He bows His head and cries, "'Tis finished, all is done, O God, receive my soul." Life's victory is won.
Winter and Spring

As this issue was put together, we find ourselves still in the grip of winter. Many correspondents noted this in their articles. Often they pointed to the beauty of the white snow that surrounds us. For others, this winter has brought added burdens due to the same weather. And for many, it was noted that they are ready for spring to come.

Spring is coming! We look forward to the warmer weather, new growth, and celebrating Easter. We ponder the suffering of our Saviour on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. There the awful price was paid for our sins, and the victory of salvation is achieved.

It is through this event that we can have our sins washed pure and white as the snow of winter. After that cleansing, we see the growth of new life in Christ. As the fruit comes, we ponder and rejoice again at the victory he has won.

In Christian love,
Rick and Michelle Kaisner, Silver Lining Editors
The Four-Pillar Mission - What the church is sent to do.

Then said Jesus to them again, “Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” 1

To encounter God, to be animated by the Holy Spirit, is to be compelled into mission or sent. 2 Noah lays aside his earthly occupation and is sent to preach repentance and build the Ark, 3 Abram leaves his father’s home and is sent to Canaan, 4 Moses leaves his father-in-law’s flocks and is sent to deliver the Hebrews, 5 Peter and Andrew lay aside their nets and are sent to become fishers of men, 6 Paul abandons his place of power and is sent to preach to the Gentiles, 7 and so on. Indeed, Christ laid aside his own estate, 8 and was sent that we might know God and so receive eternal life. 9

When we are espoused to Christ and anointed by the same Holy Spirit, we, like the Good Samaritan, are called to lay aside our earthly cares and join in Jesus’ divine mission “to preach the gospel to the poor... to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind,” to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” 10 While the particulars of each individual mission differ (whether nurturing children in the home or building homes in the wake of a disaster), the objectives are unvarying. Just before his ascension, Jesus taught his disciples, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” 41 This “Great Commission,” is our universal responsibility both collectively as the Body of Christ and individually as children growing up into the “measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” 12

As a brotherhood, we have found it helpful to think about our mission within four pillars. In this article, we will simply restate these pillars and offer a few illustrations demonstrating how closely they are tied to Christ’s own sending.

• Proclaim: To present to the lost the gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion.

What more beautiful picture of the gospel message can we find than the parable of the Prodigal Son, who is so loved by his father? And how could this be more perfectly enacted than when Jesus forgives the woman, a sinner, who bathed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, assuring her “Thy sins are forgiven... Thy faith hath saved thee. Go in peace.” 13

• Nurture: To teach and nurture the believers toward a sanctified life and to faithfulness by God’s grace and through his Word.

Jesus’ nurturing of the disciples is woven throughout the Gospels but seems especially poignant in John 21 as he gently corrects Peter over a campfire on the seashore, strengthening him for his role as an Apostle. The thrice repeated question, Peter, “lovest thou me?” 14 echoes down through time and proves each of our hearts. And yet Jesus gives even more nurturing – he gives himself as living bread for our journey. 15

• Contend: To preserve sound doctrine by “contending for the faith.”

Jesus boldly claims, “I am the way and the truth.” 46 He confounds his adversaries who dare ask him no more questions, 17 and speaks with an astonishing authority, 18 not derived of Moses, but of the Father who has sent him. 19 And yet...

— Please turn to pg. 60
Greetings to each one. Welcome those that are here and those that are listening online. It’s a blessing to have an opportunity to worship God this morning. We’re thankful that as we think about worship and fellowship, we have fellowship in two ways, both physically and in the Spirit of God. Today is 50 days since Passover. It’s 49 days since the resurrection of Jesus, and so today, we celebrate and remember the day of Pentecost. That’s going to be the theme of our worship service this morning as we gather our hearts together and unite in the Spirit around the word of God and truths of Christianity. These truths are just so encouraging. They are the truths that on which our lives are established and built, and they give us hope, vision, purpose, joy, peace, and the happiness that God ultimately wants us to have.

The word Pentecost is actually a Greek word. It refers to a feast, an ancient feast, that was established by God at Sinai. Actually, it was kind of on the Israelites’ journey through the wilderness to Mt. Sinai that the Feast of Weeks was established. The Feast of Weeks was one of the primary Jewish feasts, and the reason it’s called that is because it’s seven weeks after Passover. In Hebrew – I don’t know the exact pronunciation – ‘weeks’ is Shabbat. It’s the Hebrew word for sevens, and so it means seven sevens, or 49 days, after the Feast of Firstfruits which is on the Sabbath after Passover. Seven weeks after the Feast of Firstfruits is this Feast of Weeks which was intended to be communicated as a celebration of the harvest and, traditionally, the end of harvest. This Feast of Weeks was celebrated and recognized by a priest offering two loaves of wheat bread unto the Lord.

It’s interesting in the New Testament – and we’re going to read about this – what happened on the Feast of Weeks after Jesus was crucified and resurrected. Let’s open together in the book of Acts, Chapter 2. We’re going to talk about what this is and what happened in the historical event, but at the end of the day, the idea that I would like us to gather around is that the coming of the Holy Spirit of God to this earth, this new covenant made through the Spirit of God, is a primary concept within Christianity. It’s as important, in a sense, as the crucifixion and as the resurrection. We have a big holiday and a special service on Good Friday. We have a special service on Easter Sunday. You know, of these holidays, these days that we celebrate, Pentecost is right up there with the others. It is as important, and I submit to us, as practical in application to our lives, as is our celebration of Good Friday and the forgiveness of our sins through payment on the cross and as critical as the resurrection of Jesus in that his new life is through the power of God that raised him from the dead. This same idea as Pentecost is in the coming of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of God himself makes his dwelling within a person, within a human being.

So, let’s just read together from Chapter 2 in the book of Acts.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come” (v1). So, you’ll recognize this Greek word ‘Pentecost’ which means ‘fiftieth’ is used here. “The day of Pentecost” meaning the Feast of Weeks. “When the [Feast of Weeks] was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” (v1). Now, this refers to the disciples that post-ascension of Jesus were gathered together in Jerusalem “with one accord in one place.”

“We’re going to end our reading there at verse 21. Let’s stand for prayer.

I just encourage all of us today to consider the constant presence of God. God is invisible. We don’t see him. God’s not an idol that we can go to and see and touch, but God is present. God is ever present.
He is here with us today, and more so than just kind of present in a general sense. He is present within the heart of the believer, and he is close. He has purpose.

If you take something away from the day, let it be an awareness that he is present. Let’s carry within our mind’s eye and consider in our heart that God is with us every moment. Let’s hold to and cling to the idea that he is with us, his presence is powerful, and it’s abiding. He is here and in us, speaking and moving and teaching and counseling and comforting us. If we kept that constant idea, he would work power in our lives, and it would be meaningful. It would work something in us every day. We would feel him. That is today’s encouragement because that is the promise of Pentecost.

The promise of Pentecost – this Christian life – is more than just about Jesus who came, shed his blood, died, resurrected, and went to heaven leaving us alone to kind of figure this out. He didn’t leave us alone. He says that explicitly to his disciples in John 14. He says, “I’m not going to leave you alone, but I’m going to give you my presence forever continually with you.” He said his presence within us and in our lives has purpose and works purpose. It has meaning and purpose to us each and every day of our life. It did not just have purpose one time.

The gospel of Jesus is not just a gospel that’s for one person for one time, but it’s for every person and every moment of our lives. In every situation, the gospel of Jesus is meaningful, and the message is constant, continual, and always the same. It’s always the same message and never a different message. Then the Holy Spirit of God, constantly abiding in us, will continually communicate to us that message from him and this purpose that we have as was described here in Acts, chapter 1.

In Acts 1, verse 8, Jesus – right before he ascended – gave his last words to his disciples: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” You’ll be witnesses. The purpose with which the Holy Spirit was there was to carry the message, to be witnesses that the people of God were endued, or filled with, the Spirit of God. God’s people would be witnesses unto the uttermost part of the earth. As it says in Chapter 2, they heard their words in their own languages of the wonderful works of God. The wonderful works of God. That is the purpose of the Holy Spirit.

As we think about Pentecost, what was the unique thing that happened? Let’s back up. We know that in ancient history the Jews were dispersed in two major dispersals out of Jerusalem and Israel into countries throughout the world. The first one happened when the northern kingdom of Israel was dispersed – fully dispersed – by the Assyrians. It was God’s will that they would be dispersed throughout the world. The second one was the Babylonian dispersion in Jerusalem and Judaea later on. The Jews were carried out of Jerusalem into Babylon, and from Babylon, the Persian empire took over them. This Persian empire spanned the known world, I guess you’d say.

It’s interesting that as Luke is recording this, he deliberately states that, as a result of this Feast of Weeks, there was this multitude joined together at Jerusalem to celebrate. There were Jews out of every nation under heaven. I find it interesting that Luke uses that word – every nation under heaven. So, these people from every corner of the world, with all languages, are hearing in their native language through the power of the Spirit one message: the gospel plan of salvation.

Think about the contrast between the old covenant, given only to the Israelites, and this new covenant. The old covenant was to the children of Israel, the children of Abraham. This new covenant extends to all languages, all nations. The power in that and the unity that is a reality is — Please turn to pg. 61
The Biblical Basis for Church Planting

Church Establishment Committee

Often, we hear the term, “church planting”, and it invokes thoughts about starting a new church. The topic is much deeper, however, and in this brief article, we will explore three questions. What is church planting? Is church planting a biblical idea? Why does church planting matter for the Apostolic Christian Church today? The purpose of looking for answers to these questions is not academic or abstract. We are disciples of Jesus Christ who love Him and desire to walk in obedience to His Word. We want to know His will and His priorities. If we learn that church planting is important to Jesus, then it will matter to us as well.

What is Church Planting?
While the concept of starting churches isn’t new, the term church planting has surfaced within Christian movements in the last few decades and to date has not been widely used within our Apostolic Christian denomination. For the purpose of this article, let’s define church planting as the “ministry of evangelism and discipleship that results in the establishment of new churches.”

Is Church Planting a Biblical Idea?
Simply because a phrase is popular does not mean we automatically embrace it. We want to be discerning Christians. While the term “church planting” is not found in the Bible, that alone is not necessarily a reason to say it is not biblical. Words like “Trinity” and “missionary” are not in the Bible, but they represent concepts and truths that are clearly supported in God’s Word. Going to the New Testament, we see that Jesus likened evangelism and the spread of the kingdom of Heaven to sowing seed (e.g., Mark 4:3, 26, 31). The theme of “planting” is used by the Apostle Paul in connection with the church in 1 Corinthians 3:6-9. The building and establishment of the church is God’s work, but He uses people as His co-laborers to plant and water and gives the ultimate increase.

The Sending of Our Missionaries

Missionary Support

While many of the positions in our denomination are elected (elder, minister, Sunday school teachers, etc.), missionaries are not. In the case of missionaries, we ask our brethren to “self-appoint,” trusting individuals to step forward in response to God’s call. Instead of a vote, we have created a four-level process in which to affirm that call.

A Candidate’s Calling: One of the first questions the Missionary Care Director will ask someone inquiring about service opportunities is “Do you feel direction from God?” The Holy Spirit directs people in different ways; sometimes through a still small voice, and sometimes through the Word and sometimes through the church. Regardless of how he talks to us, once he’s talked it’s important to follow his prompting.

Local Church Support: As a Brother or Sister’s spiritual authority, we ask elders to take an active role in the sending process. We encourage candidates to meet often with their elder, seeking counsel and support.

HarvestCall Support: If there are unresolved issues in a person’s life, we know they will resurface on the mission field. Because of this, HarvestCall uses both assessments through ACCFS and an interview team to better understand where a candidate is at.
A major biblical theme that relates to church planting is God’s redemption of a people for His glory. We learn that the “church” is God’s redeemed people, meant to carry out His mission in the world and display His praises (1 Peter 2:9-10). God’s people are commanded to be a light to the Gentiles for salvation unto the ends of the earth (Acts 13:47). In Revelation 5:9 and 7:9, God’s ultimate purpose for the church is fulfilled as He is worshipped by the redeemed out of every kindred, tongue, people and nation. Clearly, God’s desire is to have the gospel preached in all the world and churches established among every people group.

Other biblical reasons can be given for church planting. One is Christ’s love for the church and His commitment to build it (Ephesians 5:25-27, Matthew 16:18). The church belongs to Christ and is precious to Him, and those who labor in planting new churches engage in a work that is dear to His heart. The Scriptural mandate for church planting is inherent in the Great Commission laid out in Matthew 28:18-20. Christ’s command to make disciples of (“teach”) all nations, baptize them, and instruct them to obey all things that He commanded, is carried out in the context of local churches. New believers need communities where they can grow and live out their new faith. This is demonstrated in the book of Acts; wherever the gospel was preached, new churches usually sprang up as a result (e.g., Acts 11:19-26). The Lord added to the church those who were being saved (Acts 2:41, 47).

The centrality of planting new churches is also seen in the life of the Apostle Paul, whose passion was to preach the gospel where Christ had not been named (Romans 15:18-23). It seems he did not consider his work complete in an area until there were healthy churches established that could evangelize and reproduce. For examples of these kind of churches, see Acts 13:49, 19:10, and 1 Thessalonians 1:8.

Why does Church Planting Matter for the Apostolic Christian Church Today?
Church planting is not a biblical directive, but it is an expected and necessary biblical result of souls repenting and becoming converted through the spirit.

--- Please turn to pg. 59 ---

**Direction of God**
Are you confident that God is opening this opportunity?

**Mission**
Are you a fit for a role at the ministry you are intending to serve?

**HarvestCall**
Have you worked through the HarvestCall assessments and interviews?

**Local Church**
Do you have the support of your elder and the church family you are presently serving with?

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**Ministry Fit:** At times a person may feel directed towards a certain mission, yet there may not be a current opening or need for the individual’s skill set. We desire a candidate to take a trip to that ministry. This allows them to interact with missionaries currently on the ground as well as better understand the culture into which they would be moving.

**Conclusion:** All of these levels must provide a “green light” in order for someone to be sent. While not everyone who steps forward for missionary service lands where they first expected, it is amazing to see how God uses the journey for His glory. Sometimes, the journey was a test of willingness and a person is redirected. Other times, doors open more slowly than expected. Regardless of how things unfold, we have confidence that God is working in all of our Brothers and Sisters along the way! – by Amber Miller

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March 2021 SIlVER LINING 7
Hide-and-Seek

When my kids were young, we played a lot of hide-and-seek. They loved it! The kids would shrill with glee as I counted and they scampered to their respective hiding cubbies. Then, on the prowl, I set out searching, announcing my approach with songs, chants and threats of tickles. Inevitably, as I neared, I would hear giggles. With no interest in throwing me off course, they would give way their hiding place. They squealed with delight. The delight that rises not from remaining hidden, but from being found.

Young children welcome reception and shun isolation. But as we grow older, we learn to welcome the secret. Isolation is a strange comfort and we become very good at finding cubbies to hide in.

Hide-and-seek is an ancient game. Very early in the biblical narrative Adam and Eve played hide and seek. They went hiding, God went seeking and they did not want to be found.

Why do we do this? Why do we want to keep out of sight? Why do we avoid at all costs the exposure of ourselves to others? The answer is summed up in one word – shame. Shame is the belief you are so flawed that if people knew that flaw you would be rightly rejected. It is easier to hide than to be found.

It is important to note that shame was not part of God’s perfect creation. In Genesis 2:25 we read “And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” Prior to the fall Adam and Eve lived lives of complete openness, but that soon changed. With sin, Satan saddles humankind with the propensity to hide from God’s sight and the sight of others. He re-writes the declaration that God pronounced over his created mankind, “these created ones are very good” to altogether another narrative, “these created ones are very bad.” Shame strikes at the heart of our worth.

Welcome, then, is the good news of Jesus. He took on shame and defeated it. In Hebrews 12:1 we read “who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of God...”. The work of Christ on our behalf does the deep-cleaning shame requires. Christ took our shame. Wonderfully the Gospel unties the shame knot. Through repentance and confession, we give up the hiding place and welcome the seeker to find us. That seeker is God. After all, God is not the
is not true. Believers hide with the best in the game and sometimes are the best at the game. Fearing condemnation from people, the believer who struggles tows the line and hides behind the pleasantries that win acceptance. Meanwhile, our struggles make a meal of our spiritual, emotional, and relational wellbeing.

While Jesus is the answer to our shame, He employs the church in scrubbing the shame from our lives. Remember, shame is the belief you are so flawed that if people knew that flaw, you would and should be rejected. Thus, untying this knot requires people know our flaw and confirm their love and acceptance of us. This requires an environment of safety. This requires an environment of love. This requires an environment of care and such an environment lies at the heart of what it means to be family. Family lies at the heart of what it means to be a church.

Watch a mother or a father care for their children. Parents receive their children and sniff out shame wherever it rears. Consider the following places the church receives its own and scrubs out shame:

- **Loss:** We lament together over the losses we incur.
- **Fears:** We encourage one another at the point of our fears.
- **Lies:** We speak truth to one another, upsetting the lies we believe.
- **Hurts:** We walk with each other to shed the hurt that with time turns to bitterness.
- **Sin:** We correct one another by supporting God’s loving guilt while dismissing Satan’s hateful shame.

Yet for many, these areas of our lives remain hidden — skillfully stowed away. An art mastered from years of playing hide-and-seek. But for any who are willing to receive the other as Christ received us, a different end is in store. The joy of a child, who is glad to be found and set free.

ACCFS has numerous resources to assist someone as they interact with and help others. Our relationships can range from formal mentoring situations to the informal, encouraging conversations we hold nearly every day. Resources, discussion aids, and sample accountability questions can be found on our website at www.accounseling.org/mentoring. In addition, our Mentor Training presentations can give practical skills regarding helping others. If you would like more information, please contact ACCFS at (309)263-5536.
As the name suggests, the Gospel Sing centers around using songs to praise God and the work he is doing here at LifePoints. However, this event is also much more than just an evening of music. It’s a chance for us at LifePoints to say thank you to all who support our mission, whether that be in prayer, financially, or in service. Ultimately, the Gospel Sing is about praising and worshipping God for his provision and blessings on our agency and those we serve. We would love to share in this evening with each of you!

More details can be found on our website, and questions can be directed to agramm@aclifepoints.org. May God be glorified!

Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Children’s Home
Clint Plattner — Former Foster Care Case Manager

It feels very surreal to realize how much life I have spent at Gateway Woods as I wrap up my employment. I remember one of my first Sundays at Leo church, Bro. Brace Wieland told me, “20 years ago, we moved to Leo for 2 years”. It seemed crazy then… and now it feels equally as crazy to be able to relate to that comment.

As I reflect back, a few things come to mind. First, I learned early on that to love at all is to be vulnerable. Connecting with others creates the possibility of joy and comfort, but also heartache and pain. Thankfully, we (my wife and I) gave ourselves to the mission and did our best to love and connect. It’s very humbling when I consider all the great relationships we formed over this span of time. I’m also thankful that those relationships can continue beyond the boundary of where we work.

The other reality that washes over me as I reflect back is how my vantage point has changed over time. Although unconscious, I came to Gateway with a sort of “jug and mug” mentality in which I would attempt to pour from my “jug of knowledge” into a young person’s “mug”. Through those attempts, I quickly realized another truth called universal brokenness which says, “I don’t know what’s wrong with you, but I know something is wrong with you.” While I attributed this truth to the youth we were serving, over time, I learned it applies to everyone, including myself.

Our first role was houseparenting and it brought me face-to-face with parts of myself that I would’ve been fine not ever meeting. And yet, this became what I would come to value most about being part of this mission: growth. I began to see that we are all on this path of
maturity. Granted, I’m further down the road of life than others and therefore have something to offer, but the reality is we are all on this journey, just in different stages. This helped me not look at others in judgment, but rather see myself in kinship with them. We all need redemption and we all are in a process of growth. God have mercy when we get this wrong.

While it will be a difficult change to not be as connected to what has become like family to me, I now leave with lots of warm memories. I also leave with lots of difficult ones, but mostly I leave with a sense of gratitude to have been a part of a place where I could grow and live out what God had placed within me.

**News:**

- **We look forward to hosting** our Virtual Rep Meeting on March 6th. We are thankful for the overwhelming support from our reps even though we can’t meet in person.
- **We are thankful for Sis. Amber Ehnle (Goodfield, IL)** who recently joined Maple House as their new assistant houseparent.
- **We are also thankful for Sis. Bethany Plattner (Leo, IN)** who will be joining Gateway Farms as our new Gateway Farms assistant.
- **We currently have these openings at Gateway Woods:** Assistant Houseparent, and a Foster Care Case Manager. 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 2021. 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 are also looking for our GW Farms Summer Intern. This is a great opportunity to work directly with residents as you plant and harvest bountiful gifts from the garden. Please contact Bro. Eric 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.ringger@gatewaywoods.org.

**Alabama, Athens**

Lisa Aschliman , Kristy Moore

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” John 14:21

I hope this verse brings encouragement to stand firm in Christ and hold on to God’s commandments. It is one that stood out to me from a study on obedience, as it seems society around us continues to muddle the line of right and wrong.

We would like to thank Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for making the effort to come and serve our congregation on the pulpit for our monthly rotation. We always enjoy having visitors down south and spending time with y’all!
We ask for your continued prayers for Sis. Carolyn Lewis as she continues to battle the effects of cancer, and for Shawn Ray and his health issues. We also ask for prayers for Sis. Clarann Lynn, as she was recently diagnosed with a second form of cancer (she recently was in remission).

We are continuing to prepare for our ALive event over Memorial Day Weekend (May 29-31). Should circumstances arise that would require cancellation, a decision will be made by April 15. Registration is open via www.ALiveAlabama.com, along with any information regarding the event.

As always, we would love to have y’all visit, even if you are traveling through for the evening! For our guest house accommodations, please call Sis. Rebekah Klaus at 815.674.5411.

Arizona, Phoenix
Marge Lindenbaum

“And now, L ORD, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,” Acts 4:29

This passage was read in church recently, and it seems relevant to our day. Peter and John had been arrested and imprisoned overnight, then tried for speaking and acting (to bring healing) in the name of Jesus. The rulers were unable to identify any crime or any way they could punish them because they feared the people, who believed they witnessed a miracle. They wanted to silence these men. The disciples were freed under the directive that they cease speaking or teaching the name of Jesus. They were unable to agree to that condition, of course. They challenged the rulers whether they ought to obey man or God. This event occurred early in the disciples’ ministry. They were changed from cowering, fearful fishermen who fled when Jesus was arrested to bold witnesses of the Gospel message after his Resurrection.

After they were released, the disciples returned to their friends and family – their church – and told them what happened. The church then lifted up their voices in praise to God and prayed a psalm of victory by God’s mighty power. Then they asked God to pay attention to the threats that were leveled at them, and to grant them boldness to speak his word. It strikes me that they did not pray for more freedom of speech, or for the power of those leaders to be lessened, or for the enemies of the Gospel to be destroyed or silenced. The prayer itself was bold in asking God for boldness to continue to preach the Gospel and be empowered to perform the good works that Christ initiated.

This needs to be our prayer today. I have been inclined to ask God to decrease the power of his enemies, to enlarge the influence of his people – to make it easier for me. I am admonished that I need, rather, to ask that I can be bold in the face of threatenings to speak the Word and allow the Holy Spirit to work through me in whatever way he sees fit.

Finally, observe how that prayer was answered!

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:31

We were blessed recently by the service of visiting ministers. We appreciate the Word shared by Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Carol, Bern, KS). Last month we reported Bro. Daniel Knochel was baptized into our fellowship and was engaged to be married to Sis. Lexi Stoller from Gridley. Soon after that article was submitted, Daniel was involved in a single-vehicle accident that resulted in serious injuries. We again have the sacred privilege of intercession, and we expect the Holy Spirit will answer as clearly and powerfully as he did the early disciples. Please pray with us and with the Knochel and Stoller families for a complete recovery, in the perfect timing and will of the Lord.

We mourn along with the Bro. Bill Woodruff (Sis. Kathy) family in the passing of Bill’s mother. May the Holy Spirit comfort them and bring to mind many happy memories to replace the sadness.

We are enjoying our winter visitors and praise God we can still gather and fellowship with all our loved ones. As this article is being submitted, a large part of our country is experiencing severe winter conditions and we are praying that all who are affected remain safe and well.
Arizona, Prescott
Autumn Rokey

We have been blessed with many visitors in this new year and it reminds us how important the extended body of Christ is to our spiritual life. Satan can easily isolate us. When we come together with fellow believers, we can be encouraged in our walk of faith.

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

Thankful for visiting ministers Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington, IL).

Arizona, Tucson
Dean and Jackie Knobloch

We are still meeting on Sunday and every other Wednesday evening via Zoom. We were blessed to have Bro. Troy Metzger (Sis. Gwen, Lester, IA) minister to us. We appreciate his efforts in bringing us the Word. We were reminded that SIN can mean Self Indulgence Now and that is why God abhors it and we should flee from it.

We are thankful to welcome our friends Micah and Elizabeth Fehr and daughter Catalina to Tucson. They have moved from Morris, MN and we are looking forward to getting to know them when we are able to gather again in person for church services.

California, San Diego
Sarah Fulop

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Gen. 1:1

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

The above verses were quoted by Bro. Denny Fulop in his first ever sermon, fitting verses for his new chapter in life. Our church had the joy of welcoming Bro. Denny Fulop (Sis. Allison) and Bro. Phillip Petrovic (Sis. Tasha) to our pulpit ministry this month. This labor of love is greatly appreciated, especially after two years of seeking God’s direction in delegating leadership. Thanks to Elder Bro. John Wiegand and Elder Bro. Mike Lehman for leading us in this transition.

In his sermon, Bro. Denny Fulop encouraged all of us to trust God with our beginnings. Jesus is our alpha and omega and will be with us through every season of life. Just as we should trust God with our beginnings, we need not fear endings either. Death is swallowed up in victory by the cross.

The theme of beginnings has been on my mind a lot. Not only is my family navigating our brother Denny becoming a minister, but we are also welcoming a new sister-in-law: Sis. Desiree Sinn (Silverton, OR). After almost a year of the unexpected loss of our sister, we are thankful that God has provided a companion to our brother-in-law, Bro. Todd Gasser and a mother to our beloved niece Juniper (Smithville, OH). While this is a season to rejoice in, these beginnings trigger moments of apprehension and sorrow of old chapters ending. I am thankful we serve a God that loves us so deeply and understands every emotion, joy and irrational fear we experience. He is with us in every season, every transition and will carry us to the end of our time on this earth.

Speaking of beginnings, Bro. Brian, Sis. Annie and big brother Jaye welcomed our newest church member: Vienna Skye Wagenbach on February 19. So thankful for the healthy arrival of this precious miracle.

We are so grateful for the many prayers and support on behalf of our congregation this past month. As the Apostle Paul says, “Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Cor. 1:3

I’ll end on a verse that has been a real encouragement to me this past month. I hope it is a reminder of God’s grace and peace in this messy, beautiful thing we call life.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;” Eccl. 3:1-4

Colorado, Denver
Jenna Hartter, Rebekah Stoller

The last few weeks have brought colder weather and more
frequent snowfall to Colorado. We are thankful for the moisture and for the winter visitors who have fellowshipped with us on their way to the mountains.

Tom and Teresa Katanic have announced their intention to give their testimonies before the church of how God has worked in their lives the last few years. We look forward to hearing from them and are thankful that they are assembling with us again after many years living in various other states. We are also praying for Tom as he recovers from a concussion.

Connecticut, Rockville
Heidi Beutel, Kim Schneider

As a congregation, we are thankful that COVID-19 guidelines have allowed us to open church capacity to 200 people. What a joy it is to worship, see, and commune with many we have not seen in almost a year. We are thankful for the “increase in numbers” and patiently wait for the time when we can once again, all gather together.

We rejoice with Aaron and Jacqueline Hills in the birth of their son John (Jack) Everett Hills. Grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Luanne Hills and Jorn and Arlene Pickett.

We continue to hold Bro. Ben and Sis. Christy Carlson and their dear family up in our daily prayers as their precious daughter, Teagan, continues to undergo treatment. May God be their strength.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Matthew and Kara Stanley and their family with the passing of Matthew’s brother, Patrick Stanley.

District of Columbia, Washington
Henrietta Meyer

As I write this, I look out on snow and ice. I hope by the time you read this, the weather has warmed. May we always trust the Lord to provide no matter what it is like outside.

This month our visiting (virtual) ministers were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Mark Leuthold (Lester, IA). With many of our snow and ice storms happening on weekends, we are thankful for the technology allowing us to gather yet staying safe.

This month we said goodbye to Sis. Adriene Kaehr as she is returning to the Bluffton area.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Krystal Tyler at the death of her father Bro. Dale Tyler (Remington, IN).

We rejoice with Bro. Phil and Mona Steffen at the birth of a granddaughter, Arya Kelley, born to Delaney and Andrew Archer.

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, to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services and to find out if, when and where services are to be held.

Florida, Fort Lauderdale
Renee Mangold

We are thankful for several visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Sis. Jessica, Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT), Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Sis. Michelle, Chicago, IL). We pray for a blessing on our Lord’s servants.

We had a small, quiet, worshipful Communion service. We are appreciative of this precious time that we could once again experience.

Congratulations to Bro. Ben and Nelly Mangold (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Mangold, Roanoke, IL) on the birth of their first child Carter Mangold. Bro. Ben and Nelly are stationed in Germany and so great grandparents (Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold) are grateful for virtual visiting. May God bless Carter and watch over him his whole life.

We are delighted our church has been surprisingly full. We are still able to space every other bench with families sitting together and masks are still required. We are having morning service only with no lunch or Sunday school.
Florida, Fort Myers  
Addison Steidinger, Carrie Steidinger

The beautiful weather has brought many vacationers to our area this past month. Ministering to us were: Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Damon Knobloch (Sis. Stephanie, Morris North, MN), Bro. Jeremy Leman (Sis. Shara, Forrest, IL), Bro. Matthew Wulf (Sis. Tara, Morris, MN), and Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont, IL).

Florida, Sarasota  
Sandra Kaeb

God’s word was shared with us this month by Bro. Jason Huber (Sis. Joy, Leo, IN.)

Our prayers are for Bro. John Krstec and Bro. Todd Hebert as they both spent time in the hospital. Bro. Glenn Ott has been waiting for a lung transplant and we’re thankful that one has come through. His surgery was successful, and he is doing well. Our prayers continue for him and his dear wife, Sis. Mardell, for the days ahead.

The beginning of February, our sisters started meeting every Tuesday for comfort knotting. Our Sunday school silent auction and Butter Braid benefit was February 13. Thankful to all who participated and donated to our Sunday school children. It was a blessing to all.

Florida, Peachtree City  
Elise Funk, Brenda Stoller

Once again, we have been very blessed this month. Our congregation has had two engagements. We rejoice that Sis. Ashlyn Waldbeser (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) is engaged to Bro. Ben Pfister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN). Also Drew Waldbeser (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) is engaged to Elizabeth Penland (Tom and Joy Penland).

Rocky Steidinger (Bro. Philip and Sis. Lana) and Caleb Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana) have given their hearts to the Lord in repentance. May they all feel the peace and direction of the Holy Spirit.

It is always a joy to have visitors, and we thank Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA) for challenging us in the Word.

Haiti, Bonne Fin - Hospital Lumiere  
Rick and Komari Aberle

Greetings in Jesus’ name from Bonne Fin! Our past month has been unique as new travel restrictions regarding COVID-19 have been implemented in both the United States and in Haiti. We are very thankful that there are continued avenues to travel as we have need.

We welcomed our first team in some time during the past month with the presence of a South Carolina orthopedic team. The visiting medical professionals served many in the hospital in need of care.

Board member, Bro. Rich Bertschi, spent time with us this past month. We also are blessed by the arrival of Bro. Brandon and Sis. Katelyn Kaehr (Bluffton, IN). They have come to share their talents with the mission on a short-term assignment. Bro. Brandon is assisting with facilities maintenance and repair and Sis. Katelyn is providing a variety of mission support activities during their stay here.

Bro. Rick Aberle had opportunity to travel back to the US this past month to spend time with his family. We are thankful for safe travels for all during this time as Haiti continues to experience political turmoil. This makes travel challenging as road blocks and protests frequently occur.

Church services were held in Bonne Fin for the HarvestCall missionary family here in Haiti. It is always a refreshing blessing to share the Word and worship together. Missionaries from Torbeck and Les Cayes were able to attend.

Please continue to pray for direction and guidance for the mission here. The lack of missionary candidates for open positions continues. The board is diligently seeking God’s grace and direction for the next steps for continued operation of the hospital. The grave situation presents difficult decisions. We trust that God will lead those decisions in a manner that glorifies his name.
Haiti, Les Cayes  
Mike and Susie Walder

Greetings from Les Cayes! The last few years our get-togethers in Haiti have been few and far between. So it was very special to be invited to Bonne Fin recently and spend an afternoon there worshipping God and sharing a meal with all who could make it. It was so special that we even took a group photo.

This month we are enduring the season of Carnival, Haiti’s biggest celebration that is held over several weeks. These vibrant, lively festivities always culminate with Fat Tuesday, commonly referred to as Mardi Gras. This also happens to be the day preceding Ash Wednesday, the Catholic holiday marking the start of the Lenten season.

As people are getting their fill of sinful pleasures before they have to give them up for a period, we pray that our God who is rich in mercy would touch their hearts with a deeper conviction about their sin. We pray that Haitian people everywhere would forsake their lives of sin and idolatry and seek the true and living God.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Pet. 3:9

Illinois, Bloomington  
Kinsey Dotterer, Lauren Zimmerman

Our church was blessed to host a regional ACCFS marriage conference with the theme, Flourish, in early February. We are grateful for those who presented and taught us ways to help our marriages flourish.

We mourn with Bro. Larry Mariani (Sis. Jeannine); who lost his mother, Imogene, on January 22. We also grieve with Sis. Peggy Ifft (Bro. Gary) and Sis. Cindy Schieler (Bro. Darl), whose mother, Sis. Elsie Rager, (Latty, OH), passed away January 29.

In our last local church newsletter, we were reminded to pray and encourage those who are early in their walk with Christ. We are so thankful to see God’s work in these souls and pray for many more to come to know our Savior.

“…there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” Luke 15:10

Illinois, Bradford  
Becky Endress, Lena Stoller

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” Rom. 12:5

We all have our place in the body of Christ. Both in physical and spiritual capacities, we can find joy in serving one another. We appreciate those who recently took on new roles in our church body: Bro. Fred Hausmann (Sis. Sue) as trustee and Bro. Nathan Stoller (Sis. Sherrill) as usher.

It was a blessing to gather for our annual Comforter Day. Many comforters were completed for those in need. Whether we can sew or not, we all can do our part, and much can be accomplished.

Jenna Ehnle (Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen) and Marissa Endress (Bro. Ben and Sis. Katie) have found peace with God. They look forward to baptism and becoming a part of the body of Christ.


Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa) underwent a partial knee replacement. We are thankful that God’s healing hand has been evident in his recovery.

We appreciated Bro. Neil Stoller (Sis. Luann, Princeville, IL) ministering to us recently.

Illinois, Champaign  
Brent Young

We are grateful to Bro. Andrew Rassi (Sis. Sandy, Morton, IL) for visiting on a Wednesday evening and preaching the good Word.

We sorrow with Bro. Oliver Kuntz as well as our friend Garrett Conaty, both of whom lost a grandfather recently.

The investment by our young group in our Sunday school students has always been a great blessing. With adjustments for COVID-19, the young group offered Valentine’s Day baby-sitting and hosted the Sunday school students for an afternoon of sledding as well.

The young group has also created a number of ‘good Samaritan kits’ to distribute to anyone in need, particularly those
begging for assistance at various street corners in our area. There have been more of these needs in our community and it is quite helpful to have a kit to hand out with useful items, a New Testament, and Gospel tracts.

I have been thinking recently of the song ‘Springtime in Glory’ (by Luther G. Presley) and remembering lessons I learned from a dear friend in college who studied agronomy. He often viewed God’s creation through our agricultural seasons of dormancy, planting, and harvest. Having lived both in Arizona and Illinois, I can testify that October in Phoenix is like February in Champaign: the weather is bearable, but everyone is ready for a change. I find myself literally praying for spring and after considering it, I believe it to be a worthy prayer. The dormant fields, the bitter cold, and the hope of spring that seems so distant remind us of our hope of that eternal ‘Springtime in Glory’, Verse 2:

Useful and happy, none will ever grow old
Out in that lovely land so fair
That land where there is no suffering from hunger or cold
It is springtime forever there.

Illinois, Chicago
Diana Eisenmann

Over the past month, we held several virtual events including our monthly Bible study, a Women of the Word devotion on “Jesus in the Jewish Feasts,” the Annual Officer’s Meeting, and the Annual Business Meeting.

In early February, we resumed in-person Sunday services. It was wonderful to be together again after worshiping virtually since early November. Starting in February and continuing through June, we plan to take the second and fourth Wednesday evenings to study and discuss our brotherhood’s Guiding Principles. This will take place virtually, and the remaining Wednesday evenings will be regular in-person services. Our initial discussion went well, and we look forward to exploring further in the coming months.

Bro. Levi and Sis. Kyann Wuethrich and their daughter Solvi, are moving to Smithville, OH. We will greatly miss them in Chicago, but we rejoice with them for their opportunity to be near family.

Bro. Clyde Kuntz (Gridley, IL) passed away in February. He was the grandfather of Bro. Brian Vercler (Sis. Amber) and Sis. Laura Lindberg (Bro. Mark). Our hearts mourn with their family over this loss, especially as it follows the recent loss of their grandmother, Sis. Wilma Kuntz. We pray for God’s comfort in their time of sorrow.

Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb and JD and Angie Jennings were greatly blessed by the arrival of another grand-daughter. Sweet Layla Joy Jennings was born to Ben and Anna Jennings, (Collinsville, IL).

As I write this article, I can hear the birds chirping outside and the sun is melting the snow on the sidewalks and road. It has been so bitterly cold that one may...
think spring will never come. May we remember that “He hath made everything beautiful in his time.” Eccl. 3:11. Spring is right around the corner!

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

It was a blessing to witness the baptisms of two dear souls on January 17. Bro. Levi Steffen and Bro. Jacob Ifft testified of how God had called and drawn them to a life of following the Lord, and of God’s faithfulness to them. Bro. Levi is the son of Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda Steffen and Bro. Jacob is the son of Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft. We are thankful to have these two young brothers in faith to help and strengthen our church. Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) for this occasion. Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH) also served that weekend by bringing forth the Word of God to us.

With sadness and hope, we bid a final farewell to our Sis. Luella Sauder on January 19. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to her family, especially her daughter Sandy Osman and grandson Peter who are part of our church family. May God give comfort in this time of loss, but an abiding hope that Sis. Luella has now reached her heavenly home.

On January 23, Bro. Zach Anderson gave a topical Bible presentation entitled, “Obtaining and Maintaining a Clean Heart”. It was a wonderful, encouraging evening! We were reminded that when we keep our focus on maintaining a pure heart, the carnal things around us will fade and the light will continue to shine in our life.

"When pure and upright hearts,  
By flames of love ignited,  
Are by the bond of faith  
More firmly yet united,  
The light of hope beams forth  
In radiance far and nigh,  
Invites us to partake  
The blessings from on high."  
The Union Of Hearts,  
Zion’s Harp, #79

With joy and excitement, we were made aware of the engagement of Bro. Jacob Roth to Sis. Elise Zimmerman. Bro. Jacob is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy Roth and Sis. Elise is the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman. Our prayers are with these two as they plan for their life together as one in the Lord.

**Note of Thanks**

A special “Thank You” to all who remembered us during the time of Maxine’s illness and death. She would have been so appreciative, as we have been, for all the many prayers, cards, words of sympathy, phone calls, and memorials. May God bless you for sharing your love. (Matthew 5:16)  
Andrew Virkler and family

**Illinois, Elgin**  
**Amy Gasser**

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, January 20. Bro. Les Schambach was selected as our new secretary, replacing Bro. Roger Weiss. Bro. Otto Klein was selected as cemetery trustee, replacing Bro. Dave Rinkenberger. We thank Bro. Roger and Bro. Dave for their past years of service.

Kenda Martin’s (Tony) mother, Pat Pfaffinger, is terminally ill with stomach cancer and is planning to go on hospice. We want to remember her and the family in prayer at this time.

Bro. Nate Steffen has spent time in the hospital during the past month, and he is currently at Apostolic Christian Highland Oaks for physical therapy and to gain strength. He hopes to return to his apartment when he is able. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne) and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie) are able to assemble with us again, and we pray for others who have been sick.

On February 6-7, we gathered to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Ashlyn Dietz (Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena). We are thankful for her, and it was a blessing to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) come to assist Bro. Dan with the testimony and baptism. We were also thankful to have several visiting ministers that weekend: Bro. Darin Massner (Sis. Twila, West Bend, IA), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), as well as many other visitors.

“Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want Thee forever to
live in my soul;
Break down every idol,
cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall
be whiter than snow.
Whiter than snow, yes,
whiter than snow;
Now wash me, and I shall
be whiter than snow.”
*Whiter Than Snow, Hymns of Zion #210, Vs. 1*

This hymn is especially fitting for this occasion, as we have had many beautiful snowfalls this winter, and it is symbolic of a soul who has been cleansed by Jesus’ blood and made “whiter than snow.”

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

“How the world will grow with beauty, When love shines in,
And the heart rejoice in duty, When love shines in.
Trials may be sanctified, And the soul in peace abide,
Life will all be glorified, When love shines in.
When love shines in, When love shines in, When love shines in,
How the heart is tuned to singing When love shines in;
When love shines in, When love shines in, joy and peace to others bringing,
When love shines in.”
*When Love Shines In*, Tabernacle Hymns, #68

We wish to extend our sincere appreciation for all the prayers and deeds of kindness shown to us during our recent COVID-19 experiences. May God Bless each of you for your love and care.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller

**Notes of Thanks**

I want to thank all who sent prayers, cards, texts, gifts and called me for my 80th birthday. It was greatly appreciated and humbling. It has been a long time since I’ve been to church and I miss my church family but hope and pray I will be able to come to church soon! God bless you all!

Sis. Charlene Schumacher

**Illinois, Fairbury**
**Kati Meiss, Trish Steidinger**

Our prayers are with Sis. Natalie McCasky (Bro. Dale) with the passing of her mother Sis. Nathalia Getz, (Bro. Allan, Eureka, IL) and Sis. MaryAnn Plattner (Elder Bro. Rick) with the passing of her mother Sis. Elsa Hartman. Our Sis. Delores Nussbaum also passed away, we pray for her extended family members.


**Illinois, Forrest**
**Jessica Gerber, Marsha Lanz**

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”  Eccl. 12:7

Our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones this month. Kevin Kuntz passed away on January 21. He was the son of our late Bro. Leland and Sis.
Marjorie Kuntz. The mother of Ron Schaffer (Vicki) and Bro. Kevin Schaffer (Sis. Martha), Emma Schaffer, passed from this life into eternity on February 4. Emma was also the mother-in-law of Bro. Lloyd Honegger (Joyce). Our Sis. Micki Zimmerman (Bro. Rod) also lost her mother, Dolores “Dee” Rieger on January 24. Bro. Chuck Mogler (Sis. Beth, West Bend, IA) went to be with the Lord on February 2. He was a brother-in-law of Bro. Ernie Leman (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Ben Leman (Sis. Lori), as well as an uncle to several in our congregation. Praying that he who knows the sorrow of each soul will bring peace, comfort, and healing during the difficult times.

“Peace, peace, wonderful, peace coming down from the Father above. Sweep over my spirit forever I pray. In fathomless billows of love.”
Wonderful Peace, Gospel Hymns #746

So thankful that many in our congregation have felt this peace sweep into their souls and are now desiring baptism; Kylie Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly), Remington and Reuben Mueller (Bro. Ron and Sis. Vicki), Kelsey Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany), Marissa Lanz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha), Jacob Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen), and Andrea Edelman (Bro. Kraig and Sis. Carrie).

On February 6 and 7, we were able to gather and hear the testimonies and then witness the baptisms of Sis. Lynette Edelman (Bro. Kirk and Sis. Myra), Bro. Nolan Zimmerman (Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel), Bro. Marcus Aberle (Sis. Laverne and the late Bro. Mark), and Sis. Alexandria Brown. May God bless them as they continue to follow God’s ways. We thank Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for assisting with this special weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). We thank each of them for their willingness to serve and bring forth God’s Word.

Note of Thanks
Thank you for making my 85th birthday really special. For the many beautiful cards, expressions of love, and words of kindness. God bless each one of you.
Bro. Eldon Waibel.

Illinois, Goodfield
Amy Hinrichsen, Judy Knapp

Winter can seem kind of long and spring can’t come soon enough. Sometimes life can be like that and we just can’t wait to get out of a tough season and onto something new. Thankfully we have a loving God who gets us through the tough times and is faithful no matter what.

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

We rejoice with David and Kinsey Hoffman as they were blessed with their first child, a baby boy, Jameson Ross on February 2! Thankful grandparents are: Jim and Karen Hoffman and Bro. Ross and Sis. Kitty Herrmann.

We are very thankful to announce that Kassidy Post is at peace with God and man and is ready for baptism. Kassidy is the daughter of Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post. Our prayers are with her!

Love is in the air! On February 7, our dear Sis. Mallory Bauman was wed to Bro. Brandon Rose (Tremont, IL). It was a lovely wedding service and Bro. Brandon’s grandfather, Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL) had the majority of the wedding service with some special thoughts to share.

On Valentine’s Day, our church had two special engagement announcements! Sis. Carly Hartman is engaged to Bro. Jim Bolliger (Tremont, IL). Carly is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman and Jim is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger. Bro. Roman Bauman is engaged to Sis. Ambria Herrmann. Roman is the son of Bro. Rick and Sis. Stacie Bauman and Ambria is the daughter of Bro. Ross and Sis. Kitty Herrmann. We pray the Lord will bless both of these couples during their engagements as they prepare for their marriages!

It is so hard to lose someone you love. We are sorry for Bro. Clyde Knobloch who lost his brother, Bro. Silas Knobloch (Lester, IA) in December. Bro. Steve Rocke (Sis. Audrey) recently lost his mother, Marge Rocke.
Also, Sis. Judy Musselman (Bro. Gary) lost her dad, Bro. Roy Zimmerman (Gridley, IL). Our prayers are with all of these individuals and their families during this time. May God grant them comfort and peace.

Sis. Bonnie Gerst is doing well and recovering at home from her recent surgery. She is grateful for all the people who prayed for her before and after her surgery. May God continue to heal her and give her a full recovery.

Sis. Vi Wagner is in the Eureka Home and would appreciate the prayers of our church family.

Our church recently started a “Sharing the Gospel” Bible study. It has been so good to grow in our abilities to share the gospel not only with non-believers but also with each other and to ourselves. Sharing the Gospel is so essential as a Christian!

Note of Thanks

A special thank you for all the cards, notes, phone calls and prayers we have received during these long pandemic days and since my unexpected surgery the 1st week of January. We appreciate and miss you all…

With our Christian love,
Wes and Millie Knapp

Illinois, Gridley
Perry Klopfenstein

We have lost two brothers in faith, who reached the ninety-year-old age level. The first is Bro. Roy Zimmerman, 91, who passed away on January 30. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Helen, children, Sis. Jeanette Lavallier (Bro. Jim, Gridley, IL); Sis. Nancy Wulf (Bro. Davis, Morris, MN); Sis. Norma Witzig (Bro. Curtis, Gridley, IL); Sis. Judy Musselman (Bro. Gary, Goodfield, IL) and Michael Zimmerman (Sandy, Dublin, OH); two brothers, Bro. Robert Zimmerman (Sis. Madlyn dec., Roanoke, IL); William Zimmerman (Myrna, Georgia), and a sister, Sis. Mary Bradle (Bro. Robert, Roanoke, IL). Bro. Roy is remembered as one who enjoyed taking an interest in visiting.

The second elderly brother to die was Bro. Clyde Kuntz, 90, who passed away on February 7. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Wilma, on December 4, 2020. Survivors are three daughters, Sis. Sonia Vercler (Bro. Tim, Gridley, IL); Sis. Sara Garman (Steve, Tremont, IL) and Donna Kuntz, (Peoria, IL); three sons, Bro. Richard Kuntz (Sis. RaeJean, Gridley, IL); Russell Kuntz (Sherrie, Gridley, IL) and Rollyn Kuntz (Angie, Chenoa, IL); a sister, Sis. Lucille Romersberger, (Gridley, IL); a brother, Bro. Ralph Kuntz (Sis. Marge, Gridley, IL); and brother-in-law, Bro. Roy Wyss (Sis. Shirley, Goodfield, IL). Bro. Clyde demonstrated a kindly manner in his interactions in church.

Surely, our congregation is praying for Sis. Lexi Stoller, who recently moved to Phoenix, AZ, and for Bro. Daniel Knochel (of that congregation) to whom she became engaged on January 10. Soon after, he suffered serious head injuries in a single-vehicle accident. We thank God that as of this writing he is making progress in his recovery. God is ever present!

Illinois, Morton
Annette Tanner

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

January 17 we were blessed to witness the wedding ceremony uniting Sis. Kayla Rassi and Bro. Javan Plattner. Their parents are Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy Rassi, and Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Plattner, (Tremont, IL). Bro. Nathan Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) uncle of the bride, conducted the service. Retired Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) grandpa of the groom, led the couple in their vows. We wish them God’s blessings as they take their place in the Tremont congregation.

We thank Bro. Kirk Plattner (Sis. Keri, West Lafayette, IN) for sharing God’s Word with us at our morning service. Joining him on the pulpit were Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Nathan Rassi (Sis. Michelle, St. Louis, MO).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ken Getz (Sis. Ann) in the passing of his sister Sis. Doris Hodel (Bro. Jim dec., Roanoke, IL).

January 27 was a special evening for George Taylor (Dee) as he gave his testimony of faith and was baptized into the death of Jesus. We welcome George as our Brother in Christ and wish him God’s nearness as he walks with the Lord in the days ahead.
February 3 was our Family Worship Night with the topic “Jesus Says” - “Ye Must Be Born Again”. Our Bro. Jeff Neihouser reminded us of the story of Nicodemus in John 3 who asked Jesus, “How can a man be born when he is old?” To be born again means: to repent and be converted, strive for sanctification and growth, reflect what Jesus is doing in our life to those around us.

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

We need to cling to the promise that God loves us and is still granting grace unto repentance to those who call on him. May we always love others as he loves us.

“The love of God is greater far Than tongue or pen can ever tell; It goes beyond the highest star, And reaches to the lowest bell. The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win; His erring child He reconciled, And pardoned from his sin. Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure The saints, and angels' song.”

The Love of God, Hymns of Zion #289

Note of thanks

The family of Pat Landes wants to thank everyone for the prayers, cards and other expressions of love given to us in the passing of our mom and grandma. Although we miss our sweet mom, we are thankful she is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Schwind and family, Beth Ehresman and family

Illinois, Peoria
Bonnie Bach, Crystal Wettstein

Sis. Bernice Houk reached the rare age of 108 in January. We can all learn a lot by listening to the priceless godly wisdom acquired over the span of long lifetimes such as Sis. Bernice’s.

Sis. Tori Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki) and Bro. Adam Streitmatter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet) announced their engagement and are looking forward to joining their lives together. We are so excited for them and pray for God’s continued joy and happiness.

Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie Hoerr are celebrating another grandchild with the birth of Maebel Rose to Bro. Drew and Sis. Danae Martin (Bloomington, IL).

Our monthly Family Night was brought to us by Bro. Brett Hoerr. He spoke about John 11, where Lazarus’ resurrection from the dead was a foreshadow of Jesus’ resurrection to come.

We pray for comfort and healing for those who have been hospitalized or dealt with health issues lately.

We lift up those from Peoria who are serving in Magdalena, MX (Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Bro. Jason and Sis. Geo Grassi) and in India (Sis. Madi Waibel). We pray for safety and protection over them and for open doors and victory in the Lord’s name.

We have begun a monthly prayer meeting after morning services. How great is the privilege of prayer, especially with all the events happening in the world around us currently. It is comforting to know Jesus never changes!

“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” Heb. 13:8

Illinois, Princeville
Melinda Christ, Cherie White

“Jesus in the night of His betrayal, When His covenant He did endow, When His blood, in love and grave eternal, For transgression and for sin did flow, He established for His church a token, That His covenant might ne’er be broken, This His holy Sacrifice and feast, For His own, from sin and death released. There is life and there is peace and gladness, There contentment, grace and mercy flow; There the light of Jesus scatters sadness, Shining with a soft and blessed glow. O, who would not joy in this salvation, Yearn to dwell within that habitation Where the Light shines full and free, Giving men new life and liberty!”

Communion Hymn, Zions Harp, #26
As we approach this Easter season, may we sit and ponder upon our Lord and Saviors death and suffering and the price that was paid on Calvary.

On January 17, Sis Cherelle Steffen, daughter of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Deanna Steffen was engaged to Bro. Abram Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein (Latty, OH). We rejoice with them and wish them God’s blessings as they join hand and heart and become one in Christ.

Bro. Raymond and Sis. Betty Wagenbach recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. What a treasure to share that many years together. We appreciate the faithfulness of our older brethren and the Christlike example they show us.

The new Sunday school teachers that have been chosen for the coming school year are Bro. Rod Stahl, Bro. Aaron Herrmann, Sis. Brianna Streitmatter, and Sis. Cherie White. Bro. Steven Beutel also went back in to replace Bro. Quinn Steffen who has moved out of state. We give these brothers and sisters our prayerful support as they teach the young and tender hearts.

Bro. Alan Martin was a surgical patient this past month. We pray for full health and recovery.

Another precious baby, Eden Rose was born on January 22 to Bro. Landon and Sis. Katie Isaia on January 21. Her brother and sister are Haven and Clay. Her grandparents Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Rich Isaia and Deanna and Chris Harrell (El Paso, IL).

Bro. Matt and Sis Jana Gastman welcomed their first grandchild. Quinn Marie was born to Matt and Hayley Aeschleman (Normal, IL) on February 3.

Oakley Clark was born to Bro. Calvin and Sis. Bethany Teubel (Champaign, IL) on February 11. Roanoke grandparents are Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman.

Bro. Luke and Sis. Lydia Kieser have moved to Carol Stream, IL and will be worshiping with the Chicago church. We will miss their fellowship and enthusiasm for Jesus.

Bro. Matt Feucht (Sis. Jennifer) led our topical Bible Study “Lord, what shall I do?” on January 31. Bro. Matt shared how the early church lived in an environment that persecuted them, kept them from circles of influence, marginalized them, and discriminated against them. The early Christians responded by opening their homes, sharing the gospel, opposing sexual perversions, caring for each other, the sick and the vulnerable, and showing kindness to strangers.

Bro. Matt encouraged us to pray for those in authority that we may live a quiet and peaceable life and

### Illinois, Roanoke

**Judy Sauder, Barb Schwind**

Our hearts sorrow with those who have lost loved ones in the past month. Sis. Wilma Simpson (Bro. Bob, dec., Detroit, MI) passed away on January 18. She is survived by two children; John Simpson and Leigh Schamp (Steve), three granddaughters and a brother, Robert Scherer. Sis. Wilma, who was formerly from Roanoke, was a talented musician and loved to entertain. She and Bro. Bob spent most of their married life in the Champaign, IL area and were active in our church there.

Sis. Luella Sauder (Congerville, IL) passed away on January 19. She was a stepmother to Sis. Pat Sauder.

Sis. Doris Hodel passed away on January 21. Her survivors include daughters Terri Carr, (El Paso, IL), Linda Hodel, (Eureka, IL), sons Bro. Curt (Sis. Jenell), Bro. Jim (Sis. Connie), and Gary (Secor, IL), ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, a brother Bro. Ken Getz (Sis. Ann, Morton, IL) and a sister, Elsie Eigsti (Ron, Mackinaw, IL). Sis. Doris enjoyed gardening and was known for her peanut brittle.

Bro. Roy Zimmerman (Sis. Helen, Gridley, IL) passed away on January 30. He was a brother to Bro. Bob Zimmerman (Sis. Madlyn dec.) and Sis. Mary Bradle (Bro. Bob).

Rose Ann Aeschleman (Richard, Mishawaka, IN) passed away on January 20. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Mary Lou Martin (Bro. Lyle).

We rejoice with those who have welcomed new babies into their families. Eden Rose was born to Bro. Landon and Sis. Katie Isaia on January 21. Her brother and sister are Haven and Clay. Her grandparents Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Rich Isaia and Deanna and Chris Harrell (El Paso, IL).

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Rose Ann Aeschleman (Richard, Mishawaka, IN) passed away on January 20. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Mary Lou Martin (Bro. Lyle).
for all men to be saved and share in the joy of the Lord (1Tim. 2:1-4). Bro. Matt reminded us that God is still on the throne in 2021 and cares for us and our future. We need to have the joy of the Lord, open his Word, and serve him, not self.

Bro. Nate Hodel (Sis. Jamie) led a Bible study: “Who Am I?” on February 7. Moses, David, and Solomon struggled with this question, too. Bro. Nate warned us not to allow social media, our culture, our academic or athletic skills, friends, body image, career, lifestyle, spouse, our kids’ achievements or anyone or anything else provide our sense of identity. We must find our identity in Christ. We must be esteemed by Jesus, who will never let us down. We are free from condemnation (Rom. 8:1), fearfully and wonderfully made (Psa. 139:14), chosen and adopted (Eph. 1:3-6), sons of God (1John 3:1). Bro. Nate encouraged us to recognize our strengths and gifts and use them for the Lord.

Bro. Jonathan Hodel (Sis. Megan) led our Bible study “Lies of a Cheap Jesus” on February 14. Bro. Jonathan identified 5 lies:
1. Extend Jesus an invitation to be a part of our life. Jesus does the inviting and wants to produce a transformation/regeneration in our lives. He is not just an add-on, something we throw in “the bag” of our life with all the other stuff. (Isa.1, Rev. 3:20, Col.3:1-4)
2. Once he’s in my life, I am just along for the ride. The Christian life is a process of sanctification. (Luke 9:23)
3. Having Jesus in my life will get me everything I want. Expect trials and suffering. Every storm is an opportunity to shelter in Jesus.
4. I will work things out on my own and go to Jesus if I need him. Remember the rich young ruler (Luke 18). Jesus is not meant to be the icing on the cake.
5. The risk of following Jesus is not worth the reward. The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus. (Rom. 6:23). The cross to the resurrection is the most costly transaction ever known to man.

Mary Beth Knapp (Sis. Carol) has submitted her life to Jesus. We welcome Mary Beth and her dear family to Roanoke church.

The HOPE girls decorated cookies for our nursing home on February 3. The ACTIVE boys volunteered at Midwest Food Bank on February 17. We appreciate their service.


This week I got to help my granddaughter, Cece, with e-learning due to snow and cold weather. We did an exercise video together from her tablet. Cece "Zoomed" with her class at 10 AM, read several online books to me and completed the packet of work her teacher sent home. How different the day was from when her daddy was in kindergarten with a snow day! But some things remained the same. Cece did feed the birds with Papa. Dave and I both joined her for a game of “Fox and Goose” in the snow. In this world of many changes, we can be so thankful that we serve a God, who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8).

Note of Thanks
I extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone for their prayers and all kindnesses shown to me while I spent time in the hospital and Nursing Home.

Sis. Anna Marie Reutter

Illinois, Tremont
Debbie Aberle, Lucy Kaiser

"Baptized into Thy name most holy, O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and lowly Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host. Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin; Thy Spirit now shall live within."

The Baptismal Covenant, Zion's Harp, # 41

We rejoice with seven souls who were baptized this past month: Sis. Sarah and Sis. Julia Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Grace Kaiser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Renee), Bro. Wesley Sauder (Bro. Eric and Sis. Leann Rocke), Bro. Noah Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen), Bro. Alex Stuber (Bro. Troy and Sis. Anne), and Bro. Asa Ropp (Bro. Tim and Sis.
Jenny). We were thankful to have visiting ministers worship with us during these special times. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ken Wuehrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Elder Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) for their assistance with testimonies and baptisms. We also appreciated hearing Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL) preach the Word to us. We extend our thanks to Bro. Isaac Wofford (Sis. Rachel, Washington, IL) for sharing a topical lesson entitled Respect of Life with us and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) for assisting in the reading of the Memorandum.


Bro. Javan and Sis. Kayla Plattner were joined in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Chad and Sis. Laura Plattner and Bro. Andrew and Sis. Sandy Rassi (Morton, IL). Bro. Brandon and Sis. Mallory Rose were also married this month. Their parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marla Rose and Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita Bauman (Goodfield, IL). We warmly welcome Sis. Kayla and Sis. Mallory into our congregation.

It is always a joy to have new babies join our church family. Bro. Galen and Sis. LeaAnn Huette welcomed home Sophie Ann. Her siblings, Easton and Baylor, and grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan Huette, are thrilled that she is here. Belle Elizabeth was born to Bro. Josiah, Sis. Renae, and big brother Jackson Koch. Belle’s grandparents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Sandi Koch. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger are delighted to welcome another granddaughter, Emry Rose, born to Bro. Dallas and Sis. Rebecca Haerr (Taylor, MO).

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Sara Garman (Steve) on the loss of her father Bro. Clyde Kuntz (Gridley, IL). We pray that God will grant her strength and comfort as she has lost both parents recently.

**Illinois, Washington**

**Lillian Pfaffmann**

Two more engagement announcements in Washington! Truly COVID-19 has not diminished the “love bug!” Bro. Tate Wyss (Bro. Fred and Sis. Dianne) to Sis. Tamra Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine, Eureka, IL). Also, Bro. Matt Slagel (Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb) to Sis. Rebecca Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL). We pray that the Lord will guide each couple as they plan their lives as one in him!

Washington was blessed with a visiting minister, Bro. Matt Knapp (Sis. Dana, Peachtree City, GA) as the Holy Spirit used him to teach many applicable Biblical truths.

Our prayers are with Bro. Luke Baker (Sis. Natalie) and Sis. Kathy Stoller (Bro. Richard) who were both hospitalized and thankfully now home re-cooperating!

A precious baby girl, Winslow Grace, was born to Bro. Brice and Sis. Alisha Knapp on February 20. Her brother, Riser, will welcome her home!

Sadly, Sis. Helen Woerner passed away. She hadn’t been in church since COVID-19 and was looking forward to returning after she received the vaccine. We are praying the Lord will wrap his arms around her family as they grieve their loss.

**Note of Thanks**

We are thankful for the outpouring of your love. The prayers, gifts of love, notes, e-mails, texts, and cards we received are inspiring and we are thankful for each contribution.

Dad was interested in every soul that he encountered in his life. We are blessed by his testimony of faith in Christ and his way of responding to others.

Andy Mogler family

**Indiana, Bluffton**

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

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.” Rom. 8:28

We love this verse! It has brought such comfort when life seems difficult and out of control. We memorize it and hang it on...
our walls. But we cannot separate it from the verse that follows.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Rom. 8:29

God’s definition of “good” may be different from ours. I know that often, I believe “good” to mean happy, easy and comfortable. But he means for everything to work in us that we would be more like Jesus! And ultimately, that is so much better! All for his glory!

We are rejoicing that we could hold the baptisms for our new Bro. Brody Tonner (Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle) and Bro. Breckin Gilliom (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary). They gave their testimonies several months ago, but because of COVID-19, their baptisms had to be delayed. Kreed Frauhiger (Bro. Krent and Sis. Liz) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God lead and bless these young men!

Sis. Katie Miller of ACCFS blessed us by sharing at our “Flawed but Worthy” sister’s event.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie Isch and their family, as Sis. Leslie’s dad, Bro. Gary Stoller (Bluffton North, IN) and grandma, Sis. Elsie Rager, (Latty, OH) have passed into eternity. Also grieving the loss of his mother, Marcel, are Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan Harris.

Many of our loved ones have dealt with health issues. Our prayers are with Sis. Mary Raber (Bro. Bruce), Sis. Pam Reinhard (Bro. John), Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner (Bro. Tom, dec.), Bro. Bill Carrico (Sis. Heidi), Sis. Ruth Baumgartner (Bro. Keith, dec.), Bro. Tim Hollopeter (Bro. Joe and Sis. Donna), and Nancy Hill (Dave).

Bro. Brandon and Sis. Katelyn Kaehr are spending most of 2 months at Hospital Lumiere. Our love and prayers are with them as they serve the Lord in this capacity!

Bro. Aaron, Sis. Cassie, Corrie, Claire and Elliot Gerber welcome Emma Jane into their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch and Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny Gerber. Little Ty Marvin was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer. Also rejoicing are Ty’s siblings, Brett, Emily, Lynne, Ella and Haddassah, and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger and Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie Drayer. Bro. Chase and Sis. Lindsey Fiechter are thankful for the safe arrival of their twins, Graham Matthew and Garrett Charles. Owen, Cora and Oakley have their arms and hearts full with their little brothers! Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter embrace another grandchild with the birth of Naomi Bay Gerber, born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Megan (Bluffton North, IN). Naomi’s paternal grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber (Bluffton North, IN).

God has entrusted little Ramsey Kay to Bro. Spencer, Sis. Breanna, Madden and Burke Pfister. Her grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Stoller and Bro. Courtney and Sis. Jody Pfister.

Church was cancelled on January 31 due to ice and snow. It was a sweet reminder that gathering together is such a blessing, even though it looks different than it did a year ago. We pray the Lord will extend his mercy so that we can soon greet and fellowship as in years past. We will certainly have a whole new level of thankfulness for many things we once took for granted!

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” Num. 6:24-26

Indiana, Bluffton North

Deanna Brinneman, Rhonda Maller

We are thankful we have been able to continue to gather to worship each week. It may look a little different than what we are used to, but the spirit of the Lord is always present, and we all take great comfort in that.

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

We are lifting up our VBS directors and our ministers in prayer so that we can safely have VBS this summer.

Our congregation is rejoicing with Bro. Brandon and Sis. Megan Gerber, as their precious baby girl, Naomi Bay, arrived on February 1. Grandparents are Bro. Todd and
Sis. Michelle Gerber and Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter (Bluffton, IN).

On January 16, we were pleased to host Sis. Katie Miller of ACCFS as she presented “Flawed But Worthy” to the ladies of Bluffton and Bluffton North. All who attended, either in person or virtually, were encouraged to embrace God’s love and mercy, even when we do not feel worthy.

During a special service on January 24, Sis. Cordin Koch of Gateway Woods interviewed two couples from Bluffton North concerning foster care and adoption. It was enlightening and a blessing to hear how God uses foster parents to bless children who have been through trauma.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain:…” Rev 21:4

God continues to call souls home. We pray for those families who have lost loved ones.

On January 21, Ruth Ifer (Bro. Frank), 74, passed away surrounded by her beloved family. In addition to her husband, Ruth is survived by a son, Kurt (Angie, Craigville, IN), a daughter, Kara Frank (Ross, Bluffton, IN); two sisters, Gail Wetzel (George, Santa Claus, IN) and Nancy Hobby (Randy, Santa Claus, IN), eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild on the way.

The mother of our Sis. Nancy Stoller, Sis. Elsie Rager, 100, (Latty, OH) passed away on January 29. We extend our love and prayers to Sis. Nancy and her family.

Trayton Gerber, 28, entered into his eternal rest on January 30. He was the beloved son of Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn Gerber, and the brother of Sis. Taye Fiechter (Bro. Blake), Sis. Taryn Schumacher (Bro. Drew, West Lafayette, IN), and Takaylah “Tiki” Gerber. Trayton, known as “Boo Boo” by his three nieces and nephew, enjoyed rides of all kinds – in the golf cart, in the car, or on the boat at the lake. Also surviving are his grandmothers, Sis. Edna Moser and Sis. Louise Gerber.

We also offer up prayers and love to those suffering from medical conditions and challenges.

“For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater.” Isa. 55:10

Indiana, Francesville

Jacki Huber, Connie Linback

On January 24, our Bro. Trevor Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami) and Sis. Audrey Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy, Junction, OH) were united in marriage in Junction, OH. We rejoice with them and look forward to having Sis. Audrey with us here. We also look forward to visits from her family! Christian fellowship is a blessing!

We were blessed to have Bro. Ryan Hollan (Sis. Rachel, Fort Myers, FL) visit and share God’s Word with us. It was also a blessing to have Jose Cervantes (elder brother of our sister church in Tecate, Mexico) and his wife Cathy here, as they came to visit her dad, Bro. Art Novotny.

Recently, the following church office positions were filled. We are thankful for every part of the body of Christ, many of which are not elected positions, but are extremely necessary for the body to function. Thanks to every member for using your gifts for God’s glory, and prayers for grace and strength for each one to work until Jesus comes. The offices filled are: Bro. Ryan Kaeb and Sis. Gail Gutwein, Sunday school; Sis. Amber Leman, Elementary Sunday school Song Leader; Bros. Brandon Putt, Sam
Gutwein, Larry Pfledderer and Jeff Tanner, Ushers; Bro. Curt Leman, Trustee; Bro. Bob Huber, Missionary committee.

Our Prayers are with Sis. Lisa Pedigo who has had health concerns.

"At Home, 'tis well!
There shall the pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow, grief, and strife,
In heaven, when the hard race of earthly life is run, the long-borne load no more he'll carry."

At Home 'Tis Well!
Zion's Harp, #170

We are saddened by the passing of our Bro. Richard Overmyer (Beverly), but rejoice for him that he is with Jesus. We extend sympathy to his loving wife, children Gary (Kathleen) and Gretchen Isom (Fred), grandchildren, siblings and extended family.

My mother (Sis, Elna Grimm, Goodfield, IL) recently went home to be with Jesus, and after she fell and was unresponsive to us, we visited her. It was not easy to see her that way. I went home with her on my heart and awakened the next morning with this song running through my mind. It felt like a gift that God was with both her and with us as we witnessed her declining health, knowing that Jesus was with her as she went through the valley of death, and on to life forever with the Lord.

"Safe is my refuge, sweet is my rest, Ill cannot harm me, nor foes e'er molest;
Jesus my spirit so tenderly calms. Holding me close in His mighty arms.
Pressing my tear-stained cheek to His own, Hushing my grief with His sweet gentle tone;
Touching my heart with His healing balms, Holding me still in His mighty arms.
Oh! What wonderful, wonderful rest!
Trusting completely in Jesus I'm blest;
Sweetly He comforts and shields from alarms, Holding me safe in His mighty arms."

Held In His Mighty Arms,
Tabernacle Hymns, #237

Indiana, Indianapolis
Edie Bollier

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isa. 55:10-11

We are experiencing a lot of snow and extreme cold across the country. As we enjoy the beauty of the snow and reflect on God's creation and power, we are thankful that his word is continuing to go out throughout the world.

We were thankful for visiting Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) who ministered the Word while visiting his son, Rustin, who often attends here. Our ministers have been going through The Sermon on the Mount. They have brought many thought provoking and challenging teachings from Jesus.

New babies bring a lot of joy and we rejoice with Bro. Bryce and Sis. Andrea Westfall with the birth of Nora Irene. She is welcomed by big brother Carter and grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall, (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda Giltner, (Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Tyler and Sis. Janna Gerber also welcomed Bruer Suede into their family. Their older children Bexleigh, Braelyn, and Blaze are thrilled with their little brother. His grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn, (Latty, OH/ Ft. Myers FL) and Sis. Ricki Gerber and Jim Glessner, (Smithville, OH).

Our church held an online auction to raise money for the summer mission trip. We are thankful for the great participation and the generous support.

Indiana, LaCrosse
Meagan Frank, Sharla Messner

“Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;
Now wash me, and I shall
be whiter than snow.”
Whiter Than Snow,
Hymns of Zion #210

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord. As I sit to write this, I’m looking out my window at many inches of beautiful white snow. While the snow may cause difficulty on the roads, we know the blood of our Lord washes us even whiter than this beautiful snow.

We are thankful for our visiting minister this month. Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) joined us for Sunday services.

The Sunday school had the opportunity to go to Wolcott for soap packaging. Two weeks later the church was able to get together for soup packaging. What a blessed time for fellowship while also being able to serve others.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Meagan Frank welcomed little Quinn Silas on January 27. Brielle, Adree, Bryce, and Colin are excited to have a new little brother. Quinn’s grandparents are Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank and Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO).

Indiana, Leo
Jan Beer

Two little boys in the foster care of Bro. Andrew and Sis. Corrie Schlatter, were adopted by the couple on December 17, 2020. Denny Benjamin Schlatter and Jeremiah Bert Schlatter received their middle names in honor of Andrew and Corrie’s deceased grandfathers. Bro. Phil and Sis. Judy Schlatter are excited to welcome grandchildren. We ask God’s blessing on this special, compassionate family.

On January 23, our Sis. Chelsea Williamson (Bro. Jason and Sis. Wendy) married Bro. Seth Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti, Washington, IL). In spite of COVID-19 restrictions, it was a beautiful and memorable wedding service. The reception at our fellowship center required more extensive modification, but the Williamson’s handled it masterfully. As Sis. Chelsea and Bro. Seth make their home in Washington, IL, our love and prayers follow them. May God be glorified in their marriage.

Currently, we continue to meet at 9:00 and 11:00 on Sunday morning for our worship services. Sunday school is in session at 10:00. After being separated for so long, it is not difficult to fill the hour between services with heart-warming fellowship with each other.

Our prayers for comfort are with Bro. Bill Rager (Sis. Lou) at the passing of his aged mother, Sis. Elsie Rager (Latty, OH).

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle (Wyss) Braker were blest with the birth of their daughter, Elodie Rue, on January 29. Gideon and Aurelia are her siblings. The Braker’s are houseparents at Gateway Woods. We pray for them as they adjust to the new addition to their family and serve as an example of God’s design for a healthy family unit. May God’s name be glorified.

It is likely that Satan would have been pleased if our annual Youth Winter Retreat would have been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions, but faith is the victory! Instead of traveling to MI to a ski lodge, the committee was able to use our fellowship center and church building to still hold the retreat February 12-14. The Gospel was presented, fellowship was enjoyed, relationships were strengthened, and God was glorified.

As this report is being written, we are in the middle of a winter storm that has shut down most of our daily activity. The Leo area received over 11 inches of snow and strong winds during the snowfall. My sibling living near Dallas, TX reports lack of electricity, cold temperatures and burst water pipes. This unusual weather pattern is being noted all over our country, possibly all over the world, somewhat like the COVID-19 pandemic. God is once again showing us his power and might, but are we paying attention?

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chron. 7:14

Indiana, Milford
Heidi Beer, Anne Wilson

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) for ministering to our congregation this past month.
We are thankful that those who have had health concerns this past month are recovering at their homes. We continue to lift up Bro. Bill Trourd, Sis. Carol Hurd and Bro. George Lehman as they gain strength.

In our Wednesday night services, we have been covering the guiding principles of our church. I was thankful to attend this week and to be refreshed and challenged in what I hold firmly. One question that was asked, “What does it mean to live simply?” has really stuck out. After this year, we all have had a crash course in simplifying our lives. It has stretched us, brougout some weaknesses, and hopefully strengthened the good. Our family has learned a lot of lessons that I hope we do not forget. We prayerfully keep looking for lessons that we are missing, and I hope we can continue to be purposeful in what we take on and not take for granted the things we hold dear.

**Indiana, Remington**

**Jenni Honeygger, Marcella Tyler**

We are embarrassed that we forgot to thank our visiting ministers who were here last month. Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), and Bro. Matthew Kaisner (Sis. Jodi, Fairbury, IL) were all here to help us celebrate the wedding of Bro. Isaac and Sis. Valerie Mogler (West Bend, IA).

In addition, Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) visited and helped with a testimony and baptism. Many thanks to each one for being with us on these special days.

Bro. Kaleb and Sis. Allison Steidinger welcomed their firstborn daughter, little Tierra Kay, on January 22! Excited grandparents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Jill Rager (Leo, IN) and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine Steidinger (Fairbury, IL), as well as great grandparents Bro. Walt and Sis. Esther Bahler here in Remington. We pray for God’s grace to be on Bro. Kaleb and Sis. Allison as they seek to be godly parents and on little Tierra that she will grow up to desire to follow Christ.

We are thankful to welcome Sis. Sarah Walder (Bro. John and Sis. Lisa) into fellowship after hearing her testimony of faith and watching her make a covenant with God in baptism. What a joy to welcome another sister in Christ into the fold! We pray that Sis. Sarah will continue to grow in faith, love and obedience the rest of her life.

Sis. Charlene Getz (Bro. Eldon) would appreciate your continued prayers as she deals with health concerns. Bro. Ron Clark (Sis. Brenda) is currently in Florida to receive cancer treatments, and he covets your prayers as well. May Sis. Charlene and Bro. Ron continue to cling to God as they travel down life’s path and we hope they can feel the love of the church.

Dale Tyler (Sis. Marcella) passed away on January 30, but the night before he went to stand before God, he was granted the grace to repent and be baptized and become our Bro. Dale! It was such an amazing confirmation that God does indeed pursue us with his heart of love right up until the end of our lives. What a miracle that Bro. Dale could finally receive Christ’s salvation and die with peace in his heart and a song of praise on his lips! Bro. Dale left behind his dear wife, Sis. Marcella, and his children Kerry Tyler (Tamera, Arrington, TN) and Sis. Krystal Tyler (Washington DC). Although they are thankful for the hope they now have of Bro. Dale’s salvation, they also have sorrow because they can’t share that faith with him in this life, so please remain prayerful for the family.

**Note of Thanks**

The family of Bro. Dale Tyler wishes to thank you for the many cards, prayers, texts, phone calls, emails, food and all other gifts of love you shared with us. Your thoughts and prayers helped us through this difficult time in the loss of our dear husband and father.

May God bless you for all the love you have shown us.

Sis. Marcella Tyler, Kerry and Tamera Tyler, and Sis. Krystal Tyler

**Indiana, South Bend**

**Joshua Martinez**

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” Rom. 6:4
On January 30, we gathered to hear the testimony of our new Bro. Ben Lester (Bro. Ed and Sis. Tricia) and witnessed his baptism the next day. May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Randy Beer, (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) for helping us throughout this special weekend and serving from the pulpit on Sunday.

We are happy to share that Bro. Don Lehman’s (Sis. Jill) brother Dale is doing better physically and spiritually after battling COVID-19. Bro. Marty Langhofer (Sis. Lavilla) is recovering nicely after his recent knee replacement surgery.

Our prayerful support is with Sis. Tricia Lester (Bro. Ed), Sis. Jessica Isch (Bro. Jason) and Sis. Gigi Schafer (Elder Bro. Scott) as they plan our VBS for this summer.

We will also pray for our elder brothers as they meet on March 10-12 for the Mid-Year Conference.

As we prepare ourselves for Easter, our Bible study is teaching us to wait or be patient and persevering for God’s promise. Have faith knowing he will provide for our needs.

Thank you to the LaCrosse Church for their welcoming our congregation to the testimony and baptism for Sis. Carol Ailes. How it warms our hearts and renews our love for Christ Jesus being a part of one another’s testimony.

Praise God for taking care of our Sis. Gwen Bucher. She is back in her own apartment and has been released of all restrictions.

There are so many to pray for: Sis. Leona Bucher would like her voice to return after a surgery she had, and her daughter Diane Moser could use some healing prayer as well. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger’s grandson, Bro. Daniel Knochel (Phoenix, AZ) was in a severe auto accident. He and his family need the Great Physician’s healing hands. Sis. Dawn Ailes brother-in-law, Drew McClanahan, will be undergoing more chemotherapy. Please pray for each other as well.

Thank you to Elder Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), for taking time to share with our college youth at our midweek services. South Bend’s support is a blessing.

Pop quiz! How does Faith come?... “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Rom. 10:17. Sometimes I/we forget the simplest things. If we are struggling with faith (evidenced by our lack of trust), we need to get the word of God into us.

Our prayers are with those for whom bitter cold weather has brought unexpected, painful situations. Spring will be a wonderful sight!

Indiana, Wolcott

Brittany Gerber, Luann Gerber

Things have been fairly calm here in Wolcott except for the weather! We are so thankful for the warmth of our homes and the warmth of the fellowship when we are at church!

We have had two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Andrew Klumpp (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brian Wenninger (Sis. Mackenzie, Leo, IN) were willing to share God’s word with us and we thank them for their labors of love!

Indiana, Valparaiso

Sherry Meiss

Our verse for the month is: “The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.” Prov. 21:1

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Drew and Sis. Taryn Schumacher on the loss of Sis. Taryn’s brother, Trayton Gerber (Bluffton, IN). Heart condolences also go to Bro. Alec and Sis. Abbie Gramm on the passing of Abbie’s grandfather, Bro. Clyde R. Kuntz (Gridley, IL).

Indiana, West Lafayette

Libby Wahl

Our prayers are with Bro. Tad and Sis. Kendra Meyer with the loss of their little girl Aylah Sue. Also mourning the loss of a loved one are Bro. Eric and Sis. Katie
Wuthrich with the loss of her father Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

We spent a winter evening together as a church family packaging soup for those in need. We also held our annual business meeting. We thank those who have completed their terms and give support to those taking on new responsibilities at church.

We look forward to Easter when we commemorate our risen Savior.

**Iowa, Burlington**

*Marilyn Anderson, Angela Steiner*

This morning I was meditating on the promises in Philippians 4. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” How does this promise speak to you? We all have our challenges, disappointments, interruptions, and worries. Yet, our attitude and faith in Christ makes all the difference in the outcome. Just like Gideon and his army of three hundred men, God often chooses to put us in circumstances that are too big for us, that we turn to him in surrendered humility to ask for help. His promise in response is verse 19: “But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” By his strength, let’s open our arms with a smile to fully embrace whatever he sends because it’s a God-opportunity! He has the opportunity to fulfill his promises, and we have the opportunity to watch him supply our needs and conquer our “Midianites!”

We pray for God to supply strength in a joyous time of adjustment as Bro. Daniel and Sis. Claire Steiner welcome home a sweet little girl, Josie Claire, born on February 16. Young Carson is excited to be a big brother and helper to baby Josie! Thankful grandparents are Bro. Regan and Sis. Tricia Lanz (Mediapolis, IA) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner. May God bless their growing family.

This past month, Burlington had the opportunity to welcome and get to know some of our visitors who were staying with family for an extended amount of time due to work and college. We wish them God’s blessings as they return home and look forward to more visitors in the future.

Mediapolis hosted our Memorandum and Communion Exhortation this year. As always, we are so thankful for the encouragement, reminders and instruction given! We look to God for his strength and wisdom as we prepare our hearts for Communion coming (Lord willing) in March.

As winter can be long and health issues present, may we turn to him who will continue to supply our needs! How much joy this can bring when we truly believe he is greater than anything we face! Praise God!

**Iowa, Elgin**

*Maria Rocke*

Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) traveled here to read the Memorandum letter and to worship with us. May God bless him for his many labors on our behalf.

Bro. Al Butikofer spent time in the hospital this month. May God grant him his strength and comfort in the days ahead. We pray often for those of our Elgin church who haven’t been able to worship with us for many months and trust they feel our love and prayers.

“But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous, with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.” Psa. 5:11-12

**Iowa, Garden Grove**

*Laura Funk*

Greetings from blustery southern Iowa, with wind chills 30 below zero! We have a beautiful blanket of white shimmering snow! I think of the hymn “Whiter Than Snow” and wonder how we can be whiter than snow?

“Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Whiter Than Snow, Hymns of Zion # 210

We held our annual business meeting. We thank those that finished their terms of office and welcome the brothers and sisters that will fill those positions.

Joel and Olivia Funk became first time parents with the arrival of Ella Louise on January 19.

First time grandparents are Bro.
Brad and Sis. Laura Funk and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Katrina Knobloch (Bloomfield, IA).

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

Lending themselves in service to the Garden Grove congregation were Bro. Nate Wiegand (Sis. Laura, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Todd Witzig (Sis. Nicole, Gridley, IL). We appreciated the family members that accompanied them and invite all to return.

Iowa, Iowa City

Diana Butikofer

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.” 2 Cor. 1:3-4

Our prayers are with Darinda Ganfield as she spent some time in the hospital recently, and has been diagnosed with cancer. We pray our Lord will comfort her and give her strength in the coming days.

Iowa, Lester

Kristi Knobloch, Lois Mogler

Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Rod Bajema bring forth the fall Memorandum. We appreciate their labors to encourage us in our pilgrim walk.

We are very thankful that Addison Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana) has begun his repentance. May he find grace each day to overcome and be converted.

After four weeks in the hospital and a rehabilitation center following a farm accident, little Nora Matthiesen (Jed and Deann) is back home. She has made a miraculous recovery in answer to many prayers from across the land. Lois DeHaan (Bro. Tim) is recovering at home following surgery. Kathy Knobloch is starting further treatment in her cancer journey. May God continue to provide for our loved ones with various afflictions.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Harriet Metzger (Bro. Bruce) in the passing of her brother, Bro. Chuck Mogler (Sis. Beth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Howard and Sis. Lillian Mogler lost their brother-in-law Bro. Clyde Kuntz (late Sis. Wilma, Gridley, IL). Bro. Tad and Sis. Kendra Meyer and their daughter Abrah (Bloomfield, IA) mourn the loss of their stillborn daughter, Aylah Sue. Grandparents Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA) mourn with them. Randy Ludwig passed away on February 18. Our sympathy goes to his sons Dean, Rod, and Scott, and daughter Vicki Servold. May God comfort each grieving family circle.

Apostolic Christian Church services in Clyde Park, MT are scheduled for the weekend of June 26-27, 2021. Details can be found in the News and Notices.

Iowa, Mediapolis

Laura Kuntz, Janet Lanz

I am feeling grateful for the warmth of our home as I write this month’s news, as it is snowy and bitterly cold outside. Likewise, I am grateful for God’s Word and the love of fellow believers to bring warmth to our hearts in a cold, harsh world.

Our annual church business meeting was held in January. Newly elected were Bro. Dan Lanz, church trustee; Bro. Nate Frank, fellowship center trustee; Bro. Brayden Lanz, cemetery trustee; Bro. Reed Wagenbach, usher; Sis. Shayla Steiner and Sis. Laura Kuntz, kitchen committee, and Sis. Kyrstin Wagenbach, HarvestCall sewing. We thank our outgoing and incoming brothers and sisters for their willingness to serve.

It was a blessing to witness Sis. Olivia Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally) and Bro. Keegan Lanz (Bro. Robby and Sis. Kris) give their testimonies and be baptized the last weekend in January.

The very next weekend, we were blessed again, when Sis. Holly Massner (Bro. Troy and Sis. Joni) and Bro. Jonathan Massner (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois) gave their testimonies and were baptized. We gladly welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ!

Welcomed into the loving arms of Jesus are Bro. Roy Zimmerman (Sis. Helen, Gridley, IL), grandfather of our Sis. Lucy Frank (Bro. Nate), and Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Sis. Marilyn, Silverton, OR), father of our Sis. Katie Wuthrich (Bro. Eric). We pray that the families of Bro. Roy and Bro. Lynn will feel God’s nearness and comfort.

We want to thank our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall, along with ministers Bro. Dale Frank and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach, for reading us the Memorandum this year. We also want to thank visiting ministers Bro. Dallas Massner (Sis. Christy, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) for preaching the Word to us this past month.

"Do all things without murmuring and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world." Phil. 2:14-15

Iowa, West Bend

Jenny Banwart, Karen Schmidt

We have been blessed this past month to have our Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA) here along with Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) to share the Memorandum with us.

With hearts full of love, Bro. Carson and Sis. Addie Wirtz, welcome their first child, Miley Jill. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Trela Wirtz and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jill Meyer (Lester, IA). Also rejoicing are Bro. Braden and Sis. Kenzie Knobloch in the birth of a son, Chase Michael. Kate and Vivianne are his happy sisters. Chase’s grandparents are Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy Knobloch and Bro. John and Sis. Joleen Elder (Winthrop, MN).

“When once my senses fail, And death shall set me free, From death to everlasting life. I’ll rise triumphantly. I’ll see the glories there Foretold in Thy good word, Then shall I be, O wondrous tho’! Forever with the Lord. Wonderful! Wonderful! Forever with the Lord.”

Forever With the Lord,

Hymns of Zion #88

On February 2 Bro. Chuck Mogler went peacefully on to be Forever with the Lord. Left to cherish his memories are his wife Sis. Beth, children: Bro. Isaac (Sis. Valerie), Joel (Tabitha), Sis. Betsy Bruellman (Bro. Andy), and Paula Grimm (Ryan, Lexington, IL). 10 grandchildren, and siblings: Sis. Beverly Knapp (Cissna Park, IL), Sis. Mary Gerber (Bro. Manuel), Sis. Harriet Metzger (Bro. Bruce, Lester, IA), and brother-in-law, Bro. Gerald Rudin (Cissna Park, IL).

We are thankful to welcome Bro. Mickey Allen into our church family as he gave his testimony and was baptized on February 14. We thank Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Sue, Lester, IA), and Elder Bro. Lowell Moser (Sis. Karen, Morris, MN) for their labors throughout the weekend.

Japan, Shioda & Tokyo

Anna Inoue, Marie Inoue, Carrie Ito

We are thankful for a mild winter so far with cold but sunshiny days. We did have one Sunday with wet snow. It turned into a blessing as the expressway was closed going to the Shioda church, so the Ito family and two ladies who go with them to church could visit our church. It was a joy to visit with them and listen to the message from the Word from Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie).

A week ago, we experienced a strong earthquake. Even though the epicenter was 135 miles up north, our homes and apartments shook for a time. We were thankful there were no lives lost and only a small tsunami appeared. Some were hospitalized and there was also damage to buildings up north. We thank those who inquired of our well being. We surely need the prayers of those we love.

Kansas, Bern

Leigha Rokey, Rita Menold

Despite the frigid weather spread across the Midwest, we remain warm in our hearts as our Father continues to do a marvelous work in his creatures.

February 7, we had the privilege of listening to three souls share their testimony of a changed heart. We welcome Bro. Luke Rokey (Bro. Todd and Sis.
Sheila), Sis. Taylor Menold (Bro. Trent and Sis. Rita), and Sis. Jenna Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) with open arms to our church family.

We extend our deepest thanks to Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Marybeth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS) for being with us and teaching and preaching the Good News this month.

We are praising Jesus for lives being turned around, and it is with much rejoicing and thankfulness in our hearts that Cheyan Rokey (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue), Laif Strahm (Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriet), and Amber Menold (Bro. Dayton and Sis. Wanda), have found their need for the Savior and desire to worship with us. We continue to pray for the great grace of God to impact many others.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Maria Edelman and big sister Lexi welcome little Brooke Linda into their family. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri Eisenbise (Sabetha, KS).

We heard a special message on love this past Sunday explaining what true love is and the incredible ways that God demonstrates his love to us. Not only can we say that God is love, but love is God. It’s his nature and just who he is. It challenges me to think about what a high calling we have, that the Creator of the world chooses us to follow his example in this agape love.

**Kansas, Kiowa**

**Janice Bahr, Millie Frieden**

Hello to all from the southern border of southwest Kansas! Many ask where our little town of Kiowa is located. We are definitely on the map; just head to southern Kansas and we will be waiting to greet you!

We were so privileged to be able to sit around the Word and listen to Bro. Clint Dotterer (Sis. Rebecca, Denver, CO). Thank you for coming and doing the rotation for us. We appreciate you!

We were sad to have our dear Sis. Shirley Nelson leave our area and move to Tulsa, OK to be near her son, Todd. We know she will be well taken care of and that we can still be together in spirit.

Many plans were changed or postponed the middle of February due to a major winter storm coming through our area. We were still able to assemble via Zoom and hear the message of saving grace explained to one and all. Praise God for modern technology!

**Kansas, Sabetha**

**Leanna Hartter, Whitney Hartter**

Greeting of love from Sabetha! We rejoice with Keelan Beyer (Koertland and Sis. Rebekah) and Kortney Plattner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jeanelle) as they have repented and given their lives to the Lord. May they feel the love and prayers of the church in the weeks ahead.

We were thankful to witness the testimonies and baptisms of Matthew Meyer (Bro. Alan and Sis. Colleen) and Deborah Edelman (Bro. Loren and Sis. Jeanne). We welcome them into our church family as brother and sister in Christ! Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) was here to assist with the weekend.

It was a blessing to gather as a church family and hear the Memorandum read by Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzel.

It was also a blessing to gather and work together as a church family to assemble HarvestCall soup packages at the fellowship center.

“Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.” Psa. 70:4

We extend thanks to Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) for sharing the Word with us this month. We also appreciate Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for ministering to us via Zoom which we’ve continued to use for our Wednesday evening worship.

**Kansas, Lamont**

**Maria Luthi**

As the past year has taught us, there is nothing like being deprived of something to really make one thankful for it! Currently, in the Midwest, we are experiencing power outages due to the extremely cold temperatures we are having. While this greatly increases our appreciation for our normally dependable electricity, it also moves us to give thanks that God’s power never fails. It is unlimited in its very nature and we can always depend on him!

We heard a special message on love this past Sunday explaining what true love is and the incredible ways that God demonstrates his love to us. Not only can we say that God is love, but love is God. It’s his nature and just who he is. It challenges me to think about what a high calling we have, that the Creator of the world chooses us to follow his example in this agape love.
México, Magdalena
Laura Aviña

Praise God that in the last month we have begun two gatherings for church on Sunday mornings, one on the CVE campus for the CVE children and families and another in town at Bro. Denver and Sis. Katie Slagel’s house! We are overjoyed to have had increasing attendance every week at the town location. We are also thankful that technology allows us to broadcast the service from town to those watching at CVE and anyone else watching from home. Please pray that interest would continue to grow, the truth would be preached, and everyone would feel welcome and loved!

Wednesday services continue to be shown live and we are thankful to have a gathering for prayer on Monday evenings as well. It is such a blessing to feel the church community coming together again!

I forgot to mention previously that on November 29, Sis. Addison Beyer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Alisa) was baptized in a private ceremony in Phoenix, AZ and on December 6, Sis. Pau Aquino (Ricardo Aquino and Rebeca Nuñez, Morelos, MX) was baptized in a private ceremony here in Magdalena. We are so thankful for these two sisters and pray that they would continue to pursue Christ and grow in him!

I recently studied Psalm 42 with a group of sisters. The Psalmist expresses a deep yearning for God from his place of exile. “O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.” Psa. 42:6

Although we know that God is omnipresent and always near, we sometimes don’t feel that connection. We can start by sincerely evaluating our spiritual state and then cultivating our desire for God by remembering his work and faithfulness from the past, reading his promises, and praising him (even when we don’t feel like it at first)! Praying that each one can feel his presence in their lives today!

Michigan, Alto
Heidi Kaeb, Renee Steffen

“Such joy wells up from deep within, I hardly know where my praise begins! My heart, so thankful for answered prayer, I shouted out in elation, to the Father aware! You’ve healed a loved one! Her cancer is gone! My heart’s been o’er flowing all the day long, O, how can there be, those with no faith, in the Master of healing and promises He saith? I want to dance as David did, sing like Moses and Miriam, go walking and leaping, praising God, the Master and Great I AM!”

We were all so thankful and thrilled to hear that Sis. Jeanette Overholt was told that her cancer is gone! Once again, our faithful Father has answered our prayers in a mighty way. Our thoughts and prayers continue for her as she will have to undergo some radiation treatment. We also lift others up in prayer as we hear of those with failing or precarious health issues and for their caregivers.

A dear friend reminded me today that spring is not far away, and that in turn caused my heart to wonder how far away is the end of time? May we all strive to walk humbly before our God, love one another, and hold fast to faith in the Almighty being thankful for what our Savior Jesus Christ did that we might have eternal life.

Michigan, Bay City
Sarah Knochel

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Kathy Waibel as she spent time in the hospital recently and is facing health challenges. We pray that God would stand by her and heal all according to his will.

We are thankful for the ability to participate in local HarvestCall activities during the winter months. The ability to connect hands and hearts to support local and global needs is one of the special ties that binds our congregation together.

Michigan, Detroit
Krista Wieland

Recently covered in a Bible study on Hebrews was the
concept of “Who is God”, and who on earth do we look up to and admire to the point that we forget they are human and NOT God? Then when they fall or disappoint us, we can be hurt because the standard we had was too high for humanity to live up to. Really only God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit can meet our expectations. Should we have spiritual mentors? Absolutely. However, when we get to the point of looking up to one person exclusively and depending on them to always be there for us, we are, without knowing it, turning them into a human “god”. I have been on both sides of the fence and I suspect most of you have too. I believe the reason we tend to do this is because sometimes it is easier, at the time, to turn to a person we can see for advice before turning to God for advice. Sometimes it requires a little more work as it can seem easier to pick up the phone first instead of the Bible. I need to give God more of a chance to change me, and he will never leave me. I need to take the time to dig into his Word and his teachings. We need each other. We need God far more.

We are thrilled that the Woodpointe redecorating is almost finished. It is such a beautiful home where independent seniors can live and fellowship together.

We miss several members of our church family who are spending an extended time in Florida on the HarvestCall work project, but we are thankful for their willingness to serve and spread the Gospel.

**Minnesota, Minneapolis**

*Brenda Messner, Renee Messner*

Our annual business meeting was held on February 7. Thank you to Bro. Rick Tilbury for serving as our head trustee throughout the past year. Moving forward, Bro. John Berglund will assume the duty of head trustee and serve with Bro. Rick Messner and newly-elected Bro. Seth Edelman. We are grateful to these brothers and all their time and efforts.

What a blessing to have Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) visit to minister God’s precious word.

Almost a year ago our way of life changed greatly. We were surprised... but not our heavenly Father.

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” Eph 5:20-21

Sis. Rose Dill is helping us stay connected. We appreciate her weekly email with the rotating list of names, and each week we contact a different individual to see how they are doing. Making a simple phone call, writing an email, or sending a letter in the mail is certainly a blessing and a great way to share our Father’s love with one another!

**Minnesota, Morris**

*Peg Wellendorf, Brianna Wulf*

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

Our prayers have been with Sis. Nancy Wulf and her husband, Bro. Dave, and family at the loss of Sis. Nancy’s father, Bro. Roy Zimmerman (Gridley, IL). What a comfort it is to have a hope of meeting again in Heaven someday! We have also been praying for Jim Greiner as he has been experiencing some serious health issues. May he feel God’s nearness as he goes through this valley.

We appreciate the willingness of visiting minister Bro. Doug Moser (Morris North, MN) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabatha, KS) to be used in bringing forth God’s Word this month. We are blessed each time the Bread of Life is broken for us.

We wish Bro. Benjamin Koehl (Bro. Eric and Sis. Kim) well as he will be spending some time living and working in the West Bend, IA area. We will miss his ready smile but hope that he will be back to visit often!

“God will take care of you, Thru ev’ry day, O’er all the way; He will take care of you, God will take care of you.”

*God Will Take Care Of You, Hymns of Zion, #138*
Minnesota, Winthrop
Ginny Stoll, Dixie Messner

We apologize for not getting our news in the December issue. Even though it's a little late, we want to offer our sympathy to Bro. Darrel and Darlene Schmidt in the loss of his sister-in-law, Sis. Jeanette Schmidt (Elgin, IL). Also, we are thankful Darlene has recuperated and is home again after a stay in the hospital.

We are thankful our friend, Sam Miller has found peace with God and man and is looking forward to sharing his testimony with us. In a small congregation, we don't have many baptisms, so it is refreshing to know God is still working in the hearts of men.

Our prayers are with Bro. Mike Messner (Sis. Joyce) as he is going through treatments for his cancer. We miss seeing them in church.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper are finally together again after a long separation with Sis. Marcelle recovering from her stroke in a nursing home and with the pandemic, not being able to see each other for quite some time. They have now moved to an assisted living where they can be together. Their new address is: Cedar Crest Assisted Living Center, 7401 Main St. W, Silver Lake, MN 55381.

I am sure both Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle would enjoy hearing from their snowbird friends. Both couples have spent their winters in the south enjoying the warm climate and this is the first time in many years that they have not been able to go.

Missouri, Kansas City
Katy Frantz

A new year brings the hope of new beginnings, doesn’t it? The fresh blanket of snow that fell in Kansas City this week also brings to mind God’s mercy that covers our sins, and his compassions that fail not.

“They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” Lam. 3:23

Bro. Ned Kellenberger has returned to Kansas City after working in Singapore for the past year. We are thankful to have him back.

We had our annual business meeting. We appreciate all those brothers and sisters that serve in our small church family.

February 14 was the coldest temperatures for church services that we have had in some time. It was around zero throughout the day and was below zero into Monday and Tuesday. We were glad to see the temperatures rise later in the week.

We are all looking forward to the warmth of spring and the promise of new life!

Missouri, Lamar
Mindy Wettstein

Over the past several months we enjoyed multiple visiting ministers, including Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Dave Huette (Sis. Susan, Tremont, IL), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont, KS). We also want to thank all who travelled with the visiting ministers, we truly enjoyed the extra fellowship!

We are grateful for Bro. Jay sharing the Fall 2020 memorandum on a Wednesday evening in January. Bro. Duane and Bro. Jay presented the Discernment Presentation January 30, and were present for the Business Meeting January 31.

In January, Bro. Travis and Sis. Leah Rokey moved to Lamar. We are very excited to have them here worshipping and fellowshipping with us! I am grateful that they both have willing hearts to serve wherever needed. Sis. Leah is going to be taking over the responsibility of writing the Silver Lining articles for Lamar!

Special thanks to Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita Fehr and family for providing lunch on February 7!

Missouri, St. Louis
Michelle Rassi

We have been blessed with various visitors this past month. What a privilege we have to fellowship with each other across the miles once again!

The snow this week reminded me of God’s promise that our sins can be washed as white as snow through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a wonderful word picture!

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

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.” Psa 51:7

Missouri, Taylor

Lori Marquart, Tami Pflum

A heartfelt thank you to our visiting ministers this month: Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) who spent a Sunday morning in worship with us, and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Sis. Kim, St. Louis, MO) who came to lead a Wednesday evening Bible study on the Parable of the Sower, entitled, “How Is Your Hearing?” Bro. Matt reminded us the responsibility is really ours to dig into the Word at home, since we are only “fed” at church two times a week. He also challenged us with the sobering thought that the more we “hear” and heed the Word, the more understanding we will be granted, but for those who don’t apply what they hear, their understanding will be taken away (v. 24-25).

We are grateful for our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan) and ordained Deacon Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber) and all their labors of love on our behalf. We were especially blessed by the reading of the Memorandum this year, with such timely information to share. In an age filled with so much debate and conflicting information, they spoke to us of the importance of discernment in all areas. May we be like the Bereans, who “…received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11.

As a church family, we have once again had many to pray for, including those with ongoing illnesses, surgeries, and hospitalizations. Many prayers ascended for Greg Umland (Louanne, Carolock, IL) as he was hospitalized, awaiting a heart transplant. We are so grateful he was able to receive a new heart and that his body seems to be accepting it well, but we realize this gift was only possible due to deep loss for another family. Our thoughts and prayers continue for Greg’s physical healing, as well as the emotional healing for the donor family in their time of grief.

We’ve also offered prayers on behalf of Ann Wiegand (Steve) and Bro. Jim Gottman (Sis. Sally) as they underwent surgeries recently. We haven’t forgotten the many others in our congregation who are suffering illness, disease, or chronic pain. Each one of you are loved and missed when you are unable to attend services in person.

Although our human hearts hurt when we are asked to say goodbye to those we love, we are reminded that, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Psa. 116:15.

Irene Riney (Gene, dec.) passed from this life into eternity on January 24. Irene’s kind heart and warm smile made everyone feel special and she will be deeply missed. We extend our love and prayers to all of Irene’s children, Gaye Redd (Dean, Taylor, MO), Sis. Sally Gottman (Bro. Jim, Taylor, MO), Pam Hoenes (Palmyra, MO), Steve (Palmyra, MO), and Diane Augspurg (Palmyra, MO); her surviving siblings, Bro. Louis Hoerr (Sis. Ruth, dec.) Bro. Donald Hoerr (Sis. Elaine), Sis. Rosemary Massner (Bro. Allen) and Cindy DeSigne (Robert, Metamora, IL), sister-in-law Sis. Emma Hoerr (Bro. Robert, dec., Sabetha, KS), as well as all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren who were so very dear to Irene.

We likewise bid farewell for a time to Bro. Marvin Wiegand (Sis. Joann) who went to his eternal reward on February 8. Our thoughts and prayers had been with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann often during the past year, as COVID-19 regulations had prevented her from visiting him daily in the Veteran’s Home as she had so faithfully done every day without fail prior to the restrictions. What a comfort to know there will be no separation, no visiting hours, or regulations in Heaven; just an eternity to spend worshipping our Savior, together forever. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Sis. Joann and the family: Steve (Anne, Taylor, MO), Mark (Lisa, Quincy, IL), Phil (Lori, Quincy, IL) and Dan (Bobbi, West Monroe, LA), his beloved grandchildren, and siblings Dale (Eureka, IL) and Shirley Alltop (Pontiac, IL).

One of our local ministers recently reminded us to have our ears tuned to the sound of
a trumpet. May we be eagerly watching, waiting, and listening for the Lord’s return where we will be re-united with those who have gone on to their Heavenly Home!

New York, Croghan/Naumburg
Karen Farney
We were thankful to be together a few days this past month to make adult comforters for those in Eastern Europe. What a blessing it is to be able to labor for those who are in need.

We are planning to start afternoon services and bring our own lunches, as we work toward getting back to somewhat normal. We appreciate our brothers on the local COVID-19 committee who are helping to guide us through these procedures. So, we will work till Jesus comes and takes us home.

“We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes,
We’ll work till Jesus comes
And we’ll be gathered home.”

We’ll Work till Jesus Comes, Gospel Hymns, #180

Ohio, Akron
Joelle Indermuhle
Elder Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura, Sardis, OH) joined us for the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for the efforts our elder brothers put forth into providing guidance for our church body.

We are also very thankful for two new converts this month. They are McKenzie Gasser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Amanda) and Jenna Gasser. May we always be prayerful that they can build on a strong foundation of faith!

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Bob Emich, who passed away February 15. We extend prayers to his wife, Esther, and daughters Brenda Jean King (Adrian, Colorado) and Sis. Anna Elizabeth Stuber (Bro. Todd, Tremont, IL).

Ohio, Columbus
Nancy Banks
Greetings and a very blessed New Year to each and every one. Our prayers continue for our country and those who have been chosen to lead it. With joy in our hearts, we are thankful that our God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

We held our end-of-year business meeting and the following have been chosen for the positions that needed filled for the 2021 year: Bro. Andrew Klopfenstein, Trustee; Sis. Julia Grimm, Sunday school teacher; Sis. Julie Grimm, Sunday school substitute; Sis. Lynn Hartzler, Kitchen Committee; and Bro. Tim McMillan, Usher-Sound System.

We thank those who worked to fulfill their duties this last year.

Many apologies to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Brianna Klopfenstein as I omitted a very important happening in their family. Big brother Ryan welcomed his new little brother, Ethan Roy to their family. May Gods blessings be with the Klopfensteins and their new son.

We are thankful for Sis. Cheryl Gehres as she has returned to her assisted-living facility after completing rehabilitation from her last hospital stay. Jenny Curry (Jonathan) is currently recovering from a hip replacement and we are glad to have her home once again. She is so thankful for the Lord’s provision of a new pain-free hip that helps her walk so much easier.

Ohio, Junction
Karen Schlatter
We are so thankful to hear that Jenna Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) has turned to the Lord in repentance. She currently attends the Akron, OH church. It is such a blessing to hear of souls turning to the Lord.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz have a new granddaughter born to Bro. Wes and Sis Brenda Kaeb (Fairbury, IL). Alayna Noelle was born on January 8. Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser welcomed a new grandson born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Christa Stoller (Francesville, IN). Harvey Elias was born on February 2. We also welcomed a new baby into our congregation born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura Manz. Ella Elizabeth was born on February 12 and is welcomed by her two older brothers, Eddie and Eli, and her grandparents Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy Zehr (Fairbury, IL).

On January 24, Sis. Audrey Manz (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy) and Bro. Trevor Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami, Francesville, IN) were united in marriage. We are thankful for another young couple starting
life together united as one in the Lord. Several visiting ministers attended the wedding including Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny, Toledo, OH) and Elder Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH).

We were also blessed to have Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and his family visit recently and minister the Word of God to us.

It is always good to see our loved ones return to church after an illness or surgery. Sis. Julie McCullough (Bro. James) and Sis. Joy Manz (Bro. Tim) are both back and worshipping with us again after healing from a medical procedure. May we continue to pray for those who continue to struggle with health problems.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.” Psa. 139:14

Ohio, Latty
Angie Klopfenstein, Carmen Stoller

Greetings in the name of Jesus! We are thankful that Lydia Whitman (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Mandy) is professing to be at peace with God and man. We are looking forward to her testimony and baptism.

Congratulations and God’s blessings to Matthew and Mary Klopfenstein on their recent marriage. Their parents are Bro. Roy and Deb Klopfenstein and Greg and Judy Buehler.

Sis. Elsie Rager (Bro. William, dec.) went to be with the Lord on January 29. She lived to be 100 years old and was a blessing to be around. She will be missed! Surviving are three sons, Bro. William (Sis. Lou Ann, Leo, IN), Jerry (Julie, Maggie Valley, NC), and Curt (Denise, Van Wert, OH), four daughters, Sis. Nancy Stoller (Bro. Gary, dec., Van Wert, OH), Mary Isch (John, Carmel, IN), Sis. Peggy Ifft (Bro. Gary, Bloomington, IL), and Sis. Cindy Schieler (Bro. Darl, Bloomington, IL), along with twenty-eight grandchildren, eighty-one great grandchildren, and five great, great grandchildren. Our love and prayers are also with her sister here in Latty, Sis. Esther Stoller.

Our sympathies and prayers are with Sis. Vickie Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce) at the passing of her mother, Ida Mielke. We also lift up Mark Spangler (Laura) as he mourns the passing of his father, Roger Spangler. May these families feel our love and prayers during this time.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Quinn and Sis. Sandi Steffen, and children Colt and Auburn, who have re-located to the area from Princeville, IL.

Ohio, Mansfield
Katie Miller

We have been prayerful for Bro. Al Beer (Sis. Janet) who underwent a medical procedure and is now recovering.

The ground here has been covered with a beautiful blanket of snow for quite some time. We welcome the brightness it brings to a dreary day and its brilliance when reflecting the sun’s light. The whiteness of snow makes any other color dull by contrast!

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

Ohio, Rittman

Maria Beery, Julie Steiner

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

We rejoice with our new converts, Gabriel Kries (Sis. Sheila Kries and John Kries), Jeannette Woyat (Ron), Adam Baltic (Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy), and Hailey Lambert. We are thankful for God’s mercy and love!

With our joys come sorrows and we extend sympathy and prayers to those who have lost loved ones. Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler said to good-bye to their son-in-law, Bro. Kevin Rufener (Sis. Marsha, Smithville, OH). Attending our Rittman church are Bro. Kevin’s brother, Bro. Darrell Rufener (Sis. Shirley) and his brother in laws, Bro. Marvin Hartzler (Sis. Sue) and Bro. Jon Hartzler (Sis. Mary). We want to remember Jeff Maibach (Elsie) and Roger Maibach (Cinda) in the passing of their mother, Sis. Delores.
Maibach. Sis. Elverna Zollinger grieves the loss of her son Norman Zollinger (Betty). We also want to remember Norman’s brother, Bro. Arlyn (Sis. Barb) and brother-in-laws Bro. Dan Hartzler (Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Tim Hartzler (Sis. Sharon), and Bro. Sam Hartzler (Sis. Gail) during this time. Sis. Yvonne Beery passed away and leaves behind many nieces and nephews. We take comfort in our hope of heaven and continue to pray for those grieving!

We appreciate Bro. Dan Walder (Sis. Pam, Cissna Park, IL) for serving us on the pulpit and Elder Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Elder Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) for assisting with our Communion.


Bro. Neil Gasser (Sis. Donna), Jeannette Woyat (Ron), and Sis. Delores Bauman (Marion) spent time in the hospital, and we trust they will continue to heal!

Ohio, Sardis

**Renee Blough, Doris Miller**

Newly elected officers are: Bro. Garth Maibach, Trustee; Bro. Emmaus Rassi and Bro. Ed Beard, Ushers; Sis. Jami Hartzler, Kitchen Committee; and Bro. Alan Blough, Secretary. Thank you to outgoing officers Bro. Eric Hartzler, Bro. Gary Zollinger, Sis. Angie Figel and Bro. Caleb Indermuhle, respectively.

A precious baby boy, Davis Michael, was born to Angel Reese. He is happily welcomed by Angel’s foster family Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami, Leah, Grace, Conrad, Quincy, and Gideon Hartzler. It is a blessing to have a newborn at church and to observe his loving care.

"Peace, perfect peace, In this dark world of sin? The blood of Jesus whispers peace within."

**Peace, Perfect Peace,**

*Hymns of Zion #26*

Grace and Leah Hartzler, daughters of Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami, have peace with God and look forward to being baptized. We are uplifted by their joyful news.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Alice Ramsier (Bro. Mark) on the death of her father Bro. Howard Harmon. Also grieving the death of a loved one are Bro. Milan and Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle and family as her brother-in-law, Norman Zollinger, has finished his earthly race. He was also the nephew of Bro. Gary Zollinger (Sis. Terry).

Ohio, Smithville

**Connie Maletich, Marcy Stoller**

“I need thee every hour, Most gracious Lord, No tender voice like Thine Can peace afford, I need thee every hour, In joy or pain; Come quickly and abide, Or life is vain."

**I Need Thee Every Hour,**

*Hymns of Zion #93*

We join Bro. Todd Gasser and Sis. Desiree Sinn in their time of joy as they announce their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. SueEllen Maibach (the late Greg Gasser) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn (Silverton, OR).

We pray for Sis. Marilyn Uhler (Dale) in her time of pain during her recent hospital stay and recovery.

We pray our Lord’s tender voice and peace upon the families of those that have passed on this month. Bro. Kevin Rufener left behind his wife, Sis. Marsha; brother, Bro. John Rufener (Sis. Janice); and sister-in-law Sis. Susan Rufener. Madge Marty left behind a sister-in-law Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Bob). Bro. George Schuster left behind his wife, Sis. Carol. Sis. Yvonne Beery left behind her sister, Sis. Marie Beery.

Special thanks to ministering Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) for their visit and shared fellowship.

Ohio, Toledo

**Anne Baumann, Brooke Harmon**

Recently a brother from our Toledo congregation challenged
us to be more intentional with the time we spend together as a church body. Spiritual conversations can be hard to initiate. As a way to help this type of conversation start, this brother has been posting a question(s) on a notecard for people to take. Our most recent notecard question has multiple conversation starters to help us get to know one another on a deeper level and really dig in with each other.

- Tell me about when you became a Christian?
- Is there anything you struggle with now in your Christian walk?
- What are some areas God has shown his great strength in your life leading to growth in your life?
- What is the difference between justification and sanctification?
- Do you feel intimidated to talk about areas where you currently sin? If so why do you think this is?

The one question that really stood out to me was about justification versus sanctification. I found myself slightly embarrassed by my lack of ability to clearly explain the differences with Scriptural support. Simply put, justification is God legally declaring a sinner righteous based off of their faith in Christ. Not only is a sinner forgiven when they believe, but they are also credited with the perfect righteousness of Christ. This miracle happens in the moment we believe! Justification and righteousness are often used interchangeably in the Bible so to be justified is to be made righteous, something we are completely helpless to do, or even maintain, on our own.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” 2 Cor 5:21

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Rom 3:23-24

There are two types of sanctification: instant sanctification (set apartness) that occurs when we believe but then there is also a process of sanctification that continues throughout the entire life of the Christian called progressive sanctification. God gives us the righteousness of Christ (justification), proceeds to treat us like Christ, and, consequently, we through the Spirit of God become more like Christ (sanctification). Justification releases us from the penalty of sin and sanctification releases us from the power of sin. What God has started by the Spirit he will complete by the Spirit and faith!

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” 1 Cor 6:11

Now on to the updates! In January we were able to read the Memorandum and have our annual business meeting. A huge thanks to all who have served in positions in the past and to those stepping up into new roles. We are also appreciative of the multiple visiting ministers we have had over the past month. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Michael Schneider (Sis. Jodi, Junction, OH), Bro. Sam Manz (Sis. Shelby, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Andy Fetzer (Sis. Elizabeth, Smithville, OH) were all willing to come and worship with us for which we are grateful.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to numerous family members in our church as they deal with loss. Bro Trent Witzig’s (Sis. Bekah) grandfather, Bro. Roy Zimmerman (Gridley, IL) passed away. Additionally, Bro. Howard Harmon recently stepped into eternity. His children are Beth Cabiad (Roland), Bro Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna), Sis. Alice Ramsier (Bro. Mark, Sardis, OH) and Gayle Herbert (Nathan). Lastly, Sis. Sharon Rager (Bro. Walt) lost her sister Nita.

**Ontario, Kitchener**

**Roselynn Metzer**

“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” Deut 31:6

Sending love in the Saviour’s name to everyone from Kitchener! Another month has passed, and we have once again been able to experience the tangible love and grace of God.

This month we have been blessed with many visiting
ministers. Joining us online were Bro. Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Bro. Chad Leman (Sis. Kim, Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN). We appreciate the effort to share the Word with us, even if it means speaking to a computer screen!

We were also able to join our brothers and sisters from Detroit, MI for Communion on January 17. Isn’t it amazing how the Spirit can still work even if we are separated by many miles (or kilometres for us Canadians)!

A special thank you to others who have joined our Zoom calls. I extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us on a Sunday or Wednesday evening. Please reach out to Sis. Alma Gingrich (elmeralma4@gmail.com) and we can share our Zoom link with you! Blessings on this upcoming month.

“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.” Isa. 41:13

Oregon, Portland
Louisa Gallup

We continue to pray for those working in the medical field and people in care giving roles for vulnerable individuals during this pandemic. Thankfully, the vaccination program has started, and we hope it will successfully continue and reach its goal.

There has been some freezing winter weather, which caused power outages and tree damage in our area and at church. As many roads here are not straight or level, it also makes car trips very difficult or impossible. Unfortunately, cancellation of church service is sometimes the result.

With everything that is going on, we rely even more on God’s protection and provision. May he bless and keep us.

Oregon, Silverton
Lorraine Kuenzi, Teresa Sinn

Andrew Roth (Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb) has recently moved to Congerville, IL, for work. We are praying for God’s joy and grace in this new chapter of his life.

We are excited to share the happy news that three babies were born this month! Bro. Darwin and Sis. Jenna Sinn welcomed their fourth child, Nora Marion on January 28. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn. Bro. Kenton and Sis. Alicen Sinn welcomed their fifth child, Eloise Barbara on February 1. Grandparents are Bro. Colin and Sis. Barbara Wagenbach (Mediapolis, IA), and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn. Austin and Hannah Kraft welcomed their first child, Truett Wayne on February 11. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marianne Kraft and Ken and Becky Tschiegg.

Bernie and Margaret Dettwyler have recently committed their lives to Jesus! We rejoice with them and pray for God’s abundant grace and joy in their lives as they look to him.

Thank you to Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) for visiting our congregation and sharing the Gospel message with us the weekend of January 31! We appreciate your visits and pray the Lord continues to bless you.

Our beloved Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Sis. Marilyn) passed away February 13 after a long battle with multiple health issues. We trust that he is safe in the arms of Jesus and walking the streets of gold! Please pray for Sis. Marilyn and the family as they grieve together. Bro. Lynn leaves behind his wife, his siblings Helen Dettwyler, Glen Kuenzi, Ralph Kuenzi, Bro. Jim Kuenzi, and Richard Kuenzi, as well as his children Bro. Chris (Sis. Mary), Sis. Kari Te Slaa (Bro. Jesse), Sis. Kimberly Schurter (Bro. Shawn), and Sis. Kathryn Wuthrich (Bro. Eric, Bloomfield, IA).

We are happy to announce the engagement of Sis. Desiree Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) to Bro. Todd Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. SueEllen Maibach, Smithville, OH). It is a blessing to see how God has worked in their hearts and lives, and we pray that he continues to draw them together in his love.

Church was canceled one Sunday this month due to power outages from a severe ice storm. We are thankful to be safe and sound. However, we recognize that many in our state and other states across the nation are facing similar difficulties. Let us pray for safety and joy in these uncertain situations!
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Laura Isch

“Be still, and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

“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, Hymns of Zion, #191

Be still. What a seemingly simple command, yet it is so hard for us to do! The world is pushing for activity, plans, debates, and conflict. Let us take time to be in his presence and be still. Let’s remember “in every change He faithful will remain”. Let us remember our troubles and trials will lead to the “joyful end”. Let us take the time to get to know better our “heavenly Friend” who wants to help us and be near us every step of the way.

Tennessee, Nashville

Mike Fritz

We are greatly blessed by our many visitors. We are thankful for each one. Our recent visiting ministers have included Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Mediapolis, IA), Bro. Seth Hartter (Sis. Brenda, Burlington, IA), Bro. John Cottrell (Sis. Gloria, Eureka, IL), and Bro. Kevin Schrock (Sis. Rachel, Congerville, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of visitors from Goodfield, IL; Burlington, IA; and Philadelphia, PA.

We continue to meet for worship at an alternate location while repairs are being made to our church building, so when you plan to visit, please contact us to learn where we are meeting that Sunday. Contacts are Bro. Jordan and Sis. Emily Fritz, 615.852.1490, jordanmfritz@gmail.com; Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Jillian Bradbury, 765.993.8917, jeremy.bradbury1975@gmail.com; or Bro. Jeremiah Stoller, 615.761.7033, jeremiahleestoller32@gmail.com.

Texas, Zapata

Mary Plattner

Bro. Josh Walder (Sis. Tina, Congerville, IL) spent a weekend here and we appreciate the willingness to serve us. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest IL) came for a weekend to share the Memorandum and serve Communion. We certainly appreciate their efforts to travel the distance to serve us.

Our small congregation has grown this past month with visitors and winter residents returning. We had a busy month, not only with the COVID-19 event, but we experienced a cold front in Texas with the loss of electricity up to four days for some in our community. Everyone in our congregation lost electricity and the inability to heat their homes as well. Most of us gathered at the Fellowship Hall for meals and warmth with some spending the night there. A local business gave us a generator to use, so our Fellowship Hall was kept warm.

We have been busy with our HarvestCall projects and have completed many quilts which were then distributed to those in need in our community. Our congregation had a very pleasant, uniting experience on February 19 when we prepared and served from our Fellowship Hall, a carry-out hot soup meal for those in need. It was gratifying to do this in the name of Jesus and see their anticipation as people drove up to receive the meal and smiles as they drove away.

Vermont, Clarendon

Sarah Wagenbach

We are thankful for the love and support we feel from our Rockville, CT congregation and the following ministering brothers who served us this past month through Zoom; Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou), Bro. Jeff Gerber (Sis. Carole), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and Bro. Jon Zahner (Sis. Amy). This month we have started inviting friends, family, brothers and sisters from other congregations to join us in our virtual services and Sunday school. We have enjoyed the fellowship that this has brought!
WHILE MANY Christian women avoid Proverbs 31, our Lord intends this passage to celebrate godly, feminine character. However, sisters frequently view it as a painful reminder of all they are not or cannot be. It’s time to strip away the social and personal perspectives we have layered over this scripture. Let’s see it for what it is: a celebration of what all women can become in Christ!

To appreciate Proverbs 31, we must first recognize that Proverbs 31 is a poem. So, we should interpret it as poetry rather than as history or commandment. The woman described in Proverbs 31 often seems irritatingly perfect because she is not a real, living person. The Bible describes real women with all their flaws and inconsistencies. Sarah laughs at God’s promise. Rahab has a checkered past. Abigail is married to a fool, and Martha complains about her sister. These are living, breathing, flesh-and-blood women. They are imperfect, just like us. In contrast, the woman in Proverbs 31 is an image, an ideal, an amalgamation of all the good bits of femininity and faith – with all the sin and struggles left out. Remember, this is poetry, not life. It is meant to inspire us, not to dictate our daily schedule.

Like all poetry, Proverbs 31 uses symbolic language and figures of speech to make its point. This descriptive language gives poetry its beauty and emotional power. Unfortunately, it also creates awkward misinterpretations if we attempt to apply it literally. You will never find a dress made of strength and honor that you could actually wear out of your house, just as you cannot use the Bible as an actual flashlight in the dark. In addition, this poem uses language and images appropriate to the culture and time in which God originally inspired it. Limiting the application to only the exact scenarios it describes will distract from this scripture’s point and cause confusion and frustration. This is poetry, and it is appropriate to substitute our current, daily tasks for the spinning and weaving this poem describes. We may even respectfully replace the husband figure with God himself, since this is consistent with other scriptures that place him in this role (husband to Israel, especially in the prophets, and the church as Christ’s bride in the New Testament). In doing this, we can see that Proverbs 31 is relevant to all women regardless of their current circumstances, calling, or abilities. We must not become so focused on the poem’s examples that we miss the character that God intends them to illustrate.

This godly character is remarkable for its calm stability in a world that often lurches from one extreme to another. The Proverbs 31 woman is – above all else – balanced. She can see the value in her own work without becoming too arrogant to work hard and serve others. She is bold enough to speak out, but does it with wisdom and kindness. She is active and engaged in her domain, but is not panicked or afraid of things beyond her control. She makes her own decisions while protecting the interests and reputation of her husband. While she is content to let her husband
shine among the rulers of the land\textsuperscript{10}, she confidently directs those who are under her authority.

Looking at the original Hebrew meaning of three words in Proverbs 31:15 helps to reveal leadership qualities we might otherwise overlook in the Proverbs 31 woman. The word translated “meat” means “something torn off” and usually references a fragment of food. “Portion” is an appointed amount, including an assigned task or labor. “Household” is a broad term that could be just a family, but applies equally well to a business or team. Therefore, this verse actually depicts a woman that gets up early, hands out chunks of yesterday’s bread, and assigns the day’s work to her subordinates. Rather than doing everything herself, the Proverbs 31 woman is able to effectively supervise others. She directs and organizes those who are under her authority without undermining or usurping the authority of those who are over her. In short, she is a truly empowered woman: capable, confident, and centered without any of the unlovely manipulation, neediness, or competition we often see among women in the world.

The incredible balance that makes the Proverbs 31 woman different and empowers her to do what she does can only be found in a heart that is centered on God. It is the fear of the Lord that makes her worthy of praise\textsuperscript{11} and worth our study and imitation. Like the ballast in a ship that gives the vessel stability in rough waters, God steadies our hearts when we fill ourselves with the Spirit. Our Lord values the resulting “meek and quiet spirit\textsuperscript{12}” because it is the natural outcome of a heart that finds its strength and security in him. The Proverbs 31 woman can embrace both her talents and her limits because her identity and confidence come from God, not her personality, appearance, popularity, or connections.

Finding our identity in Christ means believing what he says about himself, and believing what he says about us as his daughters. By trusting God’s promises, we can be at rest. By embracing who he made us to be, we can be active and effective in our world. “The fact that I am a woman does not make me a different kind of Christian, but the fact that I am a Christian does make me a different kind of woman. For I have accepted God’s idea of me, and my whole life is an offering back to Him of all that I am and all that He wants me to be.”\textsuperscript{13} Sisters, we are the temple of God, the Bride, and joint heirs with Christ. We should be different than other women, and those differences should produce fruit that is apparent to the world around us.

However, like all fruit, becoming who God wants us to be takes time. Proverbs 31 is a promise of what we will become as we allow God to refine and grow us. We are flawed and broken creatures\textsuperscript{14} – imperfect pilgrims in an imperfect world. If we seem to be dull grey lumps of clay compared with the brightly glazed, graceful vase of Proverbs 31, it is because God is still shaping us for his glory\textsuperscript{15}. We must give ourselves the same grace that God gives to us\textsuperscript{16} and let him do his beautiful work in his time\textsuperscript{17}. The more we surrender to his guiding hand, the more we will become all he intended us to be. So, take heart, dear sister, God isn’t done with you yet. He promises to finish the masterpiece\textsuperscript{18} he has started\textsuperscript{19} in you!

Footnotes:

1 Proverbs 31:25  
2 Psalm 119:105  
3 Proverbs 31: 18  
4 Proverbs 31:19 – 20  
5 Proverbs 31:26  
6 Proverbs 31:27  
7 Proverbs 31: 21 & 25  
8 Proverbs 31:16  
9 Proverbs 31:11 & 12  
10 Proverbs 31:23  
11 Proverbs 31:30  
12 1 Peter 3:4  
14 Romans 3:23  
15 2 Corinthians 4:7  
16 Psalm 103:14 & Romans 8:1  
17 Ecclesiastes 3:11  
18 Ephesians 2:10  
19 Philippians 1:6
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.

News and Notices

**AC Central: a growing hub of Apostolic Christian Content**

Be sure to download the latest update to get the newest features

Check Google Play or the App Store

Help us shape the future of AC Central.
Submit feedback and vote for suggested features at accentral.userecho.com

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

![AC Central App]

**2021 Apostolic Christian Church Services**

**Clyde Park, Montana**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>3:00 to 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Clyde Park Community Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wesmoser58@gmail.com">wesmoser58@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>10:15 am and 12:30 pm</td>
<td>Clyde Park Community Center</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bobcmct@alliancecom.net">bobcmct@alliancecom.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Church Services</td>
<td>or 612-963-0089 (mobils)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For further information or to provide a count of those planning to attend by June 10th 2021, please contact one of the following Bros.

**From Lester**

- Wes Moser 712-395-2025
- Bob Metzger 712-478-4647
- Greg Wackerle 503-873-7463

**From Silverton**

- 503-779-9803
- gregwackerle@msn.com

Accommodations available in or near Livingston, MT

- Fairfield Inn (406-222-4914) will have a block of rooms available under Apostolic Christian or Bob Metzger
- There are a number of campgrounds and rental homes in the area.

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

Free will donations serve to cover meal costs and facility expenses

A day tour of the area may be organized for those interested on Friday June 25th
Introducing the Apostolic Christian Bookstore

Formerly AC Publications, the online and brick-and-mortar store in Goodfield is now known simply as the AC Bookstore.

Visit us online or in person to find enriching resources that support the church and its members. Numerous new products have been added, such as children’s books, gift items, cards, headcoverings. More new items are on the way.

And as always, the Bookstore is a great source for Bibles, songbooks, Bible studies, church history books, Sunday School materials, and much more.

Online anytime at acbookstore.org
In person at 651 East Peoria St., Goodfield, IL 61742 (currently mornings only)
2021 Team Schedule

Mexico
Magdalena: Congerville, IL May 28- June 3, 2021
Magdalena: Washington, IL June 11 - 17, 2021
Magdalena: Detroit MI & Lamont, KS June 25 - July 1, 2021
Questions about teams to Magdalena?
Contact: Adam Kaeb - operationscve@gmail.com

Jamaica
CCCD - JDV June 4-12, 2021 40
Mark Lindberg 815-641-9065 lindma@hotmail.com
*If you are interested in sponsoring a team to Jamaica, contact Loren Dettwyler

Haiti
Les Cayes MEBH/Maintenance March 26-April 2 12
Jon Zeller jcze1972@gmail.com 309-266-9009

COUNTRY DIRECTOR
OPENING at the
HarvestCall Administrative Office
West Lafayette, Indiana

Here is an opportunity to put your management experience, leadership skills and communications abilities to good use guiding missions within the USA as part of the HarvestCall staff.

This a full-time, paid position that can be performed either at the West Lafayette, IN office or remotely. The brother or sister will report to the Executive Director and collaborate with the HarvestCall’s management team to lead ministries in the USA, and potentially in other countries, with a focus on God being glorified through the proclamation of the gospel.

A heart for church planting and a desire to enhance local church outreaches is required.

A complete job description with detailed duties and desired qualifications is on the HarvestCall website: www.harvestcall.org/country-director

For questions or to apply, contact:
Matt Knapp - Executive Director
Email: mknapp@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295

Missionary School - Bonne Fin, Haiti
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 2020. 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 service opportunity contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

For questions or to apply, contact:
Matt Knapp - Executive Director
Email: mknapp@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HarvestCall

SILVER LINING  March 2021
For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:

Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
HARVESTCALL MISSIONARY PURPOSE
The primary purpose of a HarvestCall missionary is to proclaim Christ and serve others. In fulfillment of HarvestCall’s mission, all missionary roles are purposed toward the sharing of the Gospel, the discipleship of believers, and the demonstration of the love of Christ through deeds of compassion.

PRIMARY ROLE: DEAF DISCIPLESHIP (3-5 years)
1. To intentionally and effectively be engaged in discipling relationships as part of a healthy body of local believers.
2. The commitment of our team to discipleship within the Deaf community continues to deepen, and as such we believe there is a need for long-term growth of our missionary team. We believe that 3-5 years is necessary for cultural and language acquisition before someone is adequately prepared for discipleship roles. Therefore, the purpose in the early years would essentially be as a “training ground” although the near-term role itself might change with time as the missionary becomes more equipped for the long-term role of being engaged in Deaf discipleship.

TRANSITIONAL ROLE RESPONSIBILITIES:
1. Key Result Area #1 (first step)
   Cultural and Language Training
   a) Complete Levels 1, 2, and 3 of JSL (Jamaican Sign Language) training on island
   b) Learn the history of Jamaica and develop an understanding of the native language, Patois
   c) Complete Helping Without Hurting curriculum
      • Read the book, “When Helping Hurts”
      • Go through video series “Helping Without Hurting in STM”

2. Key Result Area #2 (near-term)
   HarvestCall Jamaica Team Role
   a) JSL Video Bible translation coordinating / video editing / support
   b) Support Deaf Can! Operations
   c) Support E3 Fellowship gathering (small church establishment)
   d) Assist in the distribution of material aid

3. Key Result Area #3 (within 6-12 months)
   CCCD Role possibilities
   a) CCCD support opportunities (based on skill and interest)
      • STM teams (support Seth for a year before taking responsibility)
      • Construction and maintenance
      • Teaching or Interpreting (w/ ASL skills already)
      • Teen Bible study

QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIRED:
1. Interest and desire to learn sign language (past training / experience is preferred)
2. People person – willing to engage with others, particularly those different than you

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
**Bible Distribution:**
**Sharing His Word in Love**

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

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

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

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

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

**AC Bookstore is now the collection center for your donated books.**
651 E. Peoria St,
Goodfield, IL 61742

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**Hospital Lumiere - Bonne Fin, Haiti**

**DIRECTOR OF NURSING**

The nursing department within the hospital and clinic at Hospital Lumiere is staffed by Haitian nationals who are trained and certified by the Haitian medical system. Over the past 10 years, the nursing staff capability and dedication to serving the patients has greatly improved. All nursing departments are supervised by well qualified and skilled team members that are responsible for delivering the nursing services including staff assignments, scheduling, quality assurance and training. The position of Director of Nursing is to support the nursing team providing guidance, supervision and mentoring. This is not a hands on direct patient care position.

A key component of the medical program at Hospital Lumiere is hosting medical teams and ongoing training from medical professionals in the States. The DON will be responsible for establishing, coordinating and hosting nursing medical teams visiting HL.

This opportunity is a fulltime missionary position resident at Hospital Lumiere in Bon Fin, Haiti.

**DEPARTMENT QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Active member of the Apostolic Christian Church with a heart for service and desire to share the love of Jesus with the Haitian people
- Love for Haitian people and desire to work in close collaboration with Nursing Staff with a focus on relationship building
- Commitment to Ethical decision making and honesty in all decisions
- Responsibility and Accountability in all action, and willingness to support Nursing Supervisors in fostering program expectations with their nursing staff
- Willingness to adapt to necessary and frequent change
- Attitude of openness to learning and respect for Haitian culture
- Willingness to learn Creole language to effectively communicate with staff
- Willingness to work as team-player with other staff members and other members of Leadership Team including Administrator, Medical Director, Manager of Central Supply, Facilities Director, Operations Director, Finance Director and Pastors Office.
- Desire to interact with patients, families and employees while serving as an Ambassador For Christ.

**REQUIRED EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

- Active Licensure as Registered Nurse in US
- 5 years nursing experience preferred

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**For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:**

Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

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_APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HarvestCall_
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:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295 x108

FACILITIES MANAGER
OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

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

There are many service and ministry opportunities at HL. The most important qualification is that the brother and/or sister is called by God to serve at the hospital. The service opportunity and placement will be developed to match the candidate's interest and experience. Potential service roles for non-medical candidates:
- Business office management
- Finance and Accounting
- Hospital Administration
- Facilities Operations and/or Maintenance
- Hospital Operations (non-medical)
- Hospital Technical Support
- Information Technology Support
- Missionary School Teacher or Teacher Aid
- Campus and Hospitality Management
- Missionary Support

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

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
If you are interested in Medical service, please review the Medical Professional Advertisement.

OPENING at Hospital Lumiere, Haiti

MISSIONARY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

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

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:
Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or
Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
If you are interested in Medical service, please review the Medical Professional Advertisement.
BUSINESS MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITY

The Fatted Calf is seeking a candidate to serve as a Business Missionary in Magdalena, Mexico. The primary purpose of this role will be to proclaim Christ and serve others through the avenue of community interaction, using the business marketplace as the primary vehicle of ministry. In the fulfillment of HarvestCall’s mission, The Fatted Calf, principally through its majority ownership of Productos Carnicos La Mision (PCLM) and its sponsorship of EXPO Esperanza, is purposed toward sharing the gospel, discipling believers, and demonstrating the love of Christ through deeds of compassion in the context of the workplace and community involvement opportunities. Interested candidates should explore the PCLM business operations at www.thefatcalf.com/productos-carnicos-la-mision

Desired Qualifications
- Member in good standing within the Apostolic Christian Church of America
- A demonstrated heart for sharing the gospel, specifically within the workplace and community
- Significant project and team leadership experience in the workplace
- Demonstrated background in community engagement
- Experience with team building, personnel evaluation and management
- An entrepreneurial background and interest
- Strong language skills, either existing or to be acquired prior to coming to the field
- Willingness to adapt to and engage in Mexican culture
- Business management experience. Food and/or agricultural backgrounds preferred
- Strong mentoring and training skills
- Business financial skills are desired but not a requirement
- Not be afraid to “get your hands dirty” in the day to day workplace
- Willing to make a commitment for service of at least 5 years, Lord willing

General Duties and Responsibilities of Business Missionary
- The position will, in the business context:
  - Come alongside our employees to assist them in the gospel centered management of business units. Train, train, train – Disciple, disciple, disciple
  - Interact with customers and vendors to demonstrate the love of Christ through these business touchpoints
  - Serve as an active member of the local community to provide a vehicle for the sharing of our gospel centered organizational objectives – clearly demonstrating the love of Christ to the community
- To interact with summer interns to train, disciple and assist in their gospel centered experience as they come to engage with the children of CVE, CVV and the Magdalena community
- As a part of a management team, to act as the liaison between business operations and the management team and Board of Directors as needed
- To take an active role in the business operations, creating touchpoints of gospel engagement with employee teams.
- To help ensure that the gospel is never secondary within the ministry of The Fatted Calf and the operations of PCLM through spiritual training, employee engagement, community relations and business administration
- To be an active member of the Magdalena congregation
- To actively engage in coordination of the ministry with those of CVE and CVV.

For additional details for this exciting and worthy service opportunity contact:

Amber Miller - Missionary Care Director
Email: amiller@harvestcall.org or Phone: 765.250.4295 x108
Registration now open for ALive 2021 - May 29-31

Plans are underway for the Athens, Alabama congregation to host ALive 2021 over the Memorial Day weekend, May 29 – 31! Registration is filling up fast, so make your reservation at www.ALiveAlabama.com.

This year "Hope" will be the overarching theme for the weekend. Ministering brothers Brad Metz (Bloomington, IL), Kirk Plattner (West Lafayette, IN) and Mark Klaus (Athens, AL) will speak on what is hope, why it is so important, especially in today’s society, and how we can have hope for today and the future. They will also talk about how we as Christians can put hope into action.

The weekend event will be held at The Vision (www.visionministry.org), a beautiful 300+ acre Christian Retreat facility nestled in the side of a small mountain near Huntsville, AL. The facility includes a stunning lodge where we will also have worship. Additionally, enjoy hiking trails and walking around a lake. There is also playground equipment for children and so much more.

To view a schedule of events and other weekend details, visit www.ALiveAlabama.com. You can also find out information by visiting our Facebook page @ALiveAlabama or send an e-mail to info@alivealabama.com.

Should circumstances arise that would require cancellation, a decision will be made by April 15. The Athens congregation and ALive Committee look forward to seeing you at ALive 2021!
**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](http://harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship)

Name ______________________  
- Mr.  - Mrs.  - Miss  
Spouse ______________________  
Address ______________________  
City ____________St ___ Zip _____  
Home Ph ______________________  
Cell Ph ______________________  
Email _________________________  

Please check preference:  
- Haiti Student  - Jamaica  
- Haiti School  - Guatemala  
- Mexico  - Zambia  
- Wherever needed  
If possible, I prefer:  
- Boy – Age _____  
- Girl – Age _____  
- No Preference

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

Another way to pray for our missionaries.  
Download HarvestCall’s one-page document listing all those serving. It includes prayer ideas and is appropriate for posting on your refrigerator or church bulletin board.

Visit: [www.harvestcall.org/our-missionaries](http://www.harvestcall.org/our-missionaries)
Are you looking for more purpose in your life?

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 an Assistant Houseparent and a Foster Care Case Manager. Will you be the beautiful feet that comes and labors to share Christ?

For more information:
gatewaywoods.org/careers
888-443-4283
The Biblical Basis for Church Planting
— Continued from pg. 7

power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, as a brotherhood we need to continue to be faithful in three aspects: 1) Evangelism (proclaim the Gospel to unbelievers), 2) Discipleship (nurture and teach the resulting followers of Christ), and 3) Church Planting (gather the new disciples into churches with local leadership). While there have been communications and teaching on evangelism and discipleship (e.g., “Sharing the Gospel” Bible Study) over the last few years, there is also a need to continue learning about church planting. As we more faithfully practice evangelism and discipleship, and people repent and embrace a new life by faith in Jesus, there will be opportunities to plant churches. Currently, the Church Establishment Committee (CEC) is investing time into developing a cross-cultural church planting framework that would assist in the formation of new churches in other cultures.

Please be prayerful for the CEC as they try to be faithful in encouraging and equipping the church to press into the Great Commission. As they follow the Holy Spirit’s leading, they trust these efforts can be used by God to lead to an expansion of churches full of the Lord’s disciples.

If you are interested in learning more about church planting, visit www.harvestcall.org/plant-bolster-churches or send an e-mail to cec@harvestcall.org. Additionally, the “Sharing the Gospel” Bible Study is available at www.acbookstore.org to learn more about evangelism and discipleship.

Footnotes:
3The material in the following paragraphs is adapted from Ott, Craig; Wilson, Gene. Global Church Planting. Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
4“Though there is no explicit command in the Bible to go and plant churches, the biblical record leaves no mistake that church planting is essential to God’s salvation purposes and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.” Ott, Craig; Wilson, Gene. (p. 20).

— by Church Establishment Committee

Christian Guesthouse and Worship Services in Rochester, MN
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Guesthouse - Three bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Guesthouse Accommodations:
4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901
For information and reservations, contact:
(507) 288-0072

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

Light from the Word
Now available by downloadable PDF at www.acbookstore.org
After entering the website, click on the item located at the left hand frame entitled, “Light from the Word Reprints”.
The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (June 1987 to current).
Continued Articles

The Four-Pillar Mission
— Continued from pg. 3

the Word became flesh, “not to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

• Serve: To offer loving, humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind in the name of Christ.

Jesus taught us to serve in many ways and especially through his humble washing of the disciples’ feet. This example demonstrates that in sacrificially meeting the earthly need (washing dirty feet), a heavenly cleansing and purpose is accomplished (a spiritual bath granting fellowship with Christ). This principle reaches its climax on the cross where divine mercy is eternally joined with his ultimate self-gift. Christian love is a tangible, fleshy reality, not an ideological or emotional abstraction.

Having reviewed these pillars, let us return to those core, missional passages, Luke 4:18-19, Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8. These passages mark, like bookends, the beginning of Christ’s mission and His concluding Great Commission to the Church. It is imperative to understand that both Christ’s mission and our mission in Christ spring forth from the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In Luke 4, Jesus enters his mission in “the Spirit of the Lord.” Likewise, the disciples are instructed to wait until they “receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.” Further, Jesus emphasizes that we go in the strength of Christ, knowing that he has been given “all power” and will remain with us “always.” Though it is the mission given to us, it is not rightly “our” mission, but his. It must always be pursued in, for, and through him who sent us. This gives us the courage to proceed. It also protects us against the shipwreck that results in pursuing this mission in our own strength. In our own strength, we too often approach the souls God has sent us to heal as objects to be used, rather than as lost lambs to be lovingly gathered into the Kingdom.

Finally, observe this essential principle: our purpose is not derived from within ourselves but from our sending. Consider that people answer the phone when the officer of a large corporation calls not because of who the officer is (whom they may even dislike) but because of whom the officer represents. Similarly, the congregation listens to the minister not because of who he is but because of the office he has been ordained to fill. In the same way, Jesus wrangles with the Pharisees over his own sending proclaiming that, “My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.” There is no greater purpose than to represent the King of Kings, and when we pursue the King’s mission according to and in the King’s will as his bondservants, should it surprise us that we then fulfill our Purpose “To glorify God by loving as Jesus loves?”

Endnotes
1 John 20:21-22
2 Mission is derived from the Latin “missio,” meaning, generally, the act of sending. While “mission” is not found in a King James Bible, the Scripture is filled with the accounts of men and women “sent” on the business of the King of Kings.
3 Genesis 6-7; 2 Peter 2:4-5
4 Genesis 12
5 Exodus 3
6 Matthew 4:18-22
7 Acts 9:15
8 Philippians 2:5-11
9 John 3:16; 17:3
10 Luke 4:18-19
11 Matthew 28:18-20; see also Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8
12 Ephesians 4:13
13 Luke 7:48, 50
14 John 21:15-17
15 John 6:52-58
16 John 14:6
17 Luke 20:40
18 Mark 1:22; Matthew 7:29
19 John 7:16
20 John 3:17
21 John 17:13-17
22 John 17:8
23 Compare the Sons of Sceva, who desired to personally leverage the power of Christ and whom the evil spirit overpowered exclaiming “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” Acts 19:15
24 John 7:16
intended to draw men together and for us to view each other as a human brotherhood.

I want to turn to the Old Testament. Another concept about Pentecost is that it was new in Acts. It was a new covenant, but it was different from the old covenant. I want to turn to Exodus, Chapter 32. Exodus 32 is a familiar chapter to probably everybody. We’re not going to read the whole thing, but I just want to kind of bring out the concepts there.

We know what happens here. Israel is rescued out of Egypt. They’re in the wilderness, and God brings them to Mt. Sinai. God’s intention is to introduce them to his law, his nature, himself and what it means to be like him. Moses is up on the mountain for forty days.

Let’s read. “And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.” (v1)

We know what happens. They ask Aaron to make them a golden calf, an image that they can worship, and Aaron responds. He does this. They bring him their gold, and he melts it down and makes them an image to worship.

Note in verse 5, it says, “[Aaron] said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.” Now, this is interesting because he announces this feast to the Lord while they’re worshipping the idol. There was to be a feast to the Lord on this day, but Aaron didn’t know that because Moses was bringing that instruction back from God. This feast Aaron announced ended up being the first Feast of Weeks, also called Pentecost. On this first Pentecost, according to scholars having done the research and determining the way that the days line up in the Old Testament, this first Feast of Weeks, the children of Israel offered sacrifices to a golden calf.

This is what happened. The Lord says to Moses, “Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, ‘These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.’” (vv7-8)

Okay, so God tells Moses, “Head back down the mountain; this is what’s going on,” and this is what happens when he gets down there. Verse 15 says, “And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. And the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.” (vv15-16)

Can you imagine it? This is God’s handwriting on stone. How much more solid and powerful in a visual, physical sense can this be? God’s handwriting on tables of stone. This is God’s word and God’s will, right? And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing; and Moses’ anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.” (vv17-19)

We picture that on the top of the mountain is this raging furnace, thundering and lightning, and the presence of God is on the top of Mt. Sinai. Moses is descending out of it with this law from God, in the handwriting of God engraved on tables of stone. Can you picture the contrast? There is this pure, holy word written on stone carried in Moses’ arms, and — Please turn to pg. 62
then what he sees with his eyes is
people worshipping an idol and
naked people dancing around it,
doing debauched things. Can you
just picture the contrast?

As you think about that, what
good did that table of stone and
those words engraved on it do those
people that were dancing? It didn’t
do them any good. Why? It was
words written on stone and not
in their heart. It was not close to
them. It was nowhere near them.
It was near them physically the
same as a Bible can be close to us
physically but not be in our heart.

That’s the contrast between
the first Pentecost and what would
be when Pentecost was fulfilled
and the Holy Spirit came. The
purpose of the Holy Spirit was to
put the law of God into a person
heart that the person would obey,
communicate with God, be close
to God, worship God in reverence
out of the heart, not because a
letter tells them to and not because
it was written on tables of stone.

We think about Christianity
and value the presence of this word
because it teaches us truth, but
this truth can only be understood
and applied in our hearts through
the presence and the in-dwelling
of God’s Holy Spirit. How do we
know this? What happened here was
the law came, and it wasn’t in the
hearts of people. It didn’t translate.

We think about the prophets.
They are unique in that they were
making connection between Old
and New Testaments. They were
interpreting the Old Testament
and the law so that people could
understand its function, its place,
and its application in their lives.

God gave Jeremiah words where
he pointed ahead to the coming
of the new covenant and what
was needed. He says in Chapter
31, “Behold, the days come, saith
the LORD, that I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel,
and with the house of Judah: Not
according to the covenant that I
made with their fathers in the day
that I took them by the hand to bring
them out of the land of Egypt; which
my covenant they brake, although
I was an husband unto them, saith
the LORD: But this shall be the
covenant that I will make with the
house of Israel: After those days, saith
the LORD, I will put my law in
their inward parts, and write it in
their hearts; and will be their God,
and they shall be my people. And
they shall teach no more every man
his neighbour, and every man his
brother, saying, Know the LORD: for
they shall all know me, from the least
of them unto the greatest of them,
saith the LORD: for I will forgive
their iniquity, and I will remember
their sin no more.” (vv31-34)

This is an amazing promise and
so different. He’s pointing ahead

In this day, what did Moses do?
We know that Moses destroyed the
idol by grinding it up and made
the people drink it. He made the
people that were with him and that
were against him separate, and then
the sons of Levi went throughout
camp killing those against him.
The children of Levi killed three
thousand Israelites that day. The day
that the law came on tables of stone,
three thousand died.

Now, how does that compare
to what happened in the New
Testament in the book of Acts,
Chapter 2? We’re going to skip ahead
after Peter’s whole sermon, and read
what the response was. It says, “Then
they that gladly received his word were
baptized: and the same day there were
added unto them about three thousand
souls” (v41). So, when the law came,
it killed. When the Spirit came, it
gave life. People were saved. It went
into the heart and sunk deep. What
did Jesus talk about that was going
to come? Rebirth – to be reborn out
of water and spirit.

You would think the day that
the law came would’ve been a day
of holiness and consecration to God
where people were actually changed,
but it wasn’t. It was a day of death. It
was a day of destruction because the
law wasn’t in the hearts of people.
So, it points out to us that something
needed to happen. Something else
had to come because something was
missing in this whole equation.
to this day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit, God’s presence, will be with men and will be present in the inward parts of people. It will change and convert the heart of a person and create what’s called regeneration, or rebirth. The voice of God would speak within the heart of that person.

Through Ezekiel, God says, “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.” (Eze 36:25-27)

The Apostle Paul, or the writer of Hebrews, just affirms this in Hebrews 10 by saying, “Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us.” The Holy Ghost is a witness. The presence of his Holy Spirit bears witness to us. It teaches us. “For after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” (vv15-16)

I appreciate how all three of these scriptures connect the cleansing of the flesh, the washing, the forgiveness of sins with the law of God coming into the heart of a person. Out of that heart, a person could actually practice holiness and have communion with a Holy God. It’s an amazing picture, and we celebrate that in knowing the Holy Spirit of God is present with us.

Christianity is not a dead religion. The message of Jesus Christ and of this new life is not a message of law and condemnation and death. It’s a message of forgiveness and reconciliation and life. That is the contrast. It is the Spirit of God that bears witness that God has cleansed us and has given us imputed righteousness. How could the presence of God be within a person who was not holy? Who was not justified? Who was not righteous as God? It’s not possible. God could not be present within a heart that was not holy and righteous.

Now, does that mean once we are righteous, then God’s Spirit comes and makes His residence with us, and when we do something wrong, well, God’s Spirit leaves and is not with us anymore? No, the idea is that God’s Spirit is dwelling within us, and that whether we perform good or evil, God’s Spirit is continually working a cleansing in us.

Before we can have communion with God, a cleansing must take place. We picture the Garden of Eden and the broken relationship, the separation, that happened. It was very physical in that there was a garden dwelling place and then the expulsion out of the Garden, this physical separation. It was symbolic of the spiritual separation where man and God were no longer reconciled, no longer unified, because sin. The message of the gospel is that the relationship with God and man is reconciled. That Garden kingdom is re-established that men can come into the presence of God in part. The fulfillment of the ultimate Eden comes at the second coming of Jesus, but in this life, we have that reconciliation with God. So, part of this idea is that those sins within our heart that corrupt us and that break the covenant have to be forgiven, washed clean, and we’re made new, converted. A restored relationship with God looks like forgiven sins. It’s justification, righteousness imputed, a person standing before God holy.

There’s more than that. Two different times in scripture the word regeneration is used. Once, in Titus when the Apostle Paul is telling Titus about how we are saved “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but...by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5). The word regeneration is palingenesia which means new birth, reproduction, renewal, recreation. It’s the answer — Please turn to pg. 64
that Jesus told Nicodemus when he came to him at night and wondered about a relationship with God. This is a Jewish leader, a member of the Sanhedrin, the highest Jewish council, and he comes to Jesus wondering about relationship with God. Jesus tells him unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. The heart must be regenerated or reborn. When Jesus said ‘born again’, it’s gennao. It’s only by God’s holy power prompting and persuading souls to put faith in Christ that we can be born again and live a new life consecrated to him. It is a work of God. That’s what Nicodemus’ problem was. “Well, how can I? What can I do, Jesus? Can I enter my mother’s womb a second time and be reborn?” That was his issue. He’s thinking ‘what can I’, and Jesus was not talking about something that he could do. He was talking about something that God alone can do. Now, Jesus was also pointing ahead to what was going to happen at Pentecost when the presence of God would come to dwell within the hearts of people so they would be reborn.

We cling to this truth as Christians that we are born again through the work of God inside of us. This rebirth or regeneration does so much more. It’s not about just trying to obey the law written on tables of stone or in a book. It’s that God is within us, changing and converting our heart, and actually making the impossible, possible. Making the unclean, clean. Making the unholy, holy. Making the selfish, unselfish. Making us into the image of God.

This is the message that the world needs because human systems can’t save us. A.W. Tozer, probably one of my favorite commentators, was a preacher in Chicago. The unique thing about him was that he spoke to not just having head knowledge, or knowing a lot about things, but actually having a deep relationship with God. He said, “the cause of all our human miseries is a radical moral dislocation, an upset in our relation to God and to each other.” He explained that an altered attitude in man destroys the proper creature-creator relationship in which, unknown to us, is true happiness. This dislocation we have from God can only be remedied in a restored relationship. It’s more than just head knowledge because a restored relationship with God allows us, as the Apostle Paul says, to call God our Father – Abba Father.

Restoring the relationship is just the beginning and not the end. Even in this state of a restored relationship with God, we’re tempted to look away from him and from our satisfaction, our all and all, being in God. We look to some other human systems, and the gaze of our soul turns from him and his perfection.

Think of a sailor and how he finds his bearing using his compass and the stars. We get our moral bearings by looking at God alone, and we can only look to God because of his in-dwelling presence.

That is my encouragement again today. Let’s have an awareness of the constant presence of God through which we get our moral bearings and through which our human misery can be assuaged. We can have communion and union not only with God but together as a brotherhood of people. That’s where we get our identity, our unity, our direction, and our holiness. The purpose, then, of his presence is in the fulfillment of his missions.

With his presence, we have happiness and we’re restored, but the purpose of it is to bring God’s plan for salvation to every person. He gives us this charge. He gives us missions. He co-missions us with him to carry the gospel message to every person and be a voice and a witness wherever we are and in whatever language we speak. He calls us to carry this work, and we’ll receive power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, in Judaea, Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.

We each have our personal devotion time as Christians, and
we’re quiet, alone, and reaching out to God. Our hearts desire his presence and clarity. I’d encourage us all in this time of confusion and questions, to seek out that hidden place and that quietness with God. Do we find clarity? Do we find direction? Do we find stillness and peace? God is not an author of confusion but of peace. He invites us into his peace through his constant presence. Not only does it work joy and happiness in us, but it is constant confirmation that God is at work. You are saved. You are redeemed. He loves you. He cares about you. His work is not done in you. He continues to call you and is with you all the time, and he wants you to know that. He wants you to feel his presence and be with him in his mission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JEWISH HOLY DAYS</th>
<th>DATE ON THE JEWISH CALENDAR</th>
<th>FORESHADOW OF CHRIST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passover</td>
<td>14th day of Nissan (Mar/Apr) - the crucifixion was most likely on this date</td>
<td>A celebration in remembrance of Passover in Egypt and how the blood of the lamb saved their firstborn child from death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feast of Unleavened Bread</td>
<td>15th day of Nissan (Mar/Apr)</td>
<td>Matzah (unleavened bread) is made in large wafers with stripes and piercings baked into it; A piece is broken unevenly, and the larger of the two is wrapped in linen and “buried” in the room for the children to find - they are all eager to find the valuable treasure and bring it out.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feast of the First Fruits</td>
<td>16th day of Nissan (Mar/Apr) - always the first day of the week</td>
<td>The first of their wheat is given as an offering to God in an act of worship and with trust he will provide more harvest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecost or Feast of Weeks</td>
<td>6th of Sivan (May/June) - 50 days after 16th of Nissan</td>
<td>It is a remembrance of God revealing the law - the first covenant - to his chosen people at Mt. Sinai.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosh Ha Shanah or Feast of Trumpets</td>
<td>1st of Tishri (Sep/Oct)</td>
<td>The trumpet is blown as a signal as it did during Exodus to march or to stop. People refrain from work and, for ten days, take account of their wrongdoing. In their greeting, they wish for the other person’s name to be written in the Book of Life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement</td>
<td>11th day of Tishri (Sep/Oct)</td>
<td>The people fast and pray for forgiveness in remembrance of the one day the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of the people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feast of Booths or Tabernacles</td>
<td>15th day of Tishri (Sep/Oct)</td>
<td>The culmination of holy days is a week of rejoicing, fellowship, and feasting. People build shelters for eating and sleeping to remember the Exodus and to anticipate the day God would dwell with us.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Excerpts from the last issue continue...taken from the booklet published in 1990 entitled, “Our Heritage of Faith,” a publication used for teaching heritage in Apostolic Christian Sunday School classes.

After Conversion
By this time Bro. Froehlich had turned twenty-two and was undecided as to what direction his life would take. Having experienced a true conversion and now living close to the Lord, he faced the very serious dilemma of no longer being in harmony with his training in the theology and doctrine of the state church.

In May of 1826, Froehlich began his examination for the ministry (of the state church). His thesis, generally, was built around the concept of, “What you get from the Word is equal to being in the middle of God’s grace.” He also wrote a sermon on St. John 17:16-17. In the latter instance he made an unfavorable impression. He had to wait a year to take the examination again. His new religious principles were reflected in his exams, which generated a negative response from those who tested him. He took the news of this failure philosophically, feeling that the Lord’s will was being done for his purification and further testing.

In May 1827, he was called again to take the ministerial exams. This time he passed and was ordained into the ministry of the Swiss Protestant State Church approximately two months short of his twenty-fourth birthday.

Preaching in the State Church
His first request for service (after being ordained) came from the Girtannin family in Feuerthalen, near Schaffhausen, and he became their tutor. In August, 1828, he was assigned to the office of vicar in the district of Wagenhausen in canton Thurgau. In November his superior died and he was summoned to the congregation at Leutwil as a vicar, and began his work in December, 1828. He preached with deep conviction and wrote that God “gave such strength to His Word that the testimony of the crucified Christ cut like a two-edged sword through their hearts and overthrew one proud fortress of Satan after the other.” One soul after another humbled himself at the feet of the Lord. Many souls from surrounding congregations began to attend Froehlich’s services much to the chagrin of their local pastors. Thus, criticism of his preaching became nearly rampant.

Froehlich’s Sermons Are Challenged
Froehlich described these sermons as being “the chief teachings of the Gospel: That by our nature we were all dead in transgressions and sin and are the children of wrath; that we are made righteous through Jesus Christ alone, through belief in the atonement which He brought about; that through this belief in Christ we must be born anew and receive into our hearts the new living law of the Holy Spirit in place of the deadening...law.” The Spirit-filled preaching of Samuel Froehlich posed a significant threat to the state church. Accordingly, he was recalled from his pastorate in Leutwil on October 25, 1829. This constituted a severe reprimand, and he was suspended from preaching. For approximately one year he resided at his father’s home in Brugg, apparently waiting word from the church council as to the final disposition of his situation. A point of severe contention between Froehlich and the state church involved the issue of infant baptism. [to be continued]

Author’s Correction: in the February issue on page 66 (last paragraph), reference is made to Froehlich’s conversion. He sought God for a long time, but could not receive peace with God. In that sentence, we left out the word “not.” (As in “could not” receive peace with God.) We apologize for this error.

-by Perry A. Klopfenstein
How can we practice hospitality during COVID?

“Use hospitality one to another without grudging”
1 Pet. 4:9

Practicing hospitality is one of the many “one another” commands in the New Testament that became more challenging due to COVID-19. How can we show hospitality one to another without complaining during COVID? We asked this question as a family. We did not come up with any quick, easy answers, and you probably will not either. But I encourage you to ask the question!

I would like to share two real-life examples. The first is a personal failure to show hospitality without grudging. The second is a positive example of how hospitality can be done during the pandemic. I hope you will take away the biblical principle underlying hospitality and be inspired to apply it in your own life.

Example 1: “The unwanted neighbor”. The school right next to our house is a favorite play area for neighborhood children. Since the social distancing measures with COVID-19, it has been hard for us to explain to the neighbors why we cannot let them in to play. One of the little girls who frequently asks to play stopped at our front gate recently. I was busy working in the yard and she seemed like a nuisance. I told her we couldn’t play because of the virus, but that maybe in a couple of months we could play again. After she left, I felt convicted by my attitude. I was using COVID as an excuse to not practice hospitality. It was true that it was not a good time for her to come and play. But I could have shown interest in her life and used the opportunity to show her Christ’s love, even at the front gate. I missed the opportunity because my heart was not in a disposition of hospitality.

Example 2: “A family in need”. One night during the peak of COVID-19, as we were getting ready to sleep, we received a phone call from a desperate mom needing a safe place to spend the night with her two children. Her husband was drunk and threatening her. She asked if we could call a sister from church who lived in her community to see if she could take them in for the night. This sister happens to be a widow who sometimes has barely enough to eat and suffers poor health. If anyone could have used COVID-19 (or the other issues) as a reasonable excuse to not show hospitality, it would be her. But she opened her home. She only had one bed, but she made room for this family in her living room and kept them for the night. What made her do this without much hesitation? Her heart was disposed to hospitality.

The underlying biblical principle for hospitality seems to be this: If you have an open heart, you will have an open home. Applying this will look different for each person and place. And yes, it will probably look different during pandemics. But the command always applies.

-by Matt Gerber

Footnotes:

1 It might help us keep things in perspective to remember when Peter wrote this command, they were dealing with persecution. Hospitality would be even more difficult then!

2 Some Bible translations render “Use hospitality” as “open your homes”.

3 To dig deeper on this topic, check out the book, The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community; Building Bridges to Friends & Neighbors, by Alexander Strauch.
Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...

Hebrews 12:2