

# THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana

Vol. 9, No. 4

## Treasured Verses

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet."

I Corinthians 15:20-25

## "Known unto God"

Henry Souder Jr.,  
with others assisting

"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world."

The landscape of life carries the fresh imprints of God. This little moment while we tarry beneath a natured sun looks out onto a vast eternity. Before us, men have lived, been moved on. Though history's hand of time seems suspending, it is illusory. Prints behind and destiny written with holy hand prove *this little day*.

Time's honored sketches of tribes, states and nations have long before been known to God. The crested surge of the frontier pioneer followed the lines of an unknown map in the mind of the eternal One. As we pause, little

against the unabated wilderness sky, we know the awesome greatness of One who comprehended the dust in a measure.

"Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"

In a former day, this rolling land and valley around Leo was wooded forest. The Indian stealthed a vast array of wild life. The St. Joe River skirted against the bank of what was to be town. Its slumbering gait straightened and curved its way to join hands with the St. Marys and become the Maumee. Yet God knew the coming of the pioneer, his song in the woods.

When nature sings, we glimpse a part of the great vastness of His marvellous wisdom. But when the soul comes to know God, the unsearchable riches of God's great character opens in more wondrous splendor. When the love of the heavenly Home shines, there is beauty untold. Heavenly joy is tasted in the serenity of a peaceful forever. His acquaintance, ah, it reaches dimensions unknown in human thought.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

Henry Souder was born August 17, 1846, and died October 25, 1924.

His father, at some time in the previous past from young Henry's birth, had moved westward from Pennsylvania. In Wayne County, Ohio, the youngest member of the family, Henry, arrived.

We trace his childhood . . . see him later kneeling in deep penitence at Calvary . . . see a redeemed life, see sorrow and happiness working together for good for a child of God.

God had plans for young Henry. He picked out Indiana soil as the location for glorious purpose.

There was a feeling in the heart of the older Henry that to the west he might or would like to go. So he left Wayne County on an exploratory search. He walked and walked. God's heavenly map was in operation. Eternal purposes are often not grasped. The route was marked unseen, and, oh what wisdom in its heavenly scale!

". . . who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?"

To Indiana he came. But his business of pioneering was soon to end. Little Henry was eight-nine years old when his dad died. Eight-nine years is a tender age; the roll of the fathomless ages surged and rolled in true experience. Far out, ah, dad has sailed. Days had been sundered by a major move of the Lord.

We draw the curtain a bit on that February . . . 1855. The time is three days before departure. "I Henry Souder being of lawful age and sound mind make and declare this my last will and testament. First I give my soul to God

who gave it." He remembers his wife Elizabeth. There is the \$1100 each for the boys Joseph and Henry. There is the charge to the children, and also to the boys if they reach the being of age, to pay an annual sum to mom.

God's ways are measured in the footsteps of eternity.

"With whom took he counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?"

God does pay attention to the young ones he so dearly loves. His treasure-knit moves are formed to fit magnificent plans. They far, far out-breadth our wisdom, and reach out where only we can believe and obey.

A little boy with blue eyes stood and watched down the old dirt road. Mother Elizabeth did not seem to feel she had the ability to train little Henry in the way she should. At Mike Klopfensteins' (Mike married her daughter Catherine), little Henry could learn.

The little Henry watched as far as he could see mother. Mom was gone, and he would go and cry. There were moments when the longing was, if he could only just see his mother's sun-bonnet.

Somehow in God's great wisdom, He uses tears and hardship to great benefit. He was teaching then, too, and His movements were eternal. He saw a future Henry Souder, mature and His. He saw a Henry Souder happy in the for ever ages. That's why He could let little Henry's eyes wetten.

"He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young."

Those days in the mid-1800's were dark days. Again and again, dark storm warnings rumbled on man's little day. In the early 1860's the threatenings of war burst with furious onslaught.

But the darkness in men's souls was continually dense. They groped and stumbled. Sin's savagery swept across man's poor unbridled horizon. It was chaos and shambles . . . and man stood without a hope to comfort him.

Those middle years of that century . . . a short distance west and north of Leo . . . and a short distance from mother Elizabeth's and the old home place . . . one Jacob Schwartz resided. He came to the U.S. in a sail boat; their baby died on the trip over. He existed and worked. He went to church, was known as a member. But there was not eternal Life living within.

"Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness *is* unsearchable."

One day a visitor came. He had come in a wagon from Bluffton, his last stop or stay. His name was, as it seems, Weyeneth. Supper was over. This man sent from God read in the holy Bible and spoke of eternal things. And Jacob Schwartz listened.

Here there was Life. Jacob did not have Life. The Light shone in and about, and Jacob saw. He saw Jacob's dirty clothes, the wretched, out-of-tune existence, the wreck of his life. He saw he was a sinner. Jacob saw God's path to peace. God was reaching down and leading.

1862 . . . that was the year the Apostolic Christian Church in this Leo vicinity was organized. There was Jacob Schwartz, now a redeemed saint of the Lord. Then there was one Joseph Conrad, who also had sought and found. A certain brother from Illinois, John Craybill, preached the first sermon. Conrad and Schwartz were the only two members for awhile, and each shared in preaching.

"One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts."

*Man accountable but lost* is buried under a sod of muteness. *Man redeemed* lives in another world, a glory-circled horizon and rejoicing with great joy. He lives a life of faith.

Childhood went by for Henry Souder, and youth flowered. But he had no grasp of eternal realities. His soul was yet slumbering when he went through a joining of a group.

But God is wonderful. With Him all things are possible, and how marvellous are His ways. Henry began to stir. Con-

viction must be the work of God. Henry began to see that Henry was no better than before. He had no peace. He had no hope. He was still a sinner and lost.

"The LORD *is* good to all: and his tender mercies *are* over all his works."

Henry began to see. He approached one or more who sat in the seat of charge of that church where he was a member. He told them he had gained no victory. He told them he was no better than before. Henry began to bring fruits of repentance.

But now the sad state of false teaching Henry must see. It could offer him no solace. Words were tried to console him. They were miserable, and of darkness. The doctrine was, he should live as a poor sinner now and be saved by grace. Henry never went back.

"Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

The truth rings true, and it rings deep. It gives the way God says it will give.

Now Henry was alone again in a way. But it was God's alone-ness, where He could speak to him and direct him. Henry carefully searched the holy scriptures. Henry had indeed come with sin not hid. The ardent cry of a weary soul was heard. God gave His peace.

"A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."

Henry had severed the past with the group he once knew. He had not yet found the people of the Lord.

Not far away was the little group of which Schwartz and Conrad were members. They lived an holy, righteous life. They were despised by some in the community. Even mother's advice is mistaken: anything but there; if you go there, you will be caught.

Henry knew that somewhere on this earth the Lord must have a people. Henry believed he would lose his precious peace if he did not unite with the people of God. To the prayers that were earnest came an answer that was wonderful.

Henry was invited to attend funeral services. It was the Apostolic Christian Church, then meeting in houses. Jacob

Schwartz was inspired in the services. The Lord was here. The light of hope beamed forth. Henry could see that there was Life here.

"... but try the spirits whether they are of God:"

The deeper the church's breathing in the Holy Spirit, the more evident are the scriptural teachings written in its action. Outside, in the darkness, is sin-driven confusion. The door to the fold is our great Shepherd.

Proving is the evidence that plainly reveals the approach that has been made. The church hears the ring of the true or the counterfeit. It grasps timeliness or immaturity. It acts in the receiving or the receiving not.

After Henry saw that wondrous glimpse of glory, he was drawn on to being a member of the fold. At first, he moved very slow. He wanted to be positive this was the place. The Lord proved the truth to the careful heart. The settled assurance came. Henry was proved true. Before the church, he uttered evidence of a changed life, of victory over sin.

"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."

Our views are sometimes accented with time.

When God talks, he speaks with the true eternal meaning. True meaning can only be understood in the vastness of His *ever-view*. Something great had reached into Henry Souder's life. The watery grave . . . he was baptized into it . . . and on the *heaven-lit with hope* side he arose. There were the request of prayer, the laying on of hands. God gave His Spirit. Now, Henry's heart was His abode.

"... a prudent wife is from the Lord."

In the memory-places of faith is many an experience that the Lord matches and blesses in wedding history.

Catherina Bertsch was adorned in the heart. She was pure and lovely, a member of the congregation at Leo. Henry was impressed that this was the girl that he was to marry. He was

in rhythm with God's will. He was in rhythm with church order. With request in proper channel, consent also came.

It was a December wedding. Miss Catherina and Henry were married Sunday, December the 10th, 1875. "... and she became his wife; and he loved her . . ."

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Souder kept house in a log cabin for awhile. Amid the splendors of Christian love, they trod the path of life. The charm of peace blessed, while hope cast its verdant colors from eternity.

"... when my children were about me;"

It was two days before Henry birthday. On an August day in 1877, a baby girl was born. Mina was the name given her. What a nice company she must have been in that Indiana country-side home!

Little Catherina on a March 7, 1879, was born, and the household had more happiness.

Next in the family listing is "a boy." Then, or sometime previously, his little spirit had been winged homeward. His history was soon over. His fight with life and death was sooner won.

Andrew was the next, born on the 12th of October, 1881. Baby Emma came on January 3, 1883.

"very pleasant hast thou been unto me:"

There was a very beautiful scene of dad and mom and four little ones going to the little country church. Those faces of little ones were like angels. One boy and three girls, and the house was cheerful with the rhapsody of their voices. Fondness pressed deeply into the heart of father and mother.

1884 . . . November. Mina was seven, the oldest. Baby Emma was the youngest, not far from two. Little Catherina was five. Andrew was a cute little fellow of three. The little faces were deep in the caresses of the heart. There were little clothes for each. Little feet toddled and walked. At night, little faces would be in bed, and each would drift off to dreamland.

"I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

Little three-year old Andrew went home. The angels came, and the suffering of the little fever-ridden body was over. The date was the 28th of November, 1884. Baby Emma followed four days later, the 2nd of December. On the 5th of December, darling little Catherina was taken. God was filling the places of real Home. What a difference can seven days of earthly time see!

The silenced bodies were buried in a little cemetery near the St. Joe. Dad, Mom and Mina and a very silent house were yet here. The sob of the heart was great. The voices and the toddling and the drifting off to dreamland of the little ones departed were now memory's quiet yesterday. Yet through the tears there is a deep, knowable joy. The little ones are happy and safe and in a far better place. All things do work together for good.

"his understanding *is* infinite."

He does His best for your best. His great heart of love gathers the little ones, Henry and all His own in one great embrace. Whether we live or sleep, we live together in Him. He fits and prepares for the home of no parting. He wants His own to know how sweet is that home ahead. He gives to His own rich comfort in time of need.

In the unbounded Tomorrow there is beauty and clearness. Its life is distilled to the finest pure essence of happiness. It has all the children in.

"his understanding *is* infinite." His thoughts are of those final, everlasting, sweet caresses of eternity. His movements bring that dreamland where rest drifts in limitless expanses. He gathers the keepsakes of today for the lovely personalities of tomorrow.

He lives, and *all is well* for the heart of faith.

## "...for me a crown..."

Henry Souder Jr.,  
with others assisting

"... as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: . . ."

God draws the heart of His own from the things of this world. The inner reaches of the soul become more and more "at home" in heavenly places. The fleeting, decaying, dying things of this world more and more are cast in their true appearance of "away from home".

The fellowship that strikes the *chords of experience of eternal ages* speaks now that "at home" is home. Love is the key of enjoyment for the viewing of those things God hath prepared. Its warmth and happiness magnetically attract with heavenly sweetness.

"Preach the word; be instant in sea-

son, out of season;"

Love dwelt within the heart of Henry Souder, now present with the Lord. In him was a glow that spoke of things most wonderfully sweet.

The little church in the country was dedicated the year 1878. It was a plain little frame building. It stood on the site where the present building stands. The lamps were not electric. There were the plain benches for the hearers, and the pulpit from which the word was spoken.

From evidence at hand, it seems Henry Souder entered the ministry of the word in his early thirties.

"... that *by my voice* I might teach others also . . ."

German was once used in our churches greatly. The changeover from the German to the English would have been insurmountable except for Him who is love. It must needs have delicate and

calm handling. Henry Souder was chosen by the Lord to carry out an important part of this work.

The Lord saw ahead. He saw the generations coming that would understand English. He saw the need that was already present. He had used the rich, beautiful German language according to His will. He yet continues to use it for works of eternal importance. Yet, He now saw fit and good and best for English to be used more and more here. To pioneer, He chose Henry.

"So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken?"

That the generations coming, and some then present, might easily grasp the message, love sought that English be used. It was a crisis point. Calmly and peacefully, but firmly, love moved. Strength and courage is present.

Henry was in the pulpit. The elder with him seems to be opposed, at least somewhat, to the use of the English. It is Henry who has delivered the sermon in German. Then the English Scriptures are pushed over to him. He speaks boldly out from a sincere heart. If he would have known, he would have cut the German shorter. To him, it made no difference whether the hearers were white or black.

God was building a bridge. To some, the chasm of understanding was not so apparent. Henry was criticized because it was thought he was too liberal with the English. Some thought only German should be used. But when German was used in Sunday School, there were those who could read, but not understand. Down the road, the more coming (and those then) would have a bridge. To this task Henry was elected of the Lord.

"... them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice;"

The love of God is warm, beautiful, and friendly. Yet it speaks with notes of thunder at times to warn the lost. This loving Henry Souder spoke with power. The voice was clear. The blue eyes were earnest and searching. The heart is sincere, and his belief is firm.

He spoke of the new Jerusalem in

glowing terms. He described its beauty.

The measurements of the no end of eternity baffle all human measurement. Henry spoke with urgency; eternity was fast bearing down on time. To those not at peace with God, even a glimpse is a terrifying look.

If a bird would come to the great ocean... once every thousand years... and take a beak-full of water... eventually the ocean would be empty... But eternity NEVER ENDS.

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

God was at work, and he used Henry Souder as His envoy. There was tremendous power present. We observe Henry's youngest boy before conversion. He hears. There is God present. The heart is touched. But the boy is glad to get outside of the church. Nevertheless, God does not give up what He begins. Soon the boy comes repenting.

God does not overlook the little things. Some of Henry's most appealing messages were the messages after someone had spoken. Henry would say a few words, and they went straight to the hearts. The words of the Lord are aimed at His opportune moments.

"Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled."

God moves in various ways to show to His own His will, and to make His wishes their wishes. It was Thanksgiving Day in one of those years when the little old frame church was in use. That afternoon there would be services. A few would gather to partake of spiritual festivity.

On a hill over-looking the St. Joe, not far away, was "Aunt Sarah Conrad's". Just across the fields, or a little ways around the corner, was the church. At "Aunt Sarah's" for dinner were dear old John Conrad, as well as his girls. Another guest present was a certain doctor named Martz.

After dinner, John headed across the fields on his way to the little church. The little doctor soon took note that John was gone. He wanted to know: where John went. He was told that he

went to afternoon church. Then he coaxed Joe, Sarah's boy, to go. So with the horse and buggy, Joe drove this good doctor to afternoon services.

"... and yet there is room."

Henry Souder spoke, inspired of the beauty of life.

After the services, Martz wants to know if there would be any objection to his saying a few words. He is permitted.

He enjoyed the sermon very much. One thing he would like to ask, where are the young folks? Only he sees nothing but the gray-headed.

The church of tomorrow, where was it? Henry Souder was listening. The challenge of God shone in golden letters. God was to turn the challenge into a Dream, and the Dream into reality. Through the doors the youth would come. Youth would sit in the benches. Youth would come to the Christ.

Souder went all-out in God's program of love for the youth. If he saw young people, he sought them. He sang with them. He mixed with them. He loaded them in a buckboard, and brought them home again.

"... your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ." "And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, ..."

The pastoral beauty of the pure, white flock grazing by the tranquil waters is kept by the watch of the good Shepherd. He is constantly vigilant. The heavenly rod that comforts the obedient sheep is used not to destroy, but to build. The building would cease but for the firm rod that tends the sheep.

To the obedient, the rod is a directional pointer to the *beauty of yet greater freedom*. It was used through Henry as shepherd of the flocks. A sturdy knock-knock from the pulpit was meant to awaken physically slumbering ones.

Sometimes the knock-knock was deeper. A near-nodding or nodding soul would show a dangerous tendency in a fling into an unproven group. Un-

heeded, gravely the rod must fall.

"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

Love is on an emergency basis and braves the desolations of daily disaster to prove itself in deeds of good. Sin had ravaged through an household in an adjoining township. It had littered its wreckings. It had left its bleeding and broken. It had left morale and morals in shambles. Yet to this barren doorstep in a bleak world the Saviour came. Henry received little Lucille into a warm household of love.

A certain business-man in Grabill died. Left in this time were mom and three small boys. Again, the compassionate heart of the Saviour moved. Baby Paul Hartley found a warm home in the heavenly embraces of love. Edgar was in the home off and on, too. Even Vance found moments of rich hospitality from loving hearts.

Then there was the long train trip from Bremen or vicinity. It could prove tiresome to a little one. But the great love in grandpa enfolded the little one into its warmth and joy. He was a humble, gentle man, most wonderfully sweet. He was not great in his own eyes. He would take the little cap and put it on his own gray head. The little one would be all wrapped up in grandpa. He would be delighted, and little peals of laughter would delight the loving heart.

"... a lover of hospitality ..."

Henry breathed deep in the love of the Saviour. In His walk was this Something tremendously wonderful. Love is magnetic and warm. With Henry was Someone not of this world, Someone most deliciously sweet. Through love we learn how perfect is the fellowship of the Home fireside.

Henry's personality spelled friendliness. The hospitality of heaven flourished at Souders'. Lots of company came and stayed all night. They were fed from a table laden with food. Elders and ministers ... adults, young people, and children beheld the characteristics of love. There was a special

bed provided for a place to rest for many a tramp. And more than one ate of Henry's provisions.

"... a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught..."

His personality was beautiful with the emotions of the Saviour. His heart was full of the great kindness of our Lord. When mom rocked on one or more of the little grandson's fingers, about this he was broken with pity and love. His heart was filled with an intense warmth that indeed could be noticed. He said more deeper than words that he liked you, and you knew he meant it.

"... for me a crown..."

Because he walked in the true eloquence of humility, a glorious crown awaits. Love's eternity is a grand and glorious view of hope. Beautiful hearts are at home. Spiritual wonders await the weary traveller, headed toward home.

We observe Henry reading in the Bible to a family gathered about. Joseph for long years has been absent from his family. The moment comes for him to reveal to his brothers that it is their brother, Joseph. It is a moment when the tender touch-strings of emotion deeply move. Henry knew from experience the longing for loved ones not present. He quit reading. His tender heart visibly sorrowed, as the kind man had broken down.

Now moments are no longer measured. The warmth of the household of home is forever so good, and so nice to be home to.

"I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown..."

The "travel through" is sometimes mighty hard pulling upstreams. There would be this task and that, and the crest of the day was sometimes hard to reach. There were aches and pains, mists and drizzle. But the Way always threads Home. Home... ahead... there is love and laughter... sweet ones ever after... bosom companions... Joys of yesteryear that wait in the

tomorrows again.

Thoughts like these give the heart a lift... the spirit is comforted, and his own go on again.

## Going Home

A certain man had for many years served the Master. Now he was sick with heart trouble.

During the first half of one night, his son-in-law had been on duty at his bed-side. The patient slept the greater part of this time. At three in the morning, his son took the place in the room. For several hours, the patient was unable to sleep. About 6:00 quietness came, and he soon fell into a natural sleep.

About one hour later, his son heard him speak in slow and measured words: "Earth recedes; heaven opens before me."

His son's first impulse was to arouse him from what he thought was a dream.

"No, this is no dream, Will. It is beautiful! It is like a trance!... God is calling me, and I must go!"

He continued yet to linger.

We listen again to a later part of his talking. "This is my triumph; this is my coronation day! I have been looking forward to it for years."

Then his face lit up, and he said, in a voice of joyful rapture, "Dwight! Irene! I see the children's faces!" referring to his two little grandchildren who died in the past year.

Around noon he fell asleep... he was taken quietly and lovingly. In that great Christmas Season, his love for music was filled with heaven's sweet chords. He had come Home.

## News

### BREMEN

Birth: Krisanne Hueni, born November 4, 1957, to Robert and Letty Hueni.

Wedding: Helen Fehr, Bremen, to Harry Jo Stoller, Leo, February 16, 1958.



We also are rejoicing about our four new converts.

#### CISSNA PARK

A son was born to Brother and Sister Matt Obergfel on Dec. 16 and also a son to Brother and Sister Harry Yergler on Dec. 18.

Funeral services were held here on December 19 for Sister Louise Sinn.

Joy Yergler, Phyllis Sauder, Karen Hari, Edna Drayer, Doris Reuter, Joe Beer, Ronnie Anderson and Morris Zimmerman were proved and baptized by Brothers Frank Woertz and Joshua Broquard on Dec. 28 and 29.

Sister Dorothy Gudeman of here and Brother Alan Beer of Milford, Indiana, were announced to be married.

On Jan. 11 and 12 Tod Feller, Bill Zbinden, Sam and Don Bauer, Margaret Mott, Shirley Gudeman, Judy Feller, and Joyce Kaufman were proved and baptized by Brothers John Bahler, Rockville, Conn., and Joshua Broquard.

Funeral services were held for Ed Vogel on Jan. 29.

Our Sunday School was entertained by the Peoria Sunday School on Feb. 15 and 16.

Funeral services were held for our aged Sister Christina Bauer on Mar. 5.

Sister Jane Ebach, Forrest, and Brother William Martin, formerly of here, were married Mar. 23.

Visiting ministers in recent months were: Brother Ed Gudeman, Elgin, Illinois; Brother Frank Woertz, Congerville; Brother Joshua Broquard, Fairbury; Brother Uriel Gehring, Elgin, Iowa; Brother Leroy Hartman, Peoria; Brother Leroy Huber, Eureka; Brother John Bahler, Rockville, Conn.; Brother Henry Wackerle, Bay City, Michigan; Brother Art Gudeman, LaCrosse, Indiana; Brother Conrad Gutwein, Francesville, Indiana; Brother Theo. Beer, Milford, Indiana; Brother Joe Shrock, Congerville; and Brother Harry Bucher, LaCrosse. We enjoyed the visits of these brethren very much.

#### EUREKA

Communion services were held on

Feb. 23. Brother Joe A. Getz aided Brother David Mangold.

A wedding took place on Mar. 9. Sister Norene Kempf and Brother David Moser (Morris, Minn.) were united in marriage.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Kempf.

The Sunday School plans a program for the Good Friday-Easter season.

Bro. Harry Bucher and others from LaCrosse church spent the day at Eureka on March 23.

Sister Mrs. George Stoller fell and broke her hip.

Death: The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Leman.

#### LA CROSSE

Communion services were held Jan. 19. Brother Sam Aeschliman assisted Brother George Yergler.

Brother Donald Bucher and Sister Gwen Heinold were united in marriage March 2. Brother Yergler performed the ceremony.

Recent deaths in our community were Sister Lura Stoller, Sister Millie Zimmerman and Herbert Troxel.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nuest are the parents of a daughter, Jill Ellen, born Jan. 8, 1958.

Brother Len Hitz, Sister Audrey and family have left our congregation to establish a new home in Detroit.

Brother and Sister Bert and Marie Bucher have moved to La Crosse.

Brother Henry and Sister Alice Beer were with us February 16.

#### MANSFIELD

Deaths: Mary Isley, aged 92, on December 21; Ike De Turk, aged 61, on March 6.

Births: a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. David Roberts; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sauder; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sauder; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Materch; a son to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Sauder; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. David Hartzler; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Tingley; a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cordrey.

Mr. and Mrs. John Fuhrer spent the winter in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi Beer spent several weeks in California visiting their daughter and other friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sauder spent a few weeks visiting their son, Donald, who is in the Army in Georgia. They also visited the Alabama churches.

We had a pleasant surprise on Sunday, March 9. The following were present: Elder George Sinn and Otto Schlatter and wife of Latty, Henry Manz of Paulding and Amos Hartzler of Rittman. We enjoyed their visit very much.

#### MILFORD

Baptismal services were held Sunday, January 5, for Ray and Paul Haab, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Haab.

Brother Fred Moser, who has been ill with a heart condition since around January 20, is slowly improving.

The Sunday School teachers had a pot-luck dinner for the young married couples and friends on March 9. A Singspiration was held in the evening.

Over 50 brethren enjoyed a visit in the evening of March 18 at the Sugar Grove, where Otto Beer has 2,000 trees tapped for maple syrup. He gave an inspiring talk of God's goodness to America, it being the only country together with Canada, that has sugar trees.

#### MORTON

Funeral services for Miss Velma Schmidgall, daughter of Roy and Marie Virling Schmidgall, who was killed Thanksgiving Day in an auto crash, were held Sunday morning, Dec. 1.

The wedding of Sister Vilas Birkey and Brother Louis Belsley was solemnized Sunday afternoon, Dec. 1.

Our visiting on Dec. 29 were Brother Dave Mangold of Roanoke, Brother Silas Leuthold of Princeville and Brother Jos. Zimmerman of Roanoke.

Baptismal services were held for Wm. and Eula Grimm, Joe and Emma Seidel, Levi and Margaret Ricketts, Eldon and Doris Baumen and Robert Pfluderer.

Funeral services for Sister Anna Ackerman, 85, were held Dec. 31.

Brother Uriel Gehring of Elgin, Ia., was guest minister Friday evening, Jan. 3.

Brother Frank Woertz of Goodfield assisted Brother Joe A. Getz with the baptism Sunday, Jan. 19, of Gilbert Baumen and wife Elizabeth, Kenneth and Ann Getz and Wayne Rocke.

Brother Joe Rocke of Eureka held services here Sunday afternoon, Jan. 19.

Brother Earl Zeltwanger of Bremen, Ind., had the services Sunday, Feb. 2.

Brother Sam Strunk, 73, passed away Jan. 31 and burial services were held Feb. 3.

A baby daughter was born to the Ralph Roeckers' on Feb. 27, and a son was born to the Russell Rapps' on March 13.

Sis. Marie Kieser Rumboldt died March 7; funeral services were held on March 10.

Brother Dave Mangold of Roanoke and Brother Joshua Broquard of Fairbury assisted with the baptismal services of Howard and Esther Yentes, Carl and Elsie Schoon, Opal Rocke, Edward Hermann, George Rein, and Kieth Stevig.

Announcement was made of the coming marriage of Sister Marjorie Kieser of Princeville and Brother John J. Zimmerman.

#### ROANOKE

Baptisms at Roanoke Apostolic Church on March 16th, 1958, were performed for Sara Jean Aeschleman, daughter of Lloyd Aeschlemans' of Roanoke; Bruce Leman, son of Brother and Sister Wilmer Leman of Roanoke; and Wally Leman, son of Brother and Sister Joe D. Leman of Roanoke; and Marilyn Leman, daughter of Brother and Sister Harold Honegger of Fairbury, Ill.

Announcement of the approaching marriage of Bro. Frank J. Martin of Roanoke and Sister Mary Klopfenstein of Gridley was made at the Roanoke church on March 16th, 1958.

Communion was held at the Eureka church on February 23rd, 1958, for both Eureka and Roanoke congregations,

while Roanoke church was closed for remodeling.

Brother Ernest Diggelman underwent major surgery on March 13th and is now reported to be recovering very satisfactorily.

Mrs. Jack (Lillian) Leman of Eureka entered Methodist Hospital, of Peoria, on March 1st and was operated on March 19th. At present writing she is doing as well as can be expected.

Sister Fannie Moser, eldest member of the Roanoke congregation, passed away on March 1st. She was 92 years old.

Roanoke congregation had their first service on March 9th, after remodeling their church. The front steps were enclosed, two consultation rooms added, the pulpit was recessed and finished in panelled wood. Carpeting now covers the front hall, pulpit, and assembly room. The members of the congregation removed the varnish on the benches and refinished them in a light oak satin finish. Walls and woodwork were all repainted and stained glass put in the windows to replace clear glass and roller shades. Two new Sunday School rooms were added in front of the dining room in the basement. The fathers' baby room in the rear was enlarged. The rear hall was sound-proofed, and carpeting put on the balcony stairway.

#### LEO

Samuel Aeschliman of Bluffton officiated the wedding of Mona Lou Bertsch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Bertsch, and Kenneth Zimmerman, son of Ida Zimmerman of our Latty church. The young people are living in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

John Getz has been convalescing from back trouble. He has been in the Lutheran Hospital for some time, but may be going home at or around now.

Henry Schwartz, his sister Mary Schwartz, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Aaron Schwartz, were all hospitalized at the Parkview Hospital. They are at home and improving now.

#### PEORIA

On November 20, the funeral services

were held of Sister Fannie Metzger Gudeman.

The funeral services of Sister Elizabeth Schumacher were held.

On January 9, funeral services were held for Sister Leah Hohulin.

The funeral services of Sister Emma Martin were held on January 21.

Funeral services of Sister Katharine Gerber were on February 14.

On February 21, funeral services were held for Sister Katie Schwenger.

The funeral services of Sister Caroline Schaefer were held on March 18.

Emma Wilhem was baptized.

At this time there are these that are waiting to be baptized: Ben Reisbig, Shirley Witzig, Pete Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss Zurecher, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Meister. The Lord is really blessing us.

The following were among the visitors to Peoria: Philip Beyer of Castorland, Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton, Simon Wagenbach of Tremont, Joe Schrock of Congerville, Orel Gehring of Elgin, Iowa, Gus Scheitlin of Oakville, Joe Hodel and Dave Mangold of Roanoke, Ray Feucht of Lester, Joe Zimmerman of Roanoke, Joe Getz of Morton, and Joshua Broquard of Fairbury. Their visits were enjoyed; it is hoped they will visit soon again.

Births are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. Dick Aeschliman, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lang, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Don Wagenbach, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Waibel, a son; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller, a girl; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Herman, a son; and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Hohulin, a girl.

On September 8 Brother Ben Stickling of Peoria and Sister Louise Steiner of Sabetha, Kansas, were united in the bonds of holy matrimony.

United in marriage on February 9 were Brother Ray Feucht of Lester, Iowa, and Sister Marjorie Weigand.

The monthly hymn sing was on March 2. The Roanoke group of young folks sang. The evening was enjoyed very much.

#### TAYOR

Recent visiting ministers were

Brother Uriel Gehring from Elgin, Iowa, on Dec. 1, and Brother Albert Wuthrich from Pulaski, Iowa, on Dec. 8th. We also had the pleasure of having our Elder Brother Noah Schrock from Oakville, Iowa, for evening services on March 5th, after a long absence due to the injury he suffered to his eye some time ago. We are thankful for partial recovery and pray that his eye-sight may be fully restored if it is the Lord's will.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hoerr returned home on Dec. 28th from Germany where he was stationed near Stuttgart for about 18 months.

Several from our church attended the wedding of Brother Ezra Gerst and Sister Mamy Strashheim on Jan. 5th; also the wedding of Bro. Bob Kiefer of Gridley, Ill., and Sister Dolores Wuthrich at Pulaski, Iowa, on Jan. 19.

The wedding of Sister Emma Dee Massner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David G. Massner, Fort Scott, Kans., and Brother Robert Hoerr, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hoerr, took place Feb. 23 at Fort Scott, Brother Sam Anliker officiating.

#### WICHITA

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Grimm are the parents of a baby daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wullschleger are the parents of a baby boy.

March 9, 1958, Brother Ray Farney visited our congregation and announced for baptism Rolleta Farney and Lois Jean Guthrie.

Brother and Sister Elias Somerhalder, Burlington, Okla., and Sister Leah Bowman of Sabetha, Kansas, visited our congregation at our regular Wednesday evening service on March 5.

Many from Wichita congregation attended the wedding of Sister Emma Massner and Brother Robert Hoerr at Ft. Scott, Kansas, on Feb. 23. Sister Emma has been employed in Wichita and will be missed by us all. We wish them both God's blessing.

An evening service including members of the Burlington, Oklahoma and Wichita, Kans., congregations meeting with the Harper congregation at Harp-

er, Kansas, the first Sunday of each month is enjoyed by many.

#### WOLCOTT

Funeral services were conducted on Dec. 30 for Brother Adam Kercher.

On January 19, we were richly blessed through the visit of our Elder Brothers Yergler, Beer, and Aeschliman; and Brother Joel Souder. The Remington congregation assembled with us for afternoon service and the ordaining of Brother Irvin Lehman as elder of the two congregations. We wish Brother Irvin much grace in this important work.

Reason for rejoicing: Friends Sam Vieliieber and Verne and Leona Lehman have found peace and have been announced for proving.

New arrivals are Dennis Dean, son of Brother Richard and Sister Viola Stoller, who was born Dec. 6; Ricky Joe, son of Danny and Linda Stoller, born January 16; Larry Eugene, born to LeRoy and Frances Farney on Jan. 27; and Nancy Lynne born Feb. 9 to Jack and Marcellie Furrer.

Visiting ministers on March 2 were Elder Brother Silas Leuthold and Brother David Keiser of the Princeville church.

Brother Art Gudeman and family from the La Crosse congregation spent March 23 with us. Brother Earl Kilgus and others from Remington were with us for afternoon services.

#### THE ZION'S HARP SONG BOOK

Barring something unforeseen, such as a strike, etc., the printer gave the period when the books would be completed between June 15-July 1. As of March 25, orders had been received, Brother Sam Aeschliman reported, for 12,040 books. Churches responding number 40. The price remains, \$2.20 for the gold-edged and \$1.75 for the not gold-edged, post-paid.

Orders, church and individual, may be sent to Sam Aeschliman, R. 4, Bluffton, Indiana, or John Baumgartner, R. 4, Bluffton.

The Committee