"I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown."

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Easter

“The words of this hymn echo in our minds as we approach the Easter season. If there was ever a time we needed Him, it’s now. May our hearts be filled with His love, forgiveness and grace as we consider what He did for us at Calvary. “For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.”

Do you know Jesus Christ as your savior? Have you repented for your sin and been washed in His blood? Are you “walking in newness of life”? If you have and are… rejoice in the “God of my salvation”. If not, then today is a day of opportunity to come to the foot of the cross and find this precious gift.

In Christian love,

Jeff Grimm, along with Greg Lehman, Counseling Elders
Loving as Jesus Loves - Jesus demonstrated love by healing.

Our Lord and savior, Jesus is described as the great physician and showed His love by both physical and spiritual healing. Matthew tells us that, “Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.” Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the words of Jesus, “They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

As wonderful and dramatic as Jesus’ miracles of physical healing must have been to those who received or witnessed them, His ultimate purpose was spiritual healing. After curing the disabled man at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus found him in the temple and cautioned, “Behold, you are made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you.” The miracles of healing were not only to confirm Jesus’ claim to be the Messiah, but also to draw people to Him so they could hear and respond to the Gospel message. The physical and spiritual healing often occurred together. Only a relatively few people in the crowds following Jesus were physically sick, but they all needed to hear the good news of the Gospel.

One of more dramatic instances of Jesus’ healing is found in Mark 5:22-43, which combines the account of a woman touching his clothes to be healed of a blood disease with the reviving of a 12-year-old child who had died. Jairus, the father whose daughter was “at the point of death” came to Jesus, imploring Him to heal her. Jesus went with him but was delayed by the crowd and then stopped to acknowledge a woman who had the faith to believe that “if I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole.” How helpless and desperate Jairus must have felt, only to hear the awful confirmation that it was too late. His daughter had died. One can almost see Jesus putting His arm around the distraught father and speaking just a few words: “Be not afraid; only believe.” Luke adds the words “and she shall be made whole.” Jesus’ love for humanity was manifested in His desire to make people whole, often physically but always spiritually and emotionally. Do you believe Jesus, as He tells those who believe on Him that we will do greater works than He?

One definition of love is, “unselfish and benevolent concern for the well-being of another person.” The New Testament uses two Greek words for love, phileo and agape. Phileo is emotional warmth and affection for another person and is what exists between close friends, in the way that Jonathan “loved (David) as his own soul.” In the New Testament, phileo is translated as “brotherly love” or “brotherly kindness.” Phileo springs from human emotions and is a noble virtue that can be exhibited by all. Jesus noted that, “sinners also love those that love them.” However, when He calls us to love our enemies, or even people whose personalities clash with ours, or who have hurt or mistreated us, it requires agape, which is sacrificial and unconditional. In addition to emotion and intellect, it involves a conscious and possibly painful choice to place another’s welfare at or above our own. This love is exemplified in the simple, clear scripture, “God is love.” His love was fully demonstrated at the cross by Jesus’ sacrifice of Himself for us, “while we were yet sinners.”

Although we may not perform miracles of immediate, complete physical healing in the way Jesus did, by faith we can confidently seek to restore and promote emotional and spiritual health in our relationships with others. The Apostle Paul describes genuine love, both by what it is, (patient, kind, truthful, unselfish, trusting, believing, hopeful, enduring) and

— Please turn to pg. 63
I’ve opened to the gospel of St. John in the end of the book. I would like to read a few verses out of chapter 20, starting at verse 26, and maybe we’ll read into 21. So, Jesus has risen from the dead by the power of God with the overwhelming and final answer to the question of Lordship and to the question that all mankind, at that point, had as to whether or not he really was the Son of God. It was answered in his resurrection. It should be answered to us provided we believe.

That’s the end of Chapter 20, and if you don’t mind leaving your Bibles opened, in case we run out of words for these few verses that we’ve looked at, we can go on into the next chapter and read that. I just think about Thomas, and my heart goes out for him. Perhaps he was a skeptic. There might be some of us here in the audience, as well as the one speaking, who might have had moments of skepticism. It’s easier for me to comprehend something if I can see it with my own eyes and maybe experience it in another way, rather than just hearing about it or just trying to imagine. So, Thomas was suffering from that, as we all know the story, that he was a doubter. He got that moniker. he earned that name. So did I. We each have our moments where we’re doubters.

It doesn’t necessarily matter what it is we doubt, but let’s just remember God is the creator of all things, and as such, there’s nothing too hard for him. So, if we look back in our past week, and we think about “What did I worry about? What was it that really brought me concern that I couldn’t get an answer to and felt like it was out of control?”, and then we say, “Yeah, I’m like Thomas. I too have had my moments of skepticism.”

How can God – how can anyone – straighten up this mess that I’m aware of, that’s part of my life, or part of the life of someone I know or someone I love? We’re doubters, right? But what did Jesus do? I pray that for each of us. I don’t know for sure exactly how it works with you, but here it is for Thomas. I think this is a reasonable prayer to have if we’re struggling with something where we don’t really comprehend how God is going to repair a certain circumstance. Let’s hope for something like Thomas got.

So, eight days they’re shut indoors. The room was shut, and I presume it was closed up tight because they were afraid for their lives. They knew that they were a hunted group, being followers of Jesus who had just been crucified, and those that wanted to crucify him wanted to get rid of all them too. They wanted to end this movement once and for all, so the disciples are in hiding. I’m not sure of that, but I surmise it. And then without opening a single door or breaking a window or anything, Jesus appears, and what does he say? When we’re looking for answers and the most difficult things of life where we really struggle with “how can God fix this? how can this be made right, this thing that I’m aware of or that is part of my life? how can it be made right?”, think what were Jesus first words? “Peace. Peace be unto you.”

That’s the beginning, I think, of faith. If something within me can trust enough to where the wild winds and waves that go on in my mind and heart when I’m worried can have sense of peace, then I think maybe I’m beginning to believe. I’m beginning to remember. We get grounded. What does it mean to be grounded? Settled. Settled in the realization that God is the creator of all things, and once and for all, sin and death and hell were put under his feet by Jesus’ resurrection.

Here he appeared, says “Peace”, and then he went straight to Thomas. Now, in other scriptures we recognize the other disciples were doubters too. I
believe it’s in Mark where it records that he upbraided them all for their unbelief, and so we say, well, Thomas really kind of got a tough reputation, but it looks like they all had struggles. Jesus went straight to Thomas, and he said “Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.” (vs 27)

I don’t know what it is that we need most tonight, but I personally need to believe. I need to trust, and I need to act that out. Sometimes I say I trust, and then my actions belie that suggestion. It’s not real when I do other than what I say I believe. Has that ever been something in your life? And Jesus comes in the same fashion: first with “Peace”, and then “Get a grip! Get in touch!”

Can you imagine if Jesus would appear tonight in this place and invite us each with “Get in line; come up, and touch and feel me.” Wouldn’t that be something? You don’t have to. All we have to do is believe. The Word is true. It states it! This is what happened, and all we need to do is believe.

And what did Thomas say? There are moments in each of our lives (I recognize that, and I hope you do too) where the Lord has revealed himself to us. There’s a moment that he gets our attention. I’m trying to think of an example that’s fresh. Maybe the Holy Spirit just wants you to think of one that’s fresh in your mind, where the Lord revealed himself to you, whether your reading the word of God or someone comes and says something.

We were with a sister last month who was recently widowed, and it just seemed like at the most unusual moments a bird would appear at the window or in a tree, and she believed that that was God revealing himself to her. Now, I don’t know what it is for you, and I don’t want to encourage us to be superstitious. That’s not the point, but there are ways, just as Jesus came directly to Thomas in his moment of need, that the Lord was willing to come to us in our moment of need if we’re sincere about that desire to believe and to overcome the skepticism that we have. If we’re sincere about that, he will come.

I guess what I’m trying to say here, now, in verse 28 is what do we do when that happens? Do we dismiss it as coincidental? I’ve done this, and that’s why I’m suggesting that it might be a thing; I don’t know if it’s a thing with you, but it is with me, where I think, “Well, maybe I’m making too much out of what I think I experienced.” Again, I don’t want to be superstitious and explain it away. That’s not what Thomas did, so, before we give Thomas too bad of a reputation or think too lowly of him, consider his response when Jesus did come and offer evidence that he’s alive and he is risen. When he comes to you and me, what is our response to be? My Lord and my God! What more is there to say?

And he said “because you have seen me you have believed. Blessed are they who haven’t seen me and yet have chosen to believe.” Is that you and me tonight? What’d we come here for? What’s the purpose of being here, but that there may be something that the Lord would have – in our desire to worship him because he is worthy and because he made us – that we can receive. That’s what we believe.

It says, “many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples.” (vs 30) What an amazing thing it is. I believe if we could go through the room one by one, there’d be memories of some way each of us would be able to testify, yes, I received a sign, and it was meaningful to me because… and I believe it was true. Each of them had to do that, you know. Sometimes, especially in this day and age, seeing is not necessarily the best way to believe. Now that we’ve been able to create electronic images of things and focus on a screen showing images of things, you better not believe everything you see. Right?

— Please turn to pg. 64
Summer Volunteering at CVE

Mexico Committee

“What did you do in Mexico? What was it like?”

These are the two most common questions I was asked after spending a summer volunteering at CVE in Magdalena, Mexico. Both questions are harder to answer than you may think.

What a summer volunteer does differs both from person to person and day to day. A “normal” day might begin with making breakfast in the kitchen with all of the volunteers, doing a daily Bible study, working on landscape before it gets too hot or simply taking a walk around campus to spend quiet time alone. Next, volunteers head to Joy Camp. Here they are grouped up with 1 or 2 kids for the duration of the camp. During Joy Camp volunteers help the kids complete a variety of activities. This could be anything from puppet shows, running through a small obstacle course with them, or sitting down and learning with the kids how to recognize and express our emotions. All of this is done for the purpose of building joy by building a relationship with the kids that shows them a little bit more of the love of Jesus. After Joy Camp, volunteers go to the kitchen to eat lunch with some of the kids and staff. Afternoons usually consist of spending time in a house helping the caregivers or doing other cleaning, cooking and maintenance tasks around campus. As the afternoon comes to an end, volunteers are responsible for their own dinner. They might make an individual meal or go into town to eat at a local restaurant. Evenings will be different every day. There might be church, a singing, CVE family dinner, basketball, or just a quiet night to wind down and get ready for the next day.

The question “What was your summer like?” is more difficult to answer. I could describe it in a couple of different ways. Like every mission, there are moments of different ways. Like every mission, there are moments of 

Graduating Schools, Not Just Students Child Sponsorship Committee

The HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program has been operating in Guatemala since 2005, through a partnership with ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International). Currently, our program sponsors 235 students in ten schools, making Guatemala our second largest sponsorship country.

As is the case in most of the regions we serve, operating a Christian school is very difficult, due to the impoverished environment and constant struggle to fund school operations, including teacher salaries and administrative costs. It is also challenging to keep costs for student tuition, books, and uniforms at affordable levels.

For several years, ACSI has been working with sponsored schools to develop customized local commercial opportunities that generate revenues to create more financial stability and lessen their dependence on outside funding and sponsorship. Some examples follow:

• Camino De Luz School – a water purification system was installed that allows them to sell bottled water in the community at a small profit.
• Amigos De Jesus School – through a community outreach program, they plan to utilize their computer technology knowledge to open an internet café for the community.
that are incredible and rewarding, and others that are uncomfortable and challenging. The language barrier can be difficult and can take energy and humility to accept. The relationships built with the kids are awesome, hard, and everything in between. Saying goodbye after a summer with the CVE kids, staff, and fellow volunteers is one of the hardest parts of the summer. A summer spent in Magdalena will kick you out of your comfort zone and create opportunities for you to grow in ways you didn’t know you could.

**In the Words of Some Previous Summer Volunteers:**

“In my two months at CVE, God changed me and stretched me in many ways as I grew closer to him and built relationships with his people in Magdalena. My eyes were opened to many of the challenges that occur each day when serving on the mission field and I learned first-hand what it means to trust in Jesus as my sustainer and provider in the midst of my weaknesses. He taught me to embrace the discomfort that is necessary for growth, and he blessed me with an inexplicable joy during my interactions with others and in the day-to-day moments.” Courtney Plattner

“To describe my summer at CVE, I would use the word “growth”. I was stretched through new relationships, a new culture, Joy Camp, and many other experiences throughout the two months. By getting to spend the summer serving the staff and children at CVE, I saw another part of how beautiful my Heavenly Father’s love is for his children.” Arika Nuest

If growing in your relationship with God, in your understanding of kids from hard places, and in servant-heartedness is something that sounds exciting to you, please contact us at cvevolunteerprogram@gmail.com for more information. – by Scott Kieser

Once a school achieves an appropriate level of financial independence, it “graduates” from the ACSI program, opening an opportunity for another school that has more financial need. When this “school graduation” occurs, HarvestCall Child Sponsorship transfers those student sponsorships to students at the newly sponsored school, exposing more young people to the gospel message.

The Child Sponsorship Committee is pleased that ACSI has developed this degree of accountability and development to not only educate students, but to “graduate” schools to financial independence.

**Prayer Request**

We ask you to join us in a prayer of gratitude for partners with exceptional vision and dedication to effectively guide our child sponsorship efforts in the impoverished countries that we serve.

– by Ken Rinkenberger
Finding Comfort in Presence

“…for my soul trusteth in thee: yea in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.” Psalms 57:1

I’m getting a lot of hugs as of late. Don’t worry, I’m keeping my social distance. Washing my hands, not touching my face or at least doing less of that… I think. The hugs I’ve been receiving are from my daughter. Kids can ask some pretty hard questions these days: “Dad, how long will this be? Dad, will people die? Dad, will we get sick?” I’m not so good with the logistical questions but I’m not so good with the theological ones either: “Dad, why doesn’t God stop this? Dad, why does God allow this?” Waxing eloquent on the nature of sin, God’s sovereignty and purposes seem to have a limited effect on her young heart. If I’m honest, they have a limited effect on my old heart also right now.

God has taught me a lot about faith and fear during these days. My daughter brings her fears to me. Somehow, she sees me as the one who should quiet her heart…and I’m not. This not-being the one to calm her bothers me. This failure on my part has made me quite introspective to the nature of fear and comfort. I have come to realize the solace she yearns for is circumstantial. If I could tell her “this will pass quickly and it won’t be bad”, her fear meter would move from fearful to fearless. I’m not surprised at her desire for circumstantial solace. Every time I check the news, I too, am looking for favorable information that will move my fear meter in the direction of fearless during these current circumstances.

If we define faith as assurance apart from our senses, then it’s quite apparent that the fearlessness I seek does not spring from faith. After all, the fearlessness I long for is a happy report of facts and figures — tangible data I can see and touch. It is this longing that has opened my eyes to the comfort of God — the Father I’m supposed to replicate to my daughter.

Since I’m not smart enough to answer her questions and I’m not strong enough to calm her fears, we’ve decided to just embrace. Whenever she is scared, she can come get a hug. And when we do, I pray she can feel the one thing I want her to know — God’s got her.

Very often in the Scriptures, we find men and women asking God for circumstantial answers to their worrisome questions. Very often in Scripture we find God not settling our hearts with logistical clarity but offering Himself as the answer to our worries. As loved ones are cooped up together during this time of uncertainty, may we demonstrate to each other this unfailing, personal love of God.

Ideas:

- Let your loved one feel God’s love reception through your embrace.
- Let your loved one feel God’s love through your words, notes, and cards.
- Let your loved one feel God’s physical provision through your tangible actions of help.
- Let your loved one feel God’s control through your smile.
- Let your loved one ask hard questions without answers.
- Let your loved one be afraid without feeling guilty about it.
- Let your loved one be afraid without control through your smile.
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- Let your loved one be afraid without control through your smile.

I asked my daughter last night as we embraced, “Does our hugging help?” She replied, “kind of”. I smiled because that’s what I would expect. My arms, my voice and my presence will all have a
After all, the fearlessness I long for is a happy fearlessness I seek does not spring from faith. Our senses, then it’s quite apparent that the current circumstances. These current circumstances. My fear meter in the direction of fearless during these days. My daughter brings her fears to me. Somehow, she sees me as the one who should quiet her heart…and I’m not. This not-being the one to calm her bothers me. This failure on my part has made me quite introspective to the nature of fear and comfort. I have come to realize the power of fear and comfort. I have come to realize the importance of faith and its role in comforting the soul.

I’m not surprised at her desire for circumstantial solace. Every time I check the news, I too, am looking for favorable information that will move my fear meter in the direction of fearless during these days. My daughter brings her fears to me. Kids can ask some pretty hard questions these days: “Dad, how long will this be? Dad, will we get sick?” I’m not so good with the theological ones either: “Dad, why doesn’t God stop this? Dad, why does God allow this?” Waxing philosophical, I thought about the reasons God allow the pain. I asked my daughter last night as we embraced, “If I were God, what would I do?” And she replied, “There’s no point.” “Yes, there is.” I said. “There is always a point. Your point is to keep hope alive.”

I’m getting a lot of hugs as of late. Don’t worry, I’m not touching my face or at least doing less of that…keeping my social distance. Washing my hands, I have come to realize the importance of faith and its role in comforting the soul.

May we pray many others will as well. Below are several resources from our website that may prove especially helpful during a difficult time:

• **Hurt and Emotions**: The uncertainty of the world can give rise to a range of emotions in our lives. This section of our website contains several articles, podcasts, and resources designed to help us and those we love navigate emotions such as fear, worry, stress, and unmet expectations.

• **God’s Promises to the Believer**: A series of promises from the Scriptures meant to bring encouragement and strength in difficult times.

• **Dealing with Caregiver stress**: In the midst of difficult times, we must never forgot the special stress that those caring for others can feel. As a church, we have the opportunity to be aware, to be prayerful, and to be purposeful to encourage these caregivers in big and small ways. If we are a caregiver ourselves, we must be willing to reach out for help when needed and continually find our strength in the Lord.

• **Helping One Another after a Major Stressor**: We have an opportunity as a Body to continue to think through how we can look out for and help each other during and after difficult times. This resource contains important thoughts to consider.

ACCFS has numerous resources to assist someone who is going through a wide range of hurts and emotions, from the pain of loss to worry, loneliness, anger, stress, and others. Each resource, either created by or reviewed by ACCFS staff, can assist in identifying the challenges of these powerful emotions and in bringing our thinking into obedience to God’s Word. For these resources, please visit our website at www.accounseling.org/category/hurtsandemotions.
God’s Faithfulness Witnessed in Three Churches Being Bolstered

Bolstering efforts are continuing in three of our small churches--Prescott, AZ, Lamar MO and Kitchener, ON. Since their journeys began — 2-3 years ago, they have all experienced first-hand the faithfulness of God’s provisions when they reached out in faith to the brotherhood asking for prayers and assistance. Ultimately, each church desires to fulfill God’s call to be His ambassadors to “Proclaim Christ and Serve Others” in their respective communities.

At the advent of their bolstering journeys, the congregations participated in a spiritual gifts assessment to help them identify the gifts that God entrusted to each of them. Local committees were formed with Church Establishment Committee (CEC) representatives to work through creating Vision Statements, Guiding Principles and strategic plans to propel them forward. This led to a wide range of local actions and requests to the brotherhood. Let’s take a closer look at how God has worked in each of these churches and communities.

Prescott, AZ

In 2019, the Prescott congregation was blessed and encouraged when a young couple and a family of seven moved to their thriving church community. In October, Bro. Richard Manz (Sis. Audrey) was added to the pulpit ministry to share responsibilities with Bro. Stan Schambach and Bro. Dan Cargill. With the additional families moving in, approximately 45 now worship on a regular Sunday.

Looking forward, the church desires to continue their focus on implementing their strategic plan. There are many opportunities for the church family to grow together while also reaching out to serve the various needs in the community.

Brethren who have a desire to support this small church are encouraged to visit and prayerfully consider moving to join this loving church family.

Lamar, MO

In Lamar, the congregation is rejoicing with several converts who have responded to the call of the Gospel. What an encouragement to see the hand of God moving souls to salvation! With this blessing comes opportunities for mentors and discipleship for these dear converts — an area of particular need that could be strengthened by someone relocating.

Through creating their Vision statement, the church has chosen to focus on outreach to the elderly in their community. This ministry utilizes the gifts of everyone in the congregation. The energy and talents of the young people are engaged in visits to shut-ins and those in the nursing homes. Additionally, doing deeds of service in the homes of the elderly has blessed...
both the giver and the receiver. The older members are a source of encouragement and stability to the younger generation as a result of experiencing God’s faithfulness in their lives.

The congregation welcomes any to join them as they desire to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their rural community. Consider spending a day of worship with them and relocating to the area on either a short- or long-term basis.

**Kitchener, ON**

God has proven his faithfulness to the Kitchener congregation through providing a local brother — Bro. Elmer Gingrich (Sis. Alma) — to serve in the pulpit ministry. Your prayers are requested for this dear couple as they assume this new responsibility.

The congregation has also developed a mission statement to help them focus on the work that God is calling them to do. Through this effort, they have evaluated ways to reach out into their community with deeds of service and sharing the Gospel. They are trying to more effectively communicate with the local community through a church website and a new welcome sign. Several new friends are attending regularly. Plans are also underway to conduct Vacation Bible School in July with a special invitation to the local community to attend.

While approximately 30 worship on a regular Sunday, the congregation would welcome the addition of more, especially singles and young families. There are several universities in the area that could be good choices for individuals seeking further education, and this provides the easiest path to working in Canada.

**How You can Help**

Facilitation of these bolstering efforts is in the process of transitioning from the CEC to the USA Committee as they integrate bolstering with their other ministries. The CEC will continue to provide a liaison to the USA Committee (and other regions) and support them with teaching materials, discussion framework, resource development and access to cross-cultural advisory. Please pray for the brothers and sisters as these responsibilities shift. We trust that God will continue to be faithful in adding an increase as He sees fit.

Additionally, all of these congregations ask for your prayers as they continue their bolstering journeys. If you feel God leading you to join one of these congregations, talk with your local elder and e-mail the USA Committee at usa@harvestcall.org. Or for more general questions about church bolstering and planting, e-mail the Church Establishment Committee at cec@harvestcall.org. This could lead to dialog with the small church’s elder and/or joining the “Learn and Discern” prayer call with others considering opportunities to bolster small churches.
Congregation Updates

Apostolic Christian LifePoints
www.aclifepoints.org
@aclifepoints on Facebook or Instagram
Ashlyn Gramm-Mission
Communication Coordinator

“Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” James 4:13-15

How true these verses in James ring amidst the circumstances our world is facing. These days of social distancing and self-isolation have offered significant time to reflect and reset our perspective on this life. Vacations have been canceled. Celebrations have been postponed. Gatherings of friends and families have been halted. It seems as though all of man’s best laid plans have truly gone awry.

Just as many events have been canceled, we at LifePoints must also announce the cancellation of our 2020 LifePoints Gospel Sing. It is with sad hearts that we made the decision, but due to the uncertainty of the current coronavirus situation and our desire to not put any attendees at risk, we have decided to cancel the event this year. We pray that you all are able to stay healthy and safe during this season, and if it is the Lord’s will, we hope to have you join us on May 1st, 2021 for our next Gospel Sing, which just so happens to also be our celebration for LifePoints’ 50th anniversary. LifePoints has been serving, according to God’s purpose, since 1971 - praise God for His faithfulness in this ministry!

Additionally, even though the Gospel Sing evening has been canceled, in-person this year, we still want to do something special to say THANK YOU to all who have supported LifePoints throughout the years. We are working on putting together a short video featuring songs performed by The Anderson Family, the testimony of a LifePoints resident and family member, as well as a special message from one of our Board members. The video will be released at 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 on our website www.aclifepoints.org/GospelSing.asp.

As we have mentioned before, the Gospel Sing is more than just an evening of music. It’s a time of fellowship (although our fellowship will be in spirit this year), a chance for us at LifePoints to thank those who have supported this mission, and a chance for us to praise God for His provision and blessings on our agency and those we serve.

These are not the circumstances we originally envisioned for this year, but we trust God’s plan and are excited to produce this mini-Gospel Sing for you all! We appreciate your continued prayers and support, and we look forward to seeing you next year at our 50th Anniversary celebration on May 1st, 2021!!!

We also would like to ask for continued prayers for the health and well-being of our residents and staff. We are so grateful for the love and dedication of our staff, and we thank God for His protection over our LifePoints family so far. Please pray for our leadership staff as they make decisions regarding this pandemic, as the circumstances surrounding it all seem to be constantly changing. Pray for the emotional welfare of our residents as their routines are disrupted and as they adjust to the extended isolation. If you would like updates on actions LifePoints is taking in response to COVID-19, please visit our website. Again, we thank you for your prayers, and we trust that the Lord will lead us through these coming days.

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Keith Schambach — Manager of Compliance and Maintenance

“King Ooga Booga!”, my kids shouted as they came tumbling in the doorway. I was amused and slightly confused. They had just
returned home after a night away with friends and Gateway summer volunteers. I questioned what they were talking about and they proceeded to ramble on to me about the unforgettable night they had just experienced. They had played games (the highlight of which was the fabled “King Ooga Booga”), they ate candy and smores, told and heard suspenseful stories, sang songs, laughed (and likely cried), and camped out under the starry sky. Where, you may ask, did they have such a fun evening? This was one of the final summer “Kids Camps” at Gateway Woods, an integral part of the summer volunteer program.

Young adult volunteers had spent their evening and (bless their hearts) the entire night making memories and showing Jesus to a group of houseparent kids (HP kids). They had won the respect and admiration of the kids, and had made an impact in a big way. Kids Camp is a yearly highlight for HP kids, as well as their parents! Every week, summer volunteers entertain and play games with the kids: water fights, slip and slide, nerf wars, outdoor games, cardboard villages, songs and music, Bible stories…all are a part of the fun.

So, volunteers only interact with the staff and their kids, you ask? Not at all! Volunteers also make an eternal impact on the teenage residents of Gateway. When volunteers come to Gateway Woods, whether for a day, a week, or an entire summer, they spend time eating meals in the houses, working with, and playing alongside the residents. There are Bluffton activity nights, singings, Bible Studies, basketball and frisbee…all are a part of a summer on the GW campus. Our residents would often ask “Who’s coming for dinner today? I hope it’s…(fill in your name)!” They enjoy eating, singing, chatting, and interacting with the groups of volunteers that would visit the campus. Summer Volunteer Coordinators especially are a favorite, since they spend all summer building friendships with the residents and HP kids.

Summer volunteers are a necessary and critical part of the operations of Gateway. We depend on our church and community family to help with tasks on campus, bring energy and encouragement to the staff (and their kids) and residents. Summer is a fun time to be at Gateway. The GW Farms program is hopping, Auction preparation is occurring, daily life is ongoing, and God is working in the hearts and minds of everyone involved.

It is hard work to run a volunteer program, but so essential. Every summer, Gateway hires a paid Summer Volunteer Coordinator, along with a GW Farms assistant and an education intern, to help with the events and business of the summer months. We love to fill the campus with visitors that can help us carry out the mission of helping hurting youth and families, so that they can then bless others. Is God allowing your summer to have an open schedule? Will you come make an impact on our campus, and in turn, be blessed yourself?

**News:**
- COVID-19 effects: As a residential campus, we are under order of the DCS to follow guidelines that were issued by the Indiana State Department of Health. Our campus is now closed to all visitors. This is a precautionary measure that is being universally applied to all residential facilities in the state. Please pray for residents as they will not be able to have their family come visit them on campus until further notice.
- 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 impact the lives of the children on our campus!

• We are also searching for our Summer Education Intern. Please contact Bro. Brock Williamson at brock.williamson@gatewaywoods.org for more information. This is a great opportunity to gain some experience while impacting our residents!

• We also have a summer internship opportunity in Gateway Farms. 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.

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 be added to our mailing list, please contact us at 888-443-4283 or send an email to info@gatewaywoods.org. Finally, if you would like to receive a monthly email detailing how the work at Gateway Woods is bringing help and healing to those in need, please consider joining our Restoring Hope email list. You can do so at gatewaywoods.org/newsletter or by emailing jon.ringer@gatewaywoods.org.

Alabama, Athens
Lisa Aschilman, Kristy Moore

“I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust… He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” Psalm 91:2, 4

It seems there has been much unrest in the world as of late, and as I grow older, I can’t help but see it is Satan working overtime to destroy God’s handiwork. I take comfort in knowing that God is our refuge and fortress, and He is covering all who believe and trust in Him. My prayer is you can find some encouragement and hope in these words and hold fast to His truths, especially during these times of isolation.

We enjoyed our time with the Tremont choir and others who came down at the beginning of March. How refreshing and uplifting it was to be able to sing praises to our Lord in numbers (not something we get to enjoy often in our Athens Church). We were also blessed by Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi and son Jalen, Wolcott, IN) and their efforts to share the Word, and multiple others stopping through on their journeys. We always look forward to the time spent with our visitors.

We continue to prepare for our second year of ALive over Memorial Day Weekend, and look forward to seeing all of you who will be there. Registration is now open at the Apostolic Christian Church of Athens’ website: www.athensacchurch.org/alive. This year, “Hope” will be the overarching theme for the weekend. Ministering brothers Brad Metz (Bloomington, IL) and Kirk Plattner (West Lafayette, IN) 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.

As always, we would love to have y’all visit, even if you’re traveling through for the evening! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at 815-674-5411.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” John 3:17-18

We recently read in John 8:11 of the woman caught in the act of adultery. Jesus spoke to her, “Neither do I condemn thee.” I love that passage! It was many years into my Christian walk before I fully comprehended the power of the Resurrection. I am no longer condemned. Not because I should not be condemned. I deserve condemnation, but I stand in Christ’s covering, righteous and holy. (Me!) Because God is viewing me through the blood over the
Mercy Seat. It is a mystery, only revealed after the Resurrection, explained more fully in Hebrews 9. Right after I was baptized, some well-meaning people told me I was cleaner right then than I would ever be. I knew myself better than they did, and even though I had done all the right things and had no unconfessed sin or unforgiveness in my heart, the “inside me” knew I was not pure and holy. My faith was small, and I did not grasp the concept of substitutionary sacrifice (I was 15). Many years later, on an airplane heading to a business meeting, the Holy Spirit used a book I was reading to make me realize, without doubt, that I really was clean and righteous and pure, only because Jesus is those things and He did the work to put His clean-ness on me. Satan still comes and whispers my weakness and unrighteousness in my ear and tempts me to doubt the work that has been done on my behalf. I just remind him (and myself) that I belong to Jesus and even though I am unworthy and unrighteous, I am covered in His blood and that changes everything. It makes me presentable to the Father, which means pure, holy and sinless – uncondemned!

Even more, it makes me beloved and precious to Him! He loves me and wants my heart and I only want to give it to Him. His blood is sufficient to cover all my sin – past and future.

Under the law, the tabernacle/temple and the people had to be purified with blood – sprinkled on every specific aspect of the people and place (Lev 17). We are recently, of necessity, getting a better understanding of purification, and the need for every touchable area and thing to be purified. That was the job of the high priest, every year, and what Christ fulfilled once for all. Sin is every bit as insidious as a virus, and without Jesus, we are powerless to overcome it. But thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift, we don’t have to overcome sin, it has been done for us.

Praise Him and celebrate that gift this Easter season. Whether you are quarantined or celebrating with family or if by some miracle we can all celebrate together we have so much to celebrate! He promises that we are never alone and although we are subject to physical viruses, we cannot be infected by the ailment of sin if we have our hope in Jesus and are covered by His blood.

“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor 15:54-57

The Phoenix church was privileged to host the Mid-Winter Elder Conference. What a wonderful week we experienced, and trust God will abundantly bless the work that was done by all those attending and serving. We must pray for our leadership during these trying times, that the Holy Spirit would clearly guide them and fill them with wisdom from above.

We also appreciated the service of many visiting elders and ministers over the past several weeks. These include Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson, AZ), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Mark Roth (Sis. Tammy, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH).

We recently learned of the passing of Ramona Wenninger, who was one of the first converts to be baptized in the Phoenix church. We sympathize with her family as they bid her farewell.

Our Sunday school participated in a unique event when they had a Nerf war. Heavy rains caused it to be moved indoors, but we understand it was a screaming success! We appreciate our Sunday school leaders who put the time and effort into these events that encourage and strengthen friendships within our church family. Not long after that event, things began to close down due to the virus spread. We pray for all, and especially our church community, to be protected and that it will be contained or mitigated, through man’s efforts or a miracle, all according to God’s will.
Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

“Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the Lord. Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.” Haggai 1:5-10

My heart ached reading these verses during the first week the US started shutting down businesses and calling for social distancing. Being from the millennial generation, consistency and stability are all we know. Yet our society has put stock in the things off this earth rather than God. Even as a Christian, it can be easy to focus on financial planning, vacations and fulfilling occupations. When God is not our first, all those things will leave one empty, continuing to search for more. Only God can sustain. Focus our first efforts on building up the temple of the Lord within our hearts.

Thankful for visiting ministers Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Gregg Rumbold (Sis. Heather, Peoria, IL), and Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN). Thank you to all of the supporting winter visitors that have come to Prescott. We truly enjoy your fellowship.

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

We are praying that by the time this article is published, we have been able to gather in our respective churches and have not let “fear” over take us. God is in control, “from whence cometh my help”. Psalms 121:1

This past month has brought many visitors to our church. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL) for serving communion to our congregation. We also were privileged to host the Eastern European Committee for a Saturday meeting. This brought Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzl (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) to serve on the pulpit. Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North, MN) and Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) also were among our visitors for February and March.

We want to remember our dear friend, Karen Denick (Bro. Gene), who has fallen and broken a hip. She would covet our prayers.

A special thanks to all our winter visitors who willingly served lunch while they were wintering here.

California, Los Angeles/Altadena
Kali Sauder

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” Jeremiah 29:11

In the midst of these uncertain times, this verse reminds us of our God’s sovereignty. He is able to work good from all circumstances on behalf of His beloved people. As Jeremiah the prophet wrote these words, it was a very difficult time for the people of Israel, and this promise was followed by years of battle and exile. This verse does not promise ease and comfort here and now, but it does offer us hope—an expected end, and peace that passes understanding even as we face difficulty.

Such a tangible reminder of this promise to us, Jeremiah Klotzle was born to Bro. Joseph and Sis. Heather Klotzle just as our nation entered into this season of great unknown. Praising God for a healthy baby boy, we trust God has good thoughts over this sweet child, thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give him an expected end. Big sister, Stella, and grandparents Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle and Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Steffen (Alto, MI) welcome news of this good and precious gift.
California, San Diego
Sarah Fulop

We don’t have to look far from our own homes this month to understand the fear and chaos running rampant. It’s another reminder that this world is not our home, but our dwelling place is with God in heaven. Our hope is not in man, but an almighty God that will grant us peace if we seek him with all our hearts. Church is closed for the foreseeable future, but we were thankful for the labors from Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL).

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Sophie Ruth Brewer (Bro. Doug and Sis. Janelle). We look forward to meeting her.

The topic of prayer has been very close to my heart these last few months. I recently listened to the podcast on intercessory prayer on AC central. It’s funny how we tend to say, “at least we can pray.” I would challenge all of us to instead view prayer as a powerful tool in attacks against the devil and to carry the burdens of one another. We get to pray and must pray for one another.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” Ephesians 6:18

I am seeing this verse come to life at this very moment. San Diego has been hit with two tragedies this past week. Justin Michal’s father passed away and we want to extend our love and prayers to him and his family during this difficult time. My sister, Sis. Lizzie Gasser (Bro. Todd, Smithville, OH) remains in critical condition after complications from giving birth to their sweet daughter, Juniper Joy. Sis. Lizzie is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Joy Fulop. She had open heart surgery and a group of believers spent the night in prayer for healing. We know that heaven is a beautiful place and release each soul to God, however, prayers of physical healing are still asked in faith. Our families feel the prayers of all the saints and are connected in love to the body of Christ.

A friend of mine asked me if there was anything she could do for me. Feeling over-burdened and afraid, I asked her to pray on my behalf because I couldn’t find the words myself. I will end with the verses she sent me:

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Ephesians 3:14-19

Colorado, Denver
Tess Leman

Greetings of love because of Jesus!

This year is off to an interesting start, isn’t it? Recently, I’ve been reminded of the saying “You don’t know what you’ve got until it’s gone”. In a time when we’re asked by our government to restrict assembly size, I have a feeling we’ll be realizing (even more) what a gift it is to gather together! We need each other and hope you’ll join me in praying that the devil won’t worm his way into our church families while we are apart. Similar to a husband and wife having a time of separation, we need to be vigilant against the schemes of the evil one!

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” 1 John 4:4

We have enjoyed having Bro. Nathan and Sis. Mary Hoffman from Rittman, OH among us. Bro. Nathan has a work project here for a few months and the family decided to come along!

With joy we share that Sam Zarkovacki (Bro. George and Sis. Lily) has begun his walk on the straight and narrow path to Zion! Sam has made the best decision and our prayers and accountability accompany him!

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.” 3 John 1:4
Connecticut, Rockville

Julie Bauman, Heidi Beutel

We are thankful for Connor Hany (Bro. Paul and Sis. Betsy), Lydia Welti (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jill) and Jeremy Zahner (Bro. Kent and Sis. Karen) as they were announced for baptism. We look forward to hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms on the weekend of April 18-19.

We are thankful for the gift of new life as we rejoice in the birth of two new babies. Westin David was born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Joanna Gottier. William and Courtney Vitalie, along with Emmaline, welcomed Charlotte Anne to their family.

Our prayers are with Bro. Rich and Sis. Andrea Hany as their little Leighton underwent surgery.

District of Columbia, Washington

Henrietta Meyer

Our March caretakers had something come up, so they were unable to come this month. Sis. Bonnie Dotterer (Forrest, IL), last month’s caretaker, stayed a few extra days to help us. In the coming months, if you would be able to come for a few weeks on short notice to be a caretaker, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at dkgsteen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574 to take advantage of the opportunity.

This month we welcomed Sis. Adrienne Kaehr from Bluffton, IN to our congregation. We are glad to have her here with us.

Florida, Fort Lauderdale

Renee Mangold

Our congregation, along with many others, send our Christian sympathy to the Wiegand family after the death of retired Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand. Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel were our first caretakers back in 2007. We got to know them as they visited their east coast family, Elder Bro. Ben (Sis. Michelle) in Philadelphia, PA and Bob (Chiu) Potomac, MD.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Eric Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville, IL), Bro. Eric Weiss (Sis. Amanda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Joe Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR). We also had visitors from Bluffton, IN. We are thankful for visitors and for them letting us know they are coming.

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 Myers

Mary Masters, Terri Young

There are many verses that we can turn to for peace in the midst of the chaos, as we know that God’s Word is the only place to find answers.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27
“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

We don’t need to fear or have anxiety when we are in the care of a good and sovereign Father. Do we trust Him, come what may?

We give praises for answered prayers in healing as Bro. Don Kaufmann and little Beckett Steidinger spent time in the hospital this month. Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Verena Knapp who passed away. Sis. Verena used to winter with us and her daughter Mardel is part of our local church family now. We also are prayerful for Sis. Brenda Kieser (Bro. Randy) and family as her father passed away. We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. David Huette (Sis. Susan) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy) both from Tremont, IL. Also, Bro. Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Brad Wiegand (Sis. Deanna, Rockville, CT).

Our number is growing smaller now Sunday to Sunday. To everything there is a season. May spring bring new life not just outside, but in our hearts and souls, as well.

The New Beginnings

This has been a season of rest, regrouping and renewal. We believe God has cleansed and pruned, and now we are cleaning, organizing and painting in preparation for new moms to come to our ministry.

Arzu is nearing the end of the first semester of the nursing program and has done very well. We’re so proud of her as she continues to grow and mature as a Christian and as a mother. We all often have meals together and it is heartwarming to witness her teaching Demir to pray and thank God for the food and blessings in life. Lina is now settled into her own apartment with Aiden, working as a Medical Assistant at a nearby Lee Health clinic and continues to enjoy her work. Janice has decided to pursue other options for her and her girls and is no longer with the program. We continue to keep her and all of these moms and kids in our prayers. We ask for you to pray along with us for God to bring us young single moms who truly want to change and would appreciate the opportunity that TNB could offer. Also, continued prayer for God to bring the Executive Director that He would have for this ministry. Thank you for your prayers!

We use the phrase here at TNB, “More is caught than taught.” As our entire country enters into a crisis right now, people are watching to see how Christians handle it. We have shared our faith many times with others. Now, they want to see if we are just giving lip-service or to see if our faith is real and solid. May God grant us strength and peace to face the worldly panic and uncertainties with increased faith, grace, patience and compassion.

“Heave not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9

Florida, Sarasota
Sandra Kaeb

We recently were reminded to walk the talk not just talk the talk. “Your walk talks and your talk talks, but your walk talks louder than your talk talks. Your behavior towards your neighbor tells how you really feel about the Saviour. When we follow through with what we say and do, the Father will be glorified. Let’s walk the talk not just talk the talk.” Mark Tramell

This month we were blessed by these brothers on our pulpit. Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis Gloria, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL). May God reward them for their willingness to serve us.

Bro. Doyle reminded us “As we live here below, we don’t often think of life as a choice between Heaven or Hell. For it is not Heaven or Hell but really a choice between Heaven or Earth. Do we choose earthly joys for self or are we sacrificing for the Heavenly joys that awaits us for eternity”?

Sis. Marylou Joos retired from cleaning church. She has kept our church clean and spotless for many years. Her replacement is Sis. Elaine Muller and son Keith.

This month we remember those who had misfortunes and losses. Sis. Marylou Joos had hip surgery and Bro. Gordon Bryant broke his femur with a fall.
Sis. Aldine Martin passed from this earthly life on February 27. Prayers are for her children and grandchildren as she was a mother who taught the truth from God’s word. She was a blessing to our small church and will be sorely missed.

The weekend of February 14, was the all family camping weekend. Many of the younger families went to explore and enjoy God’s beautiful nature.

“When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees. When I look down on lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. Then sings my soul my Saviour God to thee, how great thou art.”

How Great thou Art, Hymns of Zion #302

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere
Rick and Komari Aberle

Christian greetings from Hospital Lumiere in Bonne Fin, Haiti. Due to ongoing crime in Haiti, and the growing pandemic of the coronavirus, we have not had many visitors over the past month. As the uncertainty of this time grows throughout the world, we can continue to take comfort that our God holds us in the palm of His hand, with a wonderful hope. Please continue to pray for the mission and those served by the hospital.

Haiti, Les Cayes
Mike and Susie Walder

We just said goodbye to the last of the many teams that came this month. The coronavirus situation is marking a stopping point for all travel for a while. We appreciate the efforts of the Apostolic water aid team from Roanoke, the Haiti trade school team from Remington, and the team from Rittman and Smithville that came for the child sponsorship office AC installation.

Earlier this month there was a construction team from Rittman and Wolcott that installed a church roof on the nearby island of Ile-a-Vache, many on the Good Vision Dairy Farm board were here, as well as a group that came to support SEED Ministries. We enjoyed several first-time visitors this winter and we pray your visit was as much a blessing to you as is was to us. It is always interesting to see another view of Haiti through fresh eyes. May God give the reward for the gifts and talents you all shared in His service.

God’s love for us is our motivator to love our neighbor as well. If we don’t share love with others, it shows there is really nothing there at all and our lives are without meaning. Love is the greatest gift we can give and it is the more excellent way. In 1 John 3 we are assured that love is of God, and everyone who loves is born of God.

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

Illinois, Belvidere
Darcy Steffen

Jehovah Jireh: the Lord will provide. In the past few weeks, we have seen the world turned upside down by this virus that is spreading rapidly. Are you and I fighting fear and confusion with the masses, or are we sweetly resting in Jesus? My favorite hymn in the Zion’s Harp is a perfect reminder of how God provided for saints in the past and how He will do the same for us.

“Noah’s ark long drifted on the surging flood But with eyes uplifted, trusted he in God. When throughout life’s journey raging storms I see This shall be my comfort: God is still with me. Jesus’ death arena and His cross and grave Teach me wait serenely God’s will sure and safe My support and pillar and my gain is He My strong fort in terror; God is still with me. He broke Peter’s fetters, opened doors for Paul He will those deliver who trust Him in all. So I’ll wander gladly, till my home I see And in Zion’s mansion, God is still with me.”

God is Still With Me, Zion’s Harp #148

Because the state of Illinois is under quarantine, we were forced to postpone Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty Bachtold’s 50th wedding anniversary celebration. We wish
them God’s richest blessings on this milestone and are so grateful for the wisdom and love they have poured into our Belvidere church family over the years.

We were blessed to be able to gather together earlier this month to participate in the annual church cleaning day. It is always a blessing to work together, but let’s remember that what the Lord is really looking for is a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle!

Illinois, Bloomington- Normal
Sara Anliker, Kinsey Dotterer

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” 1 John 5:11

What an exciting and prayerful season has begun. Preparations and meditation on our Lord and Savior’s death and resurrection gives us a beautiful chance to enter into a deeper relationship with our Father.

We have recently finished up our Bible study on Evangelism and came together during our church retreat to focus corporately on Loving God, Loving One Another and Loving the Lost. It was a wonderful time as a church family to learn and see what God will do when we position ourselves to be used in his divine appointments.

As we have needed to re-think ways in which we normally do life and gather together, it gives us a unique opportunity to reach out to those that surround us and present God’s love. We especially want to lift up Bro. Kevin and Sis. Dixie Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Knapp as they walk through the loss of their mother, Sis. Verena Knapp. We also lift up those that are going through treatments and surgeries for medical conditions and pray for peace and comfort.

As we all navigate these days ahead, may we each feel the powerful presence of our loving Father. May God bless you and keep you!

Illinois, Bradford
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

We usually are sitting in church on a Wednesday evening. Instead, because of recent public health warnings, I’m at home writing Silver Lining news. It’s a strange feeling, going about life as usual, but realizing that you won’t be assembling with the brethren for….. how long? Well, the Lord knows, and He will provide.

We rejoiced with Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev Endress when granddaughter Sophie Ruth was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Janelle Brewer (San Diego, CA). The late Sis. Kathy Brewer of Peoria, IL was Sophies paternal grandmother.

Gary and Ev were able to extend their winter visit and help with the new baby for several days.

Our ministering Bro. Barry (Sis. Rachel) Dietz announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Anna, to Bro. Talon Sauder of Tremont, IL, son of Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder. May the Lord bless these families as they make plans for the wedding day.

We were blessed by visiting ministers during the past month: Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena, Elgin, IL), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Jeff Leman (Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Ryan Schock (Sis. Melanie, Bloomfield, IA), and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO). Some of these families had traveled here for our March Invite-a-Guest weekend.

On the previous Friday, a large group gathered at church for a HarvestCall family night, completing meals, blankets, and school kits for the benefit of people at home and abroad.

Illinois, Champaign
Brent Young

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death. . .” Rev 21:4

After 25 plus years without a funeral in our Champaign church building, we had our second in as many months. We laid to rest our dear friend Lois Vogel (Bro. Jerry) and now look toward how we can support our Bro. Jerry in the weeks and months ahead.

Many of us traveled to Forrest to attend the funeral service for our retired Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Sis. Ethel). Bro. Dave served the Champaign church in many ways, including as the first local minister and first resident elder. Bro. Dave shared with me once that when he was put in the ministry, he was alone on the pulpit in Champaign (then in Urbana) for his first nine sermons! He told this story without complaint; another example of his
willingness to serve, for which we will always be grateful. We’ve now laid to rest the only two resident elders in our history and look forward to God’s blessing on the process to raise up another brother for this duty. God has been faithful in the past and will be faithful still.

We sorrow also with our Sis. Linda Kupferschmid (Bro. Chad) in the passing of her mother, Sis. Marjorie Blunier (Bro. Wayne, Roanoke, IL).

We extend our appreciation to Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) for sharing the word with us this month.

Our UI young group hosted their annual parent appreciation dinner which includes both the parents of our college students as well as the local church. It is always a tremendous blessing to get to know the parents of our college students. If your child is considering schooling in our area please feel free to reach out any time for more information about Parkland College, the University of Illinois, our community, or our church family.

**Illinois, Chicago**

*Diana Eisenmann*

We rejoice to welcome another brother into our church family. Bro. Skip Nemecek shared his testimony of faith and was baptized in March. Thanks to Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) for visiting and helping with this special weekend.

In February we enjoyed our first Fellowship Night of the year, as well as the Sunday school benefit dinner. For the benefit program, the Sunday school students shared skits and songs celebrating the importance of God’s guidance and instruction in our lives.

In March we had another WoW at the Well gathering where we discussed how to deal with worry in a spiritually healthy manner.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Heather Knapp will replace Bro. Blake and Sis. Christine Stahl as church directory coordinators. We thank both couples for their service in this role.

Our prayers are with Sis. Christine Eckel as she continues to experience declining health after a fall several months ago.

We mourn with our brothers and sisters who have lost loved ones recently. Elder Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Forrest, IL) passed away in March. He was the grandfather of Sis. Tiera Wiegand. Destini Rassi (Georgetown, TX) also passed away in March. She was the niece of Sis. Kathy Schlatter (Bro. Jim) and a cousin to Sis. Katrina Cordero (Aridio). May our kind Heavenly Father provide peace and comfort to these families.

**Illinois, Cissna Park**

*Denise Kaeb, Joan Rudin*

As the clouds of turmoil surround us, what a blessing to feel “it is well with my soul”, and to understand that in Christ we have “an anchor that shall hold” no matter what the circumstances around us.

We, as a church, have been encouraged by several sizable groups of young, single members who joined us for Sunday and mid-week services this past month. Thank you to each one who has made the effort to come and worship with us. The fellowship of like-minded brethren is such a blessing. Singing is especially vibrant when we have many young voices joining in songs of praise and worship.

God’s blessings to Bro. Trevor and Sis. Amy Kaeb (Bro. Todd and Sis. Val Kaeb, Cissna Park, IL, and Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb Beer, Milford, IN) as they recently joined hand and heart in holy matrimony. We can feel and see the testimony of God’s power in their experiences and their lives as we witnessed Him drawing them together by His Spirit.

Our sympathies go to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Delores Knapp, and Sis. Doris Knapp in the loss of their Sister-in-law, Sis. Verena Knapp, from Bloomington, IL.

“Th’ the angry surges roll
On my tempest-driven soul,
I am peaceful, for I know,
Wildly though the winds may blow,
I’ve an anchor safe and sure,
That can ever-more endure.
And it holds, my anchor holds;
Blow your wildest, then, O gale,
On my bark so small and frail:
By His grace I shall not fail,
For my anchor holds,
it firmly holds,
My anchor holds.”

*My Anchor Holds, Gospel Hymns, #773*

As the clouds of turmoil surround us, what a blessing to feel “it is well with my soul”, and to understand that in Christ we have “an anchor that shall hold” no matter what the circumstances around us.
In past years, Sis. Verena and her late husband, Bro. Ralph, spent many years as an active part of our Cissna Park congregation.

Spending time in the hospital lately were Bro. Doug Walder and Sis. Dorothy Rudin. We are thankful for the faithful workers and loving care that Fairview Haven provides for our elderly, where Sis. Dorothy currently resides.

A special thank you to our visiting ministers. Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL), along with a number of other visitors, were a blessing to have with us on the day many from Cissna were gone to Milford, IN for the wedding. Bro. Zach Anderson (Sis. Karla, Congerville, IL) helped with the funeral service of Bro. Gib Stock. Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott, IN) shared a topical Bible presentation on “Godly Wisdom” with us. May God bless each one for their willing service.

We should remember Christ’s death and suffering at all times, but may we concentrate on it more intensely during this upcoming Easter season, renewing our thankfulness to Him for the great sacrifice He made for us on Calvary.

Illinois, Congerville
Mary Knapp, Erica Steffen

A precious little bundle was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Troy and Sis. Amanda Plattner. Lukas David is also much loved by his siblings, Roman and Nora, and grandparents, Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally Plattner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Eureka, IL).

On March 14, after much prayer, our Bro. Zach Anderson was put in as our Ordained Deacon. We appreciate Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) for their assistance in this work. We are so thankful to the Lord for His provision, and take confidence in His nearness in the days ahead. In this uncertain time, the promises of our powerful God are a comforting rock to cling to.

“He holds the key of all unknown, and I am glad;
If other hands should hold the key, Or, if He trusted it to me, I might be sad.
The very dimness of my sight makes me secure;
For, groping in my misty way, I feel His hand;
I hear Him say “My help is sure.”
Enough; this covers all my wants, and so I rest;
For what I cannot, He can see, And in His care I safe shall be, forever blest.”
He Holds the Key, Gospel Hymns 399

Illinois, Elgin
Amy Gasser

We thank Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) for ministering to us recently.

We rejoice with Braedon Schambach (Bro. Lynwood and Sis. Jamie), who has begun his repentance.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy Wewetzer welcomed a new grandson, Clayton Michael, born to Kurt and Viola Wewetzer on February 27. His big brother is Colton, and his maternal grandmother is Geraldine Bottiglieri (the late Michael) of Galena, IL.

Bro. Anthony Eason and Sis. Kaysha Blomgren were married in Lester, IA on March 15. Their parents are Bro. George and Carole Eason and Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia Blomgren (Lester, IA). We wish them God’s blessings and welcome Sis. Kaysha to our Elgin congregation!

May the Lord watch between us while we are absent one from another and are not able to assemble and worship together for a time.

“Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend,
Thro’ thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.”
Be Still, My Soul, Hymns of Zion, #191

Illinois, Eureka
Debra Blunier, Lavonne Schumacher
Pray. Wait. Trust. Three very fitting words always, but particularly now. As so many of our plans and our daily routines have been interrupted, postponed, or cancelled, we are reminded that God is in control, and that we must not put any limit on Him. Nor should we limit our willingness to pray, to wait on God’s timing, and to trust in His love and care.

The second Saturday in March was a blessed time of fellowship, as guests from many congregations visited for an Invite-a-Friend Weekend. Our plans abruptly changed when Sunday services had to be cancelled due to coronavirus concerns. But we were very thankful for the technology that enables us to listen in on sermons from our congregations across the land. We certainly joined in spirit, though not in body.

We are always uplifted by God’s Word through our own and visiting ministers. We give thanks that Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya, Bradford, IL) willingly served us from the pulpit.

Although we are very thankful for hospitals and nursing homes, we are also thankful when our loved ones can leave them, as their health improves. Sis. Charlene (Bro. Bob) Schumacher is again home and feeling better, and is very thankful for all the cards, prayers, and loving support she received.

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

Are we getting all caught up in the frenzy of the world as they react to the pandemic racing across the globe? Jesus told us not to be afraid. Can we rest peacefully in His promises? Our great God is still in control. He will carry us through this unprecedented time in our lives. Come, let us bow before Him, worship, honor and praise Him! We pray He will work His work in our lives, our families, our churches, our nation and the world. We pray He will bless His children with peace.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Darl and Sis. Janelle Rassi, Bro. Denver and Sis. Sharon Rassi, and their families in the loss of their sister, Destini (Georgetown, TX). We deeply grieve with these dear couples, along with their parents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane, Bastrop, TX, and their brother, Derek and Rebekah, Rock Rapids, IA. We pray for the Holy Spirit of comfort on this dear family.

We thank those visitors ministering the Word to us over the past month. It was a blessing to have Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Ryan Hoerr (Sis. Joy, Princeville, IL). May God bless these brothers for their labors of love.

A baby boy, Jacob Wayne, was born to Bro. Neil and Sis. Kay Kaisner. Welcoming their new brother home are Cody, Thadd, Aubrey and Ethan. Grandparents are Phil and Charlotte Leman and Sis. Donna Kaisner (late Bro. Jerry).

Illinois, Forrest
Carissa Knapp, Marsha Lanz
“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair...always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.” 2 Corinthians 4:8,10

As we face uncertainty in the coming days, may we continue to look to Jesus to provide stability in these unsettling times. While we may not always understand the decisions made and the requirements given, let us be prayerful for those in authority and remember that love and concern for others is always the right choice (along with hand-washing)!

24 SILVER LINING April 2020
We were thankful for the many visitors who blessed our congregation, including Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City/Atlanta, GA), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa), and Bro. James Schneider (Sis. Tonya) all of Silverton, OR.

Our hearts are with the family of Elder Bro. David Wiegand who recently passed away. We especially want to remember his wife, Sis. Ethel, and their children, Elder Bro. John (Sis. Jane) of Silverton, OR, Elder Bro. Ben (Sis. Michelle) of Philadelphia, PA, Bob (Chiu) of Potomac, MD, and Becca (Bill) Wilson of Vancouver WA. We also extend sympathy to his grandchildren and his sister, Sis. Virginia Hilti.

We rejoice with our new converts, Kylie Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly) and Remington Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki). May they feel God's peace in their hearts as they surrender their lives to Him.

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

Greetings of love to each and every one! What a privileged people we are to be able to worship in complete freedom! As I sit down to write this, I am feeling a bit overwhelmed with the happenings of the day. COVID-19! Someone sent me this acronym a couple days ago and it was so comforting to me that I wanted to share with you.

C - Christ
O - over
V - viruses and
I - infectious
D - diseases
19 - Joshua 1:9

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9

May we all rest in the peaceful assurance of our great God during this crisis! Praying for our dear elder brothers as they recently met in Arizona and now as they lead us through the COVID-19 situation. May we hold them up in prayer always.

Bro. Mike Kaisner (Sis. Mindy, Peoria, IL) was our only visiting minister this month and we surely thank him for the visit and hope they return soon. Our thanks again go to our home ministers for the continued teaching they provide so willingly on a weekly basis. We recently voted for church offices and we thank all who have served in the past year and give our loving support to those elected for new terms. Teaching our precious children will be new teachers Sis. Haley Rokey, Sis Amy (Marki)Sinn, Bro. Troy (Sis. Carrie) Blunier, Bro. Curt (Sis. Larissa) Wettstein, Bro. Sam (Kristen) Rokey, and Bro. Jared (Sis. Angie) Schieber. Our new trustee is Bro. Jim (Sis. Ree) Hartman. Our prayerful support is extended to all who serve.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Darcy Schock welcomed Nyah Katherine into their family circle on March 16. Big sisters, Kina and Renly, along with grandparents Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price (Milford, IN) also extend a loving welcome to the little lass.

Sis. Vi Wagner celebrated her 97th birthday and was surprised with a card shower. We are blessed to have a number of mostly nursing home residents that are 90 and above. What precious wisdom we can glean from visiting these dear ones. Several have had health issues lately and we lift them up in prayer to the Father, Sis. Elna Grimm, Sis. Mildred Heimold, Bro. Gale Wiegand and Bro. Steve Wiegand. As of this writing, all are mending and doing much better.

We are so thankful for Godly marriages and families and we extend our warm wishes to Bro. Ken and Sis. Phyllis Rokey as they celebrated their 60th anniversary. Praying for this dear couple as they transition into a different phase of life as Bro. Ken recently moved into the nursing home and Sis. Phyllis moved into a condo to be closer to the home and her husband.

Our dear Sis. Sara (Bro. Herman) Glueck lost her father, Peter Baer, very unexpectedly. Peter was also the brother-in-law of our dear Pauline (George) Glueck. Our sympathy and love goes out to these dear families, praying that they feel God's nearness and presence during this time of loss. We also grieve with
the Tony and Portia Reeser family
in the unexpected loss of their
infant son, Samuel. Tony is the
grandson of our Bro. Harold and
Sis. Vi Reeser, both deceased, and
attended Sunday school here in
Goodfield years ago.

In closing, may God be mightily
by our side in the troubling times
we are experiencing.

“For God hath not given us
the spirit of fear; but of power,
and of love, and of a sound
mind.” II Timothy 1:7

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

Sis. Randi Lowery was married
to Bro. Seth Schaffer on March 15.
She is the daughter of Lisa Lowery,
Chatsworth, and the late Randy
Lowery; and he is the son of Bro.
Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer of
the Forrest congregation. Here for
the occasion was ministering Bro.
Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kimberly,
St. Louis, MO), and Bro. Arlan
Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL).
We wish this newly married couple
much happiness as they center their
life following the Lord, in a “three-
fold-cord.” We also thank the
visiting ministers for their labors.

Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri,
of West Lafayette, IN), spoke on
Wednesday evening, March 11. His
topical Bible presentation was on
“Fasting.” His efforts are appreciated.

Bro. Seth Kaeb was married to
Sis. Andreen Smith in Jamaica. He
is the son of Elder Bro. Harvey and
Sis. Judy Kaeb of our congregation.
She is the daughter of Angela
Harriot of Kingston, Jamaica and the
late Richard Smith. God be
with this couple, now and always.

As of this writing, our nation
is faced with a situation that is
hard to imagine, a coronavirus
pandemic, an illness with no
known vaccines to combat it.
Intense research and the quest
to cure it have been initiated.
Quarantines and limited social
contact were started on a
nationwide basis to help prevent
exposure to the virus. Much
prayer and supplication have been
expended to ask God for help
and assurance. The entire nation
seemed to hover under a cloud
of uncertainty. Surely, God is
mindful of these concerns and
hears our appeals.

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner

We thank Bro. Joe Gerber (Sis.
Heidi, Champaign, IL) for serving
us on the pulpit March 1.

March 4 our Bro. Andrew
Rassi (Sis. Sandy) spoke at our
Family Worship Night on the
topic “In Light of Eternity-Heaven
Is Real”. He asked the question,
“Who gets to Heaven?” The
answer, those who are forgiven.
The details are in God’s Word.

“Let not your heart be troubled:
ye believe in God believe also
in me. In my Father’s house are
many mansions: if it were not
so, I would have told you. I go
to prepare a place for you. And if
I go to prepare a place for you, I
will come again, and receive you
unto myself, that where I am, there
ye may be also.” John 14:1-3

Several in our congregation
said farewell to loved ones in the
past month. Eileen Knapp (Bill) of
Morton was a sister to Sis. Helen
Zobrist (late Bro. Howard) who
resides in Roanoke. James (Jim)
Crump of El Paso was a brother to
Sis. Barbara (Bro. Dennis) Stoller.
Sis. Virginia Hoerr (late Bro. Jim) of
Peoria was the sister of our Bro. Bob
(Sis. Barb) Moser. Bro. Ellsworth
“Ike” Martin of Princeville was Sis.
Doris (Bill) Michel’s brother. May
God comfort these dear families as
only He can.

We rejoice with two families
who have welcomed baby girls.
February 6, Ivy Jo joined the
family of Ben and Tracy Bucher,
Valparaiso, IN. Her siblings
are Jude, Lucy and Milly.
Grandparents are Bro. Joe and
Sis. Barb Zimmerman, Morton
and Bro. Tim and Sis Julie Bucher
of Valparaiso, IN. We welcome
into our Morton church family,
Marlee Elizabeth, born to Matt
and McKenzie Portscheller on
March 1. Her big sister is Avery
and grandparents are Bro. Dave
and Sis. Krista Ploussard.

We thank the Phoenix
congregation for hosting the
Mid-Year Elder Conference. We
thank our elder brothers for their
labors of love on our behalf and
for their support of our Bro. Ted
Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) to be
our next elder.

As we acknowledge the
uncertainty of the times we are
living in, may we have the faith to
know that God is in control and
He will take care of us.
“Be careful for nothing, but in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Sunday, March 15 our Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna) brought us a timely message on the story of Naaman from II Kings 5. Even though Bro. Ted was preaching to an empty church, at the direction of our government, we are thankful for modern technology that allowed us to listen to the sermon in our homes. We could feel his love for us and look forward to his ordination as our new elder when the present circumstances improve, and we are allowed to gather again in our church. In the meantime, may this experience remind us of the special blessing, privilege and freedom to worship as we please that we so often take for granted.

As this article is being read, we will be remembering Christ’s death on the cross and celebrating His resurrection. Let us look forward to the day we will be with Him in heaven, if we have repented of our sins, surrendered our lives unto Him and been forgiven.

“Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright
and blessed,
He’ll prepare for us a place.
While we walk the pilgrim pathway,
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when traveling days are over,
Not a shadow, not a sigh.
Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
will the toils of life repay
Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we’ll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open,
We shall tread the streets of gold.
When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing
that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We’ll sing and shout the victory.”
Hymns of Zion/Tabernacle
Hymns #351

Illinois, Peoria
Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

How thankful we can be in these troubled times that God is with us! Although we do not know the future, we can trust the one who does! Jesus will be with us each step we take and shelters us in His arms!

Our Sis. Virginia Hoerr (late Bro. Jim) has passed into eternity. She was a dear “church mother” to us as well as her own children. Our prayers for comfort are for children, Joyce (John) Benko, Dianne (Happy) Leman, Nancy (Brian) Harvey, Benjamin (Tina) Hoerr, Timothy (Toni) Hoerr and Nathan (Suzanne) Hoerr and for her sister Sis. Doris (Bro. Leon) Kuntz and brother Bro. Robert (Sis. Barbara) Moser.

Thoughts of sympathy are extended to several in our church who have lost loved ones. Sis. Mary (Bro. Merle) Weyneth lost her brother Bro. Dennis Davis (Bloomington-Normal, IL).

Richard Norton father of Nola Norton (Mary Funk) passed away. Sis. Brenda (Bro. Randy) Kieser’s father Bro. Ike Martin (Princeville, IL) passed away after a short illness. Bro. Marvin (Sis. Donna) Frank of Tremont, IL has bid an earthly farewell to his sisters Sis. Joanne (Bro. Bill) Scholl and Sis. Carole (David) Barnard. May God be near each grieving heart!

Our church enjoyed the monthly hymn sing with Sunday school students participating and a trio from Morton who blessed us with their songs.

What a blessing to have new babies born into the church family! Bro. Brett and Sis. Alexandra Hoerr welcome a sister for little August. Her name is Poppy Lucille. Bro Carl and Sis. Debby Hoerr and Bro. Brian and Mary Elsasser are grandparents. Twin girls, Heidi Jane and Lydia Joy, were born to Bro. Karl and Sis. Monica Kirsch. Big brother Grant and grandparents Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier will be giving them lots of love. May God give His guidance to these young families!

Illinois, Princeville
Melinda Christ, Cherie White

“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

May our focus be stayed upon Him during these unsettling times. We need to foster opportunities to instill hope and faith in each other and not to get caught up in all the news and statistics. Our God always has
been and will continue to be in control. May we be encouraged!

On the evening of February 28, a presentation on Men’s Purity was given at our Fellowship Hall. As God provided for Israel in having “men that had understanding of the times” 1 Chronicles 12:32, even today He provides men of understanding, Bro. Carli Hoerr and Bro. Bill Schick, both of our Peoria congregation, to counsel our brethren and young men with current struggles they face.

Our Elder Bro. Craig Martin exhorted us with many scriptures regarding examining our walk with Christ in preparation for taking Holy Communion. It is always good to be reminded and encouraged to check our spiritual health and return to our first love. We look forward to remembering our Saviour who gave His all that we may have the hope to eternally live with Him!

We were so blessed with many visitors who came to our Invite-a-Guest on March 8. Those ministering and worshipping with us were Bro. David Harter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kimberly, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) and Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL). We enjoyed a full day of fellowship, sharing a supper and singing praises to God. What a wonderful church family we enjoy!

We extend comfort to Bro. Larry Martin (Sis. Tiffany) in the loss of his dad, Bro. Ellsworth “Ike” Martin, who passed away on March 4. Also keeping our loved ones in thought and prayers are his siblings Sis. Arlys, Sis. Arlene and Bro. Gerald “Pooch,” Martin (Sis. Louise). We will remember Bro. Ike and how he cherished his beloved Bible. We were thankful to have Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) again to share in the service.

Hospitalized this past month was Sis. Mary Lou Joos who had surgery. It is a good time to remember our loved ones in the nursing homes or alone in their own homes who are experiencing loneliness. May God’s comforting Spirit be with each one.

Last Sunday, March 15, retired Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene) had a live service before a small physical gathering at Princeville church while many others using various technologies were able to listen to the service, present in Spirit. Not knowing how long it will be when we can gather again in full attendance, let us not give up hope and become discouraged but count our blessings. While there are times that technology can bare dangers, in this case we can be thankful we have different avenues to still listen to the Word though we are absent one from another.

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,” Philippians 1:3-4

**Illinois, Roanoke**

**Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind**

Rachel Fehr (John and Jane) is engaged to be married to John Bull, son of Fred and Susie Bull, of Elberon, VA. May God bless this dear couple as they look forward to becoming one.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Hannah Wettstein welcomed a daughter, Maevry Lou, into their home on February 20. Her older sisters and brother are Lainey, Emmett, and Rosie, and her thankful grandparents are Janet and Randy Pomeranke and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein. We pray for God’s blessing on this dear family as they raise their children in the admonition of the Lord.

We have been continuing our study of Proverbs. On February 23, Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) spoke on “Wisdom and the Golden Rule” Prov. 3:21-35. Bro. Frank encouraged us to love and have compassion for those who have differing political views, backgrounds, and lifestyles. He also exhorted us that there are no simplistic answers to suffering, but we can take comfort in God’s sovereignty.

On February 26 Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan, Goodfield, IL), exhorted us from Prov. 4 “Wisdom is Supreme.” Some of Bro. Kurt’s points were: Wisdom comes from having a right view of God. Wisdom can be learned and observed. Love and wisdom are intertwined. Jesus is the perfect example of wisdom. We should pursue wisdom. And only through the power of God and His holy spirit can we acquire wisdom.

On March 4 Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan) led our study on Prov. 6:1-19 “Behaving Wisely with Your Resources.” As Proverbs
instructs, Bro. Jonathan encouraged us to be good stewards of our time, talents, and money, realizing they all belong to the Lord. We thank these brothers for their encouraging and convicting messages.

Along these lines, I was listening to a radio program where the speaker was quoting the late Larry Burkett, a Christian financial advisor. Larry was traveling to a city to speak and to counsel people. A man met him at the airport. The man drove a nice car but certainly not a really expensive car. He wore a nice suit but not a terribly high priced suit. And he lived in a lovely home but not a mansion. The man gave away seventy million dollars every year to the advancement of God’s kingdom. The gentleman was asking Larry’s advice about making sure the money he gave was indeed helping the Lord’s work. This is very convicting. Do I live humbly and simply so “my” assets, which are the Lord’s, can be used for the furtherance of God’s kingdom?

On March 11, Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL) exhorted us on “Wisdom Warns Against Sexual Immorality” from Prov. 6:20-35. Bro. Todd related that like a fire that is contained inside a fireplace is a beautiful thing, the sexual union inside of marriage is also a beautiful thing. But, like fire that escapes its enclosure, a sexual relationship outside of the boundary of marriage only brings destruction.

On March 18, Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill) spoke on Prov. 3:1-20 “Wisdom Enhances Every Aspect of Life.” Bro. John used the acronym TRUST to summarize the content of this passage. “T” stands for the truth of God’s word. “R” represents resting in Him and His gracious provision for us. “U” stands for leaning on God’s understanding because our own is marred by our sin and selfishness. “S” represents seeking the Lord and His wisdom. And the final “T” stands for being thankful for all that God is. This message seemed especially appropriate in light of what our nation is dealing with right now. We thank these brothers for humbly serving us.

Our Young Group hosted an Invite on February 29 – March 1. The theme was “Satisfied in Christ.” The group sang a few selections for us after church on Sunday. Our young people also did service projects on Saturday to benefit our church, nursing home, and community. It was a beautiful weekend of worship. We appreciate the young believers in our church, their zeal for the gospel and their humble service to us. May our Lord continue to richly bless them.

Our church and fellowship hall cleaning were held in March. We thank all those who serve our church by being good stewards of the assets the Lord has entrusted to our care.

The Bible Class Spaghetti Supper was held on March 7. It’s always a blessing to see our young people and their parents and teachers working together for a good cause.

March 8 was our pizza dinner/family sing. The Scripture Memory students also gave a program of the Bible verses they have learned this year. What a blessing for our youth to be hiding God’s word in their hearts!

Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Tamara, Wolcott, IN) was our visiting minister on March 8. We thank him for serving us on the pulpit.

Bro. Walt Fehr went to be with the Lord on March 14. His survivors include his sons: Tom, Mike and Curtis all of Roanoke; daughters: Mary Jean (Tex) Streitmatter of Syracuse, UT, and Linda (Mike) Dwyer of Secor, IL; three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Bro. Walt faithfully served his country in World War II, served as a Roanoke businessman and civic leader, and served our church where he fulfilled various roles. He had reached 100 years of age. His children have tenderly cared for him and also previously cared for his dear wife Sis. Arlette before her passing. Bro. Walt was an example of humble contentedness in our Lord.

On March 17, Sis. Marjorie Blunier went home to be with Jesus. Her survivors include her husband Bro. Wayne, daughter Sis. Linda (Bro. Chad) Kupferschmid of Champaign, IL, sons Mark (Cathy) Blunier of Washburn, IL, and Bro. Greg (Sis. JulieAnn) of Pekin, IL, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Also surviving are a sister Marilyn Karris of Springfield, IL, and a brother Donald (Sharon) Himstedt of San Diego, CA. Sis. Marjorie was also
a sister-in-law to Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Bob) Ott. She was very talented and gifted at doing handwork, and she gave many of her creations to others. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, and was a blessing to our church family. May our Lord comfort these dear families in their loss.

Mida Fehr has professed peace with God and man, and Megan Hodel (Sis. Joyce) has begun her walk with the Lord. We are so thankful for the Lord’s redeeming work in the hearts of our loved ones.

Several from our church traveled to Haiti for work projects. Bro. Brent Hodel went with the dairy team and four brothers assisted the well drilling team. We pray for God’s blessing of safety and provision for all those who faithfully serve.

On March 15, Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) encouraged us to use this time when we are dealing with the uncertainties of life related to COVID-19, to minister to the needs of the most vulnerable around us with the love of Christ.

We want to keep Bro. Dave (Sis. Barb) Schwind, Bro. Bob Zimmerman, Sis. Betty Hodel, and Bro. John Sauder in our prayers for our Lord’s healing, peace, and strength as they go through health issues.

**Note of Thanks:**

Thank you for the prayers and kindness shown during the passing of our precious little son and grandson Rudy.

Kirby and Ellie Leman, Sadie, Millie, Harvey and Elsie, Gary and Elna Wettstein, Don and Colleen Leman

**Illinois, Tremont**

**Debbie Aberle, Anita Koch**

“How will today impact tomorrow? We must truly understand sin. Because of Jesus we can change our story.” We were thankful to hear the testimonies, witness baptisms, and welcome Sis. Kinsey Knapp (Bro. Mike and Sis. Janet), and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Krissy Wagenbach (Sis. Lavonne), into our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) assisted with the testimonies. We were happy to have Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL) and Bro. John Steiner, (Sis. Carol, Mediapolis, IA) also join, and minister to us on Sunday. A special thank you to Bro. Bill Wettstein (Sis. Heidi, Eureka, IL) for his topical “Our Connection with God” at our Family Night. We have been reminded that “There is no time to lose, Today is the day, harden not your heart!”

We have rejoiced, and sorrowed, with many in our congregation.

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

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Lucy Kaiser are rejoicing with their newborn son, Jason Lee. Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Paula Wagenbach are his happy grandparents.

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” Hebrews 4:9-11

This scripture was read at the funeral for Sis. Frieda Aberle. Cherishing her memory are her children Sis. Debbie (late Bro. Pete) Aberle, Bro. Tim (Sis. Candi) Aberle, Andy Aberle, Morton, IL, and Sis. Heidi (Bro. Dean) Sinn, Silverton, OR. Sis. Gayle (Bro. Kappy) Koch said goodbye to her mother, Judy Lowman (Manito, IL.) Our hearts also sorrowed with Bro. Mark (Sis. Jamie), Bro. Paul (Sis. Victoria), Bro. David (Sis. Jenna), and Bro. Aaron (Sis. Stephanie) Baer, and Sis. Suzanne (Bro. Rollyn) Aberle at the sudden death of their uncle Peter Baer (Tremont, IL.) May God also bless the mourning hearts of Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi and family as they laid to rest their niece, Destini Rassi (Georgetown, Texas). May God comfort as only He can.

“Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.” Isaiah 43:1

Bro. Marvin Frank won his victory, and entered those pearly gates. Our prayers are with his wife Sis. Donna, and children Bro. Doug (Sis. Cheri), Sis. Susan (Bro. Dale) Glueck, and Dawna Frank.

We rejoice with several more engaged couples: Patrick Simms (Sis. Inga Lelm) is engaged to Madison Schumacher. Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle Oswald are looking forward to gaining two
into their family: Caleb is engaged to Jenna Forbis, and Leah is engaged to Trent Scheuermann. Mary Schaefer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tammy) is engaged to Colton Myers. Luke Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Heather, and Anita) is engaged to Caitlyn Honan. We also rejoiced to hear the announcement of the forthcoming marriage of our Bro. Talon Sauder to Sis. Anna Dietz (Bro. Barry and Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL). Talon’s parents are Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder.

We wish all of these couples God’s richest blessings as they prepare for their lives together!

We are thankful to hear that Sis. Ruth Pflederer is home from the hospital and recuperating. Surgical patients this month have been Sis. Kelly (Kerry) Baer, Bro. Earl Sauder (Sis. Glenna), and Sis. Janice Koch (Bro. Elmon.) May God grant healing!

We wish to thank the Athens, AL congregation for hosting our Tremont Choir. We had a blessed weekend! May God bless you!

We appreciated having Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA) bringing God’s Word to us. One of his thoughts was “There is a cure for SIN. Do we leave the cure on the shelf, or do we apply the remedy?” As we break for a time, because of the coronavirus, may God’s name be glorified, and may we all be drawn closer to Him, and pray that all people everywhere would seek Him!

May God richly bless Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr with abundant grace and wisdom as he was ordained as our new elder on March 15. We were exhorted to have a PURE love: Prayer, Understanding, Respect, and Encouragement. A special thank you to Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for their assistance in this process.

We certainly have appreciated the leadership of Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary) and wish him the love and peace that only God can give.

**Illinois, Washington**

**Lillian Pfaffmann**

God is so good. We are so thankful He has drawn two souls to Him! Jakob Spitzer gave his testimony, was baptized the first Sunday in March, and is now our Brother in Christ. Our late Bro. Phil McVitty witnessed to Chris Mazza in prison and he has surrendered his heart to his Savior! Chris is out of prison and is a free man in two respects now! One cannot realize how God will use us! Truly the key for all of us is to stay pliable so we’re usable!

Of course, socialization, which includes our church services and functions, has been “shut down” with COVID-19. There are presently new challenges in all facets of life. It makes us realize how little we can control about “life” and who really is in charge of everything, the Creator of the Universe! God is God of the past, present, and future. He already knows what lies ahead; just as He knew the storm that would “pop-up” on the Sea of Galilee, to which He said “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:39). So He wants us to rest in His peace with confidence so He can calm our “storm” of concerns, fears, doubts, etc. that want to overwhelm us!

“Be gone, unbelief, my Savior is near,
And for my relief will shortly appear
By faith let me wrestle, and He will perform;
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at the storm.”

Faith’s Confidence,
Zions Harp #87

**Indiana, Bluffton**

**Suzie Fiechter, Liana Reinhard, Olivia Steffen**

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7

What a blessing it is to have the peace of God in the unknown times of our nation and world. It gives us the opportunity to be an example of trusting in God to those around us. Even when events don’t go as planned, we can still trust that God has it under control. Bro. Samuel Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli) and Sis. Erika Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli) were married, even though the number in attendance was limited. We are thankful that Christ is the center of their lives together!

The testimonies and baptisms of six souls was a reason to rejoice this past month. We welcome new members Seth and Kendra Pfister (Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber), Jason and Jeremy Eisenmann (Bro. John...
and Sis. Trudy), Benjamin Kaehr (Bro. Brent and Sis. Allison) and Rachel Baumgartner (Bro. Nick and Sis. Leah). We also celebrate the announcement of a new convert. Morgan Pulver (Bro. Chris and Sis. Kara) began her repentance and we praise God for calling her!

Our church welcomed several newborns recently. Belle Irene was born to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kaitlyn Reinhard. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Kim Reinhard and Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger of Bluffton North. Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci Gerber welcome a new granddaughter, Penelope Sue Willhelm born to Matt and Bethany. Our prayers are with newborn Grayson Jay Rush as he was born premature to Bro. Aaron, Sis. Katy and Emma. Grandparents are Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb Gerber. We know the Lord deeply cares for the little children!

Loving Shepherd Ministries hosted their annual benefit auction. It is a blessing to gather in support of vulnerable children and orphans across the world. We pray God will use the funds for His glory! Our prayers were with our Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda) and our elder body as they gathered for the Mid-Winter Elder Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Adam Neuenschwander did a topical presentation on “Wonder”. We appreciate his willingness to share.

Our prayers are with those in our church body who are experiencing health concerns. Bro. Eric Steffen (Sis. Marcia) was diagnosed with rectal cancer. We pray for wisdom as they seek treatment options. Todd Landrum, son of Sis. Colleen Landrum, had surgery for a growth in his throat and other health problems, and covets prayers. We praise God for the family of Bro. Matt Kaehr (Sis. Olivia) as his current levels appear to be cancer free, but they do appreciate prayers for an upcoming scan to double check.

Our dear Sis. Margaret Gerber passed away peacefully on March 7. Her children are Bro. Greg (Sis. Joan), Bro. Gordon (Sis. Kathy, Bluffton North), Myra (David) Zoll, and Madelyn (Tim) Clark. We pray for the peace of Jesus during this time for her family.

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.” Colossians 3:15

Indiana, Bluffton North
Rhonda Maller, Tiffani Schladenhauffen

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9

No matter how uncertain this world may seem, God promises in His word that He will be with us. As believers we can cling to this promise and show hope and peace to those that are around us. We experienced some of this uncertainty as we had to cancel church on March 15. We do not know what our future plans are, but we know that the Lord does and He is in control.

Things may constantly change, but there are a few things that do not, such as new life and death. Our congregation experienced both of these events this past month. We celebrated new life with Bro. Shawn and Sis. Kaitlyn Reinhard as they gave birth to their first little one, Belle Irene. We rejoice with their family! However, we were also touched by death this month as Bro. Gordon and Sis. Kathy Gerber said goodbye to Bro. Gordon’s mother, Sis. Margaret Gerber (Bluffton, IN). They are thankful she was able to pass peacefully.

We are thankful to Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger for their many years of service to the Bluffton North congregation as Bro. Steve announced his retirement from the pulpit ministry here. We know that the Lord is not done with them yet and has other ways that they will be used for His glory.

Loving Shepherd Ministries held their annual benefit auction. It is so special to see so many people come together and make this event happen, all for the cause of helping children in Haiti, Ethiopia, and the US reach their God-given potential.

Our Junior and Seniors took a weekend trip to Indianapolis, IN and visited our Indianapolis congregation to worship on Sunday. What a blessing to be able to visit other churches in our brotherhood.

Our local Apostolic Christian homeschooling group put on a play this month. This has become an
annual event the last several years and is looked forward to by all. Bro. Rod Mounsey (Sis. Rosemary), Sis. Bethany Maller, and Sis. Marcia Brewster (Bro. Brian) have spent some time in the hospital recently. We pray they would stay encouraged and keep an upward focus in their time of recovery.

Indiana, Francesville
Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.” Psalm 46: 1-3

Prayers were offered for healing of Bro. Bob Wuethrich (Sis. Phyllis), Ben Masten (Leo IN), Ekko Klopfenstein, daughter of Jason and Rachel of Leo, and granddaughter of Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber.

We welcomed Bro. Jason Huber (Sis. Joy, Leo, IN) as he gave our sermon on-line this past Sunday. We are grateful for this technology!

We are also thankful to have Bro. Les and Sis. Christine Kaeb home from Haiti.

Thanks were given from Bro. Dale and Sis Andria Schneider for the cards and meals they received during Amanda’s surgery and recovery.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber sent thanks to all the workers who have volunteered their willing hands to help with the HarvestCall work being done in Texas. The Lord provided!

We look forward to testimonies and baptisms on May 16 and 17 for Isaiah Cook (Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana) and for Kenia Hernandez, (Sonia Hernandez).

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Julie Rocke

Wow, what a difference a month makes to what is “normal life!” With all of the news and concerns floating about us, isn’t it wonderful that we serve a God who is bigger than all of this? So many verses shared, so many Bible stories and passages read that remind us of the awesomeness of our God and what He is capable of doing.

Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest welcomed great grandson, Jeremiah John Klotzle, born to Bro. Joseph and Sis. Heather (Altadena, CA). We were thankful to hear of his safe arrival and rejoice with his family!

On a Wednesday evening, we were blessed to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) join us for a topical presentation on “The Way of Peace.” It was really good to sit and listen to the ideas and scriptures he shared with us. There was much to think about! Many thanks to Bro. Fred for making the trip in spite of the weather that didn’t cooperate very well.

We pray all of you stay safe and healthy, but even more than that, we pray that each can be drawn nearer to the Father, seek His grace and wisdom, and be refreshed in His undying love for each one of us.

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

Bro. Adrian Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Sis. Charity Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne) were married in Leo March 15. Because of the current health pandemic, many guests from Minneapolis decided to not attend. The local congregation and guests were asked to listen to the service online, unless there was a close connection with either family.

The groom’s father, Elder Bro Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), began the wedding service. This is an excerpt from his message: “From the news of the week, I would like to set a little bit of context. This is not to diminish what is being done to try to keep each of us safe by our government authorities, but if the globe was as concerned about the virus called sin as they are COVID-19; if they were as concerned about the virus of sin that has a mortality rate of 100% (that’s a death sentence on everyone); and if they were as apt to think about the provisions that are there to be cured eternally through Jesus Christ, and to celebrate and rejoice in that, this would be a very different place to live. So, this afternoon as we worship together, we worship the God who has provided a solution for sin and has overcome the mortality of it. And in that, we have so much to rejoice”.

The previous Sunday, March 8, Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) delivered the Word to us from Jonah 4, giving
us "the rest of the story" that many children’s Bible story books leave out. We were blessed to have in attendance several Gateway Woods representatives who stayed over from the previous day’s meeting at the GW campus. It is so nice to have GW company other than just the Annual Auction Sunday! Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marsha, Washington, IL) was also in attendance on that date. Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH) were on grandparent duty that weekend, and his ministerial duty was waived! We are thankful for our visitors.

We are pleased to be able to report that our dear Sis. Wanita (Bro. Duane) Laukhuf is making slow and steady progress in recovering from her heart valve surgery. She is grateful for all the prayers on her behalf. Our sweet Sis. Kristi (Bro. Jeremy) Reinhard is hospitalized awaiting the birth of their child in several weeks. So far, so good. Your prayers matter. Thank you.

Our thanks to the Phoenix congregation for hosting the Mid-Winter Elder Conference during the first week of March. That event was covered by our prayers for God’s will to be made known.

At this point in time, the state of Indiana has not been shut down, but several things have been cancelled or closed. Our local nursing home was the first thing to be closed to outside visitors. This resulted in our weekly Thursday evening service and monthly Sunday afternoon service there to be cancelled until further notice. Another victim of this health pandemic is our Leo Young Group’s much anticipated Invite Weekend on April 24-26. Hopefully, another date can be found after this situation is over.

Also, because of the Governor of Indiana’s mandates, all church services are cancelled until further notice. We are very appreciative of the prayer, time and thought that our ministers and trustees have invested in dealing with this circumstance. An update from these men is to be emailed to our congregation every Thursday in regard to current issues. It is wonderful to receive weekly “letters” which are full of encouragement, suggestions, offers of prayer by phone, reminders of our hope in Christ and appropriate Scripture passages. May God be praised.

In spite of these uncertain times, God is still God, and He is in control. I have found that people I meet in public are more open to talk about God because of this pandemic. He has a plan. May we all remain faithful until the return of our Savior Jesus Christ. Be encouraged, loved ones.

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

“Be Still, and know that I am God… “ Psalm 46:10

I have found comfort in God’s promises as we experience things in our nation that have never happened before. God’s love and joy have shown in this time as we reflect on the past month. Sis. Amy Beer and Bro. Trevor Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) were married on a beautiful day filled with sunshine and fellowship.

Indiana, Remington
Jenni Honegger, Marcella Tyler

This has been a month with none of the usual happenings to report - no visiting ministers, no births, no deaths, no hospital patients, no engagements, no weddings, no new converts, and no baptisms. It might be tempting to get discouraged and think that nothing important has happened
in our congregation this month. However, nothing could be farther from the truth. The word has gone forth to encourage the faithful and to convict the lost, the love of the brotherhood has been enriched, and the Holy Spirit has been at work in our hearts and lives. Praise God for His wonderful work in our congregation this month!

As we all react and adjust to the COVID-19 virus, we want to remember to cultivate concern for others ahead of ourselves and to be diligent in prayer for clear heads and for hearts free from fear.

**Indiana, South Bend**

**Joshua Martinez**

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9

On February 29, the Sunday school children helped us celebrate our third annual Valentine’s Day dinner. May the Lord bless Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky Langhofer, and all the children for their cheerful hard work. We rejoiced when Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky’s son, Daniel, started repenting! We wish him God’s blessings as he begins his walk with the Lord!

We are thankful to have loved ones safe at home from trips abroad: Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer visited Romania and Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha) traveled to Brazil.

The social distancing rules as a result of the COVID-19 virus have had a tremendous impact on our ability to meet and greet with one another. However, we will continue to rely on God’s protection and guidance. It is God that commands us to have courage, and that means having faith and confidence in Him.

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

**Indiana, Valparaiso**

**Sherry Meiss**

Our verse for the month is: “And he said unto them, this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.” Mark 9:29

Our loving thanks to the visiting minister, Bro. Chad Huber (Sis. Pam, Francesville, IN) along with several of their children. How appreciative we are to belong to a church body that we can reach out to and there is always a brother willing to come and share of themselves through Christ.

May we keep our thoughts on preparing ourselves for the upcoming Easter holiday. What our Lord Jesus did for us all is beyond anything we could ever do. But, what we can do is look to Him, listen to Him, pray to Him, and spend more time with Him. On March 15, our President had called for a National Day of Prayer. Praise be to God! We should pray beyond the meal time and bed time for our purpose is to glorify God.

Of course what is on the thoughts of everyone is the coronavirus. Many plans have been changed and adjusted to deal with this health threat. Our government has asked everyone not to congregate, so church services and events have been cancelled. Thanks to all who have made the AC Central live stream possible. May God bless you for your efforts.

With the closing of the nursing homes, it has proved very difficult for our loved ones and their families. Our Sis. Becky Moser’s father, Bro. Don Gudeman, has been in the nursing home and with these restrictions on visiting, it has made it extremely hard for her and her family, especially her mother Sis. Mary Gudeman. Please keep them in your prayers.

Sis. Leona Bucher had surgery on March 13. It was successful and she is home recovering. Dave Kotzer while recovering from cancer surgery had a severe stroke and is experiencing some additional difficulties. Sis. Dawn Ailes’s brother-in-law Drew and her sister Diane McClanahan have been getting along well and do appreciate all of your prayers. We were so pleased to hear that Bro. Bob Hoerr is gaining his strength. We ask that you keep these and all other loved ones in your prayers.

**Indiana, West Lafayette**

**Libby Wahl**

It is a time of sharpening one’s vision. Rumors, theories and conspiracies swirl around the edges of the news. Being the creative, take control people we are, we try to find solid footing. The most solid footing
is simply to continue standing on His promises while we look for opportunities to be Christ-like.

The much anticipated spring break mission trip of our local college youth was cancelled at the last minute due to COVID-19. Along with that, so were their on-campus classes through the end of the semester. May we support each other in the unexpected and challenging circumstances affecting us all.

Sis. Ev Lehmann, who returned to the Midwest from California just a year ago and who was a delight to have worshiping with us, suffered a fall early this year. This was not in her plans either. Her new address is University Place, Apt. 2201, 1700 Lindberg Rd, West Lafayette, IN 47906. She would enjoy mail.

We are grateful for a prosperous annual meeting, praying God’s grace abides with us as we work together in the unity we have been given in Christ Jesus.

Thank you, Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Joshua Martinez (Sis. Kenya, South Bend, IN) for ministering on our pulpit.

Indiana, Wolcott

Teresa Earney, Luann Gerber

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7

As I write this month’s article, our country is being slowed down due to COVID-19. We’ve been asked to stay home more and not to assemble in large groups. This verse on fear is powerful and helps us realize and reflect on how almighty our God is, and that He is there to help us through everything.

Bro. Nick Waibel (Sis. Sandra, Francesville, IN) very willingly helped on the pulpit recently. He grew up in the Wolcott congregation and it was special to have him and his family with us for the day.

Anne Wagenbach has shared that she is at peace with God and man. Our young people are an encouragement to us and it’s a joy when we see them living for Jesus.

Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth) and Bro. Troy Furrer (Sis. Lisa) are recovering from surgery. Bro. Jerry Kyburz has been in the hospital with cancer and pneumonia. His wife, Sis. Nancy, had a fall and is recovering. We pray for all those going through health challenges that God will be near them and comfort them.

Iowa, Bloomfield

Kendra Schlatter

We are happy for Bro. Loren and Sis. Darcy Schock (Goodfield, IL) as they were blessed with a baby girl, Nyah Katherine Schock on March 16. Nyah’s loving grandparents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price (Milford, IN). We are also happy for the safe arrival of Rodney Ray as he was born to Nic and Amy Wiley on March 18. His brother Aaron and sister Hadley welcome him also! Thankful grandparents are Curtis and Kelly Short and Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte Teubel.

We were thankful for all our company the weekend of March 7-8 for Invite-A-Friend. We were grateful to have Bro. Eric Weiss (Sis. Amanda, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) here that weekend to share God’s word with us. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA). We thank them for their efforts.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Clara Schock as she has suffered a broken pelvis and is now in rehab therapy while visiting in Phoenix, AZ. Sis. Charlotte Teubel continues to be in our prayers as she awaits surgery. Prayers are also with Jonathon Teubel as he will be having surgery on his nose for basal cell carcinoma on March 24.

May we keep our focus on the cross not only during this Easter season but throughout the whole year.

Iowa Burlington

Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner

In preparation for the special Easter season, Communion exhortation was given February 22 with encouragement to look deep within and examine our hearts. We also had the reading of the Memorandum the same evening. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA) and Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) shared the evening and Sunday with us. We thank them for their kind service and
for allowing the Spirit to speak through them.

The Single Group hosted a parent’s supper on February 23 at the Fellowship Center. It’s always a memorable and blessed evening.

The Winthrop, MN Sunday school class and their teacher, Bro. David Messner (Sis. Bethany) traveled to Burlington for the weekend of March 7-8. Rejoicing in worship, renewing friendships and building new made the weekend special. We thank them for their efforts to travel the distance.

Burlington was blessed to have the presence of many visitors this past month. It’s such a blessing to join various people together, call them Brothers and Sisters and worship Jesus in unity! Praise God for this opportunity!

**Note of Thanks**

From Sis. Marilyn Anderson: I wish to express my humble thank you and appreciation to all who extended Birthday Blessings to me at the time of my birthday. May God bless each one abundantly.

**Iowa, Elgin**

*Maria Rocke*

Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) came to share the Memorandum. We were encouraged, and we pray God will continue to lead and guide our elder body in these uncertain times. As in the account of Moses, Aaron and Hur (Exodus 17), may we continue to hold up these brothers’ arms, that the enemy of the soul would not prevail against our church.

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

We certainly feel that little Sierra Kay is a blessing from above! She joined our family (Bro. Dean and Sis. Maria Rocke) on February 20. She was welcomed by siblings Rylee, Myra, Natalie and Jerry and grandparents Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer and Sis. Kathy Rocke (Tremont, IL).

Also, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla Frank were blessed with another boy, Lincon Laverne, born March 4. He joins siblings Keana, Clinton, Hannah, Andrea, Elisa and Jordon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Mediapolis, IA).

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

*Laura Funk*

In last month’s news, I wrote about not being in command and being thankful when we realize we are second in command. As we navigate through this world wide pandemic of a virus, my thoughts went to the pandemic of sin we are living in! We are being reminded how to protect ourselves from illness. Are we being as diligent at keeping ourselves protected from sin? Not exposing ourselves to the germs of sin? Sin can enter our lives unnoticed like a virus.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS). God bless you for sharing the ministry.

Sympathy is extended to Bro. Tony and Sis. Eileen Funk as her sister Ramona Wenninger passed away.

We will soon be remembering the suffering and death of Jesus and His saving grace.

“*There was no crown for Him of silver or of gold, There was no diadem for Him to hold. But blood adorned His brow and proud its stain He bore, And sinners gave to Him the crown He wore. He did not reign upon a throne of ivory, But died upon the cross of calvary, For sinners there He counted all He owned but loss, And He surveyed His kingdom from a cross. No purple robe He wore His bleeding wounds to hide, But stripes upon His back He wore with pride. And from the wounds there flowed a crimson, cleansing stream, That was a covering for the soul unclean. A rugged cross became His throne. His kingdom was in hearts alone. He wrote His love in crimson red, And wore the thorns upon His head.*”

*A Crown of Thorns, Melodies of Praise #13*

Iowa, Lester

*Kristi Knobloch, Audrey Metzger*

Often at weddings we sing:

“*Kindly Heaven smiles above, When there’s love at home; All the earth is filled with love, “*
When there's love at home…
O there's One who smiles on high,
When there's love at home.”
The Christian Home,
Hymns of Zion, #64.

It's humbling to think of what a beautiful picture that paints in my mind, that heaven is rejoicing and smiling down when all is peaceful with no hint of fear, hate nor envy.

Our weekends have been filled with the blessings that weddings bring. With three consecutive weekends of weddings, we've had a wide range of nurturing encouragement for healthy marriages imprinted on our hearts. Sis. Shayna Popkes (John and Sis. Karmin) married Bro. Steven Schurter (Lee and Jeanette Schurter) of the Silverton, OR congregation on March 1. With many miles between us, we pray Sis. Shayna will soon find her rightful place and feel at home in Silverton. There is comfort in knowing that where God guides, He provides. Sharing God’s word with us that weekend were Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA).

The next Sunday, March 8, Bro. Brady Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana) and Sis. Tyra Knoblock (Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy) exchanged marriage vows and promised before God to remain faithful to each other. We look forward to having them establish their home here in Lester. With us that weekend on the pulpit were, Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

The following weekend two couples were married. Tessa Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther) married Erick Frewaldt in a Friday evening ceremony. We also look forward to having them worship with us as they begin life together. On Sunday, Sis. Kaysha Blomgren (Bro. Jon and Sis. Tricia) and Bro. Anthony Eason (Bro. George and Carole) of Elgin, IL were married. Our hearts go with Sis. Kaysha as she leaves us and makes Elgin her home. We know she will be dearly loved there just as she is missed here. Ministering brothers here for their wedding were Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie), Bro. Greg Schambach (Sis. Heather), and Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena) all of Elgin, IL. Also here was Elder Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Adam Zeltwanger (Sis. Christy, Morris North, MN), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO).

Two young couples have also announced their engagements this month. Trevor Popkes (John and Sis. Karmin) plans to marry Emily VandeKop in August. Bro. Bryce Klostergaard (the late Bro. Brad and Sis. Linda) is engaged to Sis. Ashley Beer (Elder Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb) of Milford, IN. May these two young couples look to God for direction in planning their lives together.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Rick Moser (Lori) and family as they laid to rest their dear father-in-law and grandfather, Raymond Luthi of Missouri. Sis. Lillian Mogler (Bro. Howard) is a sister to Raymond and we want to remember her also with sympathy.

“When a Christian dies,
Precious is the prize!”
The Death of a Christian,
Hymns of Zion, #248

Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Bro. Bill) had surgery and we hope she is relieved of pain and will soon be feeling and getting around better. Bro. Tom Metzger (Sis. Deb) was recently hospitalized with health concerns. We continue to keep all who have struggles of any kind, known and unknown, lifted up in silent prayer to God. In some way or other we’ve all been affected by the recent outbreak of a new virus. And while we need to heed the warnings of our governments, it's comforting to first put our trust in God and not to be overcome with anxiety and concerns that man can cause with mayhem amongst each other.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:” Isaiah 26:3-4

Iowa, Mediapolis
Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as
the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

As of this writing, the world is in a frenzy of chaos brought on by the far-reaching effects of illness and the prevention of it. Though we do not know what God’s plan is, we do know He is in control, He wants us to replace fear with faith and He wants us to continue being a beacon of peace and love to those around us. May we draw ever nearer to Him and be thankful for how He provides.

On February 21, we said farewell to Bro. Joseph Eberhardt. Reaching the age of 90 and still remaining on the farm he loved so much with his dear wife, Sis. Ruby, Bro. Joe was a man who loved working the land and taking care of his cattle. He leaves behind a large family who he especially enjoyed spending time with. Besides his wife of 65 years, survivors include: Bro. Fred (Sis. Kathy) of Taylor, MO, Bro. Curt, Diane (Bob) Thompson of Sperry, IA, Susan (Fred) Gerst of Burlington, IA, Lisa (Rodney) Zippe, David (Karla), Daniel (Tanessa), and Brent (Karen), all of Sperry, IA., along with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We joined our Burlington church family on February 22 for the reading of the memorandum. We were thankful Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) could be here to help our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall. We appreciate the warnings they brought forth to help us combat the world and it’s sometimes cleverly disguised pitfalls.

We are thankful that Keegan Lanz (Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris) has realized the time has come for him to surrender his heart to the Lord and embrace Him as his Savior. It is such joy to see the miracle of conversion and we wish him much grace as he puts on the new man.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Doris Kuntz (Bro. Leon) as she grieves the passing of Sis. Virginia Hoerr (the late Bro. James Hoerr) of Peoria. May she find peace and solace in God as she reflects on many precious memories of her sister.

On March 14, we sat in Holy Remembrance of the death and suffering of our Lord and Savior. We thank Elder Bro. Brad Strahm and his wife Sis. Michelle from Bern, KS for joining us for Holy Communion on Saturday, and for bringing forth the word on Sunday that filled our cups to overflowing. May they be blessed for their efforts.

After that wonderful weekend, our lives and schedules changed dramatically as we were asked to limit our crowd size. Can we be thankful enough that our relationship with God knows no limit? What a comfort that He is only a prayer away. And in the midst of it all, springs bounds forth and begins to bring its tender green shoots up to seek the sunshine and the warmth it has missed in the cold months of winter. A dose of nature truly is a wonderful tonic.

Iowa, West Bend

Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt

We appreciate the encouragement of our visiting ministers, Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Mediapolis, IA). May each one be blessed for sharing of themselves.


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

As we spend Easter remembering Christ’s death and resurrection, may we draw near to God with all our hearts and praise Him for His infinite love toward us.

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

Japan, Tokyo

Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue

As we see signs of spring we rejoice in the faithfulness of our Lord. We will soon celebrate His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. May we anew appreciate what He has done for us that we can live in blessed hope of His glorious return. Oh, that many, many will come and avail themselves of this promise.
Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier have returned to their home in Indianapolis after spending a month here helping in the home of their new grandson and church families. We are very thankful for their Christian witness and good example to neighbors and friends, and most of all for the Word spoken in our two churches. May the Lord richly bless them for being spent in His service.

We are thankful for guidance and love provided by our Elder Bro. Mark and HarvestCall guidelines during this time of a virus affecting our lives. Psalm 112:7 and Proverbs 22:3 were among the verses shared that we need not fear. Our church has been continuing with morning worship service, but we canceled lunch and afternoon services this month. We were also thankful for the Phoenix brethren who so ably provided for the Mid-Winter Elders Conference the first week in March. The two brothers from our local congregations were interviewed by Zoom and accepted by the elder brethren in attendance. Lord willing, the ordinations will take place in May.

Kansas, Bern
Sheri Edelman, Rita Menold

We are so thankful for visiting ministers this past month! Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Aaron Luthi (Sis. Maria, Lamont, KS) shared God’s Word and inspiration with us!

My apologies for omitting a very important happening in Bern in January. Kenzie Meyer (Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny) began her repentance! We were apparently so happy rejoicing, we forgot to include it in the news!

This month found three more souls seeking the Lord in repentance. Blane Rokey (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue), Kristi Edelman (Bro. David and Sis. Sheri), and Dillon Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) have all come to the Lord seeking forgiveness and a new life in the Lord. May God lead all of our converts to true humility the rest of their lives!

Kansas, Ft. Scott
Linda Maus

We rejoiced in February at the arrival of Ainsley Teresa Kellenberger to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Adrienne Kellenberger and big brother Calvin. We also continue to pray for Sis. Julie Bahr (Bro Larry) as she continues her treatments with grace and a plucky spirit in her ongoing battle; her smile lights up the room and her love for the Lord and His provisions is contagious. We have others fighting illness as well and continue to lift them up daily.

Earlier this month we were blessed to have Elder Bro Randy Kellenberger (Sis Karen, Kansas City, MO) minister to us at a Wednesday night service, and review the Memorandum from the elder body to the churches. It was awesome! Just when I am struggling with being cynical in my heart, the Holy Spirit delivers through the elders a powerful message of love and the fruits of the spirit, with a big helping of conviction: “we live in a world where we think we have a ‘right’, when the Kingdom of God is characterized by a desire for others’ welfare regardless if they are friend or foe.” Wham! Light bulb!

My outlook on the drug addicts and inmates my husband (Bro. Monty) and I have regular encounters with on our walk just got checked! It is not my place to get disheartened and discouraged on how they will “never change” or “be sober enough to see the Lord and His goodness.” It is my place to be a light in a dark place, and be seasoned with salt. Equally convicting was the message in relation to our hope in an eternal kingdom, and how we are called to be pilgrims and strangers on earth, and live as citizens of the Kingdom of God. Kind of makes you double-take when you are wanting to post a “meme” on Facebook or babble off a bunch of snarky comments on a cause that, while passionate, is still very much of this world. One thing remains certain that the outside world does not grasp, being a Christian is hard! It’s living a life that is completely contrary to everything we see around us.

Monty and I praise God for giving us a God-fearing, loving church family to be joined to. We continually are amazed that whether we are in Fort Scott KS, Lamar MO, Goodfield IL, or fellowshipping with brothers in Iowa, our Apostolic Christian Church never changes in its values, and how brothers and sisters walk out their lives as a living testimony to the goodness of God.
Monty always reminds me that the retention of multi generations continuing in the Apostolic Christian Church is something to be commended. That is something we still pray about with our wayward children.

Love and prayers are offered for all, and in the light of this virus running roughshod across the world and reeking havoc on the day to day norms, we will continue to pray for His peace. I mean, the boat is rocking, the waves are lapping, but He is still in the boat.

Kansas, Kiowa

Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden

"Low in the grave He lay
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day
Jesus my Lord!
Vainly they watch His bed
Jesus my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead
Jesus my Lord!
Death cannot keep his prey
Jesus my Savior!
He tore the bars away
Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from
the dark domain
and He lives forever with
His saints to reign,
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!"

Christ Arose, Gospel Hymns #323

This is one of the favorite songs in our Sunday school, and it says it all.

"I gave my back to the smiters,
and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair. I hid not my face from shame and spitting." Isaiah 50:6

Why did He die on that cruel Cross for you and me and this whole sinful, decadent world? Because God, and Jesus, and the Holy Spirit love us and want us to live forever in heaven with them, not abide forever in hell with satan, the deceiver, who wants us also, not because he cares about us, but because he wants us to suffer in hell with him, thus denying God the joy of our presence with our Trinity for all eternity! The beautiful hymn, “Christ Arose” is the crowning finish and beginning. Christ suffered, He died, He arose from the grave, and because He arose, so can we because He defeated death and we can too if we believe in our hearts and minds that He is God’s Son and our Savior! We are so very blessed!!!

We were also privileged this past month to have visitors from the Denver congregation spend the weekend with us. Ministering Bro. Dan Leman (Sis. Tess) and family, along with Bro. Phil Virkler (Sis. Colleen) and family, plus five young sisters and friends. We had a truly wonderful weekend, though much too short. Then, a week later, Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), joined us for a Sunday to share the gospel and fellowship with us. We truly appreciate these loved ones for taking the time to travel and share their love and words from the scriptures with us.

We extend our love and prayers to Bro. Tom Farney, who underwent surgery this past month, and to Sis. Nelda Ott, who also had a procedure done. May the great physician touch and heal them as they recuperate.

At this time the coronavirus is taking over much of our media reporting, and our thoughts. Our rest home in Kiowa is in lockdown at this present time like many other facilities. One thing I would like us all to remember: God is in control! He always has been and always will be no matter what, when or where, God is there for us, so we need not panic, just trust and continually pray!

Epilogue to article “Did You Know?” in last month’s Silver Lining, by Sis. Millie Frieden:

John Harper, a Scottish evangelist who was heading to Moody Church in Chicago, IL, for a pastoring position, along with his six year old daughter, was aboard the fateful Titanic on her maiden, and final, voyage. Mr. Harper was an unsung hero of the masses of human kind who were doomed on that early morning of April 15, 1912. He begged and pleaded, even while enduring his own physical hypothermia, for souls to give their hearts to Christ up until the frigid waters claimed his earthly life. My own father, Bro. John Brown was also aboard a vessel headed from Europe to the great United States of America 68 days following the Titanic disaster. Happily, his ship, the Potsdam, made it safely to Ellis Island, New York, and thus began the legacy of my dad and his 55 years of living in Ohio and Kansas.
My prayer is that we, as believers, might never forget the early history of our Christian forerunners.... who were always about the promoting of the Word of God, and the saving of souls.

Kansas, Lamont
Maria Luthi

We have had an eventful month. Church cleaning was completed with many hands making light work. Our church enjoyed an Invite-a-Guest weekend and extend our thanks to Bro. Seth Harter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA) for sharing the Word with us. We are also thankful for another visiting minister this month, Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS).

We have had two deaths touching our church. Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft, Jim and Kathy Kraft, and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Alex Kraft as well as the rest of the Kraft family as they grieve the loss of Lloyd Kraft, their father and grandfather. We are also saddened by the news of Sarah Grimm’s passing from this life. Our hearts go out to her sister Ilene Rogers, and brother, Arlie Grimm (Pat) in this time of loss.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Glen Anliker as he again underwent surgery and was hospitalized.

In this time of uncertainty amidst fear of disease and many cancelations, we’re so thankful for many things: access to the Bible in our homes, God’s precious promises, technology to stream worship services when we cannot attend in person, and many others.

Kansas, Sabetha
Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter

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

We are thankful to hear that Payton Strahm (Bro. Tom and Sis. Carrie) feels that he has experienced the perfect peace of God. We anticipate his upcoming testimony and baptism.

Our church enjoyed hosting Invite-a-Guest weekend March 14 and 15. Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) shared from God’s holy word with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Florence Meyer as her sister Alma George of Overland Park, KS passed from this life.

May we all have our foundation set upon the solid rock of God, as the world around us seems to be as sinking sand.

When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the vale.
The Solid Rock, Hymns of Zion, #99

México, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

May God bless our Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for sharing God’s word with us this month.

We were thankful to have many visitors the weekend of February 22-23 as CVE celebrated their 15th anniversary and we praise God for His faithfulness in our community all those years!

As precaution against the COVID-19 virus, school in the state of Sonora, MX has been closed until April 20th and church services plan to be closed for that time as well. Our prayers are with all of you during this uncertain time! God knows and He is in control!

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7

"Hope beyond Darkness
There is hope beyond this hour of darkness.
There is joy beyond this day of tears.
There is peace beyond the weeks of turmoil.
There is rest at the end of our years.
While the clouds and the tears are rolling,
While the waves and the winds rock and shake.
There’s a calm in the grasp of the Master.
We can ride o’er the raging wake.
And He stands at the head of our sailboat
And He calls, “Peace, be still,” to our soul!
In the pain, ocean rain, and the darkness,
Don’t forget who is in control!”
-LMRA

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

Greetings from western Michigan as we charter the territory of distancing and shutdowns most of us have never seen or experienced. Despite concern, frustration, fear, or many other possible emotions and reactions, we stand on the Solid Rock, Jesus
Christ. He is our hope in life and death! Our prayer is that we all can be a beacon of light to those searching for peace and answers and share the hope that lies within us.

In late February, we enjoyed a beautiful wedding reception here for Bro. Ben and Sis. Gloria Kaeb. It was wonderful to have Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne home for a week from their winter work in Texas, as well as other family members and friends who traveled here to celebrate.

The Sunday school experienced an exciting day at a nearby ski resort. Many of the children got their fill of tubing down the hills, and a few of the older students enjoyed skiing or snowboarding. The Detroit Sunday school was able to come and share in the fun and everyone ended the day with games and pizza.

Our prayers are with multiple loved ones who are recovering from surgery, accident, and illness. May our Father comfort their hearts and heal according to His will.

We are thankful the elder conference in Phoenix providentially occurred before the national crisis. May we continue in prayer for the leaders of our churches as they make decisions in how to best serve and lead each congregation.

“As the time of Christ’s resurrection nears,
I asked God to inspire me to write
what He wanted me to
dwell on more deeply,
to experience the sorrow
of Christ’s plight.
In an instant He brought to mind
the three darkest hours on earth.

He lead me to pen the following poem
where I wept while considering
Agape Love’s worth.
I struggled to stop at this point-
I longed to keep writing
that our Savior arose.
But God had only
inspired me thus far;
of the why? ... only He knows!

Three Dark Hours
Our Savior hung for
three dark hours
in pain and agony.
10,800 seconds ticked by
before from this life He was free.
The stench of blood and miry clay
lay heavy in the air;
weeping, moans and muffled cries
of utter sadness and despair.
Hanging between heaven and hell
bearing the weight of our sin,
Christ pushed up to gasp
for every breath
then in weakness fell down again.
A candle or lantern
might have been lit;
but in blackness, nary a
difference did make.
For our ‘LIGHT’ was dying
on Golgotha’s hill,
not for Him – but for
our unworthy sake.
Sweat, blood and tears
stung His eyes,
His muscles cramped
tight with strain;
Christ Jesus nailed to
a sinner’s cross
all for our guilt and shame.
Just before ‘tis finished
and all is done’
Christ cried out for me and you.
“Father!” He pleaded,

“Please forgive!
For they know not what they do.” ibG.res

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Greetings of love in our Savior’s name.

As the distress in the land continues to grow and fellowship with others is restricted, we praise God we have technology to communicate with others and participate in church services even if it is not face-to-face. We look forward to the time when we can again travel and commune with our friends and family throughout our land.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as two dear souls have turned to God in repentance. We pray for Janice Huntley (Jesse) and Bob Weiss (Sis. Maureen) during this time and pray God will guide their footsteps in the days ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Betty Wieland (Bro. Morris) as she spent time in the hospital recently.

As we enter into the season where we dedicate thought and time to remembering Jesus last days on earth, and death upon the cross, may we remember the wonderful sacrifice Christ gave on our behalf so we may spend eternity with Him.

"Sit and pause awhile my spirit,
This great miracle behold;
See the King of highest merit
On the cross, so bare and cold!
Out of heaven God has given
His own song in love untold!
Thou, Lord, hast for me devoted
Soul and body, life and all;  
So there shall be consecrated  
All I have, both great and small,  
All my efforts and endeavor  
To Thy service and Thy call.”
Golgotha, Zion’s Harp, 226

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

Greetings all. How much can change in a month. It almost doesn’t seem real that in one month, school is closed, many jobs are shut down, and (here, at least) we are doing teleconferencing for church and doctor’s appointments. It’s ironic that a couple months ago I would get so frustrated over the frequent use of technology and social media platforms my daughter used to communicate with friends. Now we are involuntarily using the same to stay in contact while we cannot physically be together.

But as our minister team communicated to us through this developing virus situation: this we know, we are known and we are loved.

“I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.” John 10:14

“I the Lord have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with loving kindness have I drawn you.” Jeremiah 31:3

Our church choir thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Mansfield, Ohio congregation this past month. We were blessed both in lifting up praises to the Lord and also sharing in fellowship with the Mansfield church family.

We want to extend sympathy to Sis. Bonnie Allen (Bro. Pat) in the passing of her cousin Bob Stange from Bay City, Michigan.

Our prayers were with our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and all of the elders that met in Phoenix this past month for the Elder Conference. We were thankful to hear that they experienced the close presence of the Holy Spirit in their meetings.

Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brenda Messner, Renee Messner

The miracle of life is so precious. We are in awe of our heavenly Father, and thankful to Him for His plan of creation.

Sharing news that Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler, gratefully announce the birth of their new granddaughter, Brynn Lena! She was born to parents, Brooke and Seth Mogler, on February 29, in Rochester, MN. Adoring big brother, Sam, and maternal grandparents, Marty and Annette Janecke, from Madison SD, are excited as well. Baby Brynn will certainly be surrounded with prayers of love!

Bro. Adrian Rocke married Sis. Charity Fischer on March 15 in Leo, IN. What a blessed day for them and their families! Parents are our Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie Rocke and Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer, from Leo, IN. We listened to the beautiful message of God’s benevolent love, as it was mentioned at their union, by Elder Bro. Duane Rocke and Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo, IN). Our hearts will hold on to joy and the plans to welcome them with a reception at a later date.

Our love and prayers are reaching out to all those who may be sick, in pain, grieving or in despair. Our hope is in our Lord and Savior, Jesus. God’s holy word is our strength! Draw near to Him.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

Minneapolis Reunion and Open House Update

Due to the present health situation our country is facing and not knowing how long it will last as stated by health officials, the Minneapolis church is postponing our Reunion / Open House event that was scheduled for June 27 and 28, 2020. We extend a warm welcome to any and all that would like to visit our congregation through the summer months after the health and travel bans are lifted.

Minnesota, Morris
Ashley Knobloch, Brianna Wulf

We were blessed to come together for an Invite-a-Couple weekend the end of February. It’s always an encouragement to be with those of like mind and faith. Among our guests was visiting minister Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL). We appreciate his willingness to preach the Word.

We rejoice when sinners can come to the Lord in repentance. Nikki Knobloch (Kevin Knobloch) and Staci Nohl (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristi Furrer) have begun their
walk with the Lord! We pray for Him to guide and bless them.

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10

Our country is suffering, we pray for the many people who are sick and those who are elderly. Our thoughts and prayers are with those in authority and those who work in the medical field. May the Lord be with you and keep you! We need to continue to trust in Him and He will see us through.

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

Minnesota, Winthrop
Julie Schmidt, Ginny Stoll

Our prayers have been with Bro. Darrell Schmidt (Darlene), and Bro. Dick Van Deest (Sis. Nancy) as both have spent time in the hospital. May God grant healing and strength.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psalms 23:4

We mourn the loss of our Sis. Jane Redmann (late Darrel) on March 1. We extend heartfelt sympathy and prayers to her children and her sister, Sis. Carol Ann Messner and her family. We are so thankful Sis. Jane was able to give her life to the Lord in the past year of her life.

Our world is facing lots of uncertainty and changes. We may face discouragement or a bit of fear when we find ourselves in storms we can’t control. Lives are being affected on every level due to the new pandemic. Let us rest in knowing all will be well and we’ve been given a living hope that anchors our souls in the most trying times.

"Thro’ the love of God, our Saviour, All will be well;
Free and changeless is His favor, All, all is well.
Precious is the blood that healed us; Perfect is the grace that sealed us;
Strong the hand stretched out to shield us, All must be well.
Tho’ we pass thro’ tribulation, All will be well;
Ours is such a full salvation, All, all is well;
Happy still in God confiding;
Fruitful, if in Christ abiding;
We expect a bright tomorrow, All will be well;
Faith can sing thro’ days of sorrow, All, all is well.
On our Father’s love relying,
Jesus every need supplying;
All must be well.”

All Will Be Well, Hymns of Zion #136

Missouri, Kansas City
Katy Frantz

During this time of social separation we are still called to be the elect of God!

So let us “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;” Colossians 3:12

At the beginning of February our church had Memorandum. We thank Bro. Loren Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Betsy, for being with us during that weekend.

On February 28 we gathered to put together HarvestCall health kits. We also appreciated our all church potluck, the last one before a limit was put on how many people could gather together.

As a church family we still stay in close contact through phone calls and anticipate more get togethers in smaller groups.

Praising God for His Spirit that surpasses all fears as we bring our prayers to a caring Father!

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

We thank visiting ministers for their service in the past month: Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO); Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS); Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL); Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS)

Missouri, Lamar
Mindy Wettstein

We were blessed to have a CEC meeting and a topical presentation on February 23. Visiting ministers
were Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie and family, Minneapolis, MN), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS).

February 29 we enjoyed gathering for a singing shower for Bro. Jerod Putt and Sis. Jayla Wettstein.

March 8, Bro. Matt Kauffman and his sons (Bloomington, IL) added to our weekend of fellowship. Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy and family, Burlington, IA) blessed us with God’s word on March 15.

My personal goal for the year is to read the entire Bible in a year, however I am VERY behind on the schedule! Yet, with me being “behind”, a verse caught my attention- perfectly timed to provide comfort in the ongoing crisis.

"And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Exodus 23:25

Missouri, Taylor

Lori Marquart, Tami Pflum

We are so grateful to Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL), and Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Kent Heimer in church duties this month. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL). Thanks to each one for the time you have selflessly given on behalf of our church!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy Eberhardt and their family in the recent loss of his father, Bro. Joe Eberhardt (Sis. Ruby, Mediapolis). While parting for a season is hard, what a comfort it is when a loved one runs the race well and finishes the course.

Our prayers are with the Eberhardt family after the loss of Bro. Joe Eberhardt (Sis. Ruby, Mediapolis, IA). He was the grandfather of Bro. Josh Eberhardt (Sis. Victoria). We also extend prayers to Sis. Joyce Martin and her family as they grieve the loss of her father, Bro. Ike Martin (Princeville, IL). We’re so thankful for a promise of heaven to spend eternity with our Lord.

Missouri, Taylor

Victoria Eberhardt

The daffodils and tulips are sprouting and beginning to bloom and what a beautiful sight! It’s a joy to celebrate our Lord and be thankful for the beautiful earth He has provided us.

Our prayers are with the Eberhardt family after the loss of Bro. Joe Eberhardt (Sis. Ruby, Mediapolis, IA). He was the grandfather of Bro. Josh Eberhardt (Sis. Victoria). We also extend prayers to Sis. Joyce Martin and her family as they grieve the loss of her father, Bro. Ike Martin (Princeville, IL). We’re so thankful for a promise of heaven to spend eternity with our Lord.

Andrew Petersen asks multiple questions followed by the replies of a majestic choir in the beautiful and timely song, “Is He Worthy?”

"Do you feel the world is broken? (We do!) Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do!) But do you know that all the dark won’t stop the light from getting through? (We do!) Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do!) Is all creation groaning? (It is!) Is a new creation coming? (It is!) Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? (It is!) Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is!) Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole? Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll? The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave He is David’s root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave Is He worthy? Is He worthy? Of all blessing and honor and glory Is He worthy of this? (He is!)"

In these uncertain times, may we cling to the One who is worthy! And while others live in fear, may we learn to live with hope and joy, fully trusting in Jesus.
New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney
In my article last month, I reported about not being able to assemble because of inclement weather. Who would ever think that now all churches are closed because of this virus that is spreading the world over. The whole nation is being shut down because of it. There so many emotions through all of this, whether it’s fear, concern, or wondering if the end time has come. Where do we put our trust, in man or God?

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;” St Luke 21:25

For all is in His hands, so whatever we may face, may we always look to Him to see us through.

We are so thankful that we have a way that we can hear the Word ministered unto us by faithful brothers, through technology, and pray this is never taken from us.

Thankful the elder brothers could meet in Phoenix and return home before the virus outbreak.

“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.” St Mark 11:22

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle
“The shield of faith be thine in ev’ry conflict, And from this precious treasure never part.

Though fiery darts around thee here are falling, The shield of faith shall quench each fiery dart. The Spirit’s sword and helmet of salvation Shall shield thee in each trial and tribulation.”
The Armor of God, Zion’s Harp #115

This refrain stuck out to me recently as very fitting for the rapidly changing and unknown time in which we find ourselves.

Sis. Katrina Demrovsky (Bro. Brian) spent some time in the hospital and we are thankful she is recovering.

We would like to thank Bro. Dana Neiman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) for visiting and ministering to us.

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks

Our thoughts turn to springtime as new calves begin to appear and the buds start to sprout on the trees. The last drop of maple syrup has been bottled and thoughts turn to planting crops and gardens. Recently, I found an article from an older Silver Lining that had a very appropriate verse for this time of the year and it bears repeating.

“Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds. You can grow flowers, or you can grow weeds.”

“...and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” 2 Corinthians 10:5

We pray we can keep our minds weed free and our hearts filled with thankfulness and rejoicing.

We welcomed Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jennifer, Toledo, OH), Bro Matt Miller (Sis. Wendy, Latty, OH) and Bro. Kaleb Beyer (Sis. Angela, Washington, IL) as visiting ministers on the pulpit. We appreciate their efforts in bringing forth the Word and traveling the many miles to be with us.

Spending time in the hospital this month is Sis. Cheryl Gehres and Jennifer Curry (Jonathan). They are both home and doing better at this writing.

We are so thankful for the prayers and support for the Columbus congregation as the remodeling process comes to an end.

Ohio, Junction
Karen Schlatter

We were blessed with many guests recently as March 1 was the wedding of Sis. Heather Manz (Elder Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise) to Bro. Troy Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler, Rittman, OH). Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille) and Bro. Earl Berry (Sis. Suzie) from Rittman, OH and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda, Congerville, IL). We wish them the Lord’s blessings as they begin their lives together as husband and wife.

Also visiting and sharing God’s word with us recently was Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL). We appreciate his words of truth and encouragement.

The weekend of February 22-23 was Invite-a-Guest weekend. It is always interesting to meet
the many guests from various locations who come to worship with us for the weekend.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7

These words from the Holy Bible are meant to help us keep our faith in the Lord and not focus on all the events and catastrophes that we may face living in this fallen world.

**Ohio, Latty**

**Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalms 51:10

As spring approaches, it makes us want to clean and have a fresh start. During the first week of March, we all worked together to clean our church and fellowship hall. Many hands make the work happen quickly and enjoyably. It is so nice to accomplish a task together and keep God’s house in good order.

As a spiritual cleaning, our church family was able to prepare our hearts and then partake of Holy Communion. Jesus suffered so much that we can be forgiven and have the hope of Heaven. Let’s not take this opportunity lightly! May we strive every day to keep ourselves “unspotted from the world” (James 1:27), take up our cross, and follow him (John 16:24).

We rejoice to share news about one who has taken advantage of this opportunity of conversion through Christ. Sadie Sinn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene) professes peace with God and man. Our prayers go with Sadie as she continues to serve the Lord and awaits baptism.

**Note of thanks**

We thank you for your prayers, visits, cards, and kind deeds shown to our family. God’s blessings for your love and concern.

The family of Darl Stoller

**Ohio, Mansfield**

**Katie Miller**

We had our annual lasagna dinner to benefit the high school students’ work trip to Jamaica. The Detroit church choir traveled to Mansfield for this occasion, which provided a wonderful opportunity of worshipping God in song and fellowship. May the blessing of the weekend be multiplied to those who the students serve in Jamaica. We appreciated ministering brothers from Detroit, Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue) for preaching the Word.

Close to our hearts are those from our church family who are experiencing health difficulties and unknowns. We are praying specifically for Bro. John Ramsey Sr. (Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Pat Beer.

We want to take time to thank those involved in the recent meetings of our elders and HarvestCall board. We pray for you and rejoice that God hears our prayers on your behalf.

HarvestCall work days were a great blessing, when many of us gathered to assemble health kits and rice pilaf. These two days always take a lot of organization and willing hands; thanks to each one!

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” Colossians 3:17

May God be glorified through our lives so that, especially in uncertain times, the light of the gospel can shine.

**Ohio, Rittman**

**Maria Beery, Julie Steiner**

In the midst of stressful events, God again and again provides grace for His children to remain faithful. But, He offers each of us the choice. Will we lean on Him more or stray farther away from Him due to these unusual circumstances?

Many thoughts and prayers go out to many loved ones experiencing hospital stays this past month. In our church and around the world, pain and suffering are the lot of untold many. Special mention here of Bro. Dale (Sis. Carolyn) Hartzler, Bro. Steve (Sis. Karen) Ramsier, Beth (Carl) Nelson, Joash Gasser (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Deb), and Drew Baltic (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lynn).

Our friend Jim Sawyer’s grandson Jimmy passed away recently in a car accident. It is always difficult to say goodbye, especially in these uncertain times.

We want to thank Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) for sharing the Word and assisting in Sunday school this past month.

Bro. Troy Hartzler and Sis. Heather Manz (Junction, OH) were united in marriage. Many traveled
to Junction for the wedding. We warmly welcome Sis. Heather to our Rittman congregation. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler, and Elder Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise Manz (Junction, OH). Bro. Riley Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Hannah Steiner (Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita) also become husband and wife this past month, but under a bit of unique circumstances. Due to the social distancing necessary, only close family attended their Wednesday evening wedding service, while hundreds listened in remotely. We wish both of these young couples God’s richest blessings as they learn to serve Him together.

Ohio, Sardis

Renee Blough, Doris Miller

“My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious tho’
My sin—not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!”

Haven Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee) has confessed and repented of her sins, and has peace through the knowledge that Christ bore her sins on the cross, desiring baptism to symbolize the washing away of her old life and rising to a new life in Him.

“And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.”

Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH) willingly preached the Word during a recent visit, and we thank him for his service.

“It is well…
With my soul…
It is well, it is well with my soul.”

It Is Well With My Soul, Hymns of Zion, #55

Ohio, Smithville

Connie Maletich, Millie Stoller

“In these uncertain times it is easy to forget our God has us all in the palm of His hand. Joshua 1:9 has been a comfort to me.

“Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest.”

Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) spent a weekend in Smithville. On Saturday evening Bro. Fred spoke on the topic of Peace and during our Sunday morning Bible class, the topic was Where did the Bible come from? We were given much food for thought and appreciate Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy’s willingness to come and share with us. Bro Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) also ministered the word this month. Sis. Gloria Hartzler (Bro. Stan), Bro. John Zollinger (Sis. Margery) and RoseMary Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) all spent time in the hospital this month. There are many others who are dealing with health issues that we can remember in prayer.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Lynne Beery and Bro. David and Sis. Luci Baumann (Mansfield, OH) are rejoicing at the birth of their first grandchild, Hudson Everett. His parents are Bro. Anthony and Sis. Anne Baumann (Toledo, OH).
searching, so let us try to make sure they find the gospel as their answer!

In Toledo, we have been blessed to have many visitors, during our invite-a-friend weekend and throughout the month, which included visiting ministers Bro. Adam Uhler (Sis. Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH). What a gift we have in friendships, especially when we all get to unite through Jesus Christ.

We continue to lift Sis. Teresa Rywalski up in prayer, as she has had some health concerns over the past couple weeks. We are so thankful that God is constant and steady, especially in times of sickness.

We are looking forward to the ordination service for Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna) as he transitions from Deacon to Elder.

**Ontario, Kitchener**

*RoseLynn Metzger*

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

Sending love in the Saviour’s name to everyone! This month we have again been blessed with visiting ministers. With us were Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Larisa, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). We thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship with all our visitors and wish to thank them for their efforts to make the trip to support our congregation!

On February 22 we enjoyed a morning at a local restaurant for our bi-monthly women’s breakfast. The time spent together is always cherished and is a blessing to all! We gathered for a midweek service on February 26, as well as March 11, for which Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) traveled to be with us! This month has also brought many changes to our lives due to COVID-19, but we continue to put our trust in God, take precautions out of respect for others in our community, and show love to those around us! Our usual gatherings on Sunday’s may look different for a few weeks, but we know we are still bound together through the love of Christ. Blessings to all!

“The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore, will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.” Lamentations 3:24-25

**Oregon, Portland**

*Louisa Gallup*

This article will include February news as well. We thank our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) for his comments and support as we had our annual business meeting. The Lord has provided well for our congregation. Each person contributed in one way or another to the administration, maintenance, housekeeping, and other duties in our church. Some duties rotated to others, some members accepted another term. Our thanks to God who enables each of us to serve and do our part.

Visiting ministers from Silverton, OR during the past eight weeks were: Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), Bro. James Schneider (Sis. Tonya), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), and Bro. Jim Zollinger (Sis. Tresa). We are very grateful for their support and that of the song leaders as well.

May the Lord keep us all safe during this very uncertain time while sickness is sweeping the world.

**Oregon, Silverton**

*Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn*

Thank you to Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) for joining us February 23 and sharing the Gospel message with us. We appreciate your frequent visits and pray God blesses you and your family.

Our prayers are with Bro. Richard Kraft (Sis. Marianne) and Sis. Stacie Kuenzi (Bro. Aaron) and their families as they grieve the loss of their dad and grandfather, Lloyd Kraft (Nadine) from Kansas.

We are also prayerful for the Wiegand family, as Elder Bro. John’s (Sis. Jane) father, retired Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Sis. Ethel) from Forrest, IL, recently passed away.

Bro. Peter Folia’s (Sis. Elizabeth) brother, Ilia Folia from California, also has passed away and we would ask for your prayers for their family.

What a blessing to have a wonderful church family to lean on as we go through these hard struggles together! We are also thankful that Jesus has provided a
way for us all to meet each other
again in heaven!

Bro. Steven Schurter and Sis. Shayna Popkes (John and Sis. Karmin) from Lester, IA, were married on March 1. We welcome them as a newly married couple and look forward to the new addition to our fellowship!

As the world seems to be spinning out of control with the politics of the day and the coronavirus making its way into our social circles, I’m thankful we have the peace of God ruling in our hearts and pray it is contagious to those around us!!

Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Laura Isch

“My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber. ... The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; he shall preserve thy soul.” Psalm 121:2-3, 7

When troubles and fears surround us, it is good to remember Who is in control. We can be so thankful that the One in control is our Heavenly Father, who has promised to keep and preserve us. We know He will be faithful to keep His promises!

Our prayers and sympathy are with Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand in the passing of Bro. Ben’s father, retired Elder Bro. David Wiegand (Sis. Ethel, Forrest, IL).

We appreciated Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) being with us to preach the Word this month.

Tennessee, Nashville

Mike Fritz

We are thankful for God’s Word and His servants who so willingly bring it to us each Sunday. Our recent visiting ministers have been Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), Bro. George Gal (Sis. Tina, Akron, OH), and Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL).

In addition, we are thankful for brethren who are worshiping with us as they are in the area for an extended period of time. These include Bro. Randy and Sis. Roxy Blunier and their family (Goodfield, IL) and Sis. Lynn Rees and her family. Likewise, we rejoice in the privilege of fellowship with brethren and friends visiting us from Congerville and Eureka, IL; Indianapolis and West Lafayette, IN; Mediapolis, IA; and Smithville, OH; 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. Jeff and Sis. Cynde Stoller, 309-530-5760, cyndelynnstoller@gmail.com; Bro. Jordan and Sis. Emily Fritz, 615-852-9109, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Jillian Bradbury, 765-993-8917, jeremy;bradbury1975@gmail.com.

Texas, Austin/Bastrop

Candy Meiss

Sending our Love and Greetings from Austin.

This month we were blessed from the word by Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH). Thank you, Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne, for organizing a potluck and an evening of fellowship during your rotation here. Your presence and support were much appreciated during a very difficult time.

Words are so inadequate to express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi in the passing of their dear sweet daughter, Destini (Georgetown, TX). Comfort was extended to their family during the memorial service in our Austin/Bastrop church and the funeral in Fairbury. We will continue to lift them and their dear family up in prayer.

As we look forward to Easter, it is humbling to realize that God’s own Son, Jesus, made the choice to bear our sin that we might live. Soon it will be Good Friday. As we think of the events leading up to the arrest on Friday morning, we’re thankful for #301 in the Hymns of Zion, We Will Remember Thee: “His body was broken for my sake.”

During this time of uncertainty in the world, may we remember to call out to our Heavenly Father for peace and hope for our future.

We know that God holds tomorrow, and He will continue to care for us. This is a powerful thought by the author Max Lucado, “The path to peace is paved with prayer.”
Let’s communicate and continue to pray and trust Him more.
Please refer to our minister’s directory for directions and contacts.

Texas, Dallas-Ft. Worth
Sheena Pelsy

“Tho’ the angry surges roll on my tempest driven soul, I am peaceful, for I know, wildly though the winds may blow, I’ve an anchor safe and sure, that can ever more endure.”

My Anchor Holds,
Tabernacle Hymns #34

We all go through rough storms in life and it is easy to get caught up in fear in the midst of those storms. But we can’t let fear and worry dim our hope for the future. Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Austin/Bastrop, TX) was our visiting minister and reminded us that we all have the freedom to respond in a certain way when dealing with our life storms. We can be like David who fell to his knees, repented of his sins, and called to God to help in his time of need, or we can react like Saul and deny everything, make excuses, and ignore asking God for forgiveness and grace. How we respond is crucial in our relationship with the Lord.

Jesus’s first words to His disciples after raising from the dead was “Peace be unto you.” These are the same words He is whispering to you right now in the midst of your storm. We can be peaceful while the waves of life toss us about because we know who our rock and anchor is. While change is all around us, God Himself never changes. His Word never changes. Jesus will keep us grounded.

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’ve had this past month and thank them for the special efforts they made to travel to south Texas. Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) spent a weekend with us. We appreciate everyone that made the effort to spend some time with us in Zapata.

Our winter season is over and residents have returned to their homes in the Midwest and Eastern States. Anyone coming to south Texas in the summer is encouraged to call us as we often travel to other churches in Texas during the summer months.

Vermont, Clarendon
Sarah Wagenbach

We are so thankful for our visiting Rockville, CT ministers this month: Bro. Jon Zahner (Sis. Amy), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Brad Wiegand (Sis. Deanna).

Our prayers are with Morey Weiss as he has been hospitalized and unable to gather with us.

As a church family, and often with visitors, we enjoy being together for times of fellowship whether for a simple meal at church, working on a HarvestCall project or collecting maple sap together, as we have this month. Now as we are in a time of social-distancing during the outbreak of COVID-19 and events continue to unfold, we pray for all our brothers, sisters, friends and neighbors here and across the land. During these uncertain times we are thankful to our God who can comfort us and also for the support of our brotherhood.

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:

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651 E. Peoria Street,
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Phone: 309-965-2141
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ANY OF YOU have been abruptly thrown into a new role of homeschooling your children with no chance to pray, plan, or prepare in advance. This is definitely a sink or swim situation! Here are a few tips that have been helpful during my years of being at home with my children.

1. This is hard. But hard is good because it stretches us, and we grow in ways that aren’t possible when life is easy and predictable. Pray for grace.

2. There’s nothing like having everyone home for an extended period to bring out heart issues in all of us. This is not a bad thing. While working through these heart issues, offer grace to family members.

3. Each day at home with family is a gift. Don’t wish it away. Live each day purposefully and intentionally. Soon enough this opportunity will be gone, and the calendar will be full again.

4. Every new job has a learning curve. This is new for both you and your children; bumps are to be expected. Allow yourself time to learn how to stay home together.

5. Any job would be chaotic if no one knew what to expect, or what they should be doing when. Create a schedule and follow it. Set the alarm, get up and get dressed each morning. Be in work-mode during the week and save ‘Saturday’ mode for the weekend.

6. Don’t expect to do it all yourself. Train your family to help run the household.

7. It may feel like every aspect of homelife needs help NOW. Choose one behavior issue and one household system (laundry, meals, etc.) to work on at a time.

8. Goals may have to change. Prioritize character training over perfection. Use daily chores to teach diligence and obedience. Loving and serving others are great accomplishments! At the end of the day, it is the eternal, not the temporal, that matters.

9. Your well will run dry if you are not drawing from the living waters that God so graciously offers us. Spend time in the Word every day, together with your family as well as alone in personal devotions.

10. Choose joy. A positive attitude, cheerful disposition, creative spirit, and quiet heart will bless your family. We are making memories—let’s make them good ones!

One day at a time, I have been spending my days serving the Lord at home with children for 35 years. Every day has not been easy, but God is faithful in giving the added grace needed to be with our children around the clock. You are doing a noble work and making a worthy investment. I am praying for you.
The News and Notices section of The Silver Lining provides a way for qualifying non-profit entities to make the brotherhood aware of church-related events, opportunities, needs, and services that would be of special interest to Apostolic Christian Church of America members and regular attendees. Email us at editor@acsilverlining.org for a copy of our advertising policy, which specifies who may advertise, sizes, file formats and deadlines.

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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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN</th>
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<td>Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families – two locations:</td>
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<td>1. Guesthouse - Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.</td>
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<td>2. Near St. Mary’s Hospital - two bedroom apartment within a 12 unit building.</td>
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**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
ALive2020 Registration Extended to May 1

With all of the cancellations with COVID-19, many of you may be wondering if we are still planning to hold ALive2020 during Memorial Day Weekend (May 23-25). The answer is yes! We are hopeful that the effects of the virus will have run its course by then and are therefore moving ahead with plans.

With this in mind, we want to encourage anyone interested in coming to register by visiting www.ALiveAlabama.com. Join the Athens, Alabama congregation along with other brothers, sisters and families for a wonderful weekend of sweet Christian fellowship...all in the beautiful setting of The Vision in Huntsville, AL.

Hope will be the weekend theme with ministering brothers Brad Metz (Bloomington) and Kirk Plattner (West Lafayette) speaking on various aspects of this topic–hope in God, hope/encouragement from one another especially in the difficult times and our hope as believers for a home in heaven.

To find out more information about the weekend including the schedule of events and to register, visit www.ALiveAlabama.com. You can also check out our Facebook page @ALiveAlabama or send an email to info@alivealabama.com.

While we are moving ahead with plans for the event, the Committee also realizes that things may not turn out as we had hoped. On May 1, the Committee plans to reevaluate circumstances and make a final decision about holding the event. This will hopefully allow everyone who registered time to make alternate weekend plans should this be necessary.
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

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.

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.
Seeking short-term missionaries willing to live and serve at CVE for one year to support a variety of activities around campus.

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

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

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

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

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

The 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.*

*{Sending} Luke 10:2, {Early Church} 3 John 1:8, {Prayer} Col 4:2-4, {Fellowship} Acts 14:26-27, {Financial Support} Philippians 4:15-20

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

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

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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

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PROFESSIONALS in the Medical Field
Full Time / Long Term Opportunities at Hospital Lumiere

Professionals with training, skills and experience in the medical field who have a desire to serve at Hospital Lumiere in Haiti are encouraged to contact us. Current medical positions:

**PHYSICIAN:** (General Medicine/Family Practice, Internists, Orthopedists, Surgeons, OB/GYN) These positions are intended to serve patients, lead a department and mentor/train Haitian physicians.

**ANESTHESIOLOGY:** (Anesthesiologist and CRNAs)

**NURSE PRACTITIONER:** Support and mentor positions for medical and patient care within the hospital and clinic.

**NURSE:** Support and mentor Haitian nursing staff, engage in patient care

There are many needs for medical professionals to serve the patients and Haitian staff including those listed above. If you are led to the mission field but your skill set and qualifications are not a good match for the positions listed above, please contact us.

There is flexibility on requirements listed as well as job descriptions and qualifications. Many times, the role that is filled can be developed to fit the gifts of each applicant.

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

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TEACHER OPPORTUNITY

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**
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 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
Continued Articles

Loving as Jesus Loves

— Continued from pg. 3
also by what it is not, (jealous, arrogant, boastful, rude, self-seeking). In an initial encounter, we may need to break through barriers by love, as when Jesus initiated a conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. Although she was living in sin, she knew and believed the prophecies of a coming Messiah, and Jesus saw her as a soul worth healing and saving.

In our established relationships and daily conversation, we can encourage healing through forgiveness. Once again, Jesus provides the example by so powerfully forgiving His enemies from the cross. We can all recall instances of feeling the burden of guilt, followed by the healing relief that came when we forgave someone. It may have been a few ill-advised words that hurt a friend, spouse, or co-worker. Or maybe it was years of regret and bitterness that required deep repentance as the means of reconciliation. The absolute necessity of forgiveness is clear from Jesus’ words in Matthew and Mark: ”if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if you forgive not, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” In the parable of the unmerciful debtor, Jesus repeats this warning but adds the words “from your hearts.” The Greek word for trespasses suggests both minor unintentional errors, as well as more willful transgressions or offenses. Like other aspects of agape love, unconditional forgiveness is contrary to the flesh and human nature, engaging both the mind and heart in a definitive act of will, which is possible only with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The beautiful, sweet result of forgiveness is that it can heal both the offender and forgiver. The nations, as well as countless individual relationships are desperately in need of healing. Political, economic, social, racial, and religious divisions are widening. The natural man’s response is to see others’ actions or positions as a threat to his own views of how the world should be, and to seek retaliation or other means to put down his opponents. But what did Jesus do? “When he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not, but committed himself to him who judges righteously.” Just like Jesus, we must be willing to endure criticism, rebuke, or even persecution, in the belief that suffering and “patient continuance in well doing” can transform the heart of the oppressor as well as our own.

Writing about spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul mentions “gifts of healing” three times. How are these gifts manifested today? The Holy Spirit, the source of all spiritual gifts, can enable us to be “kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another” and to “follow after the things that make for peace, and the things wherewith one may edify another.” In this simple way we can reflect Jesus’ love and promote healing and health in our family, church, community, nation and world. Faith, forgiveness, and loving as Jesus loves, are the keys to spiritual healing.

Endnotes

1 Matthew 4:23
2 Luke 5:31-32
3 John 5:14
4 Luke 8:50
5 John 14:12
6 1 Samuel 18:1,3
7 Romans 12:10, 1 Thess. 4:9, Hebrews 13:1, 2 Peter 1:7
8 Luke 6:32, also Matthew 5:46-47
9 1 John 4:8
10 Romans 5:8
11 1 Corinthians 13
12 John 4:7
13 Luke 23:34
14 Matthew 6:14-15, also Mark 11:25-26
15 Matthew 18:35
16 1 Peter 2:23
17 Romans 2:7
18 1 Corinthians 12:8,28,30
19 1 Ephesians 4:32
20 2 Romans 14:19
Because so many things can be simulated and faked. There is more to it, and I believe that maybe one of the reasons why the advent of Jesus Christ – when he came to this earth – happened then and not in the age of electronic media. People are skeptical of what they see on electronic media, as we ought to be.

It says, “many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (vs 30-31)

Some are walking around in this earth with unsolvable problems, hopelessness that tomorrow is going to be worse than today, and on and on it goes. All those things that the devil would like to use to drag us down, such as not keeping a focus and an eye on the fact that yes, we are pilgrims, and yes, everything isn’t perfect here, but there’s a home prepared for those that trust. It says here, “and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (vs 31) This is to the extent that we can see Jesus.

I would say that the primary way is just simply by reading this book. The four gospels point to him. All of it. We can see Jesus in it, whether we’re reading about Moses, who was a type of Christ, or Joseph, son of Jacob, who was a type of Christ. All through the Old and New Testament scriptures, we recognize and we see Jesus. Or maybe we just look at another person who exemplifies him as he comes to life in our hearts in a very real way and, again, it affects the way we live, we have eternal life. Even death has a different feel to someone who truly knows Christ.

If you look at St. John 17 (just a few chapters earlier) in verse 2, Jesus is praying for his disciples, and I believe he’s also praying for you and me. There’s evidence in that one single chapter of that. Here he says, as he’s speaking of himself in the third person, “As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.” He’s speaking of himself. And then he makes this truth claim. Do you believe it tonight? “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” (John 17:3) It says if we know him, and, again, the primary way to know him is through this book. We have all the reasons to always be grateful that we’ve been given the gift of reading and that we’ve been given the gift of this book so available that we can know God and Jesus.

It says, “this is life eternal.” (vs 3) It’s a present possession. I understand and I agree that it’s something that we hope for and that we long for – a better land, a better place, Beulah land – but Jesus makes the assertion that, to the extent we know him, it’s available now.

Let’s read on in Chapter 21, verse 1; we’ve just a few more minutes left. What is the response that we have? We see John who recognized Jesus first. It appears to me they’re on the ship. They’ve checked out. They’ve finally come out of hiding, and now that they’re out, Peter got the bright idea he’s going to go fishing. The others said, “We’re coming with you.” So, they go out on the boat, and they’re going back to some of their old ways and here found themselves emptyhanded. Jesus confronts them and suggests there’s fish on the other side. Think about Jesus and that he was standing on the shore. If you’re standing in a boat looking down in the water, and the sun is not right overhead, you might be able to see through the water a little ways and see if there’s fish down there or not. Certainly, from shore
looking out where you’re almost looking at the surface of the water horizontally, you couldn’t. I don’t think Jesus could see fish in a natural way that you and I could, and why the disciples obeyed him is a mystery, except sometimes sailors and fishermen can be a bit superstitious. I don’t know, but they threw the net on the other side and pulled it up, and there’s one that drew a conclusion from what happened. It was John. He put two and two together and recognized that that man standing on the shore, that they hadn’t recognized yet, must be Jesus, and he just said so.

Sometimes the best way to acknowledge it is Jesus speaking is just to acknowledge it. But Peter was the opposite: he put on his coat and dove into the sea. Sometimes that’s another requirement, and I don’t know exactly who is supposed to do what tonight, but let’s be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We recognize the Lord has spoken to us whether it’s just to sit still and recognize that he has spoken or to jump out of the boat and start swimming. Do something! Acknowledge he is Lord! He offers eternal life, and he offers answers. His final words – not final words forever but – that we read tonight were when he said, “Come and dine.” (John 21:12)
This is the last installment of a four-unit work on the four missionary journeys of Samuel H. Froehlich as he traveled over many cantons in Switzerland to test the waters, and examine if souls wanted to hear the gospel and establish congregations. These missionary journeys were chronicled by Herman Reugger of Switzerland in a book published in 1947 entitled, “Apostolic Christian Church History, Volume 1.” The data below is taken from pages 49-51. The section on his trip to London is from the Reugger book, but is written by Perry Klopfenstein.

**Fourth Missionary Journey To Zurich and East Switzerland**

In October, 1832, Froehlich began his activity in Zurich, where two of his sisters lived. They were, as yet, undecided to go his way, but they were no longer offended by him. He found no hearing with his former acquaintances; on the other hand, he discovered a simple laborer, Adolph, who side by side with his work was active for the Kingdom of God. In Winterthur also, he met a young man, who had come to the faith in Geneva, and labored for the Gospel.

Great was the joy of seeing each other again, when he, in Canton Thurgau, visited the congregation at Stein on the Rhine, where he had served as vicar four years before. Although his conception of Baptism met with opposition, he parted from them in the good hope that they would finally find the way.

In St. Gall also he met with opposition on account of Baptism, while he found many receptive hearts in Herisau. On November 21, 1832, he reached Wattwil, where a year before the already-mentioned laborer, Adolph of Zurich had worked, and, after his many expulsions by the authorities, had left many awakened ones behind. Here Froehlich remained several weeks, in which he held meetings and strengthened the knowledge of the Baptism of faith, and deepened it.

After this, his journey led him once more to know the family Brunschwiler, which sought after the divine truth and which was deeply touched by his word and teaching about the Baptism of faith. A daughter of this family, Susette Brunschwiler, he chose, in 1836, as his life’s partner.

**1833 in London**

While this trip is not a part of his four missionary journeys, it is significant in that it is a part of Froehlich’s motive to get established in promoting the Gospel. He spent almost five months here. Froehlich felt very lonely in London, like Elias on Mt. Horeb, and he wrote, “Behold, what doest thou here in England? I do not rightly know why I have come here, and yet I was called thither, and by the will and guidance of the Lord. I have been zealous for the Lord, and I am here now, and wait as to what I am to do.”

He faced difficulties. The Continental Society suffered with financial cares, so that it was not in a position to support Froehlich during his stay. On its advice, he returned to the continent to work “where the Gospel is not known or preached and where one may find tolerance and entry.” Froehlich henceforth returned to Brugg.

*by Perry A. Klopfenstein*
The Light of Hope

What makes Spiritual Leadership Effective?

Recently I had the privilege of observing spiritual leadership in action. As I witnessed how a brother initiated and interacted with some struggling believers, I was impacted by his example. Here are some things I noticed and want to learn from:

The Power of Love

The leader whom I’m referencing began uncomfortable conversations with love. He made it clear his intent was not to condemn, but to help. He wanted to listen and hear their hearts. He expressed the affection and concern he felt for those he was speaking to. He reminded them of his love for them from the beginning of their relationship to the present. He made it clear that even if they didn’t respond in the way he hoped they would, his love for them would not change. Each of his conversations, even when they were confrontations, ended with an embrace. I could tell by the reaction of each one that they were deeply touched by this brother’s Christlike love.

The Power of a Good Testimony

As I sat and listened, it struck me that this leader was influential not only because of his love, but also because of his life. His words had weight because he was an example of what he was calling others to do. No one could say that he was a hypocrite. He had lived, worked, and spent time with the people under his care. His reputation in the church and community over the years was recognized by all. He had sacrificially served others without expecting anything in return. He had given and forgiven, even to the point to which he could say, “I have no enemies in this community.”

The Power of Truth

Whether it was his personality, a sense of urgency, or both, this brother was very direct with his questions. How are you doing spiritually? How often do you read the Bible? If you would die today, are you ready to meet the Lord? He gently but firmly challenged the assumption that we can be at peace with God when we are not at peace with our brothers in Christ. He didn’t allow excuses or justifications to let the person off the hook with their spiritual duties. He reminded them of the gospel that saved them, but also exhorted them to be faithful in their Christian calling. He held out to them the promises, blessings, and rewards of faithfully serving God and the church, and of sharing the good news of Jesus with others.

Effective Spiritual Leadership depends on Love, a Good Testimony, and Speaking the Truth

This brother would be the first to acknowledge he has made many mistakes in his life and ministry. My intention in what I’ve written is not to pretend there are any perfect, ideal spiritual leaders. Jesus alone stands on that platform. That said, we can and should humbly learn from others as they seek to imitate Christ.

I was inspired to want to become a better leader, by God’s grace. I hope you can be inspired as well.

-by Matt Gerber

Endnotes

1 See, for example, Paul’s Christlike love in Gal. 4:19; 2 Cor. 12:15; Phil. 1:5-8.
2 Again, Paul’s example in Acts 20:18, 33-35; 1 Thess. 1:5-6; 2:10.
3 Eph. 4:1, 15; Phil. 1:27; 1 Thess. 2:11-12
4 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27