

And he came by the Spirit
into the temple: and when
the parents brought in the
child Jesus, to do for him
after the custom of the law,

Then took he him up in
his arms, and blessed God,
and said,

Lord, now lettest thou
thy servant depart in peace,
according to thy word:

For mine eyes have seen
thy salvation,

Which thou hast pre-
pared before the face of all
people;

A light to lighten the
Gentiles, and the glory of
thy people Israel.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

VOLUME 16

DECEMBER, 1965

NUMBER 3

THE WONDER OF A CHILD

From Pages of the Past

I remember during one winter the weather was unusually cold. Our boys were well, but my little Ruth was ailing. The water gave out in the well, and the wind blew through the cracks in the floor.

The people were kind and generous, but each family was struggling for itself. Early in life I was taught to take God at His word, and I thought my lesson was well learned. I had lived upon the promises in dark times, until I knew **who was my Fortress and Deliverer**. Now a daily prayer for forgiveness was all that I could offer.

Christmas was coming. The children always expected their presents. Ruth had taken a fancy that the dolls I had made were no longer suitable. She wanted a nice, large one, and insisted in praying for it. I kept the sitting room cheerful with an open fire, and tried to serve our meals as invitingly as I could.

The morning before Christmas, James was called to see a sick man. I put a piece of bread for his lunch (it was the best I could do), wrapped my plaid shawl around his neck, and tried to whisper a promise . . . I let him go without it.

I coaxed the children to bed early. When Ruth went, I listened

to her prayer. She asked for her doll . . . and for her brothers. Her bright face looked so lovely when she whispered, "You know, I think they'll be here early tomorrow morning, mamma."

I sat down alone, and gave way to bitter tears.

Before long, James returned, chilled and exhausted. He drew off his boots; the thin stockings slipped off with them, and his feet were red with cold . . .

There came a sound of bells, a quick stop, and a loud knock at the door. James sprang up, to open it.

"A box came for you by express just before dark. I brought it around as soon as I could get away. Reckoned it might be for Christmas. Here is a turkey my wife asked me to fetch along, and these other things I believe belong to you."

There was a basket of potatoes and a bag of flour. Talking all the time, he hurried in the box, and then, with a hearty good-night, rode away.

Still without speaking, James opened the box. He drew out first a thick red blanket, and we saw that beneath was full of clothing. .

Eleven o'clock. The fire was low.

There was the great box, and nothing touched but the warm blanket we needed. We piled on some fresh logs, lighted two candles, and began . . . an overcoat. I made James try it on; just the right size.

There was a cloak, and he insisted in seeing me in it . . . There was a warm suit of clothes, three pair of woolen hose. There was a dress for me, yards of flannel, a pair of arctic overshoes for each of us . . .

It was a wonderful box, and packed with thoughtful care. There was a suit of clothes for each of the boys, and a little red gown for Ruth. There were mittens, scarfs and hoods; down in the center, a box. We opened it, and there, a doll.

We drew up the table before the fire; how we enjoyed our supper. Then we sat talking over our life, and how sure a help God always proved.

You should have seen the children the next morning. The boy raised a shout. Ruth caught up her doll, and hugged it tightly without a word. Then she went into her room and knelt by her bed. When she came back she whispered, "I knew it would be here mamma, but I wanted to thank God just the same . . ."

. . . so when the time comes . . .

This was given to me, folded in a knot, just as we left our group at the airport. It was for Bro. Noah and myself. Bro. Ben (Maibach)

. . . I would like to write a few lines now to tell you how much I enjoyed your visit, even it was too short to me. I can't explain with

word of my feeling is. You really gave me courage to live in true faith, so when the time comes we all can meet in Heaven. I surely need your help, so please do come back again in next year.

Please remember me in your prayer; I will pray for you. Give my love, and hearty greetings to

all of your family and all the members in America. May the Lord protect your journey all the way home, so you can be with your love ones home again. May God bless you.

I miss you a lots!

With all my love, your adopted daughter, Yoshiko.

RITTMAN

and the editor's pondering

Teaching is the presentation of God's thoughts and ways.

Conference is the sum, the conclusions, of a lot of hearts who have made heaven their destination. It is not something apart from the previous journey, but moulded

partly from past steps. Again, it influences from itself, and its good victories carry all on their shoulders.

We help our brethren in Japan, but it is two way. They help us: There was the young brother that

longed to be carried into our church that he could die there . . . and wanted to show he would be (and was!) triumphant in faith. There is the love and unity that goes above the miles . . . the hearts that become a part of us . . .

Snow is used in scriptural pictures, white as snow. The church at Rittman is in the country. The Creator had given His touch of white in mile after mile of countryside. Inside, He loved the inner garments so pure, whiter than snow. Someday, (He has it in mind on His calendar) He will give dazzling, glistening white outer garments, beautiful for always.

That's why we have to be careful. Elder Brother Henry Souder, years ago, carried the lantern high. Where a door opened to do good, he obeyed. For those who would share, he was careful; he would know them, that they were of His team.

Strangers who have no business do not belong in the home. They are regarded as intruders. Should father and mother invite companions for ruin? The fireside is where little ones live in warmth.

Intruders come in many forms. Ideas and words bombard from various places. Ideas instill an instinct that was absent. Satan's pleasure is sin. He uses many, various methods to sow. There are those that catch on, take root, and spread.

Listen to the call of the watchman! Knowledge dispels ignorance.

The minister should carefully present the truth. (When something is lacking, we should carefully search first whether we have done all. Education disciplines one how to think; wisdom teaches us how to do.)

Our brotherhood has pointed out ways to give. Our gift may gladden some heart, imparting love. Bibles carry the unconditional guarantee of God's promise of accomplishing His purpose. Far, remote corners are reached from our nearest mailbox. The hungry, the needy, the

downtrodden may be given help. We can share with others. Our mission money is a fellowship of sharing our love with brethren and friends.

Retarded children are part of the loving concern of the brotherhood. Many a one is a gem in God's sight. They will shine, while the wise who listen not will be turned away.

Sunday School is important. Foresight, like the quiet workings that give industry its worth, really gears us to promotion of heavenly will.

Homeward. Mile upon mile. We passed house after house. Of more than one it could be said, somebody lived there.

A real home is a center to returning, a rest after work, a family of love. In our Father's house are many dwelling places. That is our home. Let us do all we can to see each other through!

PERSONALITY FOR HIS CITY

Henry Souder Jr.

Joy at home will be in the flowing life of the city.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

Afar, the Light of that city is glorious. The clouds, the lack of faith, somewhat keeps from seeing all of how wonderful He is. I Corinthians 13 tells about perfect love. Love in all its fullness radiates from Jesus.

Things of eternity are for us to seek now.

"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth, For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

There is much of unseen things that can be loved and understood. The city's heartbeat flows in abundant life. Unmoved by the fleeting passing of pleasure . . . uncaught in the heady pride of this world . . . triumphing in the way of the cross . . . the citizen of that city has glorious place—"hid with Christ in God."

"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

Every hour may be Christmas eve; the morning will bring joy. There are happy hours tarrying in

His pages, colorful with spiritual gifts. There is joy at eventide.

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"

Heaven and home have so many things that delight. There's freedom . . . peaceful, song-filled, light, innocent. Free from sin is a glorious fact. It can be for ever.

Not all seed that springs forth finds fruition. One cause of death is choking the word.

The cobra strikes. The venom spreads. For some, according to the word, those who spurn healing remedy, death will result.

We should be aware that the world is packed with the wares of sin. Its potion, spent to please its audience, present in acted or played form the darkness, sin. Escape! God will fulfill His word.

"In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."

Don't look back! How fragrant

are the memories of deliverance from sin. Will one return? Can we hear the heartbeat of the Saviour? Away with fleeing, flimsy, futile, sin.

Morning up there is beautiful. Personality in that city is powerful. The life glows, warms, loves. It draws together in radiant kindness. Personality in that city is without fault . . . no more being provoked, no more frowns. Sweet is the holiday at home. Glorious is the morning without heartache. Saved, the soul may look up in the Father's house.

THE SILVER LINING

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Our "No" and our "Yes" both are important.

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Hit the nail on the head if you want to secure the board right.

Truth is always the best builder. Then the heart feels right.

When we grow, we increase our

capacity to enjoy in eternity. When we're there once, it's too late to point out the golden opportunities to grow and glow.

We are here now; we can enlarge our education of for ever.

Spend your time with Him. He will tell.

"... Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; Forbearing one another,

and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any, even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."

How completely our God gives. Everything is provided here for peace. Fellowship is a fact; unity is often forged on the anvil of forbearance and forgiveness. What does not come out completely, we cover with love.

The kiss of heaven is with God's verse. That is true bliss.

Miles Here, Then Glorious Tomorrow

More follows from Bro. Henry Geistlich

Wednesday, July 11. Today, we left Pulaski for Elgin, Iowa. A brother took us to the Mississippi River, where we boarded a ship for Burlington.

Today we saw a rattlesnake. We could see how with its power of charm it tried to catch a frog. The snake was yet a way off, when the frog started to scream, and with all its power tried to escape while it was yet possible for the frog to get away, so that it would not become a victim.

I thought, in like manner shall the faithful try to escape from the old serpent, which is Satan. When he is yet far off, we must run from him, so that with his charms and calling we do not let ourselves be misled, for if we do not escape, he will swallow us. His power of charm is great, and his hold is death to all that are not awake to his danger, and again listen to his calling.

To the opposition of this serpent, we have Jesus Christ, who did conquer and overcome this serpent. In Jesus Christ there is hidden no false charm, no deception, and no deadly poison, for He is the Messiah, He is the Saviour. He is the Redeemer and salvation of the world... He came to bring salvation and happiness to mankind... life, peace and joy.

Thursday, July 12... Today we sailed further north on the Mississippi on a steambot to McGregor, where we took the railroad to Elgin, Iowa...

Sunday, July 15... We had to go 25 miles yet with a rig until we came to the brethren. The country around Elgin is somewhat hilly, although fertile... The region where the brethren live is almost like

Switzerland; therefore, I liked it here. The congregation here is quite large; the brethren are mostly from Bern and Zurich, Switzerland. They have a new church building. Bro. Christian Lanzman from Bern is their elder and leader.

... The tables from which we ate were mostly richly laden... The most precious of all is God's word and His precious peace, and the most wonderful of all is God's glorious gospel... which also came into this barren and desert land...

Monday, July 16. At Elgin, Iowa. The past night, Bro. Bella and myself stayed with Bro. Rugg... In earthly riches, Bro. Rugg is well to do... Yet he speaks of his earlier days of poverty as blessed, saying the trials and temptation which he now has are greater...

Tuesday, July 17... A true Christian cannot be without persecution here upon this earth. The provings show us the way to the eternal life and home. Blessed is the man who bears the affliction, for after he has been proved, he will inherit the crown of life. As far as I have come on my trip, I can see that the believers all have the same battle of faith to fight as the apostle writes, **which you can see in me and also have heard of me.**

"Wednesday, July 18. At Elgin... Today, as we were visiting with some brethren, I became sick. We had to stay there. Bro. Bella, Bro. Reuter and Bro. Christian Bauman went on visiting. This gave me a chance to write several things...

Saturday, July 21. At Elgin... I stayed with Bro. Rugg again the past night. Together we visited the Brethren Holding. Carolina is married. Her husband's name is Graf...

Sunday, July 22. At Elgin... Today, we had a glorious and blessed day. I could rejoice along with the dear brethren here. I felt as if I were in church in Switzerland. All was well and lovely. We talked much of olden times between our sermons. Many had a blessed remembrance of their old home. Bro. Rugg and Schappi were especially happy because they had company. We had church three times today and ended the day in joy and delight.

Monday, July 23. At Elgin, Iowa. The past night I slept very little. Early in the evening there came a thunderstorm, one of such proportions that I had never seen in Europe, thunder and lightning... The entire sky seemed on fire, one stroke after another... The rain fell in torrents. Many of the brethren could not go home, as the river over which they had to cross overflowed its banks, and there were no bridges there. In the forenoon, we started to go back towards the Mississippi. All the bridges were washed away.

How glorious are the godly teachings that are given us in the holy scripture, especially concerning the kingdom of a thousand years. The earth will be renewed; the curse will be taken from it. The word of the prophet will be fulfilled, The lion shall eat straw like a bullock, and flesh-devouring beasts there will be none.

Satan will be bound a thousand years. The great whore (this is false Christianity) will be destroyed.

The earth will be as full of the knowledge of the Lord as the sea of water. No nation will raise a sword against another. We that are faith-

ful will also have part in that thousand-year kingdom In a moment, we can change from earth to heaven, and from heaven to earth. As we can in the spirit wish to be, so it will be when we are in our new body.

Then, after the thousand years are over, Satan will again be loosed. Then he will mislead the nations But from this temptation the believers will be exempted. Satan will have no power on them, because the trials and temptations they had to endure have a limit. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, . . ." This will be a glorious time . . .

GOSPEL HYMNS—NEW and OLD

Our life is joyful when rested in the Lord.

Think of a large mansion, mellowed with memory, a family's hearthside. The rooms are many, but have this, they are close. The lawn drifts on into the distant . . . The snow is beautifully touched, lovely white—Children carol in its halls. Beautiful song and thought may drift us in this land of contentment.

Such is our heritage in heavenly home.

His Home is more, beyond our fondest dreams.

Gospel Hymns, New and Old, can carol their beauty in your life. There are joyful songs . . . **joy, exceeding, full of glory** goes one song . . . **Rejoice, ye saints**, another. There were songs of Christmas . . . there are added more . . . **O Come little Children, Silent Night** and more.

They reach to our deepest need . . . and add light and comfort when moments are pressing. Bro. Elias Souder has been in the midst of the enriching love of this hymnbook. Recently, he has experienced some hospital days. The doctor said to bring him in. (We are, each of us always close to the curtains.) He seemed to walked not far to the brink closer than most of us are . . . we, none of us, hold promise of this day's tomorrow.

One day he was noted singing . . . in an oxygen tent. What was the hymn? . . . one of the new gospel hymns, **Grace Greater Than Sin**. Or so it seemed to one that was nearby . . . He loves others, new ones like

Then, after the thousand years, Satan and his entire army will be judged and cast into the pool of fire.

A new heaven and a new earth will be established, in which righteousness and peace will reign. The first heaven and the first earth will disappear. All grief, all crying and all mourning will vanish. Joy and pleasure will be His right for ever and ever. Amen.

Tuesday, July 24. At Elgin, Iowa. Today, we had to take a different road on account of the high water, which washed away 14 bridges. It was 22 miles around to McGregor, the town on the Mississippi where we stayed overnight. The brethren took us here in wagons, Bro. Chris-

tian Bauman driving our wagon, Bros. Michael and Fred Gerber and others also accompanying us.

Wednesday, July 25. At McGregor, Iowa. Today we sailed on a steamboat down the Mississippi to a small city, where we had to wait in the railroad station . . .

Thursday, July 26. We rode the entire night on the train, arriving at Peoria at 5:00 this morning. We had a good trip. Thanks be unto the Lord for His gracious and Fatherly protection. As we arrived at Peoria, Bro. Welk was there to meet us, taking us along home to Dillon with him. Bro. Welk is a lovable brother and elder. I enjoyed myself amid the dear brethren, and spent blessed hours with them.

The Open Gate and Abide With Me 'Tis Eventide.

Bro. Sam Gerber sang, in a quartet with his brother—Bro. Lou Gerber. One of the songs they blended their voices was about our present way of the cross . . . Through a glass we now see darkly . . . We shall know up yonder why we here have grief and pain.

All the things that now perplex us, by and by shall be made plain.

One of the new hymns is, "He Giveth More Grace." How much it will mean to many . . . "when we have exhausted our store of endurance, our Father's full giving has only begun." . . . and out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

Bro. Sam Gerber is in the Father's house now, and knows the beauty of that cheery Christmas season. The Sunday before he entered, he gave out the beautiful gospel hymn, "I'm Going Home" . . . when from this earthly prison free, that heavenly mansion mine shall be. He entered His glorious rest.

Do you want to know and love this book, somewhere in your hours? It is so nice to fall asleep to . . . and they tell of His home—so nice to come home to.

Write The Gospel Hymn Publishing Co., Grabill, Ind. 46741. Price after the turn of the year is 3.48, plus postage (and Indiana residences only, 2% sales tax).

[not yet available]

What is suggested for **The Silver Lining** for a year? \$2.00. Where do you send, or where can you ask for **The Silver Lining**? Just write Silver Lining, Box 74, Grabill, Ind. 46741.

Christmas List For Always

What do I want for Christmas?
Real things that 'bide past time's
count,

A home, a mansion in glory,
A view from His wonderful mount.

I want His Rest after labor,
Sabbath after this day of strife.
I want what glows in the evening;
Sunset, and there's radiant life.

What do I? Wishing this Christmas
Faithful, pilgrim, for you to be,
A list'ning, a glist'ning, holy;
The value eternal we'll see.

Giving and serving, His loving
Causes lamplight on this earth to
cast

Reflections eternal, treasure
To meet you in heaven at last.

I want the rapture of music,
So sweet it brings joy to the heart.
I want a love that will glisten
When spirit from body must part.

I want a place up in heaven
Where children carol God's praise.
I want you to be in His circle.
With joy on our God we shall gaze.

the editor.

Whose Neighbor Am I?

A certain writer uses a simple but most effective technique for conveying the idea of just what it means to live on from \$50 to \$200 per year. He starts with a typical Canadian-American family with an

income of \$6,000-\$7,000 per year, in a small suburban home. Then he refashions this home and the life of its inhabitants, into a typical scene in the vast "under-\$200" areas of the world.

Take out the furniture, except a few old blankets, a kitchen table and one chair. Take away all the clothing, except for the oldest dress or suit for each member of the family, and a shirt or blouse. Leave one pair of shoes, for the head of the family. Empty the pantry and refrigerator, except of a small bag of flour, some sugar

and salt, a few moldy potatoes for tonight's dinner, a handful of onions and a dish of dried beans.

Dismantle the bathroom, shut off the water, remove the electric wiring. Take away the house itself, and move the family into a toolshed. Remove all the other houses in the neighborhood, and set up in this place a shanty-town.

Discontinue government services. No more postman, no more fireman. There is a school, but it is three miles away and consists of two classrooms. They are not too overcrowded, since only half the

children in the neighborhood go to school. Move the nearest clinic or hospital 10 miles away, and put a midwife in charge, instead of a doctor. Throw out the bankbooks, stock certificates, pension plans and insurance policies, and leave the family a cash hoard of \$5. Give the head of the family 3 tenant acres to cultivate. On this he can raise \$300 in cash crops, of which one third will go to the landlord and one tenth to the local money-lender. Lop off 25 to 30 years in life expectancy.

JAPAN Yoshio Yamazaki

I will sing unto Jehovah as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. Let my meditation be sweet unto him: I will rejoice in Jehovah. Psalm 104: 33, 34.

We are really thankful to the Elders Schrock and Maibach for their visit in Japan from October 28 to November 8. We surely very much appreciated them and were much encouraged. I never doubt that the elders' journey was much fruitful and useful by our loving Lord's guidance. Brother Schrock in spite of his age came to Japan as a representative of Jesus Christ and His love. We Japanese brethren will never forget forever, that's what I believe. I felt personally myself same as above Scripture which David confessed.

Yesterday, November 23 is Japanese national holiday (Japanese thanksgiving). It came from the Shinto's custom. The farmers should offer firstfruit of rice, vegetables and other things to gods after the harvest. However, according to the Japanese history, about the year 600 after Christ, one of emperors offered first grain and thanks to his ancestors, but today it has become custom among all Japanese. So this day most Japanese people are free from their work and have an excuse for using the wine and so forth. It is a celebration from Shintoism.

Our three Sunday School teachers, Sisters Shizuko Kobayashi, Hiroko Utsuki, Hideko Shimada, and seven children and Bros. Willis Ehnle, Akira Utsuki and myself visited the orphanage, on this holiday, and shared them the love of our Father in heaven. That orphan-

age is privately built, but sometimes accepted support. A man of that orphanage told us most of those children are not orphans. They have parents who had divorce, or some are working out because they are poor. I think most of the Japanese orphanage's nature became changed after the war ended. Then, after that, we asked him if there was anything we can do for them? He said, "Yes, if we can have someone teach the Bible to them on every Sunday morning, we are very much appreciate it, because we can't do it well ourselves." We brothers will discuss about this kind of matter, and we will go and help them spiritually. If it is the Lord's will, probably I will take responsibility before morning service starts here in Tokyo church. It is a couple miles from our church here in Tokyo.

TUCSON, ARIZONA Jay J. Bertsch

Shut-ins: Sis. Martha Blessman was hospitalized for major surgery. At this time, she is at home, recovering nicely.

Elder Brother Roy Farney was with us for services.

We are very happy to have had visitors in the past month, and welcome them back again.

IF

If you know what you are able to accomplish,

Yet realize the things you cannot do,

If you find the goal that you believe in

And understand what God expects of you,

If you can always use your talents wisely

Remaining calm when so many things go wrong
And seek your goal with persevering courage
Relying on your faith to make you strong . . .

If you can forbear long the faults of others,
And love them for the good that they have done,
If you can cast on God your needs and troubles
And always try to help the other one,
If you can light the way by your example,
And offer understanding sympathy,
Then you will have the joy that comes from knowing
You're the person God intended you to be.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY August Mueller

Miami . . . It's so sweet to trust in Jesus. Indeed, it is a precious thing to have a place where we can find shelter in the time of storm. Jesus can still be found. He is still willing to help all that ask Him for help. He does not turn anyone away. Sinners can come and ask Him to help them. They have to come with a humble and upright heart. The sick can come and ask Him to heal them. The afflicted can come and ask Him to help them carry the cross; the poor and needy can tell Him their troubles. Those that have reached a high age and do not care to be in this world any longer can still come to Him; I am tired—I would like to go home. He hears all the prayers of His children and tells them to be patient, wait a little longer. My Father will take care of you, and He will richly reward

you. He will give you more than you expected. Let us submit our will unto His.

I am reminded of Daniel in the lion's den. King Darius came to mourn over him; he loved Daniel and did not expect to find him alive. When he looked, to his surprise he found Daniel alive, among hungry lions.

The king gave God the honor and rejoiced that his friend, Daniel, was alive.

One thing I seek, Far more than tongue can tell, That in Thy holy place With Thee my God I might forever dwell, To praise thee for Thy grace. O Lord, I wish to see Thy splendor. Prepare me now that I may enter Thy mansions bright.

What are we poor creatures that we should appear before the almighty God the Creator of heaven and earth? He does not need us, but we need Him. He created mankind to serve Him and to praise and honor His holy name. They refused to walk in His ways and do His will, so He decided to send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, upon this earth. He shed His blood for all, so no one need go lost and suffer in eternity. If they repent and believe in Him, they will live.

See what manner of love the Father bestows on us, that we can be called His children. I for one can not find enough words to praise Him for His grace and mercy, that I could be added unto the little flock in this time of grace. It is my daily prayer that this little flock may be increased, ere the Housefather will rise to shut the door, and no one will be able to open it. The more that come, the better the Father likes it. He has no pleasure in the death of a sinner. Work while it is yet day. The night is coming when no work can be done anymore.

Rejoice, all ye that love the Lord; sing praises unto His holy name, for this is pleasing in His sight. He is a kind, merciful, long-suffering God.

The poet tells us that they above never stop singing anthems God has taught them. He also teaches us what and how to sing. What is more delightful than to hear a group singing praises unto the most High. I like to obey the poet, where he says, Come children join in singing sweet praises to our Lord, Who blessed us with salvation through faith in His good word.

May God protect all the brothers and friends that are serving our country. Amen.

It is with deep regret that I have to leave without saying Farewell to the members and friends in Ft. Lauderdale. I enjoyed myself very much in the short time, and now I say Farewell, to one and all, with these words: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord let His countenance shine upon you, and give you peace. Amen.

This is the last month of this year. This is the month when preparations were made almost 2000 years ago for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came from heaven in the dark of night to bring salvation to all mankind. What Father would send His only Son out of a beautiful home, to where He was mocked and insulted and shamefully treated. He took everything willingly, knowing that He would return to His Father, and that all power in heaven and on earth was turned over to Him.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Delutha Moser Carolyn Gerber

Shut-ins: Brothers, John Kaehr, John Fiechter, Clarence Steffen, Earl Frauhiger, Dale Reinhard; Sisters, Mrs. Joel Maller, Mrs. John Moser, Mrs. Ralph Gerber and Mrs. Tobias Steffen.

Births: November 18, a daughter, Kelli Sue, to Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber. November 22, a son, Douglas Lee, to Bro. Emanuel and Jenny Gerber.

Death: On November 28, funeral services were held for Sis. Lydia (John) Steffen, age 80 years. Surviving are four sons, Wilmer, Glenes, Harold and Ralph; four daughters, Mrs. Harry (Catherine) Reinhard, Mrs. Roy (Virgene) Reinhard, Mildred and Violet Steffen; a brother, Joseph Gerber. Elder Samuel Aeschliman officiated at the service.

Wedding: On December 5, Sis. Gloria Jean Moser and Bro. Terry Steffen were united in holy matrimony by Elder Sam Aeschliman. Parents of the couple are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Marie Moser and Sis. Lucille (Norman) Steffen. May God bless your home, and may it be a shrine where faith, hope and love are daily shared in mutual trust, and pledged anew to God above.

Friend Marvin Steffen and Bro. Duane Gerber have been discharg-

ed from the US Army, after serving two years of duty.

There is love at Christmas, because Christmas was born of love. Let us, each one, keep this spirit of love and glorify God.

The Spirit of Christmas

There's something about the Christmas time,
Something in the spirit of it
That defies the power of prose or rhyme
To fathom it.

Something that probes the depths
of the human soul,
Something in the beauty of it
That urges one on to a higher goal,
To a life more worthy of it.

Something that breathes of the
time when discord shall cease,
Something in the spirit of it,
When men shall hear and heed the
call

To the gracious gift of God,
Of peace, peace on earth,
good-will to all.

CHD

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Mrs. Albert E. Kipfer

Mrs. Lee E. Eisenmann, reporting

It seems there are different ways to commune with God. One in which we find much spiritual satisfaction is in singing praises unto Him. How blest we have been by our monthly singings. In this past month we were especially so in having a number of the Francesville congregation, along with a ministering brother, Lester Huber, spend the day with us and then lead us in the evening hymn singing. The singing was "beautiful"! I am sure that all who took part found an added blessing. This monthly singing has been set for the second Sunday of the month at 6:30; all are invited to come.

On November 21, a number of young people from the Bluffton Bible Class, accompanied by several teachers and Ministering Brother Orville Ringger, visited us. Following a supper at church, the Thanksgiving Program was given. This was enjoyed by all present, & we especially want to thank our visitors for their part in the program.

Jennifer Lee came to gladden the home of Bro. and Sis. Stanley Clauss of Oak Park, Illinois, on November 6. She is the grand-

daughter of Sis. Mattie Clauss of Ft. Wayne, and was welcomed by a sister.

Hospitalized for medical treatment were David and Dennis Reimschisel, sons of our friends, Jim and Maris. Bro. Noah Gerber had surgery, but was expecting to be released the day of this writing, to convalesce at his home at 3215 Varsity Lane, in Ft. Wayne.

As I am writing this report this morning, there are snow flurries off and on, and it really makes one realize how soon it will be Christmas. It seems at this time of the year we are very busy, but certainly we should not be too busy to think of the true meaning of Christmas. My little ones are learning verses and songs for our Christmas program. Sometimes I must stop to think how quickly they will repeat what we tell them, and how sad for us if we do not instill in their little minds that which is truth.

And so from this writer comes a Blessed Christmas Greeting to one and all, and may your New Year be one of joy and prosperity in the Lord.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

November 13 our friends, Judy Buttrick, Dennis Binkele and Alice Hohulin, had the opportunity to bring their testimonies of conversion to our congregation. The following day they were baptized. We welcome these sisters and brother in our precious faith. We're so thankful the Lord is still calling souls to repentance, and that there are souls who heed the loving invitation.

We welcome Sis. Janice Frieden to our assembly. Janice is from Lamar.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Carolee Unsicker welcomed to their family circle a baby daughter, Amy Lou, who was born November 19.

Myrna Rokey, daughter of Bro. Ira and Sis. Caroline Rokey of Goodfield, was married to Douglas Schwenk, son of Herb and Sis. Ida Schwenk, on November 27.

Mary Ann Ebling was married to Wayne Eilers, son of Howard and Elsie Eilers, on December 4.

Sis. Rose Langjahr has moved to the Apostolic Christian Home, 711 N. E. Monroe St., Peoria, Ill.

Charles McDermott is a patient

in the hospital.

Sis. Martha Tanner wishes to thank everyone who sent cards during her recent illness, for all the expressions of love, and especially the prayers offered in her behalf.

Sis. Katherine Knapp died November 7. Funeral services were held in Tremont. She was a sister of Bro. George Knapp.

Albert Asal died November 15, after a fall from a fertilizer bin in Princeville. Surviving are his sisters, Amelia, Tillie, Sisters Louise, Lena and Mae and one brother, Benjamin, all of Peoria.

Funeral services were held at Wilton Mortuary on December 1 for Robert Baer, son of William and Lydia Koch Baer of Brookfield. He was a nephew of Sis. Rose Koch.

Ministers who visited our congregation were Bros. Albert Scheitlin, Walter Anliker, Joe A. Getz, Elias Somerhalder, Wendell Gudeman and Lester Huber. We're thankful to God and these brothers for the loving messages and warnings proclaimed.

At our December Hymn sing, we were privileged to hear the Gospel Heirs and also a group of eleven young girls from the Francesville church. Their songs were so beautifully sung. Surely this is but a foretaste of the joys to come!

We now approach the time of year that we celebrate Christ's birth on this earth. The story is so beautifully expressed in St. Luke's gospel. Really, we cannot be thankful enough, every day of our lives, for all that God has shared unto us.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts—Anna Marie Baer

Early in November, Bro. George and Sis. Lydia Seidel entertained a group of World War I veterans in the home of their son, Bro. Richard, and family. Bro. Harry Bucher of La Crosse ministered to us. All received many blessings. Bro. Harry said that they were told that they were fighting a war to end all wars, and how many conflicts there have been since.

Bro. Dale Martin, who has been in Viet Nam, has contracted malaria and is receiving treatment in a hospital at Guam. He was to have been discharged just a few days after taking sick. He is recovering, but will be at Guam not less than thirty days, which will be to the end of December.

On November 14, Bro. Charles Walder and Sis. Wilma Baer were joined in the bonds of Holy Matrimony by our elder brother, Silas Leuthold. Bro. Joshua Broquard assisted, and Bro. Phil Sauder of Cissna Park was also a guest minister. Bro. Charles and Sis. Wilma went to the West coast to visit relatives, and upon returning home will make their home in East Lynn, Illinois. May they enjoy many years of blessings together, with God as their guide.

Funeral services for our friend, Albert Asal, who died following a fall from a fertilizer bin, were held November 18. He was laid to rest in the church cemetery. He is survived by one brother, Ben and five sisters, Sis. Louise, Sis. Lena, Sis. Mae, Amelia and Tillie, all of Peoria.

A daughter, Gail Renee, was born to Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach, on November 22. Two sisters and a brother awaited her homecoming.

Sisters Elizabeth and Marie Kieser are surgical patients, and are recovering satisfactorily. We wish them a speedy and complete recovery.

Bro. Charles Koelling, aged 80, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly (although he was in failing health), December 3. Funeral services are to be held Monday, December 6. He will be laid to rest in the church cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Rosie, who is suffering from hardening of the arteries and cannot realize her husband has passed on; five daughters, Hulda, Lillian Miller, Esther Graham, Clara Reed and Frances Mlekowski; five sons, Levi, Carl, Samuel, Daniel, and Frank; four sisters Mary Koelling, Minnie Pppard, Lydia Tanner and Emma Beetschen; and 39 grandchildren. One sister and two sons preceded him in death.

Our aged sister, Marie Begner, is going to Peoria to make her home with a son for the winter. The congregation sang a farewell song for her. We trust she will be content in her new home and feel God's nearness. I'm sure she would be pleased to hear from her friends. Her address is c/o Albert Begner, 18 N. E. Madison Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61603.

A Tribute for our departed brother, Lowell Stoller.

A beloved brother has passed
 From the world to the City of God.
 The hand of the Lord did guide him
 As the path of this world he trod.

His brethren loved him dearly
 As he worked in the ministry,
 For he always esteemed others
 higher,
 As a true child of God should be.

His family will miss him sorely,
 But the church will miss him, too,
 For he was a faithful, devoted
 father;
 And the teachings he gave were
 true.

But the work of the Lord we won't
 question;
 We'll work 'till life's setting of sun.
 Then we, too, will have a home in
 heaven,
 If life's journey we faithfully run.

His lips have been sealed so silent,
 And his smile has left us, too,
 But thoughts of his life will linger
 In the hearts of those he knew.

Today we don't know the reason
 Why so soon God took him away,
 But we'll understand without
 question
 When the night has turned to day.

When the ocean of life is stilled
 And the shuttles cease to fly,
 The righteous God in heaven
 Will tell us the reason why.

Our prayer is God will be gracious
 And provide for the church He
 loves,
 And raise other faithful brothers
 Who will carry the light from
 above.

Sis. Clara Stoller has received
 many cards from many places. She
 has submitted the following note of
 appreciation: We believe it was the
 prayers of our beloved brethren
 that helped to carry us through
 these days of mourning. We also
 feel unworthy of the many cards
 and letters received. May God bless
 each one who helped console us.
 Your least sister in faith, Clara
 Stoller and children.

With the approaching Christmas
 season, we are once more remind-
 ed of our Saviour's birth in a lowly
 stable. May we all enjoy the humble
 blessings of God, gifts of love, peace
 and good-will toward all man.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Velta Laukhuf

As we are again nearing the win-
 ter tourist season, church services
 will be held in the Women's Club
 Building, at the corner of Park and
 Palm Ave., 1:00 p.m., starting the
 first Sunday in January. Providing
 the good Lord permits, Bro. Philip
 Wingeier will be with us again this
 winter. We welcome all those visit-
 ing Florida to stop and worship
 with us. Bro. Philip will have a new
 address this year, 2035 Palm Ter-
 race, which is located in the south
 part of the city, just east of U.S.
 41.

BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Martha Kieser

Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka, and
 Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Tremont,
 each spent a Sunday at Bradford
 church this past month. We thank
 them.

Sis. Delores Kieser and Bro. Don
 Duckworth were united in holy
 matrimony by our elder, Bro. Silas
 Leuthold. We trust God will add
 his blessing to their union. Also
 with us that Sunday were Bro. Josh
 Broquard of Fairbury and Bro.
 Dave Kieser of Princeville.

Sis. Sandra Guingrich was a re-
 cent hospital patient. She is home
 again. Sis. Doris Guingrich was al-
 so sick, as was her husband, Bro.
 Ed. They are back in our assembly
 again.

Bro. James and Sis. Helen
 Knobloch are parents of a new baby
 son. A brother, Donnie, and a sis-
 ter, Debbie, were happy to wel-
 come their new brother, who was
 named Paul William. Daryl Lee is
 the name of the baby son born to
 Bro. Marvin and Sis. Diane
 Knobloch, and not Bryan as was
 reported.

Our little folks are eagerly learn-
 ing verses and songs for the annual
 Christmas program.

BERN, KANSAS

Mrs. Morris Edelman

Mrs. Leonard Baumgartner

Paul Frederick Lehmann, known
 as Bro. Fred, was born at Bern,
 Switzerland, on Aug. 21, 1873, and
 passed away at Axtell, Kansas, on
 Nov. 20, at the age of 92 years. He
 came to America at 22 years of age
 and made his home in Sabetha and
 Bern farm communities. Surviving
 him are his wife, of the Apostolic
 Christian Home; five daughters
 and three sons; twenty-six grand-

children and twenty-two great-
 grandchildren. One son, Andy, pre-
 ceded him in death—at the age of
 two years. In September, Bro. Fred
 and Sis. Lena celebrated their 66th
 wedding anniversary. Bro. Fred
 was able to attend church regular-
 ly, until he became ill two weeks
 before his death, and he will be
 greatly missed.

We congregated with the Sa-
 betha church for Thanksgiving
 services, on Thanksgiving day. Bro.
 Harvey Grimm brought us the mes-
 sage.

Sis. Leola Lehman was hospital-
 ized a few days. Morris Rokey, son
 of Bro. Joe Rokeys, was hospital-
 ized with an injury on his head
 from a skating accident. It was
 eight inches long and required
 twenty stitches. Bro. Gottlieb
 Brunner is now home from a leng-
 thy stay in the hospital.

Wayne Strahm, son of Bro. Ep-
 raim Strahms, moved from Topeka
 to Wichita, where he is working
 with an aircraft company. We will
 miss not seeing him home as often.

We thank Bro. Joe Aberle of
 Sabetha for visiting us and con-
 ducting an afternoon service.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

As the song goes: "Born again
 means salvation . . .", —On his
 birthday, David Kaeb, who is in
 college at ISU, realized he needed
 to be born again, and soon received
 peace with God.

Louise (Zimmerman) Morton
 repented and found peace with God.
 Louise's husband, Glen, who had
 been in failing health, recently pas-
 sed away.

Sis. Lena Zehr had the misfor-
 tune of falling and receiving a frac-
 tured bone in her leg, requiring a
 cast. Bro. Chris Steffen has been
 hospitalized, due to a heart attack.
 Sis. Esther Stoller has improved
 enough to leave the hospital and
 stay with Bro. George and Sis.
 Salome Zimmerman, who will take
 care of her.

The week of the Elder and
 Brother meeting, we were privil-
 eged to have guest ministers: Bro.
 Eli Somerhalder of Burlington,
 Okla.; Elder Bro. Sam Anliker of
 Lamont; Bro. Wayne Miller of Ft.
 Scott; Bro. Loren Strahm and Bro.
 Sam Huber of Gridley, Kansas.

We were happy to have Bro. Dan
 Koch minister to us.

Bro. John Rocke of Goodfield

and Bro. Vernon Leman of Eureka were guest ministers Dec. 5.

Bro. John and Sis. Rose Huette and family moved and are now residing at Normal, but we are glad that they will continue to come to Fairbury for church.

Duane Schieler, son of Alton and Sis. Sally Schieler, was married to Diane Revis.

Notices to leave for service were received by some of our boys. Harvey Steffen, son of Bro. and Sis. Ezra Steffen, is to leave Dec. 13; Sam Roth, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Roth is to leave for the Marines Dec. 28, Bro. John Hartman, son of Bro. and Sis. Vernon Hartman, Dec. 29. May God take care of them.

Steve Roth, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Lorene Roth, is leaving our city for a while, as he plans to enter college at Phoenix.

Our Christmas program by the Sunday School classes is planned for Sunday evening, Dec. 19. We know that the children will present an interesting Christmas story.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

Cathryn Wettstein Salome Walter

Our visitor the past month was Bro. Henry Manz from Paulding Ohio.

Engagement announcement: Sis. Gloria Hodel from Cissna Park and Bro. Douglas Leman. He is the son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldene Leman.

In Eureka Hospital: Sis Pauline Miller; in Methodist Hospital: Leonard Hartter.

Thanksgiving services were held at 10:00. Bros. Leroy Huber and Eugene Bertschi had the services. The inspiring message reminded one and all to be thankful, not only on that day but every day, also we should count our many blessings and name them one by one.

Plans for our Christmas Sunday School program are being made. It will be given Dec. 22, Wednesday evening.

Christian Endeavor was held Dec. 5 here in Eureka. Thirteen churches were present with their Bible Sunday School classes.

Walter Knecht has returned home, after being in the Army. He was stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas, for some time.

I sincerely wish to thank all who remembered me with cards, gifts, visits, and prayers during and after my stay in the hospital. Your

thoughtfulness was very much appreciated. Donna Sherman.

We are grateful to the Lord for His blessings, in that He has made it possible for us to realize a new home for the aged, which is now near completion.

In our changing times, the need is apparent for a home for our aged brithers and sisters, where the declining years of their life can be spent in the Christian atmosphere they have known all their lives as believers.

The churches that have substantially supported the home and made it possible are Goodfield, Congerville, Princeville, Roanoke, Gridley, Tremont and Eureka. Grateful acknowledgement is given to all for their generous donations and their many hours of labor devoted to the building of this home. We know the Lord will richly repay all who exercise themselves in works of charity, especially toward those of the household of faith. Anyone wishing to give to this worthy endeavor may do so by sending your contribution to Bro. Walter Anliker, 308 E. Leo, Eureka, Illinois.

If there are any of our aged brothers, sisters or friends wishing to live at the home, they are invited to make application. Address the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home for the Elderly, 610 W. Cruger Ave., Eureka, Illinois.

Open house will be January 8 and 9, dedication Jan. 16, 1966.

FT. SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Larry Endress

We truly have not been forgotten down here, as we have had much company. It truly does lift our spirits and gives us new courage to continue onward, when loved ones of like mind and faith come and spend their time with us. There is no doubt in my mind that all that come to visit us will be rewarded for it, maybe not in this life, but the life to come.

On Nov. 13 and 14, Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Marge Knapp, Congerville, made the long journey, bringing Sis. Pat Bertschi, Morton, along. Pat's husband, Bro. Don, is in basic training here. Pat will live down here until Don finishes medical training and gets further assignments. We could truly feel the presence of our Heavenly Father as Bro. Fredrick brought the spiritual

food and drink we are so much in need of, especially here where we are around so much sin and ungodliness.

We were again thankful to have with us Bro. William and Sis. Bertha Cordill (and their children) from Oakville with us on Nov. 20 and 21. Their son, John, just recently completed medical training and has been permanently stationed at Ft. Sam.

Bro. William, Sis. Rose (and Sisters Ruth and Nancy) from Tremont spent Thanksgiving week-end here, coming especially to be with their son, Fred, before he gets his orders for further assignments.

On Dec. 4 and 5, Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Martin from Milford were with us. Their son, John, is in medical training.

It does give us brothers much courage and strength when the many friends assemble with us and kneel in prayer. Even those boys from the split churches, without exception, assemble with us.

It is quite evident, when the friends assemble with us, that they have a desire to hear the precious word of God, so may we do our part in prayer and intercession for them that they can find the way of salvation, before the night cometh when man can work no more.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA

Martha Rinkenberger

Our visitors were Bros. Irvin Lehman and Alfred Bahler of Wolcott, Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington, Bro. Elmer Bucher of Francesville, Bros. Noah Gerber and Earl Banwart of West Bend. We had many more visitors.

Bro. Joe Heinold of Arizona was here for the baptism of his son, Orie. Orie had a very touching testimony. He said it would be better to come to the Lord in your youth, not to take such a chance of losing your soul salvation, or to have such a long way to come back. Jane and Larry Nuest were baptized, too. They are a happy young couple. May God bless them.

Sis. Esther Bucher had surgery, but is getting along fine.

Dale Miess (son of Bro. Roland and Sis. Josephine) is in the hospital for tests. Jim Heinold was burned, and is in the hospital. (His wife was Karon Yergler.) We wish him a speedy recovery.

Bro. Otto Fritz is able to come back to church, after being missing

for a year. We are so happy for him. He wishes to thank everyone that has remembered him. He is staying with his daughter and husband, Bro. and Sis. Harvey Banwart.

REMINGTON, INDIANA Anna M. Waibel and sisters

After a prolonged stay at the hospital and being very seriously ill, Sis. Percy Clauss is home and doing remarkably well. She found grace and peace with God, and gave a beautiful testimony, after which she was taken into the fold. She is so thankful the Lord is merciful and is giving her time to rejoice in her new life. We are all very happy for her, too.

Ed Frey is home, after a number of weeks at the hospital. He needs our prayers and much grace and faith for his needs according to body and soul.

Sis. Marie Schieler is home and slowly improving. She wishes to thank everyone for remembering her on her birthday and all that was done for her at the hospital and since she is home.

The Sunday evening after the conference, Bros. Earl Banwart and Noah Gerber from West Bend, also their daughter and husband from Tremont accompanied by Bro. Art Gudeman from La Crosse came and held services here. After the services, it was so very foggy that some of the folks stayed all night.

Prayer For Peace

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

Oh divine Master, grant that

I may not so much seek

To be consoled

As to console;

To be understood

As to understand;

To be loved as to love,

For it is in giving

That we receive;

It is in pardoning

That we are pardoned,

And it is in dying

That we are born

To eternal life.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN Marlene Mosher

Bros. Philip Wingeier and Ben Maibach and their wives were home for Thanksgiving, to visit with their parents.

We have many new babies in our congregation this month. Born to Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edith Weiland, a boy and a girl, Kent William and Kelly Lydia; a son, to Bro. David and Sis. Margaret Schlatter, Alan David; a girl to Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Ramseyer, Wendy Lynn.

A new daughter, Robyn Renee, has come into the home of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Erma Weiland. Robyn will be the new sister of Todd, who will be 3 years old Christmas Day.

Bro. Roger Wieland is home from Service.

With Christmas time upon us once again, let us not take Christ out of Christmas. Let us remember that Christmas Day was the day of our Lord's birth, but also let us remember the cross, and that He died for our sins, yours and mine. Let us never forget Him.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS Louise Steffen Katie Kachelmuss

We recently had a blessed Sunday. Bro. Michael Weyeneth spent the day with us and brought the Word of God in rich measure. Among many other things, he mentioned that if we were to ask what the most important question of our day and time is, we would undoubtedly get various answers. One might say, the war is the important question which should be settled; another might say, the racial question, and still another, the labor question should be settled, but we know the most important question this morning is the question which Pilate asked, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" He then very earnestly urged the friends to settle the question in their hearts now, and not wait for a more convenient time, for there will never be a more convenient time. We also were reminded of the power of prayer, and how much can be accomplished if we all unite and pray earnestly that God might be our protection and our help in these perilous times.

Those recently hospitalized were Vicki Tobler, Sis. Ernestine Gude-

man, and Bro. Albert Scheitlin, who was taken suddenly ill during our services. They are back home and getting along well. Sis. Emma Moser is still in the hospital, and we desire for her, and all the sick, God's comfort and help in their afflictions.

A group of young folks visited Sis. Karoline Kuehner at the Resthaven Home. She enjoyed the hymns so much, and is cheerful and contented. Now she has returned to the home of her daughter and son-in-law and grandson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gebhard and Ted, who live at 530 S. Liberty St., Elgin, Ill.

A dear friend, Caroline Leuthold, was taken out of our midst unexpectedly. The funeral was Dec. 3. Sisters Mary and Lena Leuthold and Caroline made their home together, and they will deeply feel the loss of her companionship. We pray for them, that God will be their comfort in the days ahead, as was mentioned at the funeral, God can comfort where the comfort of man cannot reach.

Mrs. Raymond (Lucille Goll) Pilcher, daughter of Sis. Rose Goll, passed away after several months illness. May God comfort Sis. Rose in her sorrow.

We are again approaching the Holiday Season. May God instill into our hearts anew a deep feeling of gratitude, love, hope, humility, and thankfulness for His great gift to mankind, the Babe of Bethlehem. Let us never forget, as we sing in that beautiful hymn:

Our saving hope is all in vain, if here our love should cease.

For in the man of Galilee we find the gift of peace.

'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man, who walked in Galilee;

'Tis not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free.

GIRARD, OHIO Jesse C. Emch

On Oct. 13, David Edward was welcomed into the home of friends Edward and Edna Saylor. He was six months old. The foster grandparents are Mr. Charles and Sis. Esther Saylor and Mr. and Mrs. David Smith. We wish them well with their new responsibility.

Visitor: Sunday, Nov. 7, Bro. Robert Beer, from Mansfield.

On Oct. 17, we were privileged to have our elder brothers, Rudolph

Graf and Noah Bauman, with us. The day was a blessed one, as we could share with each other in partaking of the Lord's Supper. The messages and the wonderful teachings are always so welcome. We want to thank both of our dear brothers for coming to serve us.

On Sunday, Nov. 28, following church service we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Everet Lewis was elected trustee to replace Bro. Joe Emch, who is the senior trustee. Bro. Joe has served well for about 35 years.

Sis. Louise Deislinger is in the St. Elizabeth Hospital, due to a fractured hip which was caused by a fall. She is getting along as well as can be expected. She will be 91 years old on Jan. 24. Her home address is 34 Howard St., Girard, Ohio. Sis. Louise spent most of her life as a practical nurse, caring for many mothers and welcoming many babies into this world. While visiting her in the hospital, she related how much our little old church in Girard has meant to her, as it is the only place of worship she has ever known. Then she added, that the building is now old and falling apart, and is so glad for the present and future generations that our new building will soon be completed.

Sis. Sadie Schladen of 2056 Pleasant Valley Rd., Niles, O., will be 93 years old on the 18th of January. She has been a member for 70 years. A card or note will be appreciated.

In The Quietness of Prayer

There is strength for every burden;
There is courage for the day.
There is hope for each tomorrow;
There is help along the way!
There is peace of mind transcending
All the upset round about.
There is grace for every trial;
There is faith for every doubt!
There is comfort in just trusting
Each new moment to His care,
And a real and blest assurance
In the quietness of prayer!

Wishing the Lord's blessing and the Season's Greeting to all.

MANSFIELD, OHIO
Aaron A. Sauder

As the annual conference was held in our area, we were privileged in having a number of ministers and elders visit our congrega-

tion on their way to Rittman. Evening services were conducted on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, November 16 and 17, when Elder Bros. Sam Anliker, Joshua Broquard, Roy Farney, Ezra Feller, Joe A. Getz, George Gramm, Emanuel Gudeman, Silas Leuthold, Frank Woertz, and ministering Bros. Wayne Gerber, Henry Grimm, David Kieser, George Wagenbach and Elmer Witzig worshipped with us.

We also enjoyed the visit of the Toledo Sunday School on November 7.

It takes more than a little cloud
To hide the skies of blue.
It takes more than a hazy mist
To veil the sunshine, too.
It takes more than the black of night
To dim a shining star,
And God's peace and hope will brighten
The corner where you are!

This thought is directed to our shut-ins, who include Sisters Elizabeth Koroknay, Ida Schaaf, Lillian Them and Bro. Simon Beer.

Sweetly angels tell the story
Of Messiah's lowly birth,
How He left His home in glory,
Bringing peace and hope to earth.
May this peace of which they're telling
Fill our hearts with joy and cheer—
Guide us on our pathway, bringing
Blessings now and through the year.

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger . . ." Luke 2:7

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.
Mrs. Gus Weltz
Miss Della Witschey

Our wish for everyone is a very Merry Christmas and a bright and Happy New Year, altho' it will be a bit late, unless you receive your Silver Lining much earlier than we do in New Martinsville.

The annual Stockholders meeting of the Country Church will be held on January 3, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Durig. Everyone who cares to attend is invited to do so. Reports are given, officers elected, and plans for the summer

services and the care and upkeep of the church and cemetery are planned at this meeting also.

All who have been to the church are aware of the fact that a board fence has enclosed the grounds for many years. This had to be replaced; the work is being done at this time by interested parties who hope to have it done before spring, weather permitting. A wire mesh fence is being built, with solid posts as supports, and will keep cattle from entering the grounds (which has been done in the past). This will be a bit expensive, and the word is being passed along that anyone having a loved one buried there who would like to make a donation toward this expense may do so by sending same to Mrs. Weltz, 812 Fifth Street, New Martinsville, W. Va. Your kindness and help will be much appreciated.

Sunday, December 31, will mark the 91st birthday of Mr. Dan Witschey, who at this time is enjoying fairly good health.

The marriage of Miss Becky Emch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Emch, and Mr. Jim Brennan of Wheeling, W. Va., took place in New York on September 16. She is a granddaughter of the late William Emch and Mrs. Daisy Emch of this city.

Mrs. Norman Headlee has been confined to her home by illness for some time.

Mr. Dan Witschey and daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, and Miss Della Witschey spent Thanksgiving Day with Mr. and Mrs. Verda Fankhouser in Pine Grove.

We are happy to report that our sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Williams, are moving back to Akron, after living in Florida the past three years. They love Florida, but miss their family so much and spend so many lonesome hours that they are coming back, and will be home for Christmas.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Mrs. Joe Beer

As we once again approach this joyous Christmas Season, may our hearts truly be lifted up, as on eagle's wings.

May we take heed that we do not become "lost in the crowd", and get carried away in the hustle and bustle of buying gifts for one another and thinking only about ourselves. Rather, may we rededicate our life to Christ and give him our

whole heart, which is the finest gift we can give him. Surely He gave us the finest gift that He had, even His own life's blood to ransom your sins and my sins.

May this Christmas be a joyous time, but also a hallowed time. May we thank and praise God for His great love, that he thought enough of us to send His son, Jesus, to suffer and die for us and in our stead, that we through Him might be saved.

We sing in one of our hymns, 'Twas not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free.

Submitted

Aldo Yackley is home on leave from the Air Force, visiting with his family and friends.

Christine Schupbach has graduated from Bloomington School of Practical Nursing, and is home with her family until her marriage to Robert Baum, January 1.

Our Sunday School has its annual Christmas program. We always enjoy listening to the little ones reciting their verses about Jesus' birth and listening to the beautiful songs about our Lord.

We hope and pray that these little children and young adults realize and appreciate the full meaning of Christmas, and not leave Christ out of Christmas.

Our annual business meeting was held. Bro. Earl Sanders was voted in as a board member, taking the place of Bro. Carl Blumen-schien, whose term expired.

As this month draws to a close, our winter visitors will be coming once again. We welcome all of you and hope that our little church in this valley can give you a blessing of love.

AKRON, OHIO

Grace Schuckert

Florence Graf, reporting

Our shut-ins this month were Paul Ritzman, who was hospitalized briefly. He is the son of Bro. Forrest and Sis. Marie Ritzman.

Bro. Adam Schuckert has returned home from the hospital, but is still quite ill. May we all remember him in our prayers.

Bro. Alex and Sis. Kathy Bako announce the arrival of a daughter, Erika Katalin. Erika has sisters Rose and Esther to welcome her.

A number from our congregation attended the Brotherhood Conference, which was held in Rittman

recently. Surely the Lord adds His blessing to such a gathering. Many thanks are due those who gave of their time and service to make the occasion a success.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Mrs. Earl Zeltwanger

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11

The Christmas season is upon us again, and with it comes the joy of meeting with family and friends, the shining faces of the children as they speak their Christmas pieces, the song of the carolers floating across the crisp night air, the giving of gifts. In all this excitement, let us not forget the greatest gift of all, given by God so many years ago—the real meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ! Oh that many might come to know him as Saviour and Lord this Christmas season.

He came as a baby, long long ago,
In Bethlehem's stable so low;
God sent Him to die, His great love
to show
To all of us sinners below.

So bring Him your troubles, your
cares and your pain,
Your broken and contrite heart;
He'll comfort you, heal you and
bring you great gain,
When from this world you depart.

The mansions are glorious in
heaven we read,
Prepared for the ransomed we're
told;
Don't wait any longer; tell Him
your great need,
And He'll draw you right into His
fold.

M.Z.

Dan Germann recently gave his testimony and was baptized on his sick bed in his home. We praise the Lord for a soul that was born anew, and welcome Bro. Dan to our congregation.

Bro. Dan's son, Kenny, had surgery on his back, but is now recuperating at home.

Wynn Laidig, son of Jon and Sonja Laidig, underwent an appendectomy on Thanksgiving Day.

Sis. Ernestine Meister has been

in the hospital for several weeks for observation.

Walt Beer got his hand severely mangled in the corn-picker and had to have it amputated.

Janna Zeltwanger, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Doris, is in the hospital with another attack of rheumatoid arthritis.

Sis. Anne Leman has been missing from our services because of illness, but is recuperating at home.

We pray for all of our shut-ins, that the Lord will be with them, give them strength to bear their pain and courage to face each new day, knowing that He cares for His own—for if the Father's eye is on the sparrow, then surely He will care for you.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILL.

Ben Blunier

Elder Bro. Joe Getz taught us lovingly from Christ's sermon on the mount, on his welcome visit the third Sunday in November. How wonderful to have such beautiful words preserved for our edification and comfort. How nice to have them so clearly explained.

Many from Congerville accompanied Bros. Jesse and Joe Schrock to our services the first Sunday in December. Bro. Jesse said, "It is offered to us; it is offered to us every Sunday." How can we neglect so great a salvation.

Elder Bro. Roy Sauder came with Bro. Ed Hohulin to teach us at the Wednesday evening Bible Class.

Many thanks to the brothers who brought us the precious Word, and to all the visitors who add so much to the blessedness of our Champaign services.

Why is Christmas such a joyful time? Surely because it is the season of giving in remembrance of the birth of Christ, God's greatest and perfect gift to mankind. God gave us His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave us His life, His blood! Now we, too, must give, and it is our heart, our love, that is required. Our gifts at Christmas should be an expression of this love. Might we each day strive to retain this "giving" spirit in all things.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Mrs. Lawrence Farney—

Mrs. David Schamback

Shut-ins: Recovering from recent surgery are Sis. Florence Hertzig and Bro. Earl Rohr. Sis. Doris

(Mrs. Norbert) Steiner and Sis. Anna Lehman have also been hospitalized.

Allyn Virkler, son of our late Bro. Abner and Sis. Lydia Virkler, has recently received his honorable discharge from the Army and has returned from service in Viet Nam.

On the week-end of November 20, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Berdena Streeter and Peter Beyer (son of ministering brother Ralph and Sis. Nina Beyer). Both are from the Naumburg congregation. Bro. John Bahler assisted Bro. John Widrick in carrying out the ceremonies. We are thankful that there are still those heeding God's call. Bro. and Sis. Bahler were accompanied here by Bro. Ernest and Sis. Huldah Luginbuhl. We are indeed grateful to both brothers for the uplifting messages they brought us.

Midweek services have been discontinued for the winter months.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Lorna Schrock — Jeanette Knapp

Sammy Sides, son of Gladys Sides, underwent an adenoidectomy and nasal surgery this past month. We are happy to have him back in Sunday School and church.

Bro. John and Sis. Alice Schieber's 1½ year old daughter, Lorna, fell and cut her nose quite extensively. She was hospitalized for a few days, but has since returned home and is recovering nicely.

Welcoming their sixth child, Norman David, are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp. Brothers and sisters of little Norman, who was born on Nov. 20, are Janna, Neil, Becky, Ronnie and Randy.

Lucille Ann is the latest addition to the family of Loren and Evelyn Knapp. She arrived on Nov. 28 and was welcomed at home by Dale, Jay, Kathy and Cindy.

As we are nearing another Christmas season, we are again reminded of God's unspeakable gift to the world, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. While celebrating His birth, let us remember that He was born in order that He might die. The following by Bro. Henry Kipper depicts the true meaning of Christmas.

The Saviour Is Born

In a manger on a peaceful night,
When stars above were shining bright,

Jesus into this world was born
At Bethlehem, on Christmas morn.

King Herod the little child had sought,
After the news to him was brought.

He wished to harm this child so fine,
But God was watching all the time.

His fate on earth was sorrow and woe,
Due to many who despised Him so.

To be a Saviour was His calling,
As sin on earth became appalling.

He was beloved by many also,
Who followed wherever He did go.

He had a loving disposition,
And blessed them on His earthly mission.

Though many ages have gone by
Since Jesus came for all to die,
He does the contrite sinner hear
And to His own is very near.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Edison Gutwein

One of our worship services was blessed by one of our nearest visiting ministers, Bro. Ed Frank of La Crosse.

The Glen Boehning's and their 10-year-old son, Billy, are so happy for a daughter, and sister, Connie Kay.

December 18, 1930, was the most outstanding day of the lives of a group of us teen-agers. We were baptized by a very dear, now deceased brother, Elias Dotterer of Junction, Ohio, in the nice quiet river waters. We can't even remember that we got cold. This part isn't so pleasant: One of our very well liked Sunday School teachers (in former days) met with a mishap that caused his death. It really pierced many, thinking, "It could have hit any of us", and "would Heaven's door be open for us to enter?" We felt it was for our Sunday School teacher. So, many of us accepted God's calling.

The past memories of our other Sunday School teachers also never will be forgotten!

At this time of the year, our children and grandchildren are enjoying what we always did also,

singing Christmas carols. A great treasure is when the youth, middle aged and adults do a lot of singing.

At the end of this year, we are all so thankful for so many, many blessings—and how many days will we thank Thee in the New Year? Three Hundred and sixty-five.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr
Mrs. Eldon Metzger

We enjoyed Thanksgiving eve services with the Lamont congregation.

The teenagers sang at the homes of Bro. Dan and Sis. Leona Kraft and Sis. Lydia Bahr this past month.

I have just returned from a week end trip to Lester. It surely was a joyous pre-Christmas present for me, for it was filled with LOVE, and to me, surely the message of Christmas is LOVE. It seemed as though things just weren't going to work out for me—our turn to serve church dinner, Christmas program to work with for my Sunday School class, the transportation facilities weren't good, other than by car . . . then things worked out beautifully I felt it surely was the Lord's will. I want to thank the loved ones who made it possible.

My cousin (Lucille Spohr Knobloch) and I had grown up together in Elgin, Illinois, and always enjoyed each other, but the joy we shared together this time was truly precious . . . to be able to see her new-found joy in the Lord and be present to hear the testimonies of all the new converts and witness their baptisms. Many people I hadn't seen for years—what a happy reunion! If this is but a "taste" of a heavenly reunion someday, then the joy in heaven shall be beyond words. My Christmas wish to you all is that the Lord give us the strength to so work here on earth, that we may be able to make that heavenly journey and be among the group to share a heavenly reunion.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Normal, Illinois Shelby Culp

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Romans 6:23. Our hearts are filled with joy, as we rejoice over two souls—David Kaeb from Fairbury and Sue Kupferschmid from Cissna Park—who have recently answered

the tender call of our Lord and Saviour unto repentance. We pray that God will direct their pathway and give them sufficient grace to walk each step of the way.

Bro. Maurice Frank from Chicago was our visiting minister this past month. He meditated upon the temptations that Jesus had to face while he was in the wilderness. When temptations and trials come upon us, as they did to our Saviour, it is comforting to know that "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." I Corinthians 10:13

LAMONT, KANSAS

Mrs. Bernie Emch - Glen Anliker

The Gridley congregation assembled with us for Thanksgiving services. Bro. Loren Strahm meditated on Love, in St. John 15, such a timely subject in this time of turmoil, envy and strife. Much thought and prayer went forth for our friends and brethren serving our country on the battlefields. Are we thankful enough for our privilege of assembling together in peace, quietness and in love?

Our ministers had often mentioned in their humble messages, of their efforts and what seemed a fruitless harvest. Now we have witnessed the unboundless mercy and power of God. Our loved one, Floyd Isch, has awakened from the slumber of sin and has turned to the Lord with a broken and contrite heart.

His wife, Julia, had received peace only a few days before he heeded the call. Now, as they have both received peace, we are looking forward to their baptism and receiving them in the fold as brother and sister in faith. After living a number of years of married life, they can now live and enjoy a new life together.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Julie Dapper

... "What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus,
 To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.
 In all the earth there is no higher standing
 Than this—to follow in the Saviour's ways.

What all the world could never give,
 A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd will receive."
 Hymn No. 16—Zion's Harp.

This was a portion from one of the beautiful hymns which was sung when the Maywood and Altadena congregations gathered together to hear the testimony of our friend, Emery Minger. We pray that God will protect and keep this dear soul under the protection of His wing all the days of his life. We truly rejoice and accept, with grateful hearts, Emery as a beloved brother in faith. It truly reminds each of us of when we gave our testimony of our faith in the precious Lord, Jesus Christ, and were taken into His sheepfold.

Our Sunday School classes are making preparations for the Christmas program, which is planned to be presented on Sunday evening, December 19. From these little children is given a wonderful example of how the Lord expects each Christian to be. We, the Maywood congregation, extend to all the Lord's blessings at this Christmas time and throughout the coming year.

... The following was written and submitted by two of our sisters in faith:

As Christmastime again draws near,
 We turn to Thee, our Saviour dear.
 His birth should bring us very low,
 Just to think He loved us so.

How very thankful we can be
 That Jesus died on Calvary,
 His love so great for you and me,
 The blood he shed to set us free.

In closing we would like to say:
 Let us always sincerely pray
 To remain upon the narrow way,
 And live for Jesus, Christmas and everyday.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Rose Getz

Our community was saddened with the sudden death of Lawrence Rapp, age 62. Funeral services were held the 23rd. Bro. Roy Sauder of Peoria and Bro. Grimm officiated. Surviving are his wife, Marie Dominick Rapp; a son, Frederick; and a daughter, Bonnie Bellamy, who flew home from Laos.

Bro. Leroy Huber of Eureka assisted with the testimonies of Judy and Dean Martin and Gerry Herrmann, who were later baptized.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Sam and Earl Kilgus of Remington; Bro. Henry Souder of Bremen; Bro. Eli Sommerhalder of Burlington, Oklahoma; Bro. Vernon Leman of Eureka and Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville.

We were happy to have a good number from Milford join our November Song Service. Bro. Phillip Beer and Bro. Frank Beer assisted in the Sunday School.

Bro. Henry Binkele is a surgical patient at the Methodist Hospital in Peoria, as is also little Jay Getz, son of Bro. and Sis. Howard Getz, and Kevin Schmidgall, son of Bro. and Sis. Bruce Schmidgall.

A baby girl, Sheri Lynn, was born to Bro. and Sis. Harry Schmidgall.

MOUNTAIN HOME (Hillsboro)

Clara Heiniger

The children enjoyed having a Thanksgiving program at the church, and do so well in memorizing the Scripture verses. Prayer is that they will hide it deep within their hearts.

The Primary children have a get-together once a month, practice singing and hearing the word. This month we were across Sinking Creek Hill, at the home of Mrs. Claudia Letson. We fed the children a big, Thanksgiving supper, and all enjoyed it so much. The story was on pilgrims and the lepers.

The Ladies in this area enjoyed rich blessing of the word, which was on the lepers, of whom only one gave thanks. As we were eating our dinner, each one brought up three important reasons they are thankful. The greatest, and most of all, was the Lord Jesus Christ, bringing salvation for all. One meeting was held here at the house and the other was at Mrs. Eula Cartee.

This Thanksgiving season, many homes were visited. The Primary children carried boxes to Sis. Martha Evans, Bro. and Sis. Henry Stricklin and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kelly, and also sang for them.

Mrs. Carrie Hale had an anniversary dinner for her daughter, and everyone that came sewed on a beautiful quilt, which was up in her living room. All enjoyed the fellowship of God's word.

Landersville

Thanksgiving worship service was held in the evening at the church for all children, teachers and families.

Friday night meetings were held at the homes of Washi Frost; Jim Tom Norton, and Bro. Junior Hale. Sunday School and worship is always a blessed time for all of us.

Mrs. John Byars (Betty Frost) had surgery, but is at home recuperating. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Richard Frost.

The ladies of this area met at the home of Shelby Dutton and enjoyed singing and hearing of the Pilgrims and the reading of the Bible on the ten lepers. A Thanksgiving dinner was enjoyed by all that came.

The Primary children met at the home of Washi Frost, and there practiced singing and the Thanksgiving story. Each one said a precious prayer for what they were thankful. A Thanksgiving supper was served. We had carried a little box of goodies for a dear, afflicted child in this area.

Sis. Bertha is now staying at the home of her son, Price Harville, Moulton, Alabama, Route 1. She has been attending church on Sunday evening.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Carlton J. Lanz

We gathered in our church on Thanksgiving Day, like many no doubt did. Our purpose was clear: to worship God and offer our thanks for the blessings and benefits that come from Him. Thanksgiving, although it has passed for another year, should not end our thanks there, for the blessings and love of Almighty God are continuous.

Considering the early Pilgrims' hardships and the terrible ordeals they were confronted with—and had to endure—should drive us to be, perhaps, more appreciative than we are.

Now and then, we visit an old town in Massachusetts by the name of Old Deerfield, where some of our early colonists settled. There, one can still observe scars and bits of evidence of some of the horrors these people had to yield to. An incident, one in particular, stands out as a most terrifying and gruesome one. It was on a night in February, 1704. Snow had fallen during the day, drifting the entire

area. The Indians roaming the woods then were hostile to these white settlers, and as a protection a wall was built around the settlement. Notwithstanding this barrier, the savages took advantage of the much snow which had fallen, and on snowshoes were able to walk over the wall and into the enclosure. Once inside, they entered the homes, in droves, and with tomahawks massacred these helpless men, women and children.

At one end of this town stands a mound of dirt, piled high, mute evidence of this horrible carnage, under which lie buried those slaughtered on that fateful night, a price paid for our heritage! This is one more reason why we need to be grateful to Almighty God for the protection we have under our government.

Bro. Douglas Moser, in college at U of I, spent a pleasant holiday here with his parents, Bro. John and Sis. Esther Moser.

Also here for Thanksgiving was Bro. Edmund Kloter, who ministered to us at the church. He also spent some time with his ailing mother, now in her eighties.

Bro. Roger Moser received his call to be inducted into Service and is scheduled to leave on December 21—three days before Christmas. Always cheerful, non-complaining and hard-working, Roger no doubt will be hard to replace. He has always worked at the family-owned ice cream and dairy plant.

A sizeable number from Rockville attended the Brothers' meeting at Rittman-held there recently, Bro. John leading the group.

Several from here spent a blessed Sunday with the small group of members and friends in Union City on November 27. Bro. Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse visiting his son Bro. Don and wife (in camp), held the services. Our return to Connecticut was delayed more than two hours, due to heavy traffic and several rear-end collisions. Fortunately, we were not involved in any.

As this issue of the Silver Lining is being received at Christmas, we would add:

To those we love and see—all year,
To those with whom we're somewhat out of touch
To all good friends
Whose friendship means so much,
A blessed Christmas—A Happy
New Year.

SABETHA, KANSAS

Mrs. Theodore Locher

Leona Aeschliman

Bro. Theodore Locher was hospitalized a couple of days with a respiratory condition.

Sis. Ida Esslinger returned to the Apostolic Christian Home. She had been a patient at St. Anthony Hospital several days, for treatment.

We are glad to report Sis. Mary Aberle is convalescing nicely at home, after having surgery at our local hospital. May God be with all those who are afflicted with various ailments.

Prepare Him Room

Of some things . . .

So little is known about the birth of Christ that we cannot even pinpoint the exact day or year of this event. We do know that the people of the city of Bethlehem little realized the significance of the birth of this Child. In fact, the city was so thronged with people that He was nearly crowded out.

We often wonder if the modern Christmas is not a duplicate of this first Christmas. Is Christ still crowded out? He was so close to the inhabitants of Bethlehem, but still they never knew him. He is just as close to us today, and surely we would not want to exclude Him when we celebrate His birthday.

One of our carols has these words—"Let every heart Prepare Him room". It is true, we must MAKE room for Him—He will not force himself on us. What better season of the year is there to renew His acquaintance, and "Let the Saviour In"?

Bro. Eugene Marti

TAYLOR MISSOURI

Mrs. Eli Sutter Mrs. Bill Heimer

Jody, daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Charlene Sutter, was confined to the hospital being treated for pneumonia. Steve and Danny, sons of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter, were confined to the hospital, Danny with pneumonia and Steve having a respiratory condition caused by a virus. They have all returned home, having missed a lot of school as total recovery has been slow.

Jenny and Mark, children of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marjorie Gerst of Chicago and formerly of here, returned to Quincy for tonsillectomies. They are recovering at their

grandparents home before returning to Chicago.

The Sunday School teachers and pupils are preparing for the annual Christmas program, to be presented Dec. 19.

Bro. Steve Gerst has returned to his home at Oakville. We enjoyed his fellowship greatly while he was attending Gem City College in Quincy. He studied business, and upon graduation has accepted employment.

We were glad to have four of our brothers attend the Brotherhood Conference at Rittman.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer
Sharon Herman

Visiting ministers for the past month were Bro. Philip Sauder of Cissna Park and Bro. Maurice Frank of Chicago. We are thankful not only for their messages, but that God permits this wonderful fellowship.

In this life, we not only experience blessings and joy, but pain and trial often find their way into our lives. Often, it seems, sickness is the lot of those around us. Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Kay Schupbach, Jacqueline (Mrs. Leroy) Sauder and Linda Koch, daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence Koch. It is certainly good to know they have all recovered.

Sis. Katherine Knapp passed away at the age of 84, on November 7. She had been a patient for five years. Bro. August Bolliger conducted the services.

Announcement was recently made of the engagement of Judy Wagenbach, daughter of Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach, to Vernon Wettstein of Congerville.

Bro. Charles Sauder has completed his military service and spent some time at home, before going to Elgin (Ill.) where he is employed.

Duane Aberle, son of Bro. Al and Sis. Emma, has been inducted into the service. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with all of the young men who are called upon to serve their government in these trying times.

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Mrs. W. A. Jacob
Mrs. Harry Bucher

Bro. Wendell Gudeman of Francisville was our visiting minister last month. We are very grateful

for the many blessings and precious teachings received. In the evening, Bro. Gudeman showed slides. This was very interesting; it helped us realize the need for relief. Those people are in dire need.

We also had many other visitors which made our day even more complete. We thank them for coming.

Bro. John Heinold had surgery on his foot, is now at home recuperating. We are glad to have Alma Morris congregate with us again.

The meaning of Christmas with renewed emphasis in a world that is faltering, faithless and fearful: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy . . ." Most of our tyrant fears come under one of two headings: guilty fears or needless fears. **Fear Not; trust in Me. Perfect love casteth out fear . . .** That is the message of Christmas. Love. God revealed His love for us in the gift of His son. We must give our love to Him, and, in His name, to our fellowmen.

May we realize that the deeper meaning of Christmas is not found in its symbols, cards, gifts, or tinsel, but in exercising faith in Christ as Saviour and Lord—Saviour to take away our guilt, Lord, to control our destiny and give strength for living.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Lillian Pfister - Delores Messerli

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

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Floyd Schmidgal and Bro. Alphi Moser of Morris and Elder Leo Moser. We were richly blessed through their ministering. An exhortation on love and helping each other was given, as we read from Romans Chapter 15, Verse 1. "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." An experience was related about a group of men climbing a mountain. When they started, the path was wide. It became narrower as they climbed higher, and it finally became necessary to reach down and help each other. This compares to our spiritual walk of life, that we show love to Christ by helping one another.

Minister Noah Miller and family gathered with us Thanksgiving morning, and we truly enjoyed

their presence as well as Bro. Noah's words of exhortation.

Sis. Ida Miller wishes to thank all those who sent cards and gifts for her 92nd birthday. At present, she isn't able to attend church because of a cold. We pray she will soon be able to assemble with us again. She is staying with her daughter, Sis. Esther. Her mailing address: c/o George Messner, Gaylord, Minnesota.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt announce the engagement of their son, Dick, and Mary Lou Knutson of New Ulm, Minnesota.

Bro. Gene and Sister Ella Schmidt have moved to Fairmount, Minnesota, R. R. 2. We wish them God's blessings in their new home and his employment.

We all greatly appreciate that Linda and Melva Messner have been so capable in reporting our Winthrop news in the past.

We rejoice with Bro. Levi and Sister Lillian. Their daughter, Martha Pfister, has turned to the Lord in repentance. She attends the Fort Wayne church.

Our Sunday School department is busy with plans for a Christmas gathering on December 19, at 8:00 o'clock in the evening.

Have you made your Christmas list?

Yes, beyond a doubt!
It is Jesus' birthday, too;
Did you leave Him out?

Make His gifts the first of all!
Inasmuch as ye
Did it to the least of Mine,
Ye have given unto Me.

Christmas gift to all the world,
Dearest, first and best!
When I make my Christmas list,
His name leads all the rest.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

Visiting ministers during the past month were Bros. Ben Fehr and Donald Sauder of Roanoke, Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield, and Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley. We appreciate their efforts. May God bless them.

Sis. Sophie Farney had the misfortune to fall in her home. She suffered a fractured shoulder and pelvic bone.

Sis. Priscilla Anker is also a hospital patient at this time.

Allen Oberlander, son of Bro. and

Sis. Albert Oberlander, is to be discharged this week from the Air Force.

Our sympathy goes to Ed and Sis. Gladys Widmer, due to the death of his father, Bro. John Widmer of Lamar.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Riekie Anliker — Dorothy Taeger

"... I am the light of the world: he that followeth me . . . shall have the light of life." —John 8:12

Trusting this may be a blessed Holiday Season for all . . . We wish happiness for each and everyone, but there are those who have sickness, sorrow, and much concern—for those! May they feel God's nearness, grace and strength.

We were very happy to have Morton guests recently.

We thank Bro. Rapp (Russell) for sharing the word of God with us, making it a blessed day.

Sis. Lillian Massner had an accident which fractured her foot and sprained her ankle some time ago. This seems to be healing. She is spending some time in the hospital now—for observation of other health problems. We hope her reports are all good.

ALTO, MICHIGAN

Loretta and Myrna Steffen

This past month, we have had many visitors—and are thankful for all of them.

Carl Wheeler has given his heart to the Lord and has been announced for baptism.

We had a Thanksgiving singing, with lunch afterward, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Our congregation will miss Bro. Phil and Sis. Fern Wingeier. We wish them a safe trip to Florida, where they plan to spend the winter.

We wish you all the blessings of the Lord in the coming New Year.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young - Margaret Rudin

Our visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. Elias Sommerhalder, Francis Rother, George Grainm, Harold Gramm (from Morris), Henry Kilgus, Earl Kilgus, and Alfred Bahler. We feel we were richly blessed and are so thankful for God's word which was expounded to us.

Engagement of Sis. Gloria Hodel and Bro. Doug Leman was an-

nounced. Doug is a son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman.

We have one birth to report: David Jay was born to Bro. and Sis. Sam Bauer on Nov. 6.

Our Sunday School will recite a Christmas program on Sunday evening, Dec. 19.

Bro. Bill Stock was hospitalized for a short time.

Sis. Arlene Knapp, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Clarence Knapp, received a fractured leg, in a fall in the garage at the home of her parents.

Sis. Helen Farney Lackey is in the Paxton Hospital, due to a car accident. She broke her knee.

We trust God will care for the sick and the injured.

May the Lord be your loving helper, dear;

May He help you when the tempter may appear,

In your trying time of pain and distress,

Grant to your heart sweet solace and rest.

Our faith is tried almost to the limit some days,

But remember, there is always someone, somewhere who prays.

There are times when everything seems so dark and dim;

Take courage the Lord does not forget one so dear to Him.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Kay Cargill Linda Shaw

We are happy to report that three souls have found grace to bring forth the fruits of repentance. They are friends Susan Ramseyer, Judy Aberle, and Homer Polk. Susan, from Bay City, is a student nurse in Detroit. Judy is from Sabetha, and is a nurse working in a Detroit hospital. Their repentance is an encouragement to us all to strive onward, while the Lord is still calling.

Our church has been blessed with two new babies. Bro. and Sis. Jerry Cargill (Kay Polk) are the happy parents of a baby boy, Jeffrey Ward, and Bro. and Sis. Hartzell Kaisner (Mary Ehnle) have welcomed home their new son, Kenneth Lee.

Friend Homer Polk is a patient at Harper Hospital in Detroit. Sis. Lucile Maibach is home from the hospital, after suffering injuries in an automobile accident while

riding with my parents, Bill and Sis. Helene Shaw. May God help them to bear their physical pain and restore them again.

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Martha Stoller - Nancy Honegger

Gail Cox, daughter of Wayne and Sis. Bernice, and Kenneth Kafer were united in marriage by Bro. Henry Kilgus. The young couple will live in Peoria, where he is attending Midstate College.

Dean Kupferschmid, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Nettie, brought forth his testimony of conversion and has been added to the fold. We wish him much grace to be a true child of God.

Roger Bachtold has been released from the Air Force and has moved with his family to Fairbury, where he is employed at Huette Cabinet. Larry Kaisner is also home from the service and working at Huette Cabinet.

Bro. Albert Wuthrich, from Pulaske, was with us on Thanksgiving Day. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Edwin Bahler and Earl Kilgus of Remington.

Bro. Alvie Kilgus had minor surgery at the Fairbury Hospital, but has returned home again. Sis. Edna Wiegand underwent surgery at the Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington.

In the school of time, we will soon each be given a new book consisting of 365 spotless pages. This is not a hand-me-down or a borrowed book. No one has ever used it before, and we may use it as we choose. The lessons will be given in terms of pleasures, trials, joys, sorrows, pleasant surprises, and discouraging disappointments. Each problem will be our very own to solve, either carelessly or prayerfully . . . And the report we hand in at the end of this semester will depend upon whom our instructor has been.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Annabelle Bahr—Marie Zaugg

Bro. Wayne Miller attended the conference at Rittman.

Friend Lydia Hawkin's husband, Albert, was hospitalized twice during the past month. He is now home and improving.

Sis. Carrie Massner has requested that her thanks and appreciation be extended through the Silver Lining to her friends and relatives for their cards and tokens

of sympathy in the recent loss of her husband, Bro. David Massner. She deeply appreciated each and everyone.

The following is by Bro. Wayne Miller.

Once more the Christmas season is at hand. Several weeks before Christmas Day, throughout this land of ours, many cities adorn their streets with decorations and lights, as a commercial gesture to instill in the minds of the people of their vicinity that it is gift-buying time. This is harvest time for the merchant, but how about the Great Harvest Time?

Those of us that have seen the True Light that shineth in our hearts through faith, recognize this glorious gift that God has given to the world through His blessed Son, Christ Jesus, Lord and King of all.

As we review the blessed story of the birth of Christ, it stirs our hearts anew. God's word tells us how, by the shining of a strange star, wise men were led to where the little child, Christ Jesus was. They recognized him immediately as the newborn King, and fell down and worshipped him as the Lord. We cannot remain here in thought, but must travel on with Christ, as He fulfilled the will of God to shed His blood upon the cross for the ransom of many. Though He there died upon the cross for you and for me, the tomb wherein Jesus was laid could not contain Him. He had arisen, and shortly thereafter ascended to the Father's right hand and now completed God's great plan of salvation. Jesus was truly the shining light that came into this world, which was to provide a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path through this life, that as many as would, could have everlasting life.

Then as our minds and hearts are turned toward the giving of gifts to our loved ones, may we each day of our life give ourselves unto the Lord, as a small token for the great gift He has given unto us. If we can be filled with His love to the extent that we by His grace can fulfill His commandment **To love each other as I have loved you**, our lives can indeed be much fuller and richer. If this great gift of loving each other as the Lord loved us would rule our lives, the spirit of evil would not be able to prosper.

May we then with each new day let God's will prevail, and obey His commandments. We have the assurance, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." Being thus minded, when the Great Harvest of the souls of men shall come, we can all be garnered in.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS Marian Wiegand—Edith Tanner

We had an extra blessing to be thankful for on Thanksgiving morning—Bro. Ezra Feller and his family were with us. He mentioned that, if a clear title to our home was in question, we would go immediately and make certain the home was really ours. How much more should it concern us that we have a clear title to that Heavenly Home!

When Bro. Kenneth Sauder visited us, it was revealed that to "tempt Christ" is to fail to ask for His help. We are grateful for the explanation and hope we will never be guilty.

To be overconfident in ourselves is very dangerous. Bro. Joe Zimmerman expressed this reminder, for which we are appreciative.

Marilyn Underwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Underwood, and Robert Hohulin, son of Bro. Eli and Lois Hohulin, were married Nov. 14. They are living near Goodfield. Myrna Rokey, daughter of Bro. Ira and Sis. Caroline Rokey, and Douglas Schwenk, son of Mr. Herbert and Sis. Ida Schwenk, were also united in holy matrimony Nov. 27. We wish both couples a happy and lasting married life.

Donald Tanner had surgery and is recovering well, for which we are thankful.

Ronald Heinold has entered the service.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." As we enter and partake in this joyous season, our hearts are knit together in close love for one another. While we relate and recall the birth of Christ, we recognize that this day was but a forerunner of the love that was to come. **A King is born unto you**; how the angels gloried and the wise men came! This child, destined to set the world ablaze, was born in a humble cave, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.

This spirit of joy, humility and love has gone out of the Christmas's of the world today. Men are content to leave this Child in His cradle, forgetting His glory in His resurrection. Are we Christians like this? Do we adore the infant Child and forget the thorn-scarred Jesus? Do we rejoice in the gift of Jesus's birth, and forget the sorrows of His Calvary? Are we like the men of this world, milked by the tender Christmas story, but too weak to eat the meat of the Cross? Christmas, a time of joy, and Calvary, a time of glory—let our time be composed of both.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS Lydia and Eunice Kammerer

There are always those months when we do not have much to write about, and this seems to be one of them. However, when we hear the best news of all, then it surely compensates for the brevity of the report. The wonderful news we bring you is, three young souls have answered the call to repentance, namely Earl Ringger, son of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat Ringger; Dixie, daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Lucille Stoller; and Lila Hany, daughter of the Chester Hany's. We wish them much grace in this important step, and sincerely hope many more will follow.

Coming to assist Bro. Gramm in serving Holy Communion last Sunday was Bro. Herman Kellenberger from Elgin. Other guest speakers in our congregation the past month was Bro. Edmond Kloter from Fairbury and Bro. Harold Gramm from Hancock.

Sis. Anna Schlipf, and our friend, Jerry Siever, are both recuperating nicely in their homes following surgery a number of weeks ago.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk are the parents of their first son, Roger Allen, who was born Nov. 27 at Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington. Roger has two sisters to welcome him.

Thanksgiving is past, and soon it will be Christmas, a time of hustling about, shopping, preparing . . . Christmas is especially important to the little children, and most of them receive the gifts they ask for and even more . . . but how many little ones long also for some small gift, looking sadly into store windows, wishing they too could have only one small toy, how happy they would be. Then, too, there are

families who would be happy if they had enough food on the table, a warm home, and enough warm clothes to wear.

Then there are the boys who are serving their country. How they must long to be with their loved ones on Christmas Day. So when so many of us are enjoying family, friends, gifts, good food, and warm homes, let us remember those who are not so fortunate this day.

JUNCTION, OHIO Mrs. Alvin H. Manz

Our shut-in sisters, Priscilla, Naomi and Lydia Rehlau, have asked me to express their appreciation to all who take time to visit with them or send cards. They are about the same as usual. The winters of course are very lonely for those indoors, so a word of cheer or short visit, one can see, does much to brighten and cheer.

Sis. Lena Dotterer has also been shut-in with a cold, this month, but is feeling much better at this writing.

Our elder brother, George Sinn, ministered to us this month and instructed us on the importance of BEING READY at all times. He spoke to the young folks not to wait too long, speaking very plainly and in words, like music, so easy and clear to understand. The young folks are so important to the future of our faith and need all the help and understanding we can afford them.

Once again we are on the threshold of that great day in the Christian calendar, CHRISTMAS, which marks the coming of a tiny babe into this world, destined to become the "Prince of Peace" and the "King of Kings". His mission in this has not yet been completely fulfilled. Man in his ignorance, selfishness and stupid self-will, has blocked the WAY OF PEACE. May this Christmas-time find mankind and nations united, to pursue the pathway of peace and good-will on earth.

LATTY, OHIO Mrs. Ray Sinn Mrs. Gale Stoller

We were happy to have Ministering Bros. Ben Fehr of Eureka and Norman Stoller of Ft. Wayne to bring us inspiring messages.

Bro. Eli Raeger and Sis. Dolly Laukhuf were in the hospital. Jack Schlatter, son of Bro. Ben and Sis.

Helen, underwent an appendectomy. We wish them all a speedy and complete recovery.

Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger are the parents of a son, Kevin Lee, who was welcomed home by his brothers and sisters. Carl E. and Donna Laukhuf have been blessed with a son also, Greg Edward. May the blessings of the Lord be with them.

As Christmas time draws near again, may we all draw nearer to our blessed Saviour, who left His home on high to come upon earth as a babe, in Bethlehem's manger. We are reminded of the angels saying of **Glory to God in the Highest and Peace and good will to men**, of the shepherds who went then to see Jesus, and of the wise men who followed the star to Him. Then it comes to us, He did not remain a baby, but lived a perfect life and grew to manhood to die upon the cruel cross, that we may all have the opportunity to come and be saved.

Christmas has become so commercialized that we sometimes wonder if many have almost forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. Let it not be so in our hearts and homes.

LEO, INDIANA Mrs. Elias Souder

Cora Levy is at home. Lydia Bollier is critically ill at her home. Elias Souder has been critically ill at the Lutheran Hospital.

We made our visits to the Butler Rest Homes the first Sunday of the month. At one of the rest homes, one of our friends collects beautiful poems. She gave us this following, and we thought it might help some one else if we passed it on.

Real Beauty

Look for the beautiful things in life
That money cannot buy—
The silver lining in a cloud
And the rainbow in the sky.

Look for the beautiful sunset,
As it spreads its golden ray
Across the twilight shadows
At the end of a perfect day.

Tomorrow will be another day,
That each of us might learn
From todays and yesterday to turn,
To face the future with a hope new
born.

That what we hope for cometh
with the morn.

Church services will be Saturday, Christmas Day, at the church and New Year services likewise.

LESTER, IOWA Emelie Knobloch

Births: To Bro. and Sis. Raymond Feucht—a son, Curtis Carl, November 15; to Bro. and Sis. Edwin Knobloch—a daughter, Linda Marie, November 30; to Bro. and Sis. Wm. Gerber—a daughter, Heidi Louise, Dec. 4.

Ill: Sisters Lena Kellenberger and Lena Maurer are recuperating nicely and have been able to assemble with us. Bro. August Knobloch has not been too well. Sis. Edith Bick has been able to assemble, with to the nice weather we are experiencing. Earl Meyer had his hand in a cast for awhile, after fracturing a bone. Bro. Alvia Meyer's finger is healing quite well, after his getting it in a grain auger. Dale Wulf, son of Bro. and Sis. Wilhelm Wulf, has been home with pneumonia. We hope he will be able to attend Sunday School soon. Many others have had flu.

Gary Metzger, son of Bro. and Sis. Elmer Metzger, left for the National Guard and has been sent to South Carolina.

Our Sunday School classes will present their program Dec. 19 . . . seems the time is fast approaching.

Announcements of engagements: Ernstine Gerber, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ed Gerber, and Wm. Wuthrich, son of Bro. and Sis. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski. She is attending college at Kirksville, Missouri.

Wilma Tanner, daughter of Bro. and Sis. John Tanner of Princeville, and Melvin Knobloch, son of Bro. and Sis. Emil Knobloch.

Announcement was made known Dec. 5 of the engagement of Sis. Shirley Butikofer, daughter of Bro. and Sis. William Butikofer of Elgin, Ia., and Bro. Eugene Nester, son of Bro. and Sis. Wilhelm Nester.

Our congregation was blessed Dec. 4 and 5, when four couples gave their testimonies and were baptized. These couples were Donald and Mary Jane Metzger, Raymond and Twyla Meyer, Alfred and Lucille Knobloch, and Dennis and Esther Warner. Elders, Bros. Noan Schrock, Paul Banwart, Silas Leuthold, and Paul Fehr assisted Bro. Leo Moser with these duties.

On Dec. 5, the above elders

shared the conclusions of the last Brotherhood Conference. We want to thank the brothers for their efforts of explanation and warnings shared unto us, and also those who found it worthwhile to visit us the past month.

As we approach this so wonderful season of the year, may we consider seriously the birth of Jesus as Saviour, as we learned, Saviour means to save, so those who repent may have redemption in his blood and be saved from destruction.

May the Lord's blessings be shared to all during this Holiday season. May an extra blessing be for those who are not so fortunate. If it be His will our wish it that peace may again be restored on earth, so loved ones may be joined with their families.

LAMAR, MISSOURI Marie Marti

The glorious Christmas season is here. May this season be filled with Christmas music. May we lift our voices with praise and song. May our hearts be filled to overflowing with gladness and love for our Heavenly King—may we rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child, the most wonderful story ever told.

There was no room in the inn that night. Do we have room in our hearts today for His love? He knocks at the door; do we turn Him away and neglect Him for other guest's sake?

Do we disappoint our Saviour, our loved ones, our friends, or do we live up to their expectations? Several years ago, a small boy with radiant face and searching eyes entered the school room with something he had brought for the Christmas season. Later that day he confessed—you know I've been planning for days just where you would be when I brought this, just what you would say and just what you would say. His countenance revealed his happiness. We sometimes don't realize how much the little things mean to others. May God's love be revealed in all we do this holiday season.

We extend our sympathy to the Widmer family. Bro. John Widmer, eighty, passed away Dec. 3. He was born in Berne, Switzerland, and emigrated to the United States with his parents when he was five

years old. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Rose; two sons, Walter of Lamar and Edward of Wolcott; one daughter, Mary Engelage of Lamar; and five grandchildren. His warm, hearty handclasp and loving patience will long be remembered by his loved ones.

Louisa Rentsch accidentally fell at her home and fractured her hip. She submitted to corrective surgery, and although she has been critically ill, she is somewhat improved at this time.

MILFORD INDIANA Marguerite Hoerr

A new daughter was born to Sis. Virginia and Don Hoover on November 9. Her name is Penny Sue. She has two sisters and one brother.

Bro. Glenn Price Sr. had surgery in a Michigan hospital. He is fully recovered and is able to worship with us again.

Patty Beer has returned to her home from Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where she had heart surgery. She is making very satisfactory progress, and is looking forward to being back in Sunday School with her many friends in the near future.

Bro. Joe Rassi is bedfast at the present time, in the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Lowell and Sis. Mary Ann. He is remembered daily in our prayers.

Our Thanksgiving Program was very well attended. It was an inspiration to hear the songs and readings presented to us by our Sunday School classes.

Christmas approaching finds many in our congregation packing boxes for servicemen, thinking of gifts, remembering shut-ins, writing cards, putting aside evenings for caroling. Our Sunday School classes and their teachers are making plans for gift exchanges and are finding many helpful things to do with their collected offerings. All of these activities make the birth of our Lord seem more dear to us, and in these ways and many others we can, in a small way, show our love to Him and to our fellowman.

We would like to extend Christmas greetings from our congregation to all of you in our churches throughout the country. May the example Christ set for us keep a warm fellowship and love shining in all of our hearts.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA Mrs. Kenneth Zeltwanger Norene Koehl

A daughter, Sheryl Lois, was born to Bro. and Sis. Don Luthi on November 2. She has one sister, Charlene.

Bro. Calvin Moser was hospitalized with cuts and lacerations, received when his car collided with a tractor on the highway. His car was damaged beyond repair; however, he is now home and slowly recovering.

Sis. Stella Moser was hospitalized for surgery. She, too, is home and feeling quite well again.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rinckenberger observed their golden wedding anniversary November 28.

Bro. Neil Schmidgall, son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy, and Alvin Nohl Jr., son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie, will enter the military service December 15.

Elder Bros. Noah Schrock, Silas Leuthold, and Leo Moser were with us the evening of December 6, to read and comment on the memorandum of the recent conference.

The Sunday School plans to present their Christmas program the evening of December 19, to again relate through verse and song the blessed event of our dear Saviour's birth.

Our congregation had a meeting December 8 pertaining to the construction of a new house of worship. The plans are to start this project in the spring of 1966.

OAKVILLE, IOWA Martha Steiner

Bro. Eugene Gerst, a faithful church member for many years, passed out of this life on Thanksgiving Day. What an appropriate day for "Uncle" Gene to leave this world. His quiet, contented smile and presence will be missed by everyone who knew him. He is survived by a widow, and seven sons and their families.

Wayne Gerst, son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Nettie Gerst, has left our congregation to serve his two years with the armed forces. One by one, our young men are fulfilling their duties for the government.

Sis. Annette (Harold) Massner is home from the hospital, after having been ill with pneumonia. She is getting along fine now and regaining her strength.

We held our regular monthly

meeting in November, at Danforth Chapel in Iowa City. The meetings have been scheduled for the third Wednesday night of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Iowa City, at the Danforth Chapel, across from the Student Memorial Union—on campus by the river. We encourage everyone to attend, and lend our support to those who attend school in Iowa City and live there. Wherever there is an interest to hear the spoken word of God, it is our duty—and should be a pleasure to do everything we can to continue making these evening meetings possible.

PORTLAND, OREGON
Mrs. Edward Unsicker
Mrs. Glenn Hackenjos

"Complacency is probably the devil's favorite tool", said Bro. Ben Maibach the night he and Bro. Noah Schrock visited us in Portland. "Satan," he continued, "doesn't try to tell most of us that there is no God; rather, he says there is a God, but He is a merciful God and there is plenty of time—but God says, Thou fool—this night will thy soul be required of thee!—And again, God who impelled Lot and his family out of Sodom, this same merciful God, so utterly destroyed that city that no vegetation has grown there from that day 'til this!" The service closed with this penetrating thought for God's children, "Our aim is to see how closely we can walk with God, rather than to see how much we can get by with and still be called believers!"

Sadly we bid Sis. Lottie Bartel farewell, as she left Portland to reside in Burlington, Oklahoma. Lottie, we are all bound to you with a true chord of love, a gift of God! May He strengthen and guide you each step of your way, is our prayer.

Our Thanksgiving service was blest by the presence of Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Kaisner of Maywood. God truly used Bro. Albert's exposition of Acts 4 to bless our hearts. "If it had not been for the faith of our forefathers", he said, "we might be under similar tyrannical powers today as were the apostles in this chapter." How can we ever thank God enough? "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus . . ." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

We truly miss our dear sister, Rose Knapp, and friend, Anna Mil-

ler, who have been unable to attend church for the past few weeks because of ailing health. Remembering our Lord's words, let us be faithful in visiting our shut-ins, thereby rendering service to Him as well as to them.

PULASKI, IOWA
Mrs. Ray Martin

Our friend, William Wuthrich, son of Bro. and Sis. Albert Wuthrich, and Ernestine Gerber of Lester, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Edward Gerber, have announced their engagement. Ernestine is now attending Northeast Missouri State Teachers' College at Kirksville, Missouri, and William is engaged in farming here. No wedding date has been set.

Again the Christmas season is drawing near, and our hearts turn toward the Babe of Bethlehem.

The blessed story of the Christ,
 The Babe of Bethlehem,
 Is worthy of our song and praise,
 And stirs the hearts of men,
 The fullness of God's love divine,
 Surrounds the Christ so mild.
 Alas, how many only know
 The Saviour as a child!

Be not content this babe to know,
 Nor stay at Bethlehem,
 But go with Christ to Calvary's
 brow,
 Beyond Jerusalem.
 'Tis there men learn to know the
 Christ,
 For there He bore man's sin.
 Then open wide the door of heart,
 And let the Saviour in.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
Suzanne Bucher

It's Christmas time, the time of our dear Saviour's birth. To celebrate the Christmas season, we are going to give our first program, on Wednesday December 15.

School will be out December 22, and we will go home to spend Christmas with our families.

Our ministers have been Bro. Sam Kilgus, Remington, on November 17, and Bro. Merle Bucher, La Crosse, on December 1.

ELGIN, IOWA
Mrs. George Butikofer

We have some good news for our column: Some of our friends are repenting.

It was made known to us that

Sis. Shirley Butikofer and Bro. Eugene Nester of Lester are engaged to be married. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their undertaking.

The children in our Sunday School are rehearsing their parts for the Christmas program coming up. May we all realize the true meaning of the holiday.

Sis. Ida Pulfer had a cataract operation at Marshalltown, Iowa, and is getting along real well . . . nice to see her back at church services.

Arthur Schneider had surgery at St. Mary's Hospital at Rochester (Minn.) a few weeks ago, and is getting along real well. He is able to be about, doing his usual work, and we are very happy for this.

J. A. Schupbach, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Butikofer, is now in the service of our country. He is taking his basic training at Fort Leonard, Missouri.

Sis. Alta Thoman has been unable to attend church services for a few weeks on account of impaired health. She called me by phone, informing us that she felt somewhat better, and that is good news. We do miss her gentle manner and kind actions at our church . . . Sincerely hope to see her in our midst real soon.

Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke and Bro. Uriel Gehring Burlington, Ia., constituted our visiting ministers the last month.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA
LaVerne Roth —Kathryn Miller

Recently, Bro. Marvin Ott took his Sunday School class, which consisted of the high school age group, and held class at the Memorial Manor, in Cherokee, Oklahoma. Residents of the home partook in the class discussion, expressed joy that the young people assembled with them, and invited them to come again.

Debra Springer, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Claude Springer, has found peace with her Lord and Maker, and now awaits for the completion of her testimony and baptism to become a child of God. There is much joy and encourage-

ment to all of us when even one
turns to the Lord.

We certainly enjoyed the visit
and gospel messages from Bro.
Richard Schupbach of Phoenix,
while here November 21. Bro. Rich-
ard was accompanied by his family;
they are former residents of this
congregation.

Sis. Beatrice Diel is home from
the Kansas Medical Research Cen-
ter (in Kansas City). She is con-
valescing from major surgery.

Song and Scripture services were
held in three rest homes in Chero-
kee, Okla., and the Kiowa Rest
Home this past month.

Bro. Ronald Nelson, assisted by
Bro. Elias Somerhalder, officiated
at the funeral services for Bro.
Fred Michel, November 29. Bro.
Fred, 73, passed away at the Kiowa
District Hospital, following a lengthy
illness. He was born in Ilkirch,
Germany, spent his boyhood in
Nancy, France. At the age of 18
he came to the United States, set-
tling near Burlington, Okla., mov-
ing to Kiowa, Kansas in 1952.

Survivors include his widow, Sis.
Carrie; five sons, Vernon of Hia-
mah, Fla., Raymond of Garland
(Texas), George, John and Ben of
Kiowa; two daughters, Sis. Emma
Greiner of Tremont and Alice Belt
of Wichita; fourteen grandchild-
ren; one brother, Charles of Peoria;
and two sisters, Margaret and
Matilda of Nancy, France.

Admittedly, we are caught in the
webb of a fast-moving time, a time
geared to the methodically pulsa-
tions of the machine age, some-
times so completely devoid of feel-
ings and concern of neighbors. As
time goes on, may we pause a
moment and add this measure of
seasoning to our lives:

May you be too trustful for worry,
Too noble for anger,
Too strong for fear,
Too happy to permit the presence
of trouble.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA Viola Gerber

Song Service —Sunday School,
10:00; Morning Services, 10:30;
Sunday School, 10:30; Afternoon
Service, 12:45; Wednesday Eve-
ning Services, 8:00.

We are happy to report that Bro.
Al Fisher and his wife, Sis. Mar-
garet, Chicago, have arrived and
are planning to spend six weeks
here.

WEST BEND, IOWA Anna Schmidt—Marilyn Schneider

"And the angel said unto them,
Fear not: for, behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy, which
shall be to all people.

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

As we approach the Christmas
season, it reminds us of the birth
of our Saviour. We hope that the
true meaning of Christmas will
never be lost.

Sis. Jessie Fehr is improving
slowly. She is now convalescing at
home.

Sis. Katie Alt, who was in the
hospital with a broken hip, is now
staying with her son. Her address
is: Katie Alt, c/o Melvin Alt, Burt,
Iowa.

Sis. Lizzie Zaugg had cataract
surgery. She was in the hospital
for a few days, but is now at home
and getting along good. Her address
is West Bend, Iowa 50597.

John E. Bruellman, son of Bro.
Eugene and Sis. Evie Bruellman,
is in the hospital with pneumonia.

Bro. John Gerber has returned
home from the hospital. He is get-
ting along as good as can be expect-
ed.

The following college students
were home for the Thanksgiving
vacation: Ron Banwart, Sid Ban-
wart, Jeanne Banwart, Judy Wirtz,
Lorie Wirtz, Eli Wirtz and Terry
Frieden.

James Zaugg, son of Bro. Oscar
and Sis. Frances, left for the serv-
ice this past week. Robert Fehr, son
of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda, will
leave for the service this coming
week.

Arthur Mogler has been sent
overseas to Okinawa.

What does Christmas mean to you?
How do you observe it?

All of its tinsel and glitter
Cannot match the glory of the
Christmas star,
Which led the wise men so surely,
so far.

All the singing of much loved
songs,
Must be as an echo of radiant
angels,
Bringing to the shepherds
Glory to God in the highest,
On earth peace, good will toward
men.

And the love which prompts
earthly giving
Can be only a reflection of the love
of God,
Sending "his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him
should not perish, but have
everlasting life."

RITTMAN, OHIO Ella Mae Trent

Our congregation was privileged
to host the annual Brotherhood
meeting. Many brothers journeyed
to Rittman from the various areas
of the U.S. to give and receive in-
struction for the continuance and
upbuilding of our faith. It was im-
possible to thank all personally who
contributed to the meeting's suc-
cess. Our elder brother, Noah Bau-
man, especially wishes to acknow-
ledge & thank all from distant areas
who shared financially in the meet-
ing's success. May we all heed the
warnings that were so clearly
sounded.

Our ministering brother, Ben
Hartzler, continues to be hospital-
ized. Others hospitalized included
Shirley Maibach, Bro. John Steiner,
Bro. Kenneth Ramsier, Sis. Lillian
Beery and Sis. Maude Kaufman. It
would be our prayer that all could
be restored to moderate health, if
it be God's will.

As we approach this Christmas
season, let us ask ourselves wheth-
er we have a "Chamber in the inn"
for Christ to lodge, or whether we
still treat him as a stranger.

The Guest

Yet if His majesty, our sovereign
Lord,
Should of His own accord friendly
Himself invite,
And say, I'll be your guest tomor-
row night,
How should we stir ourselves, call
and command
All hands to work! Let no man idle
stand!

Thus, if the King were coming
would we do,
And 'twere good reason too;
for 'tis a duteous thing
To show all honour to an earthly
king,
And after all our travail and our
cost
So he be pleased, to think no labour
lost.

But at the coming of the King of
Heaven . . .
All's set at six and seven . . .

EMERY CORDILL
 Box 171
 Ft Scott Kansas 66701

THE SILVER LINING

Some wallow in their sin,
 Christ can not find a chamber in
 the inn.

Some entertain Him always like a
 stranger,
 And, as at first, still lodge Him in
 the manger.

WICHITA, KANSAS

Mrs. Larry Farney
 Mrs. Harvey Smith

Our teen-age Sunday School
 classes will prepare a basket of food
 and other items for a needy family.
 We are sure they will receive a
 blessing from helping others.

Wayne Strahm, son of Bro. Eph-
 raim and Sis. Lorene Strahm of
 Bern, is now living in Wichita.
 Wayne is employed by Cessna Air-
 craft Company. We are happy to
 have Wayne assembling with us.
 Another addition to our congrega-
 tion is Claudia Oleson from Tope-
 ka, Kansas. Claudia is enrolled in
 nurses's training at Wesley Medical
 Center, here in Wichita.

Andy Yackley, son of Bro. Roy
 and Sis. Ruth Yackley, has return-
 ed to the U.S. from Europe and is
 attending Washington State Col-
 lege in Bellingham. Andy studied
 for 9 months in Tours, France.
 While he was overseas, he also
 toured some of the other European
 countries. His present address is
 1107 22nd Street, Bellingham,
 Washington.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Diane Olson

It is now the time of the year
 which diverts our minds back al-
 most two thousand years ago.
 What a blessed event that must
 have been to see the Christ child
 wrapped in swaddling clothes, ly-
 ing in a manger. Even though so
 long ago, the birth of Jesus still
 lives on in the hearts of men and
 gives the peace and hope of eternal
 life.

We were blessed with inspiring
 messages from Bro. Paul Fehr,
 Morris, and Bro. Leroy Messner of
 Winthrop.

Long, long ago in a land far away,
 There came the dawn of the
 first Christmas Day,
 And each day we see that promise
 once born

That God gave the world on that
 first Christmas Morn . . .

For the silent stars in the timeless
 skies

And the wonderment in a small
 child's eyes,

The Christmas songs the carollers
 sing,

The tidings of joy that the
 Christmas bells ring

Remind us again of that still, silent
 Night

When the heavens shone with a
 wondrous light,

And the angels sang of peace on
 earth

And told men of

The Christ Child's birth—

For Christmas is more than a
 beautiful Story,

It's the promise of life

And eternal glory.

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