He did. Jesus cared for His disciples and for His people back then and now! He cared about Mary Magdalene who He had cast out seven devils. There were a number of other ones — I think there were Salome and another Mary, the mother of James, and a number that were mentioned. He did say Jesus really had a special relationship with those ladies and with those disciples, and He did! But that same relationship is the relationship we can have with Jesus Christ.

See it really matters. It is really up to us. Jesus is there. It’s really up to us as to what kind of a relationship we want to have with Jesus Christ. I think about Joseph of Arimathaea, one that went and asked for Jesus’ body to be buried, and He kind of worshipped Jesus in secret. So did Nicodemus. He was a ruler so he had authority of some sort within the framework of the Jewish political hierarchy or religious hierarchy or whatever it might have been. He was a little afraid. If we’re honest with ourselves, we’re a little afraid sometimes too.

I sometimes wonder if Joseph and Nicodemus thought back on that time and thought about the times when they were afraid to worship Jesus and said, ‘I wish I would’ve done things a little bit different.’ I think that’s really the same for each one of us. We can’t go back and relive those times. We can go forward and we can do our very best to serve Jesus Christ.

— Please turn to pg. 67
Ministry Program Updates

Seeking Wisdom from Above

Church Establishment Committee

The Church Establishment Committee (CEC) seeks to be faithful to the Great Commission through the charge given to HarvestCall by the Word of God, and reinforced by the Elder Body, to establish and nurture churches and preach and teach the whole counsel of God. Through these efforts, the CEC is learning how utterly dependent it is on God for how, when and where. Prayers are continuously ascending to “the Lord of the Harvest” that he would call and send laborers into the harvest to share the gospel with the lost within our local communities and to relocate beyond to small existing or new churches (Luke 10:2). As the CEC shares some of God’s work in this area, they invite you to rejoice in God’s provisions for the expansion of His Kingdom and to join them in prayer and fasting as you see our collective dependence on him for a continued increase in the establishment of churches.

Church Planting

At the August 2017 church conference, the elder body spent time in prayer asking God to identify brethren to send into a new church plant in the U.S. Brethren were then contacted, interviewed and asked to devote time in prayer. Already, four couples have felt God’s Spirit calling them to pray and fast together. We are now dependent on God’s leading to identify additional brethren and determine who will go, where they will go, and when. (Ephesians 1:17)

The CEC will come alongside these couples to support and guide them through a church planting framework. An exploratory committee will be established to develop a church vision, potential locations/communities to fulfil the vision, outreach opportunities in the community, ministry leadership, financial support and other key aspects to begin a church. Using the framework enables us as a brotherhood to be more intentional about church planting while remaining tuned in to God’s wisdom. Is God calling you to support this effort through prayer, to join the couples praying together or in other ways?

Church Bolstering

We thank God for how he has moved within the brotherhood to supply many needs in Austin/

Avoiding Religious Syncretism

Syncretism, as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, is “the reconciliation or fusion of differing systems of belief.”

During a recent trip to Togo Africa, I learned that while the vast majority of the population in the northern part of the country are identified as Muslim, their religious practices are a blend of Islam and Animism. At the risk of gross oversimplification, it appeared that, in general, the syncretistic blend of Islam and Animism promised eternal rewards as well as assistance for the here and now. If they pray five times a day to Allah and their good outweighs their bad they will go to heaven according to the tenets of their Islamic belief system. At the same time, if they are having health problems, financial difficulties, or issues with their neighbor, they visit the local witch doctor for assistance and follow his animistic prescriptions of fetish formulas and rituals.

This seemed so contradictory until I began to think about the ways we see religious syncretism in Western Christianity. A few examples include:

* Serving self - “The highest good, according to our society, is ‘finding yourself’ and then living by ‘what’s right for you,’” says David Kinnaman, president of the Barna group. Millions of Christians have grafted New Age dogma onto their spiritual person. When we...
Bastrop, TX and St. Louis, MO. Both churches have had a number of families and singles relocate and help with their establishment and outreach into the community. The churches are working to integrate these brethren into their local church and trust God to place each one as it pleases him. Join these congregations in thanking God for His provision and requesting His presence as they utilize more of their own local resources to fulfill the 4-Pillar mission.

The CEC has also been working with the brethren in Lamar, MO to bolster their church congregation. Already the call has gone out through various media for three to four families to move (especially those gifted with Sunday School teaching and song leading talents) to support this church body of approximately 30 individuals. In the coming months, they plan to develop their local vision including additional outreach into the community by pairing five younger singles with the experience of more seasoned individuals.

At the same time, the Kitchener church has finished a “gifts assessment” to learn more about the resources they have locally. Soon you will learn about their needs for additional gifts and a call for additional laborers.

Join them in praying to God for his Spirit to provide additional avenues to share the love of Jesus.

**Integrating Planting/Bolstering into the HarvestCall Regions**

As HarvestCall’s integration continues, the CEC is helping to incorporate church planting and bolstering into the various regions of HarvestCall. This includes adapting and applying these two frameworks outside of the American culture. The Mexico Committee, for example, is making plans to bolster our three churches in Mexico, with an initial focus in Barra Vieja. As initial assessments become complete, we expect opportunity and the need for laborers, both cross-culturally and between our Mexico churches. May we pray together that the lost in Mexico can receive the gospel, new believers can be nurtured into disciples and churches can be established with sound doctrine.

**Feel called to help?**

Can you appreciate the need for God’s wisdom in each of these locations and for the CEC providing oversight? — Please turn to pg. 66

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peel back the layers, we find that many Christians are using the way of Jesus to pursue the way of self. “Most believe that the Bible is the source of moral norms that transcend a person’s culture, and that those moral truths are absolute rather than relative. Yet, at the same time, solid majorities ascribe to five of the six tenets of the morality of self-fulfillment. [www.barna.com/research/the-end-of-absolutes-americas-new-moral-code](http://www.barna.com/research/the-end-of-absolutes-americas-new-moral-code)

**Matthew 16:24-25**

- **Materialism** - a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as or more important than spiritual values. Trusting in Jesus for eternal life while at the same time trusting in our material possessions for the here and now; believing that gain is godliness. *I Timothy 6:5-17*

- **Evolution** - believing that the scriptures are inerrant while at the same time believing in (or attempting to reconcile with Biblical accounts) the big bang theory and the evolution of man over billions of years. *Genesis 1, Colossians 1*

May God grant us grace to continue earnestly contending for the truth unadulterated by the syncretism of our day. “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” *Jude 1:3*

— **John Huber**
Are you intentional?

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” Hebrews 10:24

God calls us into relationship. First into relationship with Him, our Heavenly Father. And then into relationships with each other within families, friends, our church family, and other settings. We are called to be members “one of another” (Rom. 12:5) as we walk through life. These relationships can provide a deep sense of encouragement and support while also being a key source of help and challenge in our spiritual growth. Such deep relationships require intentionality and trust, and the need for these characteristics can be part of the reason as to why this commitment is a step too far for many of us. Four common hindrances to relationships are highlighted below.

1) I am too Busy

The number one reason given by most when asked why they do not engage in spiritually challenging relationships is simply the busyness of life. We live in a society that is busy and seems to be getting busier. There has been a marked increase in the amount of things we can do, the information we can process, and the opportunities around us. Good things… and yet, things that can distract us from some of the priorities God’s Word calls us to do. Consider some of the points below:

• Do a time-spent analysis by listing out the hours of the day for a week and how you spend these moments. How much time was spent with relationships?
• Where do spiritually challenging relationships fall in the list of priorities you feel called to?
• Is there a way you can build out relationships in the midst of your daily activities? Can you go grocery shopping together with a good friend? Can you work together with someone on household projects, using these times to challenge and encourage each other while also getting work done?

2) Relationships are Hard Work

Relationships are work. No matter what the level of commitment or intended outcome, they will require work and maintenance. It is and always will be easier to do nothing. To engage well in a healthy, challenging, spiritually encouraging relationship will require you to be willing to be vulnerable with others, to open yourself up to sharing and to learning, and to sometimes address things in the past you would rather let lie in silence. Yet, the call of the church is to engage with each other (John 13:34-35, Rom. 12:5, Heb. 10:24). We will work for something we find value in. And we will put great effort into something if we think we will receive gain from it.

• Where are you investing most of your effort right now?
• What gain have you received from relationships in the past? List out specific examples.

3) I’ve had Bad Experiences in the Past

Some will avoid going deeper with relationships because they have been hurt in the past. Perhaps they reached out and bared their soul, but the concern was not reciprocated. Perhaps they were the victims of gossip or inappropriate sharing by others. These are real and present pains in the lives of many and it should challenge us to be wise in how we are conducting our relationships. Yet, if we are making excuses which keep us out of relationships, we must be careful that we do not let the past dictate the potential future. Many a good deed has gone
undone because of bitter memories of the past. Paul calls us to forget “those things which are behind and reach(ing) forth unto the things which are before” (Phil. 3:13). Applying this lesson can help us to not be held captive by the past but realize the opportunity which new relationships offer.

- Am I letting past relationships limit future relationships?
- What am I potentially missing due to this?
- What will it take for me to once again engage in relationships?

### 4) None of my Peer Group are Interested in such Things

A final reason individuals avoid healthy, challenging relationships is the belief that no one else is interested in such things. “I am the only one in my peer group or church family who cares about going deeper.” However, survey after survey have shown that other individuals are thinking the same thing you are. Older individuals desire to engage in mentorship but do not believe anyone would care what they have to say. Younger individuals desire mentorship but do not believe that anyone has time for them. These unspoken assumptions can keep healthy, encouraging and healing relationships separated. Be willing to take the initiative and step out in creating an environment of relationship within your church family. Share with your church leadership your desire to have a mentor or to mentor others so that leadership can help make potential connections. Prayerfully be willing to sit down by someone at lunch or grab coffee with someone, seeking purely to learn from each other and grow together. There are many who desire this level of relationship. Let the Spirit connect and begin His work.

The hindrances above can go to great lengths in keeping us from relationships which God may want to use to encourage and build us up on our spiritual walk. Reflect on these barriers. Have they been evident in your life? Let us take hold of the promises of Scripture and lean on “one another” to strengthen and challenge each other to a deeper walk with our Lord. For further discussion, study, and application in the area of mentoring and intentional relationships, please review the resources at www.accounseling.org/mentoring.

ACCFS has numerous resources to assist someone as they interact with and help others. Our relationships can range from formal mentoring situations to the informal, encouraging conversations we hold nearly every day. Resources, discussion aids, and sample accountability questions can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/mentoring. In addition, our Mentor Training presentations can give practical skills regarding helping others. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
There are several places in scripture that we are encouraged to examine ourselves, to take a step back and look at our life in the reflection of God’s Holy Word. In this passage David requests that God examine his heart, and in the following verses he lists out the ways that he is seeking to follow God and His instructions. David seems to be seeking to be cleared of false charges made against him by his enemies. There are many reasons for taking the time to closely examine what we are doing. As individual believers it helps us align ourselves with God’s word. As organizations it confirms to our clientele that we are saying what we do, and doing what we say. Examination brings accountability, and often it requires action or correction.

We go through many examinations each year at LifePoints. We call them surveys, and they come from various entities that regulate how we provide care or run the business details for the agency. It would be untrue to say we look forward to surveys, they are disruptive and intrusive, and for some staff they can be intimidating. But we are thankful when surveys go well, and when a surveyor compliments our staff or our facilities it brings a certain kind of satisfaction and thankfulness that we are doing a good service to those who trust us with their care, or the care of their loved one. Surveys also may highlight areas that we can improve, giving us opportunity to make changes that provide a better life for our residents.

In the past weeks, we have had two different agencies survey our Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) home system, as well as a survey of our in-house Day Program at Timber Ridge. All of the surveys went well, and the surveyors were complimentary of our staff and the homes they lived in. One surveyor noted how calm staff were when they visited, saying this was unusual and it is clear they know their work and are confident in it. We were also encouraged to continue to seek to be more individualistic in meeting the needs of each resident. This is something we continue to work on, although in the CILA setting this is highly dependent on the availability of staff.

Overall, we are thankful for the continued good survey results and for God’s continued provision of dedicated staff with a heart for the people that we serve. We thank you for your continued prayer, and invite you to search your own heart, and see if God is leading you this way. If you find that He has work for you to do here, we encourage you to visit with us to see how you can get involved.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Lydia Meeks
— Assistant Houseparent

Once upon a time, in a residential facility by the name of Gateway Woods, there was placed a young man into the loving care of the houseparents of Maple House. This young man, although pleasant in nature, was extremely lackadaisical in his treatment and struggled to stay motivated to complete expected tasks in a timely manner. Unfortunately, this pleasant-natured young man struggled with staying awake and would prefer to stay in bed until the last minute before racing out the door for school. Then at school, he was apt to lay his head on his desk for periods of time and occasionally, a snort could be heard by his fellow classmates.

As time went on, this young man began to leave for school later and later and was sent to bed early every night, but the pattern of lateness continued. “How,” the houseparents asked, “can we
inspire this young man to wake up on time for school?” As they contemplated the problem, an idea began to form. “What if,” they ventured, “we hide five alarm clocks within his bedroom… and set them at different minute intervals…could this inspire our young man to vacate his bed in time for school?”

It was a worthy query, and executed immediately. While the young man was at school, his houseparents hid alarm clocks throughout his room. In addition to this young man’s personal alarm clock, four more were hidden under his bed, inside a desk drawer, under a pile of dirty laundry, and behind the overflowing trash can. His houseparents did not have to worry about an early discovery – cleanliness was not an obsession of the young man.

And so, the morning came. Breakfast was served, and the houseparents waited with bated breath to see if the young man would emerge before the time for school had passed. One alarm could be heard from the depths of his room, then two, then all five. His door burst open and the young man emerged, awake and indignant. “That’s not funny guys, I was already awake!”

As houseparents, we work with kids from all walks of life. Some kids are extremely motivated and thrive, while others need a bit of a wake-up call. Not just to get to school on time, but also a wake-up call to realize that there are people surrounding them who love them and truly want them to heal from the hurts of their past. And that is what happens here at Gateway Woods. Teenagers, who believe they are unlovable and beyond help, feel safe enough to trust their houseparents with their story. And by sharing their story they open the door of their heart to allow in hope for healing and love.

Brothers and sisters, at this time we have a great need for several positions at Gateway Woods to be filled. To put it plainly, we need new houseparents to come and awaken our kids to new life. Please contact Clint Plattner ASAP.

News:

We hosted our annual Rep Meeting on March 10.

We have many job opportunities at Gateway Woods: a Foster Care Program Manager, Assistant Houseparent, Houseparent Couple, Foster Care Case Manager and Part-Time Adoption Case Manager. For more information, please see our ad in this issue or visit the Careers 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”.

We are searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2018. Please contact Bro. Clint Plattner at clint.plattner@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of the children on our campus! As one former resident put it “It really makes a huge difference to [residents] when volunteers come out. It’s great when they work with us and play Frisbee and stuff. We notice.”

We are also searching for our Summer Education Intern and Top Quality Coordinator. Please see the notices in this issue or contact Sis. Janice Anliker at Janice.anliker@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience while impacting our residents!

We have a new summer internship opportunity in Home Based. This is a great opportunity to go into the community and work directly with families in their homes. If you are looking to go into social work this would be the position for you. Please contact Bro. Jeff Waibel at jeff.waibel@gatewaywoods.org for more information.

Turning Lives Around: History of Gateway Woods is now available through AC Publications:
and some even believe they have a corner on the truth! And, of course, in our society’s eyes, there is no such thing as Truth – only different shades of grey, depending on one’s upbringing, perspective, experience, etc. Who is to say what is Truth and what is a lie? The best way to identify a counterfeit is to be so familiar with the real thing that you recognize even the slightest deviation. The United States Secret Service website has a document on how to identify US currency, pointing out the details to observe (https://www.secretservice.gov/data/KnowYourMoney.pdf).

1 John 4 tells us how we can identify Truth. “…Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: …” 1 John 4:2-3. This chapter goes on to elaborate on more ways we can identify Truth and not be deceived. It tells us we must know God. And we can tell if we know God if we love one another. We will be bold, and we will not fear.

In John 14, Jesus himself tells us He is Truth. Unfortunately, Jesus is presented more and more often as something other than God Incarnate. His name is (falsely) attached to philosophies and religions that do not confess His deity, or simply used out of context of the entire Word. Our enemy, the father of lies, uses many weapons to keep us from knowing the Truth, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Milton Edward Ray (Sis. Joyce), 76, went to be with Jesus on February 10. He was a man of few words, many talents, and had huge heart for the Lord and for his family. He was always building things and told the best stories. Every year Milton would read through the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The last thing he said to Sister Joyce was, “I’ll love you forever.” Joyce also told us that she could tell by the look of peace on his face, that the Lord brought him to the other side and that he got a new body. We are so thankful for his faithful example as a servant of Christ and his service to our country.

While we are going to miss seeing him sitting on the fourth row in church every Sunday, we are comforted by the fact that he has reached his Heavenly Home. Please keep the Ray family in your thoughts and prayers.

Please keep the Ray family in your thoughts and prayers. We would love to have y’all visit the South, even if you’re traveling through for the evening! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815) 674-5411. Also, mark your calendars! The Athens church will again be hosting the Tennessee Fellowship Area Memorial Day Weekend May 26-27. We hope you will join us! More details can be found in the back of this issue.
One of his best is to mix 99% truth with 1% falsehood. Many have been deceived by teachings that seem to be Truth, and are in large part Truth, but have been corrupted in some small way, making them a huge lie.

Even our own heart will deceive us (Jer. 17:9) and lead us away from our Savior. Our minds have defense mechanisms to purportedly protect us from knowing or acknowledging harmful truths or things we are not prepared to handle. Even these things, of our own bodies and minds, are beyond our control to keep us from being deceived. Deception causes anxiety, unhappiness and destruction. There is a song from my childhood that I don’t fully recall, but the message was when your heart is filled with gloom, Satan’s heart is filled with glee. When deception prevails, our hearts are darkened, and I do believe his heart is filled with glee.

The only way to avoid deception is to know Jesus Christ. And the only way we can really know Him is to allow His Holy Spirit to rule our heart and mind and acquaint ourselves fully with the Word. Embracing the Truth is a most fulfilling, satisfying and freeing accomplishment! It is accomplished for us, not by us. Sometimes we just have to look.

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
John 8:32

It has been a busy month in the desert. We are grateful for our visitors, especially the visiting ministers who lend themselves to serve us: Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), Bro. Kurt Wulf (Sis. Annie, Morris), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr, (Sis. Bev, Detroit), Bro. Bill Schick (Peoria). May God reward you.

We mourn and rejoice with the family of Bro. Ron Hoerr, who passed away peacefully on Friday, February 16, 2018. Bro. Ron was a quiet pillar of our congregation and contributed much over the years. He will be missed.

Our Active program started back up after a brief winter break, and packed hygiene bags for the local homeless population. The annual President’s Day ACYF gathering of the Southwest churches was held in Prescott. The participants were blessed to spend some time at the Out of Africa park before enjoying dinner with the church. Thank you to those who hosted our children!

Our young group hosted and invite on President’s Day weekend. Our church was blessedly full of young folks worshiping and praising our Lord. The song service was beautiful. We trust the time spent was a blessing for all, and a glory to God.

Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

We had the wonderful opportunity to host the southwest ACYF this past month. Bro. Curt (Sis. Carol) Kaufman from Tucson shared with the Sunday school children about knowing the truth in a Snapchat world. The greatest truth is a well-known verse John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” When we can portray who God is and who we are in so many ways, it is important to come back to the truth of God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

We also enjoyed hearing the memorandum read by Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel from Phoenix and Elder Bro. John Lehman from Bern. We are so thankful and pray for our church leadership as they seek to follow God’s will in being shepherds to our church.

We are also thankful for visiting minister Bro. Tom (Sis. Connie) Schambach from Elgin, IL for traveling to Prescott.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

We are so thankful for our visitors. Some are wintering here and some are just passing through, but all are welcome and we thank God for each of them. We were privileged to have Bro Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) preach the word of God Sunday, February 4. May God bless his efforts.

We lift Angie Wilson, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer, in prayer as she undergoes surgery and treatment for cancer.

We continue to plead our prayer request for anyone who is interested in relocating and
supporting our small church here in Tucson. Please contact Bro. Dean Knobloch (309-231-8428) for information. We also have available a 2-bedroom townhouse for anyone wanting to visit.

We pray that God is directing your days and shaping your life to praise, honor and Glorify HIM!

California, Los Angeles/Altadena
Kali Sauder

A few things stand out from our recent weeks of meeting together to worship. While lifting high the name of Christ is the primary focus of our weekly time together, that happens through much more than just the moments spent in song worship and Bible reading. We worship and exalt the Lord in everything we do, not only formal worship service. “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord…” Colossians 3:23. The past weeks have reconfirmed this truth.

First, we held a business meeting and filled positions of administration. In a small church, it is clearly evident all are needed; participation of all parts of the body is required! And even these administrative roles call us to participate as an act of worship, of service “to the Lord”.

Another week we were missing most of our young people as they traveled, some to Prescott, AZ, for a regional Sunday School gathering, and some to Phoenix, AZ, for a young group fellowship weekend. This reinforced two other aspects of what forms worship may take: fellowship and presence. On the one hand, we highly value our church’s tradition of fellowship as a form of worship. We lift high the name of Christ as we spend time together, build each other up through conversation and activities, whether that be driving hours to visit another congregation or consistent local gatherings. We rejoiced with our young people’s budding experience of something we find so meaningful. On the other hand, we missed their presence. The practice of presence is something I have personally found recently important as a form of worship. As I quiet a young child throughout the worship service, I may not have more than a few fleeting moments of a heart turned toward God through the sermon or Bible passage or even at times the song service. Little glimpses may be all I can actively take part in, but I can be present and that in and of itself is a heart turned toward God, an expressed desire to lift high the name of Jesus.

Whether in serving the body, fellowshipping with other believers, or simply being present, we are reminded to remember the highest goal is always worship, in Spirit and in Truth.

San Diego, California
Annaleise Wagenbach

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

We are enjoying our springtime visitors and the special fellowship we share. We especially appreciate the couples who join us year after year. Their kinship and love warms our hearts.

We are thankful for the service of Elder Bro. John & Sis. Jane Wiegand (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH) this month. May God bless you for your efforts and care.

Colorado, Denver
Naomi Wiegand, Tess Leman

Greetings of love from Colorado!

As I write this, snow is falling down outside covering everything in a blanket of white. Very likely tomorrow or the next day it will warm up again and by the end of the week there won’t be a trace of the snow. The moisture the snow leaves will actually probably be the boost some plants need to start their Spring growth. This kind of reminds me of how life is. There are times when the struggles and troubles of life weigh us down and sometimes even bury us. If we allow the Son to shine on those areas, He can break through and even use the overwhelming times to bring spiritual growth. Below is a testimony from my daughter of an example of one of those times.

It has almost been a month since my total hip replacement surgery. I am not longer taking pain medication, I have started school again, and I have started walking again! God is so good. Throughout this year long process, having the surgery cancel, and getting a new
doctor, I am reminded He knows what is best for me. In June when we left the doctor’s office after hearing the surgery was scheduled for October 20th, I immediately felt no peace. For four months, I was all over the place emotionally.

The closer the 20th of October got, the more stressed out I felt. There were a few times when my mom asked me if I wanted to cancel the surgery, but I said no because although I felt anxious about the surgery, the hip pain remained; if we were to cancel the surgery, the pain would have still been there. The night before the original surgery date, October 19th, I was very emotional and felt sick. That next morning, I woke up and felt a strange sense of peace. I looked into the mirror and thought “Am I really going to get my hip replaced today?” Shortly after I thought that, my mom came downstairs and said “Gabs, the doctor is sick; the hip surgery won’t be today.”

Filled with confusion and disappointment, I went upstairs, put my shoes on, and went for a walk. As soon as the houses began to disappear, I said the only thing that was in my head “God, why?” Immediately I heard “You don’t need to know. I am God, you are not. Trust me.” In that moment, peace washed over; a peace that I hadn’t felt in months. I went back to my house feeling relief and joyful. In the months of waiting for the rescheduled surgery, the Lord has reminded me that He is the Healer; no surgery will heal me completely. He has been teaching me to be still and remember who He is.

The morning the actual surgery, January 24th, would take place, I was covered in peace. I was smiling, laughing, teasing my poor doctor, but most of all, I wasn’t fearful. I went into the operating room trusting in God. In the past, I have always woken up from surgery feeling very out of it (almost hallucinating), angry, or fearful. Before this surgery I prayed that when I was coming out of the anesthesia, God could be seen through me. After the surgery, the nurses said I was very sweet and kept repeating over and over “Where is my doctor? I need to say thank you!” (I also asked my mom reread the entire chapter of Psalm 46 to me about 3 times.) My prayer was answered!

If I had my way, the hip replacement would have been on October 20th. I honestly believe that if the surgery would have been on the original date rather than on January 24th, I would not be recovering as well; I would be a mess physically and emotionally. I have learned many, many things these past six months! Thank you all for the prayers and encouragement! They have meant so much! Most of all, thank you, Lord, for being patient with my fickleness, for answering the many prayers, and for having Your Way in my life!

Much Love to All,
Gabriella Wiegand

Josefynna Braun and Bro. Mike Martin also underwent surgery last month. They too are doing well with their recoveries and are looking forward to experiencing the benefits of the pain they had to endure.

“Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.”
Psalm 46:10

Connecticut, Rockville
Marcy Bahler, Amanda Virkler

“For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name’s sake lead me, and guide me.” Psalm 31:3

We wish God’s blessings to Grace Lugnibuhl (Bro. Brian & Sis. Cindy) and Jeremy Slater (Gerald & Lesley Slater and Debbie & Paul Bertora) as they were united in marriage on January 27. We are also thankful that they have begun their repentance together. We pray that God will bless them in these new steps of faith.

We also rejoice and are thankful for Grace Kloter (Bro. Jason & Sis. Sue) as she has sought the Lord in repentance.

Bro. Andy Schneider (Bro. Doug & Sis. Jane) and Sis. Gina Sinn (Bro. Todd & Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) were united in holy matrimony on February 11 in Latty, OH. We wish them God’s blessings in their marriage. We look forward to having Sis. Gina join our congregation.

We are prayerful for healing for our Sis. Alma Skipper (Bro. Joe, dec.) and Judy Delaney (Bill) as they have both spent time in the hospital and nursing home with health complications.
District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

Lord willing, this is the last month for a while that I will not be acknowledging a Caretaker. I am looking forward to renewing friendships and getting to better know other caretakers. 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. John Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Troy Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Bro. Steve Stiegitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), and Bro. Don Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT). Other visitors were from Rockville, CT.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Sis. Henrietta Meyer at 703 904-8301 or hmeyer2831@gmail.com for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

Florida, Ft. Lauderdale

Renee Mangold

We were very blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. The list of visiting ministers included: Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) Kansas City, MO; Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) Gridley, IL; Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb) Milford, IN; Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle) Chicago, IL; Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy) Gridley, IL; Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane) Bluffton North, IN; Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane) Tremont, IL and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie) Elgin, IL. We pray for a blessing on all that came and shared God’s word and fellowshipped with us.

Ralph Lundy lived with his 24 year old cousin, who was killed in an auto accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ralph and his family.

Della Martin was hospitalized for 5 days following emergency surgery. We are praying for her recovery.

Holy Communion was served by Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold’s grandson, Bro. Benjamin Mangold (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold, Roanoke, IL) announced his engagement to Nelly Galicia. Both Ben and Nelly are enlisted in the Army. We wish blessings for this young couple as they begin their journey together, walking in faith.

It’s wonderful to have so many visitors and a full, bustling church. We appreciate seeing old friends and new. We are also grateful that many of our winter residents step in and take over serving lunch for a couple months. Thank you!

Florida, Fort Myers

Mary Masters

“Come follow me Jesus said, and I will make you fishers of men. At once they left their nets and followed Him.” Mark 1:17-18

Have you ever wondered just what it looks like to be a fisher of men? What kind of bait do you use to catch men? Do you use kindness or do you use threats of hellfire? Does the bait that you are using lure men to Jesus? Have you left whatever you are doing when Jesus asked you to be a fisher of men?

The loved ones that have lured us to Jesus here at Fort Myers are Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT), Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sarah, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH). We thank each of these brothers for visiting us and bringing the true word of God. This list of visitors spans November of 2017 to January 2018.

We are continuing to pray for Mary Hohulin in her fight back to health and several of our loved ones who have had health issues. May God comfort and provide for each one as we battle the health issues that each of us face at one time or another.

Our small congregation has swollen to numbers well over 200 in the last months. We love to welcome our winter visitors. They pitch in to provide help in the
kitchen and oh how the singing makes our hearts soar.

**The New Beginnings**

Our second annual fundraiser was more than we could have asked or imagined. Eph.3:20. It was well-attended and the loved ones who came, remarked that it was an enjoyable evening. We are in the process of starting to select another resident for our program. Kayline, who I introduced last month, has moved out to be with her mother. The process of getting an apartment ready and taking in a new resident is a very tedious one. The new resident must be serious about doing the work to make changes in her life, get registered for school, and learning how to fit in with the other families that reside at The New Beginnings. We have many agencies that refer single mothers to us. After the referral, we begin the process of background checks, and asking key questions to determine if the young lady is serious about positive changes. It takes a lot of work to change past negative behaviors to positive ones. If the young lady doesn’t indicate that she wants to work to make the changes, we tell her that The New Beginnings is not a good fit for her. We pray that God will send us the young ladies that He wants us to help. This is a long-term program and it takes a special willingness to work toward positive change. Please pray with us that God would be glorified in all that we say and do here at The New Beginnings.

**Florida, Sarasota**

*Sandra Kaeb*

“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. Find a place of highest merit, in our fellowship with God.”

*Hymns of Zion #91 vs.2*

We continue to enjoy our winter visitors, especially our ministers, as they labor on our behalf to remind us of the importance of a close walk with our God. Visiting this month were Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Maryann, Smithville), Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton), Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville-Mediapolis), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), and Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign). Also, Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City) assisted our elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter with Communion. May God bless these dear brothers for their service to us.

We were saddened to hear the passing of our Sis. Ruth Streitmatter’s sister from Gridley, IL. Also, Sis. Betty Bauman’s husband, Bro. Larry from Goodfield, IL, went to his Heavenly Home. We will miss our dear Bro. Larry as he wintered many years with us. We will continue to uphold these dear ones and their families in our prayers.

Bro. Ed Schwartz, along with Pastor Wilfrid Remonvil on the LSM Ministries, gave us an updated outlook on the ones in Haiti. We are thankful for their time and the work they do there.

We had our annual auction to support our Sunday School for mission trips and activities in our small church. We want to thank each of you who contributed.

As we transition Silver Lining reporters, we want to give our heartfelt thanks to Sis. Mary and Sis. Vera Martin for their love and service in this task. May God richly bless them.

**Georgia, Peachtree City/Atlanta**

*Lexi Knapp*

We have little news from Peachtree City and are continually thankful for the nearness and working of God in the ordinary as well as in the exciting times. He is always good!

We were blessed to have Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) minister to us. We are thankful for his service!

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 call ahead! (Tom Waldbeser
Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere

Rick and Komari Aberle

What joy fills our hearts when we see God’s wonderful way of bringing about His plans and purposes! We are so thankful to rejoice with Sis. Kaitlin Klotzle in her engagement to Bro. Jon Maibach. Bro. Jon is from Sis. Kaitlin’s home church of Rittman, OH. Our prayers are with Sis. Kaitlin and Bro. Jon as she finishes her term of service here this spring semester as our Missionary School Teacher.

Several of our team were also blessed to travel to Rittman, OH, this past month to attend the wedding of Bro. David Zimmerman and Sis. Anna Tieche. Again, we are thankful for God and His work in the lives of our former fellow laborers here at Bonne Fin.

We were visited in the past month by an Orthopedic Team from South Carolina as well as an Electrician Team from Ohio and Iowa. The HarvestCall missionaries gathered for services at Bonne Fin. Bro. Dana Indermuhle, Sardis, OH, and Bro. Tom Schambach, Elgin, IL, shared the word with those gathered.

Bro. Jon Zeller, Morton, IL, and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy), Forrest, IL, visited the missionaries in Southern Haiti in their duties of spiritual leadership here. We are always thankful for the time they spend with us in counsel, support, and sharing the word. We were also visited by board members during this past month.

Many in the church received word and responded with prayer following the accident of Bro. Ray Steidinger (Sis. Shelly) of Forrest, IL. Bro. Ray suffered a fall off a roof while here with a construction team. Bro. Ray is the father of Sis. Raya Nussbaum (Bro. Lucas), missionaries here in Bonne Fin. We are so grateful for the medical care provided by the hospital staff, air ambulance service and medical professionals in Port-au-Prince and Florida. We are thankful for the healing God has provided Bro. Ray and pray for his continued recovery.

God continues to call souls to repentance here in Bonne Fin. Mara Aberle (Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari) made a beginning in repentance. Mara is Hospital Lumiere’s third soul to turn to the Lord during missionary service here. We are thankful for our small, but growing young group!

Finally, we ask the church to again join us in prayer as the Bonne Fin community has once more begun to make requests and demands for electricity from the hospital in recent days. We experienced disruption by a small group from the local area on our campus in early February. Please pray that the hearts and minds of the community are open to the Spirit’s gentle voice, and that the missionary team and the US board of directors are able with God’s grace to work toward a solution.

Haiti, Les Cayes

Mike & Susie Walder

Greetings from the believers in Les Cayes! As Christ’s body we are all connected here in various ways. One good way to stay connected is sharing an English church service monthly with Bonne Fin, alternating between us. This past month we appreciated the invitation to the service and meal up there. Other Sundays we attend a Haitian service or each family listens to their home congregation via telephone or live stream. This is a good way to stay closely connected with our sending churches.

We often enjoy the added fellowship of visitors and ministers that come on work teams. The encouragement we receive from the wide-spread body of Christ is powerful! Sometimes that needed encouragement can come from just one person. We appreciated the lengthy stay of Bro. Tom Schambach from Elgin, IL. He served in the Word various times. His help was a huge blessing here this winter.

We also appreciated the visit and the spiritual support of our Elder Bro. Marvin & Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) as they were here a few days.

We were thankful for safe travels for everyone this past month. There are many unknown
perils on the road and we literally put ourselves at risk each time we travel. The narrow main highways are convenient for everyone’s use – school children walking; people riding bikes or hailing taxis or crossing the road; street markets, even herding of cows and goats – while the buses and semis are flying by at speeds “too fast for conditions.”

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

We are happy to share the engagement and approaching marriage of our son, Bro. Evan Walder (Smithville, OH), to Sis. Leah Bertschi (daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev, Roanoke, IL). Leah taught at the missionary school in Bonne Fin a while back and Evan always visited us here between his school semesters. During those visits, he observed her fruit as she worked with children and especially as she nurtured and cared for Jocelyn, a handicapped and orphaned child at the hospital. We are very thankful for God’s work and provision in their lives!

Illinois, Belvidere

Krista Anliker, Amy Hanson

Loving Greetings from Belvidere!

We thank Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan) from Roanoke and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda) from Winthrop for sharing the Word.

May God comfort Bro. Karl and Mitzi Braun and their family at the passing of Mitzi’s mother. Several from our congregation had the opportunity to share in the joy of our new Sis. Kaitlin Koehl (daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly) as we traveled to Morris, MN for her testimony and baptism.

We welcome Sis. Bertha (Sis. Rosario Troxel’s mother) back to Belvidere.

God has given different gifts to each of us. We thank the brothers who have been willing to lead a Bible class in Spanish during the afternoon service. May God work through each one us, and may we be willing to be used of Him.

Illinois, Bloomington-Normal

Jenae Herrmann, Wendy Zimmerman

“For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.” Song of Solomon 2:11

After this cold winter, many of us are anticipating God’s spring handiwork!

Bro. Gary and Sis. Peggy Ifft welcomed two grandchildren into their family. Dave and Becky Barker have adopted their foster son, James Kayvion. Daughter, Isla Mae, was born to Sam and Heather Ifft. Bro. Larry and Sis. Jeannine Mariani also welcomed a new granddaughter with the birth of Aimee Addelyn on January 16. Her parents are Brian and Aimee Mariani. Siblings are Caden and Elliana.

We rejoice with our Bro. Ryan and Sis. Terri Huber on the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Sheryl to Bro. Nick Kaiser of Morton. His parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce Kaiser.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to our Barb Wenger and Sis. Tami Koehl (Bro. Jerry) at the passing of their mother and grandmother, Florence Schmidt.

After many years of dedicated service in the ministry, Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie) announced that he will be retiring in April. We have been so blessed by his service and will greatly miss having him on our pulpit, but know that God will continue to work through them to further His kingdom! We wish them God’s blessings in this next chapter of their lives.

Illinois, Bradford

Lana Wiegand, Becky Endress

Bro. Robert Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) ministered the Word and gave a presentation on Hospital Lumiere, where he and his wife have volunteered much of their time. It was a special weekend of fellowship and worship!

Each time a member of our church family faces medical treatment, we genuinely care and pray for healing. We are thankful that our Bro. Kenny Dietz is recovering well, after undergoing a scheduled surgery on February 7.

Bro. Matt (Sis. Tracy) Kieser has completed a term as trustee. Bro. Tim (Sis. Wendy) Ringger has completed a term as church usher. We appreciate their years
of service. We also appreciate the willingness of Bro. Steve (Sis. Karen) Ehnle to serve as our new trustee, and Bro. Tyler (Sis. Leah) Endress to be our new usher.

The church rafters rang with inspired singing when our Princeville brethren joined us for our annual hymn sing together. It is such a blessing to share in close fellowship with our brethren down the road!

Recently, the Bradford congregation meditated on the Lord’s promise that “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow…” Isaiah 1:18. It was especially moving that day, as 9 inches of fresh snow blanketed the drab winter terrain like Christ’s righteousness blankets our scarlet condition. Let’s be thankful every day for the freedom we have in Christ!

Illinois, Champaign

Brent Young

We bid farewell to Sis. Rachel Wagenbach as she moves home to Mediapolis, IA to prepare for her upcoming wedding. In writing this, I’m realizing that in past months I neglected to include Sis. Rachel’s engagement to Bro. Jacob Wyss (Burlington, IA). Hopefully you caught it in either the article from Mediapolis or Washington. I’m sorry for the oversight! The couple’s parents are Bro. David & Sis. Charlene (Mediapolis) and Bro. Ed & Sis. Kathy (Washington).

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers this month, Bros. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah) and John Lehman (Sis. Tamra).

We are thankful along with Bro. Calvin & Sis. Bethany Teubel for the safe arrival of Lilyana Raine. She is also welcomed enthusiastically by siblings: Piper, Oscar, and Penny.

Illinois, Chicago

Diana Eisenmann

We thank the following ministers for visiting this past month: Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL). We were also blessed to have several from the Morton single group visit us during their mission trip to downtown Chicago.

In January, we had a Women of the Word study where we discussed embracing vulnerability in relationships as a tool for living a fruit-bearing Christian life. This was a powerful and helpful challenge to all in attendance.

At the end of the month, we held our Annual Business Meeting. We are grateful to all who have served and continue to serve in the variety of roles and tasks that make up our church body.

Weston Edward was born on January 22 to Adam and Gretchen Zuckerman. We rejoice with their family for a safe and healthy arrival. Keaton is the excited new big sister. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O’Shea are Weston’s grandparents.

We praise God for the blessing of new life.

We mourn with Sis. Audrey Westfall (Bro. Brant) at the loss of her grandfather, Thien Lam. Our prayers and condolences are with their family during this difficult time.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Amber Stuckel, Pam Walder

We would like to thank Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann as they retire from our pulpit ministry. May God bless them for their labors in sharing God’s Word for many years. We wish them the nearness of Christ in this time of transition.

Grandchildren are such a precious gift. Bro. Doug & Sis. Julie Walder welcomed their first grandchild. Benjamin Luke was born to Ryan & Tamar Walder.

We will miss Bro. Wayne & Sis. Gloria Laubscher in our local congregation. They have moved to Washington, IL. We trust the Lord will keep them in His care and hope they visit often.

The funeral of Dorothy Vogel Diskin of California was held in our church this past month. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Our prayers are with our convert, Pete Bauer, who is spending some time in the hospital.

Sunday afternoon, February 11, following church, was the IL reception of Jared & Betza Kaeb. We thank Jared’s parents, Bro. Max & Sis. Beth Kaeb, and Betza’s Illinois parents, Bro. Keith & Ruth
Herrmann (Princeville, IL) for hosting the reception. We were thankful for the visitors that came for the reception. We wish them many blessings in their marriage.

This month we enjoyed working together for HarvestCall Family Night. We were able to package health kits, make pillows, and knot comforters. We also appreciated learning more about HarvestCall and the important work that is taking place near us and around the world.

**Illinois, Congerville**

*Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen*

Bro. Randy Leman and Sis. Lori Banwart were united in marriage on January 21 with many family and friends in attendance. We wish them both God's blessings as they blend their lives together as One in the Lord.

We welcomed our new brothers and sister in Christ, Bro. Ross Wettstein (Larry and Marilyn Wettstein), and Bro. Doug and Sis. Michelle Schmidgall (Bro. Mikel and Sis. Dianne, Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman) into the family of God on the weekend of February 4. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield) assisted Elder Bro. Rick in their duties that weekend. May they feel God's nearness in the coming days and feel the Spirit's leading all the days of their lives.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield), and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke). We wish to thank them for their service and love for our church and hope they will return, if the Lord allows!

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life …” John 10:27

God’s call has been answered by Josh Wiegand (Bro. Joe and Sis. Myra) and Simon Wiegand (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Deb) and they have begun repenting. What an uplifting sight for a church to see new faces among the front benches, knowing that God has been working on the hearts of still more souls! The Spirit has surely been felt mightily among us in the last month. Even the sermons that have come across our pulpit have seemed to have an extra portion of the Spirit. Reminders of where our priorities as believers should be, the Call to the lost among us, God’s love for us, trusting Him with our future, conviction in areas that need improvement—the rod and the staff have been felt and comforting, at least for me. What a wonderful God we serve who calls out to us in love, and we who are believers and seekers know His voice, and He rewards our answer to that call with eternal life!

**Illinois, Elgin**

*Amy Gasser*

On Wednesday, February 7, Sis. Betty Schlatter (Chicago, IL) gave an all-church topical presentation at the Fellowship Center on “End of Life Issues.” We thank Sis. Betty for coming and sharing this topic.

Our prayers have been with those who have been hospitalized in the past month. Bro. Bill Gudeman and Sis. Karen (Bro. Roger) Weiss underwent surgery. Bro. Al Scheitlin and Sis. Ginny (Bro. Norm) Schock were medical patients. We are thankful that Bro. Dick (Sis. Judy) Klopfenstein was discharged and is recovering at home.

“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings…” Malachi 4:2

**Illinois, Eureka**

*Debra Blunier, Linda Rocke*

“Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.” Psalm 25:4,5

Learning the truths in God’s word is such a focal point of our faith. The ministers He provides to bring these teachings are such a blessing. We are thankful for our local ministers, and also for those who have visited us in this past month. They include Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville).

Recently, we sang #193 from the Hymns of Zion which is “Have You any Room for Jesus?” The visiting brother then expounded
on the chorus, which says “Swing the heart’s door widely open, bid Him enter while you may.” We must open the door from the inside, flinging it wide open, that there be no dark corners we are keeping closed to Him.

We rejoice in that we have two converts who have opened their hearts to the Lord. They are Andrew Cottrell (Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla) and Mitch Wettstein (Bro. Bill and Sis. Heidi). May they dig their foundation deep on that Rock, which is Jesus.

Bro. David and Sis. Ashley Knecht had Violet Ann on February 2. She is welcomed home by Nolan and Elizabeth. Grandparents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht, Herb Shoufler of Mason, OH, and Shawn Tracey of Germantown Hills. On February 12, Ella Mae was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Angie Zimmerman. Big brother and sister are Blade and Hailey. Grandparents are Tom and Janet Zimmerman of Eureka, and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich of Bloomfield, IA.

Our thoughts go out to all those who have been suffering from illness, or have had hospitalizations or surgeries recently. Bro. Dietz Wiegand was hospitalized, but is now feeling better, for which we are thankful.

Bro. Lloyd Schumacher passed away recently. He and his wife, Sis. Betty (dec.), had attended here since they had moved into the Nursing Home and apartments. We will miss his cheerful smile, and wish to extend our sympathy to the family.

**Note of Thanks:**

I want to thank all who were so kind to me with prayers, calls, cards, and gifts after my fall last November. God’s blessings to all! Sis. Jean Knapp

**Illinois, Fairbury**

**Janelle Stoller, Trish Steidinger**

As we anxiously await springtime, the birth of two little boys has added sunshine and joy to their families. Nyle Lee was born January 19 to Bro. Abe and Sis. Kara Zehr. Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy are his loving grandparents. We will always remember his late grandparents, Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb (Forrest, IL).


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

We have been blessed to hear of God’s work in the lives of His children. We rejoice with our Sis. Tess Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan) on her engagement to Bro. Kyle Steffen (Kent and Sis. Beth, Congerville, IL). Bro. Eric Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami) and Sis. Erika Sinn’s (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi, Silverton, OR) engagement was announced on February 11, as was Sis. Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis) and Bro. Nathan Sharp’s (Gary & Tami, Mediapolis, IA). May God bless each of these couples as they plan for their lives together.

We continue to pray for Bro. Jerry Kaisner (Sis. Donna) as he battles cancer and Bro. Lloyd Bachtold (Sis. Nancy) as he recuperates from a knee replacement.

**Note of Thanks:**

I would like to thank everyone for the cards and expressions of love for my 80th birthday. God bless you all. Sis. Norma Fehr

**Illinois, Forrest**

**Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz**

“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.” Hebrews 11:6

February 11 was the wedding day of Bro. David Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta) and Sis. Anna Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy) of Rittman, OH. We wish them God’s blessings and nearness as they begin their life together. We warmly welcome Sis. Anna to Forrest.

A new baby boy, Roman Paul, was born to Bro. Joe and Sis. Rhonda Rudin. Welcoming him home are big sisters, Ryleigh and Taylor. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin.

We want to thank Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) for visiting and ministering on a Wednesday evening.

Our Bro. Chris Metz passed away on January 26. We extend
sympathy and prayers to Sis. Esther Gerber (Bro. Earl) and Sis. Ruth Metz in the passing of their brother. We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim), both of Fairbury, for assisting with the funeral service.

We continue to be prayerful for our sweet Molly Brown (Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon) as she continues her stay in a Chicago hospital awaiting a heart transplant.

Our prayers are with Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid (Bro. Al) as she is currently undergoing treatments for cancer.

Bro. Ray Steidinger (Sis. Shelly) spent time in the hospital recovering from a serious fall while working on a roof at Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti. We are thankful that he is recovering well and we pray for God’s continued healing hand upon each one.

“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

Illinois, Goodfield
Judy Knapp, Melissa Rokey

The women of our congregation were all invited to attend a Saturday seminar on “Living a Legacy”. A special thank-you to all who attended and helped with the presentation. It was a great turn-out and a spiritually uplifting day.

We enjoyed a pizza dinner and singing together as a church family on a recent Sunday evening. We are blessed with these times together.

Sis. Sarah Melton underwent surgery and she is back home recovering. We lift prayers to the Father on her behalf. We also were prayerful for Bro. Randy Blunier (Sis. Roxy) as he had surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his kidney.

“Burst are all my prison bars; And I soar beyond the stars. To my Father’s house, the bright and blest estate. Lo! The morn eternal breaks, And the song immortal wakes, Robed in whiteness I am sweeping thro’ the gate. In the blood of yonder Lamb, Washed from every stain I am; Robed in whiteness, clad in brightness, I am sweeping thro’ the gate.”

Gospel Hymns #666

Our dear Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty) passed away on February 12. We extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Betty and all of his family, including Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita Bauman, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bauman, of our congregation. May our Loving God be with them through this time of sorrow.

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

Bro. Fred Ringger, 84, passed away on February 5, 2018 at the Meadows Mennonite Home in rural Chenoa. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ringger on December 25, 2015. Bro. Fred is survived by three sons: Bro. Steve (Sis. Donna) Ringger, Gridley; Scott (Sis. Becky) Ringger, Westfield, IN; and Bro. Brent Ringger, Gridley; a daughter-in-law, Sis. Colleen Ringger, Gridley; nine grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren; two brothers: Bro. Edwin (Sis. Pat) Ringger, of the Roanoke Home; and Bro. Ray Ringger, Meadows; two sisters: Sis. Betty Hermann, Princeville; and Sis. Lillian Ringger, Gridley. His parents preceded him in death, along with one son, Bro. Stan, one brother, Bro. Alvin, and one sister, Sis. Viola Ringger. Bro. Fred was a quiet, though friendly, brother in our church assembly. We will miss him as we fellowship together.

February 18 was the wedding date of Bro. Brandon Kaeb and Sis. Shanna Slagel. He is the son of Elder Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb. Her parents are Dennis and Leona Slagel, Fairbury. May the Lord bless their marriage, and guide them the remainder of their lives.

Lily Joy was born to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Melissa Hangartner on December 28, 2017. She underwent surgery shortly thereafter, is now at home and doing well. May God be with her henceforth.

Bro. Orlan Miller had surgery on February 15, to remove a mass on his pituitary gland. He suffers from cancer.

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Bro. Orlan Miller had surgery on February 15, to remove a mass on his pituitary gland. He suffers from cancer.
We surely pray for him in this battle; and pray, too, for his recovery according to God’s will. Bro. John Kaupp is recovering from bladder cancer. Faith Steidinger is engaged to marry Tre Robinson of Georgia. She is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and the late Sis. Jane Steidinger. Sis. Nancy Gould (the mother of Sis. Becky Funk) has moved into Sunrise Manor and occupies Apt. #2.

Sis. Jarrin Rabe, who was part of the church work in Mexico, is now back home, and residing in Fairbury. Bro. Jeff Wiegand, Goodfield, was a visiting minister on Wednesday evening, February 14, and gave a Topical Bible Presentation entitled, “Moses: Deliverance And The Law.”

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner, Julie Bahr

We were blessed this month to have Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) to help share the Memorandum from the August 2017 Elder Conference. We thank our elder brothers for their labors of love on our behalf.

Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan, Roanoke, IL) preached the Word on January 21. Following the afternoon service, we enjoyed a program presented by our Bible Class on the book of Daniel, which they had recently been studying. We were inspired by the scripture readings and enthusiastic singing of our young people.

January 28, the new babies born in the past year were recognized. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. reminded us of our duties as parents, grandparents and members of our church family to encourage our young couples as they strive to teach their children about the love of God and our Savior Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

We rejoice with Bro. Orman and Sis. Kathryn Kaiser as they celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on February 13. We send them our warmest congratulations as they mark this very special milestone in their lives.

Continuing our series of “God Uses little People”, our Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie) spoke at our February Family Worship Night on the subject “The Little Boy with the Lunch”. Bro. Jon recounted the story from St. John 6 of the boy who gave his basket of five barley loaves and two small fishes to Jesus. Jesus then gave thanks and distributed the food to the 5000 with twelve baskets of fragments left over. He can use so little to make so much. Even if we think we don’t have a lot to give, the best thing we can do is give our heart to the Lord. Then share His love and the testimony of what He has done for us with others. We must remember, it is not what we can’t do, but what we can do that is important. May we live our lives according to the words in Hymn 106 in the Hymns of Zion/Tabernacle Hymns.

“Take my life, and let it be Consecrated Lord to Thee; Take my hands, and let them move, At the impulse of Thy Love Take my feet, and let them be, Swift and beautiful for Thee; Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only for my King. Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.”

Illinois, Peoria
Crystal Klopfenstein, Bonnie Bach

We pray for those in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Sis. Shirley Leuthold’s brother, Bro. Lloyd Schumacher (Washington, IL), has passed away recently. Bro. Tim (Sis. Joan) Reinhard lost his mother, Delores Reinhard of Eureka. Our dear Sis. Nancy Herman is now in the presence of our Lord. We pray for her family, Bro. Howard, Greg (Beth) Herman, Bro. Larry (Sis. Susan) Herman, Sis. Sally Herman, and Lori (Brian) Pugh.

Lillian Anna Rose Weyeneth was born November 9 to Kyle and Marisa Weyeneth. Grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary Weyeneth and Patrick and Jill Durley. She is welcomed home by her older brother Eli.

During the long winter months of the Midwest, it is good to be reminded of some of the things
God has to say about the cold.  
“He giveth snow like wool; he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice as morsels: who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.” Psalms 147:16-18.

“For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north.” Job 37:6, 9-10.

“In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.” 2 Corinthians 11:27.

“As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.” Prov. 25:13.

“She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.” Prov. 31:21.

**Illinois, Princeville**

**Renee Herrmann, Melinda Christ**

We express our thanks to the visiting ministers who have served us this month. They are Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittmann, OH), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), retired elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta -deceased, Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. John Zahner (Sis. Amy) and Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole) all of Rockville, CT.

We welcome Bro. Seth and Sis. Hannah Hoerr as they have begun worshipping with us while Bro. Seth is taking schooling at Davenport, IA.

We rejoiced with Sis. Sarah Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann) as she was united in marriage to Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. Kent and Sis. Lori) on January 21. We will miss her, but we know that she will be a blessing to the Rittmann congregation.

Bro. Cody and Sis. Maria Blunier had a baby girl, Adelynn Keri on January 22. She was welcomed by big sister Raeynn, grandparents Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier and great grandparents Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and Sis. Joyce Blunier. May they seek God’s wisdom as they raise these precious little girls. Bro. Craig and Sis. Terri Martin rejoiced with the arrival of a new granddaughter, Eliza Mae who was born to Clint and Jessica on February 1. Eliza’s big brothers are Connor and Joshua.

We are thankful for three new members in our Princeville congregation. Bro. Jared Fehr shared his testimony on February 3 with baptism on Sunday. Bro. Gerald (Pooch) Martin and Sis. Louise Martin shared their testimonies at home and baptism followed. We rejoice for the grace of God working in their hearts and wish them an awareness of God’s nearness as they continue on their walk with Him.

Several of our congregation have been experiencing weakness of the flesh and have been hospitalized. They are Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Bro. Howard), Bro. Seth Hoerr (Sis. Hannah), Sis. Terri Martin (Bro. Craig) and Bro. Gerald (Pooch) Martin (Sis. Louise) and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Bro. Jim). We pray for God to renew their health and strengthen them in this difficult time.

We extend our condolences to Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler at the death of his sister, Sis. Florence Hartzler of Rittmann, OH. Our sympathies also go to Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach at the passing of her brother, Bro. Larry Bauman from Goodfield, IL. May God comfort these families with many precious memories and the promise of the resurrection.

Bro. Arlan Miller (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Matt Kauffman (Bloomington, IL) spoke to us on “Safe Technology Use for the Whole Family”. They gave many statistics and then gave guiding principles for engaging technology. Some questions we are to ask ourselves are: Does it reinforce Christ’s view of me? Does it promote purity? Is it good use of my time? Am I being Christ-like? Am I being socially appropriate? I was challenged by the need to discern, “Is it real or unreal?” as information flows freely with technology. The statement was made, “God always wants real”. As I think of the ways in which I interact with others (with technology or without) I want to remind myself, “God always wants real.”
Illinois, Roanoke  
Barb Schwind, Judy Sauder

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

On January 21 a group from church held services at Peoria Rescue Mission.

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

This verse was the theme of the Ladies’ Coffee at the fellowship hall on January 27. We thank those sisters who spoke and organized the day. One sister who spoke encouraged us to pray without ceasing and to develop an attitude of gratitude. She shared a story about a Chinese farmer, illustrating that sometimes things that appear bad are really for our good. We need to allow the Lord to work in our lives trusting He is working out experiences for our spiritual good. Another sister quoted Jesus Calling by Sarah Young, “You give me thanks (regardless of your feelings), and I will give you joy (regardless of your circumstances).”

At our tables, we shared experiences related to the theme.


Our annual church potluck and sing was held at the fellowship hall on February 11. It was a blessed evening of fellowship, delicious food, and praise to our God.

We extend our love and sympathy to families whose loved ones have passed away. Sis. Winnie Martin and Bro. Jim (Sis. Helen) Martin bid farewell to their sister, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Howard) Herman of Peoria, IL on January 28. Bro. Jim Leman’s brother-in-law, Bro. Fred Ringger of Gridley, IL, went to be with the Lord on February 5. Mary Jane (Dean) Wettstein’s brother-in-law, Bro. Larry (Sis. Betty) Bauman of Goodfield, IL passed away February 12.

Three couples announced their engagements. Nick Hoffman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Karel) is engaged to Natalie Burmood, daughter of Robert and Karen Burmood of Benson. Bro. Ben Mangold (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer) is engaged to Nelly Galicia, daughter of Julio and Martina Balderas of Mission, TX. Sis. Leah Bertschi (Bro. Rich & Sis. Bev) is engaged to Bro. Evan Walder (Smithville, OH), son of Bro. Mike & Sis. Susie Walder who are serving in Haiti. May the Lord’s blessings be with these couples as they put their trust in Him.

Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman welcomed a precious granddaughter. Lilyanana Raine was born to Bro. Calvin and Sis. Bethany Teubel (Champaign, IL) on February 8.

The Bible class served at Loaves and Fish in Peoria on February 17.

A work team from Roanoke left for Haiti on February 16. We also have brethren working with HarvestCall in South Carolina. May the Lord bless all for their service to Him away and at home.

Our prayers are with Andrew (Elle) Mangold, who is being deployed to South Korea with the US Army. He is the son of Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold.


We babysat our little granddaughters while their parents were on a trip. When they came home 3 year old Cece came running to her daddy exclaiming, “Daddy, I dreamed about you!” Her father’s heart was touched by her love and sweet words. It made me think of my relationship with my Heavenly Father. Do I touch His heart by my love, actions, and words? Is He the focus of my dreams?
Luke 6:34 “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Janice Sauder

“To me is given boundless mercy, A gift that I did not deserve; Such wondrous love, It is so marv'lous, That such for me should be reserved. But since I know, I will rejoice, And praise Thy mercy with my voice, And praise Thy mercy with my voice.”
Zion’s Harp #220.

We welcome Bros. Arrow Sauder (Bro. John & Sis. Misty) and Bro. Klayton Fehr (Bro. James & Sis. Brenda) into our brotherhood. The angels rejoice over one sinner that repents. Thank you to Bros. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington, IL), Ed Fritz (Sis. Barb, Washington, IL), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) who served us so willingly that weekend.

Congratulations to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Charity Oswald with the birth of their first child, Joelle Grace. Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle Oswald and Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen (Belvidere, IL) are the happy grandparents. We appreciated Bro. Dean serving us on the pulpit when they came to visit! Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger are happy for another grandchild. Jackson Gabriel Haerr was born to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Rebecca (Taylor, MO).

Our love and prayers continue for many, but this month especially for Bro. Russ Ehnle (Sis. Terri) and Sis. Nancy Sauder (Bro. Merle).

Our topical lesson for this month was on Forgiveness. It takes humility to give or ask for forgiveness. Love doesn’t keep track, and unforgiveness will affect others. When we forgive, we give God the glory. 1. We should not ask God to do something that we are not willing to do for our brother. 2. Forgiveness is not a right, it comes by grace and mercy. 3. Don’t let unforgiveness rob you of your joy. 4. Praying for those who have wronged you takes the poison out of it.

**Note of Thanks:**
We want to express our sincere thanks for many prayers, beautiful cards, and gifts of love. They all meant so much to us... May God bless each one for remembering us.” Marvin & Donna Frank.

Illinois, Washington
Kendra Funk, Patricia Knapp

We rejoice with Bro. Layne and Sis. Heather Steffen on the birth of their daughter, Hope Lyn Marie, born on January 16. Big brothers, Gabe and Noah, excitedly welcomed their sister home. Grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Carolyn (Burlington, IA). Nate and Lynette Schick welcomed a baby boy, Peter Thomas on January 24. Siblings are Laura, John, and Timothy. Thankful grandparents and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol and ministering Bro. Ed (late Sis. Sally) and Sis. Barb Fritz. Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner welcomed another granddaughter, Nora Elise, into their family this month. We are thankful for these new births and rejoice with their families!

We are also rejoicing with our Bro. Seth and Sis. Hannah Hoerr as they have received good biopsy results. We thank the Lord for his goodness and mercy and continue to pray for them as they prepare for surgery.

We continue to pray for our dear Jamie Schick (daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn) as she recovers from her injuries now at home. We are so thankful for the progress she has made, and praise God for this miracle!

Our precious baby Witt Leman (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Nancy) continues to be in all our prayers often. We pray for strength for him and his dear family as he continues to face many health challenges.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schrock’s daughter, Lanae, is on hospice and we pray that God would be with them at this time. Bro. Bryn Rocke and Sis. Valerie Knapp were united in marriage on February 11. We rejoice with them and pray their marriage will be a glory and honor to God. Their parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine Rocke and Bro. Benj and Sis. Karen Knapp.

Bro. Lloyd Schumacher passed away this month. Also, our Sis. Donna Hangartner’s (Bro. Dan) mother, Sis. Jeanette Knapp, went to be with the Lord. We pray God’s peace and comfort for their families.
We are thankful to have had Elder Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) assist with the memorandum. We’re also thankful for the service of Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL).

**Indiana, Bluffton**

**Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Moser**

“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Tim. 4:1-2

We all have a divine calling on our lives! God purchased us. We belong to Him. He leads. We follow. After much prayerful consideration, we believe that God has called our Bro. Mark and Sis. Angie Reinhard to pulpit ministry. It’s been a sobering and precious time as we have sought His direction. We, as a congregation, have been charged with 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. And be at peace among yourselves.” We have been challenged to surround them as an army of prayer warriors and we take that very seriously! We pray that Bro. Mark, Sis. Angie, Kaitlee, Bria, Jace, Shaelyn and Macy will be overwhelmed by our love and appreciation!

Our love and sympathy have been with Sis. Ilean Steffen and Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller as their son and brother, Sam Steffen, has entered into eternity. Sis. Dorothy Moser passed away at age 96. She leaves two daughters, Sue (Steve) Baller and Sis. Kay (Bro. Keith) Gerber; a daughter-in-law, Sis. Wanda (Bro. Mark – dec.) Moser; and a sister-in-law, Sis. Ida Aschliman, along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube and Walt and Sis. Sherry Snodgrass are mourning the loss of their mother Delores Reinhard of Eureka. Sis. Doris Fiechter has passed from death into eternal life. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Dale, children; Sis. Jeni (Bro. Ed) Schwartz, Sis. Gloria (Bro. Phil) Grant of Latty, OH, Bro. Tony (Sis. Peg) Fiechter, and Bro. Kevin Fiechter; 14 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Claren (Sis. Joyce) Gehring, Bro. Jeremy Valentine, Bro. Gary (Sis. Jean) Compton and retired Elder Bro. Ed (Sis. Jeni) Schwartz have all been dealing with health issues. We lift each of them up to our loving Father!

We rejoice with two couples who have become engaged: Bro. Seth Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb – Bluffton) of Magdalena, MX to Sis. Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat – Milford, IN) of Magdalena, MX, and Sis. Jenna Meyer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kathy) to Bro. Gavin Fritz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carla) of Leo, IN.

Elder Bros. Lynn and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) hosted a question and answer session to help each of us take proper responsibility for preserving and promoting our thriving, Christ-centered church. Thank you, dear brothers, for your openness and love for each of us!

Our brothers were challenged and encouraged to focus on their calling as Christian men of integrity at the annual “Finding Freedom” evening. It was a blessed time of inter-generational fellowship and growth.

We have been enjoying monthly topical presentations this year. Ministering Bro. Kole Meyer spoke to us on the topic of “Mental Health” in February. Thanks, Bro. Kole, for giving of yourself again!

Little Mouniratou has returned to her home in Burkina Fosa after spending 16 months with Bro. Blare and Sis. Janel Gerber’s family. It was exciting to watch her grow from a tiny infant in need of surgery to a healthy little girl! We pray that she will somehow keep and spread the love of Jesus with which she was surrounded!

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter are rejoicing with the birth of another grandson. Finn Ryan was born to Bro. Ryan, Sis. Jamy, Leo and Axle Steffen of Bluffton North. Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen (Bluffton North) are paternal grandparents. God has blessed the home of Bro. Shane, Sis. Kaitlyn and Charley Fiechter with little Jace Andrew.
His grandparents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle Tonner and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter.

Our newborn babe in Christ is Dakota Crankshaw. We are rejoicing that he has answered God’s call to repentance and know that He is faithful to all who surrender to Him!

**Indiana, Bluffton North**

**Tiffani Schladenhauffen, Corinne Stettner**

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

We were blessed to celebrate our brotherhood’s unity by having an invite-a-friend weekend. We were thankful for the visitors that came and shared a meal and singing on Saturday, February 10, and then worshipped with us on Sunday. Ministering Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stiegeltz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) were with us for that weekend and shared God’s word. It was an encouragement to all that were there.

Our Bro. Connor Pfister was joined in marriage to Sis. Whitney Stiegeltz from Leo, IN. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry Pfister and Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Stiegeltz. We pray God’s blessings on them as they begin this new chapter of their lives.

We had three special presentations this month. First, we had a seminar on Work as Worship, where we learned more about living the Gospel in our workplaces. Then our sisters joined together for a day of fellowship and encouragement at the annual Titus 2 Day. Finally, the annual Finding Freedom event took place, which is a special evening of fellowship for our brothers with a meal and speakers. Each of these events was a success and encouraged all of us in our walk with the Lord.

Sis. Diane Mason is happy for a new grandson, Caden Leonard Mason. He is welcomed home by parents, Aaron and Anna, and siblings: Joselyn, Quinton, and Pierceton. Also, rejoicing are Bro. Ryan and Sis. Jamy Steffen with the birth of their third son, Finn Ryan. His excited brothers are Leo and Axel. His grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter.

Sis. Kathy (Bro. Steve) Longenberger and Sis. Roberta (Bro. Ken) Steffen are both recovering well after having surgery this month. Also, please keep Bro. Daniel Shorb, son of Bro. Brett and Sis. Cindy, in your prayers as he continues to struggle with health problems. Bro. Daniel has been a real inspiration to all of us throughout the years with both his attitude and his love for Jesus.

**Indiana, Francesville**

**Mildred Clauss, Jacki Huber**

“To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens” Eccl. 3:1

As the seasons change, each of us experience changes in our lives. Bro. Brent and Sis. Alisha Wagenbach recently welcomed Rhett Daniel into their family. His big brother is Silas. His grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian Wagenbach of San Diego, CA. and Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein. We are sorry to have Bro. Brent and Sis. Alisha and their children leaving our congregation as they are now in the process of relocating to Bloomington, IL, but we pray the Lord will bless and direct them in this endeavor.

Bro. Dan Leman (Sis. Tess, Denver, CO) recently visited family here. We were blessed to have Bro. Dan bring us the message from God’s Word on Wednesday evening.

We are pleased to have Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb here for a short visit from their labors in Haiti. What a blessing that during their visit their first grandchild could arrive! Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kaleigh Kaeb welcomed Aesha Brooke into their hearts and home on February 16. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie Schneider of LaCrosse.

Sis. E. Joan Gutwein (Bro. Harvey, dec.) is presently in the hospital. Bro. Chris Welker is also presently a hospital patient. We sincerely pray the Lord will be very near to each of them and grant healing.

Condolences are extended to Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam Metz at the death of his brother, Bro. Christian Metz. Sis. Carrie Gutwein’s grandma recently passed away and we pray for Sam and Carrie at this time of loss.
**Indiana, Indianapolis**

*Becky Ringger, Nancy Pfeifer*

Visiting minister this month was Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). What a blessing to have him come and share God’s word.

Our annual business meeting was on January 24. The new usher is Bro. Bill Bradford, Jr., trustee is Scott Levy, head song leader is Bro. Jerry Leuthold, kitchen committee is Sis. Laura Schafer.

Thank you to all who are willing to give of time to serve the church’s needs.

We said farewell to Sis. Ashley Bollier as she is moving to Gridley. We wish her God’s blessings on this new endeavor.

Nathaniel Henry Frantz was born to Bro. Eric and Sis. Katy Frantz on February 1. He is welcomed home by his siblings, Elias and Kyla. Grandparents are Sis. Cheryl Frantz (Remington, IN) and Joe Frantz (Dayton, OH) and Sis. Ginny (late Bro. Eric) Zeller.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier are rejoicing with a new granddaughter Taevia Faith Vogt born to Lon and Sarah Vogt (West Lafayette, IN). May the Lord bless these families as they raise their children.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Scott and Sis. Becky Ringger and Bro. Scott and Sis. Kate Levy for the passing of Bro. Scott’s father and Sis. Kate’s grandfather Bro. Fred Ringger of Gridley, IL. We are saddened by his loss, but he gained eternal life.

We are all at different chapters in our lives, trusting in the all-knowing and all-seeing God.

**Indiana, LaCrosse**

*Julie Rocke, Meagan Frank*

With much excitement and thankfulness, we welcomed the newest addition to our congregation. Xandrea Joan Troxel was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Amy on January 29. She joins Titus, Rhoda and Onita at home and is much loved by her grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel and Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst (Iowa City, IA). Two other families were blessed with new babies. Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel are thankful for the safe arrival of granddaughter, Nora Ann Troxel, on February 13. She is welcomed home by her parents, Josh and Chelsie and big brother, Declan, and maternal grandparents, Carl and Deb Rowe. That same week, Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jeannie also welcomed, with thankful hearts, a little granddaughter, Aesha Brooke Kaeb. She is the first child of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kaleigh Kaeb (Francesville, IN) and is well loved by her other grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb (Haiti/Francesville). We are so thankful for these babies and their safe arrivals and pray for God’s nearness and blessing to be upon them throughout their lives.

Our annual church business meeting was January 26. We send a heartfelt thank you to each brother and sister who fulfilled a job and blessings to those who have been asked to take their place or are already in service. Many hands make light work and we appreciate each one who helps out.

We gathered together the evening of February 3 for Memorandum. Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) was with us. We wish to thank our elders for their service on our behalf. It was a blessed evening with many wonderful teachings.

Irene Billips, grandmother to Jason Martin (Karla) passed away. Our hearts go out to Jason and Karla and their family as she will be missed.

We had the opportunity to take a group to the Wolcott Distribution Center to help package soap twice this winter. We had a great time working together and helping others in this way. We offer a special thanks to those in Wolcott and Remington that work so diligently on this big project each year!

May each of you be blessed richly as winter here in the Midwest winds down and we look forward to the warmer days of Spring!

**Indiana, Leo**

*Jan Beer*

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:6 & 7
This is one of the many beautiful promises in the Bible. Do I trust God enough to leave all my fears, worries, cares and concerns with Him, and abide in His unsurpassed peace? If I don’t trust Him, in what am I trusting?

On January 10, the Mick & Lisa Laukhuf family was permanently increased by one with the adoption of Paytin Tara Laukhuf. This energetic pre-teen is now a sister to Clark, Max, Kate and Emma. We look forward to seeing this perky little flower bloom as she is exposed to God’s love and grace through the Laukhuf family.

The Leo church family was treated to a rare and wonderful experience on Wednesday evening, January 16. A small group of male inmates from the Chain O’Lakes Correctional Facility Choir enjoyed a pizza supper with us, then presented a short musical program. For those of us with a very limited knowledge of “criminals”, it was a great eye opener! The men testified of God’s grace, forgiveness and love. They are our Brothers in Christ. We had a glorious time of worshiping God together.

Sunday, January 21, was the wedding of our Whitney Stieglitz (Steve & Jane) and Connor Pfister (Dan & Sherry) of Bluffton North. Both fathers participated in the wedding service, a unique experience. Other visiting ministers were Greg (Lisa Stieglitz, Indianapolis, IN), Randy (Sue Gasser, Detroit, MI), and Justin (Marcia Koch, Washington, IL). Incidentally, all these men are Whitney’s uncles. Connor is a teacher at Gateway Woods, and we are excited that they are making Leo their home church.

Often, when reporting visiting ministers, I think of our own local ministers. We are grateful for our visitors who serve us, but we are equally thankful for our brothers who faithfully serve us on a regular basis. We are often convicted by the Truth that they deliver to us without compromise. Thank you, Bros. Lynn, Brace, Steve, Jeff and Tim.

Announced on January 28 was the engagement of our Gavin Fritz (Jeff & Carla) to Jenna Meyer (Denny & Kathy) from Bluffton Country. Both of these young people are currently students at Purdue. Also, engaged to be married on August 11, 2018, are our Courtney Kilgus (Jason & Joy) and Josh Robinson (Mike & Liz) from Bloomington, IL. It is encouraging to watch the Lord bring hearts together in love, who have the desire to live a committed married life. In this present world, these young people are a strong testimony of God’s will and His faithfulness. God’s continued blessing on you.

February 2, 3 and 4 was the Youth Winter Retreat at a ski lodge in Michigan. We are happy to report there was only one injury. Reed Maibach injured his wrist, but seems to be doing well. This is a fun time for our young people to spend time together, but it is also a very well-orchestrated event to enrich the lives of these young folks as they focus on God’s Word. We thank all the adults that are involved who serve as mentors, teachers, organizers, etc. You plant and you water, and we trust God to bring the fruitful harvest.

Our High School Sunday School class plans to take a mission trip to GA this summer, so they held a fundraiser on Saturday evening, February 10. The spaghetti meal was delicious, and we were well served by our Sunday School student waiters and waitresses. Each student and parent who plan to go on the trip decorated a cereal box with a service they were providing to raise funds. Your bid for that service was slipped into the slot in the top of the box. At the end of the evening, the boxes were opened, and the highest bidder for each service was contacted. Not only is it a fun way to earn money to pay for the trip, but it makes us aware of the unique talents God has given to people in our church family.

Living in northeastern Indiana, we are not strangers to snow and ice. Sunday morning, February 11, we did not gather for a morning worship service or Sunday School because of icy roads. The road conditions improved enough that we had lunch together and then our afternoon worship service. At 6:30 that evening, we gathered at the Fellowship Center for our Family Hymn Sing. The Hymn Sing Committee has implemented something that is helping us to
know each other better. At each hymn sing, a person or a couple give a testimony of what God has done or is doing in their life. That evening, Paul and Leann Fischer told us of God’s faithfulness when their five-year old daughter drowned several years ago. The Lord worked mightily to bring Paul to a place of totally trusting Him, and also to bring their daughter back to complete healthiness!! It is an encouragement, and truly helps us learn to know each other better. It is amazing to me that spending time together - whether at a winter retreat, a fundraiser, a hymn sing, etc. - forms a bond among us that leads to a feeling of belonging in the Family. “I’m so glad I’m a part of the Family of God…”

Valentine’s Day fell on a Wednesday this year. The brother who spoke the closing prayer at mid-week service summed it up beautifully when he said, “God, You are the greatest love story of all time in sacrificing your Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins.” Thank you, Jesus, for being obedient to the Father.

Indiana, Milford
Carol Haab, Pat Mikel

It was with great pleasure that we heard of the engagement of Sis. Jodi Beer to Bro. Seth Gerber. Sis. Jodi serves in Magdelina, MX and is the daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer of Milford. Bro. Seth also serves in Magdelina, MX and is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber of Bluffton. As they plan their life together, may God guide and bless them.

We are thankful that Christian friendships bring visiting ministers to our church. Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) gave us many thoughts to ponder and apply to our daily lives. One Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Randy Beer had a Bible study on chapter 2 in Titus. He encouraged us to be a Titus 2 church with each age group having a responsibility to follow God’s instruction and be an example to others.

Sis. Ann Troup (Bro. Bill) has been dealing with severe leg pain and spent considerable time at home. We praise God that she was able to worship with us again this last weekend and pray that she will find a long term solution.

Austin Beer has peace and we look forward to his baptism.

On Thursday, February 15, despite the severe fog in our area, a group of woman from several churches gathered to knot comforters for HarvestCall. We enjoyed the fellowship and accomplished much.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

We are thankful and humbled to report four new converts this month! Chloe Getz (Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara), Kedron Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June), and Kade and Lydia Nieman (Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea) have all recognized their need for a Savior and had a desire to repent of their sins and turn to Christ for their salvation. We are so thankful for each one’s willing heart and pray that the Lord will guide each one of them on this new journey of life they are embarking.

Our combined young group with Wolcott has grown by leaps and bounds this past year. We are so thankful for the Lord’s provision for these precious souls to be reconciled unto Him. Please pray that the plentiful harvest will continue!

Bro. Rex Clauss (Sis. Tammy) has been in the hospital again recently. We pray for continued healing for Bro. Rex, peace for his family during this difficult time, and wisdom for all as they make decisions regarding his care.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

May the Lord bless our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) for sharing words of Truth and Life this month. Every opportunity we have to gather as a church family is special.

On January 31 we enjoyed Family Night at church, which involved a meal, object lesson, singing and children's craft.

On February 11, we had a wonderful time sledding in the snow-covered grounds of Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm’s Headsight Building.

We also joyfully welcome siblings Jacob and David Rees
from the Peachtree City/Atlanta Georgia church into the South Bend family.

“The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.” Psalm 29:11

Indiana, West Lafayette

Libby Wahl

There is rejoicing in the hearts of the Walder families. On January 22, Bro. Russ and Sis. Darlene’s foster son, Brayden, was officially adopted becoming their fifth son. And, he looks like he is right where he belongs. Their love and commitment inspires us!

Open Sunday School positions are now in place for the next two school terms. As we have many little ones, and to help alleviate the need for finding substitute teachers, each class has two teachers. Sisters Jonell Cook, Anna Fiechter, Christine Ginzel, Kristin Sauder and Daveanna Schieler along with Brothers Chad Aeschliman, Steven Sauder and John Widmer will be taking their spots in August. Bro. Ben Gerber will be our next SS superintendent. May God bless their willingness and their enthusiasm.

Fundraisers were held by the SS Bible Class for their June mission trip to Jamaica and by the college youth group (PYG) for their spring break, mission trip to Magdalena. We appreciate all who are able to support them.

Congratulations to college students Bro. Gavin Fritz, Leo, IN and Sis. Jenna Meyer, Bluffton, IN who announced their engagement.

We are thankful they could go and thankful to have our Elder Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein back from a trip to Jamaica, which included serving Communion. What a joy for the believers there.

Midweek pulpit blessings came from Bro. Greg Steiglitz (Indianapolis, IN). and Bro. Chad Huber (Sis. Pam, Franesville, IN). Are we remembering to lift up our volunteer servants with words of peace and with prayer?

“There are those who speak rashly, like the piercing of a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Prov. 12:18 Amplified

“There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.” Prov. 12:18 KJV

Indiana, Wolcott

Erica Blume, Teresa Earney

“Let brotherly love continue.” Hebrews 13:1

Monday evenings in January and February have been what we call “Family Night.” Both Remington and Wolcott congregations meet at the HarvestCall building and we do service projects. It’s a huge blessing to have all ages working together. Then on Tuesdays during the day, many get together to do sewing projects.

Bro. Brett and Sis. Elizabeth Gerber welcomed their first child. Audrey Lucille was born on December 27. Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber are her local grandparents. Sis. Elaine Bahler has a new granddaughter. Marcella Lynn Bahler was born to Kent and Jordon. Eli and Reagan are her siblings.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard and the entire Reinhard family in the loss of Bro. Mike’s mother, Delores Reinhard. She took her last breath here on earth surrounded by family. Dan and Delores used to live in the Remington, IN area and many of us knew and loved Delores and will miss her kind and gentle spirit.

Sis. Connie Schieler is dealing with some health issues and has been in the hospital. We’ve missed having her with us in church the past several Sundays and pray for God’s nearness and healing.

Thank you to Bro. Chad Heiniger (Sis. Heather) from Elgin, IL for coming to share an update on the ministry at Gateway Woods. Bro. Chad is the Development Coordinator for Gateway Woods and told us about the various areas of outreach and shared stories of lives that have been touched.

We also extend sympathy and prayers to Donna Kyburz (Ron), Bro. Richard Stoller (Viola) and Frank Heinzelman as they have said good bye to relatives.

Lately I have been deeply touched by the importance of church attendance and being together as believers. We truly need one another. The song in our Hymns of Zion, “I Need the Prayers” is a good reminder. “I want my friends to pray for me, to
bear my tempted soul above, and intercede with God for me, I need the prayers of those I love."

Iowa, Bloomfield  
Kendra Schlatter

We thank Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) for sharing the Memorandum on January 27 and then serving us on the pulpit on Sunday.

We pray for those recovering from illness, including Marvel Christy (Sis. Charlotte Teubel’s mother). May God’s healing hand continue to be with Marvel.

Our sympathy goes out to Brent and Erica Wuthrich in the passing of Erica’s grandpa, Clyde Knapp (Bloomfield, IA). May the Lord comfort them as they go through this time of sorrow.

We welcome Bro. Mark Hilty to our congregation. He has moved here from Rittman, OH. May he feel love and at home in our Bloomfield church.

May we look forward to spring and the season of Easter which is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life not only in a physical sense here on earth, but also in a spiritual sense where we have a hope of heaven someday, if we are true and faithful to our Lord.

Iowa, Elgin  
Maria Rocke

Nora Joy was born on January 31 to Ben and Kami McCready. Grandparents Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch are thankful for her healthy arrival.

We appreciate the labors of Bros. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). May God bless them!

“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men…” 1 Thessalonians 3:12

Iowa, Garden Grove  
Laura Funk

We held our annual business meeting in February. We are thankful for those that completed their elected positions and pray for those beginning their new duties. We must remember the congregation elected us to those positions. They are expecting those duties to be fulfilled. We need to take courage and do our best for the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

We are thankful for travelling mercies for those who bring God’s message to us. Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) visited Garden Grove this past month. God bless you!

Sis. Dorothy Neal spent several days in the hospital and at home recuperating. We are thankful she is able to assemble with us again.

“Grant me, Lord Jesus, strength for overcoming Sin, world and Satan and his gloomy host! O make me faithful, let me be victorious Thy face to see on yonder blessed coast!
There wilt Thou bless me, With joy refresh me, There I’ll discover eternal rest, There I’ll discover eternal rest!”  
Hymns of Zion #271 vs. 6

Iowa, Iowa City  
Diana Butikofer

We appreciate Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Tremont, IL), Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) serving us from the pulpit on three Sundays.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Jesse, Bro. Joshua, and Sis. Renae Snodgrass following the death of their grandmother, Delores Reinhard (Dan, Eureka, IL).

Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Gerst were blessed with another granddaughter when Xandrea Joan was born on January 29 to Bro. Joel, Sis. Amy, Titus, Rhoda, and Onita Troxel (LaCrosse, IN).

Iowa, Lester  
Audrey Metzger, Joyce Moser

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

How blessed we can be to practice this scripture! We have so much to be thankful for.

With joy-filled hearts, we report that Bryce Klostergaard (Brad & Sis. Linda) has surrendered to God’s will and asked Jesus Christ to be his Savior. We rejoice with Bryce and his family over this change in his life, and pray for God’s continuing grace to supply his needs.
Two new babies joined our church family this past month! Each one is such a precious gift. Bro. Jordan & Sis. Masondra Metzger were blessed to add Naux Jordan to their family circle on February 5, joining siblings: Koen, Liam, Imena, Haislee, and Geir. Paternal grandparents, Bro. Art and Sis. Kristy Metzger, also are excited for this new little grandson.

Bro. Tristan and Sis. Chelsea Kuenzi welcomed their first daughter, Brooke D’vone, on February 9. Big brothers, Kaiden and Jaxon, and happy grandmother, Sis. Chalea (late Bro. Vern) Knobloch, are also thankful for her safe arrival. We wish both of these young families God’s grace and blessings as they raise these precious little ones, whom God has entrusted to their care!

Congratulations go out to Brendan Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie) and Paige Meester on their recent engagement. We wish them God’s blessings and direction as they anticipate beginning their lives together and plan for their upcoming wedding in October, 2018.

Braden Meyer, two-year-old son of Bro. Alvie & Sis. Alice Meyer, spent time in the hospital during the past month. We remember these loved ones with encouragement and in prayer.

Ashley & Bro. Michael Leuthold & their girls said their last earthly goodbye to Ashley’s grandfather, Kenneth Hanson. We want to extend sympathy and prayers for His comfort in their time of loss.

Sympathy is extended to Elder Bro. Rod & Sis. Sue Bajema, on the passing of Lyle Acheson, the brother-in-law of Bro. Rod, who had been in poor health for many years. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Raymond (Pat) & Sis. Twyla Meyer on the loss of Sis. Twyla’s brother, Bro. Larry Bauman of Goodfield, IL. He is also the brother-in-law of Bro. George Meyer, and an uncle to many from Lester. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cari Knapp and family are also remembered with sympathy in the loss of Bro. Kevin’s grandmother, Sis. Jeanette Knapp from Congerville, IL. May precious memories of their loved ones help to soften the grief for all of these families.

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

Iowa, Mediapolis

Janet Lanz, Tami Lanz

We were thankful to have Bro. Matt Kauffmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) here on January 21 to give an ACCFS presentation to our church on Healthy Relationships in the Church Body. We appreciate his efforts and good instruction. We also appreciate his willingness to minister God’s word during our church services.

On January 28 we witnessed the marriage vows of our Sis. Candace Wagenbach (Bro. David and Sis. Charlene) to Bro. Mason Metzger (Bro. Dick and Sis. Gail) of Morris, MN. We wish them God’s richest blessings as they make their home in Morris, MN. We are thankful for the visiting ministers who were here for the wedding. They were Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), and Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington).

We rejoice with our Sis. Claire Lanz (Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia) who is engaged to Bro. Daniel Steiner (Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy) from Burlington, IA.

We also rejoice with our Bro. Nathan Sharp (Gary and Tammy) and Sis. Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis) from Fairbury, IL over their engagement.

We extend our sympathy to our Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie Hay on the passing of Sis. Connie’s father, Ralph Kingsbury.

We are thankful that two souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Emmalee Lanz (Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia) and Ellie Lanz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami). May they feel God’s love and guidance as they learn to trust in Him.

The Mediapolis/Burlington all-church invite-a-guest weekend was February 3. We were blessed to have many visitors, and are thankful for the visiting ministers who served. They were Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), and retired Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Washington, IL).

Our annual church business meeting was held this month. We are thankful to those who
have finished their terms. Elected to the following positions are; Church Trustee-Bro. Trent Kuntz, Fellowship Center Trustee-Bro. Michael Roth, Usher-Bro. Bill Massner, Cemetery Committee-Bro. Travis Frank, Kitchen Committee-Sis. Connie Hay and Sis. Tami Lanz, Silver Lining Correspondent-Sis. Janet Lanz, and HarvestCall Sewing Committee-Sis. Heidi Frank.

Iowa, West Bend
Becky Virklor, Jenny Banwart

We appreciate Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) coming to assist Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm with the memorandum. We’re thankful for the friendly reminders, encouragement, and chastisements for gaining a closer walk with our Lord.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla, Elgin, IA). May God bless their efforts in being used for His service.

We pray for God’s healing to Bro. Chuck Mogler (Sis. Beth) as he’s recovering from a recent fall.

Our congregation has been blessed with many other visitors the past few weekends with different couple invites and singles gatherings. We’ve also seen God’s work continue in touching the lives of many hearts, turning souls unto Him, old and young. We have so much to rejoice in and be thankful for.

“May each one then in his own place, on Him, the Rock, be grounded; by His good Spirit, Word, and grace at all time be surrounded; may all be hallowed by God’s might; He is our star and shining light.” Zion’s Harp #173

Japan, Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

We’ve had several big snows this winter in the Tokyo area, but thankfully by Sunday the roads were clear. With joy, we could say as David wrote in Psalm 122:1, “...Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

We so enjoyed the fellowship of Sis. Kacie Klopfenstein (Leo, IN) as she accompanied Sis. Anna Inoue and her three children flying back from the States. Sis. Kacie then spent several weeks here enjoying the people and culture, and then went for a short visit to South Korea before she returned to her home. We thank the Lord for safe travels of our loved ones. Sis. Kacie spent last year assisting with CVE in Mexico, so she has had many experiences in the labors and joys of the Lord.

Visiting us this past Sunday was Bro. Hisato and Sis. Rika Inoue from Okayama. We enjoyed their fellowship also, and appreciate their visit from coming quite a distance.

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Tiffany Menold

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise…” Ephesians 5:15

This past month our congregation was blessed to listen to a talk on “Safe Technology Use for the Whole Family” by Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL). It is always good to be taught and reminded of how we can be discerning and wise with the technology around us.

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.” 1 Thess. 5:21-22

We also enjoyed hearing the Memorandum this month, with Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) coming to help our own Elder Bro. Brad. Bro. Arlan and Bro. Randy also preached God’s Word on the Sunday they were here. We thank them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Corrine Meyer’s (Bro. Cameron) sister, as she was in an automobile accident and sustained some injuries.

The birth of a baby is always joyous news!! Bro. Almanzo and Sis. Jody Strahm welcomed their first child, Kayla Judith, on February 16, 2018. Happy grandparents are Bro. Kyle and Sis. Lucy Goodman, and Mike Goodman. Also thankful for the arrival of a new grandson are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim Baumgartner. Bro. Logan and Sis. Tabitha Fehr (Sabetha) are the new parents.

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

Kansas, Kiowa
Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

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

Rom. 10:14-15

This month we had the privilege of having Ministering Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christine and daughter Sis Emily,) Sabetha, KS share a weekend to bring the Word and fellowship with us. We appreciate the time and effort they spent to travel to Kiowa for this special weekend.

The Wichita, KS church hosted a Sunday Fellowship gathering for the small churches in Kansas and Missouri this month. Quite a few of our congregation shared in the day in Wichita. Although we missed having them at home, we are thankful they could spend a day of worship and fellowship with other churches.

It was Kiowa’s turn to hold services at Kansas State University one Wednesday evening this past month. We ate supper with about “15” K-Staters. At the Chapel where we had services, the singing was absolutely gorgeous with all those young, joyful voices, plus parents and friends, who came. There was a lot about kindness and talents in the Word God chose that evening. On the way home, we saw a blinking sign that stated “Kindness is like confetti, it needs to be spread around,” a perfect finish to a perfect evening. May God grant that the talents and kindness of those precious young people be ever to His honor and glory as they finish their education and head out into the life He has chosen for them!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ronald Allenbach (Sis. Lois) as he had heart surgery in January. We are thankful things went well and he is at home now. We hope he will soon be able to worship with us again.

We held our annual meeting in January, and thank all those who are willing to lend themselves to work in the vineyard of the Lord. In a small church, it takes everyone to keep things going.

We are enjoying listening to the Conference CD’s on Wednesday evenings, and appreciate hearing the messages as the watchmen try to warn and encourage us to be faithful and watchful to the end of our lives.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his Commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Eccl. 12:13

Kansas, Lamont-Gridley
Dorene Metzger

Our annual elections were held in January. The willingness of each brother and sister to do various responsibilities within the church is such a blessing to all. In this context, the song Ready, #124 in the Hymns of Zion, seems appropriate in thought and meaning.

“Ready to suffer grief or pain,
Ready to stand the test;
Ready to stay at home and send
Others if He sees best.
Ready to go, ready to bear, Ready
to watch and pray;
Ready to stand aside and give, Til
He shall clear the way.
Ready to speak, ready to think,
Ready with heart and brain;
Ready to stand where He sees fit,
Ready to stand the strain.
Ready to speak, ready to warn,
Ready o’er souls to yearn;
Ready in life, ready in death,
Ready for His return.
Chorus: Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.”

Some seasons of life are more difficult than others, but haven’t we all found our Lord to be near us to help carry the load? So, Lord, help me to be Ready my place to fill!

Sis. Hope (Bro. Victor) Edelman had to have additional surgery on her thumb involving an infection in a tendon repair.

Bro. Albert (Sis. Jeannie) Edelman has had some additional tests involving his heart. May we be Ready to watch and pray!

Our older Sunday School students have held fund raisers this month toward their trip in June to Magdalena, Mexico. What a joy to see them work together to the end result of helping others. And what better way to instill compassion and caring for others. How the Savior’s heart must be warmed to see growth of this kind in the
hearts of young and old! Help us to be Ready to do His will!

Kansas, Sabetha
Brenda Nenadov, Leanna Hartter

Our congregation enjoyed a time of fellowship as we gathered together at the Fellowship Center on a Friday evening in January to pack soup kits for the needy and tie comforters. May we always remember in prayer those who do not have some of the very basic necessities that we have been so blessed with.

We were thankful to have Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) here to help our Bro. Gerry with the Memorandum on January 27. Bro. Greg also brought forth the Word on Sunday. May God bless him for his labors on our behalf.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven when a sinner repents. We are so thankful for our three recent converts. Mark Metzger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Betty), Mara Aberle (Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari, currently living in Bonne Fin, Haiti) and Isaac Edelman (Darin and Sis. Karen) have felt the Lord’s call and answered. We certainly lift these souls up in prayer as they begin their walk of faith.

We also rejoice with Ted and Miranda Grimm who have repented, found peace with God and man and are now desiring baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms in the future.

Thankful for the arrival of their first child are Bro. Logan and Sis. Tabitha Fehr as Owen Everett blessed their lives on February 12. We lift this family up in prayer as they raise him in a godly way. Grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia Fehr and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim Baumgartner (Bern).

Kansas, Wichita
Debbie Frieden

On January 28, our guest Minister was Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriet and children.) Adrian’s parents Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia accompanied them from Bern, KS.

On February 4, we scheduled a meeting to discuss placing a brother in the ministry of our church. Our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi was present, also Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS). It was announced Sunday that Bro. Josh Johnson (Sis. Bethany) will be our new minister. They have 3 daughters. We are thankful for the support Bro. Cory will have on the pulpit. February 11, we held our Kansas Church get-together. Everyone enjoyed the singing, fellowship and dinner that followed. There were greetings from Taylor, Lester, Bern, Lamont and Kiowa. Also, a nice group from Kansas State University attended. We are thankful that Bro. Jeremiah Psinas came to share the word from Morton, IL. The singing is so beautiful when all voices blend together. PRAISE YE THE LORD.

México, Barra Vieja
Alisha Ramirez

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”
Matt. 18:19

This month we have begun reading and praying for specific things each day as a united group of believers in Mexico. Each of our 5 churches in Mexico pray for a specific prayer request each day and read a few daily verses from the Bible. We are pleading with the Lord for each of the requests and are in agreement that these things will come to pass as the verse states in Matthew.

We finished our church study on the book of James this month. We have learned a lot over the past couple of months as we worked our way through James being led by our Bro. Seth Gerber who resides in Magdalena, Mexico. We were able to follow along with the study through ACCentral.

“Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.” James 4:8

We are extremely grateful to our Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) who visited this month. We thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedule to come here and share the Word. Many Bible studies were held and Bro. Mike Leman led Sunday services. We were encouraged multiple times through Bible studies and fellowship with the brethren.
During this month the Sunday school children have been learning about the 10 commandments. It is so encouraging to see them learning and becoming more creative each week that passes. They are also learning songs like, “This Little Light of Mine,” “The B-I-B-L-E,” and “Jesus Loves Me,” and beginning to remember them.

We would like to thank you all for your prayers and encourage you to visit. If anyone would have a desire to visit, please email Sis. Alisha (English or Spanish) to make arrangements: alisha.ramirez@hotmail.com. Anyone having a desire to serve here in Barra Vieja, short or long term, please speak with your local elder and contact our Elder Bro. Mike Leman at mike.leman@singinghillsinc.com.

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them:” Acts 16:25

Singing. Sometimes it just seems to go against our feelings or circumstances, but doesn’t it help change our perspective, remember our great God, and give Him the praise He is so worthy? As we visited our Bro. Francisco Herrera a few days ago, the words of a song came to me…I hesitated as I didn’t want to be inappropriate, but felt led to go ahead. “I will praise him with my heart, I will praise him with my voice; and if I’m missing my voice, I’ll praise him with my hands; and if I’m missing my hands, I’ll praise him with my feet; and if I’m missing my feet, I’ll praise him with my soul; and if I’m missing my soul, I’ve already gone to be with him…I want to walk the streets of gold with Jesus…” The words of the song seemed to make a connection with him like nothing I had been able to say. He and his wife, Sis. Carmen, have been through trying days with his leg amputation. Their faith and love for the Lord are an example that shows me how little my own faith is. Sis. Carmen said, as she patiently massaged his arms, “I’m so thankful the Lord left him his arms. I trust that he’ll again be able to take up the guitar and help sing to our Lord.”

The Lord really is worthy of our praise and trust, as we heard this Sunday from Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, Sis. Deb). He shared from Luke 8, the stories of the woman with an issue of blood and Jairus’ daughter. We can all identify an “issue” in our lives that we have tried to resolve in different ways, but to no avail. Christ does have all power and wants us to come to Him in faith and acknowledge Him as our only hope. Then He can work on our behalf and we can declare before all people what He has done for us.

Mexico, Magdalena
Laura Ricketts

This month we were blessed with the fellowship of visitors from Forrest, Peoria, Cissna Park, Gridley, Bluffton, and Champaign, as well as others. We were thankful for the willingness of Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn, Forrest) to share God’s word.

We were excited to announce the engagement of Sis. Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Par, Milford, IN) and Bro. Seth Gerber (Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN). May God bless them in this new journey and as they plan their wedding for April 22, 2018.

The father of Yaneli Felix Olea passed away this month. We were thankful she was able to travel to his funeral in Baja California, but continue to pray for God’s comforting presence in her life as she grieves this loss.

At a recent prayer meeting the following verses were read. “O Israel, trust thou in the Lord: he is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord; he is their help and their shield. Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.” Psalm 115:9-11. So often we cannot see with our eyes what God is working. We can only place our trust in Him and believe that He will help and shield us. Several days later I read Psalm 118. Verses 2-4 parallel beautifully, “Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth forever. Ye that fear the Lord, say, that his mercy endureth forever.” Psalm 118:9-11. So often we cannot see with our eyes what God is working. We can only place our trust in Him and believe that He will help and shield us. Several days later I read Psalm 118. Verses 2-4 parallel beautifully, “Let Israel now say, that his mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth forever. Ye that fear the Lord, say, that his mercy endureth forever.” Even as we walk through dark places, we can trust that someday we will look back like the psalmist and say, “His mercy endureth forever!” How comforting to know that we are always in the hands of the Father!
Michigan, Alto
Renee Steffen, Heidi Kaeb

As the Junior and Senior High classes filed in to sit in the front row one Sunday morning, I was perplexed because as far as I knew this was just like any other Sunday service. I was soon to realize it wasn't when Elder Bro. Ted stood to finish up, he ended by saying, “about six months ago Bro. Howard came to me...”. My stomach dropped because I could see that Ted was having a difficult time with what he was going to announce. Our dear Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) was retiring from the ministry and he had just preached his last sermon.

The tears fell down my face and although I was happy for him, I know that all of us here in Alto and many other places will miss his ‘unique to him’ approach to preaching and teaching the gospel of Truth from the Holy Bible. The thought that this was how I feel when I am told of someone’s untimely death was not lost to me. It struck me that this might be how those who are not saved by grace might feel when the last trump sounds. I wished I had listened more closely, that I hadn’t been distracted by the Sunday school kids being there, that I would have soaked up what I had taken for granted the last 26 years.

Bro. Howard preached for 34 years total and we have all been richly blessed by the Holy Spirit guiding him to share his heart’s concern for the lost. We wish to express our thankfulness for all his years of service and sacrifice. May our gracious Lord bless him and his family.

With thankful hearts we welcome home Sarah Sixberry from Cambodia and our small work team who spent a week in Haiti. Our Father protected them and brought them safely back home. We are looking forward to hearing about their experiences and seeing a slide presentation soon.

The Junior and Senior High youth recently took a weekend trip together for a winter retreat. They all enjoyed trying out downhill skiing and snowboarding and spent a wonderful time fellowshipping and learning together. Thanks to those who planned and invested in making such a special memory and experience for them.

Our thoughts and prayers continue for those who are struggling with sickness, hospitalization or grief of the loss of a loved one. May each feel the tenderness of love and compassion from our Father, who will meet them in their need and fulfill the promise that He will never leave them alone.

Last Wednesday evening as I listened in to the services, something was said in the prayer that struck me. The poignant and thought-provoking statement was, “Satan either attacks you or attracts you”, and that inspired me to write the following poem. As we go throughout each day may we recognize how crafty Satan is and that we ought to ‘take into captivity each thought’.

“Is Satan attacking you from every side?
Is He lying in wait to go along for the ride?
Or is he coming at you in a totally different way, by attracting your attention so you forget to pray?
Is he telling you lies so close to your pain, that at times it is difficult the truth to gain?
Or are you distracted by the lies he shoves in your face through social media, Hollywood or the political race?
Is he sending you messages that have tripped you before?
Is he trying to sneak in your hearts back door?
Or does he show you the glitter that’s really ‘fool’s gold’, that you must do anything that you do not look old?
Is he beating you up saying victory you’ll not win, because of your past wandering in sin?
Or does he tell you to spend what you really don’t have making you believe it heals like a salve?
Is he throwing the darts too numerous to count as you climb from the valley up your next mount?
Or does he make you believe that success is a must and that God is not someone that you can trust?
He’s cunning and skillful to find our weak spots.
Are we going to let him win, or put his lies to a stop?” ibG.res
**Note of Thanks:**
Just a succinct note of gratitude to the Alto church family for the kindness and warmth our young family felt as we were welcomed to this area 26 years ago. Additionally thanks for your support/love during my ministry throughout the years. The meal, surprise gifts and cards were much appreciated. Regards, Howard and Kristen Plattner

**Michigan, Bay City**
**Sarah Knochel**
This past month has been fairly quiet in Bay City. We are thankful for the opportunity to spend time each Thursday during the winter months doing sewing and bean bagging for HarvestCall. The Sunday School students also spent a Sunday morning putting together health kits for Mexico.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6

As the days begin to grow longer and there is evidence of spring around us, we know that the Easter season will soon be here. It is such a blessing to reflect on the tremendous price that was paid at Calvary so that we may have an abundant life in Christ.

**Michigan, Detroit**
**Carrie Ramseyer**
“For God louede so the world, that he yaf his ‘oon bigetun sone, that eeh man that bileueth in him perische not, but have everlastynge liff.”

The previous sentence you read is, in fact, English. Not recognizing some of the words? You may not. The English language has changed in the past seven centuries. This version of John 3:16 was published in the year 1382, when John Wycliffe translated the Bible from a complex Latin to the common English language of the time. For the first time, the English speaking people could read for themselves of Jesus’ sacrificial love. They could finally begin to understand the wonder of God Himself dying for them, and then conquering death.

Think about it. People have celebrated Jesus’ death and resurrection for many of centuries. Scholars have poured themselves into translations of the Bible so that more people could come to know their Creator. Martyrs have given their lives to tell the world of God’s love. Easter is not simply an American holiday. It is a global and timeless reminder of what happened at Calvary. It is humbling to think of the magnitude.

The Detroit Church choir witnessed this global phenomenon when on the annual choir trip to Kitchener, ON, Canada. Even across country borders, the same God is still worshiped and praised. We were blessed to have been with the Kitchener congregation and community.

Thank you for those who have been praying for Sis. Dot Leman (Chuck Lehman). She is healing well after surgery! Continued prayers would be appreciated. We would also like to express our sympathy to Chuck and Sis. Dot Leman for the passing of Chuck’s brother, Bro. Fred Ringger of Gridley, IL.

Our annual church meeting occurred in late January. We would like to thank all those who have used their gifts (and are continuing to use their gifts) to promote God’s kingdom in our Detroit congregation.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**
**Brenda Messner, Renee Messner**
We have been blessed and humbled by members in our community that are coming to worship with us and expressing a desire in following Christ. We pray for God to work in their hearts.

The weekend of February 17, the single group invited various young and single groups from several Illinois churches. They combined with our Sunday School to go snow tubing at Trapp Farm and all returned for a pizza lunch at church. After an evening meal everyone enjoyed fellowshipping together with various activities which proved to be a very uplifting, spiritual experience. It is such a wonderful blessing to get together with others from so far away and feel a common bond.

**Minnesota, Morris**
**Ashley Knobloch, Heidi Pfaffmann**
“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” Genesis 2:24
Bro. Mason and Sis. Candace Metzger were united in marriage in Mediapolis, IA. Their parents are Bro. Dick & Sis. Gail Metzger and Bro. David & Sis. Charlene Wagenbach (Mediapolis, IA). We look forward to having Candace in Morris and trust God will be with them as they establish their home together.

Sis. Kaitlin Koehl gave her testimony and was baptized. Her parents are Bro. Chris & Sis. Shelly Koehl (Belvidere, IL). Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) and Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), along with ministering Bro. Doug Moser (Morris North, MN) were here for the joyous weekend.

Sis. Carolyn Reuter (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Joyce Moser (Bro. Bill) certainly have our prayers as they face health challenges.

Handsome little River Dean was born to Bro. Drew & Sis. Lanna Schmidgall. Older brother Kortlen also welcomes him home! Grandparents are Bro. Rob & Sis. Kathryn Schmidgall and Bro. Dean & Sis. Linda Meyer (Lester).
elected two new Sunday School teachers. Bro. Kent Kellenberger (Sis. Kelsey) and Sis. Shelby Steidinger (Bro. Jordan) will both start a new 3-year term in the fall. Bro. Alan Banwart (Sis. Holly) has a new 3-year term as trustee. Also Bro. Joe Fehr (Sis. Joan) will serve another term as treasurer.

Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) assisted Bro. Randy with the Memorandum. We are thankful to him for sharing God’s word on Sunday also. May God bless him for his service to our congregation.

Our local HarvestCall activities recently included health kit and school kit packaging. We thank Bro. Alan and Sis. Holly Banwart for all their efforts to make this possible. The fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

It is with heavy hearts that we have to say farewell to Bro. Galen and Sis. Shannon Kellenberger and their children as they have decided to move to Silverton, OR. We trust that God will be with them and bless them as they follow His leading in their lives. We wish them God’s richest blessings and protection as they move to a new area. We will all miss them dearly.

Missouri, Lamar
Jayla Wettstein

Here am I. These three words were the topic for our Young Group invite this month. Bro. Craig Stickling came and presented this topic and sent us home with many take-home points. First, he asked us “when was the last time you looked in the mirror and told yourself that you are blest?” This struck me. It seems like nowadays you always hear negative things and it makes it hard to remember that we are truly blest. Another thing he asked us to think about is how would we respond to a friend who comes up to us to tell us God has called them to move somewhere far away. Would we rejoice with them or try to keep them from going? Or, would we ask how God called them? We were thankful to host around 40 singles from Fairbury, Forrest, Cissna Park, Eureka, and Denver. Thanks to all who travelled for blessing us with your fellowship!

Elder Bro. Doug Schock and Ordained Deacon Bro. Brad Funk came and shared the memorandum. We were also able to have our business meeting the same weekend. We are very thankful for those who finished their terms serving the church and are praying for the new ones who step up to serve.

After much prayer and searching God’s will for my life, I have decided to move to Rochester, MN to go to college and nanny for a family there. While there, I will be worshipping with the Minneapolis church.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL), Bro. Chad Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL). Along with our thanks to the visiting ministers and their wives, we would also like to send a special thanks to those who travelled with the ministers.

Missouri, St. Louis
Sarah Fehr

HarvestCall held a board meeting in St. Louis in January, so we were blessed by many visitors that Sunday including Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). Other ministering brothers were in the congregation. As a bonus blessing, the HarvestCall wives not only provided babysitting for couples on Saturday, but also taught Sunday School and served lunch for us on Sunday. Our cups were filled and running over! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Missouri, Taylor
Anneliese Lindberg, Rachel Reinbeck
Greetings!

The annual Corporate Meeting of the Church was held on January 10. Bro. Jim Gottman was elected as trustee. Sis. Tricia Grimm was elected to serve on the Food Committee. We wish them God’s blessing and guidance. May God bless all who perform their duties for the benefit of our church. We need each one!

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) visited us on January 21 and gave us guidance on the selection of a minister. He also assisted our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer with the Memorandum.
After serving in the pulpit ministry for nearly twenty years, Bro. Dave Marquart announced his retirement on Wednesday evening, January 24. May God bless him for his many years of service!

We are excited and grateful to announce the arrival of Jackson Gabriel to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Rebecca Haerr. He made his appearance on January 28! With new births, we consider the privilege it is to hear the murmuring of children during church services, as it means the growth of our church and the Christian heritage.

On the following Sunday, February 4, we enjoyed hearing from a visiting minister who has become familiar to us, Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL). He was in Taylor to visit his new grandson, Jackson.

Small group Bible studies are in full swing this month. We are studying the topic of “hope.” Having not grown up in Taylor, I (Anneliese) have especially enjoyed the opportunity these small groups offer to get to know church individuals more personally and spiritually.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in the month ahead and recall to your mind the hope that we have in Christ and the calling He has given us to share this hope.

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney

We gathered in the church basement on a Thursday morning to set up for HarvestCall projects, health, school and sewing kits. Then on Friday evening we gathered to put the kits together. What a blessing for the children and the adults to work on these projects together. Afterward, a report was given of how many kits were put together and where they will be going. Then we were served refreshments.

The Rockville congregation has once again started to serve lunch on the third Sunday of the month, after taking two months off because of the winter weather. We appreciate so much that they come and show their love and support and share their blessings with us.

*Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle

We were blessed to witness the wedding of Bro. Steve Klotzle (Bro. John & Sis. Cheri, Rittman, OH) to Sis. Brenda Gal (Bro. Roger & Sis. Judy) this past month.

Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), Bro. Brett Lanz (Sis. Renee, Rittman, OH), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH) willingly served us in the ministry. May God bless their labors for His service.

Sis. Jan Graf spent some time in the hospital this month.

With grateful hearts we share that Ruben Hegedus (Bro. Sandor & Sis. Gyongyi) has begun his repentance. We pray that souls seeking Him may find grace to fully give their all.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

It was a very busy weekend on January 20 and 21 as Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) were present for the memorandum and the annual business meeting that was held after church. We thank each one who served in various roles of the church last year. New positions for 2018 are Bro. Todd Sauer (Sunday School Superintendent), Bro. Larry Banks (Sunday School teacher), Sis. Lynn Hartzler (Sunday School substitute), Bro. Andrew Klopfenstein (Trustee), Bro. Todd Rufener (Trustee), Sis. Lynn Hartzler (Kitchen committee), Bro. Larry Banks (Gateway Woods rep.) and Sis. Nancy Banks (Silver Lining).

We were thankful for the several brothers who served us this month on the pulpit: Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Franesville, IN), Bro. George Gaul (Sis. Tina, Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL). We appreciate when our visiting ministers bring along other families and we enjoyed having the Bro. Mark Waldbeser family.
join the Walder’s on their travels to Columbus. Thank you all for your efforts.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Becca Steiner welcomed precious Lillian Everly into their hearts and home January 6. Thankful grandparents are Greg and Sis. Peggy Tiece and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner (both from Rittman).

We want to remember our dear Judylynn Ryan in the passing of her sister Jennifer in Washington D.C. Judylynn has been traveling every weekend to Washington to help care for her sister as she battled cancer. Our love and sympathies are with their family.

One of our ministers read the story of Jacob, Rachel and Leah. He asked the question “Are we willing, in faith, to endure whatever God has planned for us?” Do we have the patience to wait upon His plan?

**Ohio, Junction**

*Elizabeth Manz*

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it”


It has been a great boost to our congregation to have four young ladies decide to turn their backs on the world and surrender their lives to God. They are Taylor Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy), Skyler McCullough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie), Carla Manz (Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise) and Emily Reinhard (Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth). Taylor and Skyler are currently college students in Toledo, OH. We pray that God will be near each of them as they learn to listen and obey His voice.

We are thankful to hear that our converts Ellie Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy) and Nathan Schlatter (Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy) have felt God’s peace. We look forward to their testimonies and baptisms in the near future.

It is a wonderful thing to witness God’s work in bringing two lives together. We rejoice with Sis. Sierra McCullough (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie) and Bro. John Rosswurm (Bro. Warren and Sis. Amy) of Latty, OH as they became engaged this month. May God be with them as they prepare for their wedding and future lives together.

We mourn with Bro. Doug Reinhard (Sis. Elizabeth) as he grieves the loss of his mother, Delores Reinhard of Eureka, IL. We of all people are most blessed to have HOPE as we look into the face of death, knowing that Jesus is there. He has promised to be faithful to those who are His.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of a baby boy, Seth Emmanuel, born to Shawn and Sis. Katie Hurd on February 10. Seth is welcomed home by big sisters Kyla, Katelynn, and Kendyl along with grandparents, Bro. Pete and Sis. Helen Hurd and Wilbur and Dianne Klopfenstein of Oregon.

We pray for Sis. Madeline Manz as she is battling intense pain from a recent fall. We also want to remember Jason Carnahan (Danielle) in prayer as he continues to struggle through his recovery from a recent surgery. We are thankful that Aaron Manz (Jerrickah, son of Sis. Verginia Manz) has had a good recovery from a recent illness.

Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) was with us this past month and shared God’s Word. We thank him for his willingness.

**Ohio, Latty**

*Carmen Stoller, Mindy Stoller*

Greetings of love in our Savior’s name! We are thankful for the goodness and faithfulness of God to us. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) helped with the memorandum. We are grateful for his service on our behalf.

We joyfully witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Gina Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) and Bro. Andy Schneider (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane, Rockville, CT) on February 11. May God be with them as they make their home in Rockville. We were privileged to have many visitors with us that weekend, including several ministers: Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH).

Bro. John Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy) and Sis. Sierra McCullough (Bro. Jim
and Sis. Julie, Junction, OH) announced their marriage engagement. May they feel God’s love and nearness as they make wedding preparations.

Our love and sympathies go out to Sis. Marlene Sinn (Bro. Tim) on the passing of her mother, Delores (Dan) Reinhard. We are also praying for Sis. Gloria Grant (Bro. Phil) as she is mourning the loss of her mother, Sis. Doris (Bro. Dale) Fiechter. May the Holy Spirit comfort as only He can.

**Ohio, Mansfield**

**Elizabeth Walter**

We extend our thoughts and sympathy to Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker and family in the passing of Dan’s sister, Sondra Lutz. May each one feel comfort from the Spirit as they bid farewell to their loved one.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Joe Pamer as he recovers from illness and surgery. We also think of Wade Beer (Bro. Chuck & Sis. Tammy), who recently met with accident. We pray God’s healing hand will grant health and strength to both of our loved ones.

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.” Psalm 31:24

**Ohio, Rittman**

**Julie Steiner, Maria Beery**

“Follow me, the Savior calleth; Come to me, I am the way! What is lacking I will give you; Trust in me and watch and pray! Follow me in true submission; Learn of me, both great and small, Meekly, humbly hear my call!”

*Zions Harp #95*

We rejoice with Bro. David Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta, Forrest) and Sis. Anna Tieche (Greg and Sis. Peggy) as they were united in marriage on February 11. We trust God will bless them and the children, Orrin and Cassia, as they continue to follow His leading.

We are thankful to report 3 new baby boys. On January 20, Brandin and Sarah Bozsik became first-time parents with the arrival of Nolan John. Grandparents are Bro. Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer. On February 9, Sam and Suzie Rufener, also, became first-time parents as they welcomed Everett Orin. Grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori Rufener.

Jake Austin was born on February 18 to Tyson and Sara Hartzler. He joins older brothers, Ty and Nolan. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler.

Sis. Betty Keiper (Bro. Reinhart) spent time in the hospital this month. We want to keep her in our prayers.

We appreciate the ministers who have visited us this month. Thanks to Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest), Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest), Bro. Josh Zimmerman (Sis. Molly, Forrest), and Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville) for serving us.

“Our love and sympathies go out to Sis. Marlene Sinn (Bro. Tim) on the passing of her mother, Delores (Dan) Reinhard. We are also praying for Sis. Gloria Grant (Bro. Phil) as she is mourning the loss of her mother, Sis. Doris (Bro. Dale) Fiechter. May the Holy Spirit comfort as only He can.

**Ohio, Sardis**

**Faith Beard, Joy Indermuhle**

“For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength.” Job 37:6

We are thankful for God’s provision over the last several weeks as we have experienced harsher winter weather than we have the past two years. I am always awestruck at how God shows His power, not only in great winds and storms, but also in the beauty of a gentle snow shower or heavier snow storms. Sometimes a smaller amount of snow in Sardis, than falls elsewhere, can keep us at home because of our hilly roads. What we receive in exchange is a beautiful scene as the snow and ice cover the trees, fences and fence posts as well as everything else.

Our congregation was blessed to host a small group of brethren from Bay City, MI at the end of January. Among them was Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy). We thank him for bringing us the Word of Truth while he was here.

It is our practice to invite any who would like to attend New Martinsville, WV services through our Sardis newsletter. We are extending this invitation...
a month earlier than normal because there is a schedule change for this year. Instead of having New Martinsville Memorial Services the last full weekend of June 23-24, as would normally be planned, we will be having services the weekend of June 30 and July 1. This is due to a schedule conflict with another event that will involve several of our home brethren. If you have any questions, please contact Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle at: (740) 483-1593.

Ohio, Smithville

Millie Stoller, Connie Maletich

“This is that great thing I know; This delights and stirs me so; Faith in him who died to save, Him who triumphed o’er the grave, Jesus, God of majesty!”

*Christ the Crucified and Glorified, Zion’s Harp* #225, v.10

As we approach the Easter season, may our hearts be overwhelmed that Christ triumphed over death and continues to live!

Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), We send heartfelt thanks to each of these brothers for their untiring work for the Lord.

We bid a sad farewell to our dear Sis. Florence Hartzler. Sis. Florence was a light to all of us and her example of godliness touched many. Especially mourning her loss are her sisters: Sis. Lorene Blough, Annabel Zieker, Sis. Janette Blough, Sis. Dottie (Bro. David) Ramsier; and brothers: Bro. Alpha (Sis. Vicki, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Stan (Sis. Gloria).

Our prayers are with Sis. Juliet Nieman (Bro. Derek) as she has spent time in the hospital this month and continues to face concerns with her health.

When dear little Addison Grace was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Leah Landis, she made two sets of first-time grandparents very happy. Loving their new granddaughter are Bro. Ken and Sis. SueEllen Maibach and Bro. Harvey and Steph Landis.

Nick and Angela Zimmerman welcomed Gloria Joy into their home, warming the hearts of grandparents Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre and Barry and Lois Zimmerman. Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre were again blessed when Tesha was born to Bob and Stephanie Sax. Tesha’s other grandparents are Bonnie and Bob Sax, Sr.

We rejoice that Natalie Indermuhle (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patty) has come to the Lord in humble repentance. What a joy that God’s work continues and souls are still being gently called to the fold of Christ.

Ohio, Toledo

Brooke Harmon, Alisia Schlatter

We were thankful this month to have Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) and Bro. Matt Manz share the Memorandum. The reminder to maintain our relationship with God and take our focus off of self was a powerful message.

Toledo’s Annual Business Meeting was held this month. We are thankful for the work of each member as several have completed terms of service and others begin new terms. Everyone holds a special role in the church, whether they are placed in a specific position or they support the church as a whole.

God continues to work in the lives of His children! We were blessed this month to hear of Sis. Sierra McCullough’s engagement to Bro. John Rosswurm (Latty, OH). We pray for God’s leading hand as they begin this amazing journey together.

We also rejoice with Skyler McCullough and Taylor Manz as they have begun their repentance. What an encouragement to our faith to see God drawing more hearts to Him!

Heidi Kipfer underwent back surgery this month. We continue to pray for her healing as well as for those that continue to heal, undergo treatments, and experience sickness. This reminds us of the verse: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalms 46:1

Ontario, Kitchener

Johanna Fortenbacher

“Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” Psalm 133:1

We’ve had lots of action here in the last 2 months. Before Christmas we hosted minister
Bro. Tim Wiegand (Sis. Christa, Leo, IN) and their sons. We were happy that they participated in our Christmas program.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) held a meeting here discussing ‘Church Bolstering’ and what it means. They shared what has been done to help other congregations. We then discussed ideas of what methods could be used here.

Detroit choir with their beautiful singing blessed us so much one weekend. They provided all the food and brought along ministers Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue Detroit) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit MI). Friendships with our closest church means so much to us.

As well we recently had two ministers visit, Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elisabeth, Smithville OH) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford IL). God bless all the visitors who have come here.

Oregon, Silverton

Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Tribbett

God has surely been good this month as we have witnessed two souls being baptized into the family of God! Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) joined us in welcoming Sis. Adrienne Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) and Sis. Ginge Lichty (Ron) into the fold. It was a blessing to hear of the Lord’s work in their lives and we will continue to pray for His nearness as they serve Him.

We also welcomed several new little ones into our congregation.


Bro. Eldon and Sis. Alice Metz along with Sarah welcome twin girls: Alene Joan and Elise Jean who were born January 26. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman from Rockville, CT and Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz from Portland, OR.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Greg and Sis. Carol Wackerle as they mourn the loss of his mother, Sis. Lorraine Wackerle. Services were held in Bay City, MI.

We also think of and pray for Sis. Shirley Zollinger (Bro. Ed) and their family as they mourn the loss of Sis. Shirley’s sister, Donna Smith. Private services were held in Ohio.

We trust in God’s nearness as Bro. Art Metz’s (Sis. Betty) brother, Bro. Christian Metz, has passed away. Services were held in Forrest, IL.

It is never easy to lose someone we love, but we are thankful for the prayers lifted up for those who have recently experienced this loss, and we look forward to meeting them again someday.

We are happy to share the engagement of Sis. Erika Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) to Bro. Eric Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami) from Fairbury, IL. God has been faithful in leading them together and we all look forward to His plans for them in the future.

It is an overlooked blessing that we are able to come to church each Sunday to a beautiful sanctuary, eat a meal together, and trust that we each will be comfortable throughout the day. Thank you to those who work hard each Sunday and during the weekdays that go unnoticed to the majority. We appreciate your service and trust that God will richly bless you for your labors. Elections recently took place for the various offices within the church and we are prayerful for those who are taking on new responsibilities in the next few years.

We welcome home a work team that has recently returned from Haiti! It’s been a blessing to hear of the continued work going on in a land where life seems to be very hard. Yet the people have smiles on their faces and a joy in
their hearts that is convicting to us who have so much and do not always display that same joy.

Leanne Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) has recently begun her journey of repentance in the Lord. God truly is good and we are so thankful to see Him working in her life!

Bro. Ben Bolliger (Sis. Carolyn) has recently fallen and injured his arm and would appreciate prayers for a quick recovery.

Kendra Wiegand (Bro. John and Sis. Jane) is recovering from a rollover car accident. We’re thankful for God’s mercy and prayerful for His healing.

We were blessed again to have ministering Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) from Portland, OR serve us on the pulpit February 14.

As a church body, we would appreciate all of your prayerful support as we prepare to host the upcoming Winter Elder Conference in mid-March. Lots of hard work and planning has been going on the last several months and we trust that God will bless each one involved.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Laura Isch

We held our annual business meeting on January 28. We appreciate everyone’s efforts to make the Philadelphia church run smoothly. What a blessing to each other and to the world around us when we serve one another in love!

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

Tennessee, Nashville
Mike Fritz

We are thankful for the strength provided by the Word and godly fellowship. The Word has been so wonderfully expounded to us by our recent visitor ministers: Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Peachtree City) and Bros. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Athens), Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott), and Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha). We have been blessed by the fellowship of visitors from Athens, AL; Peachtree City, GA; Bern and Sabetha, KS; and Philadelphia, PA, as well as some local visitors who have begun attending regularly.

We were also privileged to have Bro. Tom and Bro. Daron share the Memorandum.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to fellowship and worship with us. We meet for worship every Sunday, and some Wednesday evenings, and we also welcome other opportunities for fellowship. Please contact us ahead of time to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Jordan & Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Mike & Sis. Monica Fritz, 615.866.5543, fritzmb.family@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeff & Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309.530.5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin/Bastrop
Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin/Bastrop.

We are so thankful for the sweet fellowship that we have with our many families and loved ones in the growing Austin/Bastrop church! We are continuing our Bible study on Prayer. The title of our previous study was “Praying Together”. It reminds us of the hymn The Power of Prayer, page 174 (verse 6) in the Zion’s Harp.

“If a single fervent prayer of a soul prevailing on the tender heart of God brings its fruit unfailing, How much more is in store, when whole congregations bring their supplications? We are thankful for visiting ministering brothers and their families who have willingly served our Austin/Bastrop church this past month: Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) and Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN)

“Prayers from inmost depth of heart find the Master’s favor, and the Christian’s highest art is to please the Saviour, so should we Watchful be, waiting hoping, longing for His second coming.” Zion’s Harp, #174, vs. 13,

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 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

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 fortunate to have several ministers this month. Sharing God’s word and fellowship were: Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi, Rockville, CT), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL). We thank them for their service in the ministry while in Zapata. We will anticipate them returning next year. We were blessed to have Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) here. We thank them for including us in their vacation and Bro. Mark for his services. We enjoyed hosting an invite-a-couple this winter and had visitors from various congregations. It was a blessing to have so many come from a distance.

On Thursday, our congregation gathers at the Fellowship Hall to work on making blankets. Most all of them are distributed locally.

If anyone is planning a trip to South Texas, we would enjoy having you make Zapata a destination.

Vermont, Clarendon

Nathan Reutter

My wife and I have recently been reading of the last days of Jesus. As I read the account this time, it struck me how Jesus maintained His love for Judas and Peter, despite their betrayals of Him. It made me wonder about the fullness of God’s grace in Him and of what it consisted.

What all does grace signify? The word seems to be much used in Christianity, but somehow under-defined. I did some research to clarify for myself some questions I had about grace.

Webster’s Ninth Collegiate Dictionary puts as its first definition of grace, “unmerited divine assistance given man for his regeneration or sanctification.” This is more or less what I have learned up to this point in my spiritual walk, but it seems vague to me. I wanted to see what it looks like played out in a believer’s soul. Doing a bit more research brought up six distinct aspects of God that display His grace: forgiveness, acceptance, presence, power, freedom, and completion.

Jesus did not need forgiveness or acceptance while living on earth for He was God, but He did need God the Father’s presence and power, and freedom from the devil. He also was made complete in God at His resurrection. God’s grace accomplished all of this. These aspects of God’s character have likewise affected me. I did need forgiveness, and am accepted by Him. Now I need the on-going presence and power of God working in me to overcome temptation. With the presence and power of God, I enjoy freedom from the devil. Finally, I have a hope that I will be complete with Him in heaven at the end my life on earth.

We wish this many-faceted grace to our daughter Gabrielle Reutter as she has recently begun

the 10th Street Exit off I-83 and go ½ blocks south. Please see the ministers’ directory for local contact information.
her repentance. May she feel the constant presence of God, His forgiveness and acceptance, power to overcome, freedom from the devil’s bondage, and feel complete in God.

We enjoyed the ministry of one Rockville, CT brother this past month: Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi). We appreciated the message God provided through him and the fellowship he brought.

Psalm 37:1-9

Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

2018

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH SERVICES

Clyde Park, Montana

Saturday June 23rd

Clyde Park Community Center

3:00 to 5:00 pm Registration and Fellowship

5:00 Evening Meal

Hymn Singing in Evening

For further information or to provide a count of those planning to attend by June 10th 2018, please contact one of the following Bros.

From Lester

Wes Moser 712-395-2025  wesmoser58@gmail.com

Eugene Metzger 712-472-2187  gdmetzger@premieronline.net

Bob Metzger 712-478-4647  bobcmet@alliancecom.net

or 612-963-0089

From Silverton

Greg Wackerle 503-873-7463  gregwackerle@msn.com

or 503-779-9803

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT

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

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

It is helpful if those attending can bring their own; Bibles, Zion’s Harps, and Hymn’s of Zion

Free will donations serve to cover meal costs and facility expenses

A day tour of the area may be organized for those interested on Friday June 22nd
The News & Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

News & Notices

AC Central is More than Just Sermons

It’s a hub of Apostolic Christian content:

- **Hymns**: Search by keyword to find music and lyrics to Zion’s Harp, Hymns of Zion, Hymns of Christmas, and Zion’s Melodies songs – with more to come.

- **Job Postings**: View employment and long-term volunteer opportunities at our national Apostolic Christian ministries.

- **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.

Submit feedback and vote for suggested features at accentral.userecho.com

New features are in the works. Check Google Play or the App Store regularly 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
Prayers Requested for Lamar Bolstering

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3

As we begin the New Year, continued prayers are requested for the bolstering efforts in the Lamar, MO congregation. Recently, e-mail and pulpit announcements were made to the brotherhood that the Holy Spirit would move in the hearts of families, couples and singles to physically move and become part of the Lamar church family. Sunday School teachers and song leaders are also needed. Further, the congregation is working on outreach into the community and asks for prayers in knowing how best to reach those who are hurting, unsaved and in need of Jesus’ love and compassion.

Approximately 30 worship in the congregation today, including singles, families and children. If you feel God calling you to answer the prayers of those in the Lamar congregation (and the brotherhood) to relocate, OR you would like more information, inquire at CEC@harvestcallorg. You will be directed to the appropriate people to assist. Also, consider visiting this congregation as you plan vacation schedules this year.

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).

Apostolic Christian

LifePoints Gospel Sing

An evening where you can sit back and enjoy the musical talent of

The Stoller Family, Kindred Spirit, & Sharper Iron

Saturday, April 28, 2018 @
Five Points, Washington IL 5:45pm - 8:30pm
Can’t attend? Join us via live streaming on the internet @
www.aclifepoints.org
*No ticket needed*
Donations accepted at the door
worship / testimony / congregational singing / fellowship
Cook & Residential Care Aides needed at Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, Paulding, OH

Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, an Assisted Living Facility, is situated in rural Paulding County, Ohio, near the Latty Apostolic Christian Church. We are currently looking to add a cook and residential care aides to our staff. Applicants may pick up an application at our facility or email a resume to susie@countryinnliving.com. Country Inn is committed to providing a tranquil environment of loving care in harmony with Biblical principles and our Apostolic Christian heritage. Our goal is to Love as Christ loved, to Care as we serve others, and to Share from the heart…to Love, to Care, to Share.

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families – two locations:
1. Guesthouse - Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.
2. Near St. Mary’s Hospital - two bedroom apartment within a 12 unit building.

Guesthouse Accommodations:
For information and reservations, contact caretakers:
Bro. Randy and Sis. Brittaney Lehman
4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901
Phone: (507) 288-0072

Mid-week Services:
(3rd Wednesday in Rochester area)
For information, contact:
Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury
Phone: (507) 281-2875

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The History of Gateway Woods

Order your copy today for $15 plus shipping.

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Make Plans to Attend Tennessee Fellowship Weekend 2018

Pack up the car, your family and head to Tennessee for the annual Tennessee Fellowship Weekend planned for May 26-27. Enjoy fellowship with brethren from various places, wonderful singing, spiritual insights from the gospel, walks around the lake, fishing, volleyball, great food (including Southern BBQ) and good ole Southern hospitality. This year, we have new, special activities for the children.

The weekend begins as everyone starts arriving, registers and gets a bidder number for the Saturday afternoon benefit auction. Donated items are greatly appreciated. Throughout the weekend ministering Bros. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Arlan Miller (Gridley, IL) and Jonathan Hodel (Roanoke, IL) will share insights relating to Isaiah 61:3 -- helping to bring out beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise to replace the spirit of heaviness in our lives as we go through challenging times. On Sunday, worship with the Athens’ congregation followed by more exciting activities at the TN Fellowship Area.

Overnight Accommodations Including Camping

Reservations for overnight accommodations can be made at the hotels listed below. Additionally, consider camping at the Tennessee Fellowship Area. There are electric and water hookups. Please contact Sis. Lisa Aschliman at the info listed below for more information.

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.

RSVP by May 4 (or before) to your local church coordinator, on the TFA Facebook site or to any of the following contacts:
Bro. Bruce or Sis. Lisa Aschliman - (260)824-5160 or bash412002@yahoo.com – leave a message
Bro. Phil or Cindy Witzig - 309.263.0152 or pw@itv-3.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

Stay tuned for more communication on the TFA Facebook site (www.facebook.com/TennesseeFellowshipArea), in Silver Lining articles and pulpit/e-mail announcements through your local church congregation.

Date Change for New Martinsville, WV Memorial Services

Services will be held June 30-July 1 weekend this year instead of the last full weekend of June as they are normally held. Contact (740)483-1593 with questions. All are welcome!
Attention All health care providers
(doctors, advance practice nurses, physicians’ assistants), dentists, nurses, physical therapists, and anyone else involved in health care)

Please consider coming to the AC Medical Fellowship biennial meeting planned for Saturday, April 14, 2018 in Bluffton, IN from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
This is a Save-the-Date announcement.
You will be receiving an email invitation sometime in late 2017 or early 2018 with the details. You may also send an email to medical@harvestcall.org if you want additional information. Todd Drayer is the current Chair of the AC Medical Fellowship and will address these inquiries.

COMPUTER-SAVVY MUSICIANS NEEDED to Create MIDI Files of Hymns

The library of hymns available in AC Central is expanding.
Several new books have been added recently but most of them lack the “Play Tune” option.

Volunteers are needed to create digital files of our hymns in the MIDI format.

Interested in helping? Have files already created that you’d like to share? Please contact Bro. Phil Witzig (Morton) at pw@itv-3.com to learn more.

Accountant - Apostolic Christian Skylines

Apostolic Christian Skylines, a retirement community in Peoria, is seeking an individual to fill the Accountant position. Qualifications include business office management skills, a degree in accounting, preferably a BS in accounting. General duties include creating monthly financial statements, governmental reports and tax returns along with directing the accounts payable processes for the organization. If you have a heart to make a difference in the lives of the elderly within a Christian ministry then please contact Matt Feucht at 309-683-2512 or mfeucht@acskylines.org.
Consider working at Gateway Woods. A day will not pass where you will wonder if God is using you for His kingdom. There is a lot of brokeness in the world around us and we have realized that God uses our broken lives to help the broken lives of others.

We currently need a Foster Care Program Manager and Houseparents. We are looking for willing hearts like you to come serve in a growing and vital ministry.

For more information:
gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
Haiti Medical / Dental Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Apr 7-14</td>
<td>Ophthalmology Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12-19</td>
<td>Nursing Proficiencies</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9-16</td>
<td>Medical Inventory team</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7-14</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
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<td>Aug 11-18</td>
<td>OPEN – Focus TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 8-15</td>
<td>Nursing Proficiencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13-20</td>
<td>OPEN – Focus TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 27 - Nov 3</td>
<td>Dental Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 8-15</td>
<td>Cervical Cancer Screening – Mobile Clinics</td>
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FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:

Komari Aberle Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net | Phone: 785.284.2950

Haiti Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2-9</td>
<td>MEBSH/Peoria/Const.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Steve Leuthold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-645-2208</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:sleuth@speerbank.com">sleuth@speerbank.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 9-16</td>
<td>Haiti Trade School</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Andy Getz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 574-870-5046</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:andy@getztdone.com">andy@getztdone.com</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 9-16</td>
<td>AWA / Water Aid</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Luke Fischer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-242-7020</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:lukanal@live.com">lukanal@live.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 18-23</td>
<td>MEBSH/Haiti Support</td>
<td>ACHC-CC</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-266-9009</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 23-30</td>
<td>MEBSH/Maintenance</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Jon Zeller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les Cayes</td>
<td>Phone: 309-266-9009</td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:jczeller1972@gmail.com">jczeller1972@gmail.com</a></td>
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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. The 2018 Awareness Tour dates are March 24-28 and September 22-26.

To learn more, contact:
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.com

Haiti, Bonne Fin Construction 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 Hospital Administrator to discuss possible dates and available projects.

Hospital Administrator Bro. Rick Aberle
Phone: 011-509-4222-1004 or
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net

Proclaim Christ & Serve Others

http://www.harvestcall.org/chester-team-photos
March 2018    SILVER LINING

Mexico Awareness Tour

If you would like to meet the missionaries and see the ministries of CCCD, Deaf Can! Coffee and En Gedi House in person, but do not have the desire to participate on a short-term team, please consider our new Awareness Tour. This is a quick trip that gives interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about our Jamaica ministry as well as other outreach supported by HarvestCall. The trip will be over a weekend and include worshiping with a deaf congregation. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand. Our second Awareness Tour is tentatively planned for mid–May. To learn more, Email or Call:

Kent Mogler at 612 360-4361 or moglerkent@gmail.com

Jamaica Awareness Tour

If you would like to meet the missionaries and see the ministries of CCCD, Deaf Can! Coffee and En Gedi House in person, but do not have the desire to participate on a short-term team, please consider our new Awareness Tour. This is a quick trip that gives interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about our Jamaica ministry as well as other outreach supported by HarvestCall. The trip will be over a weekend and include worshiping with a deaf congregation. These trips are scheduled, as needed, based upon demand. Our second Awareness Tour is tentatively planned for mid–May. To learn more, Email or Call:

Kent Mogler at 612 360-4361 or moglerkent@gmail.com

Mexico Medical / Dental Teams

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 10-16</td>
<td>Juarez</td>
<td>Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 10-16</td>
<td>Reynosa</td>
<td>Caleb Roecker / ISU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 24-30</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Bill Carrico / Bluffton/BN Senior Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8-15</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Chad Massner / Taylor Bible Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 15-22</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Fred Sollberger / Chicago Bible Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 17-24</td>
<td>Magdalena</td>
<td>Rod Schmidt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions for Mexico Teams:

Reynosa: Kevin & Sadie Gerber Phone: 260-417-5272 kevgerber@yahoo.com
Magdalena: Daton Kuperschmid Email: Datonkup@gmail.com

Jamaica Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2018</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 28 - Jun 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22 - Jun 28</td>
<td>Kingston - CCCD (Latty/Mansfield)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 7 - 14</td>
<td>Jamaica Deaf Village - CCCD (Rittman)</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**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
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

www.harvestcall.org

Interested in receiving a printed sermon?

To order, contact: Printed Sermons
P.O. Box 154, Forrest, IL 61741
(815) 848-5113 • printedsermons@gmail.com
Seeking caregivers, single or married, willing to provide a Christ-centered family-like home for children who have been removed from their biological families. A caregivers qualifications include: Member in good-standing; dedication and love for children and young people; good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; openness to learn, self-motivation and flexibility; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish.

A caregivers responsibilities include: Providing spiritual leadership and training for the children; provide for the daily physical, social and emotional needs of the children; continual pursuit of personal emotional and spiritual growth; continual professional growth as a caregiver; administer discipline in love and using biblical principles in accordance with CVE policies; grow in cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

Terms of Service
- Live on the CVE campus in the homes of the children being cared for.
- Language, culture and caregiver training will be provided.

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

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525

Seeking caregiver assistants, single or married, willing to support a caregiver in our Christ-centered family-like homes for children who have been pulled from their homes due to circumstances out of their control. A caregiver assistant qualifications include: Member in good-standing; dedication and love for children and young people; good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; openness to learn, self-motivation and flexibility; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish.

A caregiver assistant responsibilities include: Support or provide spiritual leadership and training for the children; support the caregiver in providing for the daily physical, social and emotional needs of the children; continual pursuit of personal emotional and spiritual growth; continual professional growth as an assistant; administer discipline in love and using biblical principles in accordance with CVE policies; grow in cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

Terms of Service
- Live on or near the CVE campus, may include living in the home of the children being cared for.
- Language, culture and caregiver training will be provided.

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

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525
Seeking short-term missionaries willing to live and serve at CVE for one year to support a variety of activities around campus.

Short-Term missionary qualifications include: Member in good-standing; dedication and love for children and young people; good communication, teamwork and conflict management skills; openness to learn, self-motivation and flexibility; ability to speak or willingness to learn Spanish.

The responsibilities could include: Support the caregiver in providing care for children; accounting support; drive church and/or school routes; prepare meals and support meal prep for work teams; work with livestock; teach work related skills to the children.

Terms of Service
- Housing provided on or near the CVE campus
- Language and culture training provided

Candidate selection, preparation, training, sending and supporting will be conducted using HarvestCall's established Outreach Policies and Procedures and the CVE Short Term Missionary Procedures.

For more information on CVE positions, contact: Keith Beyer. Email: CVEmexico@gmail.com, or Phone: 260-627-0525

The HarvestCall Haiti Dairy Program is growing! The farm is currently undergoing major construction projects as it prepares for additional cows to arrive this fall, with the goal of beginning milking operations in February 2018.

HarvestCall is seeking a full-time missionary to assist Bro. Les Kaeb in proclaiming Christ and serving others while working together with Haitians on the Good Vision Farm near Les Cayes, Haiti.

Skills that would be valuable in this ministry include:
- Agronomy
- Dairy Herd Health
- Teach the local Haitians of these agronomy and dairy practices for long-term sustainability

If you feel led to serve or have questions about this opportunity, contact: Bro. Brent Hodel at Phone: 309-231-7467 or Email: htf94@gmail.com or visit www.harvestcall.org/missionary-openings
MEDICAL DIRECTOR OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

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

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 assimilating into the Haitian culture.
- Training will be provided prior to placement in the field.

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

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

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. The missionary role is expected to start during the summer of 2018. This is a full time missionary position with a service term of one school year. There is 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, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with students, parents and visitors to the school, 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
DIRECTOR of OPERATIONS
OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

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

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.

PROFESSIONALS IN THE MEDICAL FIELD
Short Term Opportunities at Hospital Lumiere

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 CRNA’s).

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
Esteeing One Another

— Continued from pg. 3

the ten lepers, the woman caught in adultery, the criminal on the cross, the Samaritan woman, and many more cases, where men would have looked the other way, and yet the Master saw their worth, stopped what He was doing, and thereby transformed lives.

We see this also in the lives of other faithful men and women in the Bible. From Daniel to Mary to Paul and others, we are encouraged to use Christ’s perspective in esteeming others, in all situations. Take some time today to review these examples and how the preparation of their lives helped their spiritual vision and enabled their ability to help one another. At the same time, look over the last week and do some self-examination of your own Christian journey.

We all have experienced the challenges of life, and yet God still asks us to have the same care for all. The account of Joseph and his brothers — the same brothers who sold him into Egypt, gives an example of what to do when we have been wronged. Years after selling Joseph into slavery, they came back to him, looking for food and help. He didn’t seek his own vengeance, but was submissive to God’s perfect plan, “God did send me before you to preserve life.” He esteemed the teachings of God to be right and more important than his own will or feelings.

We are reminded in God’s Word to esteem the position of those in authority. The prophet Samuel recounts the time when Saul had been seeking David to harm him, and came into a cave. David and his men were in hiding and had a clear opportunity to turn the tables on Saul. However, David esteemed the position of the King of Israel, as “anointed of the Lord,” and would not harm Saul. The Apostle Paul had a similar experience when he was speaking to the high priest. He had originally rebuked the man, but when he found out that he held the position of high priest, apologized for his actions, as he was not to “speak evil of the ruler of thy people.”

Each of us has been blessed by a God who looked down on us and saw our need. As we are on our own road to Jericho, let’s think of the story of the Good Samaritan. Which individual do we most reflect? Do we likewise pass by the one in need or do we esteem them? May we have the mind of Christ to see people and situations as He did and to help them.

(Footnotes)
1 Philippians 2:3
2 John 1:3
3 Psalms 139:2
4 Matthew 21:22
5 John 3:16
7 Romans 12:10
8 Genesis 45:5
9 Psalms 119:128
10 Jude 8, Ecclesiastes 10:20
11 1 Samuel 24
12 Acts 23:5
13 Luke 10:30-35

Seeking Wisdom from Above

— Continued from pg. 7

Knowing wisdom comes from above, please join the committee in asking God for it (James 1:5). Can you also appreciate the need for God to call laborers and for the church to be faithful to appoint and send brethren to spread the gospel (Acts 6)? If you feel God calling you to relocate to the Lamar or Kitchener congregations or to join the church planting prayer group, visit with your local elder and inquire at CEC@harvestcall.org. Lastly, join the CEC in praising God for His help in St. Louis and Austin. He is certainly at work among us, and He is to be praised!
I really encourage you as I think about that. Let’s not go back and beat ourselves up for what we may have done or we could’ve done better in the past, but rather let us go forward. We look at this chapter, and my mind and thoughts always go to the end here to the Great Commission. He was talking not only to the eleven disciples, but He was talking to you and to me.

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” (v.18-19) He says, ‘I’m sending you forth to teach and to preach and to encourage and to be an example.’ He says, ‘You’re not on your own. I’m going to go forth. I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ The end of the world has not yet come. He is still with us. He’s with you. He’s with me. Let’s not get discouraged.

That’s the enemy. He wants to stall us from doing what we know we need to do, when we know we need to be going forth and following this Great Commission. He just wants to stall you off a little bit.

I challenge each one of you in this day. I challenge me. Let’s not be afraid to go forth and do what Jesus Christ said He was going to do, and by the way, He’s going to be with you while you’re doing it. What a privilege it is to serve Jesus Christ! The amount of hope that we should have in our hearts should be an endless amount. Just like the oil, or I should say just like back in the times of Elijah when there was always flour to make the bread during the famine. There was always just enough.

(1 Kings 17) That’s the way God works. There’s always just enough if we’re looking in the right places and doing the right things.

Let’s turn into another account. There are a number of accounts. It’s in all four Gospels, but I wanted to turn into Luke and read just a little bit. Let’s read a little bit about Jesus coming and talking to Cleopas and one other. It doesn’t really say who the other was. I looked this up. Threescore furlongs is about 7½ miles. It’s a considerable distance. The reason I brought up that sixty furlongs is about 7½ miles is because they went 7½ miles — so that’s kind of like walking from Tremont to Morton or the other side of Morton because it’s about six miles from Tremont to Morton — they walked there, and after Jesus revealed Himself, it says in the same hour they turned around and went back. That was important to them! You know how easy it would have been to look at the sundial or whatever they did and say it’s getting kind of late in the day, why don’t we just head back tomorrow morning. We already had kind of a long walk. But, no, they turned around in the same hour, and they went back. They were excited! They had seen Jesus!

I think we see Jesus every day in some form or fashion. As we see His people, we see Jesus working within people. Do we recognize that? Sometimes you wonder what Jesus looked like. Did He look different or something? They didn’t recognize Jesus. Maybe He did look different physically. I don’t know. We do know that He had the holes in His hands and in His feet, and in His side He did have where the spear, the sword went in. But, they didn’t recognize Jesus! I imagine they were kicking themselves the rest of their lives because they didn’t recognize Jesus.

We need to be close to Him. We need to be in His Word so that we can recognize Jesus’
calling. We might say I don’t know if I really have a calling. Yes you do! If you’re one of Christ’s, you have a calling. Maybe I just don’t have the talent to do that; I’m just not capable of doing that. Yes you are because Jesus says, ‘I will provide the help and the guidance for each one of you.’ It didn’t say it in those exact words, but He says, ‘I will be with you to the very end.’ We read that in Matthew. We have no excuse, do we? None! No excuse!

I think about the disciples. They did have a special relationship with Jesus Christ, and He invested a lot of time in the disciples. As I think about that, I think He’s invested just as much time in each one of us, or He will over our lifetime. I’m thinking about the disciples because I just love the picture of how Jesus Christ works with His people. It helps me because I’m so weak, and I know each one of you say we’re so unworthy of Jesus Christ.

I think about the account in John. The last chapter of John. The disciples had seen Jesus, and apparently it had been awhile since they’d seen him. Peter said, ‘I’m going fishing. I know how to fish. I’ve been fishing all my life. I’m going fishing.’ The other disciples said, ‘We’ll go with you.’ I don’t know what happened. You kind of surmise, but it’s almost kind of like ‘I don’t know what happened to Jesus. I spent three years with Him, and He’s not here. I don’t know what to do, but I know how to go fishing. I’m going fishing.’ And they went fishing. They didn’t catch anything! Nothing! That wasn’t by happenstance that they didn’t catch anything. God was teaching them a lesson.

We know the account. Jesus came along the side of the Sea of Galilee — I’m assuming that’s where they were out on. They had caught nothing, and they saw Jesus. One of the disciples recognized Jesus and said, ‘That’s Jesus!’ Peter with all his enthusiasm dove in, and He wasn’t going to wait for the boat to get to the shore. Actually before, Jesus said, ‘Cast the net on the other side.’ They were tired. They had been out fishing all night. They probably had the nets all pulled in, they were about done, they were discouraged, and Jesus said throw it out on the other side. They had so many fish that the nets about broke.

You think the disciples ever forgot that account? I bet they remembered that. I know Peter did because Jesus reminded him as they were on the seaside eating. He said, ‘Do you love Me?’ Jesus Christ is asking you that today. He says, ‘Do you love Me?’ ‘Yes, Lord, I love You!’ ‘Then feed My lambs.’ He asked him three times. ‘Peter, do you love Me?’ He was getting a little grieved, wasn’t he? A little frustrated. ‘Well of course I love You, Jesus!’ Jesus could’ve come back and said, ‘Then why did you deny Me three times?’ He didn’t do that! That’s not the way Jesus works.

That’s not the way Jesus works with us either. That would be something that I would probably say if somebody did something wrong to me — ‘Why didn’t you…’ Can you see yourself in that? That’s not Jesus. See, He takes imperfect women and men and He moulds us and He shapes us and He fits us until the very end. Just as He said in Matthew, ‘I’ll be with you until the end.’

I hope each one of us can think and ponder upon this account and be willing to go fishing, not for fish. Even though I know we have those who love to fish. There’s nothing wrong with that. But, when God says it’s time to go fishing for men, it’s time to go fishing for men and women. What’s going to count in the end? How many acres we farm? How big our 401(k) is? That we were able to work 60 hours a week? It isn’t going to mean anything is it. We all need to do a portion of those things, don’t we? But in the end, it’s going to be how good of a fisherman we were because there are souls out there that are hungry. Are you ready to fish?
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happen to break down the good things built up in our young men that we must put forth every effort to retain the good things we have learned and to follow the teachings from our Christian homes.

“We could wreck the Pyramids” is the slogan of a wrecking company! Who couldn’t? But the greater question is, could you build the Pyramids? It isn’t what you wreck, but what you build that counts in life. So it is with the character of young men -- you can build soberly and honestly for years, and some godless companion can lead you into a night of sin that may mean the wanton destruction of nearly everything we have built up. Our only hope is in Christ. Christ for the deliverance from the sin of the past, and Christ for being the Deliverer when the temptation would be too much for us.

So the spiritual life that has been generated in us through the Word of God needs cultivation also. Even under handicaps and under the pressure of much work we should devote some time in the reading of the Psalms and the Scripture and some time in earnest prayer whereby we draw close to God to dwell in Him and Him in us. Let us give the Lord His tithe in taking time to seek Him.

Paul gives us one of the best answers. Listen to him talk to the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 15:3, “For I have delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to Scriptures.” He began with the crucified and risen Christ -- with the atonement and the resurrection. The plan is just as fixed as the stars in the Heavens. If one really holds to the right views concerning the atonement made by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the Cross at Calvary, he will sooner or later get right on every other question.

-by Perry Klopfenstein

(The following article is one written by Elder Joe A. Getz which appeared in the first issue of the Silver Lining dated October 15, 1943. Elder Getz served as elder at Morton, Illinois. It is entitled, “What Has The Future To Offer Our Young Men? The United States was at war and a good many young men of the church were called to duty. Most of them served as non-combatants.)

Article: This message is addressed to our beloved sons, brothers, and young men in the service. First, what do we owe our young men? What should we do for them? There are the things we cannot do. One is to shield them from the inescapable realities. It is of course, a great pity that our children do not have the good fortune to grow up in a more stable and kinder world, but that is their fate.

We might just as well face it, and they must make the best of it. Nor can we take them by the hand and lead them to safety. We cannot present you with a blueprint of what is to come. We cannot think your thoughts, nor experience your deep emotions. You will have to stand up against your own problems and face your own dangers.

Time is slowly but surely accomplishing the Divine purpose of God. With each day you are given, fresh from the hand of God, the dawn of a new day, clear and bright as the sun that gave birth to the morning. Each day is a new jewel from the crown of time.

Many of you have been very busy, some taking additional training, in the type of work you like and have gotten along very well in building up a training and education that will help you in your post-war life.

Experience tells us that every good thing must be tried with fire. There are so many things that can
Christ’s Preeminence

On Tuesday, January 9, 2018, in the evening, I was reading in Colossians for my devotions when I came to chapter 1, verse 18, which reads, “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” The word “preeminence” caught my attention.

The word “preeminence” comes from the word eminence which the dictionary defines as superiority in rank. Preeminence is then defined as the state of being supremely eminent. He is above all others who may be superior in rank or power. I can see why. He is the Son of the living God, who came to earth as a human being, died for us, arose from the dead, and ever lives to make intercession for us. Hebrews 7:25.

I am challenged by the teaching that in all things, Christ might have the preeminence in my life. I believe that means I don’t do anything for my own pleasure or for my own profit. My pleasure should be to bring glory to Christ and everything I have belongs to Christ, so my profit is His profit. Christ should be in the forefront of all deliberations concerning what we should do in our lifetime as a whole, and on a day by day basis.

The verse under scrutiny begins with the assertion that Christ is the head of the body, the church. This serves as a background as to why Christ should have the preeminence in our lives. He bought the believers who make up the church, with His own blood, so He owns us. He is not only the head of the church, but the owner of the church.

The next phrase states that He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead. This further explains why Christ should have the preeminence. He is the beginning reminds us that He always existed, He was not created, He lived in heaven before He came to Bethlehem to live as a human being.

The firstborn from the dead, I believe indicates that Christ is the first one to arise from the dead with a body which will never die again. Lazarus and others were raised from the dead, but they died again. All these things support the fact that Christ should have the preeminence.

What does Christ want us to do in order to give Him the preeminence? Jesus did teach His disciples, which I believe includes us, to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” Matthew 28:19. We are taught and commanded to share the Gospel with others, in whatever way may be open to us.

Christ’s words to those on His right hand as recorded in Matthew 25:35 and 36, may give us further light on how we are to give Him the preeminence. “For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.”

I believe that we must conclude that according to the teachings of the Bible, Christ should have a much more prominent place in our lives. He should be spoken of and recognized as the most important factor in all decisions as to what we are going to do, or what we are not going to do.

Surely Christ should be included in every part of our lives, not just in our spiritual lives in church. Christ is the light of the world and that light shines the brightest in the complete darkness of the world. Not only that, but that is where the lost are, so that is where the light will do the most good. There it attracts attention and brings glory to Christ. May we all live so that Christ might have the preeminence.

-by Willis Ehnle
Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:
if any man hear my voice, and open
the door, I will come in to him, and
will sup with him, and he with me.

Rev. 3:20