

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana

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A Wonderful Opportunity

Amos Hartzler

People in general are interested in a good opportunity with good income, comfort, and a lasting delight and pleasure. This unspeakable, valuable, and everlasting treasure is being offered free of charge, namely, without money or price to all who will accept it on the conditions our great and powerful Redeemer is offering it.

Human nature is adverse and will not fit into the pure and undefiled doctrine and instructions. Christ, who in His great love and mercy, beheld us under the dreadful burden and curse of sin, left His heavenly mansion and descended to this dark and sinful world and suffered so intensely. Under a crown of thorns, cruel scourging, and the cruel death on the cross, the pure and spotless Lamb of God, (came) to prepare and open the way and make it possible for us unworthy and sinful beings to become real children of God and heirs of eternal life.

In that beautiful heavenly Jerusalem, nothing sinful nor unclean can enter. All pain, sorrow, grief of every description will be forever unknown. Now, such wonderful promises (are) not from a fallible man, who is liable to die and not able to keep or fulfill his promises, but from Christ Himself, who was dead, and arose from the dead, triumphant over sin, death, grave, and all the power of darkness combined. Unto Him is

given all power in heaven and upon earth.

Why should anyone hesitate to accept such a dependable and truthful promise? Death is certain before us all, unless we should be living yet at the reappearing of our Saviour. We must all appear before the final Judge to receive the reward or penalty of our life and conduct while here upon earth, whether good or bad.

We find in Revelation 1—verse 7: "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." (Namely, all who are not prepared to meet Him in peace.) At the appointed time, the heavens will pass away with a great noise, the elements melt with fervent heat, and the earth and the works therein shall be burned up. (II Peter 3:10)

Now, dear ones, all the precious promises and the solemn warnings are given for our benefit, to reveal to us what is before us and will come to pass.

Now, dear ones, all who have been cleansed from sin and relieved from the burden of sin and destruction. Let us all follow our Royal Master more closely and keep away from danger of sin and vanity. We all have a very strong and crafty enemy who has had thousands (of) years experience in de-

ceiving and misleading humanity. Still it is not the will of God that any of us go to destruction. He is also able to shield us from the fiery trials of the enemy, if we are on guard as wide awake watchmen at their post.

It is truly sad and very displeasing to God, the great evil work which our enemy has been able to accomplish in leading the high-priced redeemed souls astray in the past, not by persecutions

in our days and time, but by offering all manner of worldly amusements and trying to (falsely) prove by the word of God, mingling truth and lies together to persuade the redeemed ones to indulge therein.

If we remain in the vale of humility, and are contented to follow our Saviour on the straight and narrow way, we will not be overpowered by the evil one.

History of the Alto Apostolic Christian Church

Philip Wingeier

In 1868, Katherina Biedermann Wingeier, at the age of thirty years, left her home and birthplace, Belmont (close to the western frontier of Switzerland) with her husband, Samuel; her mother-in-law; and four sons for the United States of America. Arriving in this country, they arranged to live on a farm in Stone Creek, near New Philadelphia, Ohio. Soon Samuel's trade as a cheese-maker took the place of farming, and he made Swiss cheese for the farmers in that locality.

They lived there for nine years, in which three more sons were born. So Katherina was the mother of seven living sons. Katherina mentioned disappointments and hardships; however, she seldom spoke of her material welfare during this time.

It was during these nine years that Katherina met two ministering brothers of the Apostolic Christian faith walking along the railroad track and, as they were strangers, inquired as to the direction of their church. As Katherina was experiencing the hardships of an early settler and mother, her spiritual hunger was great and (she) requested to attend church. In this manner, the Lord found a way for her to meet His chosen people and to gather with them at their meetings. There she repented and was baptized, against her husband's urgent pleadings.

She led a true Christian life, was strong in faith, and was the woman

who was to become (one of the pillars on) which a new congregation is a far-away place would be founded.

In 1877, the family moved to Belmont, Michigan, for two years, and then in 1879 they bought a farm near Lowell, Michigan, where they spent the rest of their life together; however, Sister Katherina spent many years as a widow. Here in her spiritual life, Sister Katherina stood alone, as in a wilderness, for thirteen lonely years. There were no churches nor members of her faith for over a hundred miles away, but even here God was her companion with whom she was closely related in prayer and in reading His Word. Her faith was also strengthened by letters from brothers and sisters from Ohio and Illinois. So, with an unwavering faith in God, and living a quiet God-fearing life, and being a friend to all men, she went on and on in her way until the Lord had mercy on her loneliness and sent joy and happiness to her spirit. In 1893 her (son Alexander's) wife, Mary, became seriously ill, and needing comfort in her fearful life, sent to her mother-in-law to help her find peace with God. Sister Katherina went. Mary repented, received peace, and was baptized by Brother Schweir from Ohio. Brother Braun of Toledo ministered mostly to the needs of the small congregation, coming and going by train. Sister Katherina was able to get good attendance at the meetings; however,

there was another (teaching) in that neighborhood that provided an easier way and drew many.

After some time (the wife of) her oldest son, Samuel, also became a Christian follower. Samuel soon joined his wife, and thus was added the first brother to these believers (near Alto). Samuel was granted the grace to proclaim God's word, and in due time was called upon to preach the gospel to this small, growing flock. Meetings were held in their homes to worship to Lord regularly. Elizabeth, the wife of the second son, John, was the next member, and John soon followed, with Anna, the wife of the fourth son, Ferdinand, accepting the Lord later. God truly blessed this little congregation.

They had regular services then, each family gladly opening their home in turn, Although their homes were as much as fourteen miles apart, only sickness would stop them from attending services through driving rains in open buggies and through heavy snow and cold in open sleighs. They all would come to the meeting, as each of them was eager and hungry for spiritual food. Their mode of living was a good example of their true Christian faith.

As the years went by, many grandchildren, also the (wives of the two) youngest sons, Daniel and Simon, became members, as well as a few friends outside the family circle. Then, in 1921, some months before Sister Katherina

died, a new church was built on Brother Ferdinand and Sister Anna's farm at Alto. Ferdinand and Anna were the Christian parents of eleven living children. Anna was of parentage (not brought up in the Apostolic Christian way). By God's guidance, she led her family in the paths of righteousness. Nine of their children are now members.

Sister Katherina was the first one for whom funeral services were held in the new church.

Brother Samuel Wingeier was a faithful and unassisted minister for thirty years. As his health began to fail, Brother Fred Oesch, the husband of one of Katherina's granddaughters, was chosen as minister and helper. In later years, when the task became too heavy for Brother Oesch, Brother Philip Wingeier, a grandson of Sister Katherina, and youngest son of Ferdinand and Anna, was also given the grace to minister to this congregation. Brothers Oesch and Wingeier are the present ministers of a congregation of thirty-three members and also many dear friends. Brother Ferdinand is the only living son of Katherina now. A host of young people and friends come regularly to the services and to Sunday School. We hope and pray that the Lord will grant His blessing, so that this congregation may grow in number and in faith, and be an example of true Christian life and an honor to His name.

Christmas in God's Church

“. . . a cheerful giver.”

Christmas snow-fall has made this loving village a beauteous holiday forever. Everywhere, everywhere, in this wonder-land, it is Christmas. There's a radiance of Christmas sparkle. Busy steps are for making somebody happy. Every heart is aglow. There's the riches of the Father's blessings. This Christmas in God's church is truly great. The steps are taken for Him and for one

another. And every heart feels all good inside.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*”

The heavenly Lamp-Lighter love-lit each holiday lamp to shine for Him. The glorious radiance in Christmas

house shines from God. For all and always, He is the center and the attractiveness of this eternal Yule-tide. He makes Christmas colorful. In Him, we have a contented always. He fragrances the personality with His divine nature. Aims become resplendent in the beauty of His wisdom. Presenting Him ourself, we are presented with Living in the harmony and color and joy of Him in His Christmas house.

"And be not conformed to this world: . . ."

The quiet restfulness of Christmas village is true liberty. The beauty of the whited lanes are avenues of happiness. There is heavenly loveliness all around. God blesses, the land is in holy Light, and Christmas peace is softly beautiful.

God does not want us to return to the stark gray of prison. His commandments of love are a border-line to keep us in the liberty of joy. He knows the danger and anguish that pound the voltage line of worldly love. Anything of the world is highly dangerous. The unbridled path of the skidding emotions starts in the confused gray and goes to the denser black.

". . . but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Within the will of God . . . within the revealed Thoughts of the mind of God, is heavenly beauty so lovely that worldly imagery has never even thought of it. It's a happy Christmas always, and a centering of the mind in the God of peace. The mind is very important, an avenue, a secret way of Thought, to reach for transforming beauty in this wonderland of loveliness.

What appears in that mind within us is a vitally determining cause of the persons we are. How rich we are in His granting of glorious and astonishing things is determined by the sight 'n sound reaching our mind. His Christmas ornaments must have obedience for reflective beauty. Harmonizing loveliness cannot be secured by the clash of worldly, fleshly interests. Warmth and gaiety in this Christmas eve are the

gifts the Father gives to those who love His wishes.

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

We give ourselves certain gifts also. To determine the correct size of our own measurement is essential for greater happiness. We suffer when our thoughts are too big for what has been dealt to us from our heavenly Father. When we enrich the rooms with His heavenly Thoughts, we indeed place beautifully for others the *gifts for always*. The heavenly Father can tell us of the *Dreams of His giving* plainly. The serene scene of Christmas eve becomes softly more beautiful. We are happy in the contentment of His blessings.

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."

The best of the smartness of the world's professors, the cream of the worldly volumes through the ages, does not even begin to compare with the matchless, perfect wisdom from the Father. Deep, amazing territory, unknown in earthly circles, have we pioneered into, and become a part. This is a family in the love and sympathetic understanding of Christmas. At Calvary, must we leave all the care-worn, erroneous learning of the fractioned existing. Marvellous is the panorama of wisdom that soars higher than the clouds, and is for ever!

True . . . our workshop must be in the patterned hours. But together with Christ, we sit in heavenly places. The warmth of the treasured scenes of fondness is home. Around an eternal Christmas, the cords that are nearer than being present in these hours, have woven hearts into endearing, never-ending attachment. That is Life, colorful and enjoyable and immensely rewarding, that is learned in His college of eternal learning. All students ponder the deep

reality of being one in Christ. All students know that being home for Christmas is real . . . and hope and live in its ardent dream.

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;"

The glow from heaven sends its golden radiance through Lamp-Lights placed by the Spirit. Prophecy's primary purpose is to build up the children of Christmas, to learn them the immeasurable value of love. Through its penetrating rays also, the heart of the unconverted is made plain to him, and he recognizes that God dwells in His own. The most beautiful gift-wrapping is in words that make the meaning clear and plain to the receivers. These treasured surprises may, in speech, be eloquent or not, but in fact, they should always be in the colorful eloquence of the sincerity of Christ.

The warmth of this gift proceeds through heavenly inspiration. In the Workshop of life, on the anvil of presses and problems, the vessel that is impressed with eternal shape, is fashioned. Heavenly knowledge, the pondering of the glowing pages in much meditation, is essential to giving richly this gift of eternal dividend. But not only a single vessel, but in that deep meaning of oneness, the impressing and shaping of all the members are important in the flow of prophecy. The labors of prayer in divine workshop bring the gifts that delight the heart, and all may profit.

"Or ministry, *let us wait* on our ministering: . . ."

In Christmas Village, the glowing Lamps send love beaming in warmth. This gift is beautiful in hue. The softly luxurious rays of practical service gleam love in white Christmas. Only God could fashion this wonderful scene. His talented Hand has fashioned each. In Christmas lane, the glow is rich with heavenly promise. The glow is in contentment and happiness, in the service of the heavenly Lamp-Lighter.

The member is that lamp that has been kindled with golden warmth. He

who serves glows with the flame of love, a candle of Christmas. Lo, the Hand of wonders touches, and aflame with service are the trustees. Akin to the office of deacon, these bend hands, and blend mind and voice, in the business of the church. Hours of ministry are hours kindled in eternal love, profitable for ever. The Lamp-Lighter touches, and a voice rises in tonal beauty, the song leader in His praises . . . a jeweled glow bends over a fevered head in ministry to the sick . . . the hours are in honor in the ministry to aged parents. . . These, and many more . . . shine in the uncounted blessings of Christmas.

". . . or he that teacheth, on teaching;"

The voice of the teacher speaks softly of the beautiful peace of God. It is the *how to do* to live God's wishes. (Natural thought may storm. Short-sighted know-how gives uneasiness. The mind's most profound thought of its own falls short of happiness.) Wisdom from above guides the endeavor into living in success and happiness. The teacher explains the forming of divine habits of happy hours.

Teaching is part of the words from the pulpit . . . again it enriches a conversation. It is the voice of guidance for a little one from a teacher or parent. It is the saged wisdom from an older parent. It is the gems that are sown in hearts still outside the fold by the teacher. They speak of holiday beauty that is far above ordinary. They speak of a future that is forever satisfied. They tell of glorious wisdom. Their way is the way of happiness now and a joyful always.

"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: . . ."

Christmas is just 'round the corner. We do not know how many shopping days of gifts for eternity left, but we see each passing day, the number dwindling. Finally, that Day without end will break, and we will be Home. Around the warm, hospitable fire, the cherished love of kindred hearts will be in jubilant cheerfulness. Home's familiar ties will be our holiday endearment in Christmas eternal. Delight will

ceaselessly carol the halls decked with every welcome of happiness.

To exhort . . . to urge . . . to encourage . . . someone who is a child of Home is to be a Friend in eternity. Now is the battle . . . now is the conflict of the hours. Then the homeward soldier will pass over the threshold, into the arms of God, into the intimacy of loving kin. To stand under the Lamp-Light of love, to carol with the melodious exhortation of friendship eternal . . . that thinks of eternal song. He who urged to continue . . . to try . . . to hold . . . he who warned by his living and by his word . . . meets this challenge of being a friend. His is the good home-bred feeling from the cheerful hearth-side.

“ . . . he that giveth, *let him do it with simplicity*; . . . ”

There's a feeling of Christmas morning thrill . . . a thrill that rejoices, of something great to come. In the partial light of the earliness of this hour, we softly tip-toe into His morn of surprises. The fragrance . . . its Christmas aroma . . . is heavenly. The lights and the color are beautiful. There . . . created by the finest wisdom and hand . . . is *a glistening giving*, so wonderfully beautiful it is never pictured in the realm of natural thought. His gifts endure forever. . . They are sure to bring satisfaction of Home without end.

Now is the Workshop of giving. All through His house there can be merry hearts busy in giving. There is happiness in giving. Heaven's adding certainly counts, but in digits described in divine counting. Gift-wrap your giving in sacrifice and humility and there will be Christmas blessedness. Giving can be money . . . giving can be the toil during the hours, the providing of a father, the hands at home . . . giving can be a cheerful countenance, while carrying even sorrow and grief. Giving is intentionally letting go something that is ours to warm another. It is in quietness, as soft as the beauty of snow . . . and quietly His peace nestles the inner house . . . jubilantly the steps lead through His whitened lanes . . . and hopefully, we look up, and the warm, mellow home-light streams from win-

dows of bliss.

“ . . . he that ruleth, with diligence; . . . ”

End of day, the fast-drawing close of Christmas eve, should never be sombre. It should be warm and happy. Gloom's storm-ridden gray is banished for ever for the child-like heart. Love's golden lantern of rule has helped guard the steps. Misery's dark alley has been clearly outlined. In the beauty of this lamp of ruling, carols of the heart are sweeter sung . . . the soft words of each golden mission, the gift of each heart, are heavenly harmony.

Ruling is the directive hand of His body, as inspired by the Spirit. It is indeed an ingenious system of orderliness, these heavenly controls that permit the harmonious movement of His traffic. It is designed for happiness, enabling all to reach home and loved ones. Sometimes misunderstood, the gentle hold of love seeks to check a dangerous lunge, even when the tendency is not apparent to the member.

These little hours hold the hope of a Christmas morning wonder view, if we abide in our Lord. Our Father has nestled us safely in His care, keeps us from outlaw bestiality. Citizenship in heaven carries with it the freedom of “be ye separate”. At the safety check of proving, required as a must by our heavenly government, all must present heaven's accredited passport. Not that there are not others who walk right, but to “Judge not”, and to obey divine authority, we partake at His table with those whom heaven has thus introduced. Communion is in the sacredness of heavenly acquaintance.

“ . . . he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”

It is extremely profitable and blessed to use the catalogue of God's Christmas gifts. They are of priceless value. Like a boxed-in beautiful catalogue gift, these little hours have precious opportunities offered for eternal benefit. This description of love's items is completely out-of-this-world. God's thoughts and way of doing things are beautifully different. We need to be alert to His advertising for each day. Every passing

day opportunity can be invested with enduring gifts of heavenly places.

Strict adherence to a mathematical code closes the door to this gift. This act of love has room to shine because someone has failed, is in need. Mercy's Christmas beauty is a shining act of charity when it meets many a one with fault, and the unconverted. The responsibility of wrong is centered squarely on the one who knowingly did what should not have been done. The opportunity for mercy, sparkling in eternity's gift-wrap, rests with one who will go out of his way for love. Mercy is a lamp lit by the Saviour's love, cheer-

fully held in the way of Christmas peace.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Living in this Dream Christmas eve is glorious. His peace is on and on. We sit in the easy chair of His meditation . . . the soft, beautiful candle-light glows from Home. The everlasting chords carol of the soft delightful forever. Time can not end this bliss . . . tribulation can not harm His peace . . . This is riches of the glory of his inheritance . . . contentment in the Dream real of God's best . . . this is heaven's white Christmas. —H. S.

Peace At Christmas

"God sent forth his Son"

Contentment? Happiness . . . You pause . . .

Somewhere beyond you and a heartbeat was eternity. There was the exalted dome above . . . the earth . . . the time-worn rocks . . . the seconds that beat in well-grooved rhythm . . . earthly thought.

The seen sights . . . the eyes as they behold . . . the you. Everyday had its fashion . . . its own dull way of looking at things . . . or not looking. A part of the way you rushed about and looked came storming down on you in surging flood. Civilization has a steamy way of preserving its fossilized, even 20th century, lusts and customs. The sway that bent the masses yet chanted in the beat of restlessness.

Sight . . . Strange, how the mold of sin can dull the sense. These ceasing seconds . . . the innocent cradle . . . the walk . . . the grave. Existence spells only annoyance. If only you knew . . . if only you could hear. Every note of the scale of the worn existence was sharpened or flatted . . . the sinful range gave not even a vibration of that choral from the Skies. You know it's true. . .

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To

redeem. . ."

What Life Eternal really is for man to have is a Dream come true. Coming to know God shatters for ever the delusions of the thorny and dark. It is the home-coming to true affection . . . the family ties of the dearest. God, that great and glorious One, has existed in an eternal before, will continue for ever in the eternal after. The endless is so vast that man's imagination of numbers has never even treaded much, nor can number this Age of ages. God has threaded the sun in its timed seconds, and embroiders the night with the myriads of stars.

". . . the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

You come face to face with a whole new sphere of vast, unending fact. They were together . . . the Father and the Word . . . rejoicing . . . in peace. What is this lovely, lovely companionship of God? Headlines make small reading before this unutterable beauty. Who is this Wonderful, this Word, through whom the Father created all things? He was in the form of God, He is God. He carried the will of God into practice. He spoke the word of God. Marvellous is this mystery of God.

"God sent forth his Son . . . To re-

deem them that were under the law,
 . . .”

Life's Way is to first bring into vivid awareness the inside of the soul. Here, of so late, the sin-battered days was a tempest in chaos. Now the day of restlessness was seen empty . . . night was terror. Dawning Light from outside gleamed over the stark, cold debris.

The bottomless chasm that cut off from God is seen in terrifying black. The good . . . happiness . . . peace . . . contentment . . . are seen as far, far off. How sick you become of the dismal corridors inside. What a distaste grows for the colorless fever of vanity's night!

There is the terrible "guilty" . . . the awfully sick feeling . . . not worthy to live, afraid to die. Childhood's sweet innocence seemed indeed remote. But you are now in the Hands of the good physician. The whispered sigh for His help gives sure reason to believe that in the way ahead is health. The pangs of the soul in sorrow is the will to do God's will, the will to Live.

It is the highest standing, to be called unto the kingdom of God. Here is God's Dream come true, children living in true bliss. It is lived in the perfect innocence of our Lord's righteousness. Its Christmas is always. Its quietness lullabies in perfect peace. Its contentment is in gay pleasantness. Its glory is God.

"God sent forth his Son . . . that we might receive the adoption of sons."

That we might receive God's Christmas gift, we must do what He says. God wants everyone to gain perfect happiness. Yet, the transforming power of His might, as a miracle wand, only touches those who reach. We cannot approach the throne of the Father in guise: He hears only those who desperately need His hearing.

He says so in His word. "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." God has perfect understanding. He *knows* through and through. What He has spoken is the

sure way to reach for His peace. The final test of intent, the proof of sincerity, is obedience. The weight and conviction of sins is a natural result of divine work. The uttered confession brings them without pretense, all the way to the mercy seat. That is evidence indeed that God has granted repentance unto life.

"God sent forth his Son".

Part of the day itself was not unlike many others. There was the vaulted dome overhead . . . there were the time-worn rocks . . . the earth. But what was happening was tremendous, and that for eternity. The naked ground in that forlorn place had a cross in it. *A Cross!* The earth was clave. God was placed on that cross. A Saviour, innocent, pure, kind . . . the compassionate, lovely one who not once had done a misdeed. Bruised, thorn-pierced, wounded . . . between heaven and earth, He *dies*.

Normality has no place . . . miracles are out-shone. . . "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." What awful reaches of anguish He trod. The skies were dark. Through a night that visited Him with your sin and my sin . . . what unreachable agony for us poor mortals He reached . . . He trode the crushing miles . . . and that cry so mysterious yet sunders the darkened skies. "Eli, Eli, lama, sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me."

He is the door. Repentance is toward God. Calvary towers triumphant . . . flows in cleansing . . . in realness. Repentance would avail not if there were no Calvary. Calvary avails not if there is no repentance. The truth is easy and simple to understand. Yet its deepness and wonder is unfathomable. Those steps to Christmas started at the turning around. His peace may only be whispered, because we have been drawn unto the Christ of Calvary. —H. S.



NEWS



LA CROSSE

We had Communion here on Oct 7. George Yergler and Theo. Beer served.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nuest are the parents of a daughter, born Oct. 28. A son also was born to Mr. and Mrs. Don Feller on Nov. 11.

Dave Kieser and a number of others were here from Princeville on Nov. 4.

Fred Grimm and family and Ezra Feller and wife and son Tod, and daughter, Joan, spent Thanksgiving at La Crosse. We had services in the morning.

We had our Thanksgiving program Sunday evening, Nov. 25.

LATTY

Sister Ruth Stoller, daughter of Mrs. Herb Stoller, and Brother James Reinhard from Bluffton were united in holy matrimony here Sunday, Nov. 25.

Sister Lorena Rigggenbach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rigggenbach, and brother Ramon Steffen from Bluffton were united in holy matrimony here Sunday, Dec. 9.

We are happy to say that two of our friends, Myra Rigggenbach and Evelyn Stoller have recently made the Lord their choice. We pray that more could open their hearts to Him.

Mr. and Mrs. Russel Stoller have a baby boy, born Nov. 4. They call him Robin.

The engagement of Sister Joyce Stoller, daughter of Lawrence Stoller, to Brother Dale Hartzler from Wayne Co., Ohio, was announced.

MILFORD

The funeral services for Sister Anna Getz, wife of Daniel Getz, and mother of Mrs. Henry Beer, was held on Nov. 24th. Blessed are they who die in the Lord.

Brother and Sister Henry Beer returned from their trip to Japan on

September 8th, having spent 3 weeks with their daughter, Lois, and her husband, Willis Ehnle.

Arthur Haab, Jr., grandson of Mrs. Eliza Haab of Milford, was baptized on Nov. 4, 1956.

Plans are being made to enlarge the Milford Apostolic Christian Sunday School room to accommodate the growing number of children who attend regularly.

MORTON

Sister Louise Birkey and Sister Marlyn Rocke were severely cut and bruised when involved in an auto wreck two miles east of Morton, on their way home from attending a wedding in Cissna Sunday, June 17.

Announcement is made of the coming marriage of Sis. Maryln Rocke and Bro. Wm. Huette. Wm. is now stationed in Korea.

Two new converts were baptized Aug. 26; they were Betty Moser and June Grimm Butterick.

Those attending the funeral of Bro. Julius Hageman of Remington, Ind., on Oct. 23, were Bro. and Sis. Joe A. Getz, Bro. and Sis. Ben Getz, Sister Ruth Strunk, and Sis. Ella Geiger. Bro. Joe A. conducted the services.

Bro. Jack Stieglitz and wife were injured in a car wreck in Indio, California, on Oct. 30th. Sister Stieglitz has a fractured thigh and is cut about the face. Brother Jack was not so seriously injured.

Funeral services for Bro. Daniel Strunk, 79, were held Saturday, Nov. 1.

Announcements have been made of the forth-coming marriages of Brother Don Frintz and Sister Sharlene Beyer, and Brother Norman Geier of Peoria and Sister Eleanor Getz.

Brother Albert Weutrich of Pulaski, Ia., conducted services here Sunday, Nov. 25.

PEORIA

Marriages in the last few months:

Phyliss Herman of Peoria and Geo. Lang, Tremont, Ill; Marie Staub, Peoria, and Vernon Hohulin, Peoria; Betty Woerner and Bob Miller, both of Peoria; Wayne Unsicker, Peoria, and Lucille Lauber, Princeville; Fanny Metzger, Peoria, and Bert Gudeman, Cissna.

Engagements:

Arthur Leman, Peoria, and Cora Hari, Cissna; Norman Geyer, Peoria, and Eleanor Getz, Morton; Don. Wag-enbach, Peoria, and Marie Stickling, Peoria.

Births:

To Mr. and Mrs. Don Hoerr, a boy, Nov. 20, 1956, and to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hoerr, Oct. 16, a boy.

Among the visitors:

George Lambert of Wichita, Kansas, Oct. 11; Phil Aeschleman of Cissna, Sept. 16; John Bahler of Rockville, Conn., Oct. 21; Ben Heiniger and Sam Kilgus on Aug. 12.

Deaths:

Mrs. Emil Schubert passed away Nov. 16. The funeral was on Nov. 19. Mike Weyeneth and Philip Gutwein had services.

Mrs. Joe Herman of Laura passed away Aug. 12. Funeral and burial was in Peoria on Aug. 15.

Brien Bertchold, age 9, passed away. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bertchold. Roy Sauder had the services.

At this time, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Speck have peace and are waiting for baptism. Mrs. Speck is the former Clara Schubert, daughter of our dear elder, the late Emil Schubert.

PRINCEVILLE

Sister Luise Menold, widow of Albert Menold, died September 26 and was laid to rest September 29. Although in ill health for a number of years, her passing was sudden and unexpected.

Among the shut-ins: Sister Rose Streitmatter, Sister Carrie Stahl, Sis-

ter Ida Huber. Brother Karl Klumpp is able to be out occasionally following surgery, being hospitalized twelve weeks.

Ray Martin, Edwin Baurer, Lavern Berchtold, and Earl Grimm were added to the fold September 30.

Brother Frank Woertz assisted in the provings and baptisms. Brother Harvey Grimm and family of Sabetha, Kansas, were also present for the occasion.

Princeville was host to the Sunday Schools from Peoria, Morton, Tremont, Goodfield, Congerville, Gridley, and Roanoke November 4. A blessed evening was enjoyed by all.

Milton Dallinger, son of Emelia Dallinger, has entered the service of our country and is stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. Ronald Rumbold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Rumbold, has also left recently for the service and is at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Sister Lucille Lauber and Brother Wayne Unsicker of Peoria were united in marriage December 4.

Sister Shirley Streitmatter and Brother David Kieser's engagement was announced Dec. 4.

TOLEDO

We are thankful to God for our new church where we can gather together to worship Him. We have had a blessed season, enjoying the fellowship with many visitors these past three months from the following congregations:

Bluffton, Bremen, LaCrosse, Leo and Milford, Indiana; Cissna Park, Elgin, Forrest, Morton, Peoria, and Roanoke, Illinois; Alto, Bay City and Detroit, Michigan; Akron, Girard, Junction, Latty, Mansfield and Rittman, Ohio.

We especially enjoyed the Ministering Brothers who visited us: Bro. Henry Wackerle, Bro. Ben Maibach, Jr., Bro. Andrew Dotterer, Bro. Joel Souder, Bro. Henry Beer, Bro. Henry Souder, Bro. Earl Zeltwanger, Bro. Loren Stoller, Bro. Irvin Stoller, Bro. Robert Beer, Bro. Robert Hartzler, Bro. Joe Hodel. Our Elder, Bro. Rudolph Graf held our Dedication Services on Nov. 4.

Our dear Sister Evalena Schrenk died on October 29. She was 80 years of age and served her Lord and Master faithfully for many years. Her sister, Mary Schrenk survives her.

Lt. and Mrs. Charles Quick have been transferred from Detroit to El Paso, Texas. They have two sons, Gregory and Jeffery. Mrs. Quick was formerly Carol Schlatter.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wright and children, Michael and Virginia, who moved to Toledo from Wakarusa, Indiana. Mrs. Wright was formerly Mary Klopfenstein of Bremen, Indiana.

TAYLOR

A son, Rodney Lynn, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Heimer, and a son born to Mr. and Mrs. Perry Yackley was named Joseph Otto. The two babies were born the same day, Aug. 29.

A son, John Allen, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Don Feller of Kouts, Indiana, on Nov. 11. Mrs. Feller is the former Judy Grimm of Quincy, Ill.

A number from our congregation went to Pulaski, Iowa, on Sunday, Nov. 18, for the proving and baptism of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Wuthrich.

WICHITA

Aug. 19—Brother and Sister Krizen and family attended services with us enroute from Phoenix, Arizona, to their home in Detroit. We enjoyed meeting them and visiting with them.

Aug. 17—Brother and Sister Paul Lanz from Rockville, Connecticut, spent an evening with us on their way home from visiting the churches on the west coast.

Aug. 26—Brother and Sister Roy Farney from Kiowa, Kansas, and Brother and Sister Louis Herman and family spent the day worshipping with us.

It is wonderful to meet our brothers and sisters from afar, as it adds much to our faith to know there are others who believe as we do.

Aug. 26—Brother and Sister Sam Kraft spent the day with us and with their children that live in Wichita. They are always welcome here in our brotherhood.

Aug. 23—Brother and Sister Arthur Wuhlschleger are parents of a baby boy.

WOLCOTT

Births:

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Blume, a son, Kent Paul, Sept. 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Klopfenstein, a daughter, Donna Marie, Sept. 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stoller, a daughter, Debra Fae, Oct. 6.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ravellette, a daughter, Mary Kay, Oct. 16.

Mr. and Mrs. John Furrer, a son, Allen Paul, Nov. 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schladenhaufen, a daughter, Karen Elaine, Nov. 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Kyburz, a son, Douglas Levi, Nov. 27.

We have enjoyed the visits of ministers from various places the past few months. On Sept. 16, our elder, Bro. George Yergler was with us for Communion; Sept. 23, Bro. Phil Sauder of Cissna Park; Oct. 15, Bro. Geo. Lambert of Wichita (evening services); Oct. 17, (evening) Bros. Irvin Stoller of Latty, and Ben Schlatter of Junction; Oct. 21, (evening) Bro. Ben Maibach of Detroit, and Nov. 11, Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park.

On October 28 we had our annual Homecoming, with many present from various congregations. Bro. John Bollier, of the Leo church, who lived here, in his childhood, was our visiting minister for the day. It was indeed a blessing to us all.

Funeral services were conducted on Nov. 30 for Sister Lydia Kupferschmid, who passed away after a long illness.

We enjoyed a blessed day on Dec. 2, when the Milford Sunday School and young people visited us. Song service was enjoyed by all in the evening.

ROANOKE

Services were conducted Sunday, September 23rd, by Bro. Sam Aeschleman from Bluffton, Indiana, and Bro. George Sinn from Latty, Ohio. A number from the Peoria congregation also worshipped with us.

Sister Louisa Gerber passed away September 26, 1956. Her funeral was held Saturday, September 29. She is survived by one daughter, Minnie Gerber, Roanoke.

Funeral services were held Monday, October 1, for Albert Mueller of Eureka.

Bro. Eugene Hangartner was home on leave from San Antonio, Texas, due to the illness of his father.

Evening services were held Sunday, Sept. 30. Visiting ministers were Bro. Henry Wackerle, Bay City, Michigan, and Bro. Oesch from Alto, Michigan.

Bro. Leslie Luginbuhl took his physical exam. for the U.S. Army, October 8.

Bro. Theo. Minger passed away October 14th. His funeral was held the following Wednesday, with services conducted by Brother David Mangold.

Brother Michael Weyeneth conducted services Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11th, at the Roanoke church.

Bro. Ernie Diggelman and wife, daughter Janet, and Judy Aeschleman spent Thanksgiving vacation in Rockville, Conn.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. William Zimmerman and Sister Betty Bahler of Remington, Indiana.

On December 2nd, Bro. Marvin Pfister and Sister Ila Sauder of Tremont were announced to be married.

The Emory Getz family has a new addition, a baby boy. They have three other children, all girls.

Joe Rassi's are the parents of a baby boy. He is their third child and first son.

Earl Zimmermans' are the parents of a baby daughter, their first child.

CHRISTMAS SNOWFLAKES

I sat in meditative mood,
And looked out on the sky;
It was a lovely Christmas eve,
I turned my thoughts on high.

And as I sat so solemn, still—
The snowflakes I 'could see—
I felt a tug of one so dear,
Who climbed upon my knee.

It was my little two year lad,
So innocent and fair,
With rosy cheeks, and sparkling eyes,
And golden, curly hair.

I told him of the Christ child dear,
Who lay in manger low;
Oh how He came into this world,
That all His love might know.

And as I told this story sweet,
He looked with smile sublime,
Into my very eyes and soul,
And sang this simple rhyme:

"Jesus loves me this I know"—
In tone of tender years.
Such melody of sweet accord,
Brought forth my heartfelt tears.

I told him of the Saviour's love,
And then he drew quite near,
And with his arms about my neck
He whispered in my ear.

"I love you" was the secret sweet,
Which touched my ear and heart;
So all unbidden, did this child
A lesson true impart.

Thus, as this child, O might we all
Oft sing this blest refrain,
That "Jesus love me"—blessed thought!
All glory to His name!

Oh, may we whisper, as this child,
"I love you," to the ear
Of Him who is the very Christ,
Emanuel so dear!

The Christ would, by His saving
grace,
To every heart draw near;
O then we truly can rejoice
With Christmas all the year!

All mail should be addressed to:
SILVER LINING
Box 74
Grabill, Indiana