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Be still, and know that I am God: ...
Psalm 46:10
The Power of His Resurrection

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 3:10-11 “That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.” As we approach the Easter season, we all know who the person of Jesus was, the one who died on the cross. Do we know him as he is today? The resurrected Savior!

The overwhelming loss the disciples felt as their master was crucified was conquered in the power of His resurrection. The power that raised the Lord from the dead is set forth as the greatest display of might the universe has ever seen. Ephesians 1:19-20 “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”

This Easter can each of us seek to know the transforming power of His resurrection better? It changed the world forever! What are you willing to give in order to know the resurrected Christ – quality time each day for prayer, Bible study, and worship?

In Christian love,
Greg Lehman, along with Jeff Grimm, Counseling Elders
Loving as Jesus Loves - Jesus Demonstrated Love by Serving

“By love serve one another.”

When we think of loving as Jesus loves, perhaps we envision reflecting His kind words, gentle smile, and compassionate embrace. We might think of patiently listening, speaking the truth in love, or taking on other beautiful virtues of our Lord’s divine nature. And yet the immense, immeasurable love of Jesus compels us to go even farther and dig deeper, taking us to a place of humble, self-sacrificing service.

Our Lord and Master loved us to such a degree that He endured the pain and shame of the cross and gave His very life on our behalf. We likewise can demonstrate His love by offering loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all people in the name of Christ.

Jesus brought this teaching to life at the Last Supper. To his disciples’ astonishment, Jesus took off his outer garment, and in servant form knelt down to wash their feet. How could this be, that Jesus, the Son of God, would humble himself and perform the dirty and menial task of a servant? No master in his right mind would do this, and Peter would have none of it. And yet our Lord insisted, for He had a new commandment for his followers: “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.” Jesus, our Lord and Master, calls us to follow his path of self-sacrificial love and humble service.

Perhaps no commandment is so simple and agreeable in principle, and yet so difficult in practice. Our human nature wants to be served. Or to serve in the ways that are comfortable to us. We find ourselves like the disciples, who at that same Last Supper argued about who should be the greatest, desiring honor and authority in Christ’s Kingdom. Patiently Jesus taught them, “But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For… I am among you as he that serveth.”

Jesus came not to be served, but to serve others, and to give his life as a ransom for many. He compels us as His followers to set aside the garments of our pride, our status, our comforts, and our desires, and to instead clothe ourselves in humility and “by love serve one another.”

Thankfully, with this commandment came a promise: “If you know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” When we go up against our nature and humbly serve, Jesus assures us that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” How does this blessing come? When we focus outside of ourselves, connect with others, and serve with purpose, we may indeed find an increase in our joy and happiness as we become vessels of his love and grace. Even more than this, God’s overshadowing favor and blessing carries us through this life to an eternal reward in his Heavenly Kingdom. With this blessed assurance, let’s look at several Biblical principles that can help us put service into practice and experience his blessing.

We freely give as we have freely received, recognizing that our lives belong to God and we are only stewards of our time and resources. When we remember that we are not our own, but have been purchased by His own precious blood, we can with humble gratitude begin to do our reasonable service and freely give as we have freely received. As the Holy Spirit pours peace, love, and wisdom into us, like rivers of living waters, service to others can flow out from us. We can’t do it of ourselves. Only out of the vast reservoir of Jesus’s love can we draw strength to serve others as He serves us.

— Please turn to pg. 64
Greet every one this morning in the name of the Lord. We’re thankful to be together in God’s house; it just feels natural on a Sunday morning to gather to worship our Savior, the Creator of the earth, and the one that has shown us boundless mercy. All of us that are redeemed can identify with that concept of being undeserving, and it puts us in a position as believers in Jesus to certainly show our gratitude for his deliverance for us, as we’ve sung. Both of those hymns are a wonderful way to focus our minds on those things that are most important.

I had to reflect as we came across the miles today of the boundless mercy that God shows as he delivers us as well. It was a little slick this morning, and I came up too fast on a corner where I needed to stop. In the end, I had to go right through, and there was a car coming maybe 1/8 of a mile down the road. As a father it makes you feel about that big, but I had to reflect on that as I sat this morning in the pew as we sang those hymns. He gives us examples of his mercy, and he shows us why we should be thankful for his deliverance in a physical way. How much more than in a spiritual way, as we gather together as brothers and sisters should we give thanks to our Father for redemption.

The Bible is open here to the book of Proverbs, the last chapter. Chapter 31 – very familiar to us. Let’s begin at verse 1. The hymnbook is opened to hymn #2, The Christian’s Joy and Hope.

The gospel according to St. John is before us, chapter 1, and let’s start at the beginning.

Sometimes it’s hard to know whether to read a whole chapter or part of a chapter. Sometimes it’s just a blessing to read from start to finish and allow our thoughts to go where they would. You know, the Apostle John is almost writing as in a flashback. Seems like in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we have what’s called “synoptic gospels” where they’re writing the synopsis of Christ and his teachings. There’s some kind of chronological order that the writers go through, but when we come here to the Apostle John, it’s more as if he’s flashing back and reflecting upon the great truths of God. Often the things that are mentioned in John aren’t necessarily mentioned in the others. We have a little different flavor of the teachings of Jesus when we read in the book of John. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1.

It’s just important for us to realize that W is capitalized there in “Word”, so is the G in “God,” and the L in “Light” as we go down here in verses 7, 8, and 9. I think it’s really impossible for us to understand the true power of God and the sovereign nature that he has. God has always been. This whole concept of eternal is something that we can’t grasp; it goes beyond our understanding. Our thoughts are finite: we have a beginning that we don’t remember, and we have an end that we may not be cognizant of when it comes. But God has always been, is today and will be forever. That’s a bigger concept than any of us can grasp, but by faith, we grasp that he was in the beginning. It tells us that Jesus Christ, his son, was with him. We believe the Spirit was there as well, all three abiding in one.

What we have today contained between the pages of these two covers is this book called the Bible. This book really is God alive among us, where he gives us teachings directly from his heart. That word – that always was, is today, and always will be – is with us, and it gives us direction and teachings, and we would do well, brothers and sisters and friends of the truth, as people interested in this

— Please turn to pg. 65
Onward Media Begins Operation

At the August 2019 conference, the Elder Body approved a proposal to reorganize the four Apostolic Christian Church of America (ACCA) communication groups into one organization called Onward Media. This streamlining effort will create an organization that provides “compelling, relevant and timely content for our entire ACCA family.”

The previously existing communication groups were AC Publications, Brotherhood Communications Committee, Elder Communications Committee and the Elder Technology Committee. These groups made significant progress in developing resources and harnessing technology that benefits all our churches. Their work established a structure for communications throughout our brotherhood. We applaud the expertise and commitment of the many brothers and sisters who invested so much on previous projects. Our future efforts will build upon the solid foundation created by their valuable work. Currently there are many talented brothers and sisters who are involved with ongoing projects. These existing projects will continue under the Onward Media umbrella.

The focus of Onward Media is captured in its Purpose, Vision and Mission statements:

- **Purpose**: To strengthen the church by providing easy access to engaging and enriching spiritual content from an Apostolic Christian perspective.
- **Vision**: Develop into a nimble and responsive communications organization that provides a steady stream of compelling content that appeals to the various demographics in our church.
- **Mission**: Create, curate, evaluate, disseminate, and steward biblically based content from an Apostolic Christian viewpoint.

With the introduction of Onward Media, new faces have assumed leadership roles:

Bro. Rick and Sis. Michelle Kaisner (Chicago) are the new Silver Lining Coordinators. This publication provides information and service opportunities at a national level. Bro. Barry and Sis. Joyce Kloter were Silver Lining Coordinators for the past 7.5 years. All of us are indebted to Bro. Barry and Sis. Joyce for their skillful, gracious work and for equipping the Kaisners to continue in their footsteps.

Sis. Rachel Schrock (Congerville) is the new Office Manager at the bookstore. For 29 years, Sis. Pat Plattner kept Bibles, hymn books, Sunday School materials and other resources readily available to our congregations. Her faithful service blessed many of us.

Bro. Dan Weerts (Remington) is the Digital Director. Bro. Dan has been very instrumental in developing and maintaining the ACCA website and the highly successful AC Central app. Bro. Dan is HarvestCall’s Communications Director. He will use his strong communications and technical background to serve both HarvestCall and Onward Media.

My role will be to handle the day-to-day operations for Onward Media. My passions include Christ’s mission to set captives free (Is. 61:1-3) by breaking the chains of sin, or fear or bondage. Freed people are fully available to serve. A second passion is to actively pursue His kingdom work (Eph: 2:10).

The Onward Media staff and board look forward to increasing efficiencies and engaging our brothers and sisters to strengthen our brotherhood. To learn more about Onward Media, visit www.onwardmedia.org.

Kevin Knapp
Executive Director

March 2020   SILVER LINING  5
CEC Shifts Focus to International Needs, Outreach and Discipleship
Church Establishment Committee

Since the inception of HarvestCall, the Church Establishment Committee (CEC) has been facilitating efforts to plant new churches and bolster small ones under the direction of the local elders. With God’s help, the Committee has been privileged to collaborate and walk alongside many of you in these efforts and witness God “giving the increase”.

In the past year at the request of HarvestCall leadership, the Committee spent time doing some longer-range planning, recognizing the supremacy of God’s will in all these plans. Two key outcomes became apparent. One was the need to be more inclusive in supporting the international needs within our churches and ministries, and secondly, the need for additional training on outreach and discipleship within the church.

International Focus
To bring focus to the international needs, the Committee will move to more of a consulting role for both state-side and international church establishment. In the past, the CEC has played an active role in providing leadership for bolstering efforts and serving directly on bolstering committees.

Moving forward, the CEC’s vision is to develop tools to assist with both planting and bolstering globally. They will maintain best practices and lessons learned from the various efforts and share these learnings through an online library. As applicable, they will act as a “connector” within the brotherhood for those who have gone through similar situations. Most importantly, they will provide more circumspect counsel to the various church establishment efforts through having a committee comprised of brethren from various cultures (or at least well exposed to various cultures). As new initiatives kickoff, the CEC would also review and/or facilitate strategic planning.

USA Committee to Oversee Bolstering Initiatives
In alignment with this new direction, the small church bolstering efforts currently underway are being transitioned to HarvestCall’s USA Committee. These churches include Lamar, MO; Kitchener,

What is The Gospel?
At a surface level, this can seem like a basic question. We use this phrase often in our Christian circles – “Our lives should be about the gospel”, “We need to be sharing the gospel” or “Praise God for the gospel!” Often, the more a word is used, the less we actually ponder what it means. With that in mind, let’s ponder the question, “What is the gospel”.

Before defining the gospel, we have to first define the character of God. The scriptures state the God is Holy, Perfect, and has no darkness at all. For God to remain God, he cannot have one speck of sin. However, the scriptures teach that we as men have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and the payment for our sin is death and an eternity separated from God in hell. This reality is really bad news! However, this leads us to the gospel.

The gospel can be defined as the good news of how fallen mankind can be reconciled to God by grace through faith in the redemptive work of his son Jesus and transformed in heart and mind by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let’s break down the definition:
ON and Prescott, AZ. The brethren leading these efforts are also continuing to stay involved to ensure continuity during the transition.

To date, these churches are experiencing growth from both relocation and outreach, but they still need couples, singles and families to help fill key needs and roles. To learn more, contact the CEC at cec@harvestcall.org.

**Outreach and Discipleship Training**

Over the past several years, the CEC has developed the “Sharing the Gospel” lessons to assist the brotherhood in proclaiming Christ. These nine lessons were piloted in short versions during the HarvestCall winter rebuilding teams from 2017-2019. The feedback received was taken into account prior to the Spiritual Oversight Committee’s review and approval.

Additional content has now been added to each lesson, and the expanded versions are being piloted in the Bloomington, IL congregation. Once that feedback is received, the study will be published and made available to all churches later this year.

Going forward, HarvestCall’s Management Team has expanded the CEC’s charge around church establishment to include outreach and discipleship training. This teaching anchor is under the leadership of the CEC with oversight and guidance provided by the Spiritual Oversight Committee, comprised of six elders who oversee HarvestCall efforts. Because this is new to the CEC, it is still taking shape, but could include the development and facilitation of resources about outreach, discipleship and church establishment.

This is an extremely large undertaking, and the CEC is trusting God to lead and provide direction as they step out in faith to serve and follow. The Committee asks for prayers for wisdom and discernment as the scripture in Matthew 28:19-20 is further lived out and embraced within the brotherhood.

If you feel God nudging you to “go” to proclaim Christ and/or to teach new believers to observe all things, talk with your elder. Also, consider joining the Learn & Discern Prayer group to pray with others who have an interest in serving and desire to discern a clearer path forward. Committee members are also available to answer any further questions about the new focus and direction.

- by Gwen Leuthold

- **Fallen mankind** – Adam sinned, and death passed to all men and without Jesus we are alienated from God, enemies of God, and dead in our sins.
- **Reconciled** – Our sins separated us from God, and we have the need to be brought back to him.
- **By grace through faith** – No amount of good deeds or efforts will reconcile us to God. God graciously allows us to be reconciled to him through faith.
- **Redemptive work of his Son Jesus** – our faith is in Jesus. He lived a perfect life to earn our righteousness, died on the cross to pay the penalty of our sin and grant us forgiveness, and rose again the 3rd day conquering sin and death.
- **Transformed in Heart and mind** – Upon faith in Christ we are made 100% righteous, adopted as God’s children, and become a new creature created in Christ unto good works.
- **Power of the Holy Spirit** – The Holy Spirit indwells those who believe and does the work of transforming our heart and mind. Praise God that because of the gospel, I can joyously sing, “I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see!” – **by Matt Knapp**
Linking to the Example of Christ

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.”
1 Cor. 11:1

At this moment there is a wooden toy that lies idle in our toy box at home. The toy is simple and unassuming. It’s a puzzle of sorts. A simple objective – align the wooden disks. Yet this puzzle will max out your coordination and certainly your patience. For the majority of its existence, it laid motionless and of interest to no one. That is until one child picked it up and began to play. In that moment, the toy went from being ignored to being adored; from being discarded to being chosen; from being of no interest to being the obsession of not just one of my children, but their brothers and sisters also.

This phenomenon is not unique to my children. It is held in common with all humanity. We want what other people want. A European literature scholar Prof. Rene Girard coined this human axiom as “mimetic desire”. Put simply, our desires mimic the desires of others. You don’t have to look too far for examples. Fashion, advertising and trends all do more of the same. Mimetic desire enters the biblical narrative early. In the third chapter of Genesis, Eve is enticed to eat the forbidden fruit. Like the wooden toy lying harmlessly in the toy box, the fruit was presumably one of many in the garden. But when the serpent showed interest, Eve’s desire for the fruit was awoken.

While all of us can likely give examples of times mimetic desire has gotten us into trouble, there is tremendous good news in this human behavior. Desire can very often be formed from without us. This is good news for the person who asks, why am I this way? Why do I desire this bad thing? Why do I want that unhealthy choice? Why am I tantalized by unwholesome lifestyle choices? Yes, our heart by nature is “corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” (Eph. 4:22); however, much of our desire has also come by examining the examples from the “outside.” Others want that bad thing, are making those unhealthy choices and are exemplifying unwholesome lifestyle choices. Our desire can be awakened by theirs.

Where’s the good news in this? Jesus came to live among us. Emmanuel means “God with us” (Matt. 1:23). He came to secure salvation. He came to preach the kingdom. He came to heal the sick and mend the brokenhearted. But He also came to be our example. He came to show us the way. He came for us to form our desires after him. He came to win back “Eve’s” affections. And He did.

Peter, James, John, Andrew, Matthew and the other seven followed Christ’s every move. They
walked with Him. They talked with Him. They sat under His teaching. Their desires were challenged, deconstructed and formed up again by His example. And when He parted from their midst, He instructed them to go and make more disciples. They were to be an example of Him to others and to pass on this discipleship pattern to the church.  

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” Paul (1 Cor 11:1)  

It’s hard to comprehend the unbreakable link of examples between us and Christ, but one does exist. Imagine for a moment the handful of individuals who have exemplified Christ to you. Now imagine the individuals that influenced your influencers. Do this again a third time. Now a fourth. Pretty soon we realize there is an unbreakable relationship link between us and Christ Himself. And herein lies the sober responsibility as well as the exciting opportunity offered to each of us – linking-up to this lineage of example.  

Avoiding the terrors of mimetic desire gone badly is not only a function of avoiding bad examples. It is more importantly a linking-up with Christ and His perfect example that, by following so closely to His example, His desires become ours. This is one reason we go to church. Believers attend church to put themselves near to the example of Christ by placing themselves near to Christ’s lineage of example: His brothers and sisters. The lineage of relationships helps us directly link to the person of Christ. This is also one reason why mentoring and discipleship relationships can be so powerful in our lives as we intentionally follow believers whose actions point back to the example of Christ. Their lives, thru the very real and tangible struggles, joys, and mundane interactions, is what linking-up looks like.  

Think through a few practical ways that you, through your relationships, can encourage others to link-up with Christ’s lineage of example:  

• Connect with a brother or sister from whom you can learn.  
• Be an example from whom others can learn.  
• Exemplify Christ-like desire for others to see.  
• Spend time in the Gospels individually or with a small group, refreshing yourself in the example of Christ.  
• Embrace the opportunity of example as you hold yourself accountable in action and behavior to Christ’s life. (1 Peter 2:21)  

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.
Residents with unfunded care are those who don’t meet the criteria for entitlement through Title 19, who don’t qualify for the waiver program, or who are waiting for the state’s funding to get set in place while they are living with us. We are excited to see how God moves in your hearts as we come together to support our beloved residents at LifePoints this year!

As the name suggests, the Gospel Sing centers around using song to praise God and the work He is doing here at LifePoints. However, this event is also much more than just an evening of music. It’s a time of fellowship among the LifePoints residents who attend, their families, and our church family. It’s a chance for us to say thank you to all who support LifePoints’ mission, whether that be in prayer, financially, or in service. Ultimately, the Gospel Sing is about praising and worshipping God for His provision and blessings on our agency and those we serve. We would love to share in this evening with each of you!

More details can be found on our website. May God be glorified!

**Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home**

Chad Kaeb — Development Director

As I reflect on this past year, I am amazed at how many awesome things God has done here at Gateway Woods. I wanted to share the “Top 10” Highlights from 2019.

10. **Gateway Farms**: From weekly stops at the farm stand, to the “Farm-to-Table” meal hosted by GW Farms, it has been so great to see how God is using produce to grow residents while connecting with our local community in a positive way.

9. **Hog and Jog**: This community event featured a 5K run/walk and pulled pork tacos for lunch afterward. We were blessed with our largest crowd yet (over 200 runners). A special thank-you to Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman who traveled out from central Illinois to roast the hog for us!

8. **Reconnecting with Former Residents**: Our family had the opportunity to reconnect with eight of our former residents. It is a highlight for us to be able to catch up with these ‘kids’ that have now grown up into young adults. Sharing in their joys and struggles gives us an opportunity to continue to reflect Christ’s love to them!

7. **Basketball Night at the Coliseum**: A former resident (DJ) rented out the Fort Wayne Coliseum for staff and current residents to enjoy a night of fun, fellowship and basketball. This was his way of giving back to a ministry that impacted him greatly!
6. **New Houseparent Supervisor:** In May, Reginald Blackmon joined the management team as the new Houseparent Supervisor. As a staff, we are blessed by his testimony of faith that displays God’s redemptive work by bringing him from the gang life on the streets of Chicago to a follower of Jesus Christ.

5. **Houseparents Answering the Call:** We are so thankful that God has called Bro. Clint and Sis. Sydnee Schumacher, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Braker, Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sarah Fiechter, Sis. Kacie Klopfenstein and Sis. Sarah Lehman out to serve. Each of them bring unique gifts, talents, and experiences that God is using to impact the lives of the youth we serve.

4. **Foster-to-Adopt:** 10 children have found new forever homes through 7 foster families that have fostered-to-adopt this year.

3. **2019 Auction:** We were blessed with great weather, sweet fellowship, and yet another amazing year of witnessing God’s provision.

2. **WillowBridge Transitional Apartments Open:** There has been a huge need in our community for stable housing for young people aging out of foster care and residential care. These transitional apartments offer not only stable housing but also accountability and spiritual nurturing for these youth so they can successfully transition from dependence to independence.

1. **New Believers:** Witnessing 3 LARC kids share their testimony of faith and be baptized together, is by far my highpoint of this past year! "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." -Jesus, Luke 15:10

**News:**

- We plan to host our Annual Rep Meeting on Saturday, March 7. We are so thankful for the support our reps give to their local congregations.

- We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods: Teacher, Illinois Adoption Case Manager, and Houseparent Couples. For more information, please see our ad in this month’s edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Careers page on our website at gatewaywoods.org/careers.

- We are searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator for 2020. Please contact Bro. Keith Schambach at keith.schambach@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to work directly with residents as you plant and harvest bountiful gifts from the garden. Please contact Bro. Eric and Sis. Marissa Bahler at gwfarms@gatewaywoods.org for more information.

- We also have a summer internship opportunity in Gateway Farms. This is a great opportunity to impact the lives of the children on our campus!

You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God’s work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website gatewaywoods.org and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888.443.4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in
Alabama, Athens  
Lisa Aeschliman, Kristy Moore

We are thankful for two visiting ministers over the past month, Bro. Nathan Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole, Rockville, CT). We appreciate the folks who stopped by to visit as you were passing through on your way to your destination. The invitation is open to anyone who is passing through Athens and would like a place to worship on Sunday morning. We love our visitors!! We continue to ask for prayers for Sis. Clarann Lynn and Sis. Carolyn Lewis as they continue their battle with cancer.

We are preparing for our second year of ALive over Memorial Day Weekend and look forward to seeing all who will be there. Registration is now open at the Apostolic Christian Church of Athens’ website: www.athensacchurch.org/alive. Please go there for more information on the event and to register. This year, “Hope” will be the overarching theme for the weekend. Ministering brothers Brad Metz (Bloomington, IL) and Keith Hinrichsen (Phoenix, AZ) plan to speak on having Hope in God during struggles when we don’t understand “why” and how to encourage others who are going through tough times. Additionally, they will talk about our Hope for heaven as believers.

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

If you are passing through our area and need a place to stay for the evening, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at (815)674-5411 for our guest house accommodations.

Arizona, Phoenix  
Marge Lindenbaum

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” Isaiah 46:9-10

Cyclones, a bomb cyclone, asteroids and asteroid moons, earthquakes, volcanoes, snowstorms in places that never have snow, record-breaking heat, dust bowls, hordes of locusts devastating entire countries, dust bowls and floods, record-setting numbers of drug overdoses, coronavirus, etc. These are things that were in the news in the space of less than one week in February. The news speaks of earthquakes, sometimes very powerful, and volcanoes nearly every day. And this list does not even reach the societal and political issues that dominate our headlines. There are surely many things that were missed in this quick review, even in this brief time period.

We are seeing and hearing and reading of things not witnessed in recent history. Every day the headlines include some “historic”, or “unprecedented” events, “of Biblical proportions”. On the day this article is being written a headline proclaims, “Apocalyptic Locust Plague Reaches Virus Infected China”, “Eleven Children Shot over Weekend in Chicago”, “Christian Witches to host Annual Convention on Easter Weekend”. Christians are being persecuted and slaughtered at a rate never seen by this writer. So many things that are happening are hard to hear, or difficult to believe, especially things involving children that can’t be written here. Yet they are no doubt true.

Do peace attempts in the Middle East make Jerusalem the Undivided Capital of Israel, or is it dividing the land? Everything we are witnessing and experiencing was foretold, some very specifically, by the Lord, through His prophets in the Old Testament, and by His own Word in the New Testament. Several places the Scriptures liken the times of the end of the Age to a woman giving birth – the “pangs” coming with increasing intensity and frequency. Are we not witnessing that?

Many of these are things that will be happening in the time of the Great Tribulation, but on a grander scale. We are not there yet, but it seems we are observing the preparation for that time. Everything foretold is happening.
just as predicted, and we can be confident every word will be fulfilled. As it gets closer, it is easier to understand how men’s hearts will be failing them for fear, if they do not know Jesus.

And other things seem impossible to believe, are clearly NOT true, yet so many people believe them! The Scripture clearly tells us that those who reject the truth will be sent deception so that they will believe “the lie”. It does not say “a” lie, but “the” lie. I am beginning to wonder if The Lie is being told right now. It will be something conducive to persuading people to sign over all independence and power to a person or group who has the “answer”.

Things we are seeing happen today are not Tribulation events, but certainly are a shadow of the things that are coming. We don’t know when, but we can know it is soon. We are living in exciting times – times all previous generations looked forward to seeing. God left us a roadmap of the things to come to demonstrate His sovereignty, and so we would not despair but rejoice when we see these things come to pass. Look up! Lift up your head!

“So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.” Matt 24:33-36

We have enjoyed so many wonderful sermons from many visiting ministers, and we thank them all for their service: They include Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO); Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL); Bro. Richard Manz (Sis. Audrey, Prescott, AZ); Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN); Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christie, Mediapolis, IA); Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO); Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern KS); Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI); Bro Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI). We rejoice with our new Bro. Joe Bauman, who gave his testimony and was baptized on February 9, 2020.

Our Sunday school hosted another successful Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction, which was well-attended and included tables full of creative and desirable auction items. The Bible Class enjoyed a time of fellowship, fun and worship at ACYF in Prescott, AZ over the long Presidents Day weekend. Our ACTIVE program created and delivered greeting cards and care packages for the veterans at the Arizona State Veterans Home, and the veterans were very appreciative of their efforts. God is so faithful to bless the efforts we make to serve others, and we get a blessing as well!

At the time this is written, preparations are under way for our hosting of the Mid-Winter Elder Conference, and we look forward to partaking in Holy Communion this month. We really appreciate the help our winter visitors provide to us in this busy season. Come out and visit, and we will put you to work, too!

Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

We are excited to announce another baby born! Bro. David and Sis. Holley Mueller welcomed Caleb Lee into this world on February 3.

We also enjoyed hosting ACYF this past month with the California and Phoenix Sunday schools. Our theme was Ask, Seek, Find with an ultimate scavenger hunt around Prescott. We were encouraged to come to God in faith and prayer. “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” Matthew 7:7.

Thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Elder Bro. John Leman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS), Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN).

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

Greetings to all! It is heart warming to be able to report the news and to be able to thank the visitors we have had here in Tucson. We thank our visiting ministers for being here to preach the Word; Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro.
Adam Zeltwanger (Morris North) and Bro. Matt Wulf (Sis. Tara, Morris). May God bless each for their efforts on our behalf.

We are glad to welcome Bro. Garth and Sis. Kinzi Knobloch to our congregation as they relocate for jobs. We know they will be missed in the Lester Iowa church, but we are excited to have them join our church family.

We offer sympathy to Bro. Don Bauer (Sis. Glo) in the death of his brother, Marv. May God provide comfort as only He can.

We have many sunny days here to share with any who wish to visit. Also there is a 2 bedroom townhouse available for use. Contact Bro. Dean Knobloch (309-231-8428) for details and availability.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena

Kali Sauder

We may be a small church, more isolated from many other congregations, but it makes us all the more thankful for opportunities to fellowship. Our older Sunday School classes were able to travel to Prescott, AZ for a special weekend with other church youth, and many of us had the encouraging experience of gathering with our neighboring San Diego church and several Harvest Call leaders for an evening of fellowship and teaching covering several topics.

I was especially moved by the talk about how to share the gospel. What I keep mulling over was the charge to speak the gospel to ourselves daily. If it’s true that the gospel message, the Good News of new life is available because of Christ’s sacrifice and the Spirit’s indwelling, then it follows that everyday moments, big and small, are opportunities to experience gospel truths.

But this takes some conscious practice. When worry rises up, we can pause and consider God’s perfect character, His sovereignty over every situation we may face, and repent of our own sinful tendency to fear because of our sinful nature. Then going on to meditate on how Christ’s death and resurrection means the death of anxiety and fear as the Spirit now works the fruit of trust and peace in our hearts and minds and how the hope of eternal life promised us shifts our perspective from fear to expectant confidence. Another example: when relational conflict inevitably happens, it’s good to recall to mind how God’s original intent was uninterrupted, worshipful connection with Him and with all His creation. And even in the brokenness caused by the fall of humankind, God made a way: redemption through faith in Jesus. Let the gospel breathe hope into broken relationships. Let the Spirit lead us into repentance and lift our eyes to the promise given us, the restoration of all things in Jesus.

Meditating on the gospel, taking time to apply it to everyday scenarios, is how we practice. It becomes more natural to remind one another of gospel truths, and then it more effortlessly flows from our life, our family interactions, and our church body fellowship to the needy world around us. All for God’s glory and the building of His kingdom!

“Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins…” Romans 3:22-25

California, San Diego

Lillian Wagenbach

We enjoyed a presentation by HarvestCall Proclaim and Serve this month with our Altadena church. What a blessing to learn how to better serve and present the gospel to others. Our evangelical heritage was covered as well as how to help without hurting.

We want to express our thanks to Bro. Barry and Sis Joyce Klotter as they spent time in San Diego and as always when they come, they bless us with their service to our church family.

Our thanks to Bro Mike Rieker (Sis Carol, Peoria, IL) for helping on the pulpit this month. Mike is having knee issues and will be having knee surgery this month. Our prayers go out to him that God would bless him with a successful surgery and a speedy recovery. We also appreciate
ministering Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA).

“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. Psalms 25:4-5

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism,” Ephesians 4:5

Alexandra Wiegand (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Naomi) and Luke Zarkovacki (Bro. George and Sis. Lily) gave testimony of God’s redemptive work in their lives and were baptized. These moments are some of the most beautiful in a church family. We rallied around these dear souls and rejoiced that God is still at work! Their stories reminded everyone present that God is real. He is on the throne and is still wooing hearts to himself. A big thank you to Elder Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein (West Lafayette, IN) for sharing the weekend with us!

“Amazing Grace,
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T’was blind but now I see,”
Amazing Grace, Hymns of Zion, #97

Connecticut, Rockville
Julie Bauman, Heidi Beutel

Love and greetings from the Rockville congregation! While it has been a mild winter in New England, we are looking forward to the return of spring and warmer weather!

Kent Bahler (Bro. Vern and Sis. Jeany) was involved in a dirt bike accident the end of January. While the injuries are serious, small miracles have been witnessed due to the healing power of prayer. We continue to pray for their family that healing for Kent will continue and for the grace to walk through this journey. Many of our brethren across the country have been praying for the Bahler family and we ask that you continue with the prayerful support!


On February 1, Bro. Rudy Luginbuhl won his earthly race and is resting in his heavenly reward. We comfort his wife Sis. Evelyn and their children: Peggy, Judy, David and Donna along with their ten grandchildren. We offer our prayerful support as they transition through the time of laying their dear husband, father and grandfather to rest. Our congregation will also miss Bro. Rudy’s loving and kind wisdom. He was truly a pillar of faith and will be deeply missed.

Dave and Sis. Heather Mangold are excited to announce the engagement of their daughter, Leah, to Rhyss Kollen. His parents are Jeff and Meg Kollen. They are looking forward to a June wedding in Australia. We wish them the Lord’s blessings as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

This month we welcomed back Sis. Bonnie Dotterer (Forrest, IL) as our caretaker. If you have been thinking of coming to be a caretaker, I urge you to contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgesteven@gmail.com or 302-540-6574 to take advantage of the opportunity.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL). Other visitors were from Bluffton, IN and Hungary. We are thankful for visitors and for them letting us know they are coming.

The Sunday Bro. Ben was here, we had our annual meeting. Sis. Krystal Tyler was elected Secretary. There was also discussion of the physical aspects of the Church.

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, Fort Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We were exceptionally blessed to have so many visiting ministers this past month. Sharing God’s
word with us and bringing us added fellowship were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL); Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN); Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS); Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA); Elder Bro. Herbie Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ); Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO); Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO); Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN); Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN); Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN); Bro. Preston Kaehr (Sis. Wendy, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL). We pray a blessing for them for their efforts.

Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) will serve as our counseling elder, replacing Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). We thank Earl and Dixie for their love and support during their 20 years of service as our counseling elder. An appreciation dinner was held for them at the fellowship hall. They have been such a wonderful help and blessing in coordinating visiting ministers and supporting our small church. We will continue to reap the benefits of their faith and diligence along with the blessing of their continued friendship.

We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Earl Ringger and Randy Gudeman serve communion. It was a special time for reflection and renewal of our walks of faith.

We hosted the HarvestCall Board Meeting January 24-25 at the Fellowship Hall. On Saturday, there was a Woman’s Gathering - a time of worship, sharing, service project, lunch and an outing to Bonnet House. We enjoyed a church potluck together Saturday evening. Special thanks for God’s blessing and to all who worked to make this event successful. I happened to be traveling to help with our youngest granddaughter, Amelia Mangold (David and Kristie Mangold), and missed that weekend. I firmly believe that God directs us daily and places us where we are intended to be. Our Millie got sick while I was there. She is fine now, but I was thankful that the Lord knew I would be needed to help and made sure I was there. While I was sorry to miss this weekend of fellowship, God knew where I needed to be at that time. Ultimately, His grace is always with us whether in a time of fellowship or a needed family time.

**Florida, Fort Myers**

**Mary Masters, Terri Young**

“Put on the armor of the Lord and Savior.

The enemy with artful guile is nigh.

The hearts of men are oft deceived by Satan;

In God’s own strength we ever must rely.

Not only flesh and blood are we subduing,

but evil spirits with their hosts pursuing.

When days of tribulation are appearing,

call on the Lord; His grace will strengthen thee.

Though powers of darkness round thee here are raging,

God’s armor shall your strength and refuge be.

Your loins be girded with God’s truth and virtue,

and may the Spirit’s light shine brightly over you.”

_The Armor of God, Zion’s Harp, #115_

It’s difficult to pick out just a couple of verses to this inspiring song in the Zion’s Harp. We sang all 6 verses at our Wednesday evening service recently. Don’t we feel the heightened and vicious attack of the enemy? How do we resist Satan? By daily putting on the armor of God! We are in a desperate spiritual battle and were reminded by Bro. Marvin Steffen and Bro. Karl Steidinger that it is not a battle of flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers of darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness! We cannot fight this enemy in our own strength or we will go down! We must band together, encourage each other, rise above this world, fight hard and finish strong by the strength and power of our eternal Lord and Savior!

“The heart of the matter is, it’s a matter of the heart!”

Many of the sisters from church and other women in the area have been in a study of Jeremiah during the months of January and February. Isn’t it easy to look at the people in...
Jeremiah’s time and condemn and judge their rebellion to the one true God? How can they shake their fists and turn their backs on the God who created them? “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9 But, then we take a genuine look at our own hearts and examine our actions, thoughts and motives, and with transparency cry out to God to “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24 I don’t know about you, but sometimes my heart is no different than the people in Jeremiah’s time. May He continue to mercifully prune and mature our hearts into His likeness.

Many went to The New Beginnings Gala and will also go to the upcoming Midwest Food Bank Gala. We are blessed to have such a generous and supportive church family. Thank you! We held our annual business meeting at the end of January and thank all those that have served and those that will be serving in the future. Our visiting ministers during this period were Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate your visit and service to our church family here in Ft. Meyers. Bro. Carl Fiechter fell and broke a hip and spent a few weeks in a rehab facility in Naples, FL. We will keep him, and also Bro. Tim and Sis. Lisa Jolloff in our prayers as Lisa’s mother, Phyllis Fiechter, passed away. Bro. Zach and Sis. Abby Schumacher had a baby boy, Jace, born on February 9. We are also keeping little Beckett Steidinger in our prayers right now as he went into the hospital with pneumonia and bronchitis.

**The New Beginnings**

At the writing of this issue, we now have an available position for another resident. We would ask all of you to pray about this and perhaps God will bring a young single mom to your heart and mind who might be struggling and truly wants to embrace change. We trust God will bring together the women and children who are in need, with the ministry whose purpose and heart’s desire is to serve them.

The battle rages on as we fight for the souls of our moms and their children, striving to break the cycle of a life of abuse and sin that shackles these women to an enemy disguised as a provider of love. Satan knows his time is short and he is bringing his evil warriors to strike the things that stand against him. But we know the end of the story and take comfort and courage in serving the Victor, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our hearts were broken when our youngest and newest mom took her 2 children and left the program in the middle of the night. We believe she went back to the father of the children and the abuser of them all. Please pray for these young women who are easily persuaded back into a lifestyle they have known for most of their lives. They have no self-esteem and only know the shame of what they believe to be love, but is nothing more than exploitation and humiliation. We desperately pray that the seeds of truth and faith that have been planted will speak into their lives and grow when they reach the end of themselves.

Sis. Brenda Keiser has blessed us by graciously giving of her time to hold a weekly Bible study with our moms. Schedules prevent all of them to be able to always attend, but trust that God brings those who need to be taught. Prayer, Bible study, devotions and time to talk or just listen to these young women is the best we can give. We plant, water seeds, and trust God for the increase!

Arzu continues to do very well in her nursing program and also in her faith walk. Those who have met and know her see the encouragement she is to us. She has grown in her parenting skills and keeps us nutrition-minded! Most importantly, we see the growth in her faith and Bible knowledge. It is clear that it is not only head knowledge, but heart knowledge too!

Lina is weeks into her new job as a Medical Assistant and seems to enjoy the work. She is learning about the expense and reality of transitioning out on her own,
taking care of her son and herself and hoping at the time of this issue that she will be settled into her own place.

Janice continues to go to Cape Technical College by day and taking care of her two precious girls the rest of the time. She has met with Sis. Brenda Keiser for Bible study because her schedule is one that works out to be available during that time. Thank you, Sis. Brenda for speaking God’s truth into her life.

TNB had a fun and successful Gala on February 8. It was heartwarming to see and meet so many of you there. We can’t thank you enough for your prayers and financial support of this ministry! We petition you to continue to pray for those of us that are living and journeying beside these women and children every day and that God would grant us encouragement, discernment, wisdom and His Spirit to be to these souls what He would have us to be. And in all that we do, each and every one of us, we know how important it is to stay immersed in the Word of God.

“For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

Note: Job opening for Executive Director position

The New Beginnings is seeking a director for their program that helps single mothers and their children.

For a list of qualifications and responsibilities or more information, contact mwrmasters@aol.com.

Please pray about this opportunity. If you feel God may be calling you to this ministry, send your resume to the email above.

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

What a blessing it is to hear the greetings given from so many churches. It seems like every Sunday we have a different group at church.

We give our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Nathan Hodel (Sis. Jamie, Roanoke, IL) for sharing the word of God with us.

Prayers for quick recovery this month were for Bro. Otto Schlatter and Sis. Judy Eisenmann as they both spent time in the hospital. Saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Friederika Aberle, Tremont, IL. She along with her husband have spent time in the winter months in Sarasota. May God grant comfort for her children and grandchildren.

Once again it is time for our Sunday school auction. So much work goes into it by the locals and northern brethren and it is so appreciated. We especially want to thank our auctioneers Bro. Don Furrer and Bro. Jeff Gasser for their labors in helping with the auction. For a small church, the auction helps our Sunday school children to be able to build friendships and travel to other churches or missions. May God reward all those who invest in our young children by donating items and supporting the auction.

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

Let’s always remember it’s by our actions, words and examples where the children learn most from.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
Rick and Komari Aberle

Greetings in Jesus from Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin. We are grateful to be able to say that we have continued to experience calm in Haiti over the past month. May God be praised for answered prayers. Although there is still uncertainty in some ways here, the mission at the hospital has returned to normal operations, which as mentioned, is answered prayer.

This past month, we welcomed a team from South Carolina that provided orthopedic services. We also were thankful to have a team provide cervical cancer screening services here at the hospital and the local community. This team was made up of participants from several churches in Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. We thank all our visitors and teams for their
efforts on behalf of the people served here in Bonne Fin.

In February, Sis. Carrie Stoller and the Aberle family traveled to the United States. Mara Aberle, (Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari) shared her testimony with her sending congregation in Sabetha. We rejoice with our new sister in Christ as she was baptized and welcomed into the brotherhood.

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike and Susie Walder

It has been a busy month around here! The Construction Department appreciated the work and support of the Silverton team, and now there is a team from Roanoke here to put on more church roofs. Several members from the Greg Moser family (Roanoke, IL) are here on the team, and we are especially thankful that Bro. Greg, Sis. Shar, and Joanna are staying here for several more weeks and will be a huge help.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman, OH) have left for a few weeks to take their first break from serving at the Good Vision Farm. We pray they will make a good transition and feel the Lord’s blessings when they return. Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Knobloch (Bradford, IL) have returned from their break. They and Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb are currently hosting a team, while the Kaeb’s are also enjoying visits from several of their children and a grandchild.

We enjoyed a beautiful Sunday in Bonne Fin recently, where we were invited for a church service and a meal following at the Nussbaum home. We appreciate this valuable time together to rekindle Christian friendship and receive encouragement from others walking the same path towards heaven.

While these get-togethers are scheduled monthly and shared between Bonne Fin, Les Cayes and the farm in Torbeck, sometimes they are cancelled for various reasons. Other Sundays we visit local Haitian churches and/or listen in live-stream to our home congregation’s services. From time to time as ministers are here on teams, we also have spontaneous services announced, either locally or with the entire group.

The way that God loves, consoles, and blesses us is so personal and sometimes so unexpected. It is the quiet moments when you sense He is with you or the unexpected beauty of a plant or tree. It is a verse or a song that comes to you during the day. Then when a trial hits, you find it fits perfectly to the situation you are facing.

God is amazing and we can worship Him all day long. If you can’t get to church very often like us, you don’t have to wait until the next church service to worship Him!

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.” Psalm 34:3

Illinois, Belvidere
Darcy Steffen

During a recent trip, I was privileged to participate in morning devotions with fellow believers. One morning, the conversation revolved around the concept that while we tend to view people in terms of lives, God sees all His human creation as souls. As we interact with people on a daily basis, is God’s view of humankind our view? I so often forget that each person is a soul for whom Christ died, and this view should change the way we treat others.

“Oh, the judgement day is coming; what an awful day ’twill be! Christ forever is my refuge, ‘Rock of Ages, cleft for me.’ At the sounding of the trumpet, at the dawning of the day, Worldly pleasures with their treasures shall forever pass away. Poor lost sinners will be crying for that home they’ll never see, But the ransomed will be singing, ‘Rock of Ages, cleft for me.’ Oh, my loving brother, when the world’s on fire, Don’t you want God’s bosom for to be your pillow? Hide me over in the Rock of Ages: ‘Rock of Ages, cleft for me.’”

The Fire Song, Gospel Hymns #814

We have had several opportunities to be focused on the souls of others as we gather together with believers to worship our Heavenly Father. Our Bible class students traveled to Goodfield this month to participate in ACYF. We also were
grateful for the warm fellowship as we gathered for our annual Invite-a-Friend weekend. We thank Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller for inviting us all to sing hymns of praise in their barn on Saturday, and we enjoyed a meal together on Sunday. We are thankful that Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) expounded on the Word of God for us.

We were so grateful to hear that Bro. Bill Schifferer (Sis. Lana) was able to have the surgery he needed and that he is recovering well. Please continue praying for him during this time. Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker are rejoicing that a soul has been given new earthly life in the form of their new little grandson, Linden Grey, born to Bro. Evan and Sis. Krista Wieland of Congerville, IL. Jerry and Sis. Sandy Darlington are happy to welcome a new family member as their son, Bro. Joe of Chicago, IL is engaged to Sis. Ashley Bollier of Indianapolis, IN. As a little church, it is so easy to celebrate and rejoice with each other during these exciting life changes for these families.

We enjoyed various occasions to gather together in the past month. Throughout the day on January 25, many attended the annual HarvestCall Comforter Day in the church basement. It is a blessing for all ages to work together to benefit those in need. The following evening, we had the opportunity to learn about the Child Sponsorship program from Bro. Bill Schmidgall (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) at a HarvestCall presentation. We were thankful to have Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Knobloch back home for a visit and hear an update on the Haiti Dairy Program that evening as well. Another fellowship opportunity was a singing on February 9 with Princeville as our guests.

“Aaccording to Thy gracious word, In meek humility, This will we do, our dying Lord, We will remember Thee…”

We assembled as a church family on February 8 to take part in Holy Communion. We were thankful for Elder Bro. Craig Martin’s (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) willingness to assist our Elder Bro. Bruce Endress on this special evening.

We appreciated having Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) as a visiting minister.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser reached a milestone of 60 years of marriage on February 14.
Illinois, Champaign

Brent Young

We are grateful to Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), and Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for visiting and sharing the word with us this month. Bro. Brian Sutter (Sis. Allison, Washington, IL) also shared the topic “Is the Bible Oppressive?” with us as part of our Wednesday night Bible study series.

We (those of us with young children) are likewise grateful to the UI Young Group for again providing baby-sitting on Valentine’s Day. It was a win-win-win; for the children, the young group, and the parents!

Illinois, Chicago

Diana Eisenmann

We thank ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) for visiting us in February.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We appreciate all who have served in the past year and those who will begin new roles. Our January Women of the Word devotion was “A Renewed Heart in the New Year.” In February we started a new variation of our Women of the Word gatherings called WoW at the Well. This is a more informal weekday gathering in a home instead of at church, and as before, all women of the church are welcome. We appreciate the opportunities for additional fellowship in a homey atmosphere, which requires extra effort and travel in our urban/suburban setting.

Virgil Wuthrich (Sanford, FL) passed away in early February. He was the brother-in-law of Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte). Peggy Ryan’s memorial service was also in February. She passed away last November. We extend prayers and condolences to these families.

Titus Ezekiel was born on January 26 to Bro. Christopher and Sis. Brittney Aranda (Bloomington, IL). Chicago grandparents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Cristela Cardenas.

We rejoice that Skip Nemecek has found peace with God and looks forward to sharing his testimony and baptism in March, Lord willing.

Illinois, Cissna Park

Denise Kaeb, Joan Rudin

It seems as though the sun has forgotten how to shine! At least, that’s how it feels! But how often do we consider that, above the layer of clouds, the sun is always shining? There is a beautiful blue sky and the sun, brightly lit, like our Savior’s love and provision for each of us.

We were blessed to have Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) share God’s word with us. Thank you, Bro. Josh, for coming “home”!

Joy has been multiplied at the home of Bro. Tyler, Sis Julia and Miah Eisenmann’s as Clayton Tyler has arrived! Happy grandparents are Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb and Bro. Steve and Sis. Cheryl Eisenmann. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb are thankful grandparents rejoicing over the arrival of little Owen James. Blessed parents are Bro. Adam and Sis. Belinda Kaeb serving in Magdalena, MX.

We are so thankful for those in the healthcare profession who are willing to use their knowledge to correct our health issues, but most thankful to God who is the Great Physician! Those in need of healing prayers are Sisters Myrna Weerts, Shirley Krumwiede, Geraldine Farney and Marilyn Knapp.

As I was writing of those who have health issues and going to add Bro. Gilbert Stock to the list, I heard of his passing. He will be greatly missed by his wife, Sis. Kathy, and children: Denise (Scott) Sims, Dianne (Reid) Page, Dale (Angie) Stock, Darla Stock and Danelle Moberly, grandchildren, greats and even a great-great. Bro. Gib will also be missed by our congregation as he always had a smile, handshake and kind word!

Our revolving potluck enjoyed a meal and sang praises together recently. What a blessed people we are!

We have enjoyed having Youseph Hadi worship with us as he spent time with his grandmother, Sis. Jenny Ehman, for several months. We pray for God’s presence as he moves to Bloomington.

I was so encouraged the other day as I saw a robin! It seems the sparrows are chirping more, and the geese are calling to one
another. Spring is on its way!
Praise God for His creation!

**Illinois, Congerville**  
*Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen*

We extend our thanks to Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) who visited our congregation this month. May he and his dear wife feel the Lord’s nearness and blessing for their laboring on our behalf.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist’s son, Bro. Nathan Zobrist (Goodfield, IL) was united in marriage to Sis. Tabitha Koch (Tremont, IL) on February 2. Sis. Tabitha is the daughter of Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika Koch (Tremont, IL). May they grow in love one to another and to our God that brought their hearts together.

On February 8, Lydia Grace was born to first time parents Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Virkler. This sweet new baby is a joyful addition to their home, and welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle Virkler and Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller (Mediapolis, IA).

Also becoming first time parents are Bro. Evan and Sis. Krista Wieland. Linden Grey was born on February 11 and welcomed by grandparents Bro. Nate and Sis. Suz Wieland and Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker (Belvidere, IL). As these dear couples enter the journey of parenthood, may they feel God’s nearness and grace as they raise their daughter and son, respectively, to be a daughter and son of the King!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Ephesians 1:3-4

**Illinois, Elgin**  
*Amy Gasser*

We thank Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) for their services in the ministry during the past month. Special thanks also to Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville), who conducted an all-church topical presentation on Wednesday evening, January 29, entitled “Lessons from the River Jordan: A Look at Deuteronomy.”

Bro. Jerry (Sis. Kay) Cargill underwent another surgery recently and is now receiving rehabilitation for a couple more weeks. Our prayers continue for his recovery. Sis. Connie (Bro. Tom) Schambach is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

**Illinois, Eureka**  
*Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher*

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

Jesus is the true picture of love unfeigned and the example that we desire to follow daily.

Three families were filled with love at first sight when their precious daughters entered this world. On January 18, Bro. David and Sis. Ashley Knecht, Nolan, Elizabeth, and Violet welcomed Charlotte Rose into their hearts. Keira Lee Cottrell made her entrance on January 27 to fill Bro. Kurt, Sis. Kristen and Brecken’s hearts with joy. Finley Elizabeth was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Amanda Stoller on February 5. She was lovingly welcomed home by Emerson, Kinsey, and Westin.

Our dear Sis. Bena Mae Rocke (Bro. Leroy, dec.) age 101, went home to be with the Lord on January 29. Our sympathy is extended to her daughter Sis. Kathy (Bro. Mike) Leman of Eureka and son, William Rocke (Sandra, dec.) of Normal. Sis. Bena, with God’s help, displayed I Peter 3:4 “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”

Many thanks to Bro. Kent Wiegand (Sis. Lanae, Goodfield, IL) for visiting us and sharing God’s Word.

Many of our congregation enjoyed spending the weekend together on February 7-8 for the “Foundations for a Loving Marriage” seminar conducted by ACCFS. We would like to thank the brothers who encouraged us in the ways of the Lord. “And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.” Ecclesiastes
4:12. We appreciated our single group providing babysitting services all day Saturday.

We rejoice with Tamra Edelman, daughter Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine, who has answered God’s loving call to repentance.

**Illinois, Fairbury**

*Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger*

Each of us are ministers of the gospel on a daily basis, and we are thankful for those who are willing to labor on the behalf of our souls by sharing this special message in church. We enjoyed having Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville IL) and Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty OH) visit.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sharon Kelson, Sis. Jeanette Bahler, Sis. Linda Fehr (Bro. Ken) who have spent time in the hospital, as well as many others in our church family with ongoing health issues.

We rejoice when we witness God’s work of salvation in the hearts of men. We pray for Dan and Mary Etta Mullen as they begin their walk of repentance with the Lord.

Babies are a miracle from God. Evelyn Jean was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Tessa Herr. Welcoming her home are big brothers Tyson, Colton, and Weston, and grandparents, Sis. Cindy Herr and Bro. Terri and Sis. Deb Nussbaum (Forrest, IL). Rustyn Elias was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Lynette Stoller. Excited big sister Rayla, and grandparents, Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy Stoller and Jim and Sis. Renae Waldbeser are thankful for his safe arrival. We rejoice with each of these families and pray God is always near them as they raise their children to love and serve Him.

**Illinois, Forrest**

*Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz*

“And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen), all from Fairbury, IL; Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL); Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA); Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL); Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN); Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Jr. (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis, IA); and Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL). We thank them for their willingness in sharing God’s word with us.

February 2 was the wedding day of Sis. Shea Kilgus (Bro. Rick Plattner, Sis. Mary), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen), all from Fairbury, IL; Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL); Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA); Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL); Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN); Bro. Gerald Wagenbach, Jr. (Sis. Bonnie, Mediapolis, IA); and Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL). We thank them for their willingness in sharing God’s word with us.

We rejoice with Mary Bradley and remain prayerful for her as she has begun her repentance.

First time parents, Bro. Reagan and Sis. Faith Mueller, welcome home a new baby boy, Zion John. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara Blunier (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron, Jr. and Sis. Vicki Mueller.

We hosted the Illinois Minister Forum on February 15. We thank the ministers for all of their labors in sharing the Word of God with us so faithfully. May God richly bless each one.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have had health concerns this past month: retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel), Sis. Melba Zimmerman (Bro. Al), Bro. Bryan Aberle (Sis. Lisa), and Sis. Faith Mueller (Bro. Reagan).

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isaiah 26:3

**Illinois, Goodfield**

*Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp*

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18

Our congregation was excited to have a wedding on January 19 as Bro. Zach Wiegand and Sis. Serena Bauman were joined in holy matrimony. Both are from Goodfield and their parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen Wiegand and Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman. May they have a wonderful, Christ-centered marriage and life together!
Also on February 2, many went to Tremont for the wedding of Bro. Nathan Zobrist and Sis. Tabitha Koch. Bro. Nathan is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist (Congerville, IL) and Sis. Tabitha is the daughter of Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika Koch (Tremont, IL).

At the end of January, we were thankful to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Jonas and Savannah Wiegand and Doug Glueck. Jonas and Savannah’s parents are Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand and Doug’s parents are George and Pauline Glueck. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) was with us and shared in the encouraging weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month included Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL)

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla Wiegand as they were blessed with a baby girl, Paisley Grace on January 31! Paisley is joyfully welcomed home by her big brother Peyton and sisters, Ashley and Bristol. Paisley’s loving grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Harv and Deb Joos (Morris, MN).

We are thankful to announce that Elle Knapp has surrendered her heart to the Lord in repentance. Elle is the daughter of Bro. Josh and Sis. Carolyn Knapp. We rejoice with Lakin Dietrich as he has also given his heart to the Lord in repentance. Lakin is the son of Bro. John Dietrich (Congerville, IL) and Renee Dietrich. We are also excited to announce that Kaitlyn Wiegand has chosen to give her life to the Lord in repentance. Kaitlyn’s parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynn Wiegand. Our prayers are with them as they take this most important step to follow Christ Jesus. The angels are rejoicing and so are we!

At the beginning of February, we had a special engagement announcement of our dear Sis. Haley Rokey to Bro. Nate Hartman both of Goodfield. Haley is the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley Rokey and Nate is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman. May the Lord bless their engagement and upcoming marriage.

On February 5, our dear sister Joy Hohulin went home to be with the Lord. Our sympathy and prayers are with her husband, Bro. Jim, and his family including daughters: Jackie and Jill (Ed Kennedy) and Jill’s 2 children, Julia and Jason Martin. Sis. Joy lived out her name and demonstrated love and joy in all that she did and to all those who knew her. She will be greatly missed but we are thankful she is with Jesus.

Illinois, Gridley

**Perry Klopfenstein**

Bro. Ron Schmidtgal, 66, passed away on February 3, in Normal. His parents were former ministering Bro. Harold and Sis. Betty Schmidtgal. He is survived by two brothers, William (Carol) Schmidtgal, Morton, and James (Carol) Schmidtgal, El Paso; three sisters, Mary (Roger) Hudson, Hanna City, Sis. Linda Krug, Gridley, and Sis. Barbara (Ronald) Harris, Gridley; and by his stepmother, Esther Schmidtgal, of the Eureka home. His kindliness will be missed among the brethren.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Brenda Waber for the passing of her stepmother.

Henry Fink is recovering from a heart episode. Sis. Deanna Peden was in the hospital for surgery, and has returned home. Sis. Charity Schieler had gall bladder surgery and is home recovering satisfactorily. Bro. Louis John Slagel had ankle surgery in January. Bro. Steve Stortz had knee surgery and is recovering. Sis. Wilma Kuntz fell and broke her upper left arm. She was in a nursing home for awhile, and is now back home. Bro. George Gramm was hospitalized for back surgery. Bro. Orlan Miller has been enduring the side effects of cancer treatments. Thank the Lord for His healing mercies.

Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Sis. Heather, Peoria, IL) spoke here on Wednesday evening, February 19, on “Personal Worship.” We thank him for his efforts.

Illinois, Morton

**Annette Tanner**

We have had a relatively slow month, as far as news to report. Two Wednesday evening services were cancelled because of bad weather. One of those being our February Family Worship Night.
Our Young Group spent a Saturday serving a mission in Chicago. They took food and supplies furnished by Midwest Food Bank to help replenish the mission’s food pantry. They also did various jobs to help in the renovation of a building to be used as a retreat center.

As another act of service, the Young Group offered an evening of babysitting, so the parents of young children could have a “night out”.

We thank the Goodfield congregation for hosting ACYF on February 9 for our Bible Class students to participate in an evening of singing praises to our Lord.

Our home ministers have begun teaching us from Revelation Chapters 1-3, “Christ’s Messages to the 7 Churches”. As the churches were commended and rebuked, let us examine our lives and be encouraged where we are following Christ’s teachings, and repent where we have slipped along the way.

“To him that overcometh shall be given. The fruit from trees of life in Paradise. He who has served the Lord and well has striven. Shall rest from toil, and take from Him the prize! God will refresh him with Heavenly blessing! Eternal rapture shall be his part! Eternal rapture shall be his part! 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!”

“To Him That Overcometh”
Hymns of Zion/Tabernacle
Hymns #271 verses 1 and 6

Illinois, Peoria
Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

Sis. Dee (Bro. Bob) Leman’s mother, Sis. Louise Fehr, from Roanoke, IL passed away. She was also the grandmother of Jerome (Sis. Amanda) Fehr. Bro. Dean (late Sis. Judy) Martin’s son Troy passed away suddenly. Sis. Elma Brustin passed into eternity at the age of 103. Our prayers are with these families and how wonderful to be reassured the Lord provides comfort to the brokenhearted.

We are so thankful for visiting minister Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL).

Tyler Tonner has made know his desire to serve and walk with the Lord. We pray for him to grow in grace to the Spirit working in his life. We are glad to have him living here in Peoria from Bluffton, IN.


We have the privilege of praying for many people, whether it be those with health challenges, missionaries, nursing home residents, prison inmates, families who have lost loved ones, or rejoicing alongside those experiencing joy. How sweet the privilege of prayer!

Illinois, Princeville
Melinda Christ, Cherie White

We rejoice that two souls have begun their repentance and walk with the Lord. They are Elise Herrmann, daughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann and Cassie Bertchtold, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Leann.

We welcome Sis. Abrey Plattner from Leo, IN, daughter of Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany, who has moved to Princeville to live with her grandparents while she furthers her schooling.

Those experiencing afflictions of the body or hospitalization this month were Bro. Mike Menold (Sis. Sharon), Sis. Nancy Wieland (Bro. Robert), Sis. Rose Herrmann (Bro. Alan), Bro. Fred Christ (Sis. Tina), and Joan Rumbold (Raymond).

Extending our sympathy to Bro. Tim and Sis. Tricia Wagenbach on the loss of her brother, Troy Martin of East Peoria. We are also sharing in the loss of Terry De Clercq of Kewanee, the father of John and Becky De Clercq. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Andy and Sis. Michelle Martin on the passing of her grandmother, Katie Mueller, of Mansfield, Ohio. We are saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Anna Lou Grimms’ sister, Marie Moore, of Ohio. May the Lord grant peace and comfort to those losing loved ones.

Bro. Grant and Sis. Hannah Herrmann welcome another precious baby girl. Livia Jane was born on February 10 and is welcomed home by siblings,
Ivory, Titus, and Elijah. We rejoice that another baby girl, Leah Jean, was born to Brent and Michelle Schaefer on February 16 in Minnesota. Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys Martin are happy grandparents again, along with big siblings Seth and Hannah.

New Sunday school teachers for the upcoming school year have been selected. They are Bro. Tristan Herrmann (Sis. Larissa), Bro. Mark Stoller (Sis. Kate), Sis. Lisa Martin and Sis. June Wagenbach (Bro. Troy). We pray for the teachers as they bring the message humbly to our children.

The single group invited guests over Martin Luther King weekend on January 18-20. There was a large group of young single members from various states that were able to come to join the Bradford and Princeville churches for the weekend. Our church family was invited to join them for a singing on Sunday evening which was a blessing.

Our congregation was invited to join a Family Hymn Sing at Bradford church on February 9. It was a blessed evening of song and fellowship.

The weekend of February 15-16, we heard the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Nolan Wagenbach, son of Bro. Troy and Sis. June. What a blessing to see young souls surrendering their all to serve the Lord.

Visiting ministers this month, Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) shared the Word with our congregation. We appreciate their service and welcome them back.

**Illinois, Roanoke**

**Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind**

My mom recently moved to a supportive living facility. This past week my sister and I, along with other family members, have been sorting through things in her house. A lifetime of memories. Dad’s WW2 Marine uniform, Mom’s Christmas decorations, my Girl Scout handbook, my sister’s drawings, a sled Dad used to pull us down the street, toys from long ago that generations in our family played with, Gram’s recipes, etc. You get the picture. Each one evoking a memory of past days. Due to family health situations and Mom’s move out of our family home, I have been reminded of the brevity of life. This life truly is a vapor (James 4:14). May our focus be on living for Jesus and the eternal life to come.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Denise Knepp said farewell to their children and grandchildren, Gretchen and Joel Gehrig and daughters, who traveled back to India where they serve as missionaries.

On January 19, services were held at the Peoria Rescue Mission. A precious son, Fischer James, was born to James and Ruthie Estabrook on January 20. His sisters are Willow and Harley, and grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Lynne Hodel.

On January 22 we had Bible Study on Proverbs 1:8-19 by Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL) “Avoiding Bad Company is a Good Idea”. Our study on Proverbs continued with Proverbs 2 “The Value of Wisdom” by Bro. Nate Hodel (Sis. Jamie) on January 26. Also, Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT) was our visiting minister that day.

We extend our love and sympathy to three families who have lost loved ones. Sis. Louise Fehr passed away on January 22. Her survivors include a son, Dan (Diane) Fehr of Roanoke, a daughter, Sis. Dee (Bro. Bob) Leman of Peoria, IL, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a sister, Sis. Martha Lugrinbuhl of Ellington, CT. Her nephews, Bro. Mark Hoffman (Sis. Luella, Clarendon, VT), and retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Princeville, IL), had the funeral service for Sis. Louise. Elder Bro. Frank Sauder mentioned Eph. 4:2,3: “With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” as exemplifying Sis. Louise and her life. We will remember her kind, gentle ways.

Sis. Lynn Wuthrich and Sis. Bonnie (Bro. Ed) Sauder’s sister-in-law, Kathy Bush Wuthrich (Bill) of Peoria, IL, passed away on January 26.

Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman (Remington, IN) lost their baby son, Rudy Samuel, shortly after birth on February 8. His
grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein and Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman. Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie can be comforted that their dear little son is a beautiful bud in the Master’s garden.

Wade Sauder (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jodie) is engaged to Britney Schmidgall (Les and Angie) of Armington, IL.

On February 9 a church potluck and singing was held at the fellowship hall.

On February 15-16, our church was blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Charity Feucht (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer), Destyne King (Alicia and Joe LePretre) and Dalton Logan (Karen LaHood). It was such an encouragement to see how the Lord has worked in the lives of these 3 young people. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL), Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL), Bro. Nate Ramsey (Sis. April, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL), Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL), and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN).

We rejoice with Jessie Hodel (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Jenny), who has begun her walk with the Lord.

Our prayers are with the Roanoke work team in Haiti: Bro. Greg and Sis. Shar Moser with their children (Bro. Josh, Jonathan, and Joanna) and Bro. Brad Hodel.

Pray for Bro. Bob Zimmerman, Bro. John Sauder, Sis. Betty Hodel, Bro. Dave (Sis. Barb) Schwind and Scout Schick (Bro. Tyler and Sis. Sara), who have had health challenges.

Life had been difficult for us these last few months because of Dave’s side effects from chemo. I heard an inspiring message where the speaker, Dr. Steve Sanchez, advocated replacing paralyzing fear with persevering faith. We were encouraged to review God’s mighty work on our behalf, focus on God’s character, and avoid a prideful front and paralyzing fear. I am so thankful that Jesus is with us for the difficult and uncertain times in life! May He use even these hard times for His purposes and help us all to walk with persevering faith (I Peter 1:3-7).

**Note of thanks**

The family of Louise Fehr thanks all who remembered her with visits, cards, prayers, those who came to sing for her, and the ministering brothers who visited and prayed with her. She loved her church family and always appreciated the church’s love for her.

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch**

Our baby room is becoming crowded these days! We are blessed to have so many little ones and we pray they will all grow to know the Lord as their Savior. Congratulations to Bro. Brett and Sis. Ashley Koch on the arrival of Jayda Noelle. She is loved by her big sister, Jovie, and grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Koch and Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus. Jaylon Matthew has blessed the home of Bro. Andrew and Sis. Kaitlyn Koch. His grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Cathy Koch and Bro. Jedd and Sis. Marsha Rocke (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser are excited to welcome another grandson, Harrison Joe. His parents are Brett and Tess Kaiser and his siblings are Jocelyn, Brooks and Ellis.

A wedding is a joyous reminder of the coming time when Christ will come for His bride, the Church. Every believer, regardless of their marital status here on earth, will partake in the wonder of being one with the Lord. We pray many blessings upon Sis. Tabitha Koch (Bro. Dirk and Sis. Erika) and Bro. Nathan Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie, Congerville, IL) as they were married on February 2. We know God will use them for His glory as they attend the Goodfield church. Serving from the pulpit that day were Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha), Bro. Nate Wiegand (Sis. Laura) and Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth), all from Goodfield, IL.

Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) graciously ministered the Word on February 9. He shared an account of a young man asking an older believer which was more important, reading the Bible or
praying. The older believer said “I will answer your question with a question. Which wing of a bird is more important to it, the left wing or the right?”

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

We were encouraged by these verses at our monthly Family Night by our Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy). He asked three questions. Who are we going to trust in? Jesus. What are we going to trust Him with? Everything. When are we going to trust Him? Today. I need these simple, yet profound, reminders!

God continues to work in the hearts of His people. We rejoiced to hear the engagement of Bro. Corbin Steiner to Sis. Esther Kaehr from Bluffton, IN. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Val Steiner and Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr (Bluffton, IN). We wish them God’s rich blessings!

Illinois, Bluffton
Lydia Pfaffmann

Bro. Layne and Sis. Heather Steffen added another precious baby boy to their family!

Luke Walter was born on February 11 and his siblings, Gabe, Noah, and Hope welcomed him home! Another little miracle!

We also had a re-birth in our church; Carli Leman surrendered her life to the Lord! Truly there is rejoicing in Heaven when one sinner repents! Her parents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Lori Leman.

Bro. Wes Fritz, son of Bro. Phil and Sis. Jessica, found peace with his Lord and was baptized January 26. A victory in Jesus!

There were two visiting ministers for the baptism, Bro. Mark Dotterer (Sis. Kate) and Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi), both of Eureka, IL. Their labors on the pulpit were much appreciated.

Two of our dear seniors, Bro. Andy Mogler and Sis. Edna Simon, were hospitalized and have returned to the Eureka Home. We’re thankful they have bounced back to reasonable health!

Truly God is SO good and answers our prayers beyond our expectations!

Indiana, Bluffton
Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen

We have just finished our church wide winter Bible Study on people of the Old Testament. We were blessed and challenged as we considered 13 different men and women, from “Hannah: Praying in Pain” to “Daniel: Tempted to Compromise”. Learning to know more of our brothers and sisters on a deeper level as we studied and grew together was another tremendous blessing!

Two couples have felt the Lord directing them to marriage: Bro. Hunter Bertsch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda) and Sis. Jenna Neuenschwander (Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky); and Bro. Corbin Steiner (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val, Tremont, IL) and Sis. Esther Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli). May God guide these dear couples as they begin their spiritual oneness in Him!

Our love and prayers have surrounded two grieving families. Bro. Ramon Stoller passed into eternity, leaving his wife, Sis. Flossie, and children, Bro. Allen (Sis. Susan) Stoller, Bro. Bill (Sis. Kathy) Stoller, Sis. Connie (Bro. Keith) Aschliman, and Bro. Larry (Sis. Sharon) Stoller, of Bluffton, and Keith Stoller of Indianapolis. 18 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren also survive.

Sis. Phyllis Fiechter finished her earthly race. Her family includes her husband, Herman, and children, Patricia Pommer, Sharon (Ben) Cole, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Bruce) Bedwell, Lisa (Tim) Jolloff, Bro. Stan (Sis. Lori) Fiechter, Gary (Stacey) Fiechter, Bro. Brian (Sis. Deb) Fiechter, and Keith (Kathy) Fiechter, as well as 33 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

Sickness is never welcome, yet we pray that it will be an opportunity for growth in trusting Jesus. We have many with health concerns, including Sis. Sally Schwartz, Sis. Rosemary Hegerfeld, Bro. Neil (Sis. Karen) Gerber, Bro. Carl Fiechter and 7 year old Charlie Nussbaum, grandson of Bro. Jay and Sis Deb Gerber.

There is much joy as Cohen Rauch (Bro. Micah and Sis. Rozanna) and Jason (Holly) Steffen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia) have answered God’s call to repentance.

Bro. Tom Lantz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Brian Weninger (Sis. McKinzie, Leo, IN) ministered to us. Thank you and please come again!

Our middle school and high school students enjoyed a day of snow skiing. Our young group hosted several from other Indiana and Ohio churches. Our brothers were challenged at “Finding Freedom”, enjoying fellowship and presentations, “Protecting the Family” and “Parenting Purity”. ACCFS Counselors, Bro. Matt Kauffman and Bro. Arlan and Sis. Katie Miller talked with us about nurturing intentional relationships. And Bro. John Reinhard exhorted us on the topic of “Resilient Children”. We are blessed!

Sis. Adrienne Kaehr has answered the Lord’s call to move to Washington D.C. We will miss her but send her with much love and many prayers.

Our 3rd -5th graders have been participating in a scripture song class and presented us with the results, a beautiful and inspiring program. One of their verses was Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O man, what is good and what the Lord requires of you. But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” May that be our life’s goal!

**Indiana, Bluffton North**

**Rhonda Maller, Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.” Genesis 22:1

We were taught recently how when Abraham said behold, here I am, he was not just talking about his location, but it meant so much more. That phrase was one of surrender and was saying he was ready to be used by the Lord.

We were thankful that we had four young men that have surrendered to the Lord and testified of His work in their lives and were baptized this month. They are Bro. Quinn Frauhiger (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally), Bro. Darin Reinhard (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi), Bro. Drew Frauhiger (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Janelle), and Bro. Sawyer Beeks (Bro. John and Sis. Laura). We are prayerful for each of them as they mature in their walk with the Lord.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Jesse and Sis. Janelle Frauhiger as their daughter Kylie began her repentance. What an encouragement to see our youth following after Jesus!

Our Sunday school students did not let winter weather keep them from being active. Our middle and high students had their annual snow ski trip. Then our 2–12 graders gathered together as they do each year in the winter for an evening of food, games, and Bible skits, which is always the highlight of the evening.

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers share the Word with us: Bro. Arlan Miller (Sis. Katie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Brian Wenninger (Sis. Mackenzie, Leo, IN).

We had a couple of special events this month. First, all men were invited to attend “Finding Freedom”. It is an evening of food, fellowship, and most importantly a couple of speakers with topics specific to men. Then ACCFS came and put on the presentation of “Developing Intentional Relationships”. Both events taught a lot of good life application principles and all were blessed that attended.

We have several in our congregation that need prayers for their health. Spending some time in the hospital were Bro. Jay Kipfer, Sis. Colleen Ringger (Bro. Al), Sis. Delores Maller, and Bro. Rod Mounsey (Sis. Rosemary). Praying they feel the Lord’s nearness in this time of trial in their lives.

**Indiana, Francesville**

**Jacki Huber, Connie Linback**

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

There is so much to rejoice about in the Lord!! Among the countless reasons to rejoice is being forgiven of our sins, having Jesus beside us every moment,
the comfort and guidance of the precious Holy Spirit, and to anticipate an eternity with no more sadness or pain, but with unsurpassed beauty and fulfillment.

Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis Kris, West Lafayette, IN) blessed us with a visit on a recent Sunday and shared God’s word. We were encouraged through God’s Word and the inspiration of His Spirit, to serve the Lord with all our hearts!

There have been numerous dear ones with health concerns this past month. Among them are Amanda Schneider (Bro. Dale and Sis. Andrea), Bro. Andre Neihouser (Sis. Lois) and Sis. Hailey Luzadder. Our prayers are with all who are experiencing trials of health, whether known to many or few.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Margaret Gudeman in the death of her only sibling, Hermine Pister from Germany.

Prayers are with Quinton Young (Bro. Steve and Sis. April) as he has recently changed jobs and have moved to the Detroit area. We are thankful for the love and welcome to him from the Detroit church family!

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: “Psalm 127:3

Austin and Stacy Metzger, along with Colton, Logan, Kinsley, Noah and Gracelyn have embraced another precious daughter/sibling, Emersyn Kate. May the Lord continue to bless this sweet family! Grandparents are Danny and Kris Johns and Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger.

Indiana, Indianapolis
Edie Bollier, Kaylin Bollier

On February 9, Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN) preached to our congregation. We were blessed and thankful he was willing to share the Word and give of his time.

We rejoice with Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier on the birth of their grandson Zenji Adrian Inoue born on February 8 to parents Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue of Tokyo, Japan.

On February 16, the young professional group in Indy served lunch. Again, we were blessed by their willingness to serve and their generosity to the church. We should be reminded to all be looking for ways to serve others and ultimately serve Christ.

On the third Wednesday night of the month we have started gathering for a prayer and testimony night. We have been fortunate to hear testimonies of our brothers and sisters and hear how God has worked and is working in their lives. Afterwards we break into prayer groups and there is something so special about hearing the heart of our brothers and sisters and being able to pray for one another. Let us lift each other and our church body up in prayer.

Indiana, LaCrosse
Megan Frank, Julie Rocke

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies…” Psalm 103:2-4

We are certainly blessing the Lord for His physical healing! Our Sis. Norma Nuest (Bro. Gene) recently underwent open heart surgery, and we rejoice that all went well and she is home recovering. Several in our church have battled a nasty stomach virus in recent weeks. While cleaning up after other ill family members, the rest of us waited in fearful anticipation for the virus to conquer us as well. We scoured our homes and scrubbed our bodies, attempting to create a barrier against the inevitable. How thankful I am that because of His “lovingkindness and tender mercies” we don’t have to live in fear of the evil one’s attacks. We can be watchful, prepared with “all his benefits”, but not waiting in helplessness. I have certainly been convicted to strengthen my zeal in keeping my spiritual house in order!

We always appreciate whenever visitors bring an addition to our gathering. Special thanks to Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) for ministering to us this month.

For the information of future visitors, our Sunday church service time has been changed for the time being, with services beginning at 10:00AM (still CST), and afternoon services at 12:15PM.
Greetings of love through Christ to all Silver Lining readers. Featuring Valentine’s Day, love seems to be the theme for the month for February, but it is the theme for a Christian’s entire life. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son…” John 3:16

Because of love, Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke, Minneapolis, MN visited us in Leo the weekend of January 18 and 19. A singing wedding shower for their son, Bro. Adrian, and our Sis. Charity Fischer was held Saturday evening. Bro. Duane delivered God’s message to us the next day. We appreciated their visit and hope they felt our love toward them.

Because of love, we are praying fervently for several people in our church family and beyond. Very difficult circumstances, health issues and souls who need to be washed by Jesus’ blood have been our focus. We are thankful to report that Sis. Wanita (Duane) Laukhuf had successful heart valve repair surgery at Cleveland Clinic on February 11. We are pleading for God’s gracious favor in regard to our Sis. Kristi (Bro. Jeremy) Reinhard’s pregnancy continuing to the birth of a healthy baby.

“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” Ps.86:15

After a survey of the congregation, our mid-week Wednesday evening church service now begins at 7:00PM, instead of 7:30PM. It is possible that we may go back to the 7:30PM starting time once school is out and summer is here.

The annual Leo Youth Retreat was held February 7-9 at a ski lodge in Michigan. “Come to the Well” was the theme for the weekend. Nearly eighty high school and college students, young professionals, young couples and chaperones enjoyed a fun, but spiritually energizing time together. “We love him, because He first loved us.” 1 John 4:19

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

This verse has been brought to mind many times this month as the winter days have brought many highs and lows into our congregation.

We rejoice with Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen as their son Rod Steffen and Lori Hernandez announce their engagement.

Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer welcomed Boyd Davis on February 7. He will fit in well among his 4 older brothers Tucker, Cooper, Colton and Trace. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer and Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction, OH).

Other thankful grandparents include Bro. Bill and Sis. Judy Longcor who joyfully welcome Everleigh Jean to the world. Proud parents are Matt and Amber Longcor of Princeville, IL.

We rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman as their son, Bro. Jake Bowerman (West Lafayette, IN) shared his testimony and was baptized February 9 as a witness to his faith in Jesus.

We have had times of great joy and times of great sorrow this past month. We grieve the loss of Sis. Edna Lehman who went to be with the Lord this month. She will be greatly missed by her church family and her brother Bro. George Lehman. Our sympathy is with Bro. Alan and Kathy Wuthrich and Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich whose brother, Virgil Wuthrich, passed away this month. He grew up in Milford and relocated to Florida in his later years.

“… the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.” Job 1:21

Precious little Rudy Samuel was born on February 8 to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman, but went to be with Jesus just a short time later that afternoon. Our hearts are filled with sorrow for this dear family, and like Job and his friends we are tempted to wonder why. However, we are thankful that through God’s grace, love, and power, Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie are able to claim a measure of peace and trust in His perfect will for their little boy. Rudy is survived by his parents Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie; his siblings Sadie, Millie, Harvey, and Elsie; his grandparents Bro.
Don and Sis. Colleen Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke, IL); and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Please be prayerful for the family and lift them up to the Father’s throne often.

Sis. Jayne Price is mourning the death of her mother-in-law, Thelma Price of Fowler, IN. Sis. Jayne’s children (Zach and Karena Price, Naren and Amanda Tanka Bali) and grandchildren will also miss their grandmother and great-grandmother. Please be prayerful for this family as well.

In the midst of sorrow, there is also joy. Bro. Evan and Sis. Elizabeth Stoller welcomed little Trevan Levi home this month. Siblings Rylan, Alaina, and Brecken are thrilled with their little brother, as are grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle Virkler (Congerville, IL). We pray that the Lord will bless Bro. Evan and Sis. Elizabeth as they seek to raise Trevan to know and serve Him.

We were privileged to welcome several visiting ministers. Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) both worshiped with us this month. In addition, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) gave a topical Bible presentation on “The Way of Peace” one Wednesday night that was very challenging and thought-provoking. May the Lord bless each one for his willingness to preach the Word.

Indiana, South Bend
Joshua Martinez

“Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me.” Micah 7:7

We are happy to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe back from a three-week Florida vacation. We pray that God’s healing hand will be upon Bro. Otto (Sis. DeAnn) Schlatter’s father, Bro. Otto Sr. (Sis. Pat), who underwent quadruple open heart surgery in Florida, and also Sis. Sharon Flis’ daughter Ann Marie Ranschaert, who had gall bladder surgery.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Leona Lehman whose brother, Ray Brown, from West Lafayette, IN passed away. We ask the Lord for an added measure of peace, healing and comfort for them. We “can do all things” through Christ who strengthens us!

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

Indiana, Valparaiso
Sherry Meiss

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

Many thanks to our visiting minister Bro. Steven Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), along with Bro. Niles and Sis. Phyllis Buchar for joining us in the message from God and fellowship.

We were richly blessed with the visit of Bro Kyle, Sis. Lindsey and baby Murphy Isch along with Sis. Lindsey’s family. We have missed them so much since their move to Leo, IN and we never seem to get enough of baby Murphy. How it warms our hearts to see their new family and existing family join us in fellowship and praise of our Lord.

Ben and Tracy Bucher welcome into the world a baby girl, Ivy Jo on February 6. She weighed 5 Lbs 8 oz. Joyful grandparents would be our Minister Bro. Tim Bucher and Sis. Julie, and Bro. Joe Zimmerman and Sis. Barb from Morton, IL. Siblings are Jude, Lucy and Milly Bucher, who all are very happy to have a baby sister.

Our dear Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller have made a new home in Peachtree City, GA. Even though we didn’t get to give them a good send off, we wanted to let them know how much we truly miss them. May God’s blessings be with you and pray you feel His and our love always.

Please keep Bro. Bob and Sis Marguerite Hoerr in your prayers. He is back at Rittenhouse and a little weak. Sis. Leona Bucher sure could use some special prayer being lifted up for her. Sis. Carol Bucher is living at Parkview in Francesville, IN and a prayer sent her way would be appreciated. Sis. Dawn Ailes’s brother-in-law Drew and
her sister Diane McClanahan need ongoing prayer. Drew is undergoing Chemo treatments and Diane has had her 3rd knee replacement surgery.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." 1 Corinthians 13:13

Indiana, West Lafayette
Libby Wahl

We rejoice to share one of our local college students, Hope Young (Bro. Steve and Sis. April Young), has expressed her need for a Saviour. We are encouraged that Austin Roe, a committed believer, who has been employed in our area the last couple years and has been fellowshipping with us, desires to be a member of our church.

February 9 was a special time of testimony and baptism for Bro. Jake Bowerman. We were blessed to have his previous home church elder, Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), supporting our Elder Bro. Nick Gutwein in this rite.

The college youth hosted a benefit dinner and auction to raise awareness and support for their college spring break mission trip. Young parents were delighted when they also provided Valentine’s Day evening child care.

Thank you, Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), for bringing us a relevant midweek message.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light." Ephesians 5:8

Indiana, Wolcott
Teresa Earney, Luann Gerber

As we begin the year 2020, we have a beautiful peace knowing that even though the world is in disarray around us, we know the future and God wins! What a wonderful feeling when we see so many around us reeling from Satan’s powers, yet we have this peace knowing it all comes to a glorious end someday.

Let’s share the Gospel so that all can see the Love of God in us and they can feel this same peace!

Our Sis. Nancy Kyburz (Bro. Jerry) had heart surgery this past month. Our Bro. Ron Kyburz (Sis. Donna) is in the hospital at this time. We are praying for them to regain their strength!

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Dan Walder, (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL) and Dana Nieman, (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN). Bro. Fred Witzig, (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) was here for a Bible Study entitled "The Way of Peace." We sincerely thank each of these dear brothers and their wives for giving of themselves to share God’s Word!

Jalen Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) has shared a profession of peace in his heart and peace with God and man. We rejoice with him and look forward to hearing his testimony April 18-19!

Sis. Heidi Bahler (Bro. Jeff) was able to be with her father, Bro. Leonard Baumgartner in Bern, KS, when he passed away January 26. We share our love and condolences with her as she mourns this loss but rejoices in his victory.

We had our annual church meeting in January and want to thank those who have served in various capacities and show our support to those who are replacing them!

Iowa, Bloomfield
Kendra Schlatter

We are thankful for our new Sis. Audrey Wiegand (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Christy) as she gave her testimony and was baptized the last weekend in January. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), and Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL) were here to share in the special weekend.

On a Wednesday evening in January, young and old gathered together to package soup for those less fortunate. We were all blessed by spending time together working towards a common goal.

Sis. Charlotte Teubel (Bro. Paul) has been undergoing testing for some health concerns and has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer. We continue to pray for her healing.

“…and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

As we await the warmer Springtime weather that brings the beauty of the new life, may we not forget to be warm, kind, and bloom spiritually year round.
**Iowa Burlington**  
*Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner*

With the start of a new year, there are new opportunities to serve and bring glory to Christ. We want to thank Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) for ministering and attending our annual January business meeting. Bro. Brett Wulf was elected as Trustee to replace Bro. Leroy Wulf. There are many little things happening behind the scenes that help the church function, and we are grateful for Bro. Leroy’s years of service with this. As Sis. Mary Massner retires from Kitchen Committee, Sis. Christy Massner was selected to replace her. May God bless Sis. Mary for her efforts in feeding the flock! We offer our appreciation to Sis. Elaine Eisenman for her time spent on writing the Silver Lining, as this responsibility has been handed over to Sis. Angela Steiner. Also in our meeting, the church gave support to Bro. Mahlon Steiner and Bro. Jake Schulz to be our new LifePoints and Gateway Woods representatives. We are grateful that Bro. Leo Banwart was willing to serve in this area for the past several years.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go to Sis. Alice Defenbaugh and family with the passing of their husband and father, Bro. Ray Defenbaugh. We are saddened that Bro. Ray lost the battle with cancer, yet we rejoice that he’s won a victorious crown in Heaven! Bro. Ray was a special part of our Burlington church family and will be greatly missed. It was a blessing to have Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA) visit and encourage our church family with the Word.

We continue to keep those struggling with health and sickness in thoughts and prayers. Even when the days are chilly and gray, remember to be joyful that the sun is always shining behind the clouds. In God’s time, He will make all things beautiful; spring will come again!

**Iowa, Elgin**  
*Maria Rocke*

“Carry on, carry on. Carry on the work of God,  
And the souls of men be winning;  
With the Gospel’s peace be shod.  
Waken those still dead in sinning;  
Bring them, through the gracious Gospel-Word,  
To the Lord, to the Lord.”

*To Those in Conflict, Zion's Harp #21*

Though we don’t have news to share, we wish to encourage you in your walk and to carry on in the service of the Lord.

**Iowa, Garden Grove**  
*Laura Funk*

Greetings from sunny, cold southern Iowa.

I am listening to a sermon while I write this. The minister just stated “when we realize we are not in command, that is great revelation. When we realize we are second in command that is great freedom.” Are we thankful we are not in command? Or do we continue to go before God? Thinking we know best, then being angry at God for situations not going our way. Is our heart open to God’s leading? Another thought provoking comment from this sermon: Every piece of ground we step on, every place you go is Holy Ground IF God is with you. Do we act and speak like God is standing beside us?

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Phillip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL), Bro. Justin Isch (Sis. Liz, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan, Goodfield, IL). Our congregation appreciates the fellowship with these messengers and the loved ones that accompany them. God bless you!

"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,  
It shall be Thy royal throne."  
*Hymns of Zion # 106 vs 4.*

Is your heart a royal throne for the Lord?

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

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jon Pratt (Sis. Sharon, Valparaiso, IN), Bro. Joel Troxel (Sis. Amy, LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA). Bro. Jon
shared the Memorandum with us Saturday evening, and all four brothers shared the Word from the pulpit on a Sunday. May the Lord bless them for this work.

As we look forward to Easter and celebrating our Lord’s resurrection, let’s look for opportunities to share the Good News with those around us who have maybe never heard the story.

“Christ is risen! Hallelujah!
Blessed morn of life and light;
Lo, the grave is rent asunder,
Death is conquered thro’ His might.

Christ hath risen! Hallelujah!
Friends of Jesus, dry your tears:
Thro’ the vail of gloom and darkness,
Lo, the Son of God appears.

He hath risen, as He said:
He is now the King of glory,
And our great exalted Head.
Christ is risen! Hallelujah!
Gladdness fills the world today;
From the tomb that could not hold Him,
See, the stone is rolled away.”

Christ is Risen, Gospel Hymns #527

Iowa, Lester
Kristi Knobloch, Audrey Metzger

Congratulations go out to Tessa Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther) on her engagement and upcoming marriage to Erick Frewaldt! We wish this young couple God’s richest blessings as they plan their lives together following their March wedding.

Several from our congregation have suffered misfortune or illness in this past month. We want to remember each of them with love and prayers as they endure and hope for a rapid and full recovery. Hospital patients have been: Blaze Metzger (Aaron and Robyn), Bro. Melvin Knobloch (Sis. Wilma), Bro. Dale Metzger (Sis. Christine), Kathy Knobloch, Bro. Tom Metzger (Sis. Debra), Sis. Mariann Metzger, Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Jim). We often take health “for granted” until it is suddenly changed. Let us be thankful for each day of good health, and mindful of those for whom that is not the case.

We bid “farewell” to Sis. Natalie Sinn (Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), who spent a couple of months assembling with us while doing an internship locally. We thank Bro. Gary for ministering to us when he and Sis. Paulette came to help her move back home.

We also bid “farewell” to our dear Sis. Alice Metzger, who passed into eternity on February 9, just days before her 94th birthday. We always appreciated her quick wit and delightful humor before the fall a few years ago that dramatically changed her life and the lives of her family. Sympathy is extended to her children: Sis. Cindy Leuthold (Bro. Bob), Bro. Paul (Sis. Delores), Bro. Bruce (Sis. Harriet), Jack (SueEllen, Ankeny, IA), and Joe (Kristi, Bella Vista, AR), as well as many beloved grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her surviving siblings include: Sis. Lela Banwart (West Bend, IA), Paul Banwart, Jr. (Emmy, Casa Grande, AZ) and Robert Banwart (Kay, Ruthven, IA) and sisters- and brothers-in-law: Bro. Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn, Bloomfield, IA), Sis. Mariann Metzger, Sis. Ada Banwart (Mediapolis, IA), Betty Banwart (West Bend, IA), Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA), Sis. Lydiann Wyss (Bro. Carl, Washington, IL), Sis. Pearline Streitmatter (Washington, IL) and Bro. Andy Mogler (Washington, IL). Sympathy is extended to all of them as well as many nieces and nephews who loved and will miss Sis. Alice.

We also want to remember Ed and Judy Martin with sympathy and prayers in the loss of his brother-in-law, Bro. Gilbert Stock (Sis. Kathy, Cissna Park, IL). Ray and Karen Glammeier are also grieving the loss of Ray’s dear mother, Gretchen Glammeier of Sioux Falls SD. As family circles grow smaller, the links become closer.

A very simple but profound statement was made at a funeral recently when the ministering brother said, “Almost everything in this life has a beginning and an end...we start a meal and end the meal; we start our workday or school day and end the day; we begin a new year, and it ends. But when eternity begins, there is no end.”
Iowa, Mediapolis
Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz

We were so thankful to have Bro. Arlan and Sis. Katie Miller and family (Gridley, IL) visit our church January 19. The entire day was a blessing! Bro. Arlan spoke with the Bible Class students in the morning, preached in the afternoon, and shared with all of us about encouraging one another following our potluck supper that evening. We really appreciated their willingness to come and serve our congregation, and we were much encouraged.

It takes love, commitment, and hearts willing to serve for a church to function well, both in a literal and a spiritual sense. We elected new officers at our annual business meeting on January 26. We want to express our appreciation to all of our outgoing brothers and sisters for their years of willing service. New officers include Bro. Clint Wagenbach, cemetery committee; Bro. Dan Frank, fellowship center trustee; Bro. Randy Steiner, church trustee; Bro. Dan Lanz, usher; Sis. Deanna Lanz, HarvestCall sewing; and Sis. Janet Lanz and Sis. Linda Gerst, kitchen committee.

We rejoice with Olivia Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally) as she has begun her walk with the Lord! We pray He will guide her and bless her path. It is such a privilege that we can be saved from our sins and be given the opportunity to live our lives for Him!

February 16 was the wedding day of our dear Sis. Kenna Lanz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami) and Bro. Travis Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora) from West Bend, IA. We pray God will bless Sis. Kenna as she makes the West Bend area her new home, and that their life together will glorify Him. Visiting ministers joining us for this joyous occasion were Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bro. Kevin Fehr, (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), Bro. Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA). We thank these brothers for their efforts on our behalf.

Iowa, West Bend
Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt

Thanks to Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) for coming to help our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm in the reading of the Memorandum. Also visiting this month and bringing forth God’s word were Bro. Dave Lanz (Sis. Tami, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Bill Zaugg and Sis. Marvella Wickman (Bro. Larry) in the passing of their brother Roger Zaugg of Jordan, MN. Prayers also go out to Bro. Neal and Sis. Angie Schmidt in the passing of their brother in law, Dave Petersen (Lynn) of Dakota City, IA. Sis. Lela Banwart laid to rest her sister, Sis. Alice Metzger of Lester, IA. May God’s nearness be felt by each family circle.

Cody Schmidt (Bro. Neal and Sis. Angie) was joined in marriage to Taylor Reimer (Denise). Also joining hand and heart were Bro. Travis Fehr (Bro. Darren and Sis. Nora) and Sis. Kenna Lanz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Tami) from Mediapolis, IA. Wishing God’s richest blessings to each couple as they strive to help each other along life’s way.

Vivianne Knobloch (Bro. Braden and Sis. Kenzie) spent time in the hospital. We’re thankful she’s back home and healthy again.

Japan, Tokyo
Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

We are thankful for a mild winter so far. Bright sunshine and blue skies are pleasant. We are thankful for the visit of ministering Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie) of our Indianapolis, IN assembly. He has ministered to us from the pulpit sharing Ezra’s teachings, how Jesus grew to be strong and was filled with wisdom, Bible class and Ladies’ meeting lessons of Mark 2:13-17. As a part of the Japan Outreach Board (JOB), Bro. Ron also participated in the English classes Sis. Rachel is teaching at church. During their visit here they received the sad news of the sudden death of their sister-in-law, Stephanie Bollier (Phil). They were able to return to the states for the funeral of their loved one who has gone to her heavenly home.

While here, new life blessed their family as a new grandson...
was born to Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue, named Zenji Adrian. Ayana, Mika, and Kouta joyfully welcome their new brother. Other thankful grandparents are Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue. May God’s love and grace be with them as they raise this child to the honor and glory of God.

Other welcome visitors this month were Sis. Hideko Kido of Kyushu, and Bro. Hisato and Sis. Rika Inoue of Okayama. We so appreciated Bro. Hisato’s help with our services in prayer and inspiring Bible class on Romans 8.

**Kansas, Bern**

**Sheri Edelman, Rita Menold**

Greetings of love across the many miles! On January 26, Bro. Leonard Baumgartner went to be with the Lord in his eternal home. Our prayers are with his children Bro. Jeff Baumgartner (Sis. Kim), Jay Baumgartner (Heidi), Sis. Heidi Bahler (Bro. Jeff, Wolcott, IN), and Holly Meyer (Duane). Bro. Leonard will also be missed by his many grandchildren that adored him.

“Ask, and it shall be giving you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7

Our congregation is rejoicing with three souls who desire to live a life serving Jesus! Lynn Hartter, Gabe Meyer (Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni), and Taylor Menold (Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita) have each expressed a need to repent. While each of these souls is in a different stage of life, our prayer is that wherever life plants them, they will bloom with grace!

As I was walking in to a classroom at school one morning, which is called the DOTS room (Daily Opportunities To Succeed), my mind very quick changed it to Daily Opportunities to SERVE! I thought about it several times throughout that day, and it kind of changed my mind set. We can get in such a routine about our life and schedules that we often don’t see opportunities to serve right before our eyes. Working with children, sometimes all they need is a smile, a wink, or a little boost of encouragement and you can see their faces fill with joy. Don’t look too far or you may miss an opportunity to serve!

**Kansas, Kiowa**

**Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden**

Our congregation has been saddened this month by the deaths of two loved ones. Sis. Marie Frieden Tucker was laid to rest with many family and friends attending her services. She leaves to mourn her passing 3 children and spouses, 11 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and 6 siblings. Sis. Marie was a faithful believer up to the day she was called home.

Also called home was Stephen Farney, son of Erline Farney and brother to Danny Farney. Stephen had been ill for many years and now he is no longer in any pain, Praise God! We offer prayers of sympathy to both families who will greatly miss their loved ones.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Millie Frieden and Sis. Marie Tucker. We are happy to report that Sis. Millie is now home and recuperating and Sis. Marie is also now Home and in the presence of the Lord.

Our congregation had its annual Business Meeting and several issues were discussed and reviewed in an orderly manner, just as the scripture commands. “Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Cor. 14:40.

We have been pleasantly blessed with 3 visiting ministers and their wives this month! Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), and Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS). Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to these servants of God for coming to share the Word with us.

**Did You Know? by Sis. Millie Frieden**

The night was pitch dark. No light from the sky. The air was crisp and chill at 32 degrees, the murky water, 28 degrees. The year was 1912, early morning of April 15, a little past midnight, to be exact. As the warning bells rang out, 2,227 passengers aboard the vessel Titanic were roused from sleep to face impending doom. Quickly, women and children were lifted into lifeboats, of which only accommodations for half the passengers were aboard the great “unsinkable” ship. Suddenly a man’s cry was heard above the din of frantic people: “women,
children, and the unsaved into the lifeboats.” The man was a widower with a 6-year-old daughter. His child was lifted into a waiting lifeboat; the man was urged to accompany her, but instead forsook his own rescue, choosing to provide the masses with one more chance to know Christ. Up until the last moment on the ship the man was pleading with people to give their lives to Jesus. Suddenly, in the quiet of the night and with the ship’s orchestra playing “Nearer, My God, to Thee”, the ship disappeared beneath the deep frigid waters of the Atlantic leaving hundreds floundering in its wake with no realistic chance for rescue. Still the man struggled through hyperthermia to swim to as many people as he could, still sharing the Gospel. He swam up to one young man clinging to ship debris; challenging him with a Biblical invitation to “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” Sadly, the young man shook him off and rebuffed the invitation. The man removed his own life vest and handed it to the arrogant young fellow saying, “you need this more than I do.” Above the silence of the icy waters and the freezing souls therein, could be heard the voice of the man: “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” Soon the young man clung to the ship debris came within reach of the evangelizing man again; once again the man pleaded in a barely audible voice with the young man to “repent and be saved”. As the young man grasped the frozen hand of the man in the water and gave his life to Christ, he heard the man utter “Amen” as his grip loosened, and the man slipped to his watery grave beneath the ocean's surface.

Approximately 44 survivors were plucked from the icy waters by arriving rescuers; the young Believer was one of them. Some 4 years later, at a reunion of survivors, the young man recounted his story. With tears streaming down his face, he simply said, “I am the last convert of John Harper”.

And now I close with this one simple question to my readers: Who will be your last convert?

Kansas, Lamont

Maria Luthi

Our church was richly blessed in the past month to partake of Communion and remember our Lord Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf. We were reminded that although we did nothing to deserve this incredible gift, we are invited to be a part of God’s family. What a reason to lift our thanks and praise to God! We extend our gratitude to Elder Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) for serving us for this special event as well as for ministering the Word the following Sunday. We also extend thanks to Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) for sharing the Word with us this month while here with his family.

Bro. Max Burnham has our sympathy in the passing of his sister, Marilyn Reiserer. We pray that God is with him and his family during this loss. We are thankful that Sis. Dorene Metzger is recovering well from her second knee surgery. Our prayers are with Bro. Glen Anliker as he has had another hospitalization. It certainly rings true that life is hard, but God is so good.

Kansas, Sabetha

Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

Greetings of love from our Sabetha congregation!

It was a blessing to gather for the baptisms of Mara Aberle (Bro. Rick and Sis. Komari) and Addison Grimm (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Hannah) on February 9. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) with us, along with Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL), Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS), Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA), and Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN).

We rejoice with Hannah Strahm (Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie) as she has made a beginning in repentance. May she feel much love and encouragement as she seeks the Lord with all of her heart.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) was with us
this month and we appreciate his labors of love as he shared from God’s word.

We extend our love and prayers to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carrie Grimm and their family in the passing of Sis. Carrie’s dad, Gary Edelman. We also want to remember Bro. Steve Aberle as his sister, Esther Crider from Moore Park, CA passed away. We likewise extend our sympathy to Sis. Miranda Grimm (Bro. Ted) and Sis. Tabitha Fehr (Bro. Logan) and their families in the passing of their grandfather, Bro. Leonard Baumgartner of Bern, KS. May each one feel the Lord’s love and comfort in the loss of their loved ones.

“...And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4

Kansas, Wichita
Niklaus and Sara Schrader

On December 15, 2019, we were blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Niklaus Schrader. It was a wonderful time to hear how God works in a sinful man’s heart. Only through Christ can we find true salvation and fulfillment. We appreciate those who came to help with this event: Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), and Bro. Trent Banwart (Fort Scott, KS).

We were blessed to have Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) with us Sunday, February 2. Bruce shared the presentation on “Bolstering” to our church in the afternoon. May we continue to pray for God’s direction in this matter. In addition, Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) was also with us and shared the Word with us in the morning.

Note:
Within the last few months a set of keys were left at our church. They are for a Kia vehicle, have a house key on the ring, and the key chain says “California the Great American Revolution” on it. If they are yours, please text a message to 316-993-8052.

Mexico, Ixtlán
Ruth Gerber

“...For the love of Christ constraineth us...” 2 Corinthians 5:14

His love is a strong constraint. Strong enough to move us, direct us, and keep us.

We were so blessed to have Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold (Washington, IL) back in Ixtlán for a week. Their presence is an encouragement and their lives are an inspiration and an example in so many ways, chiefly because of Christ’s love in them. From the pulpit or from across the living room they inspire us to walk in love.

Our Sis. Lidia Rosas was touched by Christ’s love this past month as she experienced the support of the believers in the loss of her husband, Ramón Magaña. The same love that constrained one of our sisters to visit and witness to Ramón in his last days, also enabled her to stay and keep Sis. Lidía company for the most difficult days after his passing. May that same love constrain us all.

Sis. Socorro Chavez has gone to the U.S. to visit her son, Manuel. She appreciates the prayer support their family has received since Manuel’s accident. Praying for each other is also one of the ways His love moves us in order to bless many.

México, Magdalena
Laura Avíña

Our Christian Fellowship Group (i.e. single group) decorated cookies on Valentine’s Day and delivered them to several women from church. It was a fun evening of fellowship and tasting Mexican dishes the ladies prepared for us.

Many of us attended the wedding of Luis “Fernando” Flores Terán and Jaqueline Figueroa Martinez on February 15. We were thankful to celebrate their marriage with them and wish them God’s greatest blessings!

We are thankful to have Bro. Carlos and Sis. Marty Bahler (Gridley, IL) visiting us for several months and for all the love they bring to our community. We always look forward to their annual visits.

His Touch

“Resting in Thy strong embrace,
Gazing in Thy loving eyes,
Given all this unearned grace,
Lifting me to reach the sky.
Waving grass, Thy fragrant hair,
Rolling thunder, Thy deep laugh,  
Endless sky, Thy gaze so fair,  
Rough tree bark, Thy hand’s firm grasp.  
Fire, flames, Thy burning love,  
Lapping waves, Thy sea of tears,  
Shed for me and all I’ve done  
Shed to trade me hope for fear.”  
- LMRA

Michigan, Alto  
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

When we take the time to trace God’s activity in our lives, we are amazed to see His presence and providence. Sometimes the hard things seem the most prevalent, but when we remember to praise Him for answered prayer and spiritual growth despite (or because) of the trials, we are filled with His peace and joy.

Very suddenly, our Bro. Otto Schlatter was in need of heart surgery, and we praise God for His hand on the successful operation. We continue to pray for a full recovery. We are also thankful for the success of Sis. Louise Desotell’s eye surgery. We continue to keep our loved ones, with recoveries or ongoing health issues, in our prayers.

Bro. Joe Oesch passed from this life to eternity and we mourn the loss of our dear and faithful brother. Yet we also rejoice that his suffering has ended and his faith in Jesus is now fully realized. Bro. Joe was known for his storytelling and seemingly never-ending supply of skittles for the children at church. We continue to pray for his children and their families.

Michigan, Bay City  
Sarah Knochel

Our prayers are with several from our congregation who spent time in the hospital recently. We pray God’s healing hand would be with Norm Andrzejewski (Sis. Linda), Sis. Diana Jacobs (Girard), Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean), Bro. Mike Ruegsegger (Sis. Nancy), Bob Stange, and Sis. Betty Wieland (Bro. Morris).

Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) and family added Bay City to their travels and we appreciate his ministering on our behalf.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kelly Curtis in the recent passing of her father, Bro. David Fisher (Sardis, OH).

Michigan, Detroit  
Krista Wieland

I was reminded of something recently. The Holy Spirit is real, alive and inside of me, but I have been forgetting about Him at times. There seems to be a lot of complicated “stuff” and some heartache and changes/challenges in life recently (as we all go through these times) that so often I pray about, but then find myself talking about everything except the Holy Spirit! I mean, He is the very friend who truly knows how to help!

Here is a recent example. I avoid highways at all costs. I avoid them for two reasons, one being the slight chance of a seizure. God has been good in this area and answered my prayer that I would not have one while driving but why go 80 mph when I can go 55 mph?

The second reason I avoid highways is that I despise them. They terrify me. Even before seizures I did not like them. I did not grow up with four lanes of traffic going both ways and merging constantly at 80 mph. Even worse are four lanes splitting into two lanes and I am forced to take a different highway and even my trusty GPS is confused. Every sign seems to be blocked by some semi truck in front of me since naturally I take the slow lane along with them.

So my story about the Holy Spirit starts after a few great days visiting my family in Ohio. As I took NO highways from Detroit to Smithville my travel time was 4 ½ hours instead of three. When leaving Smithville to go back home, I realized that it would be getting dark and I was fearful about hitting an Amish buggy or a deer. Therefore, at the last minute, I decided to take the Ohio turnpike and I was terrified. I was gripping the steering wheel so tight it wasn’t one bit normal. It was then a lightbulb seemed to turn on in my brain as I begged the Holy Spirit to take the wheel. Immediately a sense of peace washed over me and my grip on the steering wheel lessened to normal. I knew He had my back and I prayed over and over for Him to stay with me. He did. Was I nervous? Yes. Was I terrified? No. As I pulled safely back into my driveway in
Michigan I knew without a doubt I owed it all to Him.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Judy Aberle in the passing of her sister Esther Marie Aberle Crider.

We would like to warmly welcome Quinton Young from West Lafayette, IN who has moved here due to work.

Several couples from our congregation have gone to warmer climates for the winter months. We’re glad that they can enjoy the warmer weather but we miss them and pray for their safe return to us.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

Each new day gives us a reason to be hopeful and grateful, to our Creator, God! He does have a perfect plan for each of our lives.

The birth of baby, Pierce Harold, on January 28, to Erika and Will Flickinger, was a wonderful blessing! For Will to share his birthday with their first born son, was a gift from God! Grandparents Bro. Ted and Sis. Wanda Gramm (Morris, MN) and Debi Flickinger (Humble, TX) must be overjoyed, to pray for, love and help nurture this new little boy!

As the new year moves on, we are grateful for those who take care of business, the financial matters in our church, as well as those who serve on committees. We are thankful for Bro. David Stewart, serving as treasurer for many years. We appreciate Bro. Matt Saurer, as he takes on the duty of treasurer. Thank you, Bro. Rick Messner, Bro. Jim Tilbury, Bro. Rick Tilbury, Bro. John Berglund, Bro. Adrian Rocke, as well as our ministers: Elder Bro. Duane Rocke, Bro. Dewayne Dill and Bro. Kent Mogler. We prayerfully appreciate all you do, for our body of believers, in Christ.

We are excited for Sis. Jayla Wettstein and Bro. Jerod Putt, as they have announced their engagement and plan to marry in Minneapolis on April 19. Parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Tammy Putt (Francesville, IN). Praying that God will unite their hearts in Christ as they look forward to their special day.

The weekend of February 15-16, Minneapolis hosted the Singles Winter Invite. Sixteen churches were represented. For a service project, all worked together to prepare a warm bowl of chili, salad and brownies for dessert. They fed 200 people at 5 local homeless shelters. There was also time for some snow tubing, singing and fellowship. Thank you to Bro. Keith and Sis. Jodi Schieler, from the Morris North congregation for giving a topical presentation entitled "Discipleship: It's all about Love."

We remember to be prayerful for those who are struggling with health concerns, illness, injury or loss. Grant them healing and may the trials they go through bring them closer to our dear Lord Jesus.

Reunion and Open House for the weekend of June 27-28, 2020. We invite past attendees or anyone with interest to come see our newly remodeled church, as well as enjoy fellowship with us for the weekend. Updates for the weekend with schedule and hotel reservation will be posted on our church website - minneapolisacchurch.org

To RSVP, convey questions or receive more information, you may also email us at openhouse@minneapolisacchurch.org

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf*

We rejoiced at the arrival of little Isla Marie to Bro. Travis and Sis. Rita Moser and older siblings Griffin and Ava. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karen Moser and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda Wulf.

We were thankful to hear that Benjamin Koehl (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim) has found peace with God and man and is ready for baptism! May that peace that passes all understanding never leave him.

"When peace, like a river, attendeth my way… It is well, it is well with my soul."  
*It Is Well With My Soul,*  
*Hymn’s of Zion,* #55

**Minnesota, Morris North**

*Kay Feuchtenberger, Natalie Feuchtenberger*

We have had an uneventful last 4 weeks and are currently enjoying moving towards spring. We just celebrated our 10th anniversary as a church family and looking back at our journey makes
me a little emotional. I am just in awe of the path God has placed us on and can’t imagine any other group of people that I would rather spend my growing up years with. Looking back on this winter, I can only be thankful that it is not of my own strength and power that I am saved.

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57.

I have learned so much in my own weakness, coming to Jesus when I have nothing left in me, has taught me more than I could have ever imagined.

**Minnesota, Winthrop**

*Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll*

*The future lies before you
Like a field of driven snow.
Be careful how you tread it
For every step will show.*

- Paula Beagg

Are we careful how and where we walk? This poem was a fresh reminder for us as we have experienced a few local snow storms lately.

Those with surgery and health issues have been in our prayers. Sam Miller (Sandy) has been in the hospital and Sis. Amy Bartels (Jay) had surgery. May God comfort, heal and sustain as only He can.

Michael Stoll (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ginny) has been reassigned to Korea. Our thoughts and prayers are with him in this next adventure. Anyone wishing to write to Michael may use the following address:

Stoll, Michael
Unit 15888 Box 9
APO AP 96224

**Missouri, Lamar**

*Mindy Wettstein*

We have several in our congregation who have had hospital stays or health problems this past month, including Sis. Bonnie Braker, Jane (Edd) Braker, and Ryan Braker.

We shared a mutual blessing of singing hymns with the residents at Maple Senior Living center.

Special thanks to Bro. Trent and Sis. Kristi Banwart and their family (Ft. Scott, KS) for blessing us with their fellowship and ministry February 8!

Please continue to pray for each of our converts!

"I want my friends to pray for me,
To hold me up on wings of faith,
That I may walk the narrow way,
Kept by our Father’s glorious grace.
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."

*I Need the Prayers of Those I Love*, Hymns of Zion, #201 v. 3

**Missouri, St. Louis**

*Victoria Eberhardt*

The days of the new year have already flown by and preparation for our Easter program has begun. It’s a joy to prepare for a season of remembrance and thankfulness for our Savior’s sacrifice out of overwhelming love for us.

Our hospital and surgical patient this month was Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle). We offer up prayers for a quick recovery and thankfulness for our Lord’s provision.

**Missouri, Taylor**

*Lori Marquart, Tami Pflum*

We are grateful whenever extended family comes to visit, and are especially grateful to Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) for ministering during a recent visit to Taylor.

We truly miss the faces of those who no longer gather with us regularly, due to health concerns. Please know that your presence is deeply missed at church, along with all those who have gone on to their eternal Home in recent years. In our congregation, it is common for many individuals to sit in or near the same pew each week. Because of this, if asked, many of us could point to the exact spot where certain brothers or sisters sat for so many years. Though the seats are now empty, we can remember their faithful worship through the years and are grateful for the legacy they left. Will our faithfulness be fondly remembered in the same way by future generations?

This month we had several hospital or surgical patients, including: Sis. Rachel Sutter (Bro. Jimmy), Sis. Lisa Massner (Bro. Chad), Greg Haab (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy), Mark Knochel (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lindsey) and Doug Hoer (Amy). We pray for complete healing for each one and
for those who deal with ongoing health issues month after month.

Some of us are currently participating in our annual small group Bible studies. Each year, as new groups are formed, it is a blessing to be matched up with those from a variety of ages and stages of life, some of whom we might not interact with as regularly as those in our own peer group. How sweet it is to forge deeper relationships within the Body through these times of studying the Word together in one another’s homes.

Just as a woman’s labor pains increase in frequency and intensity as the time of delivery nears, the Bible makes it clear we can expect prophetic signs to intensify as the End of the Age approaches. Although we are only a couple months into 2020, a quick glance at the daily headlines provides an alarming onslaught of news stories regarding widespread pestilence, famines, earthquakes, government turmoil, etc. Some may argue that every generation has experienced war and natural disasters, yet here we are, thousands of years later, still awaiting His return. However, this skepticism in itself is a fulfillment of the prophecy that in the last days, scoffers would come.

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Peter 3:3-4.

As we consider just some of the major world events that have made headlines since the start of 2020, we would be wise to ask if the “signs of the times” are, indeed, increasing. For example, Africa is currently being swarmed by billions of locusts which experts have called the "Most devastating plague in living memory." The coronavirus outbreak continues to dominate headlines. There have been concerns of war and alliances between countries as prophesied in Ezekiel 38 and an unprecedented push for globalism around the world that seems to be accelerating at an incredible speed. Morally, we see evil being called good, and good being called evil, with the heartbreaking slaughter of innocent babies, even after birth, as well as the gender identity confusion being normalized and taught to children as young as preschool.

It is a sobering list, to be sure. But no matter where we currently are in the timetable of Christ’s return, 2 Peter 3:9 assures us, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” Each and every additional day granted on earth is an act of God’s mercy, as He graciously invites more souls to turn to Him before unleashing His judgment on this world. May we all be watchmen on the wall, discerning the times, and taking advantage of each new day by sharing the love and Truth of Christ with the world as we see the end approach.

New York, Croghan/ Naumburg
Karen Farney

What a blessing we have when we can gather together and worship the Lord God our Saviour Sunday after Sunday. On January 19 we had to cancel church services because of inclement weather. We miss a blessing when that happens, especially when our Wednesday night services are discontinued through the winter months.

February 13 we gathered for local HarvestCall project of tying quilts. It was all day and many quilts were tied. At noon we broke for lunch and had a time of fellowship. We are thankful for the many that came to help, young and old alike.

"Hasten gladly to the labor, Consentrate to God your heart, Say this day unto your Saviour, 'Lord I’ll gladly do my part'"

The Golden Harvest,
Hymns Of Zion #46

Sis. Bessie Farney was hospitalized for a few days, and has returned back home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her in her recovery.

Thankful for our visitors who came from Rockville, CT, on Sunday February 16, to serve lunch. Bro Tom Bahler (Sis Lanae, Rockville, CT) brought forth the message that our Lord and Saviour had for us. As a little child was heard saying "I’m sorry" to someone,
it was brought forth in the message how it was so easy for him to say "I'm sorry," and that many times we can learn from the children.

The Elders will soon be gathering in Phoenix, AZ for the winter conference. Our thoughts and prayers go with them in their meetings and travels. May our Lord and Saviour be in the midst of them.

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle

This past month we were thankful to witness the wedding of Bro. Aaron Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Heidi Gal (Bro. George and Sis. Tina). We pray for God’s rich blessings on them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

We’re thankful that Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN) was able to be with us and for his willingness to be used in the ministry.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

Today we are bringing in the firewood as cold temperatures are predicted for tonight in the single digits. We don’t want to be cold as the wind starts to blow so we ready ourselves to keep warm as winter knocks on our door. Are we equally as determined that we keep ourselves ready to meet our Lord and Saviour? Do we prepare for His coming by reading in God’s word to learn as much as we can? Are we in constant prayer and supplication to ward off Satan’s temptations? Do we reach out to others who are searching for the peace and joy that is missing from their lives? Praying for each and every one as this new year begins that we can become better lights for Him and to further the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Elections and appointments were held at our annual business meeting for the coming year. Sunday School Superintendent – Bro. Scott Germann, Sunday School Teacher – Bro. Larry Banks, Sunday School substitutes – Bro. Todd Saurer and Sis. Lynn Hartzler, Trustee – Bro. Larry Banks, Kitchen Committee – Sis. Brianna Klopffenstein, HarvestCall representative – Bro. Andrew Klopffenstein, Gateway Woods representative – Bro. Larry Banks, Silver Lining - Sis. Nancy Banks and Usher – Bro. Tim McMillian. We appreciate the efforts of all who have had duties and responsibilities this last year and continue to pray for those who hold a position this year.

Remodeling continues on the church interior and is slowly coming to an end. Again we would like to thank all who have worked so diligently on the large project, many who have come a long way every day to work. May God richly bless each and every one who has given their time and labor to complete the remodeling.

Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH) were present for the reading of the memorandum on a Saturday evening. Other visitors we were thankful to have with us were Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Trent Gasser (Sis. Molly, Akron, OH).

Ohio, Junction
Karen Schlatter

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

This has been a favorite Bible verse of mine for many years. I read recently these words written by Rick Admiraal, a gentleman who is a pastor for a prison in the US. “Placing our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ will bring spiritual renewal into our lives. He is a God who keeps His promises, providing strength for those who are weakened by the difficulties of life. In Christ, God lifts us high on the powerful updrafts of the Spirit’s wind. Though we may feel downtrodden, He enables us to soar like eagles in flight.”

Those experiencing some type of accident or surgery recently are Trevor Manz, (Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna) who fell and broke his arm, and myself. I found out very quickly how fast and easily it is to be injured. I fell on the ice in my own driveway. Within a second, I knew my arm was broken. I ended up having surgery on my right wrist so I have had to learn to write using my left hand. A big thanks
to those who sent cards, dropped off food, and offered their love and support in so many different ways. May the Lord bless you.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Emil Stoller (Bro. Neil and Sis. Sandy) as he will be having a cataract removed in the near future due to an eye problem almost a year ago.

We have many from our church who have experienced illness this winter. It is always good to see each one healthy and able to return to worship with us once again.

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

"...Truly stones could not help crying if the watchman’s call would cease!"

The Watchman’s Call, Zion’s Harp #112

This refrain mirrors what Jesus spoke in Luke 19. We can be thankful to hear truth spoken from the watchmen in our lives. Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus OH) was willing to minister to us while visiting this month, and we thank him and each minister for serving the Lord in this way.

Our thoughts and expressions of sympathy are shared with Sis. Linda and Bro. Pete Webel in the passing of Sis. Linda’s sister, Esther Vogel. We are prayerful for those who keenly feel the loss of this life. May God’s Spirit provide much comfort to them.

Sis. Marilyn Beer has been in our prayers as she spends time at a rehabilitation facility.

Ohio, Rittman
Maria Beery, Julie Steiner

"In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain
in Jesus the merciful Saviour"

The Best Refuge, Zions Harp #46

We are thankful for a merciful Saviour and rejoice with Boyd and Barb Acker as they begin their repentance.

“...When burdened with care,
When thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving redeemer.”

We extend our prayers to the many who have spent time in the hospital this month. They include Grayson Steiner (Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita), Joash Gasser (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb), Barb Acker (Boyd), Bro. Dale Hartzler (Sis. Carolyn), Sis. Marge Stoller, Bro. Fred Stoller, and Bro. Bob Widmer.

“He’ll lighten the load,
and level the road
And bear thee on hands of compassion.”

We wish God’s blessings to Bro. Riley Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita) as their engagement was made known and they prepare for their upcoming wedding.

“He’s gentle and kind,
Rich blessings thou’lt find;
His Word gives thee peace everlasting.”

Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), and Bro. Bryon Palitto (Sis. Lisa, Akron, OH) shared God’s Word with us this month and we trust He will bless them for serving us.

“He’ll shield and defend
His child to the end;
No suffering or death shall appall thee.”

We marvel at God’s faithfulness in all stages of life and are thankful to report the baptism of our oldest brother, Bro. Walter Baltic, age 98. God is so good!
“Keep Him for your gain,  
Earth’s pleasures are vain;  
Sweet rest is found only in heaven.”

Our hope of heaven is so precious. Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Liz Gasser as she took her last breath. Sis. Liz will be missed by her children; Bro. Virgil (Sis. Lois), Bro. Dan (Sis. Diane), Bro. Dale (Janet), Bro. Ben (Sis. Sharon, Smithville, OH), Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Bro. Ken, Sardis, OH) and Sis. Jollene Hofacre (Bro. Steve, Smithville, OH), her brothers, Bro. Orin Rufener, Bro. Joe Rufener (Sis. Lilas, Smithville, OH), Bro. Glen Rufener (Sis. Bev), her sister, Sis. Carol Beery, sister-in-law, Sis. Verna Rufener as well as many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

We also want to remember the family of Dick Hartzler (Sis. Karen) as he was laid to rest. He leaves behind his children, Brad, Tonia Hanshaw, Bro. Scott (Sis. Rachel, Austin-Bastrop, TX), Jody Aubrey (Adam), and Lane (Lanae), grandchildren, great grandchildren, and siblings Bro. Ken (Sis. Jane, Smithville, OH), Ben, Sis. Kate, Sis. Lynell Palitto (Bro. Ron, Akron, OH), Bro. Dean (Sis. Jan), and Sis. Nancy Bauman.

We extend sympathy to Randy Moore (Sis. Bev) in the passing of his mother, Violet Moore. We trust God will comfort these families.

“\textit{In patience then bear All trial and care; Above streams of bliss will refresh thee.}”

\textbf{Ohio, Sardis}\n\textit{Renee Blough, Doris Miller}\n
The beginning of the year saw our annual election of officers. Appreciation goes to those who completed terms of office as well as to those who will be starting: Bro. Garth Maibach has completed a term as Sunday school superintendent and Bro. Jeb Joos is incoming; Bro. Seth Beard has finished as Trustee, and Bro. Caleb Indermuhle is starting. Bro. Caleb is handing over ushering duties to Bro. Garth Maibach; Sis. Dawn Brake has finished as Kitchen Committee and Sis. Hannah Maibach has begun; Bro. Matt Brake is beginning a new position as Assistant Treasurer.

Our sympathies are with Sis. Linda Indermuhle (Bro. Ken) at the loss of her stepmother, Sis. Liz Gasser (Rittman, OH). Also for grandchildren, Bro. Dana and Sis. Joy Indermuhle and Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle. Liz will be remembered fondly and missed by many.

Our congregation prays for the wisdom and consolation of the Father as our Bro. Dave Fisher has passed from time into eternity. He leaves on this earth his wife, Val, and children Sis. Kelly Curtis (Bro. Shawn, Bay City, MI), Dan, and Justin. In-laws Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller, and Val’s siblings Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee Blough, Steve and Kati Miller, Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy Joos and their children, along with our entire church family, grieve the loss of his presence among us.

Often memories of his love for God, and his patience and affection for all people, and especially babies and children, remain deep in our hearts.

\textit{“There is a calm beyond life’s fitful fever,  
A deep repose, an everlasting rest;  
Where white-robed angels welcome the believer  
Among the blest, among the blest.  
There is a Home, where all the soul’s deep yearnings,  
And silent pray’rs shall be at last fulfilled;  
Where strife and sorrow, murm’rings and heart burnings  
At last are stilled, at last are stilled.”  
There is a Calm, Gospel Hymns, #383}

\textbf{Ohio Smithville}\n\textit{Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller}\n
“How joyful is the hope that lingers,  
When loved ones cross death’s sea,  
That we, when all earth’s toils are ended,  
With them shall ever be!  
We’ll never say good-by in heav’n,  
We’ll never say good-by,  
For in that land of joy and song,  
We’ll never say good-by.”  
We’ll Never Say Good-by, Hymns of Zion, #122, v.2.

Our sympathies are with those who have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Jollene Hofacre (Bro. Steve) and Bro. Bro. Ben Gasser (Sis. Sharon) mourn the passing of their mother, Sis. Elizabeth Gasser (Bro. Glenn, dec., Rittman, OH). Her brother, Bro. Joe Rufener (Sis. Lilas) also feels this loss. Jim
Glessner (Ricki) said an earthly farewell to his mother, Ruth Glessner. Sis. Alma Maibach (Elmer, dec.) was also Ruth’s sister-in-law. Sis. Marie Beery (Bro. Richard, dec.) was saddened at the sudden loss of her daughter, Deanna Gold. Bro. Ken Hartzler feels the pain of losing his brother, Richard Hartzler. We cling to the hope in the hymn that “When all earth’s toils are ended, with them shall ever be!”

Clay Gucker (Bro. Garth and Sis. Sheila), RoseMary Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) and Nathan Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly) have all spent time in the hospital. We rejoice in God’s healing and continue to lift them up in prayer.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH) and pray that God will bless them for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Jennifer Bauman are excited for the safe arrival of their new grandson, Brody Vincent. Little Brody is the son of Kyle and Shannon Blough.

Ohio, Toledo
Brooke Harmon, Rebekah Witzig

Greetings of love from the brethren in Toledo. As we press into this new year, our church was blessed to have Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) from the Junction congregation take part in sharing the Memorandum conclusions on Saturday, January 25. On Sunday of that same weekend, Toledo held its annual business meeting and office elections. The results of the balloting were as follows: Trustee – Bro. Doug Harmon, Jr.; Usher – Bro. Aaron Masters; Silver Lining Correspondent – Sis. Anne Baumann; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Missy Benware; Jr. High Sunday school teacher – Bro. Aaron Masters; primary Sunday school teacher – Sis. Missy Benware; and confirmation of Bro. Lee Klopfenstein to the previously appointed position of Woodhaven Board Member.

“Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life…”
Unity, Zion’s Harp #237

On Saturday, February 1, we were greatly humbled by the kindness of our fellow brethren and in awe of God’s grace and protecting hand during the tree removal project on our new church site. Over 30 men and boys from four congregations including our own, felled, chopped, chipped, and cleaned the area of 78 large, unhealthy pines. Small teams scattered across the field worked diligently with machines and by hand under a clear sky to complete the job in only six hours.

“Hand in hand, O may love bind us, for each other’s welfare strive.”

As it is our custom to have a Thursday evening midweek service, a HarvestCall activity of packaging rice pilaf for a local ministry outreach was enjoyed by all ages of our congregation on Wednesday, February 5. For two hours the seasoned dust flew into the air as 1000 bags were filled, marked and boxed for distribution in the Toledo area.

Then, on Saturday evening, February 8, songs of praises filled the air at the home of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Whitney Masters who hosted an all church singing. “…And the love of God, the Father, fillet soul and heart and mind.”

Our own Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny) and their family visited the Columbus congregation as part of the Minister Rotation on February 16. We trust there were mutual blessings shared between this precious family and our dear brethren in that church as they fellowshipped together.

“May the Spirit we’ve acquired, grant us blessing, peace and mirth.”

We conclude our news with the joyful announcement of baby boy, Hudson Everett, who made his appearance into this world and into the hearts of thankful, first-time parents, Bro. Anthony and Sis. Anne Baumann on February 18. He is also welcomed by first-time grandparents Bro. Dave and Sis. Luci Baumann (Mansfield, OH).

Ontario, Kitchener
Roselynn Metzger

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:18
Greetings of love from Kitchener! We pray you have felt God’s nearness this month. We once again extend a heartfelt thank you to our visitors this month. With us on January 19 was Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA). The following weekend, Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL) ministered to us. We enjoyed hosting a portion of the young group that traveled with them! The first weekend in February was a special weekend for our congregation, as Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alma Gingrich were welcomed into the ministry. On Saturday evening we enjoyed a hymn sing together with visitors. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), as well as ordained deacon, Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), conducted the service on Sunday. The support we felt was overwhelming and we would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers. We trust God will continue to provide! On January 9, Bro. Thomas Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT) brought the word to us, and Bro. Elmer had his first sermon. We were blessed by both messages and felt the presence of God in our midst. God is the ultimate provider; we pray you can feel this in your lives this month.

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

Oregon, Silverton

Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

Collin Zollinger (Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa) and Byron Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) have recently begun their walk with the Lord. We are so blessed to have souls joining the body of believers and pray for God’s work to continue in their lives.

Thank you to Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa, Portland, OR), for sharing the Gospel message with us Wednesday evening January 29.

Sis. Marie Jensen and Bernie Dettwyler’s (Margaret) brother, Sam Dettwyler, passed away unexpectedly. Sam leaves behind his wife Alice, children, grandchildren and many siblings who are grieving at his passing. Please pray for their family as they travel through this time of grief together.

Bro. Nick Stadeli’s father, Norman Stadeli, passed away somewhat unexpectedly as well. Norman leaves behind his wife Marianne, several children, grandchildren, and siblings of which include Sis. Violet Kuenzi. Please lift them up in prayer during this time of sorrow.

Sis. Heidi Sinn’s (Bro. Dean) mother, Sis. Frieda Aberle, from Tremont, IL, passed away recently. Her children and many grandchildren are grieving her loss and would appreciate your prayers of support during this time.

Bro. James and Sis. Shari Klopfenstein, along with Adessa, Audrese, and Barrett, welcomed a baby sister, Adalee Amanda, February 10. Grandparents are Leonard and Cheryl Schurter and Harry and Dee Klopfenstein.

Sis. Tresa Zollinger (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Tyrene Moser (Bro. Sam) recently had surgery and are thankful for your prayers for a quick and full recovery.

Please pray for Jordan and Alisha Kuenzi and their son Emmett. Emmett is a grandson to Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth Kuenzi and has recently been diagnosed with epilepsy. They would appreciate your support through prayer during this time of uncertainty.

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Laura Isch

“His way at first may seem too hard,
Too steep and full of sorrow;
Yet peace e’en now is its reward,
And bliss in God’s tomorrow.
Who through the narrow gate doth press,
And very joy in living.”
The Way and the Reward, Zion’s Harp, #106

We recently sang this song in church. It is true, that road to heaven can sometimes be difficult. However, we know that God is still faithful to be near us and provide. He is able to give us peace and joy, even when things are difficult. And what a blessing to know that the road we are traveling is taking us to heaven! Keep pressing on!
Tennessee, Nashville

Mike Fritz

We have been richly blessed through God’s Living Word, so ably brought to us by our recent visiting ministers: Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Elgin, IL), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). Likewise, we have been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting us from Belvidere, Chicago, Cissna Park, Congerville, Elgin, Forrest, and Princeville, IL; Elgin and Iowa City, IA; Bay City, MI; Minneapolis, MN; Philadelphia, PA; as well as some local visitors.

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

Texas, Austin/Bastrop

Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin!

We have been blessed from the Word by the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Ordained Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Bro. Jeff Bahl (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL).

We are grateful that Bro. Gerry and Bro. Leland were able to be with us to serve Holy Communion. During the days leading up to communion we were asked to spend each day praying for a selected member of our local church as we had as many days to prepare for communion as we had members in the local church. Bro. Jim sent out a calendar as a tool to help us to pray for one another. What a blessing it was to lift each one individually up to God in prayer as we prepared for communion. May we continue to pray for one another. Wednesday evening during our song service we sang “I Need the Prayers of Those I Love”, #201 Hymns of Zion. “I need the prayers of those I love, While traveling o’er life’s rugged way, That I may true and faithful be, And live for Jesus everyday. 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.”

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Scott Hartzler (Sis. Rachel) and their family in the passing of his father, Richard “Dick” Hartzler.

It has been a blessing to have a work group in Bastrop this week. The team worked on various projects in Bastrop County. We are thankful to have Sis. Darcy Steffen back for a visit as she worked alongside her father, Bro. Dean Steffen and the team.

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

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

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth

Sheena Pelsy

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

The Dallas church was blessed to welcome visiting ministers Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine, Washington, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane Austin-Bastrop, TX) for services where we were reminded that God uses us in beautiful ways.

Bro. Scott mentioned how we all have special gifts that God gave us, but as children of God we should respect these gifts by asking the Lord to lead and direct how to use them. When we surrender ourselves, God can expound on those gifts and use them in a way that brings glory and honor to Him and His Kingdom. Bro. Dennis read from Luke 1 and shared how Mary said “my soul doth magnify the Lord” Luke 1:46. What a great reminder that everything we do should be for the Lord, even when we are unsure of the reason why we
are called to do certain things. When we look at our lives, are we focused on magnifying God in all that we do? Do people we encounter recognize Jesus working inside of us? When we look at Mary we see complete surrender and obedience. Her steadfast faith in God enabled the Lord to use Mary in beautiful ways and the same goes for us! No matter what your gift or circumstance, when you let God direct your ways, He will never steer you wrong.

Services are being held every 2nd and 4th Sunday. If you plan to visit or want to call ahead to verify services, call Bro. Adam Graf (330-590-7086).

**Texas, Zapata**

*Mary Plattner*

We appreciate the visiting ministers we had this past month and thank them for the special efforts they made to travel to south Texas. Bro Daniel Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT), Bro. Jeremiah Psinas (Morton, IL), Bro Greg Fehr (Sis. Denise, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA).

We enjoyed and appreciated all the visitors this past month from many of our churches. We hosted an invite-a-guest weekend and our congregation was richly blessed. We look forward to hosting it again next year and certainly welcome anyone who would like to come to Zapata to visit us. It is always the second weekend in February.

Our winter season will soon be over and our residents will be returning to their homes in the Midwest and Eastern States for the spring and summer months. Anyone coming to south Texas in the summer is encouraged to call us.

**Vermont, Clarendon**

*Nathan Reutter*

The story is told (“Much Land,” by Leo Tolstoy) of a man who was constantly in search of increasing his worldly standing. He did this through continually obtaining land. When the land in his community grew too little for his avarice, he would ask around for where he could get more land. A couple of times he moved his family for better land opportunities. At last he found an area of Russia where he was told that he could have as much land as he wanted, so long as he could walk the length and breadth of it in one day. So one day he put a stake in the ground on top of a prominence and started his trek. As he went on he looked out over the land and marched along staking out the best land he could find. By midday he began to think of slowly turning toward the hill from which he started. As the evening began to approach he realized that he needed to start working hard to get back by nightfall or he wouldn’t get it at all. As he began to hurry he noticed his starting place was not nearing as quickly as he thought it should. He began to run. As night approached he found himself running as hard as he could. Yet the end was not seeming to come quickly enough. He ran as hard as he could for as long as he could. He thought he might make it. The sun was nearly set and he had only a few hundred yards to go. He gave all he could to make before sunset. He reached that first stake just as the sun set. He touched the stake and died.

How much ill-health do I endure because I run too hard for some earthly gain (prominence, power, pleasure, etc.)? How much spiritual health do I give up for the same reason? How much do you? These powerful questions have hit me recently and I am trying to listen more closely to the Holy Spirit, and respond with an answer of “no” to opportunities that might sound enticing but would bring unnecessary harm to my life. I pray for wisdom to discern.

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae) and Bro. Brent Walder (Sis. Naomi) both of Rockville, CT. Their commitment to our spiritual health make our appreciation of them grow. Thanks.

We also enjoyed a meal together after church with several young brothers from Rockville and a local Christian couple from our community. It was a very enjoyable time of Christian communion. We spent much time in talking of the relative merits challenges of large and small churches. May God bless the outcome of this conversation.
Learning from Mary and Martha: Choosing to Sit and Hear, Serving without a Troubled Mind

-by Sis. Darcy Schock (Goodfield, IL)

I
t was 6:40 in the morning. Instead of sipping coffee and spending time in the Word, I was listening to the squeak of our well-loved glider. As I rocked my daughter (who wasn’t supposed to be awake), my body was present, but my mind was racing. I was forming a plan to “fix” my schedule. I needed to find time later in the day to finish my devotions while staying true to my plans. As I pondered this, my eyes caught her gaze. Seeing she had caught my attention, she said, “I love you. I love you. I love you, Mommy.”

My “off-kilter” schedule problems instantly melted away as God gently reminded me that a relationship is more important than a schedule. While that day’s productivity was less than I originally planned, something much more important took place. My daughter’s expression of love reminded me that God created us for relationships before work.

This is the message of the Mary and Martha story. This simple lesson has the power to shift our focus off of a frantic, troubled mindset to a calm, peaceful confidence – whether we are sitting or serving.

In Eden, God had a personal, face-to-face relationship with Adam and Eve. He physically walked and talked with them. However, one bite of forbidden fruit broke this relationship. From that moment to the time of Jesus, people relied on priests or prophets to relay God’s Word to them. Then, Jesus restored the availability and beauty of a personal, intimate relationship. The Holy Spirit now lives in all believers’ hearts to guide us as we pursue our love relationships with God.

God has always desired intimate, love relationships with His people. This is the core of who we are and where we should focus. Those three “I love you” statements from my daughter delighted me more than anything she could have done for me. I believe it is the same with our Father in Heaven. When we sit and love God, His heart is delighted and pleased – far more than anything we could do for Him. God desires for us to look up at Him with that same childlike love and say, “I love Thee. I love Thee. I love Thee, Father.” It is true that He does give us work. However, the priority of our work bubbles over because of our love and intimacy with Him. It is not because our work earns His love. Jesus finished His work on the cross, so we could enjoy an intimate, personal relationship with God.

As we feed a relationship with God through desiring to be with and learn from Him, the Spirit will reveal His work for us. He will invite us to join Him in what He is doing. As we bask in our relationship with God and find confidence in Christ, He will reveal His love to us all around. From this love and direction, we will be able to either sit at His feet or work with a clear, untroubled mind.

In Luke 10:38-42, we see a glimpse of this love-before-work relationship. I envision myself
in Martha’s shoes. I see myself running around wondering whether I am doing a good enough job at hosting the Savior of the world. Then, in my haste and worry, comparison and frustration set in. Beginning to justify my work, I believe that I am working so hard, and it doesn’t seem to matter! Then, I see Mary over there doing nothing! In frustration, I run to Jesus, as Martha did, and demand that He tell Mary to help me! My wrong motivation could easily lead to a harsh response. Yet, instead of shaming Martha, Jesus points out the truth. In love, He says, “Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ….”

I believe Jesus was showing Martha that she was more concerned about her efforts than her love for her Lord. Placing myself in her shoes, I believe she tried to please God and earn His love by focusing on the work she was doing for Him. Instead of basking in His great love for her and learning from Him, she put too much emphasis on her own abilities. Jesus gently and lovingly taught Martha about how Mary had chosen the good part that wouldn’t be taken from her, a two-way relationship of love and trust in her Savior. Our work will fade away in the end. Our strength and abilities will never measure up, but love is powerful and remains forever.

David mirrors this thought in Psalm 27:4, “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”

When our focus is on working to please God (or others), we become troubled and anxious about many things. Our focus is on temporary things. However, when we daily keep our love relationship with God as the most important thing in our life – our one desire, we will successfully take hold of the good part. From this good part, God will walk with us like He did for Adam (Genesis 2:15) and teach us where to work. We will be able to serve in our work without a troubled mind because of the confidence we have in our relationship with Him.

Moving from Luke 10 to John 12, we see a new picture. Martha is once again serving and working, but she isn’t the only one; Mary is now working as well. In this account, I see no signs of strife and tension. Rather, each woman works confidently in her role. Martha is not frustrated as Mary anoints Jesus with oil. Mary is now serving Jesus instead of sitting. Could it be that Martha learned her relationship was more important than her to-do list? Could she have flipped her view of work and love into the proper perspective? Could it be that Mary, confident in her relationship with Jesus, knew part of her work and service that day was to anoint Jesus for His upcoming burial?

As we grow in placing our relationship before our work, we will still face opposition and doubts. As Mary anointed Jesus with costly oil, Judas outrightly opposed her work. He accused her of wasting the oil. Even when we’re living in a confident relationship with God, others’ opinions can threaten to crumble that confidence. In the face of rejection, how did Mary keep going? She looked back at Jesus. Jesus said this in Mary’s defense, “... Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this” (John 12:7). Mary had built a strong relationship with Jesus. When doubts came, she looked back to that relationship with Jesus.

The same can be true for you and me. Let’s build that two-way relationship every day. Then, in obedience, we can follow through with the work to which God calls us. Finally, when doubts creep in that peak fear and trouble in our hearts, we look back to Jesus. As we lean into that love relationship, we find our confidence in Christ.
News and Notices

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$12-25 each, depending on the style.
Available IN STORE ONLY.

SAVE THE DATE -- AC Medical Fellowship Committee Biennial Meeting for 2020

AC Medical Fellowship meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 18, 2020 in Goodfield, IL at the Fellowship Hall.
Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. and presentations at 8:30 a.m. and will continue until ~7:00 p.m. with a light breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Spouses are welcome.
If you are on the HarvestCall Health Care Provider registry, you will receive an email in a few months with a formal invitation and registration form. There will also be a Facebook posting.
ALive2020 to Focus on "Hope"

Have you registered to attend ALive 2020? If not, there's still time to come join the Athens, Alabama congregation along with brothers, sisters and families from across the US for a wonderful weekend filled with Hope. Enjoy fellowship, singing, worship, wonderful food and fun throughout Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-25)...all in the beautiful setting of The Vision in Huntsville, AL.

Hope will be the weekend theme with ministering brothers Brad Metz (Bloomington), Keith Hinrichsen (Phoenix) and Kirk Plattner (West Lafayette) speaking on various aspects of this topic. As we walk this pathway of life, we all need hope--hope from God and hope/encouragement from one another. And when the tough times come, it may be difficult to have hope in God, and the brothers will talk through ways to do this. They will also discuss on our ultimate hope as believers, a home in heaven.

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

The Athens congregation invites all to join them for a blessed weekend full of fellowship, worship, food, fun and encouragement. Find out more details about the weekend (and register) on our website at www_ALiveAlabama.com, on Facebook @ALiveAlabama or send an email to info@alivealabama.com. Registration will be available through April 1 or until accommodations fill up, so reserve your spot soon.

The Athens congregation looks forward to seeing you at ALive 2020.
Opportunity to Serve - Resident Caretaker Needed
Rochester Christian Guesthouse - Rochester, Minnesota

Due to the pending relocation of the current caretakers at the Guesthouse, an opportunity to serve is available starting in the Spring of 2020.

The position is part-time and on an as-needed basis, similar to hosting guests occasionally overnight in our own homes. It is an ideal ministry for a family, young couple, or empty-nesters, who would enjoy relocating to Rochester for a time, and whose regular employment would accommodate it.

If an opportunity to serve those from our denomination who are in Rochester seeking medical treatment at the Mayo Clinic is of interest, the Guesthouse Board would like to hear from you.

The general arrangements and responsibilities are as follows:

- Commitment length of 3-5 years is preferred, but any length will be considered.
- The upper two floors of the residential home are available for use by the caretaker family, under a favorable financial arrangement.
- The bottom floor of the home has three private rooms that are available for those connected to our denomination to use, on a free-will-offering basis.
- The caretaker duties in general are as follows:
  - scheduling appointments for use of the Guesthouse facility
  - answering any questions or concerns
  - cleaning of the Guesthouse facility
  - buying supplies: cleaning, paper, coffee, sometimes food, and parking passes
  - paying bills for services and supplies used by the Guesthouse
  - if needed, providing rides to medical appointments at the area clinics or hospitals
  - Seeking to be hospitable including hosting guests occasional for meals or evening dialog, and providing a listening ear for guests that desire fellowship or empathy

Further details and a full description of the opportunity, history, and mission of the Guesthouse can be provided by sending an email to: cmschmidt4@yahoo.com or by calling Bro. Clint Schmidt, Board Chairman, at (612) 280-3818. Additional information is available on the Minneapolis congregation’s website at www.minneapolisacchurch.org/guesthouse.

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
**Haiti Medical / Dental Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2020</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 18-25</td>
<td>Continuing Nursing Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 18-25</td>
<td>Urology</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 16-23</td>
<td>SCCA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
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<td>July 11-18</td>
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<td>Sept 12-19</td>
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<td>FULL</td>
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<td>Oct 3-10</td>
<td>Urology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 3-10</td>
<td>Continuing Nursing Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24-31</td>
<td>Dental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14-21</td>
<td>SCCA Orthopedic</td>
<td>FULL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COORDINATOR FOR ALL HAITI MEDICAL TEAMS:**
Komari Aberle  
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net | Phone: 785.284.2950

*Other dates and teams are possible. Please contact Sis. Komari Aberle to discuss possible dates and focuses not listed.*

**Mexico Medical / Dental Teams**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 2020</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9-15</td>
<td>Juarez</td>
<td>21</td>
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| Cheryl Herrmann Email: cherrmann@frontier.com

**Mexico Construction Teams**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR 2020</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April (TBD)</td>
<td>Gridley/Support Team - Magdalena</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Jon Baner Email: jon.baner@gmail.com
| May 25-31 | Phoneix - Magdalena              | n/a      |
| Marshal Witzig Email: mwitzig@edgeconstruct.com
| Nov 23-29 | Thanksgiving - Magdalena         | n/a      |
| Chuck Wiegand Email: charliewiegand@comcast.com

**QUESTIONS FOR MEXICO TEAMS:**
Reynosa: Kevin & Sadie Gerber  Phone: 260-417-5272  kevgerber@yahoo.com
Magdalena: Email CVEmexico@gmail.com

*Both locations may have additional openings for teams beyond what is currently listed. Contact the appropriate people below to find out if the week you want is available.*

**Jamaica Teams**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR 2020</th>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>CAPACITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 22-30</td>
<td>CCCD - JDV</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Mark Lindberg 815-641-9065 Email: Lindbma@hotmail.com
| If you are interested in sponsoring a work team to Jamaica contact Loren Dettwyler at lmdettwyler@gmail.com

**Haiti Awareness Tours**

If you’d like to see the ministry of Hospital Lumière and other Haiti projects in person, but do not have the time or desire to participate in a week-long work team, please consider our new Awareness Tours. These are quick trips that give interested parties the opportunity to meet our missionary families, learn more about the hospital, see the completed renovations and work in process, and visit some of the other HarvestCall projects in southern Haiti. Upcoming trips are as follows: Sept. 26-30, 2020

**To learn more, contact:**
Rich Bertschi at 309.467.2351 or hospitallumiere@harvestcall.org
Rick Wuethrich at 219.863.4163 or rick@wuethrichfarms.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 Tours. 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 worshipping with a deaf congregation.

**To learn more, contact:**
Kent Mogler  
Phone: 612-360-4361  
Email: moglerkent@gmail.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.

To learn more, contact:
Hospital Administrator Bro. Rick Aberle
Phone: 011-509-4222-1004 or
Email: komarick@sbcglobal.net

MISSIONARY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The Hospital Lumiere team is presently seeking candidates for missionary service in a variety of roles that will fit your calling, interests and experience. Singles, Couples and Families of all ages are encouraged to prayerfully consider full time missionary service supporting the ministry and outreach in Bonne Fin, Haiti.

There are many service and ministry opportunities at HL. The most important qualification is that the brother and/or sister is called by God to serve at the hospital. The service opportunity and placement will be developed to match the candidate’s interest and experience. Potential service roles for non-medical candidates:

- Business office management
- Finance and Accounting
- Hospital Administration
- Facilities Operations and/or Maintenance
- Hospital Operations (non-medical)
- Hospital Technical Support
- Information Technology Support
- Missionary School Teacher or Teacher Aid
- Campus and Hospitality Management
- Missionary Support

Qualifications and Requirements:
- Member in good standing within the Apostolic Christian Church of America
- A servant heart, willingness to serve those in need
- Desire to engage as ambassadors of Christ with the Haitian staff at HL and the surrounding Bonne Fin community
- Relocate to Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti
- Learn Haitian Creole (French language fluency is also beneficial)

For additional details for these exciting and worthy service opportunities contact Tom Hitz. Email: tchitz@sbcglobal.net or Phone: 734.635.4112

If you are interested in Medical service, please review the Medical Professional Advertisement.
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

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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

Now Available

Missionary Support Card Packs
A Resource Tool to Stay Connected with our Missionaries

The past decade has seen tremendous growth in brethren serving full time in the cross-cultural ministries of Apostolic Christian Church. Supporting those the church sends as missionaries is our responsibility and an example given us by the early church. We can support them in prayer, in fellowship, and financially.*


Ideas for Use

- Awareness
- Prayer Reminder
- Personal Connection
- Servant Fund Needs
- Communication via
- E-mail & Texting
- Letters
- Care Packages

Contact your Local HarvestCall Representative for Availability
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

Light from the Word

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

The Hospital Lumiere team is presently seeking candidates for missionary service as Facilities Manager. Singles, Couples and Families of all ages are encouraged to prayerfully consider full time missionary service supporting the Hospital Lumiere ministry and outreach in Bonne Fin, Haiti.

General Duties and Responsibilities for the Facilities Manager:
- Manage Hospital and Campus Facilities maintenance and upkeep
- Manage Hospital Carpenter/Cabinet shop
- Manage Hospital and Campus vehicle fleet and maintenance
- Manage and Supervise the Hospital and Campus Electrical system (Solar, Diesel Generators and Hydro-electric generation and distribution)
- Plan and Manage construction and renovation projects. Supervise and coordinate Haitian staff and US volunteer teams.
- Manage and supervise Haitian facilities, maintenance, mechanic, electrical and construction staff.

Qualifications and Requirements:
- Member in good standing within the Apostolic Christian Church of America
- A servant heart, willingness to serve those in need
- Desire to engage as ambassadors of Christ with the Haitian staff at HL and the surrounding Bonne Fin community
- Relocate to Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti
- Learn Haitian Creole (French language fluency is also beneficial)
- Background/experience with facilities, electrical, plumbing and mechanical skills is preferred

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact Tom Hitz.
Email: tchitz@sbcglobal.net or Phone: 734.635.4112

Hospital Lumiere, Bonne Fin, Haiti is presently seeking a teacher and teacher aid for missionary children. These positions involve 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 2019. These are full time missionary positions with a service term of one school year. There is opportunity to extend the term of service.

Teacher 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.

Teacher Aid qualifications include being a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church, a minimum of a High School Diploma, a Bachelor’s degree preferred, preferably in the field of Education or Child Development, ability to communicate effectively with the teacher, 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 Tom Hitz.
Email: tchitz@sbcglobal.net or Phone: 734.635.4112
An evening where you can sit back and enjoy the musical talent of

The Covenant Chamber Choir
&

The Anderson Family
Saturday, April 25th, 2020 @ Five Points, Washington IL 5:45pm - 8:00pm
Visit aclifepoints.org to RSVP

Donations accepted at the door
worship / testimony / congregational singing / fellowship

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 could 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
There is an abundance of hurting children and families in need of help. Come find fulfillment walking alongside them as they experience hope restored at Gateway Woods. Find joy as you share the Gospel with those in need of a Savior and be humbled as He shapes your life while doing so.

We currently need Illinois Adoption Case Manager, Houseparent Couples and a Teacher. Will you be the beautiful feet that comes and labors to share Christ?

For more information:
gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
Loving as Jesus Loves

— Continued from pg. 3

We joyfully and obediently respond to the Holy Spirit as we humbly give and receive, bearing each other’s burdens when there is physical, financial, emotional, and spiritual need. We like Jesus are surrounded by endless opportunities to serve, and yet at times find ourselves in need of support. How do we decide which needs to meet, when to serve and when to rest, and when to ask for help? Jesus navigated similar challenges through the leading of the Holy Spirit and promises to send this same Comforter to guide us as we serve in opportunities small and large. If we ask in faith, the Lord will gladly shape our hearts into a life of humble service in whatever station we find ourselves. By His grace, we can be among those whom the King commended, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

As we seek to bear one another’s burdens and fulfill the law of Christ, we must be willing both to give and to receive. Even Jesus, as the Son of man, knew His earthly needs and was willing to receive, whether it be a drink of water after a weary journey, the washing and anointing of His own feet, or prayer-support in His hour of sorrow. We are blessed as we humbly accept service from others and through this grow in our effectiveness and empathy as we in turn serve others.

We are called to do good to all people, including those who would disagree with or want to harm us, and express this through prayer, hospitality, and deeds of service. Jesus exemplified this so very deeply as He washed the feet of His betrayer and prayed for those who nailed him to the cross. What miraculous, selfless love! May we pray for this same willingness and courage to love our enemies and do good to those that hate us, knowing that Jesus desires to reach every heart with His love, grace, and truth.

We foster a healthy personal relationship with God as we serve others, seeking to do all for His glory and not our own, without comparing ourselves among ourselves. Ironically, serving others brings temptations. We may be inclined to lift ourselves up, compare ourselves among ourselves, or seek others’ praise. Perhaps we begin to neglect our own relationship with the Lord as we focus on serving others. We may hesitate to serve for fear of having impure motives, being elevated by others, or being inadequate for the work at hand. Thankfully, God promises and teaches us a way of escape: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” Jesus served with purposeful meekness and conscious humility. By His grace we too can lay aside the desires of our flesh, our fears, and our will, and can be rooted and grounded in His divine nature, His love, and His purposes. Our Lord and Master gives us each unique gifts and opportunities to serve, and entreats us to glorify God by loving as He loves through humble deeds of service.

Note: Bolded statements reference the ACCA Mission and working draft of Guiding Principles.

Endnotes
1 Galatians 5:13
2 ACCA Mission Pillar #4
3 John 13:14-15
5 Mark 10:45
6 Galatians 5:13
7 John 13:17
8 Acts 20:35
9 ACCA Guiding Principle #10 (working draft)
10 Matthew 10:8
11 Matthew 25:40
12 Galatians 6:2
13 Philippians 2:5
book, to read in it often. In doing so, we find the mind of Christ. We find basics tenets that we need to grasp by faith. Maybe it’s things we can’t really prove. You know it says here, “In the beginning... the same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1-2. Can we prove that? Were we there? Absolutely not, but by faith we grasp it.

Where does faith come from? The Bible tells us through the Apostle Paul “that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17. So, the more we read the word of God, the more we experience life, the more we see its precepts lived out in those about us, the more we live out the precepts ourselves, the stronger our faith becomes. That is just a continual formula for all of us to increase our faith: by reading the word, experiencing it, and seeing the promises of God.

The Bible tells us “for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23. Sometimes that can be quite daunting because we come, even as those came to Jesus and said “increase our faith; we believe but help thou our unbelief.” I think all of us at times say that.

I can reflect back in my life, and there were definitely periods of time when I struggled with basic tenets of the gospel message. I struggled with basic tenets of the Bible, even as it talks here that God was in the beginning, and “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:3. We can struggle with those things because our understanding is finite. We do come to a point somehow in life, by reading the Word and experiencing it, that we just receive and accept by faith and believe because we have seen God’s power in our lives and have felt his Spirit. May that be for all of us that we grow in faith by living. We grow our faith by experiencing this Word, this almighty God, this capital-G God, this proper noun God. We experience his spirit in our lives and thereby we come to greater and greater faith.

It talks here throughout and different places of the power of Old Testament to reflect on this man Jesus, who is coming. It also tells us in Revelation, and I may get the wording wrong, but the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. It does us well to go back and read the prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and those in the Old Testament and of how they spoke of this man Jesus and of how he would come. That can increase our faith as well.

We read here of a prophet. Let’s go to verse 17 “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time,” and it goes on to speak about this prophet, “Art thou that prophet that should come?” Verse 21.

We go back to Deuteronomy 18 where we read of Moses that he came, even as the prophet of God predicted there would be one who would come, to be a prophet for the people. There in Deuteronomy 18, it uses the capital P on Prophet, and that’s referring to the Savior. We can go to the Old Testament and read of all these prophecies of the coming of Jesus. We can allow the testimony of those prophecies themselves to show to us the veracity of the scripture and the truth of what we read here. May we grab that. May we seek that also in faith, believing.

It tells us that “no man has ever seen the Lord at any time,” and sometimes we can question and wonder “well, how is it the Bible seems inconsistent?” It tells us that Moses went up on the mountain there in Exodus, and in a moment, he said, “Lord, I need to see thee. I need some proof of who thou art.” And God, it says hid him in the cleft of the rock and passed by; he allowed Moses to see his back side, and here, it says that “No man hath seen God at any time” in verse 18. We can wonder what is this discrepancy?

— Continued from pg. 4

— Please turn to pg. 66
There are some things in scripture that are too hard for us to understand. There are things that are too big for us to grasp, and we should not attribute that to the lack of information that God has given us, but we should attribute that to our finite knowledge, and that we just don’t completely understand. We need to have faith in the Word, that from beginning to end, it is consistent.

It tells us in one of the books of Timothy that Jesus is “dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto.” 1 Timothy 6:16. It tells us in another place that God is “the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17. He is just pure light. It’s hard for us to grasp that concept.

It tells us that in heaven there is not going to be a need of a sun or moon or stars to give light, but God himself is going to be The Light. It’s something for us to look forward to, something for us to think about, that someday, after what we read here in verse 51 occurs — “Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” — when we come before the Lord in judgment and hear him say, by God’s grace, “Enter thou in to the joys of thy Lord,” that we will then be able to approach unto this Father of lights. We can only read about him now, and can only, in a finite way, imagine. But we’ll be able to see him face to face, and I believe we’ll be able to converse with him.

Even now, it tells us that there are seraphim in heaven that, because of the glory of God, they cover their eyes, they cover their faces. His glory is too great for us to understand and too great for us to look on, but some day, face to face, we shall know him even as he knows us today. That’s what the word tells us, so that’s the question we need to ask ourselves today as we sit here in church and as we come to have an understanding of what God’s truth is. Does he know us? The answer is ‘absolutely, from inside to outside.’ He knows us through and through, even those things perhaps that we try to hide from others. Perhaps it’s those things that are hidden in the heart, that we maybe don’t want somebody else to know about or see, our very thoughts. God knows it all. He knows us intimately. There’s nothing hid from him, and that can bring us either condemnation or comfort. May it be that we are walking in peace and in the Spirit of Almighty God.

We can think as he looks into our hearts, “there is nothing that I want to hide from him.” But if there is something in our life that is hidden, be assured that the light of the Lord is going to bring that to bear on our conscience, and it’s going to bother us all through life. The option we have today is that we can bring forth those things that are hidden, whether brothers or sisters or friends of the truth who’ve never come to the Lord. We have opportunity today that we can allow this light to come. Allow the Word to come and illuminate even the dark recesses of our hearts. Why? So that ultimately when we stand before him in judgment he can say, “I know that person.”

How do we get to that point? We get to that point by having the blood of Jesus cover us. We get to that point by having the sins washed away. Jesus didn’t just come here in the flesh to leave good teachings for us. He came to redeem us from all unrighteousness and from all sin, and it says here: “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” vs 12-13.

God can rebirth us. God can allow us to be reborn. God can turn us inside out. He can change us from sinful to pure and righteous in his sight, and he can pour within us the Spirit of his very power that we read about here, such that we can
have the power to become the sons of God if we believe on his name.

We talked about gratitude for deliverance. there are many reasons why we should be very, very thankful. It says in verse 11, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” And we know how that went.

We read here a little bit about the Pharisees who came to John. There were many who did not receive the teachings of Jesus, just like today there are many who look upon the teachings of our Lord as foolishness. The question today is ‘how do we approach them?’ How do we look at them? Are we going to allow those teachings to come in and to rebirth us? Are we going to allow the blood of Jesus to get rid of those sins, to make them as if they had never happened? That is true salvation. That is complete redemption, and there is complete peace and safety that we can reside in if we have come through that process, if that Spirit continues today to be alive and well in our hearts, leading us in steps of righteousness.

Let’s go back and consider just a little bit here what we read in the Proverbs. You know we always need to look at the actions of our lives, those things that God asks us to do. They are a result of what he has done in us. They are not a self-righteous action that we take upon ourselves; far be it from that. We are not capable in the flesh of living according to the will of God. We are not capable in the flesh of not transgressing his word. We know where the flesh has taken us. We know where the flesh has bound us. We know what sins the devil enticed us into when the spirit of God was not ruling our lives, but having been cleansed from that, having those things washed away and his Spirit poured into our hearts, we now, out of thankfulness and gratitude for deliverance, look at the Bible and the commandments of God completely different. We look at them as an opportunity to be serving him.

I think of that as we read here about the virtuous woman. Now out of a heart of thankfulness after being redeemed by the blood of Jesus, how is it that our dear sisters can reflect the love of God to a lost and a fallen world? How is it that our dear sisters can reflect to all of us what our needs are? The answer is through service; isn’t that what the common theme here is of the virtuous woman? As I read through here, I had to think how many of these things described here of this virtuous lady was she doing for herself. Oh, there’re a few things that we can read in here, and we’ll talk about those in a second. You know the majority of this is service to others, and what a blessing all of us can take that as an example. We are to here to serve. We are here to help. We are here to be of assistance to those that are around us. Maybe it’s through a good example. Maybe it’s through a kind word. Maybe it’s through the works of our hands or the works of our minds. We all have things to do. God has gifted us with talents he expects us to use in serving.

This past Wed night, Bro. Tom, at home read in Timothy, a specific direction to sisters of adornment and how we are to adorn the inner man and then heart is to bring forth on the outside these things that are virtuous. The brother that added on shared some thoughts that were just very instructive, and I had to think of those as I was reading through here. He said the self-worth of men, it seems today – this is not research based but just some thoughts that made sense to me – comes from what we can do, what we can accomplish, what we can gain, and how we can influence institutions and various things in our workplaces. We find worth in that, and I don’t think that’s bad. I think there’s purpose there because in all of those things, there can be service to others. Sometimes, he said, what society tells women is that your worth comes from how you look, and again, not necessarily research

— Please turn to pg. 68
based, but I think it’s something meritorious for us to think about. The real worth of a woman is not how you are portrayed in styles. It’s not how society wants you to portray yourself. It’s not in revealing your bodies. The real worth of the woman is in virtue, it’s in doing, it’s in serving, it’s in living for the Lord. That’s the whole worth for all of us.

It says “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” vs 30-31.

It’s not those things that are external. It’s those things that come from inside of you and reveal themselves when you stretch out your hand to the poor and the needy, when you provide for your children, when you provide for your household, when you do those things that are necessary for the good of others, looking well to the ways of the household, and opening your mouth in wisdom. There are some things that it’s just better for me not to deal with at home. It’s just better that my wife sometimes gives her word of wisdom where she can understand the motivations of what makes people tick better than I can, and there’s words of wisdom that can be given.

“Strength and honor are her clothing.” vs 25. “She maketh fine linen.” vs 24. What a blessing if we can follow this model of virtue, and far be it in the world that this is the model that they follow. For sure, it is not, but what a blessing that we have such an example for us, for our sisters, for our brothers, that we lead a virtuous life. What is a virtuous life? It’s that which comes forth again from the heart of a converted individual.

We read here at the beginning of the chapter of those things which are just folly that are going to lead men and women into perdition. It talks here of strong drink. What’s really wrong with that? What’s wrong is that God has gifted us with a mind? God has gifted us with the ability to process and to think and to make rational decisions. He wants us to make us those decisions and to draw ourselves closer to him. What happens? Why is it in the Old Testament that wine isn’t forbidden but drunkenness is? It’s because in excess, there’s great folly. In excess, we lose our ability to think and to comprehend and to bring honor to God. That’s why we’re warned in the Old Testament that drunkenness is going to lead to eternal damnation. It’s going to lead to hell fire. Be that far from us. We need to be very careful not even to dabble in those things that are going to take us towards the pit. Having been redeemed, we need to put safe guards between us and those vicious sins that Satan would like to entice us with. It clouds our judgment. It makes us to forget the laws. Whose laws? God’s laws. And when we forget God’s laws and our judgments are clouded, we do all kinds of things that are a perversion of his will.

It also talks here about the lust of the flesh, which we know are not going enter into the heavenly kingdom. May it be that God gives us wisdom in our day and time to discern the society we’re in and that we realize those things that are only going to take us away from God such that we be very, very careful not to be enticed. Because what does James tell us? He tells us that when we’re enticed (and how are we enticed? through our senses: hearing and sight mainly) that lust then leads us into sin, and sin when it is finished leads us into death.

That’s what Jesus came to avoid. He came to give us teachings and a way of salvation that when we have been cleansed, we can then have hope and we can walk in that hope, avoiding the pitfalls that Satan puts about us. May God give us wisdom not only to be virtuous women, but to be virtuous men.

What about the calling here? It’s just always a blessing to read here of how the first disciples were called. It impresses me. Jesus came to Nathaniel, and it impressed him.
You know, the same could be said about anyone of us who have been called. We can go back and review the calling that we had from God. It was unique to us, maybe something very simple or maybe something very complex and dramatic. Regardless of that, Jesus told Nathaniel, “Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.” John 1:48. I saw thee; that is God’s omnipotence.

He knows us by name. He sees where we are. We cannot hide from him, and again, that can bring us great joy and consolation that we are under his care and that he protects us under the shadow of his wing, as it tells us in the Bible, or that can bring discomfort to us if we’re not right with him. So, let’s ask ourselves today, “Does Jesus see me here? Does he see into my heart?” The answer is “yes.”

What are we going to do about it? That’s the question we need to answer. You know, the commandment is really just pretty simple. If you’re not ready to follow or if you don’t feel like you’ve been called, then just come and see. Read the Bible. Listen to your mom and dad. Reflect back on teachings perhaps of your childhood. Give God a chance. Just come and see what God maybe wants to do with your life, and then when the call comes and when the Savior says, “follow me,” may it be that God gives you the wisdom that you can simply answer, “yes, Lord; I want to follow thee.”

How do we answer that? You know, it’s not necessarily that we have to answer that by words. We need to answer that by our choices. We need to answer the call of God by what we do. Our words, a lot of times, can be pretty worthless, but our actions really reveal what our words mean. When the Lord says, “come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart,” that’s a call for action. That’s a call to come. That’s a call of repentance. That’s a call of “I need to confess my sins.” Why? Because I want to. I want to get it out. I want to purge myself, by God’s grace, of that leaven which is going to take me to hell. Come unto you me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart, come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart, that’s a call for action. That’s a call to come. That’s a call of repentance. That’s a call of “I need to confess my sins.” Why? Because I want to. I want to get it out. I want to purge myself, by God’s grace, of that leaven which is going to take me to hell. Come unto you me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart, that’s a call for action. That’s a call to come. That’s a call of repentance. That’s a call of “I need to confess my sins.” Why? Because I want to. I want to get it out. I want to purge myself, by God’s grace, of that leaven which is going to take me to hell.

What’s the yoke do? It binds us to the Savior. When we’re bound to the Savior that means we have the word right here with us. He is near to us with his Spirit, and he brings that word to us in our ears, in our hearts, in our minds, through the word, through the lives that we see, and through the hymns that we sing. As that word then comes to us, we need to receive it, and we need to allow it reform our lives. Why? To continually transform us, because there’s coming a day.

Isn’t it a blessing when we read the word? There’s always hope given, and I often reflect as I read through the book of Isaiah that there’s terrible statements of condemnation, but often in the exact same chapter, the prophet gives great hope of deliverance of a time to come. It’s such a blessing here in chapter 1 with the same thoughts, that “Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.” John 1:51. That is the vision that Jacob saw. He saw that heaven open as he slept, his head there upon the rock and dreamt he saw that ladder going up to heaven. That ladder’s coming down again, and the Son of man is going to descend with a shout, with a trump, with the voice of the archangel, and all that are alive and that remain are going to be caught up to be with him in the clouds. We’re going to ascend that ladder, so to speak. Are we? Let’s ask ourselves that question today? Are we? Are we ready? Are we prepared for the summons when the heavens open and the Son of man comes again? When he descends, will we go with him? May God give us all grace that we can answer affirmatively.
Remembering Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the third in a series of four reports on the missionary journeys taken by Samuel Froehlich in Switzerland in the quest to form a new denomination, as led by the Spirit. This is taken from pages 47 to 49 in a book written by Herman Reugger, “Apostolic Christian Church History, Volume I.”

Third Missionary Journey in Emmental

On August 11, 1832, Froehlich made contact by letter with Christian Gerber, to Geibel, Langnau in Emmental, elder of the Baptist church there, whom he had never seen, but of whom he had been told. The agreement of their views on baptism attracted him thither.

Ten days later he himself traveled to Langnau and visited Christian Gerber, who then was nearly seventy years old and wore a long, snow-white beard (d. 1849). At a meeting of all the deacons, Froehlich laid before them, by way of introduction, a copy of the letter to the English constable in which, he on May 14 of that year, had answered six questions. The gathering seemed to be in agreement with these explanations, but insisted that, in his letter, he had not touched on the question of military service.

Daily Meetings

Froehlich held daily meetings in the area, mostly accompanied by the elder of the church. The attendance grew larger and larger and on Sunday, September 2, the number of hearers at Langnau was between four and five hundred. According to the custom of the time, he preached for three hours on John 16:7. The word is not without fruit, but the foe senses the danger.

Facing Secular Authorities

On the following morning the pastor raised his voice in warning in a meeting of the citizens. Despite the fact that a deacon, who was present, defended the accused fearlessly, Froehlich was haled before he magistrate, who decided after a brief hearing that Froehlich was to leave the territory within twenty-four hours. The aged elder accompanied him in his own conveyance for four hours; then the courageous pastor once more took up his pilgrim staff.

Back at Brugg, Froehlich could not, in spite of the prohibition, keep from visiting the persecuted churches in Aargau. In Leutwil, where there were forty-five baptized souls, a penalty had been placed upon anyone who would permit the meetings in their homes. On September 24, 1832, Froehlich wrote, “We have a great cloud of witnesses before us who for the sake of the freedom in Christ, are ready to sacrifice goods and blood, whose imitators we should be in patience and faith.”

Note: The last missionary journey by Bro. Froehlich, his fourth, will be included in next month’s Remembering. It is a continuation of Froehlich’s work that reflects his zeal and dedication — and also makes reference to his encountering the Brunschwiler family in Hauptwil. In 1836, he chose Susette Brunschwiler as his wife.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
The Light of Hope

The Two Witnesses

The Bible teaches that there will be a period of seven years of great tribulation in the end times. This is recorded in part in Matthew chapter 24. However, the book of Revelation, chapters 6-19, give a detailed explanation of the tribulation period.

As we understand it, the Rapture occurs before the tribulation period. Therefore, all those who are living for Christ at the time of the Rapture, will escape the tribulation period. Notice Luke 21:36, “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

In Revelation 11:3 through 12, there is an account of two witnesses sent by God to prophesy for three and a half years or half the tribulation period. If any man hurt them, they will be killed. They have the power to stop it from raining and also the power to turn water to blood. Therefore it is thought that the two witnesses are Moses and Elijah, whom God sends to earth in human form, much as He did on the mount of transfiguration.

“And (Christ) was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with them.” Matthew 17:2-3

In Revelation 11:3 we read that the two witnesses are clothed in sackcloth. Therefore we know that they are very poor as far as earthly wealth is concerned. They are also very humble as humble people often repented in sackcloth and ashes.

These two witnesses are called the two olive trees and the two candlesticks standing before God. This is consistent with the imagery used throughout the book of Revelation.

If any man hurts these witnesses, fire proceeds out of their mouths and devours them. Therefore, these two witnesses become the center of attention. They also have power to smite the earth with all plagues, similar to when Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.

However, when the two witnesses finish their testimony, or complete the work God wants them to perform, the beast, or anti-Christ, ascends out of the bottomless pit, or hell, and now he is able to kill them.

Their dead bodies shall lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and a half days in the midst of great rejoicing on the part of the people. Then the Spirit of life from God enters into their bodies and they stand upon their feet. This brings great fear upon them that see them. Then there is a great voice from heaven saying, “Come up hither.” The two witnesses then ascend into heaven much as Christ ascended into heaven as recorded in Acts 1:9.

The tribulation period is so terrible that most of us don’t want to even think about it. We just want to trust in Christ with all our heart and live for Him. It is wonderful to rest in the Lord. But we should remember that God gives the promise of a blessing to those who read and hear the word of the prophecy of the book of Revelation.

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” Revelation 1:3.

There is much we may not understand but God sending two witnesses to stand up for Him when the beast is in power, is somewhat consoling and comforting. We thank God for the two witnesses and pray that we, too, can be true witnesses for God in every situation.

-by Willis Ehnle
... Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; ...

Matthew 6:28