

“. . . God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

“. . . Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”



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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

LOVE LOOKS BEYOND!

Bro. William Stettner

"And it came to pass . . . that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, **here I am**. And he said, Take now thy son . . . Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." From Genesis 22

Now, "Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold", Genesis 13:2, but God did not ask for any of his cattle, nor his silver and gold. God asked only for that which was nearest to his heart, his only son, which was the son of the promise.

St. Matthew 10:37, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me."

The following article is not a parable, nor a fairy tale, but a true event, which, according to the old family record, took place nearly one hundred years ago. At that time, a family lived in Europe. They had a number of children.

Now, we as fathers and mothers who have children all know and experience that there are no two children just alike. Even though they eat at the same table the same food, receive the same teachings from their parents, and, from appearance, look so much alike that we are able to tell to which family they belong, yet in some way and another there is a difference in their nature or understand-

ings, never two just exactly alike.

Now, in many families, the father must be away from home, at his work, but the children are around their mother, all day long. So, children naturally are closer to the mother.

In this family, as in other families, the children were not all alike.

Here was one little girl who was entirely different from all the rest. As young as she was, she was so understanding and so motherly. Her whole nature was just full of love and peace.

One day, the father said that he was going to bring home a present for one of the children. This little girl spoke up and said, "Father, bring home one for each, so that there will not be any quarrel." Among the others, in every way she displayed such a nature that was loving and peaceful, quiet, different than the average.

While the mother loved all her children, naturally, there was a special love for this darling.

As the days went on, what happened? This loving child became sick. The all-wise God let it come to pass that this dear, loving child died. We can all imagine what sorrow and grief filled the hearts of the parents, and the other children. Especially the mother (now her dearest one was gone), how her heart was wounded and broken.

It was hard for mother to give her up. "So," the mother thought to herself, "I know what I will do. I will cut off some of my darling's

hair, and put it away, so I will always have something from her, and will look at it from time to time." The day came, and the remains of the child was placed into the bosom of the earth, which is the mother of all flesh.

One day passed by after another. Many tears were shed, and many a sigh was uttered.

As more days passed by, the dear mother became very much disturbed in her heart, became very unrestful, and did not have the peace of heart as she should have. This feeling kept getting worse from day to day. So, when she became so burdened, she went to her elder, and opened her heart to him, and told him that she had cut off three locks of hair from the little girl's head, so she would always have something from her.

The elder softly told her, "It will be well for you to dispose of those three locks of hair." He could feel that her heart was attached to them.

She took the elder's advice. She again found peace and rest in her heart.

We can learn from this experience, that we can love our children dearly, but if we go too far and idolize them (or anything else) the Holy Spirit will chastise us, for which we should be thankful.

Let everyone who reads this article examine himself, to see if we have anything in our hearts, or homes, that we cannot give up for the love of Jesus.

CAROL OF THE CHILDREN

Henry Souder Jr.

Beyond, how sweet!

How sweet is that perfect home, in peace. Always, home has carols of the children. Even splendor of children our Father has given.

How perfect is perfection!

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

Every day is Christmas eve, with love. Hope catches strains . . . beautiful, undying melodies . . .

In an old-fashioned home of long ago was the old kitchen range. It was the heat in cold. Wood, gathered in other day, furnished a brisk blaze. It was workshop for delicious taste at family table.

Near the stove, the darlings had their place. The other children could be active and normal. 'Round the old family hearth, these special ones won a place in the heart.

The little boy got too close to the heat. There was smoke, and flame. All was quickly over. The angels came. Two little hearts went home.

Time went by. That generation grew up. Another came and grew.

"Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table." The voice of Bro. Herman Heuni was heard, reading from Psalm 128. It was the wedding day of Dwight and Betty Souder.

Today, there are four round about their table. The baby is Kalisa, not quite two.

The Saviour showed. There is something about children that is as beautiful as home. They breathe with the sparkle of morning.

Kalisa has known pain and surgery, braces and fear. Her smile and sweetness radiate simplicity in pure beauty.

When Kalisa came, there was a hole in her back. A form of meningitis had taken a toll. One little foot was twisted, the other, part was not.

The good often does not come easy. Love in the family, as well as the church, looks beyond 24 hours to mould. Love can always be kind!

"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."

The advice of one doctor was not to do anything. Let things as they are. Daddy Dwight loved his crippled animal, his pet; how much

more did he care for his crippled baby!

The hole was closed with delicate, skilled fingers. Formerly, in such an operation, there was danger to the head. Medical paths have triumphed in this. Think how God, who created the mind that can pioneer, is unfathomable with His wisdom!

"... that I may shew him kindness..." The words are King David's. He had a beautiful friendship with Jonathan. Now, Jonathan's lips were silent. David had lovely memory. He longed to bestow love on one of Saul's house, for the sake of Jonathan.

Kalisa came to church. It was the first time, divine timing. Bro. John Bollier read about Jonathan's boy, eating at royal table. "So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet."

God has in His plans this little one.

A doctor has pioneered in medical history. Where the fibia, or shin bone, is absent at birth, surgery substitutes the small bone. Certain inserts are placed at the knee, and the body forms a knee-cap. With this, very valuable knee action is given.

Surgery has succeeded. A little

forget what great love the Father has manifested on us through his beloved son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

We have nothing that we can bring unto Him but our hearts, our prayers, and thanksgiving for all that He has done for us. Not only did He redeem us from everlasting destruction, but He also has helped us. He has carried us in His arms of patience and longsuffering. He has blessed us above our expectation, and He had mercy on us and did not deal with us as we so often deserved.

We gladly fall down upon His footstool, to humble ourselves and to ask for the spirit of prayer, that we may bring a prayer before Him that is acceptable. It is indeed a pleasant occupation, to pray to our Father, who is rich with heavenly gifts and gladly gives to all those that ask Him.

When we take a look at the millions of people that are in darkness,

knee-cap is forming in Kalisa's knee. The one foot is formed to receive a man-made limb. The other foot is being straightened.

We can read of "the wonderful things" that Jesus did, "and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David;"

Jesus loves children. He delights to hear their sweet voices carol His praise. Little ones add something they can, beautifully. When they sing with the church, it is sweet to hear.

Children are a delightful part of the coming ages of ages. It is abiding.

"And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

Dreams are sometimes treasures. If they show a truth, they are something to be considered.

Mother had a serious operation. So near and so beautiful, almost as if she could reach out and touch, was her dear mother. She was the mother of the old-fashioned home. About her were those special little ones. Their faces were as beautiful little pansies, in so delicate and lovely a purple.

Yes, Jesus loves them. We, too,

[Continued on Page 28]

NEWS

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY August Mueller

See what manner of love the Father bestows on us, that we can be called his children. What a blessed privilege we have, that we can humble ourselves before his throne of grace, to bring thanks and praise unto his holy name.

How fortunate are we when we awaken in the morning and see the morning sun in splendor, proclaiming its Maker's fame. If there were no sun, this would indeed be a dark, dreary, cold world. Nothing could grow. No human being could exist.

We are at all times indebted to bring thanks and praise, honour and glory unto his high and holy name, for His wonderful creation, but most of all for the redemption of our soul. We did not seek Him. He called us when we yet were far away from him. We should never

that know not the Lord and do not want that the Lord should rule over them, should we then not try to do what we can with His help and grace? Each true believer has talent. It is our duty to see that we gain. We need the grace and help of

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our Father; we can do nothing of ourselves.

We thank our Father that He yet calls souls to repentance. It is our daily prayer that all those that know his way and yet do not come could yet be awakened from their slumber of sin and darkness, and enter into the ark of safety, ere the door will be closed and no man can be saved anymore.

We also pray for all our brothers and sisters in faith, that the Lord may bless them and keep them, but especially we pray for the sick, the afflicted, the widows and orphans, for those that are in high age and wish that the Father would call them home.

We sing in a hymn, "Fording the river, one by one." We can not all go home at the same time, so we must have patience, and keep on praying, hoping till our time comes. We can not step over our bound, which the Father has set for us.

Where faith is, there is love. Where love is, there is peace. Where peace is, there is blessing. Where blessing is, there is God. Where God is, there is no want.

Yesterday, Nov. 11, Sis. Sophie Keller celebrated her 92nd birthday. God be with her and bless her. Sunday, Nov. 17 . . . We had visitors from Rockville, brothers and sisters, about 20 in number. We truly enjoyed their visit. We thank them, one and all, and invite them to visit us again. These are indeed hours of blessing. We can greet brothers and sisters from other congregations, and feel that their hearts are filled with love, and worship together. Many hymns of praise were sung to God's honor and praise.

We cannot thank God, our Father, enough that we can humble ourselves in this time of grace, and call Him our heavenly Father. Where could we find someone that could bestow on us the gifts which our heavenly Father does bestow? To Him belongeth all honor, praise and glory for ever and ever. Amen. When we observe how the world is eager to serve the evil one, should it then not be our aim and ambition to serve our heavenly Father.

Sunday, the 24th . . . the singing of last Sunday still rings in my ears. It was beautiful. It is not often that we hear such good singing. Singing is a gift of God. We are told by the poet that we should not hang our harps on the weeping

willow trees, nor grow tired in giving God praise for all that He has done for us.

Sunday, Dec. 1 . . . We thank God that He keeps His promise, that where two or three are assembled in His name, He would be among them. We were few in number, yet we could feel that He was with us with His blessings and His peace. It was a day of joy and blessing.

I was told that Sis. Flo Keyser is in critical condition. It is indeed a very sad case.

The late President Kennedy said in one of his speeches, that we should not ask what the country can do for us, but what we can do for the country. So in the spiritual life, we should not ask what the Lord will do for us, but what we can do for the Lord. If we stay close to Him and work for Him, He will surely do His part.

I think by the time this writing will reach the Silver Lining readers, it will be close to New Year. My wife and I wish one and all a "Happy New Year," and may God bless one and all. Amen.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Faye Wackerle & Marlene Mosher

Dec. 15 marks the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. and Sis. Fred and Anna (Wackerle) Ruegsegger. After their marriage, the following summer they turned to the Lord in repentance. They were blessed with four children, Sis. Eleanor Munsel, Bro. Glen, Bro. Fred, and Ben; 18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bro. Fred and Sis. Anna are not in very good health, but are able to attend church about every Sunday, for which they are very thankful.

Bro. Floyd Wieland from Detroit ministered to us, Thanksgiving evening. His wife came with him.

We had other visitors with us from Alto, Bluffton and Detroit.

Christmas Joy

"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, this gift of His Son, the Lord Jesus.

On this Christmas day, we can-

not but be filled with joy and gratitude for the salvation we have in Christ. Our Saviour brings with Him good tidings of great joy (Luke 2:10). As this good news comes to us, we are to transmit it to others, through a consecrated life, looking for the "blessed hope" of His coming again. This Jesus is the One who gave Himself on Calvary's cross for our sins, the One who has opened the way to Heaven for every believer.

This is the good news for this Christmas Day, and always.

God's Autumn Rainbow

Green were the forests at summer's close,
Then how it happened no one really knows,
But God brushed a rainbow.

It splashed upon the leaves of trees and vines;
The colors ran and blended into strange designs
That seemed to flow . . .

In harmony across the hills and and vales,
Along the banks of streams and forest trails
and each hedge-row.

A color pageant really grand to see,
Robes of splendor adorning every tree,
It seemed to grow . . .

Until it felled the world with colors bright.
A beautiful and awe-inspiring sight!
A gorgeous show.

Viewed on autumn morn, there is no doubt
That it has really come about . . .
God's autumn rainbow.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich

Our cup runneth over. We have had so many blessings the past month.

In the Bro. Wendell Gudeman family, there is a place that has been happily filled by a new little face, Randall Philip, born Nov. 18.

The Lord has been so good to us in sending Bros. Noah Schrock and Joe Waibel into our midst, and He supplied us with what our brothers, Lester Huber and Wendell Gudeman, felt they needed, a

brother to help in the ministry. Bro. Elmer Bucher was chosen by the congregation. May God richly bless him with added strength. The first words that he spoke to us were in memory of our dear departed brother, Philip Gutwein.

We all were so thankful for Earl Anliker, son of Bro. Ben Anliker, that God spared him from an awful tragedy, in a mishap he had with his truck.

Bro. and Sis. Mike Weyne gave us a pleasant surprise at our bi-monthly Sunday evening singing hour. He read and spoke to us, saying what joy came to his heart to see the young and old singing together. That also was our great joy, having dear Bro. Mike and our precious children for a Sunday evening gathering.

We here at Francesville wish a blessed Christmas to all loved ones of our precious faith.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Mrs. B. E. Getz

While visiting with Uncle Sam Getz, I was interested in learning he was baptized almost seventy years ago. There were 120 who repented and were baptized at that time. Elder George Welk did all the work of hearing testimonies and baptizing, nine, ten or eleven in one day. The session would last late into the night, and Bro. Welk often did not stop for supper.

There are nine of the converts still living in Morton, Sis. Nancy Miller, who was the first to be baptized, Louisa Hauter, Sam Getz, Sam Ackerman, Pauline Wiedman, John Kaufman, Ben Pflederer, Mary Grimm and Jos. Bauman. Also in the group were Bro. Menno Steiner, of Sabetha; Dan Ackerman and Elizabeth Voelpel of Peoria; Emma Wittmer of Kansas; Ida Brenkman, Utah; and Lydia Moser of Elgin, Ill.

Sis. Christine Herman is convalescing at home, after sustaining a badly broken arm some weeks ago. Bro. Albert Wiedman fell, breaking his arm.

Bro. John Oberlander is recovering nicely, after having had major surgery.

We were happy to have Bros. David Mangold and Frank Woertz with us Nov. 10, and Bro. Ezra Feller brought us the Thanksgiving message. Bro. Leroy Huber assisted Bro. Getz in hearing the testi-

mony and baptism of Howard Lemans, son of the Eli Lemans of Fairbury, and Leah Hoffman. Sam Hoffman, who is quite sick, was baptized in his home, Friday evening.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Velta Laukhuf

Location: Women's Club Building, Corner of Park and Palm Avenue. Time: 1:00 P.M., starting Jan. 5.

Again this season we plan to assemble in God's name. This beautiful building is located about two blocks from downtown Sarasota, just off the route, US 41. We are very thankful to God, and to the women's organization of Sarasota, for the use of this 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 will be staying at the Bahia Court, 1206 South Tamiami Tr., just across from the large shopping center. 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.

Sarasota is located on the west coast of Florida, about 35 miles south of St. Petersburg. It has a population of 35,000.

If you are visiting in Florida, we welcome you to assemble and worship with us. Remember the time, 1:00 P.M., as another denomination, with a name almost identical to our church, has this place rented in the forenoon.

BERN, KANSAS

Mrs. Lester Hartter

Our church received its annual fall housecleaning. The day was ideal, weather-wise. There was a good attendance of willing workers.

Many visitors and local folk witnessed the marriage of Sis. Erma Esslinger and Bro. Wm. Gerber, solemnized by Elder Lester Hartter, Nov. 10. May God guide their Christian life together. Bro. Jim Bahr, Fort Scott, was a guest minister that Sunday.

The Bern community extends its sympathy to the Bro. Eli Meyer Jr. family, in the death of his father, Eli Meyer Sr., due to a car accident.

Historical Note: It seems that Matthias Strahm II was the donor of the acreage given to the church

in 1880 (in church history). Please excuse (if there are any errors; this is all early history).

The trip to Lester for the church dedication and ordination was inspiring to those of us who attended. We were glad to also pay a visit to our aunt, Elsie Olson, at Story City, Iowa.

Jim Zaugg, West Bend, who is attending trade school in Omaha, north about 100 miles, spent one week end here, with relatives and friends.

Again the church keeps Christmas,
Each home and heart alight.
The faithful praise a Saviour,
Born one holy night.

And as you, too, keep Christmas,
May you feel His presence near.
May His tender love surround you
Through a happy day and year.

. . . And yet, on Christmas, especially when the snow falls over our rolling countryside, I am homesick for the land I used to think this was. Men so often choose the easy way. Will not the anger of the Lord descend upon those who have been given much, and yet have not found the ways of peace? St. John 5:28, 29.

Elder Bro. Lester Hartter read and expounded the conference letter. When so much effort is put forth for us, surely we will want to obey God's teachings and commandments.

Evelyn Wittmer is back at worship, after submitting to major surgery.

Nanette, small daughter of Bro. Louis Meyer Jrs., has been hospitalized, suffering with rheumatic fever.

This month, our friends, Morris and Marjorie Edelman and Wilfred Strahm, were announced. On Saturday evening, they gave their testimonies. They were baptized on Sunday, the 30th, by Elder Lester Hartter. Bro. Joe Aberle was ministering unto us that day. Welcome guests were from Forrest, Eureka, and Kiowa. A cooperative supper was held at the Bro. Roy Rokey home, after which hymns were sung.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Arthur Haab

The oldest sister in our congregation celebrated her 90th birthday. Christina Rapp Kammerer re-

ceived over 120 cards and letters from her relatives, brethren, and friends, to help her celebrate the occasion.

Sis. Helen Sorg is going to spend the winter in California.

Sis. Irma Haab and Bro. Millard Stoller were united in marriage, by Bro. Theo Beer on Nov. 17. We had many visitors that Sunday, including Bro. Irvin Stoller from Latty and Bro. Vernon Leman from Eureka.

The Silver Thimble Sewing group went to the Kosciusko County Home to sing and bring some spiritual cheer to the residents there. Refreshments were served. A group of young married couples and Bro. Henry Beer went to the Alfran Nursing Home in Warsaw, to hold a service for the old people.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Paula Haab are the parents of a baby girl, Jill Rae.

Friend Virginia Hoover was proved and baptized by Elder Bro. Theo Beer, the last week end in November.

We did not have our Sunday School Thanksgiving program, due to the death of Joel Beer, of Mansfield.

Our Christmas program is to be held on Dec. 15.

AKRON, OHIO Grace Schuckert

Our spiritual needs were so abundantly supplied, when we were visited by Elder Bro. Joe Wai-bel and Bro. Ezra Feller, who came with their wives. Also visiting were others from Bay City and Cissna Park. Among them was a couple who first began attending services at one of our churches not too long ago. Since then, they and their two daughters have become believers in the faith. They had as neighbors, members of the Bay City church, and so became interested through what they heard and saw in them. It brought to my mind the thought, what do neighbors see in me? Am I doing what I can? In the Lord's parable of the talents, the one with only one talent was not condemned because he had less than the others, but because he failed to use what he had been given.

Ronnie French, son of friends Louise and Roland French, has begun six-months training with the National Guard.

A year has elapsed since Sis.

Susie Palmer passed away, at the age of 72. Her responsibilities were large, as she labored at home in the raising of her family, as well as away from home at times for my parents and many others, to supplement the family income. Whenever there was work to be done at or for the church, she was present to extend a helping hand. The Palmer home has now been sold. Her two daughters who lived with her have taken up residence elsewhere. The home is located near the church, and frequent passings bring back many memories.

The "Unspeakable" Gift

In this season of gift-giving, we are reminded that the greatest of all gifts is the love of God which was given through the gift of His Son, Jesus, to a sinful world. Therein lies the answer to the turmoil of the earth, with its sorrow and sin. A new year is beginning, and with it many are making resolutions. Some of these will be broken soon, but the one worthwhile is contained in the words of wisdom spoken from the pulpit Sunday, that "We make God's will our will, and avail ourselves of all the good He has for us in this appointed time of grace." In so doing, we acquire for ourselves "something to live by, and something to die by."

I reported last month the birth of Thomas Carl to friends Carl and Kathy (Gangel) Graf. In printing this, the last name "Graf" was omitted.

ATHENS, ALABAMA Ann Wagler

Carolyn Robinson and Billy Russell were married recently. She is the daughter of William and Sis. Charlean Robinson.

Delores Kyle is in Birmingham hospital with polio. She is the granddaughter of Nels and Lois Kelly.

Elder Noah Bauman visited the week end of Nov. 24. Douglas King gave his testimony and was baptized. He is the son-in-law of Sis. Ruth Lott.

The Landersville young people met a couple of times this month and visited Shut-ins Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tom Norton and Mrs. Wm. Posey. They made woven baskets and filled them with wrapped candy, for patients at the Moulton Hospital. Marie Oliver and Linda Fuller personally visited each pat-

ient on Thanksgiving Day, to present these.

The quartet from Peoria and Tremont, Bob Weyeneth, Paul and Ed Meister and Bob Getz, came Nov. 16. They sang at the Trinity Rest Home, Flint T.B. Sanitarium, for Shut-in Rayburn Pierson and others, and at the churches on Sunday. A Saturday night meeting was held at Roy Barnetts, with much good singing.

Bros. Jack Bollier and Bill Klopfenstein from Leo brought things from the Leo, Ft. Wayne and Bluffton churches, and at the churches on Sunday. We thank each one from our hearts, for the love shown.

A group of six young people from Cissna Park came down over Thanksgiving. Edna Moser made new curtains for the nursery classroom, and redecorated it. All willingly helped in many ways. We thank the ladies of the Cissna Park church for the love shown in many ways during the past year. May the Lord bless each one that shared.

Each child in the Sunday Schools received treats at Thanksgiving time, due to the generosity of those who remembered our children here.

Freddie Moss has been a shut-in for some weeks, with Bright's Disease. He is the son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ruby Moss of Rt. 1, Prospect, Tenn.

The ladies of the Athens church met at Mrs. Kathleen Gee's home, Nov. 14.

Mr. Dell Brown has been in the hospital for the past couple weeks. He is faithful in attending services each Sunday, when he is able. He is ready and waiting each Sunday to be picked up, and always grateful and appreciative.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA Carolyn Gerber Delutha Moser

November 9, 10, 11 Sisters Kathy and Joan Gerber, Bro. Roger Reimschisel, along with the writers, visited Friend Max Reimschisel, who is stationed at Fort Riley, near Junction City, Kansas.

On November 12, Bro. Edward U. Gerber passed away, at the age of 54. Death, attributed to a heart condition, followed an illness of one day. Surviving, in addition to the wife, are five sons, Danny J., Ronald G., Philip R., Jerry L., and Steven E; two daughters, Mrs. Richard (Rose) Kipfer and Peggy Ann. Also surviving are two brothers, Eli of Bluffton and

George of Clearwater, Florida; three sisters, Mrs. Aldine Lude, Mrs. Deloy Mills of Ft. Wayne and Mrs. Albert Carlson of Plymouth. Services were conducted at 1:30, on November 15, at the church, with Elder Sam Aeschliman officiating.

We are thankful to God that the door of grace is still open. Five more dear souls have surrendered their hearts to the Lord. The following friends have been announced for provings and baptisms in the near future: John Pence, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pence, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Baumgartner, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Frauhinger.

Sis. Lydia Kaehr and Bros. Joe Aeschliman and Jake Schweitzer are in the hospital at the time of this writing.

Birth: A son, Samuel Charles, to Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy Kaehr.

On November 24, Bro. Robert Reimschisel and Sis. Louise Fiechter were united in marriage by Elder Sam Aeschliman. We wish them God's richest blessings, as they share life's path together. Many visitors from Latty, Milford, Rittman and Princeville attended the wedding.

Bro. Homer Reineck from Toledo was our visiting minister on November 24.

The memorandum was read to the congregation, December 1.

On December 2, Mrs. Emanuel Gerber arrived in Naumberg, Germany, to join her husband, Emanuel, who is serving with the US Army.

December 3, Bro. Duane Gerber and Friend John Lantz left our community, to serve two years with the Army.

Friend Alvin Kipfer has been discharged, after serving two years with the Army.

The Night of Nights

So many moons had come and gone
Across the heavens fair . . .
Day followed night, night followed
day,
In usual sequence there.

That night, bright angels pierced
the night
With wingspreads 'cross the sky,
Saying sweet words of peace on
earth; . . .
Glory to God on High!

That night the warmth of love had
burned

A pathway through the night;
The humble inn of Bethlehem,
Flooded with holy light.

This night . . . a night of miracles
Differed from all the rest,
For Christ was born to Mary, all
The weary world to bless.

"Then let us go," the shepherds
cried,
"To see this holy sight!"
On, on to Bethlehem they went
On, on into the night.

There, they beheld the infant King,
And worshipped and adored
The One whom God had sent to be
The Saviour . . . Christ the Lord!

This night, so mystical, so sweet,
Differed from all the other,
Because the Saviour came, there's
hope
For every man and his brother.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA Linda and Melva Messner

Bob Pfister of Ft. Wayne visited his parents, the first of the month. His mother, Sis. Lillian Pfister, returned with him to Ft. Wayne, to spend a week visiting her children and relatives.

Visiting this month were Ministering Bro. Al Scheitlin from Elgin, Ill. We had evening services, which were enjoyed by all. Bro. Henry Mogler from Lester ministered to our church, Nov. 24. We always enjoy the blessings, the messages given to us from the good and holy word.

A baby girl, Laneete Lee, was born November 6 to Wayne and Ruby Miller.

Our dear sister, Ida Miller, who is the oldest member in our Winthrop congregation, reached her 90th birthday Nov. 18. The congregation gathered together for hymn singing at the home of her son, Bro. Noah Miller, on the evening of Nov. 17.

Upon attaining such an age, she has had joys, intermingled with sorrow. She has suffered an arthritic condition many years, but has attended services as often as she could. She is thankful for her health, but she has been heard many times to say she wishes she could go "Home." How wonderful to know, there is a place awaiting for the true and faithful! She also

wishes to express her thanks through the Silver Lining for the many cards and gifts she received for her birthday. May God bless her!

Sis. Marguerite Messner has been hospitalized, as a result of a slight stroke. We pray she will soon be better, so she can assemble with us again.

Peace On Earth —

Peace on earth, heaven's voices
brought,
And o'er the earth the echo
wrought,
That first blest Christmas night,
While shepherds in the fields were
near,
The glad triumphal word to hear,
And looked in wonder and in fear,
Before the glorious sight.

Peace on earth! The King of kings
Has come with healing in His wings
For every earthly ill,
But men refused God's gift to
claim,
Refused His right as King to reign,
And led Him forth to die in shame
On grim Golgotha's hill.

Peace on earth! Throughout all
lands!
Our King, the Lamb of Calvary,
Returns in might to reign;
When every earthly knee shall
bow,
And those who proudly spurn Him
now
Shall see His blessed thorn-pierced
brow
Crowned with a diadem.

Peace on earth! Lord, haste the
day
When night's dark shades shall flee
away
Before the rising sun —
When sin and death shall be no
more
And strife and tumult shall be o'er,
And every tongue Thy name adore,
O true and righteous One!

ELGIN, ILLINOIS Louise Steffen Katie Kachelmuss

On Nov. 9, Sue Ann Schock gave her testimony. She was baptized Sunday afternoon. We could again rejoice with the angels over another soul added to the flock. She is the daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Lyla Schock, and a granddaughter of Bro. Herman and Sis.

Della Kellenberger.

We are glad there are still some more souls seeking the Lord in repentance, Morris and Nina Graf Willaert, and their daughter, Norma Utt.

We had services the evening of the 19th, when Bros. Henry Sabo and Robert Beer of Mansfield were with us. It was a blessed evening.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Weiss have a son, John Brian, born Nov. 19.

Sis. Myrtle Kinsinger and sons, Keith and Kenneth, of Pulaski visited here for a few days. They brought with them Sis. Kathryn Williamson, who will stay for awhile with her brother, Bro. Pat, and Sis. Leah Kinsinger. We will enjoy having her in our midst.

On Nov. 24, Bro. Silas Leuthold was with us and assisted our elders in serving Holy Communion, which is always very impressive, strengthening and edifying to all.

We had special church services on Monday, Nov. 25, at 11:00 a.m., in memory of our departed president, John F. Kennedy. Bro. Wm. Stettner spoke to us of how God had let this happen, and we do not know why, but that He must have a purpose, and how we should appreciate and be thankful that in the past three years we have not had war, have had the freedom of religion and have been richly blessed.

Speaking of war, he mentioned of the time when Bro. Spiess was a minister here, a man visited him and told him of the terrifying experience he had in Europe, when the young brothers in the service were lined up in a row. An officer went along and cut off the tips of their fingers, on account of their faith's sake.

Bro. Stettner also spoke of how we will all have to appear before the judgment seat of God some day, and He is no respecter of persons. A poem came to his mind that morning before the service, he said, which he had learned about seventy years ago in school. It had laid dormant in his mind since. It was entitled "The Blue and the Gray." The first stanza ends with,

"Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day;—
Under the one, the Blue;
Under the other, the Gray."

The women strewed flowers, alike

on the graves of the Confederate and the National soldiers.

On Dec. 1, Sis. Marie Moser of here and Bro. Alfred Feucht of Lester were married. Guests were from Lester, West Bend, and Burlington, Milford, Morris, Chicago, Gridley, Tremont, Fairbury, Princeville, Forrest, Roanoke, and Goodfield. Visiting ministers on that day were Bro. Noah Gerber, West Bend; Bro. Harold Gramm, Morris; Bro. Carl Feucht, Lester; and Bro. Robert Grimm, Goodfield.

The marriage was performed by Bro. Kellenberger.

We will have our Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 22.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Schumacher

The ladies' sewing group met at the home of Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman, to pack Christmas boxes for boys in the Service, shut-ins, and others far from home.

Harold Schieber was in the hospital, for removal of a cyst from his back, but we are glad that he is back home and able to be at his work again.

Our congregation gathered with the Goodfield people for services on the day of President Kennedy's funeral. They gathered with us, then, on Thanksgiving Day. Since we are only a few miles apart, we enjoy assembling together for these occasions.

The Sunday School Program is to be held at the church on Wednesday evening, December 18. The theme for the program is, "Behold The Star!"

We are happy to report that Sis. Lena Schieber is home, after her stay in the hospital, and is much improved.

Christmas Prayer

Dear Father, as we celebrate the
Birthday of our King,
Help us to bring the type of gifts
that

Thou wouldst have us bring,
Help us to dedicate our lives to
Doing Thy great will,
By being ever willing, all Thy
Missions to fulfill.

May love we have at Christmas-
time
Throughout the WHOLE YEAR
cling,

To keep our hearts ever in tune to
HEAR WHAT ANGELS BRING.

AMEN

CROGHAN — NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Mrs. Lawrence Farney

Mrs. David Schambach

Sis. Martha Steiner had the misfortune to fall and break her hip, during our recent snowstorm. She is a patient in the Lewis County Hospital, where she underwent surgery on Monday. She is expected to remain there for some time.

Sis. Hazel, wife of Bro. William Schneider, also has been a patient at the Lowville Hospital, where she underwent major surgery. She has returned to her home, where she is making a good recovery.

Bro. William Hirschey entered into eternal rest on Friday, November 22. He had been hospitalized only two days, but had been in poor health and was a semi-invalid for several years. One of our few remaining older brothers, he had observed his eighty-seventh birthday on November 2, at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Bro. Norbert and Sis. Doris Steiner. Beside Sis. Doris, he is survived by his widow, Sis. Julia Hunziker Hirschey, two other daughters, Mrs. LaRue (Blanche) McIntyre and Mrs. Royal (Lucille) Schwendy, and nine grandchildren. Funeral services were held from the Naumburg church, where he had been a member for many years. The large attendance attested to the esteem in which he was held. Burial was in the Naumburg church cemetery.

Bro. Carl Virkler is a patient in the Lewis County General Hospital, after suffering a heart attack. All have been deeply concerned for him over the past week, but we are thankful to report his condition is much improved.

Also hospitalized was Sis. Rachel, wife of Bro. Earl Rohr. She underwent major surgery and has been able to return home again.

Jennie Schultz Gerber, daughter of Sis. Rosella Schultz, has arrived in Germany and is reunited with her husband, Emanuel Gerber, son of Bro. Obed and Sis. Leona Gerber of Bluffton. She plans to remain in Germany for the duration of his tour of duty there. Their address is:

PFC Emanuel L Gerber
US 55748718
Hq Battery 1/35 Arty Bn
APO 139 New York New York

Sis. Rosella's son, Ralph Schultz,

and family have also moved from our community, to Wisconsin. Their new address is:

Mr and Mrs. Ralph Schultz
813 Lakeview Avenue
S Milwaukee Wisconsin

A wee Babe, in Bethlehem, in manger did lay,
Long, long years ago on the first Christmas Day,
And I can imagine the warm, loving smile
His mother gave him, in her own gentle style.

'Twas a miracle great in the stable that night,
When Jesus was born, bringing such great light,
And there the wee Babe in a manger was laid,
With no fanfare at all or great accolade.

But the charm of that Child, of Bethlehem of old,
Has reached round the world where the story is told,
And the miracle wrought on that night long ago
Still works in our hearts to bring a warm glow.

JAPAN

Yoshio Yamazaki

I'm sorry President Kennedy was killed in Dallas. We heard about that terrible bad news, and we really felt sorry for such a young, courageous President of the United States. Surely, most of the people in this world respected him and trusted him in all kinds of world problems. Here in Japan, also, we feel very sorry for him, his family and all Americans.

We really feel the end of this world is near, as the Bible tells us. We don't know what the world will be, but God knows. Only one thing we know: All people of this world, even Communists, idol-worshippers, everybody, have to think about what the Bible tells us. It is a frightening thought that the world can be so affected and changed by the horrible act of one foolish man. We Christians should be thinking about more effort for eternal salvation.

At this Christmas-time here in Japan, we do not have any special plan yet, but we think Christmas is not only a world celebration day,

so try to celebrate in a more spiritual way and thank the Lord, for He sent such a great Saviour. Since about 1900 years ago, all human beings are not changed much, and there are still foolish things to do, but how wonderful it is that our Heavenly Father planned to open the way for us through His son.

Bro. Willis went to Tamahata church and met beloved Bro. Yoshito, last Sunday. His health condition was not very good. We don't know what is the Lord's will. However, only one thing we know: That the Lord always accepts our humble prayer. We really ask you brothers and sisters to continue to pray for him, especially.

Citizenship

Willis R. Ehnle

On the morning of Saturday, November 23, I was transplanting some strawberries, on the plot of ground by our Shioda church, in the country. Mr. Ichikawa, who lives near and operates a country store at the front of his home, came over to the fence and called to me, saying in Japanese, "Do you know that President Kennedy has been assassinated?" I said, "You mean he has been killed?" Mr. Ichikawa replied, that such was the news he had just received.

Upon receiving the news, thoughts competed with each other for first place in my mind. "If such a thing can happen, then anything can happen. Tomorrow may be a nuclear war, and the next day the return of Christ."

I began to think of my United States citizenship. In spite of earnest effort to become like the Japanese, in order to win them to Christ, at that moment I felt very much an American. I am a citizen of the United States, and it was my president who was killed. It hurt.

Yet earthly citizenship is not our most important allegiance. Regardless of our nationality, each of us has the opportunity to become a citizen of heaven, where all earthly distinction is lost. I shall be grateful and content, if only in our spiritual citizenship I can be like the Japanese and they like me. Ephesians 2:19: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God . . ."

LESTER, IOWA

Emelie M. Knobloch

Among the ill: Sis. Emma Feucht was hospitalized for a few days, for observation. Nancy Knobloch had surgery and is recuperating at home. Sis. Edith Bick suffered a stroke, and was well enough to be moved to a home in Rock Rapids. Bro. August Knobloch has been moved to a home at Rock Valley, Iowa. His condition remains about the same.

George Meyer, son of Bro. and Sis. Alvia Meyer, left for service November 4, and is stationed at Fort Sam. We wish him God's blessings while serving his country.

Births: To Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Meyer, a son, Dean Alan, November 15; to Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Metzger, a son, Blair Alan, November 19.

We had a blessed day November 11, when we were able to hear the testimonies of two friends, LaVonne and Connie Knobloch. They were baptized that same evening. Bros. John Bahler and Rudy Graf assisted Bro. Henry Koehl.

Preparations are being made for our Sunday School Christmas program.

Folks from Bay City; Elgin, Ia.; Elgin, Ill.; Princeville; West Bend; Morris; Winthrop; Bern; Sabetha; Congerville and Mansfield attended Dedication Services of our new addition and remodeled church on November 17. Noah Schrock, Robert Beer, Henry Sabo, Henry Koehl, Jess Schrock, Lester Hartter, Silas Leuthold, and Paul Banwart revealed the word of God to us.

We were unable to hear the services in other parts of the church other than the assembly, because of an electrical difficulty. It really humbles one at a time such as this, to think mankind is never appreciative enough of the convenience we do have. It was a wonderful day of blessing to meet loved ones from far and near, who shared such unto us. There were nearly 600 who attended the services and the dinner, served in the church basement.

Bro. Leo Moser was ordained elder, November 17, following dedication services. We wish him God's rich blessings in this duty and responsibility which has fallen upon him.

This being the holiday season, may we really think deeply of the true meaning of Christmas. Christ

mas is the birthday of a Saviour, who was born for the redemption for all mankind. May God's blessings be bestowed on each and everyone in this coming year. May all our shut-ins be well remembered during this lonely time, when they are unable to be with loved ones for the holidays.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS Ruth Ricketts

Coming as a pleasant surprise was the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Gloria Stoller, daughter of Bro. Lowell and Sis. Clara, and Bro. Bob Walder, son of Sis. Dora Walder of Cissna Park, on November 10. An early spring wedding is planned.

Another surprise came November 12, when twin girls were born to Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette (Rumbold) Graham. A brother, Bruce, welcomed home Doreen Jane and Darlene Beth.

Bros. Ben Fehr of Roanoke and Frederick Knapp of Congerville ministered to us on Sunday, November 17. How thankful we are for their inspiring messages. We are so thankful for young brothers so sincere in the ministry. Others who were here enjoyed the fellowship together. Bro. Richard Fehr was a teacher in Sunday School.

Evening services were held November 19, as Bro. Harvey Grimm and his wife from Bern were here. Bro. Harvey likened repentance to the journey of the children of Israel. We have all crossed the Red Sea, or the beginning of the journey, and are now struggling in the wilderness. How many will cross Jordan? Shouldn't we all give it serious thought?

A number of relatives and friends attended the funeral of Sis. Bertha Feucht in Peoria, November 18. She and Bro. Fred lived in our community for several years before moving. Sis. Bertha was laid to rest in our church cemetery.

Quite a number from our congregation were in West Bend, over the week end of November 24, and attended the wedding of Sister LaVonne Grimm of West Bend and Bro. Verle Kieser of our congregation. May the Lord richly bless them, and may they find Him as their constant guest in the home they are to establish near Princeville.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, inter-

cessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour . . ." (From I Timothy) When word came of the death of our late president, the entire nation was shocked, including all in our community. November 25 being designated as a day of mourning for the late president and a day of prayer for the new president, we assembled in the afternoon, and found comfort being together and carrying out the wishes of the authority of the land.

The church was filled to capacity on Thanksgiving morning. In his prayer, a brother said, "We have so many things to be thankful for, we don't know where to begin." Isn't it true? We really are not in want of any material thing and have so many blessings every day, so therefore, let us be thankful everyday, and remember to give thanks to the One where thanks is due.

The first snow of the season came November 30 and blanketed everything with a beauty of whiteness. We had been experiencing unusually warm weather, and some of the flowers were still blooming.

We had guest ministers again December 1, when Bros. James Hoerr and LeRoy Hartman of Peoria rendered their services to us. Bro. Ben Baurer was coaxed to assist in Sunday School, and I'm sure we all received a blessing. Isn't it wonderful that we have young brothers who are willing to stand before us and proclaim the gospel, with the same teachings of the ministers of old? May they all receive just reward.

This past month found several of our dear ones on the sick list. At the time of this writing, some are still hospitalized. Bro. Florian Streitmatter is able to worship with us again, recovering from a concussion received in a fall from the haymow. We are so thankful that he has recovered so nicely and can be with us again. Sis. Bessie Martin is confined to her home with a leg infection and blood clot. We hope it won't be long until she can be with us again. Sis. Lyola Ringger is recovering in her home, after being hospitalized for a few

days. Rolland, son of Bro. Louie and Sis. Anna Rumbold, had the misfortune to sustain a painful mouth injury, while playing bas ketball. It was necessary to pull three of his upper teeth, as they were pushed into the gum.

Bro. Will Ehle is in the Hospital, receiving treatment for a heart condition. His granddaughter, Jill, nine-year-old daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Buelah, is also in the hospital for observation. The infant son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ was in the hospital several days, suffering from pneumonia. Bro. George Kieser Sr. remains about the same, although he took courage Sunday morning, December 1, and attended morning church. We pray daily for the sick and suffering, that the dear Lord will grant them the grace to face each new day with courage so they may be patient and willing to accept what is laid on them. The Lord has promised not to lay a heavier cross on anyone than they can bear, and if they but ask, He is willing to help them carry it.

Diane Feucht, daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Iola, spent several days in the hospital, suffering from pneumonia. She is now recovering in her home. We hope she will improve fast. Sis. Elda Martin is in the hospital, receiving treatments for a back injury she received in an auto accident. We hope it doesn't prove too serious, and that she will be at home before long.

Bro. Dale Martin, son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise, was recently inducted into the Army. Bro. Eugene Siebenthal is now in Texas also. We pray that the Lord will be near the brothers and friends who answer the call to serve their country, and may they enjoy the fellowship with others in the service.

Following are the brother's addresses:

Pvt Eugene Siebenthal
US 55763363
Co D 3rd Bn USAMTC Class 6 B
Fort Sam Houston Texas

Pvt Dale F Martin US 5577822
Col D 3rd Bn USAMTC Class 7 B
Fort Sam Houston Texas 78234

The children in the Sunday School are busy preparing for the Christmas program, which is a time of rejoicing for all. Why are we a fortunate people to have the

wonderful plan of salvation given to us so freely and without cost? The virgin birth is so wonderful. We as poor mortals cannot grasp the true value enough, I fear. When we listen to the innocent little children recite the pieces telling of the Christmas story, let us all think of that first Christmas night, and then, the sad day when our Lord was hung on the cross. Are we living as we should each day? Do we show good-will toward all men, all year, or are we a little more sentimental around the holiday season, and then get slack and a little careless? Let us all take part in singing the beautiful carols, and spread good cheer wherever we can.

If all the world kept Christmas
And shared with faith and love
The wonder and the glory
Of a shining Star above —

If all the world kept Christmas,
And in each heart was born
The spirit of the Christ Child
Who came on Christmas morn —

If all the world kept Christmas
In one great brotherhood,
And each in loving-kindness
Should seek the other's good —

If all the world kept Christmas,
Then doubts and fears would cease,
And all the earth would hail the
birth
Of everlasting peace.

REMINGTON, INDIANA Emily Kilgus

I have asked some of our members to share some of their Christmas memories of long ago.

The following message was submitted by Bro. Sam Kilgus: I spent my youth and unconverted life at Forrest, and attended the church called North Side. Elder Bro. Jacob Honegger and Bro. Gilgian Stoller were the ministers. On Christmas and New Years, services were held both forenoon and afternoon, even if it was Saturday or Monday. Some of the members of the South Side church would come and take advantage of the all-day service. We believe they found a value in worship and fellowship.

In 1917, I came to Wolcott, and soon saw that I was in need of a Saviour. I repented, found peace, and remember being in church on Christmas Day, which was about

ten days before I was added to the fold. The sermon that Bro. Andrew Lehman (father of Bro. Irvin) preached made an impression, when he mentioned, when we consider what was accomplished and achieved by the Saviour coming into this world. It is no wonder, and not in vain, that the angel host said Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth and good-will to men. He also mentioned, that for a soul that does not make use of the grace of God, it is as though the Saviour never came or never did anything for them. The Lord has no pleasure in the death of a sinner, and it is not His will that one soul should perish. Therefore, He extends His love and invitation to mankind, and may it yet be accepted by many.

Christmas, when we were children, was quite different than it is for children today. Our parents, like many others, did not have the means to buy gifts as today. Our grandmother used to remember us with a pair of knitted mittens. Today, in this time of prosperity, we go to much effort, and use means to make Christmas joyful. May the hours that we spend in worship be and remain foremost on our list.

Bro. Edwin Bahler, whose memories don't date back as far as the above, says how, since he was a child, things have changed so much. He believes children were more content in those days than in this time of prosperity, when there seems to be no limit to what children want and ask for and often receive.

I remember one of the meditations of Bro. Earl Kilgus at Christmas, where he said that they used to ask their parents what they wanted for Christmas. They would tell them they want good children. At that time, an answer of that kind wasn't just what they wanted to hear, but since their own children are growing up, he can understand his parents' feelings.

I asked Sis. Marie Schini if she had any particular memories of the years that she spent in the Bro. Philip Gutwein Sr. home. She said it always concerned father Gutwein very much, the way that people were involved in buying and giving so many gifts. He said, in Europe their gifts consisted of oranges and apples. He always took great interest in the spiritual part of Christmas. He referred more to the cross

of Calvary than the babe in the manger.

The Waibel sisters remember going to visit their relatives for a day, between Christmas and New Years. They would go to spend a day with the Nick Waibels and Robert Bahlers. They always knew, when they went to Bahlers, that Bro. Robert would ask them to recite the verses that they learned in school for Christmas.

I remember, when yet very young, Bro. Andrew Nussbaum was teaching Sunday School, and tried to impress on us how much more blessed it was to give than to receive. With visions of all kinds of things that we so would like to have, it was hard to grasp at the time, but like many other things, our viewpoints have changed through the years.

TAYLOR, MISSOURI Mrs. Eli Sutter

We have had a beautiful fall. Although we have had several heavy frosts, we still have (Dec. 5) flowers blooming on the south side of the house. Time goes by fast. Thanksgiving Day is past and Christmas will soon be here. As children of God, we should be thankful everyday for the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us.

Having completed their time in the service, Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Laukhuf and their twin daughters, who have been stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., have returned to their home at Latty. They assembled with us whenever possible. They will certainly be missed by all of us. We pray the Lord will bless them, as they return to civilian life.

It was a privilege to have Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield minister to us. He and his family spent the week-end with her brother and sister, Bro. Don Feller and Sis. Dona Grimm, and families.

Sis. Sally, wife of Bro. Norman Haerr, spent a few days at the hospital the past month. She is at home again and feeling quite well.

Sis. Louise, wife of Bro. Fred Grimm, has been confined to her home with bronchitis. She is improving at this writing.

Eli and I have been blessed' with three new grandchildren the past month. On Nov. 11, a daughter, Kelly Bobette, was born to Bob and Marilyn Frieden, Garden Grove, California. Bob made his home

with us from the time he was a young boy. They have another daughter. On Nov. 26, a daughter, Peggy Sue, was born to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter. They now have two daughters and four sons. On Nov. 29, a son, Roger Dale, was born to Bro. Dick and Sis. Charlene Sutter. They have one daughter.

On Dec. 4, a son, Timothy Allen, was born to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lois Stoller. The Stollers recently moved here from Latty, as he is attending Gem City College in Quincy, Ill.

their teacher, Bro. James Sutter, and Sis. Lois went to Gridley, Ill., the 24th, to spend the week end with the Gridley Bible Class. They also went to Eureka Sun. evening, to take part with the Christian Endeavor. They had a very enjoyable week end.

Announcement was made on Dec. 1 of the engagement of Sis. Charlotte Haerr to Bro. Lenny Meyer of Chicago. She is the daughter of Rudie and Sis. Lena Haerr, and he is the son of Bro. and Sis. Fred Meyer. We wish them the Lord's blessing in their undertaking.

The Sunday School teachers and pupils are beginning practice on the Christmas Program. The birth of the Christ Child is such a blessed and important event for all of us. The children are indeed fortunate to be brought up in Christian homes, where they are taught from childhood to know of the Christ Child's birth, His death and resurrection, and what is expected of them when they grow to the age of accountability.

Our college students and families that have parents here were at home for the Thanksgiving week end.

WEST BEND, IOWA Anna Schmidt

Sis. Adele Bruellman was in the hospital with pneumonia, but is now able to congregate with us again.

Bro. August Knobloch was moved from Des Moines to a rest home in Rock Valley, Iowa. He has shown little improvement.

Bro. Victor Banwart fell and fractured his knee cap. Also, Bro. Ivan Schmidt had the misfortune of breaking his thumb, while working with the silo unloader.

Sis. Ida Schmidt, wife of Chris

Schmidt, is recovering very well from a hernia operation. Her sister, Sis. Emma Schmidt of Winthrop, is helping her with her household duties.

On November 24, Sis. LaVonne Grimm, daughter of Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena Grimm, and Verle Kieser, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ruth Kieser of Princeville, were united in marriage. Bro. Paul Banwart performed the ceremony.

Bros. Henry Sabo and Robert Beer of Mansfield spent Monday evening, November 18, with us. We heard very inspiring messages.

We enjoyed having the Elgin, Iowa, Bible Class with us the week end of December 1. They were accompanied by some of the members from Elgin.

We had several visitors here on Thanksgiving. Among them was Bro. Paul Fehr and family of Morris. Bro. Paul brought us many rich teachings.

What Does Christmas Mean to You?

Isn't it a time when we are drawn closer to the Lord in prayer? The Christmas carols inspire our hearts with that sacred love from the Lord. It moves us all to think of others. It binds our hearts in love and unity.

Above all, let us not only remember the Lord as a babe in Bethlehem, but go with Him as a man who walked in Galilee. May we humbly follow to the cross, for He is the One who sets the spirit free.

Wishing

Do you wish the world were better?

Let me tell you what to do.

Set a watch upon your actions;

Keep them always straight and true.

Rid your mind of selfish motive;

Let your thoughts be clean and high.

You can make a little Eden of the sphere you occupy.

Do you wish the world were wiser?

Then suppose you make a start

By accumulating wisdom

In the scrapbook of your heart.

Do not waste one page on folly.

Seek to learn, and learn to live.

If you want to give men knowledge,

You must get it ere you give.

This is an article about Sis. Mary

Schmidt.

Mary Moser Schmidt, daughter of Chris and Mary Moser, was born October 15, 1874, near West Bend.

On April 7, 1891, she was married to Henry Schmidt. To this union, 11 children were born. Fred, Bro. Mike, Marie, Anna (who died in infancy) and Sis. Elizabeth (Mrs. Noah Anliker) preceded her in death. The other children are Henry, of Minnesota; Chris, Humboldt; Conrad, Bro. Earnie and Lydia (Mrs. Raymond Wilson) all of West Bend; and Esther (Mrs. James Moodinger), of Arkansas.

Sis. Mary and her husband attended the Lutheran Church, but were not quite satisfied, so they started coming to the Apostolic Christian Church. They repented and were taken into the fold in 1893.

She helped several families as a midwife, in the pioneer days, which was very much appreciated. She was very capable of taking care of the new-born babies.

She was always willing to lend a helping hand in the church and wherever it was needed, and was kind and loving to everyone.

They didn't have the modern conveniences we have now, as they went to church with horse and buggy. In real cold weather, they would warm bricks or stones to keep their feet warm, as they had seven miles to church.

When Elizabeth was 10 days old, their house burned. Mary and the baby had to be taken about 1½ miles in a sled, as it was real cold weather.

Sis. Mary suffered a stroke and was taken to the Palo Alto Memorial Hospital in Emmetsburg, Iowa, where she passed away on September 26, 1958, at the age of 83.

Phoenix, Arizona (News on Page 25)

After visiting with new converted souls, one can surely see they have found the mystery of the blessed secret, which is revealed in the following poem.

The Blessed Secret

I have learned the blessed secret
Of the soul that's satisfied,

Of the Saviour dwells within me,
And in Him I now abide.

I have learned the joy of trusting
In the sureness of His Word,

Knowing that each promise spoken

Will be honored by my Lord.

In the silence, I have heard Him:
(O, the music of His voice!)

**Peace I give thee, be not troubled;
Let thy heart and soul rejoice;**

Yes, I've found my Lord sufficient,
For He meets my every need,
Satisfies my soul's deep longings,
Guards and guides each thought
and deed.

Peace that passeth understanding
Is His gift of grace so free,
And the power of His presence

Is His promise unto me.
Blessed peace, divine contentment,
From the heart of God above!
All the shadows turn to sunshine,
Walking with the Lord of love.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Uriel Gehring

Sunday morning, Dec. 1, Sis. Bertha Gehring of Elgin, Iowa, and Mrs. Jack Willet and three children of Cedar Falls, Iowa, were our visitors. Bertha is this reporter's mother and Mrs. Willet his sister.

Dec. 8 we enjoyed the visit of the young members from the Taylor and the Oakville churches. How pleasant is our fellowship in brotherly love and unity.

The Christmas season is upon us, the time of year when most of the world celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

One of the big factors of the Christmas season in America is the giving of gifts to loved ones. I assume the giving of gifts by the wise men for the baby Jesus started this tradition. In reality, though, the giving of Jesus to the world by God, the Father, was the great gift of God. The presentation of Jesus to the world was just the beginning of a new era of hope for the entire world, thus fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament patriarchs.

Jesus also had to "give" something to the world to fulfill the Father's will. This he gave willingly—his life—that we might receive the gift of God, eternal life through him. Truly then, the Christmas season is filled with thoughts of unselfishness and the spirit of giving.

We also must "give" to receive the gift of eternal life—we have to give ourselves over to the will of God, in contrast to our former lives, when we lived for our selfish motives. I hope that, amidst the

hustle and bustle of our present day Christmas season, we will not forget the intent and purpose that God attaches to the birth of his son, Jesus.

We look forward to our annual Christmas carolling for older folks and shut-ins; we look forward to being with loved ones at Christmas-time; we look forward to giving and receiving gifts.

Many things come and go, but not so our looking forward to eternal life—it shall eventually come, but never pass away. The beginning of the hope of all true believers was instituted by God at the first Christmas, nearly 2000 years ago. Truly, it is a precious heritage, a gift from God. How precious is it? We are informed in The Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." What name is referred to? None other than the name of Jesus Christ, in whom lieth our hope.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Ernest Knecht

A Sunday School teacher, Bro. Robert Pflederer, writes about our Sunday School.

As Christmas day approaches, our Sunday School classes are preparing to present their annual Christmas program. This is a time when our youth, from the youngest and most innocent, on up the scale of life, have opportunity to review before us the wonderful story of the birth of Christ, the blessed event which took place in Bethlehem many years ago. How blessed and encouraging that even our smallest children know so well the true meaning of Christmas.

It also seems appropriate at this time to commend our Sunday School children for the spirit of giving they have acquired. It has been our practice over the past number of years to think in terms of giving to the poor and needy children here in Chicago, at Christmas time. The money our children collect throughout the year, by bringing their nickles and dimes each Sunday, is donated at the end of the year to the poor. This year, again, a sizable sum has been accumulated and will be presented to those less fortunate.

May this true Christmas spirit be with us all, and especially, we pray, that it remain with our

youth, as they travel along the road of life.

Our Chicago congregation has been blessed with many visitors during the past month, all of whom have truly enriched us with their warm fellowship. Among them were Ministering Bros. Joe Waibel from Bay City, Art Gudeman from Lacrosse, Albert Schneider from Rockville, and Phil Sauder from Cissna Park. Many others, both friends and brethren, have visited us. We thank them all.

Our church is among the smaller ones. As we assemble in the midst of one of our countries largest cities, we become aware of the value of a close relationship with God and with each other, lest we stray and are lost in the vanities of the world. Visiting brothers and sisters give us opportunity to strengthen our faith anew, through precious fellowship in the Lord. It is for this reason we so highly esteem those who visit our Chicago church from time to time. We welcome one and all.

The announcement was made on Sunday, Dec. 1, of the engagement and forthcoming marriage of Bro. Leonard Meyer of our congregation to Sis. Charlotte Haerr from Taylor. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their endeavor.

Sis. Cora Scharlach is back with us again, after spending a couple of months caring for her aged mother in Hoopeston, Illinois.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Marie Zaugg

A son, James Lee, was born to Jim and Connie Banwart. James Lee's great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Emil Banwart.

Everyone here has so much for which to be thankful. May we count our blessings and give God thanks for them. We had many visitors over Thanksgiving.

Bro. and Sis. Earl Banwart and family of West Bend were visiting his folks, Bro. and Sis. Joe Banwart. Bro. Earl ministered to us at our Wednesday evening services, and again on Sunday. May God bless him for his services.

Bro. and Sis. Al Scheitlin of Elgin spent Thanksgiving with their daughter and husband, Carol and Leon Sinn.

Bro. and Sis. Arnold Gerst and family of Tulsa, Oklahoma, were here. Bro. Arnold is with the Denver-Gardner Company. They live

some distance from our churches. We hope they can worship with us again, soon.

MANSFIELD, OHIO Aaron A. Sauder

"... the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. As we join in the festivities of the busy Christmas season, with caroling and giving gifts to those we love, may we ever remember the real Christmas Gift, when God sent His Son to earth.

Only the truth that in life we
have spoken,
Only the seed that on earth
we have sown,
These shall pass onward, when we
are forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what
we have done.
Thus would we pass from the earth
and its toiling,
Only remembered by what
we have done.

And how many wonderful words and deeds do we have by which to remember our two aged members who "have passed from this earth and its toiling" this past month.

Sis. Sophia Grossenbacher was taken to be with the Lord on November 16, at the age of 84. Several years ago, she broke her hip, and had been unable to attend church since that time, but was always happy when anyone visited her. Our sympathy is extended to her three sisters, who so willingly cared for her during her long period of confinement — Lena Ingold, Elizabeth and Clara Grossenbacher, and her brother, George Grossenbacher.

On Christmas morning, 1961, Bro. Joel Beer suffered a stroke, and after that was not able to worship with our congregation. He was truly a Christian example during his many months of suffering. His family often mentioned that he never complained, but was always so appreciative of the loving care administered to him. Though he will be sadly missed by his family, they were thankful when (on Nov. 21, at the age of 89) the Lord called their father to rest from his labors. We extend our sympathy to his children, Francelia, Hermine, Alma, Frank, Robert, Edwin, Ben and David; his 22 grandchildren;

11 great-grandchildren; his sisters, Hulda Graff and Soloma Kipfer; and brothers, Simon, Charles, Otto, Ezra, Peter, Theo and Henry.

Our sincere sympathy is also given to Sis. Wilma Sauder and family, whose mother, Mrs. Etta Cline, passed away on November 17.

Our best wishes to Ray and Carol Cordrey, on the birth of a baby boy, Stanley, born on November 14. Joyce and Raymond are also excited at the arrival of their new little brother.

"I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations." Psalm 108:3. "... I was in prison, and ye came unto me Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:36, 40. The Vesper Choir were thankful and humbled by the opportunity to obey the Lord's word, when they sang a few songs at the Ohio State Reformatory, near Mansfield, on November 17. On November 6, the choir sang at the Richland County Home, and on November 13 at our own Church Home. We always enjoy the fellowship and rich blessings we receive when we visit with these dear older ones.

On November 11, Sister Clara Heiniger from Alabama and her mother, Sis. Lena Heiniger from Valparaiso, paid an unexpected visit to our home. Sis. Clara showed pictures and described the work being done in Alabama. Those of us privileged to visit with her enjoyed an evening of Christian fellowship.

Bro. Fred Marti ministered to us on November 10. Other visitors this month were from Rittman, Alto, Bluffton, & Milford. We thank each one for the love shared with us.

We are thankful that Sis. Josephine Sauder has improved sufficiently to move into an apartment near her daughter. Her address is 101½ Young Drive, Lodi, O. She is attending the Rittman church. We miss her from our congregation, but hope she will visit and worship with us often.

Come, Oh Christ Child, dwell
within us;
Let our hearts Thy manger be,
Where we may in adoration
Consecrate our lives to Thee!

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT Carlton J. Lanz

Bro. Paul Lanz has returned from the hospital, where he underwent major surgery. Reports are that he is getting along fairly well.

Sis. Bertha Gasser, with several of her family, including John, her son who is stationed at a camp in New Jersey, spent Sunday here with us.

This is soon Christmas Day, the anniversary of the world's greatest event. To one day all the early world looked forward: to the same day the later world looks back. That day holds time together.

Life's Lantern

There is something about a lantern,
When it's hung upon a door,
That gives the opened portal
A warmth it lacked before.

It sends its cheery welcome
Far out into the night . . .
To greet the passing traveler
And to beckon with its light.

We have a lantern, that lights
our path
Through the trials and joys of life;
It helps us to find within our
hearts
Compassion for those in strife.

It helps to lift our searching souls
To God's brighter light above;
It teaches us to humbly serve,
To give and share with love.

This light is not for us alone
To keep when we accept it . . .
The beauty of the light we share
Is that we can each reflect it.

Carlton Lanz

VALPARAISO, INDIANA Mil Bucher

Northern Indiana was beautiful and sunny most of November. We enjoyed visitors from Hillsboro, Peoria, Roanoke and Elgin, Milford, Bremen, Francesville, Wolcott, Bluffton and LaCrosse. We were blessed with two visiting ministers during the month. Bro. Henry Beer of Milford visited us on Nov. 3, and Bro. John Yergler, together with a number of other Bluffton folks, visited us on Nov. 17.

On November 20, we gathered in the Fellowship room of the church, where Sis. Clara Heiniger from Hillsboro showed slides of her mis-

sionary work. This was followed by an hour of fellowship and a luncheon.

On Thanksgiving eve, the Junior and Senior classes prepared a Thanksgiving basket of fruit, vegetables, canned goods and a turkey, and delivered it to a family in the community. They later gathered in one of the homes and practiced hymn singing.

As we reflect over the events of the past year, we are grateful to God in this Thanksgiving and Christmas season for His countless blessings. We are grateful, too, for the many fine folks who visited us during the year, and for the many gifts of love that have come in. True Christian love has been shown to us in getting our little church established. It is our constant hope and prayer that it will always be to the glory of God.

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH FOR YOU IS

That you may hold forever in your heart the golden memories of every happy Christmas Day you have ever known:

That you may be brave in the hour of trial, when the cross is laid upon your shoulders, when the hill you must climb seems very high, and the beacon lights of hope seem far away:

That every gift God has given you may grow with the years, and fill the hearts of those you love with its fragrance

And that in every hour of joy or of sorrow, the peace-giving smile of the Christ-Child may abide with you, and keep you near to God.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA Martha Rinkenberger

We are having our Christmas Sunday School program on Sunday afternoon. We all enjoy a blessing from the little, innocent children, as they tell us the wonderful story of old, when Jesus was born. Let us hope and pray they will all heed the invitation in due time.

Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona Bucher have been blessed with a little girl, Patricia Ann. They now have three girls and two boys.

Our zip code number is 46348. We are on Standard Time. Services start at 10:30.

This was written by Bro. Merle

Bucher:

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone. Our memory has been refreshed, as to the hardships our forefathers endured, that we may enjoy a land of freedom. A land where we can worship as our heart dictates has been preserved for us.

Generation follows generation. In the past year, loved ones have been laid to rest, and new lives have been introduced. Each one of us should now, in our various stations of life, face up to the challenge that lies before us, and pray for God's directing hand to help us, that we may also do what we can, to leave for our children a precious faith to live by.

At Christmas time, we are reminded of the lowly birth of the Christ Child, the only begotten Son of God. In His divine wisdom, God had carefully planned a plan of salvation, that in its lowly estate could be available to all who would see their soul's deep need of a Saviour.

There seems today to be a tendency to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but a failure to go with Jesus to the cross. The true converted soul knows the great merit of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In His death, the blood was shed for the sins of the whole world.

Today, as the conception of eternal salvation seems to be more and more "Accept Christ, choose for Christ etc", let us remind ourselves that in a true repentance there is much remorse and sorrow. Only after a heart has been sorry, begging for forgiveness, can it enjoy divine peace, given from God the Father. Let us then strive to keep repentance in its proper perspective, so that the penitent soul will always find a place of refuge.

As we assume our post of duty, let us all try to do a little more to help preserve the holy church that we believe ours to be. Let us, as Christ commanded, love one another & rededicate ourselves to follow in all things the teachings He did inscribe for us.

We have every reason to believe, that the more we shun this world and all that it has to offer, the happier we will one day be.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS Mrs. Jeff Young

We enjoyed many visitors, the

past month. Among them were Ministering Bros. Lowell Stoller of Princeville and his company, Bro. Earl Kilgus and his family from Remington, and Bro. and Sis. Henry Beer.

We had church services on Nov. 25.

Our Christmas program is planned for Sunday, Dec. 22.

Births: A son, Dale William, to Bro. and Sis. Gilbert Stock, on Nov. 16. He has two sisters; a boy, to Alvin and Dorothy Rudin. They named him Lyle Dean. He has one sister and one brother; a boy, to Wesley and Judy Knapp, on Dec. 8. He was named Michel Lee; Bro. and Sis. Clarence Knapp are the grandparents of a boy, to Elmer and Helen Burgett, on Dec. 8.

Sis. Anna Lober, who has been confined to her home for some time with a heart condition, fell at her home and fractured a shoulder. Our sympathy goes out to her.

Has the year brought sadness? . . . Joy is yet in store.

Has it given gladness?
Next year giveth more.

Peace for all the morrows,
Strength for all the days,
These shall be your portion,
Through the new year's ways.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS Cathryn Wettstein

Our visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. John Wagonbach of Oakville, George Wagonbach of Princeville, John Rokey of Goodfield.

Nov. 17, Charlene Wiegand and Bro. Robert Schumacher were united in marriage, by Bro. Leroy Huber. May God bless their future life together.

Nov. 24—Tonight, Christian Endeavor was held. A large crowd attended. Those taking part were the Bible classes from Forrest, Fairbury, Gridley, Roanoke, Peoria, Morton, Princeville, Tremont, Congerville, Goodfield and Eureka. It is very inspiring to hear all these young people raise their voices in song. We hope that all of them will seriously think of the words that they sing, and put them to work in their hearts. May God bless them for their efforts.

Nov. 25, Monday, a special morning service was held at 10

A.M., as it was proclaimed a day of mourning for our late president. Bro. Leroy Huber had the services.

Thanksgiving services were held at 10 A.M. We were reminded to be thankful for all things, including the bountiful harvests we have had in the past year. Bro. Vernon Lehman had the service.

Births—Bro. Joel and Sis. Sonia Banwart are the parents of a baby boy. He was born Oct. 31 and has been named Jeffrey Joel; to Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Wittmer, a boy was born Nov. 11. His name is John David.

Another soul is seeking the Lord by repenting. He is Clarence Lehman. He is Sis. Wilma Lehman's husband.

Dec. 8, Sunday evening—Our congregation gathered to hear the report from the conference. Bro. Frank Woertz assisted Bro. Leroy in this. It was mentioned, at the close of the meeting, that it is up to each one now to remember and obey the things that we are told. May we all try to be more obedient to His word and teachings.

Several of our friends were married recently—Jerry Zimmerman and Barbara Watts were married November 30. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Ernest Zimmerman. Willis Wettstein and Barbara Brooks were married Nov. 27. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Charles Wettstein.

Bro. Ed Geiger is a surgical patient in Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

An engagement was announced, that of Eugene Leman and Carolyn Weyeneth. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Vernon Leman.

As the Christmas season is upon us may we ever be thoughtful of those about us who are poor and needy, so that we may share, even though it be just a small gift. We know that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS Joyce Huber

Like the Star that led the wise men,
To the place where Jesus lay,
May the Light of hope and gladness
Shine upon your path today.

We were fortunate to have visiting ministers, Sunday, Nov. 17:

Bro. Bill Cottrell of Taylor, who was a guest of Bro. and Sis. Alden Nussbaum, and Bro. Earl Kilgus of Remington, a guest of Bro. and Sis. Ralph Bahler.

The busy Christmas season has arrived. Many of our people are preparing boxes for the shut-ins and going caroling, in an effort to bring cheer to the less fortunate.

Larry Ifft, 14-year-old son of Bro. and Sis. Elmer Ifft, had the misfortune of getting his leg caught in a feed auger, which broke his knee, tore away flesh, and mangled his leg. He is at the Fairbury Hospital, where he will be for a long time, after which he will be transferred for therapy treatments. We pray that his leg and the use of his knee can be saved.

We are sorry that Sisters Martha Steffen and Lydia Aberle are in the hospital, and Sis. Mary Stoller is at Marshalltown, Iowa, for eye surgery. Sisters Caroline Meyer and Anna Hodel from Fairview Haven have been taken to the hospital. We pray that the Lord will help each one.

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Nancy Honegger — Martha Stoller

Visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. George Yergler and Ed Frank, La Crosse; Bros. Silas Leuthold, Princeville; Earl Kilgus, Remington; and Merle Kaisner, Fairbury.

Bro. Henry Kilgus performed the wedding ceremony, in the home of Bro. Ed and Sis. Matilda Bach, for their daughter, Marlene, and Joe Watkins, on Sunday, Nov. 17. The young couple will make their home in Forrest.

The eleven children of Bro. Louis and Sis. Louise Zimmerman were all together for a family dinner, in observance of their parent's 50th wedding anniversary, which was on Nov. 19. The Zimmermans also have 37 grandchildren.

Lloyd Honegger, son of Bro. Wm. and Sis. Esther, and Larry Kaisner, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Ida, left for service on Nov. 19, and are presently stationed at Ft. Sam Houston.

Recent surgical patients have been Sis. Marie Schrof and Bro. Louis Koehl. Both have since returned to their homes and are recovering nicely.

Larry, son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft, had the misfortune of becoming caught in a feed auger,

while helping his father with the chores recently. He is a patient in Fairbury hospital, with a badly mangled leg.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta Schneider are the parents of a boy, since Nov. 22. He has been named Calvin Ray.

Bro. Richard and Edith Frank have a new girl, born on Nov. 30. They have named her Karen Lee.

A goodly number were in attendance at our services, held on Monday morning, following the assassination of President Kennedy. This gathering was an hour spent in sincere prayer and expression of deep concern for the destiny of our nation, particularly that our freedom of worship may be preserved.

The members of the Fairbury congregation assembled with us on Wednesday evening, Dec. 4, when Bros. Silas Leuthold and Josh Broquard read the memorandum of the recent elder meeting.

Our Sunday School superintendent, Bro. Perry Zimmerman, was kind enough to submit the following:

When asked to write something about Christmas, I had to wonder—what can I say or write? Never would I want to alter or add to this beautiful Christmas story.

We spend much effort and time, and often go far in search for gifts in this day and time, and how little they are compared to the greatest gift of all time, God's gift to mankind, HIS OWN SON.

The children learn to know about Him from the smallest classes until they leave Sunday School, and yet, it is not enough. We try hard to please our children in these modern times, often with gifts far exceeding the gifts we used to receive. We do it to show our love toward them.

But let us never forget that the greatest gift we can give them is to teach them of JESUS and His plan of salvation. Perhaps we think we are doing this now, and I believe most parents are trying, but are we making a daily effort to bring HIM into our homes, our conversations, and the minds of our children?

The short hour they spend in Sunday School, once a week, is not enough; they must receive it at home, too. In this way, let us have a Christmas season not only in December, but every month of the

year.

May we be among those to praise Him now, and forevermore.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Marian Wiegand

The engagement of Christine Knapp, daughter of George and Martha Knapp, to Dale Metzger, son of Bro. and Sis. Jake Metzger of Lester, has been announced. A June wedding is planned.

The marriage of Phyllis Hohulin, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Chris Hohulin, to Gary Sauder, son of Bro. and Sis. Carl Sauder of Roanoke, was solemnized November 16. They will reside on a farm near Roanoke.

Bill Hinrichsen, son of Bro. and Sis. Hans Hinrichsen, entered the service of the US Navy. His address is:

William L Hinrichsen SR 689-77-26
Recruit Training Command Co 502
USNTC
Great Lakes Ill 60088

Many attended the special services that were held November 25, in memory of our late president, John F. Kennedy. The Congerville congregation also assembled with us.

The Goodfield congregation were guests of the Congerville church for Thanksgiving services.

We were so pleased that Sis. Nettie Knapp has improved and is able to assemble with us again.

Christmas

We think of Christmas as a time of giving—and it all started so many years ago; when God gave the world his Son, his only begotten Son.

Let us pause a few moments to reflect what an impact upon the world that gift has made:

His birth brought hope . . . love
. . . salvation . . . peace . . . joy
. . . an example of humility and
charity . . . and a promise of a beautiful home after death.

Is there a greater gift?

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr

We thank Bro. Harvey Grimm of Bern for bringing us God's word.

Bro. John and Sis. Sarah Beyer have sold their farm, northwest of Gridley. They had their farm sale Nov. 14. They are now living

in Madison, near their daughter, Mary Ann (Mrs. Hoyt McCurry and family).

Much "elbow grease" was used to clean our church . . . couldn't help but think of how nice it would be to "attack our spiritual houses" with the same vigor and co-operation. Just as we cleaned, some flies came in—a constant watch and clean-up will soon be needed again, just as in our hearts.

There was a spiritual uplifting, when we gathered Wednesday evening, Nov. 20, to hear Elder Bro. Sam Anliker give the report of the Brotherhood meeting.

Vola Young, 4th-grade daughter of Andrew Jr. and Sis. Wilma, was in the hospital for observation and tests for several weeks. They finally found that she has rheumatic fever and must rest in bed. She seems to be "Miss Sunshine", and doesn't look as though she needs to be in bed!

Sis. Katie Esslinger returned to the Wichita Hospital, and is as well as can be expected, following surgery.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Mary Reisbig (who had been living in Peoria) on November 11, at 10:00 a.m.

As per the president's proclamation, asking that we pray together for our country's guidance in this time of tragedy, we held services on Monday morning, Nov. 25. Indeed, we have much for which to be thankful. When Rudy was overseas, a Korean "houseboy" noticed that he did not carry arms, and asked him why. The Korean then replied, "We have those in our country, too—they shoot 'em."

Joint Lamont and Gridley Thanksgiving services were held Thanksgiving eve, at Gridley.

JUNCTION, OHIO

Mrs. Alvin H. Manz

Bro. Henry Beer's poem, "The Babe Of Bethlehem", is so very fitting for this season and gives much food for thought.

The blessed story of the Christ,
The babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.

The fullness of God's love divine
Surrounds the Christ so mild.
Alas! how many only know
The Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee
We find the gift of peace.

Be not content, this babe to know,
Nor stay at Bethlehem,
But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow
Beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
And let the Saviour in.

It was a joyous day for us, Sunday, November 24, when our two young friends, Betty and Kathy Schlatter, gave their testimony and were baptized. It was so good to have our Ministering Brother Andrew Dotterer with us for his two granddaughters' baptism. It's been a year since his illness has kept him shut in. We are thankful God spoke to Kathy and Betty, and welcome them lovingly as sisters. May God grant them much grace and understanding.

Bro. Otto Norr of Leo, who was with us this month, spoke on the creation, the joys to come for those whose names are written in the Book of Life, and how the Lord called the apostles from their work, to follow him. How great their faith! I wonder how many would leave all we have today and follow Him, as did the apostles of old when Jesus was here on earth. We were glad to hear Bro. Norr, and welcome him back soon, for another blessed day.

Visitors were also with us this past month from Latty and Mansfield, Toledo, Rittman, Ohio, Bluffton, Leo, Fort Wayne and Bay City. We're always glad for the visitors. Bros. Ken Stoller and John Oesch helped in Sunday School.

The shut-ins are about the same as usual. We've had the usual absences, from colds, flu and weather.

"Tis not the weight of jewel or
plate,
Or the fondle of silk or fur:
'Tis the spirit in which the gift is
rich,
As the gifts of the wise ones were:
And we are not told whose gift was
gold,
Or whose was the gift of myrrh."

HILLSBORO, ALABAMA

Clara Heiniger

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 4:6.

Many loved ones in this area are on the sick list. Sis. Pearl Stricklin has not been able to attend services for several Sundays.

Maburn Hale and son, Joe, of Paulding, Ohio, visited for a week among relatives. Returning to Indiana, he took Hardy and Margaret Hale (Bro. Jr. Hale's parents) to Lafayette, to visit their families.

Mr. Burt Knight is in the Birmingham Veterans' Hospital. He had surgery. His wife is Erlene, the daughter of Bro. Henry Stricklin.

LANDERSVILLE, ALABAMA

Clara Heiniger

Worship services — singing, preaching, Sunday school, and Bible Study—were held in the following homes: Oct. 31, Mr. and Mrs. Edd Harville; Nov. 8, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Dutton; Nov. 15, Lester and Sis. Bessie Drake; Nov. 22, Mr. and Mrs. John Fuller; and Nov. 29, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leman LouAllen.

Many loved ones in this area are sick with flu and measles, and have been missing from church and Sunday school.

Our Christmas Guest

If there are bitter feelings
Within your heart and mine,
There will be no room for Jesus,
When He comes this Christmas-time.

But if we hold thoughts of kindness,
And our hearts are full of love,
Then our honored guest this
Christmas
Will be Christ, from heaven above.

The Grace of Giving

What a wonder it is that the Lord
over all,
Whose wealth is unbounded, unknown,
Takes notice of everything done,
large or small,
And so values the gifts from His
own.

The earth is the Lord's and the
fulness thereof,
All the land, and the silver, and
gold,
The cattle and sheep upon thou-
sands of hills,
All the wealth, the riches untold.

God giveth us richly all things to
enjoy,
From out of His bountiful store,
For **Every good gift cometh down
from above,**
And daily He blesses us more.

He gave unto us the unspeakable
gift,
Of Jesus, the Son of His love,
To ransom our souls from the
bondage of sin,
And bring us to glory above!

Such wonderful love! 'Tis the least
we can do,
And a very small thing on our
part,
To render the worship and praise
due to Him,
And grant Him first place in our
heart.

'Tis our privilege, then, to return
unto Him
A portion of what we possess;
The steward who's willing and
faithful in this,
The Lord will assuredly bless.

Think not He's unmindful of any-
thing given,
No matter how small an amount.
He desires not the gift, but the
blessing for you,
That fruit may abound on
account.

And Jesus beholds how we give
unto him;
The widow's two mites may
seem small,
But she gave with a heart full of
love to her Lord,
And to Him, she gave more than
all.

A cup of cold water He'll not over-
look,
If given as unto the Lord;
How little it takes for the Saviour
to note,
And in glory to richly reward.

Who cheerfully, willingly gives to
the Lord,
His promise of blessing is sure,
That He will provide an abundant
reward,

In eternity it will endure.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Kenneth Zeltwanger

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words re-
peat
Of peace on earth, good-will to
men.

And thought how, as the day had
come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken
song
Of peace on earth, good-will to
men.

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I
said:
"For hate is strong, and mocks the
song
Of peace on earth, good-will to
men."

Then pealed the bells more loud
and deep,
"God is alive, He doth not sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right
prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to
men."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to
day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good-will to
man.

Quite a number in our commu-
nity have been ill this month. Sis.
Betty Zeltwanger was hospitalized
for a week, with pneumonia.

We again had a blessed week end
December 7 and 8. Eleven more
dear souls were added to the fold.
They are: Dennis and Neil Schmid-
gall, Harvey Koehl, Herman Schae-
fer, Harvey Joos, Arthur and San-
dy Nohl, Ernest Jr. and Carol Kel-
lenberger, and Wallace and Diann
Feuchtenberger. It is uplifting and
encouraging when those from dif-
ferent teachings give their testi-
monies and can feel they have
found the true way of salvation.
Elder Bros. Noah Shrock, Silas
Leuthold, Paul Banwart and Leo
Moser assisted Bro. Koehl. We en-
joyed having many other visitors
from West Bend, Lester, Winthrop,
Sabetha, Elgin, Oakville and Pe-

oria.

As the year draws to a close, we can feel thankful that we have been blessed not only with a bountiful harvest of the fruits of the earth, but also with a spiritual harvest.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

Our sister, Mary Reisbig, passed away at the Methodist Hospital, Friday, Nov. 8. She was staying at the A. C. Home the last two years. Surviving are two sisters, Sophia and Kathryn; two brothers, Conrad and William; and several nieces and nephews. Our Sister Mary was a loveable person, always had a kind word for everybody, and even tho' she was blind, did what she could. She went to a better home, where she will be able to see again. A short service was held for her at the mortuary, Saturday evening. Bros. Michael Weyeneth and LeRoy Hartman had the service. Her body was taken to Gridley, Kansas.

The wedding ceremony of Bro. Geo. Huthmann and Sis. Ruth Hohulin was performed by Bro. Roy Sauder, Sunday, Nov. 24. A reception was held at the Ben Stickling home, followed by a supper at the church, for many friends and relatives. Bro. Meno Steiner of Sabetha and his entire family were here for the occasion. Ruth is Meno's granddaughter. Best wishes went out to the newly-weds. They will live in Peoria. Their address is 901 E. Arcadia.

Bro. Wm. Cottrell and family of Taylor spent Friday evening, Nov. 15, at the Bro. Walter Geyer home. Others were invited in for a sing. It was a nice evening.

Again, we are celebrating the birth of Christ. Christ was born of the lowest estate, lived a quite normal childhood, until the age of twelve, when he said, "I must be about my Father's business."

He began telling people about God's plan for them and the world. He performed things no man had done before. He preached to everyone about His Father's plan. He told of a kingdom yet to come. He also told about an eternal hell. He died on the cross and left his blood on the earth, for the sins of all mankind. He gave his Holy Spirit to anyone who would ask. He left the Holy Bible to show how to

have life eternal.

Christ was and is all in all.

We enjoyed having with us on Nov. 17, Bro. and Sis. Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse. Bro. Arthur had an inspiring message, which was very much appreciated. Bro. and Sis. Ray Martin invited the Gudemans. Sis. Martin was Eunice Marti, and used to help out at the Gudeman home. A singing was held at the Martins on Sat. evening. Bro. and Sis. Ben Zimmerman of Congerville were also here for Sunday. We enjoyed having them. We also enjoyed Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington on Thanksgiving day. We hope they will all visit us soon again. Let us give all credit to the Almighty God, for their visits and messages.

Sis. Bertha Feucht, who was a patient at the Methodist Hospital several months, passed away Fri., Nov. 15. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Surviving are her husband, Fred Feucht; three daughters, Marie, Dena and Ruth; one son, William; and a sister, Lena Kellenberger, of Lester. Her funeral was held Monday, Nov. 18, Bro. Michael Weyeneth officiating.

Every two weeks, on Tuesday evening, we are again having Bible class. The first meeting was on Tues., Nov. 26, beginning at 7:30, Bro. Ray Sauder conducting the class. Our mid-week church service is now held on Wed. evening, beginning at 7:30, Standard time.

Our monthly Hymn sing was held Sun. evening, Dec. 1. The Morton men's group sang a few numbers.

The Junior Bible class sent Christmas cards to the orphanage in Japan, where our two adopted foster children live. There are twelve children out of fifty that have been adopted by groups or individuals through a plan. Contact with this orphanage was made through Bro. Willis Ehnle.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held Dec. 22, young and older taking part. Treats were given to the smaller children.

Many different groups participate in Christmas Caroling for shut-ins, at the hospitals, the A. C. Home, and different nursing homes. Many gathered together to fix boxes for shut-ins, the lonely and others. Surely, God has a hand in all this. Let us thank Him.

Bro. John Sinn and Clarence Swadley are patients at the Methodist Hospital. We hope they will be able to be home soon.

Sis. Christine Baurer, 1013 W. Hanssler place, is 91 years old. She came to Illinois from Germany when she was one year of age, and was raised on a farm south of Tremont.

When she was old enough, she came to Peoria to work. There she married John Baurer. A few years later, she repented and was baptized.

Her husband worked in a factory a number of years, and they then moved to her folk's farm.

Her husband died when her youngest child was three years of age. There were ten children in all. Nine are still living, and all belong to her church.

Her husband repented during his illness.

She has 46 grandchildren and 80 great-grandchildren. She goes to church occasionally, especially when weather permits. She loves to be outdoors, amongst her flowers. She had a vegetable garden each year, until a few years ago.

She spends an hour or two each morning watching for the postman, as she loves mail.

She often says she puts all her trust in the Lord, and must always look to Him for help. She carries her Bible under her arm wherever she goes, and it is always under her pillow at night. She says it is her only weapon to keep the devil away, which should be a teaching for us to remember, when Satan tempts us.

Two daughters are at home, Sisters Wilhmina and Eva, who so tenderly care for their dear mother. The rest of the family also take their turn in caring for her.

Mother Baurer is appreciative, and enjoys mail. It would be nice to send her a card, especially now at Christmas time. Her address: Mrs. Christine Baurer, 1013 Hanssler Place, Peoria, Illinois.

RITTMAN, OHIO Ella Mae Trent

In a LOWLY birth, Christ came into this world to die the LOWEST most terrible type of death—crucifixion on the cross, that we might receive the GREATEST gift—our plan of salvation, and assume the HIGHEST station in life, as a

child of God.

Those who could give testimony that their souls were forlorn, until Christ was sought, and who could be added to the fold, following baptism into Christ's death, were Bro. Edward and Sis. Marilyn Trent, Bro. Denny Neiman, and Bro. Everett and Sis. Carol Beery, on December 8.

Labouring for us on this day were Bro. Ben Schlatter, Paulding, Bros. Rudolph and Ernest Graf, Akron, and Bro. Ben Maibach, Detroit. The evening of the 8th, our Sunday School gathered to sing praises unto God and to hear the word expounded by Bro. Ben Maibach. He told us that, although all of us desired to enter the kingdom of heaven, there would be some who would never see it. We were instructed that we should examine our selves, to see if we are acceptable before Christ.

There are still souls who are putting first things first. Surrendering themselves to God while still in their flowering years are Catherine and Lynell Hartzler, daughters of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline; Norene Beery, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Martha; and Dennis Leach.

Welcoming new arrivals this past month were, Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Steiner, a daughter, Darlene Marie, on Nov. 15; Bro. Robert and Sis. Marjory Boltz, a daughter, Regina May, on Nov. 18; John and Elaine McCreary, a son, William John, on Nov. 25; Bro. Ernest and Sis. Marie Bauman, a son, John William, on Nov. 30; and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Elverna Zollinger, a son, Norman Robert, on Dec. 4.

United in marriage on Nov. 21 were Dale Uhler and Marilyn Winkler, daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Stella. May God add his blessings to the union.

Many of our people have endured brief periods of hospitalization this past month. We thank the Great Physician for restoring all to a good measure of health. Recovering at home from surgery, but still unable to assemble with us, is Sis. Kathryn Laukhuf.

Giving of his talents to us was ministering Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park, on Dec. 1. May God richly bless you.

On a Sunday in November, we were privileged to host for the day a Children's Home from our coun-

ty. May we ever remember the less fortunate, and thank God for the fortune of our lot.

SABETHA, KANSAS

Mrs. Theodore Locher

May God bless us all anew in this holiday season. Remember the true meaning of Christmas—the wonderful gift given us, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Let us be a prepared people, for a prepared place of rest awaiting our souls.

Be ye steadfast and unmoveable.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong, who are stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, spent Thanksgiving with their parents, Bro. and Sis. Roy Wysong, Bro. and Sis. Benj. Aberle, and others.

Bro. Benj. Aberle was elected to the committee of the Building Aid, to fill the vacancy left by Bro. Joe Stoller. Bros. Sol Wenger and Henry Plattner are the other two on this committee.

Sis. Katie Rainey had spent several day's in the hospital, suffering with arthritis. She received treatments that gave her welcome relief.

Sis. Mary Aberle has also spent some time in the hospital, this past month with pneumonia, but is home and improving. It is our hope to see her in our midst soon.

Sis. Elizabeth Marti had been helping at the Apostolic Christian home. She had the misfortune of spraining her ankle. She now is staying in the home of her daughter, Sis. Lorene, and Bro. Ephraim Strahm. Sis. Elizabeth is improving, walking with the aid of a cane. We hope she can soon assemble with us again.

Sis. Lydia Ott of Kiowa is a new resident of the Apostolic Christian home. Her son, Bro. Marvin and family came to visit her. Sis. Lydia enjoys so to have some of her children come see her.

Bro. Meno Steiner is also a new resident at the Apostolic Christian home. Bros. Meno and Dan Steiner share their room together, and are company for one another, since, recently, both their helpmates have gone to their eternal rest.

We earnestly are striving, as we still tarry here,
For that which brings us peace,
renouncing
All the world's iniquities, that we,
in realms
Of glory, may then with Thee
appear.

SARDIS, OHIO

Ruth Headley

Visitors last month included Bro. Fred and Sis. Erma Marty, Sis. Adia Grossenbach and son, Vernon and his wife, from Sterling.

Raymond and Sis. Ruth Headley were recently blessed with a daughter. She has been named Linda Lee. Grandparents are John and Sis. Hazel Riggenbach of Sardis and Mrs. Nannie Headley of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Great-grandparents are Henry and Sis. Ella Fankhauser of Rittman. Our prayer would be that she would be raised in the name of the Lord.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Esther Schmid

Visiting ministers the past month were Bros. Uriel Gehring, Burlington; Philip Sauder, Cissna Park; Al Fisher, Chicago; Frank Woertz, Goodfield; Joe A. Getz and Francis Rother, Morton.

Bros. Frank Woertz and Joe A. Getz read the memorandum of the conference.

We were blessed by the inspiring messages the brothers brought. One was on the prodigal son. As the prodigal son came to himself, so must we come back and be reconciled through repentance and confession of sin, believing on Jesus, His death, and blood which flowed for our atonement. Then, God the heavenly Father can welcome the sinner back again, as a son that was dead and is alive again. Again signifies we were at one time His child—yes, when innocent—but sin puts the death penalty upon each and everyone, as we grow older, separating us from God. After becoming a born-again Christian, we are alive again, free from sin.

We were also reminded of Peter's faith, when Jesus asked His disciples, **Whom say ye that I am?** Simon Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus then told Peter it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to him, but the Father in heaven, "and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We are often reminded of the great love and patience of God, but Jesus also saw the wrath of God, when Satan fell from heaven as lightning.

We miss Bro. Charles Sauder, who has been called into service in the Army. His address is as follows:

Pvt Charles W Sauder US55778149
Class 7-B Co-D 3rd Bn
USAMTC
Fort Sam Houston Texas 78234

Bro. Ralph Koch, who had been a patient at Hopedale Hospital, is now home. We wish him an early and complete recovery.

In the past month, our community has been saddened by several deaths. Little four-year-old Craig Pflederer passed away at Pekin Hospital, after major surgery. He was the son of Bro. James and Sis. Doris Lee Pflederer. Bro. Joe A. Getz conducted funeral services, comforting the bereaved parents and family. Plans for our children are often altered by God. Our dear brother and sister have laid a precious sacrifice upon the altar of God, when a small child is required from this life to fill place in heaven. May God be their strength and comforter in their lonely hours. I miss dear Craig. He was our close neighbor, and I have many precious memories of his short stay on this earth.

Sis. Mary Reuter mourns the loss of her sister, Katie Newswanger, who died at her home in Tremont on Nov. 26.

Sis. Katie (Zeitler) Oertle also mourns the death of her husband, Joseph Oertle, who passed away at Pekin Hospital. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Al Aberle on Nov. 30.

Church services were held Monday morning, Nov. 25, as we joined our nation's tribute, in respect to our late president. The freedoms of our country are blessings from God.

Janice Moser and Wayne Litwiller were united in holy matrimony, Nov. 30 in Tremont, at the home of the bride's parents, John and Sis. Lila Moser.

Joy and sorrow were mingled in our midst today, Sunday, Dec. 9. A young soul, Janice Herman, was added to the fold. She is the daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Herman. We wish her grace and strength from above, that she may be a light in these dark times.

The death angel took two dear souls from our midst during the early hours of the day Bro. Jesse C. Sauder, who has been a heart patient for sometime, passed away in the night, at his home. Ida Miller, mother of Sis. Elsie (Mrs. Emanuel) Sinn, passed away at

Pekin Hospital, where she had been a patient for about ten days. We offer our sympathy to the bereaved families.

We are looking forward to the Sunday School Christmas program. The parts of Christmas are many—Peace on earth, Good-will to men, Bethlehem, a star, a manger, angels, shepherds, and gifts from the wise men. Some of the brightest lights of Christmas are the shining eyes of the dear little children, as they sing Christmas carols. As Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Christmas is a time for all mankind to be mindful of others less fortunate than we, and to share with others with what God has blessed us.

Christmas

Bro. Simon Wagenbach

It is again the beautiful and wonderful Christmas season, when we are so renewed in the spirit. It reminds us of the unspeakable love of our heavenly Father, who sent his only begotten son, our precious Lord Jesus, that we might be reconciled with him, as the scripture says, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

He was born of Mary, who was a virgin, in a most humble way. Imagine if you can, Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem, Mary riding on the donkey, and Joseph walking beside her, possibly a little behind the rest of the people, as Mary wasn't able to travel too fast, so that, until they came to the inn in the little village of Bethlehem, all the rooms were taken. That night, the little Lord Jesus was born. Mary tenderly wrapped him in soft clothing and laid him in a manger bed.

That same night, there were shepherds watching their flocks of sheep upon the hillsides about Bethlehem. To these humble men was revealed the glory of God and to see the little baby Jesus. Suddenly, the scripture tells, appeared an angel and said, Be not afraid: "for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord . . . Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling

clothes, lying in a manger." Then, suddenly, there appeared with the angel a multitude of angels, saying, Glory to God in the highest, Peace on earth, Good Will to men.

The shepherds left their flocks, and went to find the baby who was born in a manger in Bethlehem. Dear ones, they were just ordinary people as you and I. Think what an experience that was for them to see and behold. It was a far cry from Christmas as we experience **sometimes** today—a time of hurrying here and there. There seems never to be enough time to do all the things that we perhaps think we should. Oh, let us take a hold of ourselves. Are we really remembering the birth of our Lord as we should? Let us worship Him in spirit and in truth, even as the humble shepherds did so long ago in that lowly stable.

Let us not only rejoice with the birth of the little babe in Bethlehem, but that this little babe grew up and completed the plan of salvation, by shedding his precious blood upon the cross, then after three days arose, victorious over death and the grave, the first-fruit of the resurrection. Whosoever will take up the cross and follow the Saviour will inherit life everlasting, Thanks be unto God, which giveth us victory through our Lord Jesus.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

WOLCOTT, INDIANA Arles Kropf

We are rejoicing over the fact that our friend, Lloyd Kyburz, has found his need of a Saviour and could come in repentance. Our hope and prayer is that many more can also come.

Alvin Furrer, son of Sis. Emma Furrer, and Phyllis Haffner were united in marriage on Nov. 30, at the home of Sis. Emma, by Bro. Theo Beer of Milford. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Our annual teachers' election of Sunday School teachers was held Dec. 6. New teachers elected were Bros. Richard Stoller and Glenn Furrer, and Sisters Emma Furrer, Reva Waibel and Virginia Oberlander.

Bro. Bob Schieler was also elect-

ed as a new trustee.

LEO, INDIANA Mrs. Elias Souder

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone. Our Sunday School children gave a program on Sunday evening, at the church. Bro. Norman Stoller, our guest speaker commented on the many blessings we all enjoy in this land.

Bro. Samuel Aeschliman spent one evening here. We had church services. It was discussed about having services at Indianapolis. The churches are willing to take turns to serve them. We have Bro. and Sis. Harry and Helen Stoller and three boys there (The newest addition is Christ Jon.) There are others interested. A place in Indianapolis has been found. Both Sunday School and church is wanted.

As usual, the rest homes in Butler were visited, the first Sunday of the month. Again, a loved one had gone to that far-off land, from whence the traveller returns not.

Bro. John Bollier Sr. is confined to his home. Sis. Mamie Schlatter isn't feeling so good. Friend Frieda Bertsch remains the same.

When I think of the most outstanding Christmas I ever experienced, it was when I was 14 years old. Dear father, Bro. Souder, baptized me, at our home near Bremen. It was cold, and the day before Christmas. I was proved at the church. I remember my dear Grandmother Gerber shedding tears of joy.

The pump wouldn't work at the church house, so we used a large tank at home, getting water from the well. I never minded the water. I can still hear my aunt saying, "Now you will have the best Christmas gift", and so it was.

Our Sunday School children are planning a Christmas program for Sunday, Dec. 22.

New, sound-holding curtains have been placed in our Sunday School area. They do away with so much confusion.

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS Paul and Kathy Haab

Our visiting ministers for the past month were Bro. Vernon Schwab (accompanied by his wife, Sis. Arlene, and children, and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Leah Farney, all of Wolcott), Bro. Simon Wagenbach (with his wife, Sis. Louise, and their youngest son, Dale, of Tre-

mont), and Bro. Dave Mangold of Roanoke, (accompanied by his son-in-law, Bro. Robert Scherer). Through their visits, we were spiritually fed and nourished by hearing the inspired Word of God preached to us by these humble servants; and we all enjoyed fellowshiping with them and their families.

Our group here at Ft. Sam has grown considerably since the last writing. We welcome the following brothers and friends and hope that they will enjoy the fellowship of our group: Pvts. Gene Siebenthal and Dale Martin (Princeville), Pvt. George Meyer (Lester), Pvts. Larry Kaisner and Lloyd Honegger (Forrest), Pvt. Charles Sauder (Tremont), and Pvt. Marvin Steffen (Bluffton).

All of their addresses are the same, as follows:

Co D 3rd Bn USAMTC
Class 7-B

Ft Sam Houston Texas 78234

Bro. Jim Hohulin was with us once again last week, after having participated in "Big Lift," the evacuation of American troops to Europe on training maneuvers. They were flown to Germany and remained there for a period of approximately three weeks, and then returned to the U.S. He had many interesting stories to tell of their trip. We were sorry to hear, however, that he has received orders to go to Korea, for we shall surely miss him. Our thoughts and prayers go with him.

During the past month, both Sis. Janet Blumeshine and Bro. John Steiner submitted to surgery at Brooke General Hospital. They both recuperated quickly, and we are happy to have them with us again.

Although here in Texas the grass is still green and many leaves are yet on the trees, the poinsettias are in full bloom, and we are reminded that the Christmas season is here once again. Many of our group will travel to their homes, to join their families for 2 weeks, during the holidays. These will undoubtedly be joyful reunions. Those who must remain at Fort Sam will be here in person, but certainly their thoughts will be with their loved ones at home. Do remember in your prayers those men who, in the service of our country, will be spending a lonely Christmas far from home—many

in foreign lands. Wherever we are, though—at home or abroad—may the true spirit of Christmas transcend all that is mundane in its celebration. Let us turn our hearts toward Bethlehem of old, and rejoice in the knowledge that the Baby born there became the Man whose blood was shed on Calvary, thus making Him the Saviour of all mankind.

GIRARD, OHIO

Reporter: Jesse C. Emch

Our guests since the last news item were from Akron, Rittman, Warren, Ohio and Albany, New York.

The week end of Nov. 16 and 17 was a time of rejoicing for all of us at Girard. On Saturday evening, Friend Orin Stoll gave his testimony and experience to the congregation, then on Sunday was baptized. Our Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf, with several others, were here for the occasion. Following the baptism, Bro. Rudolph read the Memorandum of the Conference.

Bro. Lorentz Emch underwent surgery on Nov. 21. After spending 10 days in the hospital, he is at home now, convalescing. We will be glad when he and Sis. Caroline can be in the assembly, to worship together again.

At this writing, Sis. Blanche Baun is in the Youngstown South Side Hospital. She hopes to be going home soon. She is a widow and lives alone, and I am quite sure a card or short note would be very welcome. Her address: Mrs. Blanche Baun, So. Racoon Road, Canfield, O.

He gave us the springtime,
the warm summer breeze,
For all of His blessings,
to only believe;
To the song bird the song
that gladdens our heart,
To the sinner gone wrong,
He gives a fresh start.
He gave us a Saviour
who died on the cross,
That a world of sinners
should never be lost.
The first breath that man took
He gave him one time.
Lord God of all flesh,
your God and mine.

He gave us His love
that warms up our soul,
And when we cross Jordan,
Heaven's our goal.

To all of us, a Christmas
we'll never forget,
Our soul-saving Jesus,
who is with us all yet;
He gave us His promise
we won't be alone.
He sent us the Spirit
to lead us all home.
I am with you always
to the end of time.
Lord God of all flesh,
your God and mine.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA Christine Locher

Sunday, November 17, the engagement of Sis. Ruth Ludwig of Altadena to Bro. Dale Dapper of Maywood was made known. Sis. Ruth is the daughter of Sis. Lena Ludwig of Rockville. Bro. Dale is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Julia Dapper. May the Lord bless them in their undertaking.

The Sunday School and Adult Bible class are planning their annual Christmas program. Our little ones are always eager to learn their pieces and songs.

Bro. Art Gudeman of La Crosse ministered unto us on Sunday, December 8. He reminded us that the Lord is the Shepherd and the door, and, if we knock, He will open it. Accompanying him was his wife and also Bro. Bert and Sis. Anna Gudeman of Cissna Park, who plan to spend the winter here.

Christmas Prayer

Dear Father God, be near to us
And teach us how to pray,
With thankful hearts and willing
hands,
On this, thy Son's birthday.

Make us glad as the angels, Lord,
Who came from heaven's glory
To tell the shepherds, "Christ is
born!"
Let us repeat their story.

Help us hasten, like those
shepherds
To worship at the manger,
Then hurry, too, throughout the
world
To spread the news, mid peace or
danger.

Give us courage like the wise men
To always follow The guiding star,
And bring our gifts of gold and self
To help Thy children, near or far.

OAKVILLE, IOWA

Mrs. Ezra Gerst
Mrs. Edwin Banwart

Sis. Bertha Gehring of Elgin, Iowa, and her daughter, Eunice Willett, and children visited here. Sis. Bertha is the mother of Sis. Phyllis Massner.

We are sorry to report that Sis. Lena Wegman, wife of Bro. John, is still confined to the hospital. She has been there five weeks and is anxious to go home. She is some improved, and we hope she will soon be going home. Bro. Walter Stoller had to go back to the hospital for the third time. He is home now, and we hope his hospital days are over. May God give both him and Sis. Lena the needed grace and courage.

We welcome Bro. Conrad and Sis. Rolletta Gerst into our midst again, after the time spent in the service of our country. Bro. Conrad is the son of Bro. and Sis. Leslie Gerst, and Sis. Rolletta is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Roy Farney of Phoenix.

There were a number home for Thanksgiving, and who again look forward to being with their loved ones for the Christmas holidays, which always means so much. Thinking of Christmas, I would like to add a few lines taken from a prayer from one of our ministers last Sunday: "In this time and season of the year, we can be carried away by commercializing the day of Thy birth, but may we think of Thee, and thy coming, the important thing, that which has brought us here today . . . Thou has come as a Saviour into this world, and if we are willing to consider Thy word, and to consider Thee, who will take Thine own into that eternal city.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

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

As the celebration of the birth of our Saviour approaches, may we all take at least a moment for sincere meditation, to experience a deep sense of gratitude for the measureless love of Christ, manifested by His willingness to die for all humanity.

This finds our Sunday School pupils preparing for our annual Christmas program, which we plan to present Dec. 22. We also plan to

go caroling in the evening.

Sis. Ida Pulfer's youngest daughter, Lois, was married to Kent Winters of Oelwein, on Nov. 16. May God's blessings follow this couple as they travel life's journey.

Mr. Winters is a photographer and Lois has been employed at the Woolworth Co. in Oelwein.

We announce with regret that the Ira Farney family of Fayette are moving back to Illinois. This family is composed of Bro. Ira, Sis. Doris, Barbara, Kathy, Mary, Wayne and Mark. We wish them the best of God's blessings.

Speaking of our recent high school seniors, they are now in separate places of duty. Melvin Moore is a freshman at Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Ia. Sharon Schupbach is working in the office of Roth's packing plant at Waterloo, Ia. Sheryl Butikofer is working in the office of the Elgin Canning Company, Elgin, Ia. and Marsha Metzger is employed at the Pastime Cafe at Elkader, Iowa. Robert Schupbach is in his second year as a Marine.

Uncle Robert and Aunt Ruth Gehring of Kenmore, N. Dakota, left this evening for their home, after visiting with relatives and friends here at Elgin. Their son Robert, who teaches school at Clarion, Iowa, met his parents here for a visit. He and his father attended church Sunday forenoon. We are always happy to see these folks. Uncle Bob, as we call him, grew up in these parts and has many cherished memories of his home, church and schoolmates.

May you readers all enjoy a blessed Holiday season.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Mary Alyce Witzig

Sis. Ruth Ann Schlipf plans to return home from the Hopedale Hospital on December 13, where she has been receiving physical therapy treatments, following surgery, to which she submitted on October 3.

Sis. Julia Campbell is a patient at the St. James Hospital in Pontiac, Illinois. I'm sure she would appreciate your mail and visits.

Donald Schieler had minor surgery on December 5, is now home and recuperating very nicely.

Bro. John and Sis. Mary Gramm are the happy parents of their 3rd adopted child, Carol Ann. Carol was welcomed by a sister, Janet,

and a brother, Alan.

Bro. Philip Kiefer is now making his home at the Fairbury Home.

ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL UNIVERSITY

Alta Kay Zbinden

On November 14, Bro. Uriel Gehring and his wife, Sis. Judy, from Burlington, visited our Bible Class. Bro. Gehring read from and meditated on St. Luke 16. We appreciated and enjoyed the inspirational message, and the singing and fellowship which followed.

Bro. Emanuel Gudeman from Cissna Park was our guest minister on November 21. He read to us from Hebrews 12, and expounded on the importance of faith. We received a blessing from the message, singing, and fellowship.

Our Bible Class did not meet on November 28, because of Thanksgiving vacation. On December 5, Bro. Joe Schrock, our sponsor, was our minister for the evening. He led us in a study of the Birth of Christ, which made reference to the following ten chapters: Genesis 1:1, St. John 1:1-5; 9-14, Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:2; 6-7, Isaiah 11:1-10, St. Matthew 1:18-25, St. Luke 2:1-20, St. Matthew 2:1-12, and Numbers 24:17. The evening was concluded with singing and fellowship.

LAMAR, MISSOURI

Marie Marti

Bro. Earl Banwart brought to us a most appropriate Thanksgiving message.

Our elder brother Sam Anliker, was with us Sunday, Dec. 8, and shared with us the memorandum of the recent Brother meeting. His message, preceding the minutes, included the sincere warning against becoming lukewarm. He urged the daily reading of God's word, so that we may remain steadfast in our faith. The tremendous responsibilities of parents, Sunday School teachers and ministers were clearly defined. With Bro. Anliker were Bro. and Sis. Carl Hartman. Bro. Hartman spoke about the great humility of Jesus, which He showed in so many ways. The extent of His love is difficult to comprehend—but we must strive daily for more humility and love.

Samuel Lehman has been hospitalized, following surgery. We are happy that he is now showing im-

provement, and hope he will soon be able to return home.

Psalm 16:11 "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

Love has a spiritual endurance! When we live in God's presence, life grows more interesting, more satisfying and more worthwhile with the passing of years.

May we ever keep the love of God in our hearts.

The love of a child is so symbolic of the love we strive to gain and retain.

This tender love was so vividly portrayed last week, when little Belinda sat at her desk at school, tears streaming down her cheeks, feverishly working, fingers moving rapidly to complete the object she was making as an art project. She pleaded for permission to remain, when the other children were dismissed, so that she might finish.

Moments later, when her younger brother came in, Belinda looked up at him with tear-dimmed eyes, love and devotion shining through, and said, "Here, Randy, I made this one for you, before I made mine. Now you will have one tonight, too."

Then, there was little Jack, who came to class one morning in late September and asked if he could take some of his books to the little boy who lived in the covered wagon, located temporarily in the vacant lot. Jack had stopped to see the vagabonds on the way to school, and was so impressed with the condition of the boy's home, and so disappointed to learn that he wasn't in school, that he wanted to share his opportunities with this unfortunate lad.

LATTY, OHIO

Mrs. Ray Sinn

Mrs. Gale Stoller

We are happy to have Bro. Bill and Sis. James Laukhuf back with us again. Bro. Bill recently completed his term in the Army.

We had provings and baptismal services for Sis. Mary Jane Rager, daughter of Bill and Sis. Elsie; Sis. Linda Stoller, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Irene; Sis. Minnie Sinn, daughter of Elder Bro. George and Sis. Clara; and Sis. Susan Lantz, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara. We wish them much grace and faith from God.

We like to think of these as four more souls who are praying for the preservation of the true church of God and that many more might find the way.

A large number from the Latty congregation traveled to Milford to witness the wedding of Bro. Mil-lard Stoller, son of Bro. Emil and Sis. Annie, and Sis. Irma, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rose Haab. We welcome Sis. Irma in our congregation. May God bless them as they travel life's pathway together.

Those in the hospital this month are Bro. Ronald Eisenmann, son of Bro. William and Sis. Lillian; Cynthia Rager, daughter of Bill and Sis. Elsie; Beverly Plummer, daughter of Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann. We are happy that all are dismissed and improved.

We were privileged to have the memorandum read to us by our elder brother, George Sinn. We were reminded that each brother and sister should examine himself, and not his neighbor.

Ministering Bro. Walter Reck-lau from Toledo visited us this month. Elder Bro. Sam Aeschli-man from Bluffton helped with the provings of our friends. May God bless them for their efforts.

Sis. Dora Sinn received word that her brother, Tony Miller, passed away. He lived in Hartford City, Michigan. A few from here attended his funeral.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lois Stoller had a baby boy, named Timothy Alan. Bro. Lyle, who is from our congregation, is attending school in Quincy, Illinois.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Mrs. Gus Weltz

E. W. Schupbach fell on November 26 in his home, breaking the leg between the ankle and knee, and is confined to the local hospital, but is doing nicely.

S. A. Kaufman continues to live alone, but is doing very well, despite his many handicaps.

George Emch had four of his sons home over the week-end of December 7. His son, Jack has retired from more than 20 years of service in the Army. He was here from California, John and Bud were in from Tennessee and Joe from Morgantown, W. Va. They are the grandsons of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Emch.

Robert Witschey of Charleston, W. Va., spent a few hours on De-

ember 9 with his father, D. S. Witschey.

Mrs. J. G. Burgess, with her family, Mr. and Mrs. John Partlow, and children of Monroe Heights, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burgess and children of Sistersville spent Thanksgiving with her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart and family in this city.

Dan S. Witschey will observe his 89th birthday on December 31. He is in good health, able to get out, and enjoy walks and visits with his sister, Miss Della Witschey, each day.

Winter has finally made its way to the valley. At this writing, we have some snow; roads and streets are icy; and driving is hazardous . . . But we expect it and take it good-naturedly. It will not be too long until spring will come again.

It is Christmas time, and from all of us West Virginians, we wish every one a very Merry Christmas and a bright New Year, in the words of the poet, "Let us keep Christmas; its meaning never ends . . ."

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Averil Stevig — Eileen Yackley

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 the world . . . to see that your fellow-men 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 began in 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.

This is a lovely season here in our valley. The sun shines brightly on the pretty, green winter lawns, the poinsettias are in full bloom, as are many other flowers. The pyracantha berries have turned a bright red. They all seem to say "Welcome" to our many new faces amongst our brethren (who have visited us before).

Over the Thanksgiving weekend a large group visited us from the California churches. Bro. David Stevig was here for the Thanksgiving holidays and returned home with them. Although the California churches is an eight-hour drive from us, it is our closest church. We enjoy getting together whenever possible.

Bro. Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse spent a short time in our midst. Accompanying them were Bro. and Sis. Bert Gudeman of Cissna Park. We were happy to have Bro. Art give the message at our mid-week service.

We are sorry to report that it has been necessary for Janet Klaus to be hospitalized for the past ten days. She has pneumonia and complications. She is recovering satisfactorily and hopes to leave the hospital soon. We miss her and Terry, when they are unable to assemble with us.

I am sending the contents of a letter received from the 'Bertsch's' in Tucson, and will add that Bro. Jay is progressing nicely and is now teaching woodworking for the handicapped. His job doesn't require too much standing or walking, which makes it easier for him. "Dear Ones in Faith . . ."

On Sunday the 17th of November, we enjoyed services and visiting from our loved ones; Bro. and Sis. Roy Farney; Bro. and Sis. Richard Schupbach; Bro. and Sis. Joe Dotterer, all from Phoenix. Also, Sis. Martha Blessman, and, a friend, Connie Thornton of our city here, Tucson. Our daughter, Ruth and our granddaughter, Peggy Darlene, were also here with us. We were happy they could come to

our home, and meditate and pass some time with us. We're glad when any of our loved ones can pay us a visit and meet with us. All are welcome. Greetings to all . . ."

Friend Bob Lemons, who is now stationed in Korea, has a new address.

PFC Robert Lemons US56337987
48th Serg Hosp 65th Med Gp
APO 301

San Francisco California

We held our annual business meeting this month. Bro. Richard Messner will assume the Treasurer responsibility. The Sunday School superintendent is Bro. Allan Freed. The other Sunday School teachers are Bro. Herb Knochel, Sis. Connie Beer and Sis. Marilyn Dotterer. The usher is Bro. Roy Stevig, and his assistant will be Bro. Ed Dotterer; lunch fund, Bro. Henry Schrenk. Bro. Joe Dotterer will be responsible for our song leaders. Bro. Earl Sanders has been in charge of both the Personal Property and Building aid funds. He asked for assistance; the brothers chosen to assist him are Alphi Fisher and Dick Beery.

May the meaning of Christmas be deeper, its faith stronger, and its hopes brighter, as it comes to you this year. We of the Phoenix congregation wish you all a blessed New Year.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Mrs. Paul N. Rumbold

SP/4 John Affolter from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, is home for Christmas. He is spending several weeks with his parents, Ernie and Laura Affolter.

Walter Knecht and Vernon Wettstein from Eureka were visiting their brothers in the Portland-Tacoma area. Also traveling with them was Ronnie Underwood.

A Saviour

Do we honor the Babe, forgetting
He's Saviour?

Do we kneel at the manger, forgetting
the cross?

Are our hearts filled with joy, as
we sing the Hosannas,
Forgetting He came at such
infinite loss?

The manger means naught had the
cross never risen,
Redemption to purchase on
Calvary's hill.

As a Babe, He came naught for
just adoration;

He came a Redeemer, fulfilling
 God's will.
 He came to the manger, oh wonder
 of wonders,
 Not only the Babe of the manger
 to be,
 But greater than this, He came as
 a Saviour,
 To purchase redemption for you
 and for me.

TOLEDO, OHIO
Emily Frautschi
Marge Reineck

We are happy to have Bro. Gus Rager of Latty back with us again. On Thanksgiving Day, several of his family came to see him at the home of Bro. Walter and Sis. Freda Rehklau.

Sis. Minnie Fetter and Tillie Laukhuf both had surgery this month. We pray for their speedy recovery.

Dec. 8, we were privileged to have Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller and family of Latty assemble with us. We thank Bro. Loren for his inspiring messages to the congregation throughout the day. Also that Sunday, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clara Lanz and family of Latty visited their son, Kerry, who is a student at the University of Toledo.

Leslie and Emily (Grant) Ross and family from Chicago were in Toledo visiting her mother and family.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS
Irene (Hodel) Legel
HISTORY

The early history of the Apostolic Christian church at Roanoke dates back to 1857, when Elder Benedict Weyeneth moved to the so-called "Prairie", from Dillon, Illinois, which was near Tremont.

He first came to America in 1847, when he was commissioned to come to New York for the purpose of providing a minister for a settlement in that state. He was consecrated by S. H. Frohlich for this work and was chosen to be the one to come to America, because he was the youngest elder at that time.

After his visit in 1847, he returned to Europe. There, he married Elizabeth Blunier, in 1850. In 1851, they came to America, first to New York, then to Ohio (where he worked as a tailor), then to Elgin, Iowa (where he farmed) and in 1853, he moved to Dillon. Here,

he also farmed, raising beans and hoeing the soil by hand. From Dillon, he moved to Morton, and then to the Prairie near Roanoke. The first church building was erected in 1864, enlarged in 1876, in 1929 converted into a brick building, and again in 1958, built on, remodeled.

In 1869, about thirty-four souls were taken into the church. Then, for a time there seemed to be a dearth in the gaining of souls, and we have been told that Bro. Weyeneth stated that he felt there would be no more souls repenting around the Prairie, so he considered moving to another locality, where there would be souls who would turn to God in repentance. Accordingly, he sold his farm two and one half miles southwest of Roanoke and was preparing to go to Kansas. In the meantime, Daniel Riggerbach sold his farm one-quarter mile east of the present church and migrated to Kansas, with about fifty other families.

It seems that for some reason, Bro. Weyeneth changed his mind, bought the land from his brother-in-law, Daniel Riggerbach, and stayed with the Prairie church. This residence was known as the Weyeneth homestead, a gathering place for many, to come and stay, from many of the different churches in America. That year (1879), Bro. Weyeneth baptized 159 souls, and we have the recorded names of ninety-four who united with the church on the Prairie.

Before convenient facilities were provided for baptisms, this took place in the creek, many times in cold weather. One incident was mentioned, when they had to endure a little ridicule by boys who threw hedge in the creek where the baptism was to take place. Later, the baptisms were performed on the lawn north of the church. Some who were baptized there speak of walking through snow to be baptized. Later, facilities for baptism were provided inside the church. Today, our baptistry, as in many of our churches, is in the assembly room, so that the congregation may remain seated to witness the baptism.

There were many who walked to church in early years from Eureka and Roanoke. From Roanoke, the first mile was along the railroad, and from there a board walk was laid to the church, consisting of

2x12 planks, laid end to end, a distance of approximately one and one-quarter miles. There were occasions when visitors came from Morton and Peoria on the train. The train would stop at the crossing, about one and one-half miles east of the church, and the visitors would get off the train. They were met by some of our congregation, who would escort them to the church, either on the board walk or with horse and buggy.

There were several years when the number of baptisms was quite high, as 43 in 1893, 59 in 1896, 106 in 1906, 78 in 1916, 50 in 1920, 86 in 1926, 76 in 1937, 43 in 1940 and 51 in 1947.

According to information given by the late Sis. Priscilla Liebig, it was the custom of the early settlers to have the cemetery on the premises of the elder of the congregation. Consequently, the first cemetery is located about three-fourths of a mile west of the church, where Bro. Weyeneth lived at that time in a log cabin, built by Bro. Joseph Virkler of New York. There were five buried here. From this farm, Elder Benedict Weyeneth moved to the farm one mile south and one mile west of Roanoke. Here, another cemetery was started north of the railroad track, where eleven were buried, while he lived on that farm. The new cemetery was then opened at the present site of the Roanoke Apostolic church.

Bro. Benedict Weyeneth died in 1887, and our second eldr was Bro. Conrad Fehr, during the years dating from 1887 to 1902. He came to Illinois from Switzerland, in 1877. He was succeeded as elder by Bro. Michael Mangold, from 1902 to 1930. Bro. Mangold came from Alsace Lorraine in 1876. He lived at Gridley with his brother, Dan, and sister, Mary, where he became a member. In 1885, he married Lydia Hartman of Eureka. One year later, they moved to a farm southeast of Roanoke. He was called to the ministry at the age of 30 years or perhaps earlier.

Many can testify that he led the congregation through many severe crises. After his death in 1930, Bro. J. W. Schmidt served as assistant elder in Bro. Mangold's stead. In 1934, Bro. David Mangold was ordained elder, and is our elder today.

Other ministers of our congre-

gation were Bros. Mike Hartter, Carl Haecker, Henry Altorfer, Jake Hangartner, Will Schafer, Sam Schumacher and Joe Rocke. Bro. Leroy Huber began in the ministry at Roanoke, before our membership was redistributed between the Roanoke church and the new church at Eureka.

Our membership at the time of the redistribution in 1957 was approximately 600. Since that time, it is approximately 375.

PARTRIDGE HISTORY

In addition to the history of the Prairie Church (now the Roanoke Church), we have some history earlier than this, concerning the assemblies at Partridge Prairie (pronounced as Pad-rij Prairie years ago), where the first assemblies of our denomination in Woodford County were held.

Many families located in the area of Metamora, which was first named Partridge Point in honor of an Indian Chief named Black Partridge, who was friendly with the white man. The name of the town was later changed to Hanover, and then to Metamora.

Wooded areas attracted early settlers, because of the timbers providing lumber for their homes.

There was no particular building provided for worship, so the people assembled in homes. On occasions when there were visitors from a distance, or visiting ministers, they

would assemble in barns in order to provide seating capacity for all who assembled. An excerpt from the diary of Bro. Henry Geistlich states, "Sunday, July 1, 1866: At Metamora . . . Today there was church here by Bro. Peter Engel. A large barn was our place for assembling, there being a large number of people assembled. In the forenoon there were 53 rigs in the yard and in the afternoon still more . . ."

The barns were thoroughly swept, including the walls and rafters, and pieces of logs were carried into the barn. Planks were laid across the logs to serve as benches. Chickens would wander in, but if they became noisy, someone would quietly shoo them out.

Sisters and friends who were working in Peoria crossed the river on a ferry, and then walked ten miles to church, held either in homes or in a barn at Partridge. One family living at Crow Creek, not too far from Lacon, drove to Partridge early Sunday mornings with their log wagon. Others from Morton and Dillon walked a distance of twenty-five miles to Partridge, leaving home at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday in order to arrive at Partridge in time for services.

Baptisms were in the creeks. Sometimes the water was low, and those who were baptized would emerge from baptism with their clothes soiled with mud. Other times the ice had to be broken before the baptism could be performed.

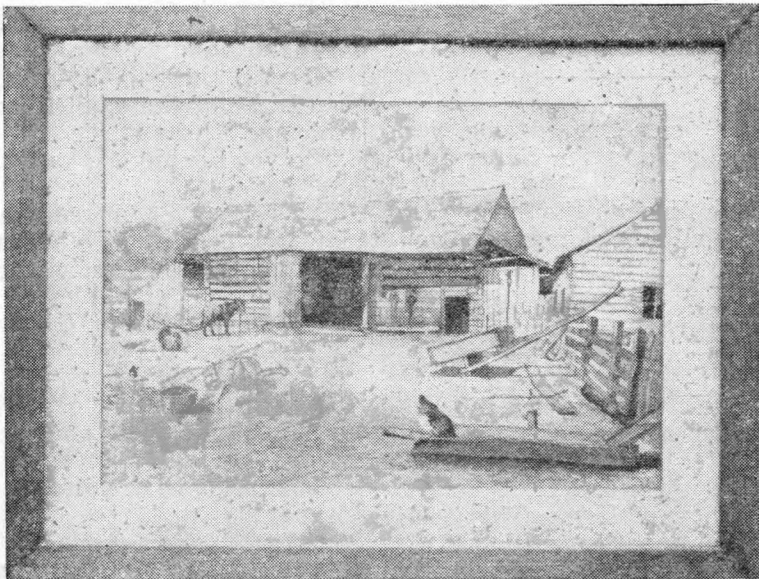
The diary of Bro. Geistlich also mentions of staying at the Krahenbuhl (also spelled Kreinbiel and Grabill) home at Metamora. Bro. Kreinbiel came to America from Strassburg, Alsace, around 1836. He was living near Titusville, Pennsylvania, and Ohio with a colony of people who shared all things in common. However, this did not prove to be very satisfactory, and he left the colony. How he came in contact with our faith we do not know. He moved to Peoria and built a log cabin at the foot of Monson and Saratoga Streets, among other log cabins. They often went to the east coast to meet those of like faith who were immigrating to America, taking them into their home until they found an occupation and established their own homes. While in Peoria, he was ministering in the church, as he also did in Ohio. From Peoria, they moved to a small acreage at Partridge Prairie. He was referred to as the travelling minister, an humble brother, and a loveable brother. He spent much of his time travelling great distances over the United States and into Canada, preaching the faith and organizing churches.

Other brothers serving in the ministry at Partridge were Weyeneth, Schurter, Zimmerman, Hohulin, Wenger, Reuter, Herbold, Herman, Leuthold, Walter, Welk, Virkler, Dotterer, Bella, Martin, Wanner and Herbst. Visiting ministers most of them from out of state, were Wagler, Strahm, Schupbach, Brown, Lauchs, Steiglitz, Virkler, Bohi and Imthurn; and from Europe were Geistlich and a Russian minister whose name was not listed.

The people who moved to the Prairie attended church at Partridge for some time, before they began having services on the Prairie. Services were continued at Partridge for some years after the church on the Prairie was built.

Another listing of ministers of earlier years at Roanoke names four brothers who were not included in the history of Roanoke. They are brothers Claudin, Aeschleman, Hartman and Blunier.

In closing, we would add another instance (this took place in later years on the Roanoke Prairie) before the days of the automobile, when the roads were not passable sisters would walk to evening mid-



A print of an original painting of the Engel barn in which church services were held. The painting was done by a son-in-law of Bro. Peter Engel, referred to in the diary.

week services on the Prairie from the east edge of Eureka, and then walk home again when services were ended.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA
Mrs. Raymond Roth

Gems from a Sermon of
Bro. John Somerhalder

When we prayerfully read the scriptures, what beautiful teachings are revealed to us!

In the gospel of St. Luke, Chapter 18, Jesus gives a graphic example. It has striking resemblance to the lives of men today. The lesson therein is wonderful.

Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the publican.

The Pharisee stands and says, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess." The publican stood afar off and would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but struck his breast and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." And Jesus said, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other . . ."

Haven't we all tried to justify ourselves with the things we alone thought worthwhile? Can't we remember how often we have witnessed the loud and boisterous individual, who, through his eloquence of speech, his pride, and, in general, his attitude, tried to impress others with personal virtue and knowledge. Can't we also remember those, with whom we have been fortunate enough to meet, who with their sincere love and humility, so vividly help us see the humble tax-collector. We can just see how they, too, could smite upon their breast, calling upon their God and Saviour to ever be with them.

Jesus continues, ". . . for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

The disciples rebuked those who brought children to Jesus, for Him to touch. Jesus told them to let the

little children come unto Him, for of such is the kingdom of God. "Verily I say unto you," says Jesus, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein."

(To be continued)

PULASKI, IOWA
Mrs. Ray Martin

The Meaning of Christmas

Christmas is not a holiday package, wrapped with gay ribbon and holly. It is time for meditating, for recalling that night long ago, when a mother in Bethlehem cradled to her heart, and God gave mankind the Redeemer of the world.

Christmas should mean kind thinking, forgiveness, forgetting old cares, old grievances, fears. It should be a time for carving ideals and dreams; an hour for weaving the golden threads of past blessings into a mantle of daily thanksgiving.

Christmas is a gift, transcending human understanding; an angel choir speaking the Songs of songs; imperishable glory from the very heart of Heaven to the farthest part of earth.

Christmas is a boundless love, melting all grief, all heartache; hope, serene and beautiful, lighting all darkness.

Christmas is peace.

Is there some loved one you should be sending the Silver Lining?

The love through the Silver Lining can go miles when perhaps you can't.

MEDITATIONS ON THE PAST,
PRESENT AND FUTURE

This book was written by the grandfather of Bro. David Mangold. In later years, it was translated into English by Bro. Ernest Graf Sr., now at Home. This book may be obtained by writing J. C. Zimmerman, 308 W. Davidson St., Roanoke, Illinois. The price is \$2.50, postpaid, anywhere in the USA.

CAROL OF THE CHILDREN

[Continued from Page 3]

should always care for the poorest and weakest, and all.

The evening was late. A father and his little girl headed home. They came to a river. Over across, here and there was a light. Farther still, the lights of the city that was home were sparkling.

The little one became sleepy. Daddy took her in his arms. Soon, the ferryman came.

In the boat, the child said, "It's very dark, and I can't see the shore. . . ." The father answered, "The ferryman knows the way . . . we will soon be over." She said, "Oh I wish we were there, father." Soon, she was in welcome, bright home.

Days went by. The precious little one became very sick.

She was sleeping. Suddenly, she awakes. A sweet smile glows.

"Father, I have come again to the river . . . waiting for the ferryman to come and take me across."

"Does it seem as dark and cold . . . as the other . . . ?"

"O no! There is no darkness here. The river is covered with floating silver. The boat coming toward me seems of solid light . . . I am not afraid of the ferryman."

"Can you see over the river, my darling?"

"O yes, there is a great and beautiful city there, all filled with light; and I hear music . . ."

"Do you see anyone on the other side?"

". . . yes, yes. I see the most beautiful form, and He beckons me now to come . . . I know who it is! It is Jesus, my own, blessed Jesus. I shall be caught in His arms. I shall rest on His bosom. I come . . . I come."

Until then . . . heartaches will be our stepping-stones, and joy-bells of hope will ring.

The carol of the children is sweet for ever!

**IT IS SUGGESTED, WHERE NO
HARDSHIP, TWO DOLLARS BE
GIVEN A YEAR FOR THE SIL-
VER LINING.**