



"Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards.

...

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are

many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also."

From St. John

"...the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

FROEHLICH HOLDS THE LINE

The good seed had been sown and had brought forth its fruit.

In the storms after Froehlich's departure, his experience was invaluable to the congregations. An active correspondence shortened the distance. By means of mutual visits, the bond was kept close, and especially the various extended journeys which Froehlich made were a blessing and joy to the churches.

He wrote a warning: "I have received an invitation to a conference of Baptist preachers . . . It concerns the union of all the various and separated parties among the Baptists. However, as this union could be only an outward one, without the inner one of the Spirit of Christ and the truth, I cannot take part . . .

"Such . . . would have the result that we would have to allow all such who differ with us in doctrine to teach in our meetings, for thus they expressly write: 'That the various bodies, regardless of the differences of their views, ought to work together for the one great purpose of the kingdom of God.' Thus, the matter has a good appearance and a fine title, but in itself a destructive character and poison.

Is it according to the apostolic rule and evangelical truth that

men of the most varied opinions and views should unite themselves for one purpose in the kingdom of God? Is not that Satan in the form of an angel of light? I believe that here applies our Saviour's warning, that in the last days, the seduction would be so subtle, that if it were possible, even the elect would be drawn into error.

We can insist upon nothing so much as that all brethren in the Lord be of one mind, endowed with one doctrine, and here it is declared that this difference has nothing to do with the working together in the kingdom of God.

I am therefore writing you this, that if anyone should trouble you about it, you may know the true state of affairs. For, for example, the Brothers L received the invitation before I did, and were willing to accept and attend . . . until I came here.

To me, my life in itself is not precious. However, I rejoice if the Lord, through me, does things for the comfort and well-being of the brethren. For the church . . . I will present what I am able to do, and I also would be presented as a sacrifice, if it is the will of our Father in heaven.

All is grace. Christ does everything for His Father's sake, to the

glory of His name, when He bestows gifts and powers to His servants and messengers. It concerns the destruction of Satan's kingdom and rule on this earth, and the restoration of God's kingdom and glory. To this end, the Son came and paved the way to victory by His victory.

It may be gradual . . . slow . . . as long as the gospel is preached.

Much is done in false guise . . . as if it were for God's kingdom, and the hurt of Adam were healed (in the easiest way), as if nothing else were necessary than to just believe . . .

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana

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CHRISTMAS

Henry Souder Jr.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."

Christmas . . . we like to think of kindness . . . good deeds . . . and hearts overflowing with happiness. We like to think of glowing church windows . . . and perhaps gentle snow outside . . . We like to think of pleasant memories . . .

The best Christmas is the kind God gives. He gives every good gift. He gives more than we dream, if we listen . . .

In Bethlehem country, the hills

rise and fall, and rise again. Often the stars twinkle. The eastern land drops down, down, till the Salt Sea nestles in deep slumber.

The shepherds were real people. Thy were like us. They thought about God, and about life and death. They had dreams of things they wanted.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid."

It was night in the country. It was the time for children to be in their beds . . . and man to be asleep.

Some folks tell about Santa Claus. They imagine great things, and happy gifts coming. But, what God does is real, and really wonderful. He gives each day, and so many, many good things.

He is great enough He could today give the toys, mansions and beautiful things everybody wants. But that's nothing compared with what He gives . . .

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David

a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Here is a Christmas letter, right from the Father's heart!

Do you remember . . . when you had that dream feeling of over-the-horizon? Do you know that God knows about our heart . . . and knows we could be real happy with great things? He has a Christmas list . . . if we ask him, He will fill us with more joy than we ever dreamed.

It doesn't matter where we are . . . or who we are . . . or what we are. When we grow up, we find we are away from God.

That's the way the shepherds were. They must have been sad, in days when they did not follow what God said. They must have remembered Him. They must have cried inside, and prayed, like we do some-time . . .

You see, we're not very different from each other . . . we grow up in sin, and sin has a way of coaxing to keep its drabness. But when God comes, we change . . .

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

NEWS:

AKRON, OHIO

Reporters: Ruth Taylor and Alice Graf

Bro. Pete Dockus spent some time in the hospital this past month. He is back home again, but we are sorry to say, he is not feeling well.

The engagement of Bro. Arthur Graf and Sis. Audrey Bahler of Rockville was announced. A spring marriage is planned.

Dan and Martha Kaufman have gone to Florida. Their son, Bob, went ahead, to make preparation for their winter stay. Their new address is 62 Dayton Rd., Lake Worth, Florida.

Joe and Anna Hanla are spending the month of December in Brooksville, Florida. Their plans for the future are indefinite.

Nov. 11, Kenneth Farney, Bro. Raymond Stockberger, the Leland Hersheys, and Ernest Gerbers visited us on their way home from the brother meeting. The Bob Schielers, the Ben and Robert Bau-

Do you see how God carefully kept away from anything that was of the old way? He did this away from the high hearts of the proud. This had to be different . . . for God was different . . .

He is the same as He always was . . . a beautiful Best. He doesn't have ups and downs, like we do. He is very wonderful to know, warm and affectionate. When we grow up in His home, and stay, nobody can make us leave.

His home . . . It's beautiful . . . warm . . . happy . . . always the same, always home, but much, much more than all we can think.

There's a light in His window . . .

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The shepherds were in the field. Anyone can be in the field of fulfillment . . . today. The housewife watches her chores, the student, books . . . the soldier or sailor, quiet service. You are in field of promise if you seek.

A prayer brings answer beyond

mans, and the Harold Emchs were with us, too.

BEGINNERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

(Ages 3 to 6)

Supervised for the last two years by Sisters Eleanor Pamer and Margaret Dockus

"Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein", was spoken by our Lord long ago. If you could look in on this class and see the innocence in these children, you would know it is with this same simplicity the Lord asks us to come to him.

One of the first things they try to teach them is respect for God and God's house, while their busy little feet have other ideas.

Many of the songs they sing tell a story. One of their favorites is about Zacchaeus, a little man who climbed into a sycamore tree to see his Lord.

Several times a year, they give baskets or gifts to shut-ins, learning from this the blessing of giving, expecting nothing in return.

our deepest dreams. Where before was common chore became the place for the sight of beautiful beings. The whole field was alight.

God gives what is Best. Memory of good people is for always . . . because at home we will be together for always. God's table is spread with food of which we never tire. To look on Him and serve Him sets our hearts afire.

A minister overheard some ladies speaking of one of their company who was unable to be with them that afternoon. "She's got some very funny ways," said one of them. "I'll say she has," said another. "She's more than funny; she's positively queer," said a third; "Do you know I've often seen her doing this and that," and she mentioned a few things to her discredit. Then the minister intervened by asking, "Who is this queer person I've just heard you talking about?" They told him, and he responded by saying, "I quite agree with you. She is queer. In fact, she's even more than that, she's singular. Why do you know," he added in a low voice, "she's never yet been known to speak ill of an absent friend."

ATHENS, ALABAMA

Reporter: Clara Heiniger

Wednesday evening, Nov. 7, Bro. Junior Hale held worship service in the home of Bro. and Sis. George Kelly at Prospect, Tennessee.

Our visitors for Nov. 25 were Harry and Ruth Wagler and family of Cissna Park; Wilbert and Violette Funk and daughters and Art and Ruth Gramm of Gridley, and Aldene Wackerle and Laura Wenger of Forrest.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Reporter: Faye Wackerle
Christmas Report

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

What a blessed experience it is, to reflect upon this wonderfully simple birth announcement. What a blessed expression of God's love to us. On this Christmas, we cannot help but be filled with joy and gratitude—for the complete salvation we have in Christ.

To us as Christians, Christmas means "Christ with us." Truly, He

will be with us, not only on Christmas Day, but every day of our lives, if we will only walk in His will.

Over a scarred and war-torn world,
The message, still sweet and clear,
Is ringing with hope and triumph
for those
Whose hearts are attuned to hear.

Peace upon earth; the Saviour is born,
Yes, born, and He still lives today,
With love that is strong and steadfast and sure,
Though evil may seem to hold sway.

The din of no battle can ever drown out
The song that still rings through the ages,
Nor fire extinguish the dear Word of God,
Or scoffer obscure its pages.

For the Bethlehem Star shines on through the night
Through war, with its anguish and sorrow,
With peace for the heart and strength for today,
And a glorious hope for Tomorrow.

Bro. Sam Aeschliman from Bluffton and Bro. Floyd Wieland from Detroit were our visiting ministers since our last report. Their wives were with them also.

Bro. and Sis. Don and Louann Wieland have a new baby boy, born Nov. 29, named Scott.

Sis. Rose Lambert is confined to the hospital. We pray she will be able to return to her home soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli M. Zimmerman, 610 S. Mountain St., will mark their 50th wedding anniversary, with an open house for friends and relatives at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, at their home.

The former Emma H. Wieland of Kawkawlin and Eli Zimmerman, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Chris Zimmerman of Fairbury were married Dec. 18, 1912.

They have four sons, Carl R. of Chicago; Wilbur C., Eli Jr. and Joseph W., all of Bay City; eight daughters, Mrs. Viola Robinson of Saginaw; Mrs. Hazel Sewell of Pensacola, Fla.; Mrs. Isabelle Hatch, South Holland, Ill.; Mrs. Lillian McCullough, Homewood, Ill.; Mrs. Mary Gyrué, Highland, Ind.; Mrs. Dorothy Kroush, South Holland,

Ill.; Mrs. Kaye Smith, Highland, Ind.; and Mrs. Ruth Martin, Flint; and 36 grandchildren.

BERN, KANSAS

Reporter: Mrs. Lester Hartter
Peace Be Unto You

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

"But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream"

". . . and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

The Bro. Richard Hartters and the Bro. Elmer Baumans, Goodfield, spent a Sunday in our midst. A hymn singing was held at Bro. Joe Rokeys. Many were the visitors during the month. Precious is the fellowship of believers, as we know, there is a joy in meeting, getting acquainted and renewing old ties.

Bro. Gottlieb and Sis. Lucinda Brunner observed their 50th Wedding anniversary at the home of their son, Melvin.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey held open house on their 25th Wedding anniversary, too, this fall.

We heard a timely message of one of our ministering brothers, Harvey Grimm—"There is a blessing and satisfaction in working for the Lord, even though our earthly work must wait." We wish to thank Bro. Carl Hartman and Bro. Eugene Marti, Sabetha, for visiting us and for the spoken word.

Bro. Lester Hartter spoke, as was told to him, of a family of one of our pioneer forefathers. They were down to their last slice of bread; even so, the father gave thanks. The hungry children asked how he could, and he replied—"For past blessings."

In visiting with one of our older ministers in the faith, he revealed how his mother, when a girl in Paris, rather than starve, would resort to eating rats, (not a pretty picture but it makes me want to count my blessings!)

I remember, at home during the depression, drouth, dust in the 30's; and the only thing the grasshoppers didn't get in our garden was a row of carrots. Our children can't recall times like those; how-

ever, they could come, or even worse. So—let us all be thankful for our Christmas feasts, in a land of plenty.

Bro. Franklin Hertzell has recovered from a broken bone in his foot. Friend Harlan Wittmer has a cast on his foot, following broken bones.

Friend Bertha Liechti, residing near Bern, is now employed at the A. C. Home. I believe her work is washing and ironing.

Sis. Ann Ulmer, Bern and her staff at the Convalescent Home, Seneca, are enjoying a new elevator, to help lighten their duties.

I would like to compile an early history of our church. Please, if any one has information, send it to this reporter. Thank you.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Reporter: Frieda Kipfer

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Betty Reinhard, daughter of Ezra and Sis. Delpha Reinhard, to Carl Macklin, son of Mrs. Tra Macklin, of Organ, New Mexico, and the late George Macklin.

Emanuel Gerber, son of Bro. Obed and Leona Gerber, has been inducted into the Army and is stationed at Ft. Sam Houston.

William J. Gerber has received his discharge from the Marines and has returned home to his wife, Caroline, and little son.

Bro. Alvin Gerber was in the hospital for surgery recently. Bro. Sam Kaehr is confined there at this writing.

Donald Mayer, son of Sis. Martha Mayer of Mansfield, and his wife, Dorothy, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Saloma Kipfer, were taken into the fold on Dec. 9. Bro. Theo Beer assisted with the provings on Saturday. Sis. Martha was unable to attend, due to the snow-blocked roads.

Six friends were announced for baptism. They are Ronald Kaehr, Stanley Isch, Janice Ringger, Jeanne Gerber, Diane Gerber and Jennie Gerber.

The engagement of Sis. Phyllis Isch, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Roger Isch, and Bro. Nile Bucher, son of Bro. and Sis. Vernon Bucher of La Crosse, has been announced.

Visitors in the past month were from Alto, Bremen, Cissna Park, Latty, Milford, Morris, Morton, Peoria and Remington.

Births: To Bro. and Sis. Aaron Kipfer, a son, on Nov. 14; to Bro. and Sis. Harold Meyer, a daughter, on Nov. 21; to Bro. and Sis. Richard Clark, a daughter, on Nov. 23; to Bro. and Sis. Gary Ringger, a son, on Nov. 24; to Edson and Evelyn Irans, a son, on Nov. 25; to Bro. and Sis. Carl Fiechter, a son, on Nov. 28; to Bro. and Sis. Kenneth Isch, a daughter, on Dec. 1; to Bro. and Sis. Thomas Moser, a daughter, on Dec. 6; and to Bro. and Sis. Kenneth Steffen, a daughter, on Dec. 7.

A Christmas Thought

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive
him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Reporter: Lydia Heuberger

We have two weddings to report, both on Nov. 10: Norman Schini and Marvalene Whitehead (Norman is the son of Bro. and Sis. Dan Schini), and Eugene Zimmer Jr., and Paulette McKee (Eugene Jr. is the son of Bro. and Sis. Eugene Zimmer).

On Nov. 10, funeral services were conducted for Frank Martin, who died Nov. 7 of a heart attack, while working in the woods, where he was found by his wife—several hours after death. He is survived by his wife, Helena, besides brothers and sisters and their families. Services were held Nov. 10.

Bro. Homer Zimmer passed away in the hospital on Nov. 14, following a heart attack. He died a very short time after the attack. He is survived by his wife, Louise, and their daughter and family, plus brothers and sisters with their families. Services were on Nov. 17.

Both the Martin and Zimmer funerals were held in the Bremen church, and Bros. Earl Zeltwanger and Henry Souder officiated.

On Nov. 9, a daughter, Mary Jo Lyn, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Hemphill. Bro. and Sis. Joe Bauman are the maternal grandparents.

Our annual Thanksgiving program was held on the evening of Nov. 18. The program was very impressive for the occasion, and was

very well arranged and presented by those taking part. It made us feel we should be more thankful each day for the many blessings we enjoy in this great land of ours.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Reporter: Uriel Gehring

(Bro. Uriel Gehring is our new reporter for the Burlington, Iowa, church. He is also the minister there, moving over a year ago from the Elgin, Iowa, congregation.)

In behalf of the Burlington church, thanks to Sis. Rekie Anliker for her willingness and continued efforts in being our first reporter; she has had the job over a year and justly deserves to be relieved. May she receive her greatest reward from Him who has eternal life to give.

As the Christmas season is at hand, may we always remember its significance, and reverence its true beauty and meaning for ourselves and our posterity. It was the beginning presentation of God's plan for salvaging the souls of men from the clutches of the devil himself and making them worthy of becoming His children. It was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy; it was evidence to the world that God kept His promise to humanity and sent them "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." It was the beginning of a series of events, that when accomplished would manifest to the world that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life", and that His kingdom of great glory and majesty would not be established in this present world, but in the hereafter, for those pilgrims who are faithful to him until life's end.

If we view Christmas in this vein, it takes on a much deeper meaning than Santa Claus, gaiety and laughter-some, of the elements the world associates with it. It is a time for sober thinking, deep meditation and heartfelt thanksgiving and praise to God for having given to the world His son, Jesus, through whom we have the gift of God, eternal life.

It seems that as time continues, the true meaning of Christmas is being pushed farther and farther away. This is Satan's master plan for robbing people of the truth. He knows full well that if

they believe a lie, God cannot bless them with the hope of life eternal, as He wishes for every man; it is not His will "that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

The obligation of the truly converted person at Christmas, and all other seasons, is to be an ambassador for Christ, giving Him the representation in this world of which He is worthy. This embodies the simple command given by Jesus himself, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." The child of God has a glorious opportunity at this season to glorify God and **Let his light so shine before men that they might see his good works and glorify his father which is in heaven.**

On Nov. 18, three cars from Burlington drove to Peoria, to be present at the wedding of Bro. Joel Banwart, formerly of West Bend, and Sis. Sonia Klein of Peoria. Bro. Joel teaches a 5th grade class in Keokuk, Iowa, where they will make their home at 227 High St. We wish them God's richest blessings on their venture through life together.

On Nov. 25, we had many visitors, including two ministering brothers, Werner Moore, Elgin, Ia., and Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski. Also present were Bro. Albert's wife; Bro. and Sis. Geo. Martin of Eureka; Bro. and Sis. Emil Fisher of Roanoke; Sisters Leah and Dena Fetcher and Bro. Joe Fetcher who reside in Emporia, Kans., but attend church in Lamont; and Bro. Albert Butikofer of Elgin, Ia. How precious is the fellowship God's children can enjoy, truly a blessing the world knows nothing of.

Bro. Joel Banwart and his new bride, Sis. Sonia, were with us for the first time as husband and wife. We welcome them to our congregation.

On Friday evening, Nov. 3, three cars drove to Keokuk for a surprise grocery shower, house warming, and singing at Bro. and Sis. Joel Banwart's new home.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Mrs. Ernest Knecht

On Sunday, November 25, visitors from Leo were Bro. Wm. Klopfenstein and family, Bro. O. W. Maxfield and family and Sis. Jennie Klopfenstein. They came to be with Bro. Maurice and Sis. Lucille

Frank on their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Song worship and fellowship was enjoyed by young and old, Saturday night at the Franks' residence. We wish Bro. Maurice and Sis. Lucille God's blessings and many more happy anniversaries.

On December 2, visitors were Bro. Wayne and Sis. Erma Wieland from Bay City; Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna Steffen, Alto; Sisters Sharon Sauder and Shirley Knapp from Cissna Park; Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Hauter from Morton.

Bro. Al and Sis. Margret Fisher have moved. Their new address is: 1607 Meadows Road, Geneva, Ill.

Sister Helen Knobloch and little son Dietrich, from Lester, Iowa, are visiting Helen's mother, Sister Pauline Schambach for a few weeks.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Mrs. Jeff Young

On Nov. 11, our Sunday School entertained the Bible students from Tremont, Francesville and La Crosse. It indeed was a pleasure to have these young folks in our congregation. Dinner was served at the high school.

Sis. Clara Heiniger spent a few days here, on Nov. 13. She showed slides from Alabama. In the evening, the ladies made vases, for Christmas for the children.

Nov. 25, ten couples from the Gridley congregation spent Sunday here. It is always a pleasure to meet those of like faith. We invite them to come again.

On Nov. 17, a daughter was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Beverly Bauer. She was named Pam Marie, and has a sister, Peggy.

On Dec. 2, a daughter, Tracey Jo was born to Gene and Mary Jo Barth Lober.

It seems we had so many sick folks this past month. Sis. Lydia Moser spent a few days in the hospital for observation and test, is home again and improved.

John Otto was hospitalized for a week, but is now able to assemble with us again.

Sis. Anna Egolf is caring for Sis. Bertha Sinn, while she is recuperating from a recent illness.

Grace Laubcher, Sisters Laura Hodel and Alice Maul had surgery. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

John and Sis. Bertha Reineke are both at the Fairview Haven at

Fairbury at the present time. We hope they will improve, so they can return to their home in the near future.

Funeral services were held for Ernest Hauptli on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Death was due to injuries received in a car accident, when his auto went out of control. His wife, Ada Schladenhauffen Hauptli, preceded him in death 15 years ago.

On Dec. 2, Bro. Henry Grimm from Morton ministered to us. We all enjoyed the blessed day.

May God bless us all at this holiday season.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Reporter: Mrs. Clayton Virkler

We are very glad to welcome back into our congregation Bro. Jonas Virkler, one of our Croghan-ministers, who has been ill at his home a few weeks.

Bro. Howard Virkler is recuperating in the Watertown Hospital, after an operation on his knee.

Bro. Webb Farney is home again, after another stay in the hospital.

I am sorry that I neglected to mention last month that Sis. Loretta Graves underwent surgery at the Watertown Hospital. She is coming along fine now, we are very happy to report.

The Bender's Nursing Home asked a few members of the Croghan Church to help this year with their annual Thanksgiving dinner for their patients and their families. About 80 were present, and a short service was held before the dinner.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Croghan Church drew names, each getting the name of a patient of the Bender's Nursing Home, and are getting that person a Christmas gift.

Bro. John Zimmerman of Rome was found dead this week in his home workshop. The cause of death was a stroke. However, Bro. John had been quite active cooking, doing dishes and working in his shop. He did all this from his wheel chair, as both his legs had been amputated. His funeral was held at a funeral home in Rome, on December 5.

At this writing, snow is gently falling, and everyone seems to be getting into the "Spirit of Christmas." The teachers in the Sunday School and the children are working on pieces and songs for the an-

nual Christmas program. Let us hope that, in this busy season, we don't forget the real meaning of Christmas. A number of our Sunday School classes took up a collection to send to Japan, to help make the children's Christmas there a better one. We hope these children will discover that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

ELGIN, IOWA

Reporter: Mrs. George Butikofer

Even though we lack our usual snow cover, the Christmas spirit is beginning to show. Our Sunday School boys and girls are working on a program, which we are planning to present two days before Christmas. In the evening of that same day, the group will go caroling, leaving bags of goodies at various homes. The youngsters do enjoy this event immensely. May you readers all enjoy a blessed yuletide.

Sis. Rosa Schmid, who passed away the 2nd of December, was born in Butschel, Canton Bern, Switzerland, in 1888. She is survived by her daughter, Sis. Marie. She also leaves two sisters and three brothers. We will certainly miss Rose in our church.

Stay Firm

He has not failed thee
In all the past,
And will He go and leave thee
To sink at last?
Nay, He said He will hide thee
Beneath His wing,
And sweetly there in safety
Thou mayest sing.

"The LORD is thy keeper . . ."
From Psalm 121:5

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Cathryn Wettstein

Thanksgiving Day, our services started at 10 A.M. Bro. Vernon Le-man had a very interesting sermon on being thankful for our many blessings of this year.

Nov. 25, in the evening, was the time of our family-night singing at the church. The boys and girls from the Bible class sang several songs. It is always good to have the young people in our midst and helping in the singing of praises to our Lord.

Dec. 2, Bro. Russell Rapp was our guest speaker.

Birth: A daughter, Virginia Ma-

rie, to Ernest and Judy Knecht, born Dec. 4.

Among the sick: Sis. Christina Unziker is still a patient in Eureka Hospital. Bro. Dan Wiegand is a patient in Eureka Hospital. Sis. Rose Wettstein and Bro. Charles Wettstein are both patients in the Methodist Hospital in Peoria. (This is my sister and my father.) George Haecker is a patient at Eureka Hospital. May God be near the sick folks, wherever they be, and help to bear the pains that sometimes they have to endure.

It is planned for Saturday evening, Dec. 8, to hear the testimonies of three friends who have repented and found peace with their God. They are Wilma Lehman, Nelma Eastman and Curtis Rocke. If it is God's will and their wishes are granted, they will be baptized Sunday.

The family I thought interesting was the Bro. Joe Rocke family, and especially since he is no longer with us.

Joe Rocke was born March 24, 1898, near Eureka, the son of Jeff Rocke and Lucy Stoller Rocke. He had seven brothers: John, Jesse, Ray, Alvin, Virgil, Harry and Orval, and two sisters, Laura Getz and Alvina Rocke. Two brothers, Alvin and Jesse, and his parents have passed on.

He sought the Lord in his youth, as did all his brothers and sisters. He married Sis. Nettie Schrock, the daughter of Jonathan and Naomi Gerber Schrock, on Jan. 1, 1922. She has four brothers, Noah, Jesse, Joe and Alvin, and two sisters, Naomi and Mae. Another sister, Ada, passed away. All of this family also repented, and served the Lord from youth on.

Joe and Nettie lived one year on a farm south of Roanoke. After that, they moved to Oakville, on a farm. They were seven miles from town on mud roads, and they often went to church with horses and klondike. Three children were born in Iowa, Norman, Mildred and Richard.

They lived here six years, then decided to move back to Illinois, after their crops were drowned out one year. Farms were easy to rent at the time. They lived north of Eureka, on the same farm for thirteen years. Here, Arlene and El-

don were born. Then they bought the Rocke home place, a few miles from where they were living. They lived there until six years ago, when they bought a home in Eureka. Nettie wasn't so well, and so they decided to move to town. However, Joe still did some farming. He was suddenly taken from this earth, in an accident on his farm, a year ago in November. (We still miss Bro. Joe on the pulpit.)

Their children are all married and are all members of the church, having sought the Lord when they were young. Bro. Norman married Audrey Hodel; he is one of our song leaders. Bro. Richard married Marge Leman, and Bro. Eldon married Ida Mae Steffen. They all live near Eureka and are occupied in farming and other activities. Sis. Mildred married Loren Schliiff. They go to the Gridley church. Sis. Arlene married Kenneth Huette. They go to the Morton church.

Joe and Nettie always took their children to church and Sunday School and taught them the ways of the Lord, believing it was their duty, so if they forsook the faith when they grew up, that it would be on them and not on the parents.

When reading in the scriptures at home, Bro. Joe would often use the Bible Story Book, so the children could understand it better. They often sang hymns together; the children preferred them to other songs. Bro. Joe was a Sunday School teacher for a number of years. Then, he was chosen for the ministry, and served faithfully 22 years. This was at Roanoke, except the last five years, he helped serve in the pulpit here in Eureka.

Father and sons always worked together and became very close by doing this.

Joe and Nettie did quite a bit of entertaining, especially for the young folks. They enjoyed the fellowship of being with others of the same heart and mind. They took several trips with other ministering brothers and wives, and always enjoyed it.

I think a family of this kind is really wonderful, and they realize that God has been gracious and good, even amidst sorrow and loss. May God be ever near Sis. Nettie, take care of her and bless her, as she goes along this narrow pathway which leads heavenward.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Joyce Huber

Just as our church on Sun., Nov. 11 was overflowing with visitors, also the day was overflowing with spiritual blessings, for Roberta Meyer, Rosemary Meiss, Kathleen Steffen, Bonnie Bach, Linda Hartman, and Joan Zehr gave their testimonies, and were baptized. Visiting ministers were Bros. Earl Kilgus, Elmer Witzig, Joe Klopffenstein, George Gramm, and John Bahler, who ministered that we all should be "the salt of the earth", and as salt is used to melt frozen streets on the earth, we should be useable to melt frozen hearts here on the earth.

Lillie Ann Moore, niece of Sis. Lena Hohulin, and Marietta Knapp, daughter of the Norval Knapps, are repenting, for which we thank the Lord.

Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka, opened our services Nov. 25 by reading I Samuel 16, and emphasized verse 7, that the Lord sees not as man sees, as man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart. In his next reading, Luke 15, men saw Jesus eating with sinners, and murmured; and he brought out that here was one example. Accompanying him was his wife, Bro. and Sis. Vernon Blunier, Bro. and Sis. Bill Belsley, and Bro. and Sis. Virgil Rocke.

Bro. and Sis. John Huette adopted a baby girl, and named her Kristie Ann.

Dedication services for Fairview Haven were held at the home for senior citizens, at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, with many also from nearby churches assembling at the home, as well as at church, where they could also hear the dedication. Bro. Noah Schrock said that even though our church speaks much of things we should not do, he was thankful for those who venture out to do those things we ought to do; for we shall reap as we sow, and if we sow to the Spirit, we shall receive a reward. He also brought out, that God has given some to be evangelists, some teachers, etc., and we should use all these talents.

The single sisters are preparing Christmas boxes, to deliver as they go caroling for the sick and shut-ins.

A Personal Experience

Since we have been requested to write an experience of our own, and since Christmas is soon, I will share an indescribable experience of visiting the birthplace of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. How incredible it seemed to actually come up out of Egypt, drive through the wilderness, cross the River Jordan, and enter Canaan—in which is Bethlehem.

Bethlehem, meaning House of Bread, and which was the place sheep were raised for sacrifices, God chose for the birthplace of the "Bread from Heaven" and "Lamb of God", to be used as our sacrifice.

Where some think is the holy birthplace is preserved. To enter, we had to go through the Needle's Eye, which is the same as was in the city wall for entrance to Bethlehem, after the large city gates were closed at the end of the day. Since it is only four feet high, a camel could enter, if it unloaded all of its burdens and crept through on its knees. Presently used as an entrance to the church, the Needle's Eye causes the worshipper to bow as entering.

Inside, we saw a brilliant Bethlehem Star of the East shining at the site, with the words: "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary." We reverently viewed what was pointed out to be the original, lowly stone manger in which laid the highest king. Also inside are 40 gleaming columns of Nativity, the marble having been taken from the rubble of Solomon's beautiful temple at Jerusalem; and magnificent lights which beam their splendor only at Christmas. In the basement, our guide showed us the traditional burial place of the children King Herod had killed.

Outside, chiming bells tower above, and ring their joyous tidings only at Christmas time.

Just as visiting Bethlehem was a joy unspeakable and full of glory, so was Gethsemane, the Way of the Cross, Calvary. Truly, it is a Land of Lands, which has had the most historic past and will have the most dramatic future!

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Nancy Honegger

Bro. Henry Kilgus has been dismissed from the hospital and is convalescing at home. At the present time, Bro. Joshua Broquard of

Fairbury is relieving him of his elder duties. We hope that he can again regain his strength, if it is God's will.

Our friend, Janice Honegger, was announced for proving, Dec. 2. Although we are thankful that one soul has turned to the Lord, we wish there would be many more.

Bro. Julius Miller has suffered a light stroke and was admitted to the Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Reporter: Florence Sutter

As the Christmas season nears, we all pause to enjoy the beautiful hymns of peace on earth, good will toward men. In our sunny state of Florida, the orange crops are bountiful at this time of year. For God's rich blessings we are most thankful.

We have enjoyed visitors from Rockville, Sisters Emily, Barbara, Arline and Ruth Schnieder, also Audrey Bahler and Bro. Fred and Leona Knapp of Cissna Park.

We are happy to see our winter residents arriving. Bro. Ephraim Oberlander and his wife, Mabel, have purchased a coop in the Isle of Venice, for the winter months. Bro. Walter Pfister and Sis. Judith of Bluffton, Bro. Will Erkert and Sis. Mame, Sis. Aldine Wackerle, and Laura Wenger of Forrest have arrived.

We also enjoyed pleasant visits with Sisters Clara Welk and Matilda Frank of Morton, Bro. Richard Steffen, who is stationed here in Florida, Sisters Glenna Pfloderer and Ruth Beutek of Tremont and Sisters Eleanor Asal of Princeville and Marian Wiegand of Goodfield.

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Reporter: Norman L. Haerr

The month of November has been, to the group here at Ft. Sam, one filled with many visitors. They consisted mostly of parents whose boys were being reassigned to other posts. In addition to them, there were several ministers with us. The week end of November 11, we enjoyed the visit and timely teachings of Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker of Gridley, Kansas. Then, the following week end, Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Kaisner of Maywood and Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman of LaCrosse were with us. The week end of November 25, Bro. John and

Sis. Bertha Wagenbach of Oakville and Bro. Homer and Sis. Jo Reinbeck, Marge and Bob, of Toledo were here. In addition to these ministers, on Wednesday evening, November 29, Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Waibel of Bay City were with us. As you can see, we didn't have to use our tape recorder at the chapel to any great extent, as is our custom when there isn't a minister present.

Other visitors consisted of Bro. and Sis. Ray and Marie Heinold of Valparaiso; Bro. and Sis. Ray and Paula Haab of Milford; Teresa Marti of Bartlesville, Okla.; Martha Steiner, Edith and Bertha Wagenbach of Oakville; Bro. and Sis. Roy and Dona Grimm and family of Quincy, Ill.; Bro. and Sis. Emery and Margaret Molner of Linwood, Michigan; Jerry Vogel's wife, Lois; Bro. and Sis. Walter and Clara Vogel and Mr. and Mrs. J. Isaac Steiner of Cissna Park. Sis. Emma Furrer of Wolcott also came with the Reinecks. We are very happy for all the visitors, and wish to thank them for making us a little happier down here at Ft. Sam.

The following are the address changes since the last writing:

Pvt. Donald L. Furrer 55713308
52d AD Bde HHB
Pedricktown New Jersey

Pvt Bill Waibel 55737769
43d AD 1st Bn MSL Herc
Fairchild Washington

Pvt Virgil Graf 56354836
Hq & Hq Co USAMTC
Ft Sam Houston Texas

Pfc Lloyd Massner 55720390
1660 E Hyde Park Blvd
Chicago 15 Illinois

Two other boys who left, but of whom I have no addresses, are Bro. Harvey Kaisner, who went to Ft. Benning, Georgia, and Jerry Vogel, who went to Korea. As soon as these addresses are received, they will be listed, because wherever we are, we always like to receive mail.

The following is a schedule of visiting ministers: Jan. 13, Wichita; Jan. 27, Bremen; and Feb. 10, Francesville. The ones to contact are Conrad Gerst, 115A Pershing, or John Steiner, 115B Pershing, San Antonio 9, Texas.

As a continuation of last month's

writing concerning the Cuban crisis, I can report that all of the Ft. Sam units are back home, Richard Steffen's unit, the 566th Amb. Co., drove in convoy all the way back from Florida, and got here Dec. 6. We can truly be thankful that they have returned to their home bases, without putting to use what they were trained for.

In addition to this piece of happy news, there are also two who have "returned home." They are Donald Furrer of Wolcott and Janet Blumenshine of Peoria, who have turned to the Lord from their wandering and insecure ways and have "come home" to His shelter. We are very happy for them, and rejoice that their mother's prayers could be answered, and that they could find the grace to repent. It sure encourages us and lifts our spirits when we know that the Lord is still calling today.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Reporter: Marie Zaugg

Lisa Lorraine is the name chosen for the new daughter, born November 14, to Lester and Shirley Sinn.

Bro. and Sis. Eli Somerhalder, Burlington, Oklahoma; Bro. and Sis. Gottlieb Reutter, Cissna Park; Bro. and Sis. Ben Banwart, Sisters Pearl and Marie Banwart, Bro. and Sis. Art Banwart and family, Lamar; and Bro. and Sis. Harvey Smith and family, Wichita, were here the November 18th week end. We thank Bros. Somerhalder and Banwart for their inspiring messages.

Visiting here November 25 were Bro. and Sis. Emil Metzger and family, Bro. and Sis. Silas Knobloch and family of Lester; Sis. Ruth Hohulin, Mary and Ron Haynes, of Peoria.

Bro. Will Sinn is home, after spending several weeks in a hospital in Topeka. He is getting along fairly well. We will be glad when he can assemble with us again.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA

Reporter: Mrs. Elmer Bucher
Reporting this month's news
Sallie Neihouser

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21.

What a truly deep and satisfying meaning this Christmas season

holds for all believers, and especially for we who were converted at Christmastime last year. We are reliving the moments many times, when we were given the grace to surrender to His blessed name and praise God for sending His son to save us from our sins.

"There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas Day, and that is . . . keeping Christmas!

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you . . . to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe others . . . to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and to try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy . . . to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness . . . are you willing to do these things, even for a day?

Then, you can keep Christmas! Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children . . . to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old . . . to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough . . . to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front, so that the shadow will fall behind you . . .

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world . . . stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death . . . and that the blessed life which came to Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?

Then, you can keep Christmas! And, if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone."

Sharon, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Carl Gutwein, was united in marriage on November 25 to James Denton.

Congratulations to Phil and Julie Gutwein on their new baby boy born Dec. 3.

Don and Sis. Marlene Erb spent several days at the Mayo Clinic, where Marlene received medical attention.

GIRARD, OHIO

Reporter: Jesse C. Emch

Geographical Description Of Our Church

The Girard Church is located at 29 W. Wilson Ave., half block west of U. S. Route 422. If you will take your map, it can be seen that we are about midway between Warren and Youngstown, and 15 minutes from the Ohio and Penn. state line. The access to Girard is good, coming from any direction.

We are in a very industrialized community. Many of the major steel companies have plants in this valley. This is the home of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Co., their main office having been built where this reporter can step from our back yard onto the grounds where this office was built. The cost of this office building was nearly 5 million dollars. Now, they are in the process of spending around 3 to 4 million dollars to construct a new research laboratory.

Though we are located in the midst of all these industries, we still have lots of nature's beauty. Girard in itself has two parks, Girard and Church hill. Then, Youngstown has Mill Creek Park, consisting of around 2500 acres, which is nationally known. This is not an amusement park, but has all of the beauty which God has permitted to grow. Within this area there are three lakes and hundreds of picnic tables and grills.

Then, within ten miles are many fruit orchards, where many varieties of delicious fruits are grown. Our members are employed in various industries; also, several are retired.

The closest church is in Akron, which is 50 miles, and Rittman is 75 miles. The New York churches are about 450 miles, and Rockville is 600 miles.

Looking into the future development of this Valley, your reporter would recommend this as a good place for young couples to locate for their future. We extend a cordial invitation to anyone to come and visit us.

We wish to thank those who visited us from Bay City and Detroit churches, and especially Bros. Roy Wieland and Dan Knochel, who taught our Bible Class Oct. 21 and Nov. 18, respectively. Bro. Wm. Knobloch, who is stationed at Car-

lisle, Pa., was our guest, Dec. 9.

Several were absent from the assembly on Dec. 9, due to illness.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Marian Wiegand

Richard & Janet Knecht are the parents of a baby boy, born November 7. This is their second son.

Elder Bro. LeRoy Huber assisted at Communion services, held November 25.

Love Came Down at Christmas

I've been thinking and pondering what I could write about Christmas—the birthday of our King—the day set apart for worship, family gatherings, giving of gifts and singing of carols, but every thought I had, someone else had said it more eloquently or sang it more beautifully.

As I was browsing through a book, I found these simple words, "Love came down at Christmas".

How thought provoking!

What if Love had not come down at Christmas? What would we be doing on December 25? Would it be just another day? Would our hearts be aching, ever sinning and regretting?

But Love did come down. We do have Christmas! a birthday to celebrate; a day to be with those near and dear to us; an opportunity to be redeemed; a reason to lift our voices in praise.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Reporter: Mrs. Rudy Bahr

Bro. T. Winzeler passed away November 13 at the Coffey County Hospital, at the age of 85 years. He was one of our congregation featured in "Know Each Other Better." Bro. Loren Strahm held the services on Nov. 16.

Sis. Dorene Strahm, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Loren Strahm, and Bro. Eldon Metzger, son of Bro. and Sis. Phil Metzger, Sabetha, were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, on Dec. 2. Many relatives and friends were present from out-of-town, including ministering Bros. Joe Aberle, Sabetha; Robert Young, Wichita; Jim Bahr, Ft. Scott; and Roy Wernli, Lamont. We wish them God's richest blessings in this important step of life, but shall miss Sis. Dorene in our midst, as she is an asset working with children.

The Lamont and Gridley congregations and neighborhood friends

of Bros. Harold and Lewis Somerhalder enjoyed a basket supper and singing, Sunday evening, December 9. Harold and Lewis are leaving for California this week.

Christmas memories . . . it doesn't seem like Christmas to me, unless there is carolling—perhaps because I enjoy **making a joyful noise to the Lord**. The frosty cheeks of carolers, the happy and surprised faces of the visited . . . help put a special "glow" into the remembering of the Saviour's birth so long ago.

HILLSBORO, ALABAMA

Reporter: Clara Heiniger

Nov. 8, Conrad and Lena Gutwein of Francesville visited with the Hale family and Clara Heiniger.

Elmer Evans is very sick in the hospital, at this writing. We pray for a speedy recovery.

Sis. Lena Heiniger of Valparaiso is spending several weeks in the Hillsboro area.

ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Reporter: Joyce Kaufmann

November 15, Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss from Forrest was the guest speaker. The lesson presented was very inspiring.

Bro. Elmer Witzig from Gridley was speaker on November 29. The lesson can be summarized in one of the verses read, St. John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

St. Matthew 28 was the basis for the lesson presented by Bro. Joe Schrock, on December 8. At this season, the resurrection reminds us that we must be thankful not only for the birth of our Saviour, but his resurrection, too.

December 13, the students, accompanied by some from Congerville, went Christmas caroling. This is one event we look forward to each year. The Joe Schrocks invited us to their home afterwards. Christmas means so much more after an evening such as this.

JAPAN

Reporter: Yoshio Yamazaki

We had the first wedding in our church here in Japan since build the Apostolic Christian Church of Japan. Bro. Akira Utsuki and Sis. Toyomi were married at our church in Tokyo on November 23, and it

was Bro. Ehnle taking care of it. It was about 50 people attended in that wedding. This wedding matter is very serious matter here in Japan, because our country, we have very strong custom of any kind of ceremonies. So it was very wonderful testimony before the Lord, such wonderful wedding we had in the name of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost.

Our beloved Brother and Sister John H. Klaus had a new baby girl on the 7th of November. They named her Melody Ruth.

We have the English Bible Class for young people every Wednesday night and Saturday afternoon. We use Bible stories for text, and Bro. John is taking care of it. Bro. Willis also hold English Bible Class in the country. It was pretty nice attendance.

We ask you brethren to pray for several things here in Japan. Here in this time in our country, a lot of television sets are spread in most of the houses, so Sunday School children are not coming to the church, just few little children only. Another reason, most parents are pushing their children to study hard. Also, Bro. Yoshito Inoue is pretty weak since had big operation.

There is much evidence in the department stores of the coming Christmas season. Probably very few even know, though, who Christ was. They only seem to know, as many others, that Christmas is only a materialistic celebration. May we all realize the true meaning of the birth of Christ and rejoice in spirit.

JUNCTION, OHIO

Reporter: Mrs. Alvin H. Manz

Our visitor's list for November included: Bro. John and Sis. Katherine Fuhrer and Sis. Caroline Dotterer of Mansfield; Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Schlatter and family of Bay City; M. G. and Sis. Magdalene Stoller and Deloris Riggerbach and children, Bro. Jesse and Sis. Elizabeth Kupfersmith, Margaret Kupfersmith and children of Latty; Sisters Helen and Emma Schlatter and Sis. Wackerle, all of Bay City.

November 11, we enjoyed very much having a group of folks with us from the Bluffton congregation. They were Elder Bro. Sam and Sis. Minnie Aeschliman, Bro. Ed Kip-

fer, Bro. Obed and Sis. Lucinda Steffen, Bro. Dan and Sis. Priscilla Steffen, Sis. Aldula Steffen, Bro. John and Sis. Mary Baumgartner, Bro. Eli and Sis. Rose Gerber, Bro. Jacob Sweitzer, and Bro. Amos and Sis. Martha Reinhart. Bro. Sam spoke to us concerning these perilous times, when so many are seeking refuge in man-made "Bomb Shelters". As Bro. Sam put it, "Jesus is my bomb-shelter"; is there really any other true shelter? We truly enjoyed having Bro. Sam minister to us, and only wish he could come more often. Bro. Henry and Sis. Alice Beer of Milford was also with us for singing at Sis. Della Manz's home in the evening.

At this writing, our Ministering Bro. Andrew Dotterer is very seriously ill in the Paulding County Memorial Hospital. Bro. Andrew has suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and is paralyzed on his left side. We pray that God will spare this much needed brother. Also, some of the children of the congregation have been ill with colds and such as cold weather brings. Sis. Lena Manz has been unable to attend, much of this month.

LAMAR, MISSOURI Reporter: Marie Marti

Christmas time is for remembering the precious Christmas story. Christmas time is for praying that our hearts may be filled to overflowing with love, may be more nearly in tune with the harmony of creation, and may see beyond the candles and glitter, to the true character of Him whose birth we celebrate, and may we exemplify it in our lives of service to Him.

Bro. Dale Martin, who attended school in Kansas City, worshipped with us. Bro. Emil and Sis. Anna Hertlein and Sis. Anna Banwart visited us recently. Both Sis. Hertlein and Sis. Banwart are former residents of this community. Bro. and Sis. Maurer, Sis. Mary Beth and Evelyn stopped enroute to Phoenix, where they will visit their son and family. We enjoyed and appreciated the inspiring messages brought to us by Bros. Art Gude-man and John Wagenbach. They were accompanied by Sis. Gude-man, Sis. Wagenbach, and Bro. and Sis. Ray Heinold.

Bro. and Sis. Danny Sinn, Sis. Ruth Banwart, Sis. Waneta Sinn and Johnny Sinn visited here and

worshipped with us.

Connie Schlupp and Dale Robertson were united in marriage at the Schlupp home on Sunday, Nov. 4.

We were happy to have Don and Eileen Braker home, for Thanksgiving week end.

Featured Family

Our eldest minister is Bro. Ben Banwart, who was born at West Bend, Sept. 16, 1882, the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Louisa Mathys Banwart. Their twelve children were Bro. Ben, Eli, Oscar, Sis. Sarah Braker of Lamar; Bro. Emil and Bro. Joe, Ft. Scott; Elmer, Detroit; Sis. Elizabeth Marti, Sabetha; and four who are deceased, Bro. Dan, West Bend; Bro. Fred and Solomon, Lamar, and Bro. Levi, Francesville. When the youngest, Elmer, was less than four years of age, their mother, Sis. Louisa, passed away. About two years later, Bro. Fred was married to Sis. Bertha Widmer. To them were born four children— Sis. Louisa Hartman, Sabetha; Charles, Cordell, Okla.; Sis. Esther Schaefer and Sis. Sophia Nohl of Morris.

The father, Bro. Fred, was a minister. In this Christian home, table worship and reading from the Bible was always practiced, as it is today in Bro. Ben's home.

The family lived in West Bend until 1901, when they moved to Lamar.

When they lived in West Bend, the county was still a new and thinly settled prairie country, where there were often prairie fires. Bro. Ben especially remembers a large fire that started about 3 miles from their home and came only a few rods from it. The home was protected partly by a nearby creek and partly by the pasture land with the short grass, where fire could be more easily controlled. The fire burned for miles and miles.

At the age of 22, Bro. Ben turned to the Lord, as did a group of others at that time. Dec., 1906, Bro. Ben was married to Sis. Celia Marti of Lamar. Their children were Rawlin, who passed away at the age of 18 months; Pearl, Marie, Arthur and Lloyd of Lamar; Harvey, LaCrosse; Raymond, Ft. Scott; and Clara Frank, Oakville. They lived near Lamar until Jan., 1914, when they moved to Morris, where they lived for 14 years. It was in Morris that Bro. Ben was chosen

minister, in Dec. 1927. In 1928, they moved back to Lamar, where Bro. Andrew Oberffel was the only minister. Bro. Andrew passed away Nov., 1945. In Oct., 1947, Bro. Fred Marti was chosen minister, and in 1956, Bro. Lester Braker was chosen to help in the ministry. These are our three ministers at the present time.

Bro. Ben has a great love and concern for the church, all the members, and the friends. He is especially concerned about the young folks, as he fears they may see more difficult times living as God's people as the people of today have. He has high esteem for the elder body, as he realizes that their load is heavy with the problems and cares of the churches of today, and he believes that they are at all times concerned for the good of all and that God's will may be done.

LANDERSVILLE, ALABAMA Reporter: Clara Heiniger

Thurs. evening, Nov. 1, worship service was held in the home of Mrs. Maddox, at Phil Campbell, Ala., where Luther and Virginia Arnold live.

Worship and Sunday School service was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dyar Harville, Friday evening, Nov. 2. Thursday evening, Nov. 29, worship service was held in the home of Billy and Shelby (Rainey) Dutton.

LATTY, OHIO Reporter: Mrs. Ray Sinn

On October the 8th, Sister Paula Sinn and Bro. Ray Haab from Milford were united in Holy Matrimony by our Elder Brother George Sinn. Sis. Paula is the daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Nellie Sinn. Bro. Ray is the son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rose Haab. We had many visitors who gathered with us, including ministering Brothers Elmer Hartter from Milford and Norman Stoller from Fort Wayne.

On Nov. 23, we laid to rest our aged sister, Anna Pfister. She spent the later years of her life in Florida, but worshiped with her family with our congregation before that. Bro. Henry Sabo had the services.

Bro. and Sis. Darl Stoller were blessed with a baby boy, Kirk Allen, on November 26. Kirk was welcomed into their home by his sisters, Marsha, Cindy and Lori.

Bro. Gus Laukhuf was in the

hospital for surgery. He is now at home, getting along fine, at the time of this writing . . . Hoping it will not be too long before he will be able to assemble with us again.

Sis. Frieda Kipfer, who met with an accident, is recovering at her home. We miss each of those that are shut in, and know that they miss gathering with us.

On December 1, Sis. Mary Rager passed away, at the age of 81 years. Services were held on Dec. 3, with Bro. David Kieser from Princeville holding the services. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Gus; seven daughters, Mrs. Fred (Sis. Caroline) Zeltwanger; Mrs. Walter (Sis. Frieda) Rehlau; Sis. Anna Rager; Mrs. Joe (Sis. Elsie) Schlatter; Mrs. Al (Sis. Rose) Zeltwanger; Mrs. John (Lillian) Schlatter; Mrs. Harold (Sis. Marie) Steffn; also four sons, Bro. Carl, Bro. Eli, Wm., and Roy. Sis. Mary will be missed, not only by her family, but all who knew her.

LESTER, IOWA

Reporter: Emelie Knobloch

We enjoyed a blessed day, October 21, when Elder Brother Henry Koehl of Morris; Noah Shrock of Oakville; and Paul Banwart of West Bend spent the day with us. Through the sentiment of these brothers and our congregation, Bro. Leo Moser was chosen deacon.

The progress on our building here is coming along quite well. We are fortunate the roof is completed.

I am working on the history of our church here, and would appreciate any news from folks knowing about it. Just send it to the reporter.

Among the ill: Bro. John Moser has been ill and unable to attend services; Sis. Zelma Knobloch had surgery; Nancy Knobloch was hospitalized with an asthma condition. Betty Wulf was hospitalized for several days, following a car accident. Sis. Pauline Feucht had major surgery. We are happy to report, they are all able to attend services again but Sister Feucht, and we wish her God's help to endure her suffering.

Births: To Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Warner, a son, Stan Alan, on November 5; to Bro. and Sis. August Feucht, a daughter, Julie Ann, on November 12.

The Christmas season is a wonderful time. As memories, we have

had two grievous times, in 1954—when my father was very ill, and in 1960—when my sister-in-law passed away suddenly, a couple days before. These have been sad and memorable, but may say, we have had merry ones, too. I do want to extend to everyone a merry and blessed season and new year.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Reporter: Christine Locher

Midweek visitors November 22 were Bro. Elmer and Sis. Margaret Molner, Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Waibel of Bay City. Bro. Joe's message was very inspiring.

Friend Delwin Meyer of Sabetha, who is stationed at San Diego in the Navy, visited us November 24.

Perry Gerber, brother of Bro. Ezra Gerber, passed away November 13.

Our Sunday School and Adult Bible Class have been practicing their annual Christmas program, which will be presented to the church December 16. It is touching to see how hard the little folks are working to learn their pieces and parts.

Family Feature

Upon receiving notice that the Silver Lining would like a special report on a feature family, I felt it only proper to report on the family that pioneered the Maywood Church, my parents John and Julia Dapper. John was the son of Daniel and Margaret (Obenlander) Dapper, Julia the daughter of Martin and Christine (Wald) Erhart.

Both were born in Austria-Hungary, and came to America and settled in Mansfield; however, my father's father had a desire to live in California, so at the age of 7, my father moved with his parents to California, where he lived until 18 years of age, moving back to Ohio after the death of his father.

In 1920, John and Julia became acquainted and were married October 15, 1921. Within a year after their marriage, they made the decision to move to California, settling in the Los Angeles area. Over the years that followed, they were blessed with three sons and three daughters, John M. Dapper, New York City; Dale C. Dapper, Los Angeles; Lavina Muehlhauser, Pico Rivera, Calif.; Ernest D. Dapper, La Mirada, Calif.; Christine M. Locher, Norwalk, Calif.; and Julia Ann Dapper of home.

Being separated from their families and the church they had grown up in, they felt a lacking. Upon attending other churches, they were unable to find one to satisfy their soul's longing.

During this time, there were a few members who lived in scattered areas. They would occasionally assemble together, reading the Bible and singing hymns.

In Feb., 1930,, they answered the Lord's call, and in August, 1930, they traveled to Mansfield, where they were proved and baptized by Bro. Noah Hartzler, returning to California to live.

I can often remember father telling of how he and mother had thought of returning to an area where there was a church not only for themselves but they had a concern for their children. They knew the necessity of being close to a church. He discussed this with Bro. Ernest Graf, and Bro. Graf told him that he felt the Lord was using father to establish a church in California. In 1934, father was ordained as a minister.

Church was held in our home until 1938, when the church was built. I can remember as a very small child, getting the living room ready for church, and after the church was built, it was the duty of my sisters, brothers and I to dust the benches, chairs and pulpit every Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

My folk's home was always open to guests. It was unusual when we did not have company for supper Saturday or Sunday.

Gradually, a few families moved into our area. Also, single sisters worked in our area, and many happy hours were spent visiting and singing hymns of praise. During the war-time, we were visited by many of our brothers and friends who were in the service of the government and stationed in and around our area. A key was left in a special place, and they were always told to go in make themselves at home, should no one be there when they arrived. I can remember returning home a number of times, and finding some in bed sleeping, others reading or writing letters home.

As a child growing up, our parents always stressed the importance of living an honest life, and I can hear mother tell us that some

day we may want to repent, and all the wrong would have to be made right, so we should be cautious of what we did.

As we grew up, my parents then started looking forward to grandchildren. They have been blessed with 5 grandsons and 2 granddaughters, who delight in visiting and staying with Grandma and Grandpa.

Due to mother's back surgery, their company has been limited in the past few years, and mother says it is wonderful to have the many happy memories to look back on, the fellowship and love they have shared with others of God's children. They enjoy having the whole family home, and even though they are older and mother is handicapped, their home is still always open to anyone, and they are always willing to do for others.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Reporter: Arthur Haab

Bro. Alan and Sis. Dorothy Beer have a baby boy, Michael Alan.

William Beer, son of Bro. and Sis. Otto Beer, was married to Evelyn Swihart.

I am reporting on the Theo Beer family. Bro. Theo was born in Mansfield on Jan. 23, 1898. He is one of seven children born to Simon and Katherine Meister Beer. When he was 14 years old, they moved to Milford, because the city of Mansfield was growing and Bros. Simon wanted his children to be on the farm.

Bro. Theo went back to Mansfield the winter of 1919 and 1920 and worked in the city. He attended church there and in March, 1920, after a week of illness, he came under conviction and was converted. He went home to his parents, to help on the farm, and was baptized that summer.

Bro. Theo married Sis. Naoma Speheger in 1925. They have 7 children and 25 grandchildren. They have lived on the same farm all their married life, first farming for Bro. Theo's parents, and buying the home place after his parents died. They also operated the Milford Dairy for several years, and Bro. Theo sells Honegger's Feeds.

Bro. Theo was called into the ministry when he was 30, after the death of Bro. George Stieglitz. Soon after this, Elder Bro. Ed Haab suffered an injury as a result of a fall,

so that Bro. Theo was alone on the pulpit for a time, right after he was put in. He preached German in the morning and English in the afternoon, until the start of World War II.

He was ordained elder in 1956 and has served faithfully as a good shepherd of the flock since that time.

Bro. Ray Haab was united in marriage to Sis. Paula Sinn of Latty on November 18.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Reporter: Mrs. Louie Messner

With Christmas coming, we want to extend our warm greetings to all who read the Silver Lining, and may the Lord bless each one in the New Year.

I believe everyone wants a White Christmas, but once we get snow, it stays till spring. We generally have snow long before now, but this year the farmers plowed till December.

A group of ladies from church made and delivered 18 boxes for Christmas to service boys—shut-ins and older ones. The Sunday School children are practicing their pieces for the yearly Christmas program, after which they receive candy. The Junior and Senior Bible Class will sing again at the program, as well as for the shut-ins and older folks. It seemed last year, when they sang at our home, it was the coldest night, and so much snow, yet they seemed happy to bring good cheer and to wish all a "Merry Christmas", before going to the next home. One never forgets such kindness and love.

Bro. Noah Gerber of West Bend, had Sunday services for us Dec. 9, and also evening services.

Mrs. Otto (Rosie) Joos passed away Nov. 26. She was 88 years old. Bro. Paul Fehr had her services at church. One of her four sons is Bro. Albert Joos, of our congregation; she also had other relatives here. We extend our sympathy to her loved ones.

Sisters Minnie Luthi and Lill Zeltwanger are home from Rochester; also, Bro. Charlie Koehl came home from the hospital on Thanksgiving Day. They are able to attend church. Remember them in prayer, as although they are home, they haven't completely recovered from their illness.

A thank-you note:

"I wish to thank all those that sent cards and letters while in the hospital and at home. It was deeply appreciated.

Lill Zeltwanger

Feature Family

In my first family report, you will read about Bro. William Sr. and Sis. Lillian Zeltwanger.

Will, who was from Latty, and Lill Eisenmann of Cissna Park were united in marriage March 6, 1918, by a Justice of Peace in the town of Paulding, Ohio. That same night, they boarded a train for Cissna Park, to visit her parents a few days. From there, they took a north-bound train and came to Hancock, arriving March 12, with their earthly belongings in suitcase and traveler's trunk. They were met at the train by Will Goll, a brother to John Goll, where they spent the night. The next day, Will went to a sale to buy up implements, and also bought a team of horses from Bro. Will Reber. The second night they spent with father John Goll, and then purchased some household goods, and took them to what was then to be their farm home for 42½ years. In 1960, they moved to town (Hancock), to their present home.

They were both brought up to go to church, so even though they were not members, they made it a point to attend church on Sunday. In the year 1921, they both felt the need of a Saviour. They expressed how the members of the church here were very kind to them from the beginning—inviting them to their singings and gatherings.

The Bro. John Landes family, who were some relation of theirs, took care of them in many ways. Bro. and Sis. Landes were Grandpa and Grandma to their children, since the opportunities to visit their parents were scarce.

In the fall of 1921, they were baptized in a watering tank, in Bro. Tim Hohulin's yard, for which they cannot thank God enough to this day. When they think back of the joy and relief, they wonder why so many hesitate and put off, not only the most important thing, but also the very most soul-satisfying times of their lives. It often worries us, is it that we aren't the light we should be? We must keep praying and hoping the Lord will not tire of calling.

To them were born 11 children, including a set of twin girls—six sons and five daughters, who are all married but one daughter, Doris, who stays home and helps her sisters and brothers. Two of their sons and wives are members as well as the four daughters and husbands, and Doris.

They all live within a 10-mile radius.

They like to sing with prayerful hearts, "Will the circle be unbroken by and by . . . In a better home awaiting, in the sky."

They have always been very active members in our church, Sis. Lil being Sunday School teacher for 20 years. Although she no longer teaches, she shows much concern about the Sunday School. Bro. Will was a trustee for years, also had Personal Property Aid and was on the hail committee. They show much interest in the welfare of the church, and help where they are needed.

They have always showed love to everyone—members and friends . . . never too busy to lend a helping hand. Bro. and Sis. Zeltwanger have entertained so much company, whether they knew them or not, for suppers—calls—singing and even overnight.

They lived an example to their children, taking them to Sunday School and singings. They, as well as the rest of us, feel it is important to be on time for services, but with a family to get ready—it isn't always easy.

Along with her housework, she served for her family and does even now—also loves to quilt. Although they live in town, Bro. Will still keeps active on the farm.

The family enjoys being together. On special occasions and holidays, you will find them gathering at the home of one of the families.

Sister Lil isn't too strong yet from her recent illness, but she still enjoys Christian fellowship and comes to church.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Mrs. B. E. Getz

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Elias Somerhalder of Burlington, Oklahoma, Bro. Roy Sauder of Peoria and Bro. Carl Kinsinger of Altadena, on November 11; Bro. Paul Banwart of West Bend, Bro. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski, and Bro. Jim Hoerr of Peoria on Nov.

18, and Bro. Rudolph Graf of Akron, on November 23.

Sis. Anna Baurer, 91, passed away November 15. Funeral services were held the 18th. Bro. J. A. Getz officiated.

Sis. Eloise Stout, 91, passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home, and funeral services were held at the Morton Mortuary and Congerville Church on December 3.

Funeral services were held for Wm. Roecker, 71, on November 27. Bro. J. A. Getz officiated. He leaves his wife, Bertha Hoffman Roecker, and a daughter, Elizabeth Alt, to mourn his loss.

A son was born to Bro. and Sis. Harold Witzig on November 10.

A collection was made by the Sunday School pupils, the proceeds to go to Alabama and Japan.

OAKVILLE, IOWA

Reporter: Mrs. Ezra Gerst

Sunday, Dec. 3, was a blessed day for us, when Richard Taeger and his wife, Dorothy, daughter of Bro. Adolph and Sis. Rose Massner, were proved and baptized by our Elder Bro. Noah Schrock. Taeger was reared in another faith, and the Lord has shown him the way. How wonderful that the Lord has extended his grace period. Bro. Noah announced the five souls who have found peace with God and wish to be taken into the fold in the near future: LuAnn Gerst, daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Hilda Gerst; Annette Rocke, daughter of Bro. Orttie and Sis. Verna Rocke; Elaine and Martha Steiner, daughters of Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner; and Doris Cordell, daughter of Bro. Wm. and Sis. Bertha Cordell. How we all rejoice when one soul is saved, and we can see how happy they are. What a beautiful life it is to live for the Lord . . . Something the world cannot know.

Dec. 3 was also an important day for Chris and Sis. Julia Grimm, who observed their 50th wedding anniversary. They had open house, and many friends and relatives came to wish them well.

We are sorry to report that Bro. Emil Vierling had to return to the hospital again, due to the injury received at work several weeks ago. It is now healing better, and we hope it will not be too long before he will be well again. Sis. Wilma Wegman Stoller was hospitalized,

having had surgery on her knee. She is home again and improving. Sis. Louise Wegman Rowell is improving also, but still has a cast on her leg. Sis. Rose Heiniger is still bedfast and is in fair condition.

Bro. August Bolliger of Tremont ministered to us on Dec. 9. We appreciated his visit.

I hope to have our ministers write a few lines now and then, and asked Bro. Harvey Heiniger to write a few lines this holiday season: "As we approach the holiday season, it might be well for us to stop for a moment's reflection . . . First, to realize that Christmas should not be celebrated with a lot of worldly customs by which it might lose its true meaning, but remembering that it was the same One who made His appearance there in Bethlehem, who was later crucified. Our exhilaration of His birth should be seasoned with the thought of His death. The birth was necessary in order that He could die the death, but the death and the resurrection are the means of our hope. Our rejoicing should stem from the thought that His birth was the first in a chain of events which has brought us who believe, the hope of life eternal. The Christ we some day hope to meet will be neither the babe nor the dead Christ, but the risen Lord. We are glad that God has kept us through another year, and hope He will continue to call souls to repentance and preserve in faith those who are already upon their pilgrim journey.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

A sad accident happened Saturday morning, Nov. 10, when Wayne Lubitz, age 23 years, was killed in a car accident. He was the son of Sis. Kathryn and William Lubitz. Surviving are his parents; a sister Shirley; and his grandmother, Sis. Minnie Perdelwitz. The funeral was held Tuesday, Nov. 13, Bro. James Hoerr officiating.

Sis. Elizabeth Kammerer and Bro. Christ Sinn of Cissna Park were united in marriage, Sunday, November 25. Brother Rudy Graf of Akron performed the ceremony. A reception was held at the Lena Hoerr home, and a supper later at the church for many of their friends. Other ministers here for the wedding were Bros. Silas Leuthold, Ezra Feller and Philip

Sauder of Cissna Park and Joe Getz of Morton. The Sinns will make their home in Cissna Park. We are sorry to have Sis. Elizabeth leave us, but hope they come back often.

On Sunday, Dec. 2, our Bible Class shared their Christmas exchange and supper with a group of retarded children at the retarded children's school. Some of us looked in for a while, and it was very touching. God sees all things, and we know it pleased him to see the helping of the less fortunate. May God bless our Bible Class and their teachers for doing this kind deed.

Bro. Carl Kinsinger of California ministered to us Sunday morning, Nov. 11. We enjoyed his message very much.

Bro. and Sis. Joe Herman held open house Nov. 19, their 25th Anniversary. Many friends and relatives wished them well. Their first grandchild was born to Ron and Mary Herman, Saturday, Nov. 17.

We had many visitors the past month attending the weddings. We wish we could mention them all. We hope they visit us again.

Bro. and Sis. Richard Aeschleman of Ft. Wayne visited here over Thanksgiving; while Richard was here, he, with others sang for the sick and aged. It was very much appreciated.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, Sis. Sonia Klien and Bro. Joel Banwart of West Bend were united in marriage. Bro. Paul Banwart of West Bend (an uncle of Joel) officiated. Bro. Joel is teaching school in Keokuk, Iowa. They will attend church in Burlington. We will miss Sonia. Other ministers here for the wedding were Bros. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski, Simon Wagenbach of Tremont and Uriel Gehring of Burlington. A supper was held at the church.

Bro. and Sis. Elias Somerhalder of Burlington, Oklahoma spent Friday, Nov. 14, with friends here. Sis. Elizabeth Otti, also of Oklahoma, has been staying at the Dave Meister home for a few weeks.

Bro. Sam Stoller is a patient at the Methodist Hospital. His daughter, Nathalia, from California, is here visiting him. Bro. Dave Meister is a patient at the hospital; Bro. Wm. Herbst is at the hospital for a check-up. We hope they will all be able to come home soon.

As we approach this Christmas

season again, how wonderful it is to celebrate the Saviour's birth, and how grateful we should be that a Saviour was born to redeem us. God, in his infinite love, made it possible. Surely power and glory belong to him. Yes, he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let us look up to Him as giver of all good gifts. Let us show love to all mankind, and, above all, the Saviour, who brought us so great a salvation.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Reporter: Mrs. Roy Stevig

The Holiday Season in the valley is most unusual, I'm sure, in respect to the weather. Instead of cold and snow, we have warm, sunny days and green grass, but it is as other communities, in that it is a very busy season. In all this hustle and bustle, we shouldn't lose sight of the true Christmas spirit. Here in our congregation we are adopting some poor, needy families. Some of these people are in very deplorable condition, with hardly any clothing, and living in just shacks. We hope to make their Christmas a little brighter. Besides helping to feed and clothe these families, the Sunday School is preparing its annual Christmas program. It's a busy time for all, especially mothers, so I think this prayer will be a benefit to the busy housewife:

A Housewife's Prayer

Lord, teach my anxious Martha-soul the better part, lest, cumbered with life's duties, I forget how near Thou art. I'd not forget, while busy making bread, Thy living words, on which the heart is fed, nor making beds and dusting with a will, ignore the wisdom of Thy "Peace, be still." When burdened by the problems of the day, remind me Thou hast said, "I am the way," nor let me be so stubborn in my pride in doing, that I cannot turn aside a moment from responsibility to share a quiet Mary-hour with Thee.

Visiting in Phoenix recently were Bro. Henry and Sis. Fannie Maurer and daughters, Sis. Mary Beth and Evelyn, and Mr. and Mrs. Wally Ramseyer of Fairbury; Bro. Wm. & Sis. Kathryn Roecker and Mr. & Mrs. Chris Wiedman of Morton; Mrs. Edward Ramsier, Ritt-

man; Levi Keidel, Glendale, Ariz.; Delwin Meyer, Sabetha, enroute to the Naval base near San Diego, where he is now stationed.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Wai-bel and Bro. Emery and Sis. Margaret Molner from Bay City visited us. We all were richly blessed by Bro. Joe's messages and their being in our midst.

We were happy to entertain a group of the young members and friends from Altadena. They included Sis. Jeri Minger and Sis. Doris Graf; Joyce, Emily, Emil and Emery Minger; Lavonne and Doug Kinsinger; Larry Eberle. Accompanying them were Bro. Bill and Sis. Freda Minger.

Bro. Willis Wuthrich from Eureka came to visit his mother, Sis. Marie Wuthrich, and his sisters for about a week.

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger of Sabetha visited us while on their honeymoon.

Little Herbie Knochel, the sixteen-month-old child of Bro. Herb and Sis. Joann Knochel, was submitted to surgery today. We pray that he may have a speedy recovery.

Again, we of the Phoenix congregation wish you all a blessed holiday season!

PORTLAND, OREGON

Reporter: Mrs. Robert Miller

Brightest and Best

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us Thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and off'rings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each a ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Our friend, Pvt E John Affolter,

son of Ernest and Laura Affolter, is now stationed at Fort Ord. His address:

R A 19731201
Co B 7th Btl Grp
3rd Brigade 1st Platoon
Fort Ord California

He expects to be moved from the above address in six weeks. He's hoping to be home, for two weeks over Christmas.

December 9, Sis. (Mrs.) Ernest Germann, Esther Hertlein and daughter, Jean Ann, of Bremen, and Ursula Schilling, grandniece to Sis. Germann, from Zurich, Switzerland, visited at Silverton.

We are thankful to report that Sis. Rose Miller is improving quite well, since her surgery the latter part of October, and was able to be with us in church today, December 9.

We wish you one and all a blessed Christmas and coming New Year.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS Reporter: Ruth Ricketts

Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach of Detroit spent the 11th of November with us. In ministering to us, Brother Ben gave teachings for young and old. Higher education, probing science, etc., can rob us of spiritual closeness, with a danger of putting man before God. As the prophecies are being fulfilled, are you ready to meet your God? The Oakville Bible Class and some of their teachers spent the day with our young folks. In the evening, a large group assembled for an evening of singing. Young folks from Forrest, Gridley, Morton and Eureka were present. Bro. Maibach gave an inspirational talk in the evening that held the interest of all, and many hearts were stirred, as he spoke of the terrible destruction possible if bombs were dropped on our country. I'm sure many went home richer for Bro. Maibach's inspiring words.

Princeville was again host to young folks the following Sunday, November 18, with young folks from Roanoke, Peoria, Tremont, Fairbury, Goodfield and Congerville taking part. Brother Robert Grimm of Goodfield, in his words of inspiration, gave us much food for thought.

Many had it in their hearts to **Give thanks unto the Lord**, for the church was filled to capacity

Thanksgiving morning. We truly have many reasons to be thankful, for we have been richly blessed again in the past year, both spiritually and materially.

Bros. Rudolph Graf of Akron and Walter Anliker of Eureka were our visiting ministers, Friday evening, November 23. Teachings we heard were to have a desire and God will work in our hearts, as the Ethiopian of whom Philip baptized after he learned of his desire. Believe with all thine heart, and God will be with you.

Another pleasant day was enjoyed November 25, with Bros. Joe Schrock of Congerville and Edwin Ringger ministering to us. The need for repentance, and then of true obedience, was stressed.

Many relatives and friends came from far and near to witness the marriage ceremony of Sis. Jane Kieser and Bro. Marvin Leman, Sunday, December 2. Our Elder Brother Silas Leuthold performed the ceremony. Having returned from a wedding trip to Washington DC, they will make their home near Low Point, Illinois.

Brother Robert and Sis. Marvel Knobloch are the parents of a daughter, Christine Mae, born December 1. Three sisters and one brother welcomed her home.

Our elderly sister, Mary Begner, was in the hospital for a week, suffering from a serious gall bladder attack. She is at home and getting along as well as possible. Her aged husband, too, is not too well, but glad to be able to be up every day. When Sis. Mary is able to come to church, she is helped with her coat, etc., by Sis. Louise Greiner. We regret to report that Sis. Louise had a fall, received a broken hip and is also in the hospital. She is resting comfortably, and is always thankful for mail and callers. She is in the St. Francis Hospital at Kewanee, Illinois.

Coming as a pleasant surprise was the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Frances Gerber, daughter of Bro. Noah and Sis. Pearl Gerber of West Bend, and Bro. Eddie Knobloch, son of Bro. Edward and Sis. Lucille Knobloch, made known December 9.

A most inspiring and blessed week end was enjoyed by all present, December 8 and 9th. A large group congregated Saturday evening to hear the testimonies of Jac-

queline, Dianne and Dean Stahl, Betty Feucht, Arlys and Arlene Martin. Bro. Fred Grimm of Taylor and Bro. Frank Woertz of Goodfield assisted our Elder Brother Silas Leuthold in proving the friends. Baptismal services were conducted Sunday, and again many friends and relatives witnessed this wonderful, holy act. Bro. Alfred Bahler of Wolcott was also among the visitors, and lent his services in the ministry with Bros. Grimm and Woertz. We are indeed thankful for the services these brothers offer, and may God add His blessing. An added blessing was received in the evening, for those who gathered for singing praises to the Lord.

History

Michael Streitmatter with his wife, Catherine, came from the village of Hegelberg, Baden, Germany. He was by trade a nagelschmidt, or nail-smith, and a mechanic who could do any repairing in wood or ironwork, or could make shoes or most anything. As his boys grew up, the German government wanted them for soldiers. They did not want to be soldiers, so their father told them that, if they would help him in America, he would go there with them.

There were six boys and two girls who came to America with their parents; Frederick, George, Jacob, Christian, Barbara, Catherine, Louis and William. They came, probably about 1847, to the town of Eden, near Hamburg, New York. As wages were very low and work hard to get, the eldest son, Frederick, came west. He landed at Princeville in 1849, and worked for a farmer in Akron Township, near Princeville. Sometime later, he sent for the rest of the family to come.

Just before leaving New York State, the father had a dream which caused him concern, and he was afraid of some calamity on the trip to Illinois. In his dream, it seemed the floor went down, and water came up where the floor had been.

Coming west by way of boats on Lake Erie, Lake Huron, and Lake Michigan, and thence by canal, they reached LaSalle, Illinois, without any mishap.

The steamer coming from LaSalle, down the Illinois River, was run into, in the night, by a larger steamer, a big hole made in her, and one of the side wheels knocked

off. With the other wheel, the steamer was run to the river bank and made fast with big ropes. The people were asleep. The boat men awakened all who had not been awakened by the crash. All were hurried off the boat on a wide plank which had been laid to shore. In the morning, the back end of the steamer had sunk. Thus the dream was fulfilled. Many of the people lost everything. The people got off into the timber, built fires, and stayed overnight. The next day it rained, and all got into an old log cabin which they found. In the afternoon, a steamer came along, which, after some delay, landed them safely at Peoria. This was probably about 1852 or 1853.

In February 1854, Streitmatter bought eighty acres of land in Akron Township and built a house, moving his family in October of 1854. His wife, Catherine, was in failing health and died during the first winter, being buried in the garden.

Christian, one of the six brothers, was working at his trade as a shoemaker in Peoria when he heard of the new religion which had been spread in Switzerland by Samuel Froelich. This teaching had come to the United States by Journey-men tradesmen who were believers.

He was converted and joined the church of our faith in Peoria. He then came and told his brothers of the principles and beliefs that appealed to him of his new-found faith. Several of them also accepted the same faith.

All the Streitmatters married but Barbara, who died soon after the family reached Akron Township in Peoria County. They all had large families, and the number of believers increased.

About 1870, they organized and started the Apostolic Christian Church of Akron, or "Streitmatter Prairie", as its members often spoke of it, with Christian Streitmatter as their first minister. Services were held for a number of years at the homes of the members, benches or seats being moved from house to house.

In 1880, they erected their first house of worship, on ground donated by Jacob Streitmatter, in the southwest corner of Section 3, Akron Township. This was a frame building and was provided with a vestibule, audience room and a

large kitchen-fully equipped with range, dishes, tables and chairs. Two services were held each Lord's Day. Between services, a simple meal was served in the kitchen. Later, Sunday School classes were held in the schoolhouse just across the road from the church. They also provided for their horses, this being the day of horse-drawn vehicles, and had more expensive and a greater number of horse sheds than were to be found around any other public building in the county.

With the older generation retiring to town and making room for the younger men on their home farms, the need of a new church in some town became apparent. Princeville was chosen, and in the season of 1920-21, the present brick church was built, just inside the city limits, at an approximate cost of \$60,000. In keeping with tradition, a large stable and auto shed was also built in the rear of the church. In later years, horse-drawn vehicles became obsolete, and the large horse shed was no longer needed, so was torn down. The old church building was also sold and made into two dwellings, one of which still is occupied in Princeville. Five acres of ground were purchased for the site of this church, in order that there might be ample room for a cemetery.

The first burial in the new cemetery was Sis. Rosine Herrmann, who died on November 23, 1920. She was the mother of Bro. Gottlieb Herrmann, one of the ministers at that time.

Not far from the original church is the Streitmatter Cemetery. It is still being used for the descendants of the Streitmatter families.

In 1939, the entire church was redecorated. It has been remodeled several times. With the families increasing and more children in Sunday School, the need for more rooms was essential, so the basement was converted into Sunday School rooms. Later, the kitchen was completely remodeled, and the church again redecorated.

We feel we have been richly blessed, and our congregation has grown to quite an extent. We have around 300 members, with 175 children in Sunday School and a large number of friends gathering to worship with us. After much consideration and discussions, it was decided to build another house

of worship, in a place north of Princeville. Bradford was decided upon, and a plot of ground was purchased on the east edge of the village. Committees have been appointed. In the near future, they hope to begin construction of the new house of worship. We are sorry to have to be apart, but trust it is God's guidance that has led it so.

Ministers of the church have been:

Brothers Christian Streitmatter, from organization to 1895; Karl Wirth, who shared the ministry for a time with Christian, and died in 1888; Louis Herbold from 1895 until his death in 1901; Frank Woertz until his death in 1905; Gottlieb Herrmann until his death in 1906; Fred Rager until he moved to Ohio in 1916; Gottlieb Herrmann until his death, October 10, 1938; William Feucht until his death, May 13, 1957; Silas Leuthold who moved from Peoria in 1936, and was ordained elder in 1949; George Wagenbach from 1940 until the present time; David Kieser from 1953 until the present time; and Lowell Stoller from 1957 until the present time.

RITTMAN, OHIO

Reporter: Elverna Beery

One of the worst winter storms in recent years passed through Ohio on December 7. All schools and most rural roads were closed, as wind and drifting snow made travel extremely hazardous.

Vincent and Jane Hartzler have repented and have been announced for proving at a later date.

A son, Ralph Edward, was born to Sis. Ruth and Bro. Karl Beery, on December 6.

Bro. Joseph Blough is recovering from injuries received in a recent automobile accident.

Carol Rigenbach, daughter of Sis. Minnie and Bro. George Rigenbach, and Carl Steiner, son of Sis. Marian and Willard Steiner, were married on December 1, by Bro. Noah Bauman.

Plans have been made, the Lord willing, to begin church services in our new assembly on December 16. Many hours of work were donated by members and friends.

Not only throughout this Christmas season, but each day, may we live so that our prayer may be, "Lord treat me tomorrow as I have treated my fellow-man today."

SABETHA, KANSAS**Reporter: Eldon Metzger**

On Nov. 12, our guest minister was Bro. Joe Waibel of Bay City. Bro. Joe and his wife, Sis. Elizabeth, were enroute to Phoenix, Arizona, and California.

Nov. 18, the marriage of Bro. Joe Stoller and Sis. Anna Strahm was solemnized. The marriage service was conducted by Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. Nov. 18, visitors were Bro. Lester and Sis. Emma Heiniger from Elgin, Illinois, Sis. Tillie Heiniger and daughter, Sis. Alice Zimmerman, from Morton.

On Nov. 22, Robert Locher from Waterloo, Iowa, and Suzann Gleason from Chicago were church visitors.

Bro. Eldon Plattner arrived home from Army service overseas, on Nov. 20. We welcome him back into our fellowship.

On Nov. 23, Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Koch and children, Joyce and Mike, were guests of Bro. Lewis and Sis. Fanny Bahr. Included was a tour to see our house of worship and the Apostolic Home for the Aged.

On Nov. 25, Bro. Homer Gehring and wife, Sis. Gehring, from Bluffton worshipped with us.

Nov. 26, church visitors were Bro. Henry and Sis. Fannie Maurer and daughters, Mary Beth and Evelyn, from Fairbury.

Visitors on Dec. 2, were Bro. Daniel & Sis. Shirley Steiner, Bro. Paul & Sis. Helen Michel from Tremont.

Omitted in the October items was the birth of a son, Richard Joseph, to Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer.

As we once again observe the coming of our Lord, we greet all, and wish each one every rich joy which His coming brought.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA**Reporter: Velta Laukhuf**

Location: Women's Club Building, Corner of Park and Palm Avenue. Time: 1 P.M., starting Jan. 6.

We plan to assemble again this season in God's name. This beautiful building is located about two blocks from downtown Sarasota, just off of route U.S. 41. We are very thankful to God, and to the women's organization of Sarasota, for the use of this fine building for our place of assembly to His name's honor and glory.

Bro. Phil Wingeier and Sis. Fern,

of Alto, plan to be with us again this year. Bro. Phil extends a cordial invitation to all ministers of our faith to assemble with us and help proclaim God's pure and holy word.

If you are visiting in Florida, we welcome you to assemble and worship with us. Remember the time, 1 P.M., as other denominations use this building at other hours.

TAYLOR, MISSOURI**Reporter: Mrs. Eli Sutter**

Donald Hoerr and Elaine Hodel were united in marriage by Bro. Fred Grimm on Nov. 24. Donald is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Rose Hoerr, and Elaine is the daughter of Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel. The wedding took place at the home of the bride.

Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter had her family as their guests on Thanksgiving Day. Those who came were her parents, Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich, and the families of Bros. Russell and Joel Wuthrich, all of Pulaski; Robert Wuthrich of Des Moines; Bro. John Gramm, Gridley, Ill; and Bro. Bob Kiefer of Fairbury. They were all here except her brother, Bill, who is in service and is stationed in Georgia. We were glad to have them assemble with us, and to have Bro. Albert minister to us in our morning service.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Janice Laukhuf were able to assemble with us again on Sun., Dec. 3, the first time since the birth of their twin baby girls, Treva and Trenna. Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Jones, who are also stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., came with them. Their home is at Bay City.

Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park ministered to us on Wed. evening, Dec. 5. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Ollie, and Bro. and Sis. Tod Feller of La Crosse. They were on the way to San Antonio, Texas.

TOLEDO, OHIO**Reporter: Emily Frautschi**

We welcome Sis. Pattie Schlatter to our Toledo congregation. She and Bro. Oattie Schlatter were married recently. She was formerly Pattie Stephen from the Alto congregation.

It saddens us to report the death of Sis. Mary Frautschi, on Nov. 17, at the age of 83. She turned to the Lord early in her youth and served

Him faithfully until her death. Surviving her are two brothers, nieces and nephews.

On December 2, we enjoyed the services of Elder Brothers Rudolph Graf and Noah Bauman. We had many visitors that day, and it was a blessed day for all of us. Two precious souls gave their testimony before the church and were baptized and added to the fold. They are Bro. Rowan and Sis. Judy Schar. We wish them many blessings from the Lord, as they serve Him together.

We are happy to report that Margie Reineck has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish her much grace and courage in this new life. She is presently attending Kent University near Akron.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS**Reporter: Mrs. William H. Beutel**

This is the evening of December 5, and today we could feel that winter is here. We've had very nice weather so far.

There have been quite a few of our folks on the sick list: Little Sandra Marie, five-month-old daughter of Bro. and Sis. Orville Rocke, has been quite ill. Sisters Martha Kaeb and Anna Musselman and Bro. Noah Hermann were in the hospital and are back home. Bro. Noah and Sis. Martha have been back to church. Jeffrey Pulfer, six-year-old son of Les and Wilma Pulfer, underwent surgery, but is able to be back in Sunday School. Bro. James Pflederer was hurt, while at work at Keystone in Bartonville, and had to be home a week. Sis. Doris Staker is in the hospital this week. We hope she will soon be feeling better.

Jerry and Peggy (Frank) Sauder became parents of their first child, Bradley Dean. Bro. and Sis. Elmer Sauder are the grandparents; Sis. Lena Sauder the great-grandmother.

November 11, Bros. Otto Norr and David Bertsch of Leo and Eugene Bertschi of Roanoke were with us.

November 25, Bro. Joe A. Getz was here. Mary Sauder gave her testimony and was baptized, and is now a lamb of Jesus' flock. May God touch many more hearts and awaken them to repentance before it is too late.

The nice fall weather has helped the work on the new church very

much. They are ready to put on the roof.

What have we done on past Christmas's? One year on Christmas Day, we were to go to grandfather's home as usual, but it was very cold, and it snowed so hard that the roads were blocked. Even though we only lived three miles away, we had to stay home. This of course was quite a disappointment.

Twenty-two years ago now on December 2, we had three children break out with scarlet fever, and on the 11th - 13th, the other three got sick, so of course no one could see us, as we were quarantined. There were some wonderful "baskets of cheer" brought to us, with many, many, oranges, grapefruit, etc. We drank pure orange juice. I'll always believe it was the prayers and love of our dear ones who helped get us over this sickness so well. Five days after we were out of quarantine, a new baby girl arrived.

We are looking forward to hear what our children and grandchildren have to tell us in verse and song about the birth of our dear Saviour, Jesus Christ. The Sunday School Christmas Program is planned for December 16, in the evening. May God bless our teachers for their efforts, and give them patience to teach our young folks.

CORRECTION: In the September issue, I reported Sis. Jay Bol-liger's mother as Grandma Hartter. It should have been Meyer.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

Reporter: August Mueller

Today we only had one visitor, whom we could not see. We invited him in the morning hour to come and visit us, and he accepted our invitation. He came into our midst with his precious words of Life and Truth. He told us not to fear, but to believe in him and in his word. He told us that in his Father's House are many mansions, and that, if we stay true and faithful till the end, we shall inherit them. He also promised that if we ask his Father for heavenly gifts, they will be given unto us, and we know that He will keep his promise. He invited all the souls that are yet outside the fold. They should come and taste of his love and turn to him before the Door of grace will be closed. We sang hymns of praise to

him. He loves to hear good singing.

Of Sis. Flo Keyser, I hear that she is making slow progress in the hospital. I'm sorry to report that Sis. Nancy Aeschliman is confined at home, due to illness. We miss them both greatly.

Today, Dec. 2, we went to sing hymns for Sis. Isabella Metz, instead of singing in Sunday school, as is our custom. She was singing along with a strong voice, at the age of 93. We had a day of joy and blessing.

We went to the house of God with empty vessels, and He filled them with heavenly gifts. All Honor and Glory belongeth unto Him, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Our visitor was our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He promised to visit us every Sunday if we so desire.

I would like to add, that Sis. Metz is a shut-in. After the singing at her home, Bro. John Diggelman our minister, closed with a prayer.

It matters not what we leave behind, when we leave this poor world. What counts is what we take along with us.

My wife and I wish one and all, Happy Holidays and God's blessing in the coming year.

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Reporter: Donna Bucher

This is such a beautiful time of the year, with the crisp cool air and snow everywhere. The wonderful works of our God are truly miraculous and all consuming.

Christmas Day, the commemoration of our Lords birth, is one of the most important days of the year. May God give us all the grace so that we may not neglect the real meaning of Christmas.

I am wishing for you this day, a happy Christmas. I would send those gifts which are beyond price, outlast time, and bridge all space. I wish you all laughter and pure joy, a merrie heart and a clear conscience, and love which thinks no evil, is not easily provoked, and seeks not its own . . . the fragrance of flowers, the sweet associations of holly and fir, the memory of deep woods, of peaceful hills, and of the mantling snow, which guards the sleep of all God's creatures. I wish that the spirit of Christmas-tide may draw you into companion-

ship with Him who giveth all. The Little Christ-hands are beckoning us to come within the circle of His faith and love, where are bright angels and everyday saints, and beauty. It is the feast of the Child; come, let us adore Him.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Reporter: Anna Schmidt

I will write some history on Bro. Henry Fehr.

Henry was born in Eglisau Zenich, Switzerland, on November 21, 1855, and was the second youngest child of Henrich and Dorothea Fehr.

He repented while still a young man in 1874, and was baptized by Bro. Schneider in Switzerland.

He was united in marriage to Sis. Elizabeth Hany, on August 25, 1879. To this union two children were born. Sis. Anna Maria Fehr of West Bend and Fred Fehr, also of West Bend, who passed away in June of 1959. Bro. Henry's wife died in July of 1884.

In October of 1885, Bro. Henry married Sis. Margaret Minger; eight children were born to this union. They are: Bro. Alfred Fehr, Sis. Minnie Bruellman, Sis. Emma Luthi, Bro. John Fehr, who died in the spring of 1934, Manuel Fehr, Ernest Fehr, who passed away in December of 1961, Sis. Ida Fehr, all of West Bend, and Bro. Benjamin Fehr of Roanoke, who died in the spring of 1933.

Bro. Henry and his family came to this country on February 20, 1890, and settled in Eureka, where they lived seven years. They then moved to West Bend, where they bought a farm, north of town. Bro. Fehr lived here almost 30 years, was highly respected and a prosperous famer. He was liked by all who knew him, a true and upright man, square in his dealings and ready to help where help was needed.

Bro. Fehr passed away on September 7, 1926. A very touching and fitting funeral sermon was preached in German by Bro. Samuel Schumacher of Eureka, and in English by Bro. Mike Mangold of Roanoke. Sister Margaret Fehr passed away on January 2, 1937.

Bro. and Sis. Henry and Margaret were faithful members till they passed away. Bro. Henry Fehr ministered from 1902 till about three weeks before his death.

Sis. Lela Banwart entered the Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Dodge, Ia., for observation, Dec. 6.

Bro. and Sis. Jerry and Judy Schmidt have a new member in their family. A boy named Jamie LeRoy was born November 21. They now have three boys.

Bro. and Sis. Alvin Banwart's youngest boy had surgery on his eye, and is getting along real well.

Sis. Mary Fehr is in the Mercy Hospital in Fort Dodge. She has improved slightly.

Sis. Lydia Jurgens has been assembling with us a half day on Sundays. She is improving slowly.

Our Thanksgiving visitors were Bro. and Sis. Alvia Meyer and family of Lester, Bro. and Sis. Chris Martin, Bro. and Sis. Nathan Martin, Ervin and Lorraine Martin and family of Princeville; and Bro. and Sis. Joe Siegel of Oakville.

Bro. and Sis. John and Rose Frank from Burlington and Sis. Emma Frank from Peoria spent the week end of December 2 with us.

P.S. When visiting with several of the members of our congregation, it seemed the general feeling was that they really enjoyed having some news items printed in the Silver Lining.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Reporter: Marguerite Messner

On Nov. 25, our visitors were ministering Bro. Leo Moser and his wife and family from Lester, Minister Bro. Noah Gerber and his wife and their daughters, Sisters Carolyn and Marcella from West Bend; Bro. and Sis. Don Feller and Johnny, Bro. and Sis. Richard Sutter and Jody from Taylor; Bro. and Sis. Paul Leuthold, Sis. Pauline Gerber and Sis. Naomi Knobloch from Lester; Friends Shirley Gerber and Elaine Fehr from West Bend. We thank them for the blessed day, and hope they will all come again soon.

Sis. Carrie Messner is again able to assemble with us, for which we are thankful.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Schmidgal and family from Hancock were here over the week end of Thanksgiving, to visit her mother, Sis. Carrie Messner.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller and her mother, Mrs. Nelson, of Minneapolis, came to visit Richard's mother, Sis. Ida Miller.

Nov. 30, little Becky Messner, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Jim Messner, was again admitted to the Gillette Hospital in Minneapolis, hoping to receive her artificial limb.

Arlen Messerli, son of Bro. and Sis. Conny Messerli, had the misfortune of breaking two bones in his right hand, in a feed auger. At this writing, he is getting along all right.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Reporter: Arles Kropf

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Frank Woertz and others from Goodfield and Gridley, on November 11.

A new baby daughter, Marsha Lee, was born to Bro. and Sis. Vernon Furrer on Nov. 12. She has a brother and a sister to welcome her.

We are happy to report that our friend, Donald Furrer, who is in the Army at Ft. Sam Houston, has found grace to repentance. We certainly wish him much grace — that even though he is far from home — he can find what he is seeking — Peace with God.

Here's wishing all the readers of the Silver Lining a Blessed Holiday Season.

ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA

Reporter: Doris Graf

Visiting this month were: Bro. and Sis. Joe Waibel and Bro. and Sis. Emery Mollner, from Bay City. Bro. Joe ministered to us, to both the Maywood and Altadena congregations, the week of Thanksgiving. Also here were Bro. and Sis. Eli Reineck, Bluffton; Bro. and Sis. Bill Roecker, and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Weideman, Morton; Bro. and Sis. Bert Gudeman, Cissna Park, who are now staying for the winter months. Also, returning for several months are Bro. and Sis. Reuben Farney. We are happy to have them all in our midst.

We wish all of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas.

The Light Is Come

Once, only a single, particular Star was the sign that the Wise Men journeyed by, to seek the infant King Jesus. How brightly since then has the Light shown, showing us the way to life everlasting.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Substitute Reporter:

Mrs. John Somerhalder

We were privileged to have Bro. Joe and his wife, Sis. Elizabeth Waibel from Bay City visit our congregation on November 13. Accompanying them were Bro. Emery and Sis. Margaret Molner. We enjoyed Bro. Waibel's sermon very much.

Our community was saddened on November 20 by the death of little Timmy Farney, age 6 years, 6 weeks and 1 day. He was a first grader in the Burlington school, and his death came after a 3-week illness. Services were held November 23, with our local ministers officiating. Survivors include his parents, Aaron and Earleen Farney, two brothers and his grandparents the Reuben Farneys and Earl McDowells. During his illness, he spoke often of what he had learned in Sunday School, and that he knew that God had prepared a home for all who really loved Him.

Bro. Reuben and Sis. Marie Farney left November 25 for California, where they plan to spend the winter.

Sis. Rachel Kraft, wife of Bro. John, was hospitalized several days at the Kiowa District Hospital. She is feeling much better at this writing.

With the Christmas season here, let us be reminded of God's love to us, and the Wonderful Gift given, Jesus Christ. Our congregation was recently reminded how wonderful the "small" gifts, given when least expected, can be. Just a kind thought, motivated by pure love, can mean much more than the most expensive gift, given by obligation. God gave the Great Gift. Let us thank Him always for our Lord and Saviour and keep Him first in our thoughts, now and forever.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Ruth Schumacher

Sis. Carrie Kuhn was found ill at her home recently, and was taken to Eureka Hospital. She has since moved into the Restmor Home in Morton.

Sis. Eloise Stout passed away on November 30 at the Morton Apostolic Christian Church Nursing Home, at the age of 90. She had been in failing health for two months.

She was born in Morhange,

France, in 1872, a daughter of Christian and Barbara Zimmerman Gerber. She married William Stout in 1898, in Newark, New Jersey. He died in 1957.

Sis. Eloise had spent most of her married life in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. She had lived in Congerville for 10 years and in Morton the past five years.

At an early age, she became converted, and through baptism became a member of the church. She was taken into the church at Hoboken, New Jersey, and spent part of her early life at Rockville, where her sister, Mrs. Nathan (Mary) Lanz lived. Among her sisters and brothers known to many of the members were: Mrs. Nathan (Mary) Lanz; Mrs. Joseps (Lydia) Reeb, Morton; Mrs. Joathan (Naomi) Schrock, Congerville; Mrs. John (Lena) Grieder, Morton; Miss Aline Gerber, Morton; Mrs. Emma Klein, Peoria; Paul Gerber, Latty, later of Ft. Wayne; Theophil Gerber, Morton.

Bros. Joe A. Getz and Henry Grimm conducted the funeral services, at the Ludwig Mortuary in Morton and the Congerville (Dells) church, on December 3.

Bro. Fred Knapp suffered a light stroke on December 3 and is in Eureka Hospital. We are glad to report that he has improved and expects to be able to return home very soon.

Attached are a few verses about the true meaning of Christmas, which might be helpful to others.

If you can search your heart
and say,
"No malice will I bear today,
Nor feel ill-will toward any man,
But only love, as best I can",
Then yours is truly Christmas
peace.
Then will your happiness increase.

If you can feel another's need,
Not bow to selfishness and greed,
If you can give your generous part,
Not wish for getting in your heart,
To you will flow, in fullest measure,
The ultimate in Christmas pleasure.

If you put first, in reverent love,
The One whom God sent from
above,
And seek Him, as the shepherds
sought,
And match the gifts the Magi
brought,

What treasure, then, you'll lay
in store!
Yours will be Christmas, evermore.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS Reporter: Louise Steffen

Nov. 17, a small group of young folks went to sing for Sisters Mary Lizzy and Nina Huber. They also went to sing for Sis. Lydia Messerschmidt on Dec. 9.

November 18, Bro. Fred Grimm and his wife of Taylor and Bro. Will Butikofer and his wife, Sis. Marie, visited here. We enjoyed Bro. Fred's sermon where he read and meditated on the only chapter in Philemon. It was brought out very clearly, those who feel the need of repentance must do as this young man, Onesimus, who after he was with the apostle, Paul, went back again, where he had worked, and made restitution for his wrong doing.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Ada Schrock welcomed a baby boy, Stanley David, on Nov. 21.

Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day, visitors were Bro. and Sis. Robert Schlatter and family of Bay City, Sis. Alice Rinkenberger and Elmer of Morton, also Bro. Fred and Sis. Linda Messner of Winthrop. On Nov. 28, a girl, Vickie Lynn, was born to Bro. Edward and Sis. Jenny Schambach.

Dec. 2, visitors were Bro. and Sis. Walter Plattner of Tremont. They met their daughter, Sis. Joy Mae, who is student teaching in Mt. Prospect. Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Cathrine Getz and daughter, Melody, came with the Plattners.

Dec. 4, Bro. Gottlieb Santschi, age 86, passed away at the Parkview Nursing Home. The funeral was on Dec. 6, 10:00 A.M. at the church.

Visitors of Dec. 9 were Bro. and Sis. Wilbur Hienold and children of Goodfield, Sis. Esther Peterson, Bro. Arthur Messner and his wife, Sis. Leona, of Burlington (Iowa), Sis. Rika Messner, Bro. Alvin and his wife, Sis. Minnie Nohl of Hancock. The Nohls came to see their son, Robert, of Chicago.

Dec. 9, teachers and Sunday School children gathered together, to pack candy and different items for about 185 Alabama children.

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA Reporter: Mrs. Albert E. Kipfer Sis. Sharon Getz and Bro. David

Pfister were united in marriage, Sunday, November 25. Elder Sam Aeschliman officiated at this rite. The wedding reception was held at the Fellowship Center at Cedarville, followed by a supper. Guests from Minnesota, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana were present. Sis. Sharon is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Oscar (Dick) Getz and Bro. David is the son of Bro. and Sis. Levi Pfister of Fairfax, Minnesota. They now reside at 627½ Russell Ave., Ft. Wayne, Indiana. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our Thanksgiving program was held Sunday, Nov. 18. Those sponsoring the program were: Bro. and Sis. Lester Pulver and daughter, Mary Ellen; and Bro. and Sis. Ben Kaufman and daughter, Joan.

Another program was held December 9, as we were presented with special singing by the Brothers of Harmony, mostly of Peoria. The singers were: Brothers Richard Aeschleman, Paul Meister, Edward Meister and Robert Weyeneth. The Leo church was our guests for the evening, and we had a nice attendance. We wish you all back again.

Bro. and Sis. Albert Kipfer have moved recently. Their new address is: 802 West Oakdale Drive, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

The ministers who assisted in serving us the past four weeks were: Bro. Loren Stoller, Bros. Sam Aeschliman and Joel Souder, Bro. Henry Manz, and Bros. Otto Norr and David Bertsch.

Geographical Description

(By: Bro. Geo. W. Stoller)

Our church is centrally located for all the members in the Fort Wayne area. It is located on the northeast outskirts of Fort Wayne. Since there are a number of people living in a small town east of Fort Wayne, called New Haven, this puts the location in the middle of the church population. The address is 4920 Old Maysville Road. It is easily accessible from the two major highways—U.S. No. 24 and No. 30.

For those coming from the East on No. 24 and No. 30; and for those coming from the West and using the City Route No. 24 and No. 30—proceed to the East city limits to the Cloverleaf intersection and turn North on U.S. No. 30 by-pass. Go North to the first traffic light

which is located at the intersection of the U.S. No. 30 by-pass and Lake Avenue. Turn east at this light and go to the first crossroad—approximately one-half mile—to the Reed Road. Turn right, or south, on the Reed Road and follow the curve around and you will see the church, on a slight knoll.

For those coming from the west and using U.S. No. 30 by-pass—proceed around the city to the intersection of Lake Avenue, and follow the above direction from there on.

Since our church building was erected, the area around the church has been developed, and many nice homes are being built here. It is a nice residential area, just far enough off the main roads to give us peace and quiet.

To the east of the church there is some suburban area, and then leads off to good farming country. Corn, soy beans, wheat, oats, alfalfa, clover, are the main farm crops in this area. Dairying and livestock feeding are also predominant in this locality.

Our growing season is agreeable for raising many beautiful flowers, geraniums, peonies, mums, tulips, roses, petunias, adgeratums, coliss, iris, to name a few.

Some of the birds present here are: robins, bluejays, sparrows, pigeons, pheasants.

Fall or autumn weather brings on a splendid array of colors in the foliage of the trees. Among predominate trees in this locality are: oak, maple, elm, hickory, walnut, catalpa.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Reporter: Mary Alyce Witzig

Sis. Viola Witzig has been laid up for several weeks with a broken leg.

Sis. Catherine Funk has been in the hospital, but has now returned home and is improving.

Our friend, Perry Klopfenstein, who is in the Army stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, is spending several weeks with his family.

A Christmas Prayer

May the light which led the Wise Men
As they journeyed to the shrine,
Where they found the Babe and Mary,
Radiant with His love divine,

Come again—an angel message—
And guide you to your journey's end—

And may there dwell in your heart,
always,
Peace and good will to men.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA

Reporter: Mrs. Chas. Rinkenberger

Nov. 11, we enjoyed Bro. Ben Banwart of Lamar. He spent the week end with his son, Harvey, and family.

We had our Thanksgiving program Nov. 18. Bro. Phil Gutwein of Francesville had the meditation, which we enjoyed a lot.

On Sat. evening, Nov. 24, we had three souls that brought their testimony before the church. They were Garnet Nuest, Frank Gude-man and Steve Bucher. It adds so much joy to our church, when we see there are souls willing to give up this world and follow the Lord. May we all pray for each other to stay true to the Lord and what we promised God when we repented of our sins.

A birth—Don and Nila Curry have a daughter, born Nov. 29, Brenda Sue.

An old sister gave me this poem:

A Day to Be Remembered

When I was just a little girl, we'd spend Thanksgiving Day
At Grandpa's big, old-fashioned house, some fifty miles away;
The family always gathered there at Grandpa's own request,
But there was one occasion, more special than the rest.

It seemed as if that day was such a happy one to share;
The house was full of laughter, spicy smells hung in the air.
The table lay in waiting, with its cloth of gleaming white,
And Grandma's wedding silver had never looked so bright.

There were children of all ages, many more than just a few;
There were nieces, there were nephews, and aunts and uncles, too.

There were even second cousins, whose names I can't recall,
But the number didn't matter—there was good enough for all.

The bird was on the platter, a lovely sight to see,

All golden brown and juicy like a turkey ought to be;
There were mounds of mashed potatoes and a dish of candied sweets,
There were turnips, creamed onions and Grandma's picked beets.

There was gravy in the gravy-boat, and jelly in the bowl,
And home-made bread . . . biscuits, that would delight the very soul;
Grandpa did the carving with a bold and practiced hand,
Complimenting Grandma, that the dinner looked just grand.

And when the plates were passed around, we bowed our heads in prayer,
As Grandpa asked God's blessing on everybody there . . .
Please keep us close together, and help us to be good
And always love each other, the way a family should.

And when our life is over, please, let us meet again,
So we can be a family up in heaven, Lord. Amen . . .
So many years have rolled along since that Thanksgiving day.
Grandpa isn't with us now; he quietly passed away.

Family ties grew weaker since we lost the Grand old man
Who keep us close together in a warm, united clan . . .
Still, I'm pretty sure that Grandpa will be waiting for the crowd,
To come and sit beside him, clothed like heav'nly white cloud.

LEO, INDIANA

Reporter: Mrs. Elias Souder

Here is something of the whereabouts of our young people. Leon Stoller is in medical school in Indianapolis, finishing his course. In a few months, he will be serving his internship. His brother, Harry Jo Stoller, has been accepted to medical school, and is at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. His wife and two sons are living there. Carol Winzeler is also in school at Indiana University.

The Sunday School is planning a Christmas program for the evening of Dec. 23 at the Fellowship Center.

Bros. Samuel Aeschliman of Bluffton and Theo Beer of Milford

visited the Leo church, Tues. evening, Dec. 11. They read and explained the memorandum. Their wives accompanied them. Fort Wayne church was also represented.

Sunday, Dec. 2, Bro. Samuel Aeschliman was here. Ruth Gorman gave her testimony and was baptized. In giving her testimony, she spoke of the recent death of their baby boy, and how it hastened her becoming a child of God. The following lines are so true for her:

Beautiful hands at the gateway
tonight,
Faces all shining with radiant
delight,
Eyes looking down from yon
Heavenly Home,
Beautiful hands, they are beckon-
ing, come.

Beautiful hands of a little one,
see,
Baby voice calling, O mother for
thee;
Rosy cheeked darling, the joy of
the home
Taken so early is beckoning
Come!

Marie Schlatter, who has been so ill, is on the mend at her home, but not able to attend church services.

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Reporter: Aaron A. Sauder

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." St. Luke 2:14. May we, as the angels, join in praising God for His wonderful Gift. Out of love to mankind, God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might become children of God and heirs with Christ, thus enjoying everlasting life in those heavenly mansions. We should always remember the boundless love of our Saviour, in that He gave His life for us; in return, may we be willing to live for Him, so that He will acknowledge us and present us to His Father as His own, and then we shall be with the Lord for evermore. Not only at this Christmas season, but throughout the New Year, may we join hearts and voices in our thanks for our many blessings.

Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Sauder, Brenda, and Mark of Elkhart spent the Thanksgiving week end with Bro. Eugene's family. Sis.

Anna Schneider, Kathy and Joe, of Remington also visited here on Sunday, November 25.

Our visitors on Sunday, Dec. 2, included Bro. Jacob Schweitzer of Bluffton; Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz and children of Paulding; Bro. Fred Oesch, and Bro. and Sis. Dary Skutt of Alto. We enjoyed having what Bro. Fred gave us, a Gospel message in both the morning and afternoon services.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Reporter: Mrs. Gus Weltz

At this writing, we are practically snowbound. The weather is very cold; it has been hitting near the zero mark for several mornings. Traveling is very dangerous; we only drive when necessary.

Roy Barth, eldest son of Levi and Lyda Riggerbach Barth, died very suddenly on November 30. While he had never enjoyed good health, he was seemingly as well as usual, prior to an hour before death came. He leaves his widow, Eva Winer Barth; one sister Mabel; three brothers, Herbert of New Martinsville, Harry and Clarence of Jensen Beach, Florida. Funeral services and interment took place on Sunday, December 2. He owned and operated the Barth Newsstand for many years, and for several years had been Executive Secretary for Doolin Federal Savings and Loan Association. He will be greatly missed by his associates and his family.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, left in mid-November for Port Charlotte, Florida, where they will make their home.

Sam Kaufman was very unfortunate on December 8, when he fell down the basement steps in his home and suffered a very badly injured ankle. He is able to be on crutches, but suffers much pain.

Leslie Burton, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burton and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burton, was very ill in the local hospital in early December.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth of Parkersburg, Mr. and Mrs. Will Riggerbach and son of Canton, O., attended the funeral services here for Roy Barth, on December 2.

Homer Schupbach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Schupbach, who lives in Wheeling, has been very ill in the Ohio Valley Hospital in Wheeling.

Joe Witschey, formerly of New Martinsville but in recent years of Wadsworth, O., underwent eye surgery several weeks ago and is reported to be doing nicely. He is a brother of Della and Will Witschey.

PULASKI, IOWA

Reporter: Mrs. Ray Martin

We have our Christmas here in the usual way, except we have our Christmas Sunday School program in a home, since our group is so small.

Bro. and Sis. Roger Moser and family, Bro. and Sis. Joe Weigand, Bro. and Sis. Edwin Banwart, Bro. and Sis. Hartzell Schmidtgal, Bro. and Sis. Bob Schrock, and Bro. and Sis. Bob Frank of Oakville visited us on the 4th of November.

Other visitors this month were Sis. (Mrs.) Sam Martin and family of Princeville, Bro. and Sis. Glen Martin and family of Oakville, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Drayer, Velma and Russel Eckhoff and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Burgett of Cissna Park.

Bro. and Sis. Chris Martin of Princeville; Bro. and Sis. Eli Grimm, Bro. and Sis. Reuben Anliker, Bro. Nathan Banwart, Bro. Paul Banwart, Sis. Clara Banwart, Sis. Florence Banwart, Sis. Joyce Banwart and Sis. Sarah Kropf of West Bend visited with Bro. and Sis. Albert Wuthrichs this past month.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Reporter: Carlton J. Lanz

Sis. Jennie Schupka was transferred, recently, from our church home here to the Apostolic Christian Home at Mansfield. Sister Jennie was originally from New Jersey, where with her folks (now all deceased), she had spent the most part of her life, before coming to Rockville. We hope she finds contentment at her new home.

Sis. Bertha Ackerman, also of the church home here died on November 9. She was 85. She had been in failing health for some time, however. Her interment took place in Ellington Center Cemetery. Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl officiated at the services, assisted by Bro. Albert Schneider.

We enjoyed the fellowship and good company of our young visitors, the week end of November 11. They were Bros. Roger Aberle and Leland and Eldon Plattner of Sabetha. A couple of nice evenings

were spent together, one at Bro. Edwin and Sis. Elsie Hoffmans and one at Bro. Edwin and Ernestine Aberles home. Hymns were sung, scriptures read and prayers offered in both homes, after which, refreshments were served.

Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter, on Nov. 17, opened to the public their new laundering and dry cleaning establishment. The building is ultramodern in design. Installed are the most modern machines and equipment available. We extend, to them, our best wishes. Several of our members and friends are employed by the laundry. Bro. Emanuel is our church treasurer.

Thanksgiving Day services were held, as usual, on Thursday, Nov. 22. Although a cold, drenching rain fell for the most part of the morning, making the weather most disagreeable, still, we enjoyed a sizeable attendance. Bro. John Bahler, our elder, preached the sermon. Later in the day, however, the weather cleared and turned colder. Yet in most homes, with families together, at their dinner tables, we can be sure it was comfortable and pleasant.

Sis. Audrey Bahler's and Bro. Arthur Graf's affiance was announced on Sunday, Nov. 25, by Bro. John Bahler. Audrey is Sis. Olga and the late Bro. Gottfried Bahler's daughter; Arthur is Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Betty Graf's son of Akron.

Our sister, Harriet Welti, new in faith, was baptized Sunday, Nov. 25. Her testimony disclosed humbleness and sincerity. We rejoice together, and thank God for His Divine Love and Redemption.

A very fine dinner was served, Saturday evening at the home of the Adolph Bahlers in South Windsor, in a farewell tribute to Bro. Frederick Pohl of Burlington, Iowa. Eighteen months have, so soon, passed since he first came to Rockville from West Point, N.Y., where he has been stationed. Many nice hours we spent together . . .

To those we love and see from time to time . . . To those with

whom we're somehow out of touch . . . To all our good friends, Christmas remains a time of pleasant recollections . . . A time once again to extend to all, Our best wishes for the Holiday Season.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS Reporter: Irene Hodel

Bro. and Sis. Ralph Knepp announced the engagement of their daughter, Carol, to Raymond Luginbuhl, son of Bro. and Sis. Herman Luginbuhl.

Our dear old brother Joseph Hoffman, who is now staying at the Morton Nursing Home, was with us on the 11th, as he wanted to take his turn in serving lunch here once more. We all enjoyed having him with us for the day, and hope he will continue to visit us when he can.

Bro. and Sis. Bob Miller were with us for the day. They were visiting her mother, Mrs. Joseph Pfister and family. Also, Bro. and Sis. Joe Klopfenstein of Gridley and Bro. and Sis. Leroy Huber of Eureka were present. We certainly enjoy hearing them all. We were happy to see many here from Milford, too.

We were sorry to hear our sister, Mrs. Clarence Mangold, fell and broke her kneecap. She is home again now and doing fairly well.

It is always a happy occasion to see many home for Thanksgiving. We were all very "Thankful" to have our dear elder, Dave Mangold, with us for services for the first time since his illness. We pray the dear Lord will give him good health to carry on his duties, for he is much needed in our congregation.

We enjoyed having Princeville and Morton folks with us the 25th.

We were grateful to have Bro. Rudy Graf and wife with us for services on Monday night, the 26th.

We were pleased to hear, our dear sister Lena Shaefer could go

to Rest. She was failing in health for years, and died Wednesday, November 28, at the age of 93. Surviving are six daughters, Sisters Lydia, Minnie Caroline, Frieda and Marie, all at home, Mrs. Emma Frank of Morton; one son, Bro. Jacob of here. Five sons and one daughter preceded here in death, beside her husband, Bro. William, who was one of our ministers before his death in 1951.

A son, Nathan, was born on November 30 to Bro. and Sis. Ben Fehr. He has five sisters (including one set of twins) and three brothers (including one set of twins). His grandmothers are Sisters Tillie Fehr and Alice Funk of here.

Bro. and Sis. Edmond Kloter and Bro. and Sis. Walter Koehl were here Dec. 2 for services. We enjoyed the day with them. They were guests of Bro. and Sis. Dave Mangolds.

Bro. and Sis. Irvin Leman have moved to Morton, where Sis. Leona is employed at the Nursing home. Their new address is Brentwood Avenue. We will miss them here.

We were delighted to have Bro. Sam Aeschliman with us Wednesday night, the 5th, for services. He was accompanied by Bro. and Sis. Dan Steffen and Bro. and Sis. Henry Stoller of Bluffton. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Joe Getz of Morton, Joe Klopfenstein, Silas Leuthold of Princeville, Leroy Huber and many others. We enjoyed a blessed evening.

We were happy in hope for our dear brother, Sam Zimmerman, who closed his eyes in death, Dec. 5, at the age of 92, being bedfast for years. Surviving are, his wife; four daughters, Sis. Julia at home, Francis of Peoria, Sis. Emma and Elsie of Chicago; six sons, Dave of La Grange, Edward and Eugene of Peoria, Andy, Robert and Raymond from here; and one sister, Mary Zimmerman, in the Eureka Hospital.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?
Write us, or tell one of the reporters, if so.