

THE SILVER LINING

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FAITH

WILL OUR CHILDREN LIVE IN IT?

Bro. Arthur Gudeman

We live in a land of plenty, a land of mechanical miracles and great scientific achievements.

We are the best fed, the best clothed, the best housed people in the world. Our vast material blessings have no equal in the long, turbulent history of civilization.

Yet, at the peaks of prosperity, we find ourselves beset by fears, doubts, and uncertainties. The situation is a frightening one.

Today, Communism denounces and smears the God-given rights and liberties of man. It denounces the basic faith and rights contained in the Bible, the Declaration of Independence, and our Constitution.

This theory of the all-powerful state is now locked in a death struggle with the concept of freedom, justice and the dignity of man. It is a global struggle with a philosophy which seeks constantly and craftily to destroy everything we hold dear.

Today, we stand at a crossroad in the history of our great nation. The time has come when we must act, not defer, when we must lead, not follow, when we must speak, not listen, when we must unite, not divide.

In this crisis, we have at our command the strength, the courage, and the inspiration which lay in the faith of our founding fathers. Men who signed the Constitution, men and women who braved the prairie and the mountain, to pioneer our land, lived and died by faith in God.

What about us and our faith? Let us remember that, down through the ages, faith in God has been an all powerful force in the lives of men. It has been a never-

failing source of strength in time of trouble.

Let us remember, too, that all of the great and lasting monuments of civilization have been dedicated to and founded upon faith in a supreme power.

When our Pilgrim fathers waded onto the shores of New England,

A Lesson In Faith

Thrift away small moments . . .

Be earnest

"And he said, Open the window eastward.

And he opened it. Then Elisha said, Shoot.

And he shot. And he said, The arrow of

the LORD's deliverance, and the arrow of

deliverance from Syria . . .

"And he said, Take the arrows. And he took them. And he said unto the king of Israel, Smite upon the ground. And he smote thrice, and stayed.

And the man of God was worth with him, and said, Thou shouldest have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it: . . ."

From II Kings 13

there was no government ready to give them aid, of comfort or support. All they had to sustain them was a deep and abiding faith. It was sufficient.

In those early days, the voices of the nation's builders resounded through the hills with the great songs of faith. A person shutters,

when we hear the songs over the air today, compared to the songs of faith of long ago.

Throughout civilization, faith has persisted. It has survived the efforts of tyrants and dictators to stamp it out. This faith has given us strength when we faltered, courage when we were afraid, unity when we were divided.

So strong was the faith in God that they caused to be stamped on our coins the words, "In God We Trust."

Do these words, "In God we Trust," guide, inspire, and strengthen us?

Between the America of yesterday and the America of tomorrow stands our generation. To us has fallen the duty to preserve.

By looking to God, by dedicating ourselves to His teachings, we and our children can be filled with renewed and strengthened faith.

The scriptures remind us that, as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. This Biblical admonition tells us that we cannot think in terms of failure, and then succeed . . . in terms of weakness, and then be strong . . . in terms of fear, and then be courageous . . . in terms of doubt, and then have faith.

Our nation has become a land of plenty in a world beset by poverty, hunger and suffering. We have been free to enjoy the fruits of our labors. As we enjoy these blessings, we should remember that freedom can be lost, and that it will be lost if we are not obedient to God's teachings.

It is not enough merely to declare our faith. We must give it life and meaning, by our words, by our works, in our daily lives.

As an example, I think of Joshua, a man of God, who was

chosen to lead the children of Israel. At a critical period in the history of his people, Joshua told them. ". . . choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

That is the kind of faith we can have today, if we are willing to look to God for guidance, go to

church, and follow His teachings.

Brethren, now is the time to take our stand. Tomorrow, it may be too late.

To our young folks: Go to Sunday School and church. Seek ye first the kingdom of God. Repent for your sins and make confession. Experience this wonderful peace and forgiveness, and walk in the

faith that has been preserved throughout the ages.

Let us pass it on from one generation to another. Then one day faith and hope will pass away, when believing ends in seeing, but our love will enter in, where it first came into being. There, our love in endless action shall attain sublime perfection.

THE UPWARD PATH

Henry Souder Jr.

Great miracles come on the unwritten hours of a new day.

Wouldest thou see mighty marvels? Warm thyself in the flame of love.

". . . I count all things **but** loss . . . That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."

Path-joys await our choice. Loss of things conforms us to the cross. The suffering of our Saviour, the cross, is our choice. What consolation whispers in this pathway! Sweeter still becomes his love.

He who suffers great death is given great power. If we become tired of suffering loss, then we suffer **loss** of power. We become weak and sickly. We may think we are unobserved . . . we may show a certain status . . . but we are plain and open to our Lord. Press for power.

"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

The inside of our earthly house, how does it look?

A good housekeeper can tell the habits of the keeper of the house she visits. Our Master knows our house.

With following, the fire beams His warmth. Brightness fills every corner. Everything is filled with light. Prayer brings perfect plan.

"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but **this** one thing I **do**, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are

before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The successful person is one who knows the value of advice. Life is a collection of treasures, new and old, fitted in where each belongs.

PRESS. We have to push. Even to push a little is better than standing still. God's plan is to get eyes off the old hold-backs. He speaks through another, which, taking ourselves, will be a jewel in our room setting.

There is many a surprise and many a delight in doing what He says.

"Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."

The proof of the words spoken is the grace attending.

"Alike" strikes its chords in the scripture. The truth is solid basis that brings harmony of God.

Brother John Bahler was in Europe. He was told about a conference our churches had there, shortly before his coming. A brother got up. He wanted to know why the conference was called. It seems, after some time, an old brother got up. He said it was to see if they still think **alike**.

When we blend our hearts in truth, the news is heavenly!

"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example."

A brave person ahead makes courage easier behind.

Courage to love can provoke fearless following. Love's ways drew the disciples with unseen chords, to eagerly follow their Master to the last full measure of devotion. We need yet to explore **all** the power hidden in the resources of love.

Scolding and sharpness have their place, and need be used sparingly. But a beaming courage and explanation teaches in a thousand and more places they never need enter. Furrow by furrow the field is done. Love strong and happy beams its exhortation and heralds a new day!

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:"

In the inner heart of our Lord is fellowship more precious than telling. Here is the joy of the saints, flamed from radiant fire. Here is the delicious satisfaction that tells why they care not for the world.

THE SILVER LINING

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The home of eternity has the ties of today. They carry over. We receive a brother, faithful, for ever. Home is cozy, warm and happy. Our best of today is hidden somewhat. We know in part. Then, it shall shine forth in a beauty we cannot picture.

We shall know as we are known, when Jesus comes . . .

FROM A LETTER TO OUR REPORTERS

Ed Souder

We are one year closer to eternal glory. Sometimes we get pretty tired of all of these extra things we do, but the other night I tried to imagine what would happen if I were to find out I was going to die in a few minutes.

What would I do? What would I say? Whom would I call? And what would be my first words to the Saviour when I saw Him?

I think I would say to Him that I am very sorry that I didn't do more for Him while I spent my years on earth. When we leave this world, these cars, trips, clothes, houses and the many other things we spend so much of our time working for won't look important. They'll be gone and won't mean a thing.

But we aren't dead. We are very much alive, and we can change our lives so we do much more for the Lord. I'm willing; are you? Many people depend on the Silver Lining to bring them words that will help them spiritually. Many look eagerly to see what is happening to their friends and kin-folk many miles from them. I wish you could read all of the letters we get.

For the next issue, we would suggest a continuation of the Love and Fellowship feature, for those who haven't sent one yet. If you can't think of anything to put in this month, talk to one of your ministers. They can help . . ."

IT IS SUGGESTED, WHERE NO HARDSHIP, TWO DOLLARS BE GIVEN A YEAR FOR THE SILVER LINING.

The Silver Lining has taken over part of the publication of Bro. Gasser: All new addresses of those in Service, or any change, should be published. Addresses will only appear if there is a change of address or a new address. Therefore, we

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

What that will be, when we shall be holy still, for ever!

Each appearance of our risen Lord brought joy, after fear and sorrow. He ate and drank with his

suggest if you want to keep addresses of those in service, save your Silver Linings. If there is any change of address or any new address, be sure that you report to your reporter.

Elias Souder

The Ft. Sam addresses, at least those going there, will be reported from our reporters there.

the editor

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Faye Wackerle & Marlene Mosher

On Dec. 1, a reception was held for friends Jerry and Pattie Lambert, who were united in marriage. Also united in marriage were Friends George Lambert and Mary Margaret Williams. They are both the sons of Bro. George and Sis. Louise Lambert.

We were blessed with a visit from Bro. Maurice and Sis. Lucille Frank and daughters, Norma and Pam, from Chicago. Bay City used to be their home church. We were very happy to have them visit us once again.

On December 20, Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak were blessed with a baby daughter, Tracey Lynn. They have another daughter, Tammy Sue, one year old.

50th Anniversary

I am happy to be able to report that I could rejoice with my grandparents, Bro. Carl and Sis. Ellen (Lambert) Wackerle, who observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary on January 5, with open house at their home, from 3 to 6 P.M., for their many relatives and friends, some coming from Ohio and Indiana to be with them for this day.

They were married January 7, 1914, at Bay City. The following fall, they felt the need of a Saviour, repented and were baptized March 14, 1915, by Elder Brother Gotlieb Maibach. After a year, they moved on the farm where they yet live,

disciples. He spoke peace to them. He walked and talked with them. It was Jesus, Himself.

What glimpses of home!

Hearts burned as he talked. Hope soared to boundless realm. Faith stirred to reach triumph unto the end.

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

and which grandpa yet farms, at Linwood, Michigan.

They were blessed with four children, Sis. Loretta Mosher, Ronald, Willis and Sis. Neola Wackerle at home, and nine grandchildren. Grandma has seven brothers and one sister living. Grandpa has seven brothers and two sisters living.

My Prayer

Help me to walk with Thee through every day; be Thou my guide and leader of my way. Lest in my weakness I should from Thee stray, send me Thy grace.

May I be swift some broken dream to mend, of one who is a stranger or a friend, and may I, when the day has reached its end, still see Thy face.

Help me, my fellowmen, the good to see and may I through this day be led by Thee to see the doors of opportunity that always open lie.

Make me an instrument to do Thy will. Take Thou my life, and with Thy wonder fill my very being. Father, may I still always on Thee rely.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts

God be with you through 1964. Here is a New Year. Let us begin it on our knees, humbly thanking God for all His goodness in the years gone by.

He has helped, strengthened and guided us. No doubt, some of us at times have forgotten Him, but never has He forgotten us. Often He has spoken to us, and we have refused to listen. But now we stand at the gate of a new opportunity. Another milestone is passed; we are beginning another mile of life's journey. He has helped us to achieve much, and He will help

us to do even more, for if God was with us yesterday, will He not be with us tomorrow and the day after?

Let us only see to it that we hear His voice, that we are worthy to walk with Him, and that humbly we strive to do that which is right; so shall this new year be to us a blessing, and so shall we be a blessing to others.

In reviewing the past year, we were fortunate to have fourteen new souls added to the fold. There were seven weddings, although only three of them were in our church. We laid one aged friend to rest, and there were twenty babies born: ten girls and ten boys.

A reception was held December 15, at the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Ruth Kieser, for Bro. Verle and Sis. LaVonne Kieser, who were recently married in West Bend. The newly-married couple will live on the home place. Bro. Dave and family have moved into a newly-built home in Princeville.

The engagement of Bro. Richard Streitmatter and Sis. Mary Wittmer was made known December 15. Bro. Richard is the son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Anna, and Sis. Mary is the daughter of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Ella Wittmer of Morton.

Harold Tanner, son of Bro. John and Sis. Margaret, has made known his engagement to Imogene Begner, daughter of Ralph and Helen Begner. Imogene is the granddaughter of Sis. Mary Begner.

A daughter, Teresa, was born to Bro. Edward and Sis. Frances (Gerber) Knobloch, December 18.

Even though it was a very cold night December 22, there was a large attendance, to hear the songs and recitations of the Sunday School children. Truly, it warms the hearts of all, to listen to the innocent ones tell of Jesus' humble birth.

On Wednesday evening, December 18, Bro. Joshua Broquard assisted our elder brother, Silas Leuthold, in reading and meditating on the memorandum of the last Brothers' meeting. It was a cold night, and we are thankful to Bro. Joshua and those who came with him.

Several groups of carolers went to sing for the aged and shut-ins. It was much enjoyed by all. I'm sure those who took part enjoyed a

blessing, as well as those who were listeners.

The week before Christmas, we had some very cold weather, it being below zero for ten mornings. Then, Christmas day dawned bright, beautiful and much warmer. Many came to church to worship together and celebrate the birth of our Saviour, before having family gatherings.

Home from Fort Sam Houston to spend the holidays with their parents and families were Bros. Eugene Siebenthal and Dale Martin.

How nice it is to have those we love with us at this blessed time.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Esther Herrmann and family were pleasantly surprised, when their phone rang early Christmas morning. It was their son, Robert, calling from Germany, where he is stationed with the army. They could hear him very plainly and enjoyed visiting with him.

Dan Endress has returned home, after being hospitalized for several days. He was extremely ill. We are thankful he was spared and could return to his family again. Steve, young son of Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Elsasser, received painful injuries, when his leg was caught in an auger while helping his father in a silo. Forty stitches were required to close the wound. Steve made the remark that God was surely with him to help him get out. Bro. Edward Knobloch Sr. is recovering from recent surgery. Joyce Rumbold was confined to her home for a few days, following an auto accident. We are always thankful to the Lord that He is ever protecting and preventing us from more serious injuries.

Report on New Bradford Church

We have recently observed Thanksgiving Day, a day proclaimed by William Bradford as a day of Thanksgiving for the Pilgrims, who came to this country in 1620, in search of religious freedom.

In 1847, believers of our faith came to America from Switzerland. Benedict Weyeneth was elected elder for this purpose, consecrated by Froehlich and commissioned to go to America to preach repentance, conversion and baptism.

The first congregations were in New York State. However, in a short time they organized also in the Midwest. In 1849, Frederick Streitmatter came to Illinois, and

was so satisfied here, he sent for his parents, brothers and sisters, who were living in New York. They learned of our faith by attending church in Peoria, and in 1870 organized a church near Princeville, on Streitmatter Prairie.

They assembled in homes for the first few years, but the group of believers grew, so they decided to build a house of worship, this being accomplished in 1880. This congregation was blessed, and again grew, so that the church was too small. It was decided to build a larger church, in the village of Princeville, which is our present house of worship. This was accomplished in the season of 1920-21.

This congregation, too, has been richly blessed, so that it is again too small to properly accommodate the ones who attend. We are very thankful for the continued growth and need of making more room.

After prayerful consideration and discussions, it was thought best to divide our congregation, and erect a house of worship at another location. Since a number of families are living north of Princeville, it seemed best to build in that area. A committee was appointed and obtained a lot on the east edge of Bradford, which is about twenty-four miles north of Princeville.

The church is being built on a four-acre lot, with cemetery adjoining. Excavation was started on May 1, 1963. The corner stone was laid, and the structure has been progressing nicely. The outside work of our new brick structure is now completed. With the building being closed and heated, the inside work will be carried on throughout the winter months, with hopes of completion in the spring of 1964.

The east entrance of this new structure is grade-level, and the West entrance is half-grade. The assembly room will seat 275, with mother and father baby rooms (seating approximately 25) adjoining the assembly. The fellowship hall and kitchen are directly behind the assembly room. The fellowship hall has a space of 1100 square feet for the kitchen and dining area. The dining room has an approximate seating capacity of 75. There are adequate restroom facilities in both the upper and lower levels. The lower level includes a kitchenette, four Sunday School rooms, and an assembly hall, with ade-

quate space for probable future needs.

There are between thirty and thirty-five families who plan to attend church in the newly-erected structure. Since many of them are young families, there will be approximately fifty children in Sunday School.

Sometime ago, Bro. James Ringger was chosen by the entire congregation to serve in the ministry, since all the present ministers live in the Princeville area. Bro. James and his family ask for the prayers and support of all, to keep the new church in accordance to Scriptural teachings. We all pray that this congregation, too, will prosper and grow both in spirit and in number, and ask for God's blessings and divine guidance.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY August Mueller

Sun., Dec 8 . . . Today, we had Friend Richard Moser from Cissna Park with us. We were very glad to have him. He brought good news to us. We hope and pray that many souls could find salvation while the door of grace is open and the invitations are still sent out from time to time. We thank God for every soul that can be rescued. We know neither time nor hour when the Master of the house will arise, to close the door, and no one will be able to open it again. What the Lord closes, no one can open, and what He opens, no one can close.

We heard today how important it is to be on the safe side and to have a shelter that can not be destroyed.

Sun., the 5th . . . Blessed, holy is the hour, when we Jesus think of Thee, and thy word in godly power, hear and in our hearts receive. Today, we were again blessed in rich measure through the word of God. We could feel that He was among us and did give us food and drink for our inner man. O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His mercy which He does bestow on all mankind. He lets the sun come up over bad and good, and sends rain over the righteous and the unrighteous. He satisfieth men with good things, and He is a kind and loving Father. We cannot praise His holy name enough for all the blessings which we receive out of His Father hand.

Sun., the 22nd . . . In three days from now, the world will celebrate

the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fortunes will be spent for gifts that will last but a short time, and the greatest gift, with His peace from God, is pushed aside . . . The peace that is everlasting, that passeth all understanding, that can be had for the asking—no money, no price, only a humble heart. Yet, when we read the Silver Lining, we find that many souls were added unto the sheepfold and were saved from everlasting destruction. Soon, another year will be behind us that will never return. The poet says, The hours are gone and gain there is none, if they were not spent in trusting in Jesus, who to us was sent.

Dec. 25 . . . Christmas How precious the words which Simeon, the man of God, spake, when he took the Christ-child in his arms. He said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace . . . For mine eyes have seen thy salvation . . ." If we stay true and faithful, we also will depart in peace, according to His word, and shall see Him as He is. We find that it did not help them that could see him in person and did not believe. Our Lord Jesus came on this earth to save mankind, through faith in Him and in his word, as he so often said.

Dec. 29 . . . Today, we had visitors from Roanoke, Bro. and Sis. Carl Sauder. They are visiting with their daughter and her family, Bro. and Sis. Ed Aeschliman, in Wilmington, Delaware, who are the parents of a new baby boy, born Nov. 18. His name is Paul Edward. God bless them. This is the first time since I write for the Silver Lining that I report the birth of a new baby.

Dec. 31, 11:00 p.m. There is an old old hymnbook written with pen and ink. The name of it is *Bachofen*. In that book, there is a hymn especially written for the end of the year. It goes like this: "The old year is now going to the end and closes its swift run, so I lift my heart, my voice and my hands up to Thee, O God, to bring thanks and praise unto Thee, for all that thou didst for me". Indeed, we have many reasons to honor and glorify our heavenly Father. He blessed us. He protected us. He provided for body and soul. We can not find enough words to praise His holy name.

It is no need that I should write about all that happened in this year. We all hear and read the news, and we all know that thousands of people were cut off from this world in a moment's time, including our president. Among the members, many family circles were broken, including mine, but still we should not murmur nor complain, because our life is not our own. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh and the name of the Lord be blessed. He did so much for us, and we did so little for Him.

The best news we hear is when we read in the Silver Lining that souls turned to the Lord. We wish that in the new year, even more could be added to the sheepfold.

Fifteen more minutes, and this year will be behind us, never to return. May God grant grace, that in the new year, we may be able to gain some more with the pound that He gave unto us, that we sow good seed upon the field, for eternity, that when we have to leave this poor world we can be gathered as ripe fruit into the everlasting barns.

The new year just ushered in. We know not what is in store, but we have the promise of our heavenly Father, that He will be with us every day, to the end of our life. He keeps His promise if we keep what we promised.

May now the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the peace and love of God, the fellowship of His Holy Spirit abide with us all, yea with us all. Amen.

JAPAN Yoshio Yamazaki

I wish special greetings to all members and beloved friends this new year, 1964. May our loving Father in heaven give you happiness and peaceful joy in His riches.

Bro. John, Sis. Betty Klaus and their two little children safely arrived at Tokyo, Dec. 31, early in the morning. Bro. Willis went to Haneda Airport and brought them back to his home. Oh yes, they are surely fine and look really healthy. I surely believe our Lord Father will help them and also their work here in Japan. We surely are thankful to God for such a wonderful fellowship with all brothers and sisters in faith, through God's love, beyond nationality.

Here in Tokyo church, we elected new Sunday School teachers Christmas. Sisters Hiroko Utsuki, Hiroko Natori and Hideko Shimada are to teach the children. As I wrote before, here in this country, Japan, people are very busy for pleasures and worldly satisfactions, TV, movie shows, etc., so our Sunday Schools are **not with heavy attendance**, even in country churches. Another thing we are always praying about, we would like to have more laborers to work for the Lord. ". . . The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few". Matthew 9:37.

Bro. Takeshita is very faithful to both churches, Shioda and Tamahata, since long time, but he is pretty old man, so Bro. Willis and I will help him more often, from Jan., 1964. If it is the Lord's will, we will go every other week, visit the country churches and try to encourage all the members who are not or can not come to church services. Bro. Takeshita said, "If it is the Lord's will, I would like to go Tamahata church and do more to spread the Gospel around there, because that's my wish since I came into this church fellowship."

Bro. Yoshito is not any different, so I would like to ask you to continue praying for him, especially, and also for Bro. Kimio Akao, because he had appendicitis and was operated on in the hospital last week.

P.S. (Willis R. Ehnle)

About the middle of December, Bro. Kimio Akao and your reporter, Bro. Yamazaki, had an accident, when a motor bike on which they were riding to visit Bro. Takeshita slid on a curve and threw them into the ditch. Akao was not injured, but Yamazaki required several stitches above his right eye. He is quite well again and did not wish to mention the accident in his report.

WEST BEND, IOWA Anna Schmidt

Sisters Ida Schmidt and Ida Banwart are able to assemble all day on Sundays. We are thankful to have them back in our midst.

Sis. Emma Luthi has been sick with a virus infection. We wish her a speedy recovery. Sis. Lena Grimm also has a virus infection. We had our Sunday School

Christmas program on December 22. It is always inspiring to hear from the tender and youthful hearts.

Wayne, son of Bro. and Sis. Elmer Fehr; Kenneth, son of Bro. and Sis. Fred Traub; and Richard, son of Art and Madeline Banwart, are stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, where they are serving in the National Guard. They were home over the holidays.

Pvt Richard L Banwart NG
26808178 COA 3rd BN
2nd Trng Regt Basic
Ft Leonard Wood Missouri 65475

Pvt Kenneth L Traub NG 26808179
COA 3rd BN 2nd Trng Regt Basic
Ft Leonard Wood Missouri 65475

Pct Wayne E Fehr NG 26808180
COA 3rd BN 2nd Trng Regt Basic
Ft Leonard Wood Missouri 65475

We have started a rotation system in our Sunday School.

Bro. Earnie Schmidt, who has faithfully taught the Bible Class for some time, has been replaced by Bro. Elmer Fehr, who has been teaching the Junior Bible Class. Bro. Clifford Grimm was elected to take Bro. Elmer's place in the Junior Bible Class.

We have also chosen two sisters, Katie Ludwig and Nima Fehr, to teach in some of the younger classes. They are replacing Sisters Bernice Banwart and Mabel Zaugg.

We are thankful for the love and effort of the past teachers.

Steven, son of Bro. and Sis. Eugene and Evy Bruellman, had a narrow escape from being smothered in a corn bin. He was in corn, up to his shoulder.

PULASKI, IOWA Mrs. Ray Martin

Bro. & Sis. John Gramm of Gridley, Bro. and Sis. Bob Keifer of Forrest, Bro. and Sis. James Sutter of Taylor and families visited with the Albert Wuthrich family on Christmas.

Another Year Is Dawning

Another Year is dawning; Dear Master let it be,
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace,
Another year of gladness In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training For holier place above.

Another year is dawning, Dear Master let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven, Another year for Thee.

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.

ATHENS, ALABAMA Ann Wagler

The Athens and Landersville youth groups made flower arrangements for patients in the Moulton and Athens hospitals, and then personally presented one to each patient and nurse.

Henry and Anis Perry have been sick. Freddie Moss was back in church, after many weeks in bed with Bright's disease.

Joan and Susan Wagler came home from school for the holidays. Joan is in Tuscaloosa for three months of mental health training.

We had a record snowfall. The sun soon melted it.

Bro. Phil Wingeier's visited the week end of Sept. 29, enroute to Florida for the winter.

Many people here are interested in reading the Bible through. Folks in the three churches were given daily reading schedules We trust that many will read the entire Bible in '64.

I supposed I knew my Bible,
Reading piecemeal, hit or miss,
Now a bit of John or Matthew,
Now a snatch of Genesis.
Certain chapters of Isaiah,
Certain Psalms (the twenty-third),
Twelfth of Romans, first of Proverbs,
Yes, I thought I knew the Word.
But I found a thorough reading
Was a different thing to do,
And the way was unfamiliar
When I read the Bible through.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Mrs. Jim Barton
Audrey Hitz

Have you ever wondered, or tried to imagine, how you would get along if there were no Christ or God in heaven? To whom would one turn in time of sorrow, pain or anguish? Who would comfort, sustain and strengthen? Who would help carry your burden and stay at your side? Man, you say? But think of the hours when men sleep—it is in the darkest of night and times when we need help. But the Lord never sleeps. He is ever present when you call. Can you always accept without giving? But what can you give? Give Him your burdens, your trials, your temptations, your sins. Give Him your heart.

A dear soul from our congregation, Judy Colver, gave Him her heart and was received into the fold, through holy baptism, on Dec. 15. Judy was one of the recent graduating nurses at Henry Ford Hospital this fall, coming from Bay City and presently making her home in Detroit.

On this most blessed day, we had with us Bros. Rudolph Graf and Joe Waibel, who read and explained the memorandum to us. The closing evening hours of this perfect day found the Bible Class and many others at the Convalescent and Home for the Aged, singing carols and hymns of praise with joyful hearts and voices. A week later, a goodly number of Bible class and Sunday School children gathered to sing to the shut-in of our own church body. Among those visited were Sis. Tillie and John Hasler, Sis. Christine Dimitrie, and Sis. Esther Wagner.

We are happy to report that Mother Sirovey is progressing satisfactorily, after a long stay in the hospital, with an operation last month. Mother Sirovey, at 84, is one of the oldest in our congregation. Though recuperation is a slow process at this age, we thank God that He has seen fit to add more days to her life, that we may all enjoy her quiet, serene and peaceful example of a Christian life.

At our recent business meeting, we elected new Sunday School teachers, to replace Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel, whose term of 3 years had expired. Our teachers now are Bros. Paul Waibel and Leonard Hitz, Sisters Linda Shaw, Arlene Belsley and Dorothy

Knochel. The new treasurer is Bro. Dan Knochel; Secretary, Vi Barton; and Sisters Lucile Maibach and Helen Shaw are in charge of church dinners.

Among our visitors were Adena, Diane and Rose Sheetz, formerly of Phoenix, now tentatively staying in Detroit.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA
Velta Laukhuf

Jan. 5 was the first Sunday of winter services, which are held in the Womens' Club Building, here on the west coast of Florida. We are happy to see so many of the folks back again, and also welcome the new ones.

This is the time of the year which causes one to pause and give God special thanks for the many blessings that were bestowed on us during the past year. We also look forward with faith and hope, and ask Him to be with us this winter season and new year, at all times.

Our minister for the winter months, Bro. Philip Wingeier, and Sis. Fern are with us and are staying at Bahia Court, 1206 S. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota. Bro. Phil welcomes visiting ministers to take part in our service. Our assembly house is on the corner of Park and Palm. The time is 1 p.m.

AKRON, OHIO
Grace Schuckert

Young and old alike enjoyed an evening of carol singing by the Sunday School group, on Dec. 22. This was followed by refreshments, served in the church basement.

We sympathize with Sis. Kathryn Novotny, with the sudden death of her sister, Margaret Al-Brecht Pelsy, of Francesville.

Brian Charles was the name chosen for the son born to Duane and Diana Fritz Stingly. Diana is the granddaughter of the Peter Barnas.

With classes temporarily discontinued over the holidays, college students Philip Webber, Bob and Paul Ritzman, David Gasser, Ernie Graf Jr., Dennis Fritz and Bro. Robert Indermuhle spent time at home with their parents.

Sis. Bessie King is slowly recovering from a hand and wrist injury, suffered in a fall. Bro. Philip Webber Sr. is recuperating at home, after major surgery.

A stirring message of faith was

delivered to all who were present, when ministering Bro. Edwin Bahler and family of Remington visited us.

Our elder brother, Rudolph Graf, informed the congregation of what was discussed at the brotherhood meeting in Bluffton, and what the brethren decided would be most beneficial to the church in resolving these issues.

I hope to benefit from the story of the little old lady, who had prepared for her first train ride. On boarding the train she spent considerable time, until her luggage was put up, handbag conveniently placed, seat adjusted, and shade drawn. Just as she settled down for the ride, the conductor called out her station. "Oh," she thought, "I would not have spent my time in fussing, had I realized I would be so soon here." The story has a spiritual significance, that we be ready when the Lord calls out our station. We are all traveling towards that final destination, and when we reach it, the ride, too, will seem to have been so short.

BERN, KANSAS
Mrs. Morris Edelman
Mrs. Leonard Baumgartner

Bro. Forrest Ritzman, along with his sister, Esther Morrison, of Akron, attended funeral services for their cousin, Solomon Meyer. Special services were held the following Friday evening, the Sabetha church gathering with us.

On December 22, the Bible Class presented a Christmas program of carols, before the afternoon services. That evening, they went caroling to the Apostolic Christian Home and other shut-ins. In spite of the cold weather, our young people put forth effort to visit our aged members. The class met at Bro. Joe Rokeys for refreshments and fellowship, afterward.

Sis. Lena Lehman recently moved from the hospital to the Apostolic Christian Home.

Jan. 5, a farewell pot-luck and singing was held at Bro. Leonard Baumgartners, for Bro. Lee Plattner. He will be missed in our congregation, as he leaves for the service on January 14.

Love and Fellowship

Oftentimes, we wonder what we would do without our Sunday serv-

ices, singings and Christian fellowship. We don't appreciate enough the fact that our ministers bring forth the Word of God in its truth and simplicity, through the Holy Spirit. Many people wonder how our ministers can stand up to preach, without meditation or preparation. To us it is no mystery.

Can't we all feel good fellowship during our Sunday lunch hour?

Truly, our Love and Fellowship are important in our walk of life.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA Mrs. Raymond Roth

Gems From A Sermon of Bro. John Somerhalder

(Continued from last Month)

A certain ruler asks Jesus, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" After Jesus impresses upon him that none is good save God, he tells him, "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother." Very quickly, the ruler lets Jesus know that he has obeyed all of these commandments from his childhood. Then, Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing; he should sell all that he has, divide the money among the poor, and he would have treasures in heaven; **and come, follow me.** But the rich ruler was sorrowful when he heard this. Jesus said, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!"

Now, let us consider all of this as it applies to each of us.

Why is it so hard for us to give our lives to Jesus? Knowing the terrible damnation that faces us unless we let Jesus come into our heart, it is certain that we do not intentionally look to God and defy Him. But deep down within, we are prone to justify ourselves, as the Pharisee tried to justify himself. We like to think of ourselves as being a "pretty good" person. ". . . I've not committed great sins. I've kept the commandments, and I'm just as good as so and so, who is a member of church. I can remember all sorts of things he did that I'd never have thought of doing," we like to tell ourselves. Let us consider the rich ruler. He must have lived a very good life. In fact, most of us would concede that we didn't measure up to him by a long

way. But what did Jesus tell him, "Yet lackest thou one thing; sell all . . ." **and come, follow me.** Now consider, Jesus said that there is none good but God — didn't even want the ruler to refer to him as being good. — Now I see that, even though I might have lived a "pretty good" life, it was not good enough. Unless I am willing to sell all and **COME FOLLOW JESUS, I shall perish — be LOST ETERNALLY.**"

I must now look at this genuinely. If the rich ruler could not enter the kingdom of God, and he lived a "pretty good" life, then how do I stand before God. Now, I'm making headways. I am willing to look at myself as God sees me, and immediately I see myself as a **SINNER.** I see that I, too, have withheld my riches from the poor, and have not been willing to follow **HIM.** Soon I can strike my breast and ask God to **FORGIVE ME, A SINNER.** Then Jesus can see true humility and love, and so can my friends and neighbors. Then I can become as a little child, and God will give me the grace for true repentance. I can be **BORN AGAIN,** converted from my sinful state to a loving child of God, to follow His commandments. All that matters now is Jesus Christ and His shed blood. Jesus must come **FIRST** in my life. Nothing else in this world can mean more to me than Him. Yes, I can sell all, give to the poor, and follow Jesus.

How could this have happened to me? Why did Jesus love me enough to help me find salvation? I was so selfish—thought only of myself, and did not really deserve so great a gift. I tried so hard to live right, but could not find real peace of heart and mind. But, oh, when I put it all in Jesus' hands & said, "Here I am, Jesus; you take me; mold me and make me after Thy Will", then, and then only could I understand that, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

*Gems taken from Bro. John Somerhalder's sermon.

Sorry, I failed to have news in the December issue of the Silver Lining. At news reporting time, we were visiting our daughters and families, Mrs. Roy Yergler, Cissna Park, and Sis. Glenn Moser, Roanoke, and also helping care for our

new grandson, Brian Douglas Moser.

The Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program the afternoon of Dec. 22. Following the program, Bro. Eli Somerhalder read Christmas Greetings from our former elder, Bro. Roy Farney of Phoenix, to the congregation and Sunday School children.

On the evening of Dec. 23, a number of the Sunday School students sang Christmas carols for the shut-ins and older people at Kiowa and Burlington. Gift baskets were also given. Later, refreshments were served to the group in the church basement.

We wish to extend our sympathy to our sister, Mrs. George Miller, and Bro. Charles Gleichman, whose brother, Dave Gleichman, of Wichita passed away. Funeral services were held at Harper, Kan., Dec. 24.

Hospital patients have included Bro. John Diel, Sis. Marie Schurter, Bro. Ed Kircher, and Becky Kircher, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Wayne Kircher. A number in this area have been ill with colds and the flu, the past several weeks.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS Louise Steffen Katie Kachelmuss

On Dec. 8, the wedding of Paul-ette, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Schambach, and Wayne Putt, of Francesville, took place at the YMCA building. Bro. Herman Kellenberger performed the ceremony.

The Sunday School teachers and pupils, from the 5th grade and up, went caroling for our shut-ins, elderly members and friends, and presented them with baskets of fruit.

Sis. Sadie Metzger was hospitalized for a time, but is now back in her home. We miss her in our assembly, and wish her God's blessings, during her shut-in hours.

Sis. Mary Oettinger, who is at the Oliver Nursing Annex, 364 St. Charles Street, appreciates very much the many cards she has received from members and friends, and extends her heart-felt thanks to all.

Funeral services for Sis. Caroline Meyer, who had been living at Fairhaven Rest Home, were held here on Dec. 16. Bros. Al Fisher and George Yergler conducted the services.

Alvin Farney passed away on Dec. 18. Bros. Albert Scheitlin and Herman Kellenberger conducted the services. Alvin was the brother of Sis. Anna Holliday.

Dec. 22, we had our Sunday School program for Christmas. The little children spoke pieces, which are always enjoyed by all. The singing of Christmas carols by the older ones is always an inspiration, and to the praise and glory of God in the Highest.

Sis. Eunice Knobloch of Lester is now working here. We welcome her in our congregation.

Bro. Herman Braun, who is stationed at Fort Sam Houston, was home for the holiday season. We were glad to have him in our midst again, even if it was just for a short time (as that time goes so fast), but we wish him God's protection for the future, and until we meet again.

Bro. Ed. Gudeman recently related an incident (in his sermon) about a brother who was imprisoned during the last war. He had a loved one near who was cold, so he sent him a blanket. When the authorities found it out, they put him in a very cold room, until he turned blue with cold. He kept his faith through it all and miraculously escaped, not even catching cold. It shows God's almighty power in protecting and caring for His own.

LeRoy and Florence Leman have a little girl, Laura Marie, born Jan. 3.

Sis. Katie Dietrich is able to assemble with us again, after a short absence due to illness. We're glad to have her with us.

Bro. Karl Assenheimer was with us Sunday. He is not able to attend services regularly, as Milwaukee is 90 miles from here, but he is so grateful when he can come. We always enjoy having our older members in our midst. We are also thankful that God still gives our elder brother, Wm. Stettner, strength to carry on the duties of ministering to us, as he has now for so many years. We receive many good and wholesome teachings from his messages. May God be with him further on, so that he can continue to be a faithful ambassador for Christ, as he has in the past.

Our Sunday School teachers and some of the children packed Christmas stockings for the children in Alabama, putting in pencils,

Scripture readings and books, goodies, etc. We know these will be appreciated. It is a source of enjoyment for all that take part, and is also good for the children who help along on a worthy project.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Marie Zaugg

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Dec. 18. We were reminded what Jesus has done for us, in coming into this world, as an example for us.

On Dec. 29, we received many blessings. Elder Brothers Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Eugene Marti, (Sabetha), were with us. Bro. Eugene gave us much food for thought. He spoke clearly on many interesting passages in the scriptures.

Bro. Sam read the conference letter to us. May we give it much thought. With Bro. Eugene were his mother, Sis. Elizabeth Marti, and Bro. and Sis. Roy Rokey.

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. Ruth Prichard of Junction City, Kansas. Ruth is a sister of Sis. Annabell Bahr.

The funeral was Wed. January 8, at Sabetha Mortuary, interment in the Bern church cemetery.

This is by Ministering Brother Wayne Miller.

As we have just seen another Christmas season pass by, and the New Year lies ahead, we wonder if we shall see another holiday season.

How beautiful life can be to one who has his eyes stayed upon the Saviour and who ponders upon His word, as Mary harbored the teachings she heard in her heart. This wonderful plan of salvation which God presented to His entire creation was the greatest of God's accomplishments. Yet, we know, according to His word, that there is nothing impossible with God, through the Lord Jesus' death upon the cross, where He shed His blood and then became victor over death, thus fulfilling the mission for which He was sent.

We have to note, that in exchange for this most precious gift that has ever been offered to man, fewer people are surrendering their lives into His hand that He in turn can prepare them for that eternal kingdom. In view of all this,

we have to pause and think, "How can the Lord stay His coming again upon this earth?" It proves to us His love for His creation is truly great. May we, with a small portion of this great love in this new year ahead, strive to be more useful vessels in His service.

As many make their resolutions only to fail, may we all by the Lord's grace resolve to walk this pathway of life with a closer walk with Him.

Will this new year bring the fulfillment of Christ's words, when He said "For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day"? May we all be faithful stewards, watchful at the post of duty, ready to meet the bridegroom of our soul.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich

We are happy that God has given our daughter, Mary, and Edwin Gutwein a baby son, Loren Alonzo. We now have five grandsons and five granddaughters, which are a great blessing. Our daughter, Betty, is now at the Logansport State Hospital for three months of her Nurse's Training, and the joy that the nurses can give those patients must be pleasing to God, as they are His creation. The gifts that people donated to them for Christmas brought joy. Many seem not to have any relatives.

Sudden sorrow came to our dear brother, Emil Pelsy, when his wife, Sis. Margaret (Albrecht), passed away unexpectedly with a heart seizure. Bro. Noah Schrock gave comforting words, "That she attained what she had lived for", and this can be a comfort to the bereaved ones in the coming years. They, and we all, will have fond memories to cherish.

This announcement is from Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally (Neust) Neihouser: Our prayers have been answered. A girl has been given us, for adoption. She's just two years old; Penny Dawn is her name.

Words from father, Bro. Norr . . . No matter what may greet us as we journey this new year, His grace will prove sufficient.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Mrs. B. E. Getz

We were very happy to have Bro. Albert Fisher and his wife of Chi-

cago with us on Sunday, December 8.

Funeral services were December 7 for Bro. Henry Knapp, age 79. Bro. Joe A. Getz officiated.

Bro. John Kaufman, age 89, was called to rest, after many years of illness. Funeral services were held January 2.

Bro. Jack Zobrist is a patient at the Restmor Home.

Bro. Chris Kipfer, who broke his hip, remains a patient at the Methodist Hospital in Peoria, and his wife, Sis. Mamie, who is blind, is now a resident at the Restmor.

Sis. Augusta Krug is a patient at the Proctor Hospital in Peoria.

A baby daughter was born to the Rudolph Bertschis, December 22.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sis. Mary Wittmer, daughter of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Ella Wittmer, and Bro. Richard Streitmatter of Princeville. He is a son of the Harold Streitmatters.

Bro. John Kauffman, who underwent surgery at Bloomington, was able to return to his home in Hudson, Ill.

In the Sunday School's presentation of their annual Christmas program, Sunday evening, Dec. 15, each Christmas carol was used as a basis for a narration. With the narration preceding each song and arranged in proper sequence, the beautiful Christmas story was unfolded by 350 young people.

The Sunday School's annual custom of giving a monogrammed Bible to each second-grade student was continued. This accomplishes several purposes. Each student has a book of his own, which is brought to class. It is a teaching aid to have all Bibles in an individual class of the same printing. These Bibles have become cherished possessions.

MY REDEMPTION

Submitted by Sis. Bena L. Getz

I once served the "King of sin",
When I was yet foolish and vain,
And I was firmly bound to him
With a long and a mighty chain.

Every day I added a link.

Thus, gradually the chain grew longer,
And as each link was greater,
Of course the chain grew stronger.

Often "Conscience" would whisper,
In a voice very feeble and weak,
Oh, what will all this lead to,
If salvation you fail to seek?"

Then Satan, to deceive me
Said: "Wait until you are old.
Enjoy your youth with pleasure,
And the world with all its gold."

But one day there came a knocking
At the closed door of my heart,
And a voice that moved me
strangely
Said: "Give to me your heart."

In haste I rose to open,
But what held me back within?
'Twas the hated chain of bondage,
That long, long chain of sin.

As I lingered, tarried, troubled,
Loud there came that knock
once more,
And that voice was saying:
"Open!"
Or I'll leave and come no more!"

How I longed that door to open;
How I wanted so to know
Who it was that had the power
With their voice to move me so.

So at last with mighty effort,
The door I opened to behold
Jesus, the humble Saviour,
And the Shepherd of "Life's
fold."

Then the light that shone about
Him
In reflection also shone
On my heart—And there with
horror
I saw Satan on a throne!

Then I fell to doubtful musings,
Was it true—for me atone?
Such a heart I dared not offer,
Such a Saviour, His to own.

In His wisdom He saw clear
My misgivings and my fears,
So He touched my heart with sad-
ness,
Soon there flowed repentant
tears.

Then I saw how He had suffered,
That I from sin might be set
free,
How they crucified the Saviour
Years ago on Calvary.

So I knew that blessed Saviour
Alone could save me from woe;

He alone could take my heart
And make it white as snow.

Then I went to Him confessing,
Asked for mercy and for grace,
And He promised me with blessing
All my sins He would erase.

Through the valleys dark He led
me,
Oft my strength was almost
spent;
Till one day, when hope was lowest,
That precious, heavenly peace
was sent!

Oh, the rapture then that followed,
Yet how soon it was to cease,
For, e'er night, the wicked Satan
Came and robbed me of my
Peace.

Yes, the floods of doubt over-
whelmed me,
I was yet so very weak,
And once more the Saviour's
mercy
In sadness I had to seek.

But the Saviour knew the tempter,
Knew what wiles he would
employ;
He restored to me my peace,
Filled my heart once more with
joy!

Now a soldier, armor-bearer,
I see the race has just begun;
May the Saviour never leave,
Till the race of life I've won!

RITTMAN, OHIO
Ella Mae Trent

The books of the old year are closed. We go forth to the unknown task of the New. May we ever seek the Lord for guidance and strength in each daily undertaking. For those who stand without the fold, may you start the New Year with a new life! You will be exchanging death for life, and sin for righteousness.

The Unlived Year—1964

Midnight strikes, and the old year's gone—
We close the tablets we've written on,
And torn twixt hope and doubt and fear,
We open the book of an unlived year.

Beer have moved into the small house on their farm, after extensively remodeling it.

Bro. Henry Beer and many of the young friends are working on some special singing, in cooperation with other Indiana churches, which will be placed on a long playing record. Included on this will be singing by our Japanese brethren in Japanese. Many of our younger brethren and Henry went to a nursing home in Warsaw, to bring a Christmas message to the people there.

We were thankful that, on Jan. 5, we were able to hold a business meeting and elect Bros. Bob Kaiser and Frank Beer Jr. to the Sunday School as teachers, with Bro. Jesse Beer as an alternate substitute. Bro. Howard Beer was elected treasurer, and Bro. Oliver Haab, trustee. Bro. Don Beer is the new Aid brother for the building, and Bro. Lowell Rassi is in charge of the personal property. It was promised that a rotation system would be set up in the near future for Sunday School teachers.

ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA Doris Graf

On Sunday, Nov. 17, the engagement of Sis. Ruth Ludwig, of our congregation, and Bro. Dale Dapper, of Maywood, was announced. Ruth is the daughter of Sis. Lena Ludwig, of Rockville, and Dale is the son of Bro. and Sis. John Dapper. January 26th has been chosen as their wedding date.

Connie Thornton, who is originally from Leo, now studying in Tucson, visited over Sunday, Dec. 1. Also, Lenae Moser from Rockville, who is an airline stewardess flying into L. A., visited us in November.

Among the many visitors this month were Bro. and Sis. Art Gudeman, from Cissna Park. They accompanied Bro. and Sis. Bert Gudeman, who live here the winter months. We were happy to have Bro. Art minister unto us.

John Jr. and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach and family from the Oakville church, visited Marilyn's parents, Bro. and Sis. Clarence Graf.

Our friends, John Wieland, from Princeville, and Garry Zollinger, from Rittman, have been staying here this winter.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held Sunday, Dec. 22, with all classes par-

when young souls can give their hearts to Christ in their tender, early youth. Many a sin are they preserved from, which would enter in later years.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Lucille Gasser and their two sons welcome to their household a baby girl, Mary Lou, born Jan. 3.

John Mathys, son of Edward and Sis. Barbara Mathys, and Julia Ann Fouch were united in marriage on January 4. May God bless the union.

Bro. Herbert Bauman and toddler James Widmer, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Joann, are enduring a long hospitalization for medical treatment. Infant Alan Steiner, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol, submitted to surgery. May the Lord remove the mar of illness and restore the beauty of health where it be his will.

MILFORD, INDIANA Arthur Haab

Sis. Mary Zimmerman was united in marriage to Bro. Jack Gerber of Latty, on Dec. 22. Elder Bro. Theo Beer performed the ceremony. They will make their home in Fort Wayne. We had many visitors that Sunday. Among them were Bro. Henry Souder from Bremen and Bro. Joel Souder from Leo, who brought us messages from God's word.

Doug Graff, son of Bro. George and Sis. Ida, is engaged to Marilyn Hixon. The engagement of Sis. Susie Beer to Bro. Willard Schieler was announced.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab have a son, Gregory Tod. Friends Earl and Bonnie Kammerer have a daughter, Lori Jo.

Friend Virginia Hoover, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Flossie Hartter, was proved and baptized by Elder Bro. Theo Beer, on the week end of Dec. 1.

We had a very impressive Christmas program on Dec. 15, at the church. Special services were held on Christmas and New Years.

Sis. Frieda Ruch has been sick. Sis. Louise Rapp is confined in Goshen Hospital.

Friend Nelson Beer spent a Christmas leave from the Army with his parents, Bro. Howard and Sis. Eleanor Beer. Friend Steve Kaiser and Sis. Ilene Kammerer were home from college for the holidays.

Elder Bro. Theo and Sis. Naomi

An un-lived year! — Ah, stained with tears
Are the well-thumbed volumes of other years!
Soiled by blunders and sad regret
Are the pages we read with our eyelids wet.

But fresh in our hands—once more—is laid
A clean new book, by the Master made;
Unmarred are the pages lying there—
Twelve new chapters, fresh and fair.

It is ours to write the daily tale
Of how we conquer, or how we fail;
Of struggle and effort and hope that wakes
Like a song in the heart
When a bright day breaks.

Once a year, when the glad bells ring,
And the Old Year nods to a Baby king,
Fresh in our hands, with the title clear,
And the leaves uncut, is an un-lived year.

Our community was saddened by the death of friend, Mrs. Helen Biggs, who was called to rest after a brief illness, on December 27. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Joseph Ramsier. Her face will be missed, as she faithfully assembled with us each Sunday.

“So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”

Two more souls seeking to have their names written in the Book of Life are George Riggerbach Jr., son of Bro. George and Sis. Minnie, and Mike Miller, son of Richard and Sis. Melba. How pleasing it is

ticipating in pieces and songs. Bro. Robert Miller, his wife, and family spent Christmas in our community. Bro. Robert ministered to us on Christmas Eve.

Also visiting over this time were Bro. and Sis. Wm. Eberle and family from Princeville. They stayed with their son, Larry, who lives in Azusa.

Virgil Graf was home on leave from Ft. Sam over the holidays.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS Mrs. Jeff Young

Visitors the last month included Bro. and Sis. Harry Bucher, and on the evening of Dec. 9, Bros. Sam Aeschliman, John Bahler and Noah Schrock. The Memorandum was read. We surely thank the brothers for their efforts.

Our community was concerned when our loved ones, Bro. and Sis. Harry Hoffmanns and Bro. and Sis. Lester Walders met with a car accident, due to slippery pavements. They were all hospitalized with severe cuts and bruises. Thank the Lord they are all able to be home again and seem to be getting along nicely.

Another among the hospitalized is Bro. Herman Bauer, who had surgery. He is able to assemble with us again, and says he is feeling fine.

At this writing, Sis. Lena Feller is in the hospital for tests and x-rays. We hope she will soon be home again.

Our friend, Richard Moser, was home on a furlough. While home, he was privileged to bring his testimony, and was baptized on Dec. 22, with Bro. Joe Getz officiating. This brought much joy to the congregation. Also, Bro. Francis Rother was guest minister on that day.

On Dec. 29, it was a privilege to hear Bro. Bob Grimm minister to us. He, with his family, joined other members of the family visiting her parents over the holidays.

This poem, by which she was often sustained, was handed to me by a widowed sister.

My Hand in God's

Each morning when I wake I say,
"I place my hand in God's today."
I know he'll walk close to my side,
My every wandering step to guide.

He leads me with the tenderest
care

When paths are dark and I despair.
No need for me to understand,
If I but hold fast to his hand.

My hand in His! No surer way
To walk in safety through each
day.

By His great bounty I am fed,
Warmed by His love, and
comforted.

When at day's end, I seek any rest
And realize how much I'm blessed,
My thanks pour out to him; and
then

I place my hand in God's again.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS Cathryn Wettstein

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 18, our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program at the church. A large crowd was in attendance, to hear the children do their best in giving the Christmas Story, mostly in song. It is a wonderful thing to hear the old, old story of how Jesus was born, so humble, so many years ago. We should be so glad and thankful that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

On Christmas morning, Bro. John Wagler from Alabama was our guest speaker. It was a Blessed Christmas day.

December 29, Bro. George Yergler from LaCrosse and Bro. Al Fisher from Chicago were our guests. Bro. George performed the wedding ceremony, in the afternoon, of his niece, Sis. Gladys Wittmer, and Bro. Frank Fisher from Chicago. May God bless them.

Bro. John and Sis. Betty Klaus and family have left our community, going to Japan again. A farewell song was sung for them on Sunday afternoon, at church.

Among the sick—Bro. Ed Geiger remains a patient in Methodist Hospital. Sis. Rose Wettstein was a patient in Eureka Hospital for three days, but has returned to her home, where she is confined to bed. May God stay ever by their side and be their comforter and guide.

During 1963 we had four souls that were baptized, and one that has repented but is not yet baptized. We had two church weddings. We had two funerals at church and one graveside service for an infant. We are hoping in this new year

that many souls can find it worth while to seek their soul's salvation, before it is forever too late.

Walter R. Knecht, the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Emma Knecht, has entered the service.

Pvt Walter R Knecht US55778598
A Co 12th Bn 2nd Plt 3rd BDE
(BCT)

Fort Knox Kentucky 40121

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA Florence Sutter

We intend to move to our new church in January, 1964, which is located at 850 N.W. 46th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Among the winter families who have arrived is Bro. Dave and Sis. Anna Mangold.

We have had several visitors coming and going throughout the month of December.

Also, several families were visiting from Tremont, Bros. Carl and Fred Gutwein, with their wives, from Francesville. (Editor's note: Bro. Fred contributed valuable help for our present Zion's Harp.)

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA Mrs. Albert E. Kipfer Mrs. Jacob W. Unsicker

We are happy to announce the birth of a daughter to Bro. and Sis. Richard Aeschleman at the Parkview Memorial Hospital, Tuesday, December 10. She has been named Ann Suzette. Congratulations!

It is good news to learn that Steven Unsicker, son of Sis. Emma Unsicker, has been released from the Air Force and is now at home with his mother. He will take over the duties of his father, Jake, who passed away October 28.

We did not have complete details of the funeral services for Bro. Fred Drayer in the Silver Lining. Bros. Sam Aeschliman and Norman Stoller conducted the services. Burial was in the New Haven Cemetery. Bro. Norman read the following, at the close of the services, as a final tribute to our Bro. Fred Drayer:

When our ships have cross'd the
ocean, and been all around the
world,
When they safely gain the haven,
and their sails again are
furl'd;
We rejoice to see them enter, and
to know the anchor's cast,

Raising joyful shouts of welcome,
for our ships are home at last.

Oh, methinks I hear the angels
shout, "Here comes an earthly
bark;"

He has found his way to heaven,
though the way was rough and
dark,

But he had a star to guide him,
call'd the Bright and Morning
Star.

It has guided millions over, from
that distant land afar.

So with Jesus as our Captain, we
expect to gain that shore;
We expect to cast our anchor there,
and stay for evermore,
And we know the angels will be
there, to greet us when we
come.

They will join in songs of rapture,
"Welcome home, welcome
home!"

Oh what singing, oh what shout-
ing, when our ships come sail-
ing home!

They have stood the mighty temp-
ests, they have cross'd the
ocean's foam;

They have pass'd o'er stormy bil-
lows, but they now have gain'd
the shore.

The anchor's cast; they're home at
last. The voyage is safely o'er.

On December 29, Bro. Henry Brenkmen suffered a slight stroke. He was taken to the Parkview Memorial Hospital, where in the meantime he fractured his hip. Bro. Henry will be confined to the hospital for quite some time, so anyone wishing to send him a card, I'm sure it would be appreciated. His room number is 537. I might add, that Bro. Henry will be 95 years old February 23, so if you wish to mark this on your calendar and send him a birthday card, I'm sure this would also be appreciated by him. He really enjoyed the carollers coming to his home and singing for him.

Sis. Carrie Keidel was confined to the Lutheran Hospital for the past two weeks with a heart ailment. She is now convalescing at her home at 5724 Winter Street. Anyone wishing to send her a card, I'm sure it would be appreciated. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Our Christmas program was

very nice, and we appreciated hav-
ing Bro. Henry Beer in our midst.
Refreshments were served in the
church basement after the pro-
gram

The ministers who have assisted
in serving us since December 1 are:
Bros. Ben Schlatter, Irvin Stoller,
Noah Schrock, John Bahler, Sam
Aeschliman, Theo. Beer, Carl Kip-
fer, John Bollier, Edwin Bahler,
and Henry Manz.

GIRARD, OHIO

Reporter: Jesse C. Emch

On Sunday, Dec. 22, after church
service, a group went to several
homes to sing Christmas carols. I
feel quite sure that those who sang
and those in the homes visited
were refreshed. There was a good
attendance on Christmas eve, when
our Sunday School presented a
very interesting program, includ-
ing congregational singing. I be-
lieve that everyone present could
say the evening was well spent in
honoring our dear Lord and
Saviour.

We were happy to have Sis.
Louisa Lance and her son, George,
and family from Iowa City, Ia.,
worship with us on Sunday, Dec
29. Their short stay here was inter-
rupted, as Mrs. Flossie Chambers,
who lived near Binghamton, N.Y.,
passed away. Mrs. Chambers was a
sister-in-law to Sis. Louisa Lance.

Also on Sunday, Dec. 29, Ralph
Emch and family were welcome
guests. Ralph has been teaching in
Santa Monica, Calif., and is spend-
ing a year taking advance studies
in Ohio State University, Colum-
bus, O.

The Frank Emch's left for Flori-
da Dec. 17, where they expect to
spend the winter.

As we go forth into this year
1964, may we do so with the
thought and a sincere prayer in our
heart that there may be many
souls added to the fold, as mem-
bers of the body of Christ our Lord.
May each one of us seek to use the
talents that God has entrusted, to
His honor and praise.

When we receive a very small
gift from someone, we are quick
to thank them. Surely, we should
every day anew express our heart's
feeling for all that God has done
for us, and especially for the great-
est of all gifts, when He gave His
only begotten Son. This is an ever-
lasting gift.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr

Wed. evening, Dec. 18, the
junior, teenage, and young adult
classes went Christmas caroling,
on a very **crisp** evening. They left
a food box at one home, and gave
our young "shut-in", Vola Young,
the **Egermeier Storybook**, from the
Sunday School children. I know the
carolers hearts were "warmed"
with the glistening eyes of grati-
tude from those visited, and truly
the Christmas spirit was present.
Hot chocolate and cookies were
served afterwards in the church
dining room. Hearts were warm—
little did we dream of a death the
next evening, although we all knew
Ruthie Strahm had been poorly
for some time.

Ruthie Renee Strahm, 3-yr.-old
daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis.
Liseten Young Strahm, entered in-
to rest Dec. 19, after a long illness.
Truly, a new angelette in heaven
was released from earthly suffer-
ing, and can shine as a new star
in the commemoration of Jesus'
birth. As the little children sing, "I
can light a candle; God can light a
star. Both of them are helpful,
shining where they are."

Funeral services were held Sun-
day morning, Dec. 22, by Bro.
Sam Huber and Sam Anliker. The
following poem was written in her
memory:

Ruthie

"Mother, where's Ruthie?" the
little girl said, as she stood by the
smooth, empty bed. Her little face
fell when remembrance came: "Oh
dear! I forgot that she's dead."
"But she's up in heaven with Jesus
today, and I know she won't hurt
any way—I loved her and wanted
to keep her with me, even tho' she
never could play. We hoped she'd
get better and grow up like me, but
they said she never could be. We
loved her and prayed to Jesus, His
will. So we give her, dear Jesus, to
Thee. Some day we will see our
dear Ruthie again. She'll be able to
laugh and to sing. She'll be waiting
with Jesus to welcome us there, if
we choose Him as Saviour and
King."

Our Sunday School program was
held Sunday evening, Dec. 22.
Sometimes we teachers wonder if
it is "worth the effort". Then,
after it was "all over" and they re-
ceived a little remembrance, a

child spontaneously comes and says, "I'd like to hug you!"

This is the beginning of a new year. As we look back on the old one, we saw—the drought record almost equalled, yet somehow enough feed for the cattle; financial losses to this livestock farming community; illnesses and deaths in our little church not anticipated . . . and yet what spiritual blessings have been reaped in this little church "family." Sharing "Our Mutual Woes" has brought us closer to Him and each other. What a blessed uplifting and privilege to assemble Sundays in "God's House."

I read a few days ago the comparison of a new alarm clock to our lives.

The first morning, its loud sharpness startles us into awakeness. If we do not "act" upon its call each day, and turn over and go back to sleep, eventually we no longer hear the alarm—though it still is as "loud" as ever. We become "accustomed" to it, and finally we have lapsed into a "dead silence." This applies to both those who have not answered Jesus call, and to those who have received the blessed Holy Spirit. Was not the "first love" filled with spiritual awareness? We must daily "act", so we don't eventually become "accustomed" to the sound of the Holy Spirit, and no longer hear it.

PORTLAND, OREGON Mrs. Paul N. Rumbold

Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Feucht from Lester visited here during the week. Sis. Rose Knapp is his aunt.

Our annual Christmas program was held on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 21, with a good attendance.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller and children spent the holiday vacation in the South, visiting the California and Phoenix churches.

Sis. Clara Kaufman, who has been in poor health for several years, left by plane for the Fair Haven Home in Fairbury, December 30.

SABETHA, KANSAS Mrs. Theodore Locher

A New Year Dawns

Bro. Eugene Marti

As we leave 1963 and begin our journey in the new year of 1964, we cannot help but reflect back to

the events of the old year, then peer into the misty future with a certain amount of anticipation and anxiety. Each time we trace our footsteps through an old year, we are amazed at the numerous happenings (some joyous, but many tragic) that have affected our lives. It is no wonder, then, that we should be somewhat fearful as we enter another year.

To a child of God, this fear can easily be dispelled when we read in His word. He does not promise to keep us away from all trials and problems in this life, but rather that He will give us sufficient grace to overcome them, as long as we are willing to obey His commandments. Of course, if we are disobedient, we must expect to be chastised, just as we would punish our own children.

It is true, we know not what 1964 has in store. No doubt many of us (perhaps even all of us) will not be among the living when another new year arrives. We can all think of many who have been taken from our midst during the last twelve months—many very suddenly. We must take a little time this new year to evaluate ourselves. Surely, there are many places where we can improve and live more in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that we will not have a fear of the future, even though death might overtake us.

Medical authorities advise us to have a physical check up at least once a year. Surely a check on our spiritual condition is much more important. Then, if we find anything that is hindering us from serving the Lord, this is an excellent time to cast it aside.

The author of one of our hymns writes—

Another year is dawning;
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

What a glorious thought to take with us through the coming year.

We enjoyed a blessed fellowship and spiritual message, brought to us by Bro. Forrest Ritzman of Akron. Among the many teachings and thoughts Bro. Forrest left with us was—Let our love for Christ be so great, our faith be so firmly grounded, that we shall never leave our Lord and Saviour.

Our Sunday School classes presented the Christmas story of the Christ Child, the Saviour, in song and verse, which was enjoyed by the congregation. Oh how precious this dear Jesus is to one and all.

We wish to express our thanks to everyone who visited and worshipped with us, and welcome all to come again.

TOLEDO, OHIO Emily Frautschi Marge Reineck

We had our Sunday School Christmas program December 22. It was indeed inspiring to hear the young folks speak and sing praises to their Creator for the birth of our Saviour on that day so many years ago.

The annual Church Business meeting was held Dec. 8. Bro. Al Weigele was elected as the new trustee.

We welcome Bro. Dick and Sis. Beulah Clark and family from Bluffton to our congregation. This month they are moving to the Toledo area.

Jim and Marilyn Stager are the parents of a baby girl, born Jan. 7. Jim recently graduated from medical school and is now in the Navy. He and Marilyn are living in the Phillipine Islands. Marilyn is the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Lydia Schlatter.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA Linda and Melva Messner

Kenneth Howk spent a few days with his parents, after his basic training, and will now be stationed at Ft. Sam Houston.

Births: A son, Jason Lee, was born to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Carol Ann Messner on Dec. 10; a daughter, Sandra Jean, was born to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Joann Messner on Dec. 23.

We held our Christmas program the night of Dec. 22. How wonderful to see the small children so eager to say their pieces about Jesus' birth, and hear the different classes sing praises to God! If only the spirit of Christmas could live and dwell among all our people every day of the year!

WICHITA, KANSAS Mrs. Harvey Smith

Our Sunday School program was held on the evening of Dec. 22. It is a blessing to hear our children sing praises, in remembrance of

the birth of our Lord and Saviour, but as was pointed out and well expressed in the last few verses of a beautiful hymn:

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 hearts,
And let the Saviour in.

Bro. Robert Young spent four weeks in Wesley Hospital, this past month for observation. We are thankful that he is able to assemble with us again. He and his wife, Sis. Dora, are moving from Virgil to Wichita. Their address will be 1539 Woodrow Court.

The engagement of Sis. Jackie Bowers to Bro. Larry Farney was announced on Dec. 22. Sis. Jackie is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Milton Bowers, and Bro. Larry is the son of Bro. and Sis. Harvey Farney. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Andrew Lambert, son of Bro. Ernest & Sis. Nellie Lambert, was united in marriage to Kathy Harris, on the evening of Dec. 23.

Bro. and Sis. Al Langhoffer are the parents of a son, Robert Jess, born Dec. 15. Robert Jess will be welcomed home by three brothers and three sisters.

Bro. and Sis. Godfrey Miller are very thankful for the new addition to their family, a little girl, Jane Susan, who came to live with them Sept. 20. Their son, Chris, also is happy to have a baby sister.

A friend, Carol Pondora, has found peace with her Lord and Saviour and desires to be baptized. We rejoice with Carol, and wish her God's grace.

Sis. Katy Esslinger of Gridley, Kansas, is a patient here at the St. Francis Hospital.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

Our Sunday School Christmas program was presented December 21. It is always a blessing to hear the children tell us, in their own way, the story of the birth of Christ, in their songs and recitations.

New Year's morning, the Remington congregation assembled

with us for services. A large number gathered, to begin the year in the House of Worship.

A New Year's Wish

To be of greater service, Lord,
A closer student of Thy Word;
To help to bear a brother's load
And cheer him on the heavenly
road;

To tell the lost of Jesus' love,
And how to reach the home above;
To trust in God, whate'er befall,
Be ready at the Master's call
For any task that He may give,
And thus through all the year to
live

For Him who gave Himself for me
And taught me that my life should
be

A life unselfish, not self-willed,
But with the Holy Spirit filled.

—Selected

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Carolyn Gerber Delutha Moser

Our friend, Phillip Moser, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold Moser, has returned home from France, after a tour of duty with the US Army. We are glad to have Phil back in our community again.

Our friend, Max Reimschiel, who is stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, was granted a week's leave to spend with his loved ones at home. Max received the promotion of Spec. 4.

On Dec. 7 and 8, provings and baptisms were held for five dear souls. Our new brothers and sisters are John Pence, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Baumgartner and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Frauhofer. Elder Theo Beer and Bro. John Yergler assisted Elder Aeschliman in this very important work. This brings a total of thirty converts in 1963, for which we are thankful. We hope and pray that more dear friends will surrender their hearts to God through repentance. There are now 743 members at Bluffton, and 625 friends and children attending Sunday School and church.

The annual Christmas Sunday School program was held, with Bro. Arthur Gudeman as guest speaker and visiting minister for the day.

On December 15, we were richly blessed with a visit and inspiring messages from Bro. Robert Beer of Mansfield, Elder Noah Schrock, Oakville, and Elder John Bahler of Rockville.

A wedding reception was held

on December 22 at Bro. Ben Kipper's home for their son, Alvin, and his wife, the former Eunice Edleman of Sabetha, who were married on Dec. 14 in Kansas, and now have returned to the west, where they will make their new home.

Our friends, Marvin Steffen and John Lantz, Bro. Duane Gerber (who left the first part of December for the service) and Friend Lester Steffen (who left in August) were all home over the Christmas holidays with their families and loved ones. They were all able to return to Fort Sam together.

Births: To Bro. and Sis. Walter Bertsch, a son, Thomas Wayne on Dec. 27; to Bro. and Sis. Philip Kaehr, a daughter, Jennifer Sue, on Dec. 28; and to Bro. and Sis. Gary Ringger, a son, Nichols Wayne, on Dec. 26.

Recent surgical patients, now home and convalescing are Bro. Harry Frauhofer, Bro. Ramon Steffen, Sis. Edna Gerber, Sis. Gladys Fiechter, Cynthia Ann Rauch (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Jerome Rauch). Scott Allen Gerber (son of Bro. and Sis. Larry Gerber), and Valerie and Charles Geisel (son & daughter of Bro. and Sis. Harold Geisel).

Bros. Joe Aschliman and Jake Schweitzer were dismissed from the hospital.

Still hospitalized in Adams County Decatur Hospital, from an automobile accident on Nov. 12, is our friend, Mildred Baumgartner, daughter of Bro. Joel and Sis. Aldine Schaffer.

On December 30, Elder Sam Aeschliman officiated at funeral services for Mrs. Dan (Sarah) Kehrn, age 77.

The following engagements of our friends have been made known:

Walter Jr. Neuenschwander, son of Bro. and Sis. Walter Neuenschwander, to Joyce Schoeff, daughter of Glen Schoeff.

Rudy Frauhofer, son of Bro. and Sis. Ivan Frauhofer, to Connie Brindle, daughter of Forrest Brindle.

Jane Geisel, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Olen Geisel, to Gary Gibson, son of Mrs. Lola Gibson.

We are sorry to hear that two families are leaving our community, Bro. Richard Kaehrs, who are moving to Florida, and Bro. and Sis. Richard Clark, who are going to reside at Toledo. Our prayers

our heart. May God grant us the grace to keep this thought uppermost in our mind.

Sis. Dena Pohl is now living in Bloomington, Ill., where her husband, Bro. Richard, has employment.

CROGHAN — NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Mrs. Lawrence Farney
Mrs. David Schambach

On December 7, friends Arthur and Lucy Woolschlager, together with their son and daughter-in-law, Luwaine and Dorothy, were involved in a serious accident near Utica. They were removed to a Utica hospital, where Friend Lucy remained in critical condition for days, before being able to undergo surgery on her face. Her family were able to return home after ten days, but she returned only Sunday, January 5, after nearly a month's hospitalization.

Sis. Martha Steiner, who sustained a bad break to her hip in late November, was able to be moved to the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Norbert and Sis. Doris, in time for Christmas.

Bro. Carl Virkler, who suffered a heart attack in November, was also able to be moved to his home in time for Christmas.

Bro. John Hany, who spent a few days in the hospital with a severe eye infection, is now recuperating at his home.

Friend Florence Hirschey, daughter-in-law of Sis. Anna Einbeck Hirschey, is in fair condition in Lewis County Hospital, suffering with head and back injuries, after the car in which she was riding was involved in a pile-up of vehicles, caused by poor visibility during a recent snowstorm. We wish them all a speedy return to good health.

On Sunday, December 22, the Croghan congregation united with the Naumburg congregation for the afternoon service, which was followed by a Christmas program. In the evening, the two congregations met in the Croghan church to listen to the program there. Both programs were much enjoyed by both listeners and participants, as they sang and spoke of the Saviour's birth.

On Saturday evening, December 28, Alice, Carol, and Theodore Virkler gave their testimony before the two congregations, and the following day were baptized by

Let us remember with reverence this observance of this greatest of all miracles. We perhaps would do well to consider some of the miracles about us, which we consider as just ordinary things. The list could be almost endless, but let us think of just a few: The sparkling eyes of a little child; the exquisite design of each tiny snowflake; the air we breathe; the sun by day; the starry heavens at night . . . these, just a few of the miracles all about us.

Our Christmas program was held on Sunday evening, Dec. 22, with a well-filled church in attendance.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Uriel Gehring

Dave Eisenman and family of Remington spent the Christmas holidays with his parents, Bro. and Sis. Jess and Bertha Eisenman.

About 35 of us went carolling Sunday evening, December 22, to some of the older folks and shut-ins in Burlington. The temperature was near zero, but we enjoyed singing. After the carolling, we gathered in the church basement for some warm refreshments.

The Sunday School presented a short program in the church assembly, after the afternoon services, Dec. 22. It is always so heartwarming to hear our youth speak of the baby Jesus and his lowly birth in Bethlehem. We hope that when they grow up, they will continue thinking of Him not **only** as a baby, but as the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.

Sun., Jan. 5, we were pleased to have Bro. and Sis. Leo and Georgia Messner and their three children, Tony, Ronnie, and Dixie. The Messners attend the Apostolic Christian church at Winthrop. How wonderful to greet loved ones of our faith and feel the bond of love and unity flowing from heart to heart. This is because we have been purchased with the precious blood of Christ and belong to God's family. May we ever treasure our fellowship as one of the many blessings God gives to his children and withholds from the world.

May the new year bring to us the realization that time is fast fleeting by for every one of us, and that we have no certain dwelling-place on this earth. The cry of the prophet of old **Prepare to meet thy God** should always be the desire of

and best wishes go with them.

The marriage of our friend, Ruth Ann Steffen, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Clarence Steffen, to Larry Lee Macklin was performed on Jan. 4.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Joseph L. Bauman

Our congregation was blest by visits of ministering brothers. First was Bro. Emanuel Gudeman from Cissna Park. Impressive services were conducted, both on Saturday evening and Sunday. The following Sunday, Brothers Michael Weyeneth from Peoria and Joe Zimmerman from Roanoke delivered inspirational messages. Thanksgiving evening, we were fortunate to have with us Bro. Ed Alt, who conducted sacred Thanksgiving services. We were abundantly reminded to be ever mindful of our blessings. Bro. Ed is from Cissna Park. The past Sunday, Bro. Otto Norr from Leo was with us. We look forward with pleasure to Bro. Norr's visits. His plain messages have been inspiration for many years.

A Thanksgiving program was given by our Sunday School, the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving, with a goodly number in attendance.

The sacred rites of Holy Communion were observed in our church last Thursday evening, with Elder Brothers Theo Beer and George Yergler officiating.

Our congregation can ill afford to lose Bros. Verden and J. N. Feldman, who have been called into the service of our government. They will be sorely missed by all. We wish for them God's daily guidance, and shall remember them frequently in our prayers.

Bro. Robert Klopfenstein and his wife, Sis. Marie, were recently involved in an auto accident. Both were hospitalized for a relatively short period of time. Bro. Bob was with us again Sunday, and information is that Sis. Marie is improving nicely.

We have just passed the sacred Christmas season, the commemoration of the miracle of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, into the world. Well has the poet said,

"Upward soar, my soul and spirit.
This great miracle behold."

Elders John Bahler and John Widrick. Sisters Alice and Carol are daughters of Bro. F. Clifton and Sis. Charlotte Virkler, and Bro. Theodore is the son of Bro. Theodore and Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler. Bro. Bahler, Sis. Julia, and their companions who came from Connecticut were given another taste of our northern winters, when the temperature reached a low of minus forty in the vicinity, on the morning of their departure.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

Sis. Caroline Meyer, who resided at Fairview Haven, passed away at Fairbury Hospital. Visitation was held here Dec. 14, before being taken to Elgin for the funeral. We shall miss her at the Home, for she was always cheerful, through all her pains.

Bro. Richard Steffen, son of Bro. and Sis. Sam Steffen, and Sis. Lou Ida Kaisner, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Joe Kaisner of Forrest, were united in marriage Sun., Dec. 15. We wish them God's blessings as they serve the Lord together.

Our Sunday School classes presented an inspiring program of the Christmas Story in poems and hymns, on Sun. evening, Dec. 22.

A baby daughter was born to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber. Also happy to welcome baby sister, Ann Ardith, are brothers and sister, Richard, Keith and Christa.

Love

We have been requested to write an article on LOVE. One definition of love in my dictionary is the benevolence, or giving, attributed to God. Since Jesus Christ set the example of acts of kindness, we noticed that even the very land and Sea of Galilee, upon which our Lord walked, reflects His love. This is exemplified in the—

Two Palestinian Seas

A very favorite story of mine
Is about two seas in Palestine—

One is a sparkling, sapphire jewel,
Its waters are clean and clear and cool.

Along its shores the children play
And travelers seek it on their way,
And nature gives so lavishly
Her choicest gems to the Galilee.

But on to the south, the Jordan
flows

Into a sea where nothing grows,
No splash of fish, no singing bird,
No Children's laughter can there
be heard.

The air hangs heavy all around,
And nature shuns this barren
ground.

Both seas receive the Jordan's
flow;
The water is just the same, we
know,

But one of the seas, like liquid sun,
Can warm the hearts of everyone.

While farther south another sea
Is dead and dark and miserly;
It takes each drop the Jordan
brings

And to each drop it fiercely clings.
It hoards and holds the Jordan's
waves

Until like shackled, captured slaves
The fresh, clear Jordan turns to
salt

And dies within the Dead Sea's
vault.

But the Jordan flows on rapturous-
ly

As it enters and leaves the Galilee,
For every drop that the Jordan
gives

Becomes a laughing wave that
lives—

For the Galilee gives back each
drop,

Its waters flow and never stop,
And in this laughing, living sea
That takes and gives so generously
We find the way to life and living
Is not in keeping, but in giving!

Yes, there are two Palestinian seas,
And mankind is fashioned after
these!

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Nancy Honegger — Martha Stoller

Sis. Lou Ida Kaisner and Bro. Richard Steffen were married on Dec. 15. They will live on a farm near Forrest.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 22, our Sunday School children gave a program of Christmas carols and recitations, which was enjoyed by all. Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss gave the inspirational message. He gave the friends a special invitation to not only send their children to Sunday School, but to bring them.

Sis. Miriam Bachtold and Bro. Ben Metz were married on Dec. 29. They have rented an apartment

in Fairbury, as Bro. Ben has his electrical appliance store there and Sis. Miriam is teaching first grade in the Fairbury schools.

The engagement of Sis. Betty Walter, daughter of Bro. Eli and Sis. Eldora, and Bro. Bill Huber, from Francesville, was announced on Dec. 29.

Visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. Henry Sabo, Mansfield; Ernest Gerber, Rockville; Merle Kaisner and Edmund Kloter from Fairbury.

Larry Ifft, who received a badly mangled leg recently, has recovered enough to be able to return to his home.

Sis. Martha Koehl is hospitalized at this time, with pneumonia.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 6. Bros. Sidney Leman and Richard Reiger, who have served faithfully in the Sunday School for twelve years, have asked to be relieved of their duties. Bros. David Schmidgall and Leroy Koehl have been elected to fill these vacancies. We wish them God's grace in this undertaking. Bro. Robert Leman will replace Bro. Perry Zimmerman as Sunday school superintendent.

The New Leaf

He came to my desk with a quivering
lip;

The lesson was done.

"Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf,"
he said;

"I have spoiled this one."

I took the old leaf, torn and blotted,
And gave him a new one, all
unspotted,

And into his sad eyes smiled:

"Do better now, my child!"

I came to the Throne with a
trembling heart;

The year's work was done;

"Dear Father, I want a new year,"
I said,

"I have used this one."

He took the old year, torn and
blotted,

And gave me a new one, all
unspotted,

And into my sad heart smiled:

"Do better now, my child!"

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Paul and Kathy Haab

We enjoyed very much the visit of Bro. Vernon Leman and his wife, Sis. Viola, from Eureka, during the week end of Dec. 8, and

were thankful for Bro. Vernon's inspiring messages. As often as we look to the Lord for a spiritual blessing, He so bountifully provides whatever is our need.

We, your reporters, Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab, are rejoicing in the birth of our first child, a son, whom we named Gregory Tod. Greg was born on Dec. 19, and was visited by his maternal grandparents, Elder Bro. Fred Grimm and Sis. Louise of (Taylor), Dec. 21 through the 29th.

Although not many brethren and friends remained at Ft. Sam over the holidays, our services were held as usual, with Bro. Fred ministering to us. It was a blessed Christmas for us.

. . . And so it was for those who were able to leave Ft. Sam to spend Christmas "at home" with their loved ones. All too soon the two short weeks were past, and it was time to return again.

During the week end of Dec. 29, we were happy to have Wayne and Lydia Miller of Grand Rapids, Mich., with us. Wayne was discharged from the Service last Feb., at which time they left Ft. Sam and returned to their home in Grand Rapids. It was good to see them again.

We welcomed several new arrivals again this past month, and our group is quite large again. Approximately 35 now assemble for our services. Following are the names of the brethren and friends who have arrived since the last writing:

Pvt Duane Gerber (Bro. Bluffton)
Pvt J N Feldman (Bro. Bremen)
Pvt Verdon Feldman (Bro. Bremen)

Pvt Bob Bradle (Bro. Roanoke)

—all of whose address is:

Co D 3rd Bn USAMTC Class 8-B
Ft Sam Houston Texas 78234

Pvt John Lantz (Fr. Bluffton)
whose address is:

Co D 3rd Bn USAMTC Class 7-B
Ft Sam Houston Texas 78234

The following churches are scheduled to send ministers on the dates indicated: Remington, Jan. 26; Pulaski, Feb. 9; and Morris, Feb. 23.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Marian Wiegand

Bro. and Sis. Keith Hansen are the parents of a son, Brent Joseph, born November 16.

Bob Hohulin, son of Bro. Eli and

Lois Hohulin, has been transferred for the remainder of his training. His address is:

Pvt Robert E Hohulin NG26418510
Hq Hq 1st Bn 77th Armor
Ft Carson Colorado 80913

My mother, Rosa Wiegand, was a patient at Eureka Hospital. She has returned home and has recuperated.

Benj. Tanner, son of Bro. and Sis. Ben Tanner, had an appendectomy at Eureka Hospital. He is reported to be home and recuperating satisfactorily.

The home of Joe Wettstein, located a few miles north of Goodfield, was gutted by fire on Sunday, January 5. The house is a loss, but they were able to save some of their furniture and clothing.

Many relatives and friends attended the Sunday School Christmas program, December 22. The theme of the program was "Love." It was heart-warming to hear the children to tell of their love for Christ.

Bros. Frank Woertz and Joe A. Getz related to us the discussions and conclusions of the Elder and Brother meetings. We could feel the concern they have for God's people.

Bro. Fred Marti visited our congregation January 5. We thank him for his messages of the Word.

Bill Hinrichsen spent his furlough during the holidays with his parents, Bro. and Sis. Hans Hinrichsen. He is presently stationed at Great Lakes, Illinois, but expects to be transferred shortly.

Bro. and Sis. Ed Hohulin spent a few days at Excelsior Springs, Missouri, recently.

A New Year's Promise

Another year I enter,
Its history unknown;
Oh how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper;
I know I shall be blest:
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest:

"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

A Spiritual Drouth — Real Faith (I Kings - 17)

By Bro. Frank Woertz

Do we have the faith of Elijah? He obeyed God's Word and commandment as he was told to do, to save the lives of others and his own.

Elijah spoke to Ahab, as he was moved by the word of God, telling him what was to come. There would be no moisture for so long a time, and food would run out. Elijah was told to face the east, where there would be a brook of water.

The ravens brought him bread and flesh to eat. All was well planned by the Lord, but as time went on, this brook ran out, little by little. Again, Elijah was told to go to a certain city; there, he would meet a poor widow and her son in the same condition, who were also running out of food.

There, Elijah was called the man of God and did wonders for the poor widow and her son. It seemed impossible to this mother and son that this could be, as he found them down and out, so to speak. Elijah was ready to do as was told to him, because of the experience in his own life.

How true it is to life on earth. For us, the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

". . . And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." From Revelation 22:17

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Mary Alyce Witzig

Bro. Roy Sauder was with us on Sunday, December 8. We certainly enjoyed a wonderful blessing from the messages he delivered.

The Sunday School Christmas program was held on December 22. It is always so inspiring to hear the small children tell of the birth of Christ and of His wonderful love.

On December 25, we were again blessed, through the message brought to us by Bro. Jim Ringger of Princeville.

Sis. Louisa Kueth, 81, passed away unexpectedly, at the home of her neice in Morton, on December

25. Again the truth came to us, even though we may reach a high age, still death can come when we do not expect it.

Bro. Philip Kiefer was a patient in the Fairbury Hospital for several days, and is now again a resident of Fairview Haven. He enjoys visitors very much.

Bro. Clarence Stoller is a patient in Mennonite Hospital, Bloomington, due to a heart condition. His condition is reported fair, at this writing.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Edith Meiss and their family have sold their home in Gridley and plan to move to Normal, Illinois, by January 10. We wish them many blessings and much happiness in their new home.

LAMONT, KANSAS

Mrs. Bernie Emch

This reporter was in the hospital ten days, for observation and treatment during the first of December. How comforting to feel the presence of God and have the privilege to pray unto Him, to guide the doctors in their work, and to thank Him for all He did, and will do. This thought I once read came to my mind, LET US NOT USE OUR RELIGION AS AN ASPIRIN, ONLY WHEN IN PAIN.

We were richly blessed the evening of Dec. 2, having Bro. Art Gudeman of La Crosse in our midst with his inspiring message of the Ark of the Covenant, containing the two tables of the law, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. When they did not treat the ark with proper reverence, God in different ways brought punishment upon them. Let us be thankful that we can have the word of God, the Bible, in our homes, and He can talk to us as we read in it.

The eldest member of our congregation, Bro. Gottfried Gruber, at the age of a few days less than 97 years passed away, Dec. 20, at the hospital in Emporia, being a patient two weeks. He was born in Bern, Switzerland, Dec. 26, 1866, and married Leah Blaser in Bern, Aug. 15, 1887. He came to the United States in 1888. They settled in Elgin, Iowa, where he was a carpenter and cabinetmaker. In 1903, they moved to the Lamont community and engaged in farming. His wife died in 1937. Soon after he made his home with his daughter, Sis. Hulda Jacobs, now living

in Emporia.

He was preceded in death by three sons, Fred, John and Paul, and three daughters, Sisters Lena Farney, Marie Schwab and Ida Getz. Surviving are two sons, Elmer of Emporia, Samuel of Remington; four daughters, Sisters Hulda Jacobs, Mrs. Samuel Anliker (Gridley, Ks.), Mrs. Aaron Farney (Wolcott), Mrs. George Waibel (Remington) 23 grandchildren and 75 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted Dec. 23 at our Lamont church, by Bro. Sam Huber, assisted by Bro. Pete Fankhauser.

The Gridley church assembled with us for Christmas eve services, Bro. Sam Huber ministering. The Sunday School children presented a small program before the services. It does humble one to see the innocent children so eager to proclaim the birth of Jesus, . . . if they will not only remember Him as a child, when they grow up, but will want to go with Him to Calvary.

Our Sunday School sang carols at Golden Age Lodge, at Burlington, Ks., as our Sister Mrs. Feldor Young has been there, over a year. They also gave her a fruit box.

Raymond D. Young has joined the Air Force. He is the son of our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Young. His address:

AB Raymond D Young AF
17670134
3322 Tech Sch Sq Box 359
Amarillo AFB Texas

LANDERSVILLE, ALABAMA

Clara Heiniger

Sun. Dec. 1, Bro. and Sis. Richard Frost served supper for the visiting guests, Bro. and Sis. Noah Bauman, Bro. and Sis. Earnest Hartzler, of Rittman, Bros. Jack Bollier and Bill Klopfenstein of Leo, and others families.

Worship services and Bible study, Sunday School and a good singing were held at the following places: Dec. 6, at Billy and Shelby Dutton; Dec. 13, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Blankenship; Dec. 20, Bro. Carl Naylor and family; and Dec. 27 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cully Norton.

The primary children were ready to sing Christmas carols to Mrs. Posey, but she became ill. We stayed at the church, singing for the parents, showing the Christmas story of His birth, and serving refreshments.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . We have all sincerely appreciated everything that was done for the churches. Thanks to all the loved ones in all our northern churches, in sharing the love of God unto others, bringing wonderful blessings to all the children and adults, with offerings, gifts, cookies, clothing and towels, sheets and canned goods, and many other gifts made by the different sewing groups in each church, also all the handwork that was done by loved ones for the past year of children's Vacation Bible School. May the Giver of every good and perfect gift richly bless and reward each one who so willingly gave for the dear Lord.

I want the new year's opening days
To fill with love and prayer and
praise;
Some little things to do for Thee,
For Thou hast done great things
for me.

In Jesus' name our prayer we raise,
Whose guiding hand has blessed
our days,
And may we, Lord, in Godly fear
Serve Thee throughout this coming
year!

LATTY, OHIO

Mrs. Gale Stoller

Mrs. Ray Sinn

Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller are parents of a new baby girl, named Lanna. She has a sister, Lavon.

We had our Christmas program, given by our children in the Sunday School classes on Dec. 18. It took much work on the part of our teachers. We hope and pray that all were blessed.

Bro. Jack Gerber and Sis. Mary Zimmerman were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Theo Beer, in Milford. Bro. Jack is the son of Bro. Jesse and Sis. Mary, from Latty, and Sis. Mary is the daughter of Bro. Michael and Sis. Madeline. We welcome Mary into our congregation.

A number of our young children have been in the hospital this month: Karen Klopfenstein, daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary; Lynn Stoller, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Minerva; La Nae Laukhuf, daughter of Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera. All are out of the

hospital and recovering. Bro. William Eisenmann is still in the hospital, as a surgical patient, recovering nicely.

We had services on Christmas and also New Year's. How privileged we are in this country, that we can assemble as we see fit.

We are thankful that our friends, Dale Gerber and Dale Dunham, escaped serious injuries when the car in which they were riding struck a bridge. Both were admitted to the hospital, but are now released and recovering. Dale Dunham is the son of Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura. Dale Gerber is the son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Katie.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA Mrs. Kenneth Zeltwanger

Bros. Noah Schrock and Silas Leuthold were with us and read the memorandum.

We enjoyed having Bro. and Sis. Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse visit us the week end of December 15, and wish to thank him for the inspiring messages brought to us throughout the day and evening.

We are happy that Francis and Mabel Schmidgall have turned to the Lord in repentance, and wish them God's help and grace.

The Sunday School and Bible class presented the Christmas program the evening of December 22, which was enjoyed by all. The little children are happy and eager to give their recitations and songs, telling of Jesus' birth.

A group of ladies made and delivered or sent Christmas boxes for the aged, shut-in and boys in service.

The Bible Class and young members went Christmas caroling the evening of December 23, bringing cheer to the lonely, those in the hospital and old peoples' homes.

We wish all you readers a happy and blessed new year.

What shall I wish thee! Treasures of earth?

Songs in the springtime, pleasures and mirth?

Flowers in thy pathway, skies ever clear?

Would this insure thee a happy New Year?

What shall I wish thee? What can be found?

Bringing the sunshine all the year round?

Where is the treasure, lasting and dear,
That shall insure thee a happy new year?

Faith that increaseth, walking in light;

Hope that aboundeth, happy and bright,

Love that is perfect, Casting out fear—

These shall insure thee a happy new year.

Peace in the Saviour, rest at his feet,

Smile in His countenance, radiant and sweet,

Joy in His presence, Christ ever near—

This will insure thee a happy new year.

MOUNTAIN HOME HILLSBORO, ALABAMA Clara Heiniger

Hillsboro is a little town which lies in the valley, 7½ miles from our church. Many folks have looked for our church at the little town, and discovering it is many miles, at the end of Hillsboro, Rt. 1, about 5 miles south of Hillsboro. You gradually climb a plateau or mountain, which is called Mountain Home. Our church is known around here as being in the Mountain Home area. Later years back, there was a postoffice, which is now closed.

Bro. Junior Hale held worship services at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Terry at Courtland, Ala., Dec. 11.

The Primary and Beginners' class went Christmas caroling at the home of Wes Kelly, for their daughter, Aletha, who has been afflicted in health for many years. A blessed time of singing and telling the Christmas story was enjoyed by all 23 children. Refreshments were served, and gifts to each one were given.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Williams and children of Valparaiso spent Monday night, Dec. 23, in this area, on their way to their daughter in Georgia.

It was a blessed time of fellowship throughout Christmas week with visitors from Goodfield and Bremen. On Christmas Day all had dinner and a blessed time of Christmas worship at the home of Sis. Manlie's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Letson, and their family. We

also visited that week, one evening, at Sis. Martha Evans, where we carried in a supper, fellowshipped around the Word of God, and also caroled songs. Bro. and Sis. Richard Frost, of Moulton, and the Tommy Pack family at Athens were visited. At the Paul Graham home all enjoyed a good singing, reading and prayer, before leaving their home. Many other short visits were made and enjoyed by all.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

Our greeting is for a Happy New Year. "Happy is that people, whose God is the LORD." (Psalm 144:15) We count them happy which endure. We have heard of the patience of Job (James 5:11). Being happy makes the waiting time more pleasant. The only way to really enjoy this New Year is to submit to the Lord, and let Him carry any burdens and cares. The Bible has much to say about the brevity of life, and the many warnings for us all to prepare to meet God. Though we live to be 70, 80, or 90, God has the exact moment which each man is to die (Job 14:5). So let us put our trust in the Almighty God, for we know with surety, **Thou shalt comfort us on every side.** (Psalm 71:21)

The sisters who have charge of the A. C. Home, Leah and Lillie Hohulin, planned a nice Christmas get-together, a Sunday before Christmas. Those that were there were all our ministers, their wives, Bros. Reuben Herman, John Schwind, Chris Leuthold, Walter Hess, their wives also, Wm. Yackley and Dean Leuthold. A group came in to sing Christmas carols at 2:30 o'clock. After they left, there was more singing, and at 4:30, a delicious supper was served, with all the Christmas trimmings. Gifts were exchanged. All in all, it was a blessed evening for us and the shut-ins. There is always a warm welcome feeling to everyone who goes there; the Hohulin sisters see that it is that way. May God richly bless them and all the shut-ins there.

Bro. and Sis. Ernest Elsasser have moved to Phoenix. A farewell dinner was held for them in the church. Bro. and Sis. Elsasser were a big help here, in the church. Our prayers go out to Sis. Lois, who has a bad case of rheumatism. We hope the warmer climate will

help her. We will miss them.

Bro. and Sis. Fred Grimm of Taylor stopped, on their way home to see a patient at the hospital. It happened to be the evening we were invited to the A. C. Home. They joined us. We enjoyed being with them. They left for home later in the evening.

Bro. and Sis. Ben Stickling opened their home to many, for fellowship and singing, Sun., Dec. 29. Bro. and Sis. Anton Schaefer of Morris were out-of-town guests.

The Junior and Senior Bible classes had an evening where they were welcomed at the Bro. Paul Meister home, Jan. 2. Bro. Meister is one of their teachers.

Our visiting ministers the past month were Bros. Albert Fisher of Chicago, Le Roy Huber of Eureka, Joe Getz of Morton, Cleo Rinkenger of Pulaski, Silas Leuthold and Lowell Stoller of Princeville. Their wives were with them. We hope they will all visit us again.

A son, Wayne Eldon, was born to Bro. and Sis. Wayne Unsicker on Dec. 15. Two sisters, Louise and Barbara, welcome him.

Bro. John Streitmatter, Shirley Brown and Eldon Stahl are patients at the hospital. Sis. Anna Novokau and Bro. Louis Ehnle have also been on the sick list, have been at the hospital, but are released. Sis. Lydia Pfister, who has been a shut-in for many years, is having a birthday Feb. 19. It would be nice to remember her. Her address is 1419 N. Sheridan Rd., Peoria, Illinois.

We are happy to say, we have four converts. They are Dean Leuthold, Joyce Hoerr, Rosemary and Allan Erkert.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Averil Stevig — Eileen Yackley

Our holiday season was blessed with many brethren and friends visiting their loved ones here. It is truly a privilege to meet and greet loved ones, who journey many miles into our desert valley, to assemble with us and have a stay in our warm winter sunshine. It was also a busy season. A large group enjoyed Christmas caroling for the shut-ins. The Sunday School children's program was enjoyed by all. Even though the story has been told many times, it is told anew each year in the children's bright and shining faces.

We were pleased to have Bro.

Robert and Sis. Pearl Miller and their six children from Portland visit in our midst. We all received a blessing from the messages delivered by Bro. Robert.

SP-4 Wendell Bertsch was home for a two week leave from Ft. Hood, to visit his parents, Bro. Jay and Dorothy, in Tuscon. Wendell brought his parents and married sister, Ruth, to Phoenix to assemble with us. It was nice to have them with us after many months of being absent.

Our friends, Bob and Janet Farney, are the parents of twins, born December 13. Keith Alan and Kathie Dawn were especially welcomed by their big sister and brother, Cheryl almost three, and Steve, two years old.

We have a new family in our midst. Moving here from Peoria are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Lois Elsasser. They reside at 1666 W. Hazelwood, Apt. 1. We wish them God's blessings in their new dwelling.

We are happy to report that Sis. Christine Dubach is now relieved of wearing a cast, which she has been burdened with for the past twenty-two months. During this time, she has had fourteen different casts, hospital stays, and many hours of suffering, due to her leg injury. She will now be able to attend classes at Phoenix Union in February, to start her training to become a licensed practical nurse.

Bro. Albert Scheitlin and Sis. Ann, from Elgin (Ill.), are in our community for an extended visit. They are with Abe and Kathy Schmidgall, Kathy being their daughter. Bro. Albert delivered messages which have been enjoyed by all.

Sis. Anne Reiger requested this note of thanks: Bro. Edward joins me in heart-felt thanks and appreciation for the kind thoughts and efforts in help making a joyous holy season again, with the many beautiful cards and gift offerings.

REMINGTON, INDIANA

Emily Kilgus

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on the Sunday evening before Christmas. A recording was taken for the benefit of our shut-ins.

We are thankful that Bro. Gus Knochel has recovered sufficiently to come to church most of the

time.

Sis. Edna (Kilgus) Leman is in the hospital, following foot surgery. She expects to be laid up for some time.

Bro. Edwin Bahler has completed his new fellowship hall, which we all hope to enjoy at some time.

Bro. and Sis. Jake Bahler moved to their new home in Wolcott several weeks ago.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS

Irene (Hodel) Legel

We are very thankful Bro. Joe Hodel, who has been sick for several months, has improved enough to be with us again. How wonderful is the power of prayer.

Bro. Joe and his wife, Sis. Katie, wish to express their thanks and appreciation to their many friends, for all the prayers, gifts, cards and good wishes which he received during his stay at the hospital and since returning home.

"Thanks" to all of you, and "God bless you." Bro. Joe.

Bro. and Sis. Charles Farney are grandparents to Marcia Kay, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brown, born Nov. 13. The other granddaughters are Laurel Lee, 5, and Susan Beth, 3.

Bro. and Sis. Glenn Moser are parents of a son, Brian Roth, born Nov. 20. He has one sister, Leanne, 3 years. His grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Raymond Roth of Kiowa, Kansas, and the late Bro. and Sis. Edward Moser. His paternal grandfather is Dan Grueter of here.

We are very happy to know Dan Grueter is seeking his soul's salvation and wishes to be a child of God. It has been announced that he and Ben Fehr, who also is repenting, will have the opportunity to express their desires and give their testimonies in the near future. How wonderful it is our dear Lord has not given up and is still calling loved ones in their last years of life.

Bro. Dave Mangold flew to Texas to hold services for the Ft. Sam gathering (which we know they really appreciated). Then, he flew to Ft. Lauderdale, where he met his wife, Sis. Anna Bro. and Sis. Lee Scherer accompanied her to Florida with their car, staying with them two weeks. The Mangolds are spending the winter in Florida. We certainly miss them here, but we know it is better for them, especially for Bro. Dave's

health. He writes they are settled in their home and appreciate the climate. They also enjoy the visitors that come down there. Their address is 510 NE 61st Street, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Our friends, Gary Sauder, son of Bro. and Sis. Carl Sauder of here, and Phyllis Hohulin, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Chris Hohulin of Goodfield were united in marriage. They are making their home here.

Bro. and Sis. Robert Blunier are parents, by adoption, of their first child, a son, born Oct. 6. He has been named Brian Jon. His grandparents are Sis. Marie Blunier and Bro. and Sis. Joe Martin, all of here.

Bro. and Sis. Rouland Leman have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sue Ellen, to Harlan Zobrist, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Zobrist of Metamora. No wedding date has been set.

Sis. Marie (Orie) Aeschleman, who underwent surgery Dec. 2 in the Peoria Hospital, is back with us again.

Sun., Dec., 1 we enjoyed having many couples and young folks from Princeville. We had very inspiring messages from our young ministering brothers, Donald Sauder and Ben Fehr, who were alone to preach the word of God. We feel they are very sincere and progressive in their duty as servants of the Lord.

Bro. and Sis. Willard Sauder are parents of a daughter, Ellen Jean, born Dec. 6. She has three sisters, Barbara 11, Judy 9, and Kathy 6, and one brother, Tommy 3. Sisters Anna Sauder and Barbara Martin are grandmothers (both of here).

Bro. Bob Bradle, son of Bro. and Sis. Chris Bradle left Mon., Dec., 9, to serve in the Army. We wish him the Lord's protection and blessings.

Bro. and Sis. Marvin Leman are parents of their first child, Joann Louise, born Dec. 9. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Sam Kieser of Princeville, Bro. and Sis. Joe D. Leman of here.

The Walton Fehrs also are parents of a daughter, born Dec. 9, Joyce Marie. She has a sister, Christine 8, and two brothers, Junior 6 and Bernard 4. Her grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Mike Knapp of Goodfield and Bro. and Sis. Leonard Fehr of here.

We were very fortunate to have

Bro. Gene Bertschi with us again. He had major surgery and was very sick in the hospital for several weeks. He seems to be getting along fine, for which we are thankful.

Our friends, Sandra Lee Martin, daughter of the Lewis Martins, and Carl McGhee, son of the Erby McGhees, were married Dec. 21. Sandra is a granddaughter of Sis. Barbara Martin and Bro. and Sis. Fred Siebenthal, all of here.

We were very delighted to have so many with us on Christmas Day, making a full church.

The true meaning of Christmas Is the love the Christ Child brought.

This should, not just once a year, But all your days be sought.

Please carry through the year to come,

The truths Christ came to say— And you will find within your heart,

It's Christmas every day.

Bros. Herman Luginbuhl and Warren (Slim) Hodel had the misfortune of meeting at a corner in the country at the same time, both driving trucks. They were taken to the hospital, where they were cared for two weeks, including Christmas day. They are now home recuperating. We wish them a pleasing recovery.

Sis. Minnie (John) Hodel is confined to her home with a broken bone, above her ankle, which required a cast. She fell as she was going in the hospital to see her son, Bro. Warren. We wish her a pleasant recovery.

Bro. and Sis. Charles Kupferschmidt have moved from the Joe Rocke house to the Walter Schumacher place, which they purchased. It is west of the church. Their daughter, Charlene, who has been in the hospital again, got to come home right before Christmas, which made them all very happy. May our dear Lord be with them at all times.

Bro. Walter Schumacher and his son, Sammy, have moved to Eureka,

We are very happy to hear the good news that Elsie Zimmerman, daughter of the late Bro. and Sis. Sam Zimmerman, is repenting. She works in Chicago, but spends most of her week ends here with

Sis. Juilie Zimmerman.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, We thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty "Thanks" for all goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT Carlton J. Lanz

Bro. John Erismann passed away Dec. 12 at his home. He had been ailing for the past 3½ years, during which time he submitted to surgery for an ailment later found to be malignant. Still, occasionally he was able to attend services.

He leaves his wife, Sis. Elizabeth, who tended him all during his sickness; two sons, Bro. Erwin of Bay City, John of Rockville, and two daughters, Lillian and Sis. Margaret Capello, also at Rockville.

His wife noted that the day of his burial would have been his 79th birthday. Officiating at the services were Bros. Ernest Luginbuhl and Ernest Gerber. Interment was at Ellington.

A little girl, Sherry Lynn, was born to Bro. Edward and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl on Dec. 21. The couple now has six boys and two girls.

Our holidays were once again celebrated in the usual manner, in our meeting house and home, with the praising of God and our thanks to him for the gift of His son as the Saviour of the world. We also heard the Sunday School children recite verses, sing carols, and observed the children receiving gifts, presented them.

As in the past, this event draws an unusually large attendance.

Despite the night being crisp, clear and cold, more than 50 joined in joyously carolling to those in several homes, where small Christmas boxes and packages were left.

At the end of each year, wherever we are, if we take count, we find someone missing; they are no longer here; they have gone, gone on to their eternal reward.

Zip codes are: Rockville 06066, Ellington, 06029.

I am including a little story recited at our Christmas exercises by Dennis Fehr, 10 years old. The story seemed very appropriate for the occasion at which it was used.

Here was a man who was born of Jewish parents in an obscure vil-

lage, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross, between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth while He was dying—and that was His coat. When He was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone, and today He is the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that One Solitary Life . . .

TAYLOR, MISSOURI **Mrs. Eli Sutter**

Bro. Bill Heimer, who has had a back ailment the past two years, went to the hospital at Iowa City in December. He has received some assurance of relief through therapy, but it will take several months before improvement is realized.

Your reporter was a medical patient at the hospital for several days, but I am quite well again.

The Christmas program was presented by the Sunday School on Dec. 22. It is always an inspiration for us to listen to the children, from kindergarden to high school, tell of the birth of the Babe at Bethlehem. In the evening, a group went carolling at the old people's home and to the shut-ins.

We had our annual business meeting on Sat., Jan. 4. The teach-

ers that have finished their term are Bros. Louis Hoerr and Marvin Wiegand and Sis. Mardell Grimm. The newly-elected ones are Bros. Norman Haerr and Don Feller and Sis. Jeane Haerr. Bro. Richard Sutter was elected trustee, to replace Bro. Clarence Kolthoff whose three-year term has expired.

Bro. Bill Heimer was again elected to take care of ushering, and Bro. Bill Gerst to have charge of parking cars on special occasions.

After the business meeting, our elder, Bro. Fred Grimm, read the memorandum. We appreciate the efforts of our elders to keep order in our church. We can all show our appreciation by being obedient, for God himself has taught that obedience is better than sacrifice.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Submitted by Herman Norr

Church services for those in the Indianapolis area were held in the downtown YMCA, Sunday, Jan. 5. Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton had the services. There were fifty in attendance, of which approximately one-half were visitors. Sunday School facilities are available and children are invited to accompany those visiting the Indianapolis group.

Services will be held the **FIRST** and **THIRD** Sunday of each month.

Location **CENTRAL YMCA**

310 North Illinois St. (Corner
New York and Illinois St.)

Starting Time

For Church Services and
Sunday School

11:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time
(Central Daylight)

A cordial invitation is extended to those living or attending school in the Indianapolis area.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA **Christine Locher**

Sunday, December 15, the Sunday School classes and Adult Bible Class presented their Christmas program. It was touching to hear our little ones recite their pieces, as they are earnest in learning them from memory and are always trying to do their best. May each of us as little children always give our best to the Lord.

We enjoyed many visitors this month. We always welcome and look forward to meeting and greeting those of like mind and faith.

We wish to thank those who took time to assemble with us.

LEO, INDIANA **Mrs. Elias Souder**

Ten Rules made by our Adult Sunday School class.

1. Talk only with permission.
2. Be attentive.
3. Attend regularly.
4. Be on time.
5. Concentrate when praying.
6. Be reverent.
7. Be courteous.
8. Be cooperative.
9. Help sing.
10. Participate.

These are rules not only beneficial for the Sunday School, but can be applied to everyone, especially in starting this new year.

The Sunday School children gave their Christmas program at the church, the Sunday before Christmas. A number went caroling at Mamie and Louise Schlatters, after the program. Sis. Marnie has become quite ill and weak and is at the long-term Parkview Hospital. Bro. Samuel Steiner is at Parkview, recovering from surgery. Sis. Velma Bollier spent several days there last week. She is at home now, but plans to go back soon for heart surgery. Her husband, Bro. John, spent a few days there the week before, having a pin taken out of the arm which had been injured. Bro. Aaron Schwartz spent a couple of weeks at Excelsior Springs, Missouri, taking treatments while there.

Edward Frautschi is back at Purdue, after spending the holiday season with his family. Others home over the Holiday season were the Harry Joe Stoller family from Indianapolis, Carol Winzeler, who is teaching at Napanee, Ind. and Connie Thorton who is attending the University of Arizona at Tuscon.

Home from the sea is the sailor, David Pulver. We are all happy to have him home for good. He is working for Marvin Steiglitz.

Elder John Bahler of Rockville assisted Elder Samuel Aeschliman of Bluffton in reading and commenting on the Memorandum.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS **Ruth Schumacher**

Debra Kae Zobrist arrived two days before Christmas, to bless the home of our friends, Ralph and

Joyce Zobrist. She is their first child.

We were thankful for a visit from Bro. Ed Frank, La Crosse, on Christmas Day. He and his family were guests of Bro. Alvin Farneys. We invite them to come back again soon.

Mrs. Orville Romersberger (Bernice) of Meeker, Colorado, died at the hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado, on December 28. She formerly lived in this community, and was brought to Congerville for burial. Memorial services were held by Bro. Ed Hohulin, at the Dells church, on New Year's Day. She is survived by her husband and four children: Kay of Tuscon, Arizona; Gary of Boulder, Colorado; David and Sue Ann at home.

We are glad that another soul, Dorothy Harsh, is seeking the Lord in repentance. Dorothy is the daughter of Bro. Joe Rinckenbergers of Gridley. We surely wish her much love and grace from our Father in Heaven.

ELGIN, IOWA Mrs. George Butikofer

Happy New Year

I do not know, I cannot see,
What God's kind hand prepares for me,
Nor can my glance pierce through the haze
Which covers all my future ways,
But yet I know that o'er it all
Rules He who notes the sparrow's fall.

I know the hand that hath me fed,
And through the year my feet hath led;
I know the everlasting Arm
That hath upheld and kept from harm.
I trust Him as my God and Guide,
And know that He will still provide.

So at the opening of the year,
I banish care and doubt and fear,
And, clasping His hand, essay
To walk with God from day to day,
Trusting in Him who hath me fed,
Walking with Him who hath me led.

I know not where His hand shall lead—
Through desert wastes, o'er flowery mead,

'Mid gloom of night or glow of morn,
But still know my Father's hand
Will bring me to His goodly land.

Farewell, old year, with goodness crowned,
A Hand divine hath set thy bound;
Welcome the new year, which shall bring
Fresh blessings from my God and King.
The Old we leave without a tear;
The New we hail without a fear.

Everyone present seemed to enjoy the Christmas program, presented by our Sunday School. Melom Moore read the nativity, according to St. Luke. Sharon Schupbach announced the program. Melom Moore, Johnny Schupbach, Sharon Schrupbach and Sheryl Butikofer represented the Bible class quartette. Bro. Ira Farney offered the prayer. The little tots, the intermediates and the Juniors did their parts very well, singing and giving bits of verse.

On the evening of this day, many went caroling, leaving fruit, cookies, etc. at various homes. After their return to the church basement, a lunch was served, after which a token of love was presented to the Ira Farney family. This was the final day of their assembling with us. They were leaving the following week for their new home in Eureka. The Sunday School will miss them. Bro. Ira has been the teacher of the Bible class for a number of years.

We are sorry to report that there are some sick folks in our community, namely Sis. Sarah Schupbach, Sis. Martha Frieden, and my brother, LaVern's wife.

The Uriel Gehring family of Burlington spent the Christmas vacation week here in Elgin, visiting his parents, other relatives and friends. 'Twas nice having them among us.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY at NORMAL Alta Kay Zbinden

On December 12, Bro. Fred Knapp from Congerville was our guest minister for the evening. Acts 17:16-31 and Psalm 101 was the basis for the inspirational message which was brought to us.

On December 19, our Bible Class went Christmas carolling in the Congerville area. After carolling,

the group went to Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Schrock's home, to enjoy further singing and fellowship.

Leaving the campus on December 20 to go home for the holidays, we returned to begin the new year on January 6, when classes again resumed.

Our first Bible Study of the new year was held on January 9. Bro. Joe Schrock read from and meditated on St. Mark 14, making reference to additional chapters.

JUNCTION, OHIO Mrs. Alvin H. Manz

We were wonderfully blessed to have Bro. Henry Wackerle of Bay City with us. He brought a "soul-stirring" message on the blessings of repentance, and the importance of living so that we may set a good example for our children and those around us. How blessed are we when the Holy Spirit admonishes and helps us see our mistakes! We can then go to the Lord in prayer, asking forgiveness and grace, and He always gives us peace.

Bro. Andrew Dotterer and the Rehklau Sisiters are about the same, but Sis. Lena Manz has not been good the past week. Our children have been having the 3-day measles. Janet, young daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Juliet Schlatter, has been very ill this month. She came home from the hospital, but had to return for surgery Dec. 29, and is getting along very well now.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA Martha Rinckenberger

Bro. Elmer Bucher and his family of Francesville were with us Christmas. We enjoyed a blessing from the wonderful Christmas message.

Peggy Heinold gave her testimony and was baptized.

Bro. and Sis. Gary Bucher have been home from service for a couple weeks. Now, Gary is to leave for Korea. Lois will spend the time with her folks. We are very sorry to see them parted for a time. We trust God will be with both of them. We hope it will be a short time and they can be together again.

Bro. Don Gudeman is leaving for service this week. We also pray that God will watch over him. He is a son of Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman.

LESTER, IOWA
Emelie M. Knobloch

Bro. Leo Moser proclaimed the word of God on Christmas morn. He said many folks exchange gifts at Christmas which are aften costly and perishable, but he wondered how many folks would accept the wonderful and priceless gift of salvation from God, if he came knocking on your door.

Many folks were home with loved ones for the holidays.

We held our Sunday School program on December 22. It is very inspiring to hear the Word of God shared to us by our youth.

Sis. Lena Kellenberger suffered painful burns on her hand. David Moser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Moser, broke his wrist. La Vonne Doorneweerd, daughter of Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd, had several stitches in her thumb after pinching it in the car door.

Bro. Leland Plattner spent the week end of December 21 with his grandmother, Sis. Julia Knobloch, and other relatives, before leaving for service.

Bro. and Sis. Vernon Strietmatter of Peoria are the parents of a tiny baby girl, Kary Sue, born Dec. 27. Little Kary Sue remains in the hospital, but Sis. Strietmatter is improving nicely at the home of her parents, Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger.

Our spiritual needs were abundantly supplied the week end of January 4, by Elder Brothers Noah Schrock, Henry Koehl, Paul Banwart and Leo Moser. Many folks from West Bend, Morris and Oakville were here also. It was very impressive, listening to the testimonies and observing the baptisms of friends Ronald and Dennis Kellenberger, and Nancy and Alice Ann Knobloch, and having the letter of the recent conference bestowed unto us by our elder brothers. We had many reasons to thank God for the new souls added to the fold in recent months, and may God call more loved ones while the time of grace is yet permitted.

As I recall, this is the first time we have experienced loved ones in the home of the aged during holidays. Let us not forget them in prayer, and be thankful we have homes such as these.

Mrs. Dean Prichard (Ruth Strahm) passed away January 5 after a lengthy illness. Mrs. Prichard was a sister of Sis. Flora Metz-

ger of this community. May God send his words of comfort to the bereaved ones.

Diane Metzger, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Freddie Metzger, is feeling much better, after being hospitalized a few days with pneumonia. Shirlee DeHaan, daughter of John and Sis. Ione DeHaan, had a tonsillectomy.

OAKVILLE, IOWA
Mrs. Ezra Gerst
Mrs. Edwin Banwart

Bro. Noah and Sis. Hattie Schrock recently visited Martha (Ziegengorn) Bieri at her home in Muscatine, Iowa. She has been in failing health for some time and had surgery a few weeks ago. We are sure she would enjoy hearing from her friends and relatives in our various churches. She is now at the Oakwood Nursing Home at Muscatine, Iowa.

Tamara Grimm, infant daughter of Bro. Jess and Sis. Elizabeth, has been hospitalized with pneumonia. Sis. Arlene (Scheitlin) Weissinger has been a medical patient at Burlington hospital. They are both better. Sis. Lena Wegman is home again and is slowly gaining strength.

A baby boy, Colin Kim, was born to Bro. and Sis. Paul Wagenbach.

Bro. and Sis. John Steiner were home for the holidays from Fort Sam.

Rebecca Steiner, daughter of Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose, found grace to repent, and her testimony was heard Dec. 29. She was proved and baptized by Bro. Noah Schrock. We wish her God's rich blessing in her new walk of life. Bros. Silas Wagenbach of Princeville, Henry Grimm of Morton, and Paul Butiofer of Elgin, Ia., brought us the messages that day. Their wives accompanied them. We thank them for their visit.

Bro. Emil and Sis. Pearl Vierling had a fire at their home, during the zero weather. It started from the water heater. The kitchen, utility room and bath were completely burned, and quite a lot of smoke and water damage was done to the rest of the house. We are thankful that no one was hurt.

Rules for the New Year

Begin the day with God;
Kneel down to Him in prayer.

Lift up thy heart to His abode
And seek His love to share.

Open the word of God
And read a portion there,
And it may hallow all thy thoughts
And sweeten all thy care.

Go through the day with God,
Whate'er thy work may be.
Where'er thou are at home, abroad,
He still is near to thee.

Converse in mind with God;
Thy Spirit heavenward raise.
Acknowledge every good bestowed,
And offer grateful praise.

Conclude the day with God.
Thy sins to Him confess.
Trust in the Lord's atoning blood,
And plead His righteousness

Lie down at night with God,
Who gives His servants sleep,
And when thou tread'st the vale
of death,
He will thee guard and keep.

MANSFIELD, OHIO
Aaron A. Sauder

May the joy which is from love of
God
Fill us and overflow,
So that all the coming year be
filled
With the Christmas afterglow.

Our Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program on Sunday evening, December 22. From the youngest to the oldest, they happily told and sang of the old, yet always new story of God's love and His gift to men. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Our congratulations and best wishes to: Marjorie (Beer) and Paul Hollinger, on the birth of a son. Little Carolyn is also happy with her baby brother, whom they have named Robb Allen. And to Beverly (Dolce) and Bernie Washington, on the birth of their second son, Kevin, born December 16. Two and one-half-year-old Wesley is so anxious to help his mother care for his new brother.

Calm is thy slumber as an infant's
sleep,
But thou shalt wake, no more to
toil and weep.

Thine is a perfect rest, secure and deep.

Good-night!

Only "Good-night," beloved, not "Farewell!"

A little while, and all His saints shall dwell

In hallowed union indivisible.

Good-night!

Our dear sister, Katherine Maliz Pfister, was called to be with the Lord on December 12, at the age of 77. She will be sadly missed by our congregation. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to her family; her husband, Bro. Albert Pfister; daughter, Sis. Ruth Pfister; seven grandchildren; and to Bro. Albert's children.

Our God shall wipe all tears away,
For joy cometh in the morning!
Sorrow and sighing flee away,
For joy cometh in the morning!
Weeping may endure for the night,
But joy cometh in the morning.

As we begin another new year, may we, like the apostle Paul, turn our thoughts toward the future; "... forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Mrs. Gus Weltz

The annual stockholders' meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association was held on January 6, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berger in Rolling Acres. Present were: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Froelich Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Indermuhle and daughter Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Berger, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berger, Edward Berger, W. E. Durig, A. E. Riggensbach and Mrs. Gus Weltz. Regular business was presented, and all officers were held over for another year. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Berger.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Durig and son, Keith, of Girard spent the week-end of January 4 here with the Barth families.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Witschey and daughter of Dallas Texas,

spent the holidays here with relatives. They live within twelve miles of the spot where the assassination of President Kennedy took place.

Ray Witschey and daughter of Pittsburgh, Pa., Robert and John Witschey of Charleston, W. Va., spent the last of December here with their father, D. S. Witschey and family.

Mrs. C. O. Wade was a medical patient in the local hospital during the week of January 6.

Weimer Sebar passed away on January 6, after a lengthy illness. Funeral services and interment took place here, on January 9.

Robert Corliss, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Froelich, is a medical patient in the local hospital.

George Emch was a medical patient in the local hospital during the week of January 6.

Sam Kaufman continues to live alone, since the death of his wife, several months ago. He is not too well.

Gus Weltz left on January 9 for a ten-day visit with Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams in, Port Charlotte, Florida.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Esther Schmid

Visiting ministers the past month were Bros. Fred Grimm, Taylor; Philip Sauder, Cissna Park; and Joe A. Getz.

Sandra Neely of Pekin, Ill., and Kenneth Dill were united in holy matrimony Dec. 14, at the home of Bro. and Sis. Floyd Bliss. Kenneth is the youngest son of Bro. and Sis. Henry Dill Sr.

Most of the folks that were hospitalized are again able to be about. They are Harold Rowell; Bro. Ralph Koch; Elsie Lou Wheeler, daughter of Sis. Anna Lehman; and Clifford Schweigert's small son, Bradley, who had surgery, but is improving nicely.

We are so thankful for each soul that answers God's call to repentance. Mary Jane Aberle has made this better part her choice. We rejoice as the angels in Heaven over every soul that comes to the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Emma Aberle.

Bro. Raymond Moser has been

selected as our new trustee.

As each new year approaches, we know we are one year nearer our life's end. We were reminded at New Year's Day services that each of us should ask ourself, "Have we prospered in the spirit? Do we hunger and thirst for the true bread and water that comes from above?" The woman of Samaria desired the water that Jesus gave, to be a well of water springing up into everlasting life. So we also can now worship wherever we may be. We need not go to Jerusalem or the mountain if we have the true spirit, as God is a spirit, and we worship Him in spirit and in truth.

In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, they agreed to work for a penny a day. A day seems to represent our lifetime in the service of the Lord. Though we serve Him faithfully a short time or many years, the reward is an eternal home for the soul in the mansions above, for all true, born-again Christians.

The church is a body of people who are born out of water and of spirit. Can a faithful Christian maintain his faith and spiritual fellowship without attending worship services regularly? Men as trees by fruits are known, and one of the important fruits of faith is regular assembly with fellow Christians: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is . . ." Hebrews 10:25.

Faithful attendance is the foundation for spiritual food, and unless we are present when we ought to be there, the younger children and those who look to the church for guidance are hardly going to be deceived by our claim to spirituality. No one should expect the church to better itself unless we are willing to help it become better. No matter if we are involved as an attendant, a song leader, Sunday School teacher, minister, or elder, our greatest opportunity to be helpful and be helped is to be present in the house of worship and be receptive and obedient to God's holy word. It seems we have so much to learn, and such a short time in which to learn.