



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the

shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made know unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

CHRISTMAS 1940

Bro. Phil Getz took his place above, with the joyous family. Words he put on time's pages leave an afterglow.

Christmas time is here again, the day when tradition has made every remembrance, whether a card or a gift, regardless of size or price, a silent yet eloquent ambassador, a message-bearer to those we love, to bring happiness by reminding once again that someone is thinking

of them. Our lives are all pretty much the same and linked inseparably, and there is a happiness that comes, which must be experienced to be understood.

We know there is something in life besides dollars and cents. It is a great pleasure to feel there is something gained in our life's career. I heartily reciprocate the many good wishes, as well as the many kind deeds which were done for me in this past season. I feel grateful

and unworthy of it all.

George Washington once said the finest compliment ever paid him was by a little girl. He had lodged during the night at her father's home. In the morning when he was ready to leave, she ran and opened the door for him.

He said to her. Thank you, little girl, for opening the door to let me out."

She answered, "I wish I were opening it to let you in" . . .

DURST NO MAN JOIN HIMSELF TO THEM (Acts 5:13)

In Acts 2:41, it would have seemed that great multitudes would become converted. There was sort of a lull before the storm, after the Lord arose from the dead. Satan had been defeated by the victory of our Lord over death and the grave. Satan no doubt thought that he had once and for all time eliminated the One who stood in his way in keeping mankind in bondage of sin and death.

It required some time for Satan to regroup his forces in the face of this, by him, unforeseen defeat. In this interval of time, Peter addressed the Jewish multitudes as "Ye men of Israel", and convinced them that Jesus Christ was indeed that One whom God had sent to them as Saviour of the world. Being confronted with the fact that He had indeed arisen from the dead, as foretold by David in the Psalms, they were pricked in their heart and asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The answer was, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

We have every reason to believe that these were people who often followed the Lord, **having been baptized** with John's baptism. It is quite evident that there were others who were baptized with John's baptism, as recorded in Acts 19 1-7. However, this number was much smaller.

The result of Peter's soul-stirring message moved some three thousand to be baptized in one day (Acts 2:41). It has been assumed that such mass conversions should continue in our time. There are those

who use this incident to support present meetings which claim thousands of such who "accept" Christ.

It did not take long for Satan to get into action to frustrate the work of salvation, as appears in Acts 5, regarding the conspiracy of Ananias and his wife, Sapphira. The terrible sin to which they consented together certainly refutes the error that one who has been saved cannot again fall into sin. The Judgment of God upon these people was swift and severe, as they fell over, dead. The result had a sobering effect upon the church: "And great fear fell upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things."

And then, after this, **DURST NO MAN JOIN HIMSELF TO THEM.** Now the reality of what is expected of God of a redeemed soul became impressively evident, and formulated the basis of discipline in the true church, as referred from time to time by the apostles in their letters. . . . For instance in I Timothy 5:20: "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

The Lord Jesus well knew that when the final battle lines were drawn, there would be few that would **JOIN HIMSELF TO THEM.** Matthew 7:13, 14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

While hate and love are opposites, love and discipline along with chastening are not opposites. Chastisement is a distinct token of the love

of God (Hebrews 12, verses 6-9).

Therefore, it still remains that the true people of God are in the eyes of the world a peculiar people, and no one dares to join himself to them. Let us never regret that we have cast our lot with the Lord and His people.

Respectfully submitted to instill some encouragement to all who have become His own.

Noah Schrock

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THE SILVER LINING

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O HOLY NIGHT

Fred Grimm

The history of Christ's birth is not new to most of us. We have been taught about it from childhood up . . . But isn't it refreshing to read it over and over again?

How wonderful it is to read the prophecies in the Old Testament. In Isaiah 9:6,7 we read, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace **there shall be** no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Thus did the prophet foretell the coming of the Saviour to the world. He used these good titles. "Prince of Peace", which He is, and has become by being our Saviour, giving us peace after a true repentance. People often don't understand why we don't have peace here on earth. We have peace now in our hearts, if we have repented, but peace in the world will not be until He, Himself, comes here to reign in the millennium.

In John 1:10,11 He tells us, "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not." All this is already true.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given . . ." We cannot switch this around and say, unto us a child is given, unto us a son is born. Here we are told of the virgin

birth of the Prince of Peace.

In the Gospel of John we are told, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

"The same was in the beginning with God" . . . "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us . . ."

We don't fully understand this, but it is a marvelous way in which God became incarnate. God became flesh in the form of the baby, Christ. He was born of the seed of the woman, entirely free from the man. This was prophesied in Isaiah 7, verse 14. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Immanuel means **God with us**.

We must continually warn against the new revised version of the Bible, which was sponsored by the Federal Council of Churches, who try to change the great truths—including the virgin birth, which they deny. In this new version, they have in Isaiah 7, verse 14 a **young woman shall conceive a son**. This is a fearful change, from **virgin to young woman**. A young woman would be no sign. Multitudes of young women have conceived, but never before did a virgin conceive. Only this way could God become man. The Saviour was born of a virgin. That is how he could be perfect (sinless). He had no human father: Joseph knew not Mary until she had brought forth her first son. Matthew 1:25

The prophecy of Isaiah 7, verse 14 is restated in Matthew 1:20 ". . . Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her

is of the Holy Ghost." It is proof that Mary was then a virgin, for she had known no man. He had no sin; He went to the cross for us, and took upon Him all our sins.

No wonder Christmas night was a "Holy Night". That night our Saviour was born. Thus was fulfilled the promise to Eve that her seed (CHRIST) would bruise the serpent's head. It is true that the important time of Christ's life was His crucifixion, but He had to be born into this world . . . So let us rejoice in this Christmas season, because our Saviour was born. What a great gift God gave to us, in His only Son. If we now believe and repent and our sins are washed away, we have eternal life. Oh HOLY NIGHT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN. There were some humble people, like the shepherds who received Him. Strangers, wise men, from the East came; they were led by a star to Jesus. When they found Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him three kinds of gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All these gifts had prophetic meanings. Gold prophecies of kingship, and predicted that Christ would become a King. He will be a king in the millenium, when He will be King over all the world. Incense is what the High Priest offered. This gift of frankincense predicted that Christ would be a High Priest. Now He is at God's right hand, making intercession for us. Myrrh was a material used to embalm the dead. Christ's death was predicted, and came to pass almost 2000 years ago. The prediction of the gift of gold is left to be fulfilled.

May this be a very Blessed CHRISTMAS.

TALENTS MIGHTY MOVING

Fairbury, Bluffton and Toledo

Breakfast was at a truck stop. Carriage drivers of the 20th century had pulled in their loads or empty truck. The total movement that comes with American's motor might is immense. The railroad with its metal ribboned rails was near-by. Many facts and figures show Amer-

ica's business, but effort makes the moving.

We also moved on. That night a sweet light was found in Roanoke. Guest also in this town near the Prairie Church was Bro. Fred Grimm. He brought some interesting thoughts. One was, David did not kill King Saul, because Saul was the anointed of the Lord. It is so with our elders; we need to respect them, because they are anointed of the Lord.

Conference:

Fairbury gives part of the pictures of the vast moving of many things to accomplish the work of God. The definition of deacon was defined. In God's book is a very good division of labor. To some belongs oversight of the **business**. (Acts 6). It relieves the elder of too many cares, and gives better chance for him to do more beautifully the ministry of the word and prayer.

From the shepherding comes the

leading to the city of God. An elder has a work that is key to the mighty movement in the church.

Bluffton Church

On the pulpit were Elder Bros. George Sinn, Theo. Beer, Noah Bauman, John Bahler, Sam Aeschliman. Seated was our own elder, Bro. David Bertsch. Each has a different personality and is given grace according to the measure. Each brings effort, a part of the majestic moving of God with His purpose.

God unifies, and the glory belongs to Him.

Another elder, another Bro. John, was ordained and consecrated. These heavenly steersmen follow the star. The mighty movement, like the motored wheel or the roll over ribboned rail, goes on. Because servants stand, work, hold, suggest, many a trouble spot never occurs, or repair is soon made.

Place, Toledo. Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf was speaking. Another face had joined the circle up there at

home. Bro. Rudy explained how she lived the sermon on the mount. In God's home we shall want to go where God is. Bro. Ben Maibach recalled of his coming to Toledo in former years (And will not, soon, our present all be former?)

That door to home opens. Loved ones will meet us. A hand with radiant, smiling countenance will beckon to come in. Yet down here, we cannot but feel for the little one in tears who needs our help. Let us go with kindness.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA Louise Akel

Giving Or Sacrificing?

There is hardly a person who cannot give something to the Lord. In the Old Testament it was a law, because they lived by the law. In the new dispensation, Christ pointed to the widow, who cast in her mite, and taught that because she had sacrificed (or given her all) that she had given the most.

If you deprive yourself, choose between something you desire, or giving, that is sacrifice, and it pleases God. It is left to each, because it is more pleasing when it comes from the heart, willingly. Names and amounts should not receive honor; if they do, the reward is lost in heaven. Our examples are the ministers and elders, who labor without pay, sacrificing unto the Lord. Greater than sacrifice is obedience, to stay within the fold, to labor within the vineyard where we are placed, and not to wander. This our calling and election—let us make it sure.

At the present time our minister, Bro. Harry Sutter and his wife Florence are attending the conference. Bro. Ed Gerber and family had to attend a funeral up North. Sis. Caroline Yergler did not feel well, but at the last report was feeling better. I, too, could not attend one Sunday.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Dorothy Taeger Verna Woodward

The end of another year is fast approaching; the holiday season is at hand, and the time of family dinners, the exchange of gifts, and all the joys that go with the Christmas season is before us. So easy it is at this time of the year to be carried away. This should not be so in

the believer's home, for herein should be the thankfulness, that God has seen fit to have His Son born on this day, that we could be purchased by His dying, shedding of his blood that we might inherit this hope of eternal life. As we ponder our lives, let us think of the One who gave his life that we might be saved.

Bro. Allen and Sis. Ann Massner have been blessed with a baby daughter, on Oct. 20. She has been named Paige D. Ann.

Bro. Joseph Jr. and Sis. Ruby Eberhardt were also blessed with a baby daughter.

Wilbert Seggerman has undergone major surgery; at this time we had not received word on his condition. We pray for his full recovery.

Bro. Allan and Sis. Ann Massner welcome a new daughter, Paige, into their home. She is their first child.

Bro. Wilbert Seggerman was hospitalized, but was able to assemble with us again.

Let us seek always to lay up treasures in heaven that will never fade.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

Sis. Mary Metzger is employed in the Good Samaritan Home at West Union and likes the work very much.

Marsha Frieden daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Frieden was married to Ronald Corbin, Oct. 22. He is stationed at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri and that is where the wedding took place. We wish for them much happiness and God's richest blessings both for body and soul.

Melvin Moore address is Swisher, Iowa.

He and his wife and daughter moved from Cedar Rapids to their

present location and he is now attending the University of Iowa.

Bro. Paul Banwart graced our assembly Sun., Oct. 22, giving us a message of hope and faith.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

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

Larry Frieden is in the service. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Frieden.

We as a Sunday School group are practicing for a Christmas program, which we hope to present on the 18th of December. It is inspiring to note the eagerness shown by the children to learn a song, memorize a poem, or read an article pertaining to Christmas. May we all realize the great love shown by our Heavenly Father in giving His Son to the World as a Redeemer for all mankind.

Louis Butikofer, son of John and Elizabeth Pfarrer Butikofer, was born June 24, 1882, at the family homestead in Marion township, Clayton county, and died at the Good Samaritan Home at West Union, November 7, at the age of 84. On April 16, 1931, he was united in marriage to Louisa Butikofer at Oelwein. To them was born one daughter, Oma Lee (Mrs. Lowell Strong of Arlington, Mass.)

They lived on the farm now operated by his stepson, John, for 23 years, and then retired to a home at Elgin. The past four months he spent at the Good Samaritan Home, after the loss of his wife, Louisa, in May of this year.

Survivors include his daughter; three grandchildren; eight stepchildren, Lawrence, Elsie, (Mrs.

Wm. Torkelson), Helen (Mrs. Herman Schupbach), Lewis, Mildred (Mrs. George Schupbach), Eunice (Mrs. James Echlee), Eleanor (Mrs. Orlando Loftsgard), and John; and 29 step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, Nov. 11 with Paul and Bert Butikofer officiating. Burial was in the Apostolic cemetery, east of Elgin.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

Oct. 9 was the last Sunday Bro. August Mueller spent with us. The next day he flew by jet to Chicago, where he was picked up and taken by car to the church home in Eureka. We all miss August very much, especially since our congregation is such a small one. We also miss Bro. August because he assumed the duty of reporter to the Silver Lining. Many brethren have commented favorably on his writings. Bro. August is over 80 years old, and spent more than 60 years in the Union City church. We all pray for his continued happiness in the beautiful Eureka home. May God continue to richly bless him.

On Oct. 9 we were blessed with a visit from ministering Bro. Jesse Emch of Girard. We all enjoyed and were inspired by Bro. Jesse's message.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Juliet Graf of Akron were with us on that day. They were accompanied by their two sons, Donald and William, who work in New York City. We hope the boys will visit us often.

Rudolph Leman, a young friend from Sabetha, happened to be going through the New York area on his way to Germany with the Army and he spent the day with us. We especially appreciated the effort he made to join our small congregation.

On Sunday, Oct. 16 Bro. Leland Hirschey of the Naumberg church ministered unto us.

Sis. Josephine Rehklau from Toledo was also with us. She will be in the area for several months and plans to be with us every Sunday while she is here. We are thankful to have her added to our number, if only for a short time.

We thank God for every visitor who comes to us and for His continued grace and mercy.

Bro. Harry Frauhiger of Bluffton, who has been with us for the past two years while attending watchmaker's school in New York,

underwent major surgery at a New York Hospital. We pray for his complete recovery. Sis. Minnie Cook is also presently in the Hospital. We hope her condition is not serious.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich Mrs. Edison Gutwein

Our minister stood up and said, "Aren't we all glad to have surprises?" Bro. David Bertsch stopped and gave us an evening message, as he was on his way to Roanoke to visit his parents.

Our concerned elders, Bros. Noah Schrock and Silas Leuthold, have reminded us not to just have our church filled with quantity, but with quality. When we are obedient, many things disappear.

Sis. Margaret Albrecht was in the hospital, but she is coming along, "Smiling through it".

The Leon Wuethrichs are happy along with their daughter Cheryl's family, who have a baby girl that is as a "bit of heaven to their home".

Many of you received this hand made Christmas Greeting years ago, and we would like to share it with you as we read it again:

WISHING YOU A HAPPY CHRISTMAS: To greet you at this season, in the old time friendly way, and wish you all the gladness of this Holy Christmas Day. May God watch over you and keep you in His care, with love that never slumbers (it guards us each day) . . . with love that never fails us (it answers each prayer). May His love ever keep you, each day and everywhere, in loving thought and prayer. May He grant the deepest happiness of Christmas time to you.

AND A GOD BLESSED NEW YEAR: As we begin the New Year, there is much work to do for our Saviour: Help to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to visit the sick or to minister unto them. The Lord said: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." By doing so, we fulfill the love of Christ. May the good Lord grant you grace and the needed help to bring your ship of faith safely into the harbor of eternal glory. In Christian Love, The Otto Norr Family.

We will again cherish memories in the New Year.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME, EUREKA August Mueller

The sermon which we heard this Sunday past, Oct. 30, reminded me of one I heard in Union spoken by the late Elder Brother Ernest Graf. Words contained in one of the gospels are, What ye do for one of these little ones, ye do for me.

As far as I can remember a God-fearing woman invited Jesus to visit her, which he accepted but did not tell her what time of the day He would be there. This woman went home to start cleaning. She wanted everything spic and span, as the saying goes, but she was interrupted. Someone came to the house that needed help, but the woman said, "I can not help you; I expect a visitor, and I have to clean the house before He comes." So she kept on cleaning, without helping this person. Sometime later someone else came and asked for help, but she could not spare any time. The time passed, and again someone came that needed help. One of these three was a child. The day came to an end; the house was cleaned, and Jesus came for a visit. The woman told Him I expected you earlier. Then Jesus answered her, I was here three times and you sent me away each time. For us it is a lesson not to close our hand if we have the means to do good.

If we look at the creation of the world, how wonderful God has provided for mankind. Let us take a look at the sun. This world would indeed be a cold and dreary place without the sun. Nothing could grow. I believe it would be impossible for men to live here. And the moon, what is more beautiful than a full moonlight night with the millions of stars which can not be counted? Yet God knows exactly how many there are, as we sang when I went to school, not even one is missing. They all carry out their duties, the sun, the moon and the stars.

Jesus had many different ways of healing the sick and opening the eyes of the blind. Yesterday I read where He took a blind man by the hand and led him out of town. How far He took him we cannot tell. He had His reason. When they reached the place, Jesus spit in his eyes and touched him. That gave the man part of his eyesight. Then Jesus touched him again, and the man could see as good as anybody.

We do not find that Jesus walked back with the man again; he could see where he was going. In another place we find where Jesus spat on the ground and made clay, and put the clay on a blind man's eyes. He was healed. We can believe John, where he writes that if all the miracles should be written what Jesus did, the world could not contain the books. Yet many did not believe.

I had some visitors here from Cissna Park, telling me how much they enjoy my writing and asking me to keep it up. All I can say is what Jesus told the people, Give God the praise. Without His help I can do nothing.

Monday, the 7th . . . tonight we had a group of young members from Roanoke here singing, among them Bro. Ed's sister and her husband. She came to see how I was getting along. It seems to me you are still concerned about me; thank you, Bro. Ed. The singing was wonderful; no wonder David writes in many of his Psalms, Sing praises unto the Lord. The hymns last night we sang to the honor and praise of our Heavenly Father. David played with a harp with 10 strings. I believe he had more than one. We have no more harps, but we have organs in our hearts, and when we sing they sound better than any musical instrument in this world.

Last night we had singing for young and old. It is a large room furnished with a few sofas and a number of easy chairs, a pulpit with a Bible and an organ, which was played by Sis. Anliker, one of the minister's daughters. It was a wonderful hour. After the singing, one of the brothers read a Psalm, and another brother closed with a prayer. After that, soft drinks and coffee were served, with homemade cookies and cake baked right here in our kitchen by Sis. Helen Belsley and her daughter, Sis. Betsy. Everybody had a wonderful time. I might also mention that the floor in this large room is covered with a heavy, dark green carpet.

Sunday, the 13th. Yesterday was a beautiful day, both for body and soul. For the first time since I go to church, I seen a minister lifting up the Bible from the pulpit, telling the congregation only if you believe this book you will inherit eternal life.

In this house, the railings on both sides of the hall throughout the whole building remind me of the

word of God on one side and the prayers on the other. They are solid and strong. As long as we hold on to them we are on the safe side. Nothing will happen to us, but if we let go and depend on our own strength, then we are in danger. The floor looks slippery, and in a moment we could get hurt very bad. So it is with our life. If we do not keep watching and praying, Satan would be only too glad if he could make us fall in this sinful world, so we could not get up any more . . . but if we hold fast to the word of God and to prayer, the Lord will lead us to a blessed ending.

AN KHE, VIETNAM Neil Schmidgall

I will in great weakness try and pen a few words with God's help. We find so many reasons to be thankful at this time, even here in this land so many miles from our homes. We are reminded, as thanksgiving time is here, of the many, many things our great God has done for us. It brings to mind the day He called us out from among the world of so much sin. Even here, surrounded by all this, we are able to gather together yet. On thanksgiving a day commemorated, having the day off, there was turkey, dressing and all the trimmings. In the evening, Bro. Larry, Roger and myself spent a few precious hours together. These times are so precious, to be able to be together with others of like mind and faith.

On the week end of Nov. 13, Bro. Bill Cottrell, who is stationed in Qui Nhom, got a 3-day pass and came here to An Khe to spend a couple days with us here. He rode an ambulance up to the second surgical hospital, where Bro Larry is. There he was met by Roger and myself. We walked around the Division area, visiting the places other church boys are; the only one in was Alvin Nohl, the others being in the field. We had church services in the afternoon, finding many teachings in God's word. Bro. Bill returned to Due Nhon on Monday. Qui Nhon and An Khe have a reasonably secure highway connecting them (highway 19), so that allows for travel by vehicle between these two points.

It has rained quite steady the last 3-4 days. Before there was a spell of real nice sunny weather with temperatures between 100 in the day, down to the low 60's at

night . . . hope the rainy season will soon terminate, as it's hard to keep dry or dry clothes when its wet like this, but God willing, we all are looking forward to returning home again.

Some will be leaving soon. Friends Roger Hartter, Steve Aeschliman and Fred Beutel should rotate within the next month. Let us always pray God will permit a safe return for them if it be His will to their loved ones.

JAPAN Yoshio Yamazaki

Time is fast, like an arrow. This year will be over in a little more than one month. However, we are very ashamed because we didn't work better.

We really thankful to God that he sent us Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger with Bro. Ben Maibach from such far country beyond the great Pacific. The Kellenbergers are very wonderful, quiet and very gentle brethren. They left a very good example here. Of course we had very wonderful time with them, fine brethren fellowship and also really encouraged us very much.

In that time, Bro. John Hartman of Fairbury visited here in Tokyo from Viet Nam. He took the communion service with us the last Sunday before the brethren went back to the States. John is really a fine young brother, and he left a wonderful example among the Japanese people while he was here in Japan, in just a little while. He stayed two nights in a Japanese friend's home, Mr. Ayukawa, and had nice time. (Mr. Ayukawa is a retired politician, and he is coming to Bro. John Klaus' English Bible Class lately.) He told us that he never saw such a nice young boy before especially today. He could sure see a change from the ordinary young man of today. Mr. Ayukawa really has a fine wife, but no children, so they think John is like their real son and like him very much, because John gave them real gospel through his wonderful testimony. I wish and believe that some day they will be good Christians, and enter our congregation in future. After a week later, Pfc. Eldon Steidinger also came from Viet Nam and visited our churches. He said he isn't our member yet. Anyhow, he is also real fine young boy. Our hope is some day he will be our member.

In the country church, our sisters-in-faith Nancy Roth and Marie Neihauser are helping with the Ehnles. They are teaching American missionary children and also teaching English to many Japanese boys and girls. I believe those young sisters' witnesses are really good to our Japanese generations of today. In the last, I wish to let you know—all brethren in the States, it is really wilderness land here in Japan, because so many worldly religions spread around since many thousand years, so we should become as like farmer in the field, and need more patience and love as they do . . . Certainly hope that our Father in heaven gives us much strong courage and patience to work for him every day. He can do everything, and give us everything which we need and ask.

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Jay J. Bertsch — Noah Herman

"Why must the rain fall in our life?"

We often hear it said.

Our part of sorrow we must share,
With humble bowing head.

Each promise we know He will fulfill.

We're not to doubt or fear.

He walks the path with us each day,
And wipes away each tear.

So when we reach that shining land

Where God is all the light,

He'll welcome us with outstretched hands

And take away the night.

Ministering Bro. Richard Schupbach of Phoenix was with us and brought a message of enlightenment to one and all. We sincerely appreciate him being with us.

Our friend, Mrs. Ezra Sutter, is again a shut-in; we pray for her that she may be with us again soon.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Velta Laukhuf

The winter season is here, and many of the loved ones have returned. It's the time of year that we all look forward to, the start of a new season. What will it have in store for us? Will it be better than last year for body and health's sake? Above all we are most concerned for spiritual gains. What can we do for the Lord? Let's all strive to do more for Him and for our fellow-man.

Bro. Philip Wingeier, our minister, and Sis. Fern will be staying at 3824 Bee Ridge Rd. this winter. This is located in the southeast part of town. Bro. Philip invites every one to stop in and worship with us. He also extends a special invitation to ministering brethren to help proclaim God's precious word in all truth and sincerity. Remember the time and place, Jan. 1, Women's Club Bldg., corner of Park Ct. and Palm Ave.

Your reporter has arrangements made to enter the Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio, on Jan. 3 for heart surgery. Providing the good Lord is willing, she expects to be back in Sarasota the latter part of January for recovery.

ALTO, MICHIGAN

Myrna and Loretta Steffen

A thank you: In appreciation of the lovely scrapbook, I wish to thank the loved ones of Bluffton. This was very helpful to me and passed many pleasant hours. Thanks in love for your kindness. May God bless all of you . . . Sis. Fern Wingeier.

Sis. Fern also sends heartfelt thanks to the members of the Sarasota church for the new wheelchair they sent her. She and Bro. Phillip will be joining the Sarasota members soon. We will miss them during the winter months, and wish them God's blessings.

Rudy, son of Bro. Derry and Sis. Virginia Schutte is recuperating in the hospital. He had a dislocated hip.

Friend Donna Steffen has received peace with her Lord and Saviour. We wish her much grace in her new walk of life.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts—Anna Marie Baer

We are thankful to have the Bradford congregation assemble with us for Wed. evening services. It pleases us when the assembly room is filled. It pleases our Lord also.

We were truly blessed with visiting ministers who gave us much food for thought. When Bros. Loren Strahm of Gridley and Al Langhofer of Wichita were here, we were told that one of the most important things was to overcome one's self. How many of us went to see the elder at night when we were convicted, as we didn't want anyone to see us, just as Nicodemus also went to

see Jesus by night. After we came to the light, we could proclaim His love boldly and openly confess our love for Him, as Nicodemus did when he went to help at the cross.

On their way home from the conference, Bros. Leo Moser of Lester, Paul Banwart of West Bend, and Paul Fehr of Morris stopped for evening services. Bro. Harvey Grimm was also present with us. Charity, the greatest gift, was freely shown in several ways; by the love shown by the brothers who were willing to share an evening with us, and also that so many came together to practice the true Christian fellowship.

Bros. Joe Waibel of Bay City and Robert Beer of Mansfield were with us for Sunday services. We heard of the many signs of the fulfillment of God's word and that we should not be overtaken with the evils of this world, and be found sleeping when the Lord comes to claim His own. "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

As we gathered on Thanksgiving Day, we were so grateful that so many took time to assemble to hear the word of God. We indeed have many blessings to share with each other. We read together in Psalm 34, "I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth:" How many of us really take time to count our many blessings and praise Him at all times?

December 4 was a stormy day outside, but inside we were warmed by the word of our visiting ministers, Bro. Henry Kilgus of Forrest and Bro. Earl Kilgus of Remington. We heard many old teachings, yet ever new. It is indeed a pleasure to sit in heavenly places. When we came out of church, everything was covered with ice. It was truly a beautiful winter wonderland, but driving was hazardous.

Bro. William and Sis. Marie Stahl have arrived home safely, after a short visit with relatives in Germany. We were glad that they were awarded this privilege of meeting their loved ones and very thankful they arrived home safely.

Don and Mary Lou Streitmatter welcomed a son, Mark, Nov. 17. Donna Lou and Jimmie welcomed home their little brother. On Nov. 26, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Siebenthal welcomed a son, Gregory Alan. He has a little sister, LuAnn. Orville Eberle, son of Bro William

and Sis. Marie, and Michael Menold, son of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie, who have recently been inducted into the army, are now stationed at Ft. Sam Houston. We are glad that they can be with the other boys stationed there, and know they will appreciate being together.

Benola Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Alvina, and Henry Bowdoin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bowdoin of Golden, Texas, have announced their engagement and are planning a February wedding.

Alan, small son of Bro. Eddie and Sis. Frances Knobloch, accidentally picked up a discarded lye can and got enough in his mouth and throat to severely burn it. He has made several trips to the hospital for treatment, and seems to be getting along better now.

We are glad to have Sis. Elizabeth Kieser able to worship with us again, after recovering from recent surgery. She has given the following:

Humbly do I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts and flowers I received while in the hospital, since returning home, and also while I was laid up with my broken bone. May God bless you all.

As we approach the Christmas season, we find we are again involved in many activities. There are many family gatherings; little folks learning verses to be spoken in Sunday School and church; groups going caroling and such. The wise men took gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the little Lord Jesus, and we have received the gifts of hope, faith and love, the greatest one being love. It seems at Christmas this gift is quite evident, and we should strive harder to show it every day of the year. Let us not be carried away with material gifts, but gain in spiritual gifts.

We wish to extend to all the readers a blessed holiday season. May you all enjoy the blessings of peace, joy, happiness, and the true love of God in the new year.

Our Pioneer Family

In 1847, Michael Streitmatter, his wife, Catherine, and children, Frederick, George, Jacob, Christian, Barbara, Catherine, Louis and William, came from Hegelberg, Baden, Germany to Eden, near Hamburg, New York. Work being scarce and wages low, their eldest son, Fred, came west in 1849 in search of work. He worked for a farmer near Princeville. Some time later he sent for

the rest of the family, who arrived about 1852.

In 1854 Michael Streitmatter bought eighty acres of land and built a house for his family. His wife was in failing health and died the first winter. She was buried in their garden.

Christian worked in Peoria, about twenty-five miles from his father's farm, and heard of a new religion which had been spread in Switzerland by Samuel Froelich, being brought to America by journeymen tradesmen who were believers. He was converted and baptized in Peoria, and then told his brothers of the principles and beliefs that appealed to him of his new-found faith. Several of them accepted the same faith and became ardent believers.

All the Streitmatters married but Barbara, who died shortly after arriving in Illinois. All had large families. The number of believers increased, so about 1870 the believers organized the Apostolic Christian Church of Akron Township, or "Streitmatter Prairie" as it was referred to for a number of years. Christian Streitmatter was their first minister. They met in homes until 1880, when the first house of worship was erected in the country—five miles NE of Princeville.

The son of Louis Streitmatter, Samuel, who was born June 10, 1874, attended services as a boy, observed the believers and saw the church grow. On January 7, 1895 he was married to Caroline Rumbold, a native of Wuerttemberg, Germany. They lived on a farm not far from the church for many years. (When they retired they lived in a home on the edge of Princeville.)

They attended the house of worship, and hearing the need of repentance preached by his Uncle Christian, their hearts were touched. In 1906 they were converted, and baptized in the Prairie church. Bro. Sam was a faithful believer, was concerned for the welfare of the church and took an active interest. In 1916 he was appointed treasurer of the church, serving that post for twenty-five years. In 1920, when it was decided there was a need for a new house of worship, Bro. Sam was instrumental in having a new church built in Princeville. He was chairman of the board of trustees, Bros. Jacob Streitmatter & William Stahl serving with him. Many prayers were uttered for guidance, and many sacrifices were made to

realize a new structure. No doubt the children were also denied a few things, yet are thankful today for the house of worship they attend.

Eleven children were born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Caroline. It wasn't easy in those days to provide for a large family, yet the Lord in whom they placed their trust always provided. They taught their children of the way of salvation by living a God-fearing life, and several have followed their parent's instructions. Julia Miller, Lydia Seidel, Bessie Martin, Leila Elsasser and Ben are all believers and attend church at Princeville. Roy; Paul; Emanuel; Lavina Sloan also live in this vicinity, while another daughter, Ida Koehler lives at Prophetstown, Illinois. Samuel Jr. passed away about a year and a half ago. A number of grandchildren, nieces and nephews are also faithful in attending our church.

We can be thankful we had faithful brothers and sisters who were pillars and have kept alive the true faith. We trust their many sincere prayers are heard and will still be answered. Bro. Sam passed on December 27, 1946, and his wife, Sis. Carrie on Oct. 24, 1949. Both are resting in the Streitmatter Cemetery, near the site of the first church. We are sorry to lose such faithful pioneers, but have memories that will not die, and are thankful they will receive their just reward. It is our prayer and hope that we can all be assets to the present church, as our pioneers were. May we all become more firm and faithful in our belief, so that our faith can continue to grow.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

Bro. Levi Kropf passed away unexpectedly at his home on Nov. 15, at the age of 82. He was born at Pulaski on March 8, 1884, the son of Christian and Lydia (Reinhart) Kropf. He was married on Oct. 21, 1920 to Sis. Emma Hirstein of Fairbury. Surviving are the widow; three daughters, Sis. Arles at home, Sis. Gladys Widmer of Wolcott, and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen of Forrest; six grandchildren; one brother, Sam, of Ottosen, Iowa; and two sisters, Sis. Sarah Kropf and Sis. Esther Banwart of West Bend. Bro. Irvin Lehman conducted the services.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Leah Farney celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception and open

house, on Nov. 20 at the Wolcott House. May God bless them with more golden years of health and happiness. They have one son, LeRoy, and seven grandchildren whom they enjoy very much.

The week end of Nov. 26 and 27 was indeed blessed for our congregation, when we heard the testimonies and welcomed into the fold our two new brothers, Irvin Furrer and Nathan Lehman. Bros. Theo. Beer and Elmer Hartter were with us for the occasion.

We thank Bro. Jim Ringger of the Bradford church for visiting and bringing us inspirational messages on Dec. 4.

We again have more reasons for rejoicing, in that our dear friends, Alvin and Phyllis Furrer have answered the call of the Lord and are repenting. We cannot be thankful enough for the harvest of souls which we have had during 1966, and pray that 1967 will bring even more of those whom we know are seeking, but have not yet surrendered.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Delutha Moser—Carolyn Gerber

...There is no preparation this Christmas so important as that which makes us ready to meet Jesus.

Birth: On Nov. 6 a daughter, Darlene Kay to Bro. and Sis. Jerry Gerber.

Shutins: Sisters Ida (Roy) Aschliman, Lizzie (Wm.) Neunschwander Sr., Katie Isch and Elizabeth (Leroy) Steffen. Bros. Sam Gerber, Sam Kaehr, Joe L. Isch and William Fiechter.

God is mighty! He is able to deliver;
Faith can victor be in every trying hour.
Fear and care and sin and sorrow can be defeated
By our faith in God's Almighty, conquering power.

Weddings: Nov. 6, friends Etta Schwartz and John Steffen were united in marriage by Elder Sam Aeschliman. Nov. 20, Sis. Lynne Aeschliman and Bro. Ken Beer from Milford were united in holy matrimony by Elder Sam Aeschliman. Nov. 27, Sis. Deliah Aschliman and Bro. Stan Bieberstein were united in holy matrimony by Elder Sam Aeschliman. God bless you in your marriage, as you walk life's pathway together.

Nov. 23, Elders John Bahler, Noah Bauman, George Sinn and Theo. Beer were in Bluffton to ordain an elder to help Elder Sam Aschliman. Bro. John Yergler was chosen as elder. May our dear heavenly Father grant you wisdom and courage in this work.

... "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Mark 8:34)

On Nov. 30, provings were held for three dear friends, Judy and Cheryl Fiechter and Marcene Gerber. December 4, the baptisms were performed for these friends by our elders, Sam Aeschliman and John Yergler.

Funeral: Dec. 5, services were held for Sis. Ida Mae (Joel) Maller, age 74, who died unexpectedly. Surviving in addition to the husband are two sons, Melvin and Robert J.; three daughters, Sis. Helen (Cliff) Heyerly, Sis. Naomi (Theodore) Kaehr, and Sis. Vera (Lester) Laukhuf. Two sisters, Sis. Della Manz and Sis. Minnie (Sam) Aschliman. Elder John Yergler held the services.

Have faith in God; the sun will shine
Though dark the clouds may be today;
His heart has planned your path and mine.
Have faith in God, have faith always.

"May the quiet peace of Christmas
Fill our hearts and lives today.
May the star that shone on Bethlehem
Guide us into His way.

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

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

Our guest ministers were Bros. Earl Zeltwanger, Bremen, Clarence Yackley, Phoenix, Loren Strahm and C. Al Langhoffer from Kansas. We were richly blessed by the messages they brought to us from God and His precious word. May God give them grace and strength to go on in their ministerial duties.

Sis. Emma Gudeman was able to

return to her home, which she longed so to do, after her long stay in the hospital. May God be her strength and be near her always. Sis. Emma was always so willing to serve wherever and whenever she could, as long as her health permitted. We miss her very much in our assemblies.

"Though in health and in enjoyment,
We to our good Lord's employment
Willingly our strength did yield,
Yet we deem it no privation.
When through pain and tribulation
Our faith unto God is sealed."

We wish all our members and friends a blessed and peaceful Christmas Season. The Bible tells us that it is more blessed to give than to receive, so let us give Christ all praise, honor and devotion, also our heartfelt thanks for coming down to this earth as the Babe of Bethlehem, but as we sing:

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

And thank Him, for dying there on the cross so all mankind can be reconciled unto God through faith and obedience to His word.

Another year is drawing to a close. We are soon to begin a new one, the Lord willing. We were reminded in our Thanksgiving Day services how we should count our blessings one by one and be thankful to God for all good gifts, and also for the blessings in disguise, which do not seem as such at the time. Joseph was sold and taken into Egypt. When the famine was in the land, they went to Egypt to buy food. Joseph, being the governor there, told them to bring their youngest brother, Benjamin when they return again. Jacob, their father said, "all these things are against me", but later it turned out that he was reunited with Joseph; they all were nourished by the food from the hand of Joseph and kept alive. So it was a blessing coming from deep sorrow and heartache. We are very thankful for the five dear souls that were added to our church and the body of Christ during the past year,

and hope and pray that there will be some more added during the coming year.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Rapp

That day I was your Saviour; today I am your judge, said Bro. Loren Strahm, speaking of what Jesus might say to us some day. Bro. Strahm of Gridley, Kans. came with four other ministers on November 19, from the Fairbury conference. Bro. Al Langhoffer, Wichita, spoke on the fruits of the Spirit, Gal. 5, and the Beatitudes. Bro. Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, reminded us to not seek vain glory, because all glory belongs to God. Bro. Loretz Emch, Girard, prayed with us.

God's love was discussed by Bro. Leroy Huber of Eureka on Nov. 3. Bros. Art Bauer and Joe Stoller of Princeville were with us on Nov. 10, and we learned about staying close to God. A meeting was not held the last Thursday evening, because most of the students were with their families during Thanksgiving vacation, but on Nov. 29, about twenty students sang for the residents of Americana Nursing Home, Normal. They invited us to sing Christmas carols, so we plan to on Dec. 9.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

Our hearts were filled with joy and thanksgiving when we heard the testimonies of their faith and welcomed the following as brothers and sisters in the Lord: Leon and Eunice Kaisner, Tom and Jeanette Hoerr, Harold and Ardith Herrmann, Kenneth and Edith Plattner. I thought it was so beautiful, the way they testified that the bond of love in their homes is even stronger now than before they found peace with their Lord and Maker.

We also rejoice with the Paul Wiegand family. Bro. Paul was proved and baptized at the nursing home in Eureka, where he is residing.

There was much food for thought in the Living Word that was expounded to us. We thank the Lord for the inspiration given to our dear elders and ministering brothers and for their labors of love. We were privileged to have the following in our assembly: Carl Kinsinger, LeRoy Huber, Silas Leuthold, Eugene Marti, Lester Hartter, Joe

Kaisner, Merle Kaisner, Robert Miller, Harry Sutter and Henry Beer.

We welcome Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta Schafer to our assembly. They moved here from Chicago.

Our prayers for the dear ones at the present time in the hospitals include Sis. Emma Weyeneth, Sis. Carrie Haefli, and Bro. Chis Schaf-er.

Sis. Emma Frank died November 13. She had been living at the Buehler Memorial Home since April 1962. Surviving are three sisters: Sis. Clara Frank, Miss Christena Frank and Sis. Lena Siegle; two brothers, Bro. John Frank and Chris Frank; two half-brothers, William and Bro. Ernest Frank. Funeral services were held in Oakville.

In closing, my wish for all is a blessed Christmas Season and a New Year that will be filled with love, love for God our Heavenly Father, and our neighbor as ourselves. **Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you."**

WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A. Banwart

We would like to thank the ministers who have taken the time and effort to visit us. These include Bro. Harold Messner and Bro. Elmer Schmidt from Winthrop and Bro. Paul Fehr from Morris. Bro. Paul was on his way to the Brotherhood Conference, which several from here also attended. May we all show our appreciation for the concern and love our elders have for us, by being obedient to the advice forthcoming from this meeting.

Sis. Ida Schmidt, wife of Chris Schmidt had the misfortune of falling and breaking her ankle. With the aid of crutches, she is again able to enjoy church services with us. Hospital patients the past month were Ray Freiden with a heart condition and Sis. Elma, wife of Ervin Mogler, for an appendectomy. Both are home again and well on the road to recovery. Sis. Katie Alt has been in the hospital again, but is at home now; Sis. Sarah Kropf is staying with her.

After mid-week services, many friends and relatives enjoyed a singing for Bro. and Sis. Arnold and Alice Metzger, for their silver wedding anniversary.

Sis. Lizzie Zaugg was pleasantly surprised when friends and relatives stopped in to enjoy coffee with her on her 86th birthday, Nov. 27.

Sis. Elizabeth Traub has returned to West Bend. We are thankful she is getting along satisfactorily and can assemble with us again.

What a privilege to have visitors come for joyful occasions such as we experienced Dec. 4, when our Elder Bro. Paul Banwart united in Holy Matrimony Sis. Hazel Anliker, and Bro. Joe Moser of Morris. May God bless them in this new undertaking. Many thanks to Bro. Ernest Knobloch of Lester and Bro. Alpai Moser of Morris (who were among the visitors), for the messages they brought to us.

Christmas

Knees bowed low in homage to the new King.

Voices lifted in song, both joyous and reverent.

Gifts offered in love to dear ones.

While here and there a gift of Gifts
Is laid at the feet of Jesus, A heart
broken and contrite,
Under a burden of sin—finds peace
at last.

AKRON, OHIO

Florence Graf

But once I pass this way,
And then . . . and then, the silent
door

Swings on its hinges . . .

Opens . . . closes

And no more

I pass this way;

So while I may

With all my might,

I will essay

Sweet comfort and delight

To all I meet upon the pilgrim way,

For no man travels twice

The Great Highway

That climbs through darkness up to
light,

Through night to day.

The above lines seem to your reporter an example of Bro. Forrest Ritzman's philosophy of life. Our ministering brother, Forrest Ritzman, passed away on Nov. 12 at the age of sixty years. He leaves his wife, Sister Marie; daughters (Sister) Mrs. Mary Ann Zollinger and Mrs. Martha Zollinger; sons, Walter, Earl, Bob, Paul in the Army at Ft. Benning, Georgia; Gerald and Eric. He also leaves ten grandchildren; brothers, Homer, Victor and Joseph; and one sister, Mrs. Esther Humphrey. Funeral services were at the church on November 15, with burial in Greenlawn Memorial Park.

We of the Akron congregation and all who knew Bro. Forrest—friends, neighbors and acquaintances in his business life, as well as his loved ones—are all a little poorer for his passing.

Bro. Theo. Beer of Milford and Bro. Joseph Ramsier of Rittman were our visiting ministers on Nov. 13. Their presence was comforting on that sad Sunday—the day following Bro. Forrest Ritzman's death. We thank them both for their efforts in gathering with us and expounding God's Word.

Bro. Alex and Sis. Kathy Bako and three daughters left on November 25 for a visit to their native Hungary. They plan to be gone several months, as they have families and many friends whom they have not seen for several years. We wish them an enjoyable visit and pray the Lord will bring them safely to us again.

"Huck" and Margaret Cerny observed their silver wedding anniversary on November 30. Our sincere wishes for future years of happiness are sent to them.

Dennis Fritz is presently on a six-months' tour of duty in Mediterranean waters. His service with the Navy has taken him to Spain, Italy and past the Rock of Gibraltar. We wish him the Lord's protection wherever he may travel.

Rudy Graf has arrived safely in Vietnam. He is serving busy days in the Seabees—a construction unit of the Navy. May the Lord grant Rudy His protection and guidance day by day.

Sis. Alma Stauffer passed away Dec. 4, after a lengthy illness. Sister Alma had been making her home with her sister in Youngstown, Ohio in recent months, but she was in our thoughts many times. She is survived by brothers, Edward, Arthur, Harold, David and Bro. Paul Metzger, and sisters Eloise and Ruth. Her husband, Harry Stauffer, preceded her in death in 1962. Funeral services were held in Youngstown on Dec. 6, with burial in Mineral Ridge, Ohio.

Bro. Ben Stavenik and Bro. Kenneth Sauder of Mansfield were our visiting ministers on Dec. 4. Bro. Ben reminded us that the life we lead and the deeds we do are more effective in letting our Christian light shine than any lengthy sermon that may be preached. We were exhorted to take every opportunity to help our fellowman. From the good teachings in chapter 12 of St.

Luke, Bro. Kenneth urged us all to remember how our heavenly Father cares for each one of His own.

Howard and Alice Dockus have moved to 3383 Albrecht Avenue, Akron O 44312, and Joe and Sis. Anna Hanla have been at their new address—324 N. Hawkins Avenue, Akron O. 44313, for several months.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;

"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail

With peace on earth, good-will to men."

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

Cathryn Wettstein

Salome Walters

Our guest ministers the past month have been as follows: Bros. Noah Bauman, Rittman; Bert Butikofer and Paul Butikofer, Elgin, Iowa; Noah Hermann, Tuscon; George Wagonbach, Princeville; Harry Bucher, Valparaiso; David Kieser, Princeville. We have heard many good teachings through these brothers, so may God give the increase and bless His word, so that many more souls can be drawn closer to their God.

We have four more that are repenting—They are Mr. and Mrs. Milton and Caroline Leman, Loretta (Kupferschmid) Leman, and Kathy Farney, the daughter of Bro. Ira and Sis. Doris Farney. May God help them in their new step on this narrow path of life which leads to heaven, if they stay true and faithful to their God and to their promises they will make with Him.

Those who were in hospitals and returned home again are—Sis. Mary Rocke, wife of Bro. John, for observation; Sis. Sara Tanner, wife of Bro. Paul, for surgery; Sis. Kathryn Schumacher, wife of Bro. John, for surgery; Sis. Edna Anliker, for observation.

Engagement—Sis. Verna Martin, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Andrew and Martha Martin, to Bro. Richard Hartter from Goodfield.

Paul Wiegand, the aged brother of Bro. Dan Wiegand, was baptized recently at Maple Lawn Nursing Home. May God bless him the rest of his days here on this earth.

As it is the Christmas season, may we all be reminded of how God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son into this world as a tiny baby, and how He was

born in a humble manger. It truly was the greatest gift that He sent. As we give gifts to one another at this time of year, we must remember the greatest gift of all was Jesus unto us. Because God sent Jesus to us, therefore we express our love by giving gifts to others . . . Especially if we give to poor and needy, as the words express, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." May each and everyone have a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with God's blessings. As we start the new year, may we pray that God will bless everyone, and protect us from harm and evil further on our pilgrim journey.

LAMAR, MISSOURI

Marie Marti

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Yes, almost 2 thousand years ago God gave the world this precious gift. May we humbly bow in prayer this Christmas season and thank God for the bounty of His grace, and pray that He may teach us to value most the eternal things. May we find the happiness that giving brings, and may we realize anew this Christmas that the things we keep are those we give away. Have you ever observed the glow in a child's eyes as he gives to someone he loves? He is truly giving himself with his gift—a gift of wondrous love.

Let us sing out the carols this Christmas, with gladness and love in our hearts for the heavenly King. May the spirit and love of this season remain in our hearts all year. May we put our hands into the Hand of God and let Him lead us all the way.

Bro. Fred Marti and Sis. Edna Frieden, who were hospitalized, are home. We are happy that they are able to assemble with us again.

Luisa Rentsch recently observed her 86th birthday. She wishes to express her sincere thanks to everyone who remembered her so kindly with cards and gifts. It was truly a joyous day for her.

LATTY, OHIO

Mrs. Ray Sinn — Mrs. Gale Stoller

We are happy to report the engagement of Sis. Mary Jane Rager to Bro. John Isch. Sis. Mary Jane is the daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Elsie, and Bro. John is the son

of Bro. and Sis. Harry Isch, Bluffton. We trust and pray that God will grant them many happy years together, if it could be His will.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT
Carlton J. Lanz

A considerably large group of us, from Rockville, who attended the church conference at Fairbury on November 17 had only praise for it. It was well managed, ran smoothly and, we believe, much was gained. Actually, to be present at these meetings, held annually, does bring one closer to the real issues, so vital to the well-being and to the church's survival. It may be true, however, and quite likely that not all will see these issues, or look at them as seriously as do our elders who must shepherd the flock. An elder, long deceased, was told that he and the church is too strict. He answered, kindly, "When once we stand before God, in judgment, we will then not think the church was too strict!"

We owe our sincere thanks to our many kind brethren and friends who served us so willingly and so well in their beautiful church there in Fairbury. Thank you all again!

Births: A son, Ross Howard, October 13, to Bro. Urban and Sis. Charlotte Luginbuhl; also a son to Bro. James and Sis. Jane Moser on November 27. Name: Eric Scott.

Richard Hany and Kathleen Griffin were united in marriage by Bro. John Bahler. Date: September 24. Richard is now in Service at Ft Sam.

A lovely Sunshine Basket was sent to Bro. Daryl Luginbuhl from the Leo church; this included many individual packages, to be opened one each day. Daryl, needless to say, will send his own letter of thanks and tell how he really appreciated this unique idea. He has been in a body cast for the past six months, as a result from injuries received from a fall from a silo sometime ago. His doctors hope this can be removed some time in early January.

From heaven, in the dark of night,
He came and brought eternal light.
Behold now how this light divine
Throughout this pilgrims' dale doth
shine! Hallelujah!

He who in glory there doth reign
Did dwell on earth as humble man,

That through His noble sacrifice
We find the path to paradise.
Hallelujah!

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA
Delores Messerli
Carol Ann Messner

Our congregation gathered for Thanksgiving Day services. From spiritual food, we went to tables laden with fruits of the earth.

We heard the story of the little girl who had nothing to eat on Thanksgiving Day, but thanked God for the food she had yesterday.

Our Senior Bible Class met one Sunday with West Bend, and another Sunday at Lester, this past month.

Sis. Ida Miller is grateful and wishes to thank all who remembered her birthday. She keeps the Silver Lining in her bedside table, and says how she still enjoys it.

Our elder brethren, Herman Kellenberger and Leo Moser ministered unto us. We heard, in time of old God wrote His commandments on tablets of stone, and today He writes them in our hearts. Do not forget the first and greatest commandment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy mind, and with all thy soul. Love Jesus as the Son of God. I will be with thee to the end of the world. If we say we love God, and do not keep His commandments the truth is not in us.

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn . . . For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (St. Luke 2:7and 11)

The Christmas season is drawing near, when we are reminded of the birth of our Saviour so long ago. Here in America, the land of the free, Christmas is so commercialized. Are we Christians sincere and alert? Through prayer and watching we can keep Christ in Christmas.

Our Sunday School is planning our Christmas program. What a joy it is to see the young children proclaim the story of Christ's birth. The light that beams in their faces could surely be compared to the light shining from the Star in the East, that lighted the way to where the Christ child lay.

FT. SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS
Steve Gerst

Our dear Lord and Saviour was born as a babe, to bring peace on earth and goodwill to men. God's plan of our soul's salvation was being fulfilled.

Now is the time when we proclaim the great Messiah's birth, and sing Alleluia songs to our Heavenly Father and His Son most High. If it were not for the Holy One, Jesus Christ, we all would be forever lost. The Heavenly Father's love and mercy toward us was so great that He brought His only begotten Son into this world to die for the sins of mankind. Yet in the dark streets, the wicked and malevolent devil has acknowledged another meaning for Christmas. He has deceived mankind with earthly pleasures and idols. Many of the nothing of the real meaning of young grow to manhood knowing Christmas.

It was indeed our pleasure to set under the sound of the word that was expounded by Ministering Bros. Albert Kaisner of Maywood and Lester Huber of Francesville, on the week-end of Nov. 27. We heard many good lessons and teachings. We want to thank our ministering brethren for their time and efforts in coming miles to assemble with us. It is always uplifting to hear spiritual food and nourishment for the soul.

Bro. Gene Heinold of La Crosse has been called to his new duty station in Alaska. We will miss his presence in our midst. May he be granted courage and faith during his lonely hours, and gladly accept his cross. Bro. Joe Beer of Milford has received orders for Brooke General Hospital. We are so thankful that Joe will be staying here with us. Bro. Gary Schladenhauffen of Bluffton is back from his two weeks' furlough and is in medical training. Friends Mike Menold and Orville Eberle of Princeville, Dale Zimmerman of Forrest, and Richard Hany of Rockville have started their basic training. We want to welcome them.

Much love and fellowship was brought into our midst when many parents came visiting over the Thanksgiving holiday week-end. May we always cherish our new acquaintances and may the richest blessings of our Heavenly Father rest upon all who visited us.

Bro. and Sis. Aaron Heinold and

Sis. Eula of La Crosse are visiting their son and brother, Bro. Gene, before he leaves for his new duty station in Alaska.

Get to Know Your Brother Better

This particular month I have chosen Bro. Eugene Heinold of La Crosse to tell of his experiences.

Eugene:

"I have officially been in the army since the 7th of July, 1966. My days thus far have been going very fast, and I look for the next, or last 19 months to soon be over. I truly believe, that as well as myself, other friends and brothers look at leaving their parents and loved ones for a time as a chance to say "Hello" once again.

My parents are Bro. Aaron and Sis. Emma (Marti) Heinold. Our family had the misfortune, the experience of losing a mother while we were still very young. The Almighty God has truly blessed us and provided a loving step-mother, Sis. Grace Eisemann. She has had the privilege of seeing five of us taken into the fold. I have four brothers and sisters, Bro. Marshall, Sis. Given Bucher, Marian and Melvin (twins), Sis. Eula, Sis. Peggy Metzger, myself, Bro. Glen and Emily.

I have experienced times of extreme loneliness already in my past five months, and will probably find more times. I'm only so thankful that I have been brought up in the faith, and that the Lord has called me into the fold while there was still time. I've been so thankful that I have the Lord to go with me, no matter where I should go. I know the dear Lord will fill many of these lonely hours.

I truly have to thank the Lord, and the brothers and friends here at Ft. Sam, for the fellowship they have shown to me during my stay here. I only can hope and pray that the remainder of those stationed here, or who come through here, can get as good orders as I have.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Marlene Mosher

Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak have a new baby daughter, Sherill Marie.

This past month we were pleased to accept a new sister into our fold, Carolyn Knochel, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Marion. We wish Carolyn the Lord's blessings, and wish that many more of our beloved friends would choose the way and

follow Him. Bro. Rudolph Graf was with us on this blessed day; Sis. Betty was with him. We enjoyed them and also our other visitors on that day very much.

Sis. Bertha Meister is not at all well; she is bedridden. We hope that the Lord will be at her side through her illness.

The holiday season is once again upon us. We wish to praise the Lord this time of year, and all year through. We hope that the people of this world will not just remember Jesus as the babe in the manger, but will also remember Jesus, the man, and what He did for all of us. Jesus died for all of our sins; the least we can do is repent, live our lives for Him and do His will, not our own or the will of this sinful world. God gave his only Son, a perfect man without blemish, so let us do our part and live just for Him.

BERN, KANSAS

Mrs. Leonard Baumgartner

Mrs. Morris Edelman

We are happy to have five young souls repenting. They are Marilyn and Morris Rokey, daughter and son of Bro. Joe Rokeys; Richard Strahm, son of Bro. Ephriam Strahms; Maretta Rokey, daughter of Bro. Roy Rokeys; and Darrel Stoller, son of Bro. Harlan Stollers. "In days of youth seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord; Go offer Him thy youthful days and walk within the Saviour's ways."

On Thanksgiving Day, the Sabetha church met with us to give thanks for all God's blessings during the past year. Bros. Carl Hartman and Joe Aberle ministered.

Born on November 24, Thanksgiving Day, was a daughter, Heidi Lea, to Bro. Leonard and Sis. Nancy Baumgartner. She has two brothers, Jeff and Jay.

We thank Bro. Al Langhofer from Wichita for being a guest minister.

Hospitalized this month for a short time was Bro. Dale Strahm, in an Omaha Hospital, for the removal of a cyst from his knee.

Bro. Denny Nieman from Rittman, who has been stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas, spent his last Sunday with us before his leave to visit Rittman. After this, he and Bro. Gary Maibach are being sent to Viet Nam. Bro. Denny, Bro. Gary and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, will be missed by all.

BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Loris Kieser

Bro. Robert Beer of Mansfield was a Sun. evening visitor. One Sun. afternoon, Bro. Henry Kilgus, Forrest, and Bro. Silas Leuthold were with us. We were happy to have each of them.

Sis. Esther (George) Kieser had major surgery this past month. She seems to be doing quite well. Bro. Alfred Hausmann had some minor surgery. He, too, is getting along good.

We were thankful that Bro. Ed Guingrich could assemble with us on Thanksgiving morning, after several months absence. He continues to improve slowly.

Thanksgiving reminds us to be thankful of our many blessings, and on this Thanksgiving we could be especially thankful that our Bro. Charles Kieser could assemble with us in good health. Chuck, as he is known to us, had a very narrow escape when he fell into a bin of corn that he was looking in. He became covered with corn, as it was augering out below. Only the quick thinking of Bro. Marvin Leman, on whose farm the accident happened, and the assistance of his neighbors saved his life. The fire department rescue squad brought oxygen, which they gave him after they had uncovered his face. They chopped a hole in the side of the bin and removed him through it. We are thankful to God, who let all these things be, that it turned out so well.

Bro. Ellsworth Stoller also escaped serious injury in an auto accident. He received a badly cut face, which required many stitches. He has been able to assemble with us again.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Mrs. Robert Hueni

On November 20, Bro. Norman Stoller of Ft. Wayne visited and gave us much of the word to consider. In the evening, we had our Thanksgiving program; Bro. Verlin Stoller gave us some thoughts on being a thankful person.

Our congregation enjoyed a visit from the Francesville Sunday School on November 13.

Bro. Silas Laidig had an operation at Mayo's, and will be recuperating there most of this month.

Others hospitalized since November 9 are John Schuch, David Buck and Greg Billman.

CROGHAN—NAUMBURG, N. Y.
Mrs. Lawrence Farney
Mrs. David Schamback

Shut-ins: Sis. Deborah Hoppel has been confined to her home by illness since early October, but we are glad to hear that her condition shows improvement at present. Sis. Rita Petzoldt and Friend Martha Schulz are home, after being hospitalized for surgery; Bro. Carl Virkler is resting at home, after spending some time in the hospital. Bro. Bernard Virkler is in the hospital at present, after undergoing surgery.

Bro. Leland Hirschey and Bro. John Widrick recently held funeral services at the Virkler Funeral Home for Friend Melissa Farney Smith. A sister of the late Sis. Inez Farney Rohr, she is survived by a daughter, Beulah Smith; a brother Clarence Farney; a niece and a nephew.

We were happy to have with us on the first week-end in December Bro. John Bahler and Sis. Julia, and are both thankful to God and grateful to him for his ministrations to us. The congregation of the Croghan church has found the confidence in Bro. Floyd Graves to place on him the duty of ministering to the church. At present Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta are on their way home from Tacoma, Washington, where they went to meet their son, Floyd Jr., and accompany him home after his discharge from the army on Dec. 2. Bro. Floyd has been Sunday School superintendent, and will be missed in that capacity. We all wish him God's grace and strength in his new calling.

The children of the Sunday Schools are preparing programs, to present in honor of the birth of our Saviour.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS
Joyce Huber

Rejoice, it's Christmas! Rejoice, God's Word was made flesh. Jesus is alive and the same today. Rejoice; it is His will that our spirit, soul, and body be whole. I Thess. 5:23. He bore our sins that we may have eternal life, and bore our sicknesses that our bodies be whole in this life Matt. 8:17. Rejoice, for all His benefits. Psalm 103:2-5.

We were thankful that the Elder Brother-Aid Conferences could be held at Fairbury this year. It was a blessing to us, and we were happy for all who could attend, for we

trust it was a blessing for everyone. The brethren were inspired by the Holy Spirit. We are thankful for the visiting elders and ministers who gave of themselves for services while at Fairbury.

The Christian Endeavors were held at Fairbury the past month, with the various Sunday Schools participating. We were happy for all of the young people who came, and trust that the seed planted, the word of God, will grow in their hearts and bring forth hundredfold.

Our elder, Bro. Josh Broquard has been ill, but is improving. Several were hospitalized recently: Bro. Alph Steffen had surgery; Sis. Bertha Kaisner, transferred from Fairview Haven to the hospital; Sis. Ida Bahler; and Sis. Leona Nussbaum. We know that God is with each one.

Joe and Thelma Slagel's son, Gary, was married Nov. 26 to Patricia Weigman of Bloomington. We wish them to see God's nearness as they travel this life together.

Albert and Karen Steffen have become the parents of their first baby, a girl, Hope Jane. Grandparents are Bro and Sis. Ezra Steffen.

Sis. Leah Steidinger, age 94, passed away at the Fairbury Hospital, where she had been for a year. Surviving are 7 children, 16 grandchildren and 39 great-grandchildren.

FORREST, ILLINOIS
Nancy Honegger — Martha Stoller

We were spiritually refreshed by the visits of the brothers from the various places, who had come for the conference at Fairbury.

Herb Bachtold, son of Carl and Sis. Dorothy, has given his heart to the Lord. We trust he will find much joy in his new life.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid are the parents of their first child, a son. They have named him Robert Dean.

Medical patients at the hospital the past month were Sisters Lizzie Geyer, Emma Ifft, and Nathalia Wenger.

Dale, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman, left for the service recently and is stationed at Ft. Sam.

Roger and Shirlene Bachtold are the parents of a new baby boy, Jonathan Carter.

At this writing, many preparations are being made for the coming holiday season. The entire family is

shopping, making plans for family gatherings, the school, and the Sunday school activities.

We will be confronted with a new year. How swiftly the days, the weeks, the months and the years go by!

Surely it is every true Christian's aim to try to do a little better, and be a little more sincere, in the new year.

By God's grace, we can.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Annabelle Bahr — Marie Zaugg

Sis. Clara Marti has been dismissed from the hospital. She has recovered remarkably well from her recent illness. It was good to have her at Church Sunday.

Bro. Earl Banwart from West Bend was our guest speaker at Thanksgiving services. He also labored for us the following Sunday. He and his family were visiting his parents, Bro. and Sis. Joe Banwart.

Elder Bros. Samuel Anliker, Lester Hartter, and Gene Marti visited us. We were reminded in the sermons to not get weary in well-doing; sometimes it seems useless, but still we should not give it up. Also, it is not enough merely to say we have done the best we could, because we have not done our best until, or unless, we have done the will of God.

It has fallen on Bro. Raymond Banwart to help the other ministering brothers here in speaking God's word. May God bless and guide him.

A Christmas thought . . .

Think of others at this Christmas;
 Share with them your Christmas cheer.

Doing so will make you happy,
 Spread your joy all through the year.

Think of others; our dear Saviour
 Thought of others in His day,
 And if we would do His bidding,
 We must follow in His way.

Think of others; you'll discover
 That you'll have more happiness,
 And that Christmas will be brighter
 As God comes your life to bless.

GIRARD, OHIO
Jesse C. Emch

"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 darkness, light;
 "Where there is sadness, joy;
 "O Divine Master, grant that I may seek not so much 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 and we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

. . . And this lady lived this prayer:

Death: Sis. Alma Stauffer, age 66 years, died Sunday, December 4, after a year of serious illness. Her funeral was held Tuesday, December 6 at the Shriver-Allison Funeral Home, Youngstown, Ohio. Bro. Rudolph Graf, from Akron had the sermon, assisted by Bro. Jesse Emch. Services at Cemetery were by Bros. Robert Stoll and Lorentz Emch. Sis. Alma was a daughter of the late Bro. John and Sis. Emma (Bakody) Metzger. She had made her home for the past year with her sister, Mrs. Eloise Bare, 3429 Risher Rd, Youngstown, Ohio. Her suffering was great during this year of illness, but she never failed to have a smile for those who visited her. We can be assured that faith in her loving Lord and Saviour was ever present.

Friend Albert Durig is a patient at the Warren Memorial Hospital; he is critically ill. He had his share of suffering during the last several years. We commit him into God's hands.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr

Mrs. Eldon Metzger

Bro. John Beyer went to the Newman Hospital at Emporia for tests, and then went on to the KU Medical Center for an operation. He is home now (at Madison) but is weak. Bro. John has served on the personal property aid for many years and is also our world relief representative.

We were happy that Bro. Roy Wernli and family could spend the day with us recently. He brought out in the sermon that God speaks through the ministers, and the "credit" goes to God for His word or message.

God's Message and the Shepherds

"The shepherds with their sheep—a familiar part of the Christmas story, Sheep look so innocent, but they sometimes act with such stupidity that they frequently make

fitting symbols for straying mankind.

Shepherds were of two kinds. Those who owned their sheep had a devotion to them, which the hirelings lacked. The good shepherds would risk their lives protecting their sheep, so they furnished a figure for Him who was born in Bethlehem that first Christmas Eve.

Good or bad, the shepherds were a lonely lot. For days they would be away from home with no opportunities for a bath. Shepherds were avoided as far as possible by the "better" class of people, and were on the lowest rung of the economic ladder.

To such people God sent his messengers, to announce the good news and to give praise to God and tell of peace to men. The birth of the child in a stable was proclaimed first to the shepherds. God came to man at the lowest possible level.

The wise men had to seek guidance, but the shepherds were given a simple sign that enabled them to find with ease. God's message is always like that—so simple a child can understand it, and so profound it baffles the wisest of men.

Suppose we humble ourselves with the shepherds this Christmas Eve, raising our eyes and opening our ears. Very likely we will hear some messenger of God proclaiming a message of good news that will warm our hearts and quicken our devotion."

LAMONT, KANSAS

Glen Anliker — Mrs. Bernie Emch

The Lamont and Gridley congregations assembled together for Thanksgiving services. The Lord directed Bro. Sam Huber to speak the word of God to us.

Elmer Gruber has been hospitalized for diagnosis and surgery. If it is the Lord's will, we pray He might restore health again.

Another year is coming to a close. Again we see the Christmas lights brightly shining in the cities . . . Everybody hurrying up and down the streets to buy gifts for each other, most hardly realizing the gift God sent into the world, a gift that all mankind can be recipients of. Even as it was on the night Christ was born into the world, very few had respect for Him, even if it was God's plan that he should come in a humble way. It seems the same way today . . . no room for Jesus, who even loves the greatest sinner!

May we all, young and old, be-

lievers and unbelievers make room or more room for Jesus. Let us put this thought at the top of the list of our New Year resolutions. I don't believe we would ever regret it.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Rose Getz — Ruth Rapp

Funeral services were held Nov. 23 for Sis. Mary Grimm, age 88. She was the wife of the late Wm. Grimm Sr. and daughter of Jacob and Katherine Rapp Slagel. Surviving are six sons, Sam, Henry, Dan, Wm. Jr., Oscar and Ben, and one daughter, Sis. Naomi Bauman. Bro. Noah Schrock conducted the services.

Funeral services for Sis. Minnie Schmidgall (Mrs. Fred), age 87, were held Nov. 25. She was the daughter of Henry and Caroline Schmidgall Knapp. Surviving are a son, Carl, and two daughters, Mrs. Art Woertz and Mrs. Carl Knapp.

We were blessed with the many precious words brought to us by our visiting ministers, Bros. Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale; Robert Miller, Portland; Lester Braker, Lamar; C. Al Langhofer, Wichita; Loren Strahm, Gridley, Kansas; Harvey Grimm, Bern; Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski; Eli Somerhalder, Kiowa; Carl Kinsinger, California, and Ernest Gerber, Rockville.

Bro. Silas Leuthold was with us when Judy Roecker (Mrs. Sam) brought her testimony before the congregation and was baptized.

Sis. Opal Rocke (Mrs. Wayne) is recovering nicely, having had major surgery. Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Kaiser were able to return home from the hospital. Sis. Pearl Rassi (Mrs. Eli) is able to attend services, after a month's illness.

A baby girl was born to Bro and Sis. Howard Leman on November 7. Bro. and Sis. Howard Getz are the parents of a son, born on November 18.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Mrs. Joe Beer — Mrs. Ervin Rokey

Among the happiest events of the year, is and should be Christmas. It is the time of good-will, of gift-giving, of remembrance of others. How wonderful it would be if we were to have this type of spirit year-long. Our world would not have the hates and wars it has now.

When we think of the birth of Christ and how humble it was, it amazes us at first to think what an impact that birth had on the world,

but on second thought we are not surprised, because it was the birth of God's only Son.

There was no room for this birth in any inn, but there was room in a stable. There are proud and uncarving hearts that have no room for Christ, but Christ finds plenty of room in humble hearts, and those humble hearts are the ones that are eternally blessed in the end.

God bless you all
This Christmas Day;
May Bethlehem's star
Still light the way,
And guide thee to
The perfect peace,
When every fear
And doubt shall cease,
And may thy home
Such glory know
As did the stable
Long ago.

We gathered together to clean our church building recently. As we were busy washing walls, cleaning out cupboards, sweeping, painting, and doing all of the different tasks that are required with general cleaning, it came to me that we should make it a practice to do this to our soul. We are the temple of God, the Bible teaches us, so we should make sure our building is kept spotless, too. We don't want cobwebs hanging, or dust lying about when company drops by unexpectedly to our home, so we make it a practice to keep our home presentable. It is the same way with this temple that God gives us. We want to keep the cobwebs down and everything clean, so when God comes for us he can find us waiting with a clean and pure temple, dedicated to Him.

Bro. Sam Farney is in the hospital, after surgery. We miss his cheerful countenance in our congregation.

Our friends, Caroline Dotterer, Loren Schrenk, and Steve Roth have found peace with God and plan to be baptized this month, the Lord willing.

Elder Bro. Roy Farney, Ministering Bro. Clarence Yackley, Bro. Joe Dotterer, and Bro. Allan Freed attended the Brotherhood conference.

The Thanksgiving thought appearing in the November issue did not pertain to Jeff Rokey, as some may have thought.

SABETHA, KANSAS

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Job 1:21 . . . the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong are the parents of a daughter, Natalie Kay, born Nov. 20. She has one brother to welcome her home.

Friends John and Elaine Garber are the parents of a daughter, born Nov. 23. She was named Tresa Kim, is their first child. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Velmer and Sis. Vila Meyer.

Both new mothers are granddaughters of Bro. Joseph J. Strahm, who passed away at his home in Sabetha on Nov. 20, at the age of 80 years. He is survived by two sons, Art and Bro. Reo; four daughters, Leota Montgomery, Sis. Irene Aberle, Sis. Liseten Aberle and Sis. Vila Meyer; also one sister and three brothers, Sis. Louisa Rokey, Bro. John, Bro. Dave and Bro. Alpha, all of Sabetha. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, Nov. 23, with Bros. Gene Marti and Joe Aberle officiating. Bro. Gene spoke of the Footprints on the Sands of Time. It is well if we can follow the footprints on the sands of time made by our older and sincere brothers, in their efforts to follow the footprints of our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Gustav Dornes passed away Nov. 23 at the A. C. Home, at the age of 90 years. He is survived by three brothers, Henry of Sabetha, Emil of Alta Vista and George of Burlington; and one sister, Sis. Anna of Sabetha. Funeral services were held Friday, Nov. 25, with Bros. Carl Hartman and Harvey Grimm officiating.

We extend our sympathy to Clifford and Sis. Barbara (Metzger) Edelman, on the death of his brother, Harvey Edelman, who passed away Nov. 19.

Our hospital patients this month were: Sis. Marie Kellenberger, Sis. Tillie Wenger, Sis. Alma Aberle and Bro. Ben Aberle. Tillie and Alma were surgical patients. They have all returned to their homes and are getting along as well as can be expected.

We enjoyed having Bro. Ernest Graf of Akron visit us one Sunday . . . but we regret his hasty departure to attend the funeral of Bro. Forrest Ritzman. May the Lord be with the bereaved family and community.

We also had Bro. Alpha Strahm

Jr. minister unto us one Sunday recently, for which we thank him.

We rejoice that we again have friends who have taken courage to step forward and answer the call of our Lord and Saviour. We pray there will yet be many more.

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Mrs. W. A. Jacob

Mrs. Harry Bucher

We were deeply saddened when our dear friend, Mrs. Jack (Dorothy C.) Bucher, 62, died Dec. 1, in Porter Memorial Hospital. She was a life-long Valparaiso resident, and was affiliated with the Apostolic Christian Church. In 1924 she was married to Jack Bucher, who survives; also one son, Rex of Highland, Ind; three daughters, Mrs. Walter (Mary Jane) Schramm, Valparaiso, Mrs. Frank (LaVonne) Gray, LaPorte, and Mrs. Harry (Bonne) Nottingham, Lansing, (Ill.), and 12 grandchildren. Funeral services were held Sunday Dec. 4, in the Apostolic Christian Church, Valparaiso, conducted by Bro. Robert Heuni of Bremen and Bro. Harry Bucher. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery.

Christ Came Down

Long ago our Lord came down
To a little sleepy town,
Over his bed, a mother fair
Watched her child with tender care.

Tis' a story of old, yet new;
Every bit of it is true,
And I'm glad that Christ came down
To that little sleepy town, for me
and you.

The Valparaiso Women's Fellowship Guild held their gift exchange, meeting and dinner Dec. 1 at the Orange Bowl Restuarant. Rosie Moser was elected president; Mill Bucher, vice-president, and Donna Bucher, secy-treasurer.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

Bro. John Widrick, accompanied by Bro. Robert Beyer, visited us and proclaimed God's precious word; Bros. Albert Schneider, Ernest Luginbuhl, and Eli Somerhalder stopped on their way, returning to their homes. We thank them and their company for stopping. May God bless them.

A boy, Michael William was born on Nov. 19 to Bro. Melvin and Sis.

Erma Walder. A girl was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufman on Nov. 21; she was named Valerie Lee.

Little 3-month-old Lori Ann came to make her home with Bro. Loren and Sis. Eileen Bauer. She has a brother, Gregg, 5-years-old, to welcome her.

Sis. Loretta Baumgartner had surgery and is getting along fine.

We welcome Bro. and Sis. Emil Fisher and Bro. and Sis. Richard Fisher, who recently moved here from the Roanoke congregation.

Our Sunday school has their Christmas program planned for Dec. 18.

At this Christmas season, we cannot help but rejoice to know, that for all the blind in sin, for all the deaf in sin, for all the crippled in sin, for all those dead in trespasses and sin, there is salvation through Jesus Christ. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.

We are standing on the threshold of a new year. Let the year not only be a beginning with God, but let us continue living for him day by day.

May it fill your heart completely

As you look to the Lord each day,
Trusting His promises faithful,
Assured of His love always.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

John Isch

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

How wonderfully this verse was obeyed when the Prairie Choristers favored us with their presence this past month. Their group consisted of around 80 brethren from Roanoke, Eureka, and Congerville. How we appreciated their efforts to journey so many miles to spend the day with us.

The Latty congregation were in charge of the services for the day, and Bro. Loren Stoller served as the voice of Him on High, in bringing to us the good word. Brethren from many surrounding churches gathered with us to provide us with the largest group we have ever had in attendance: about 250.

... And what a blessed day it was! The harmony of the Choristers was beautiful, and the fellowship that we all shared with them was truly blessed. After the serv-

ices, their song service, and a fellowship hour, almost 200 brethren and friends ate dinner together at a local restaurant. The parting hour came quickly, but fond memories will long linger from such a blessed day.

No services were held here over the Thanksgiving Holiday; likewise, Christmas Sunday will be vacant, as the many students in the area, who comprise a fundamental part of our congregation, will be visiting their homes and families. Beginning in January, however, services will resume as usual, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. We heartily welcome any and all who could and would gather with us.

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Aaron A. Sauder

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,

Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;

Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,

Call us, O Lord, to Thy eternal peace.

On November 14, the Lord bade the pain of Sis. Elizabeth Koroknay to cease. During her funeral services, the thought was expressed, that as at the close of a beautiful day, we enjoy the afterglow of the sunset, likewise the life of Sis. Koroknay was bright with the love she so freely shared with us all, her family and friends, and now in her death we experience the afterglow of her shining Christian example. We extend our sympathy to her children, Mrs. Ann Appleman, Mrs. Helen Bates, Mrs. Martha LaRue, Mrs. Barbara Berger; sons Carl, John, Alex and Tony Koroknay; and her grandchildren.

And on November 21, with no time for last goodbyes, Bro. Earl Hoffman answered the Lord's call to eternal peace. It is less than two years since Bro. Earl was baptized, but during that time he was bouyant with the love and joy he had in the Lord. At his funeral, the statement was said that our congregation has lost its happiest member. We pray for God's comfort to Bro. Earl's wife, Sis. Anna Sauder Hoffman; his three sons, William, Harold and Russell (Corky); his grandchildren; and to his brother Floyd.

Our congratulations and best

wishes to the new Mr. and Mrs. Philip Witschi, who recently exchanged marriage vows. Prior to her wedding, Mrs. Witschi was the former Rosemary Brumm, Philip is the son of Victor Witschi.

Matthew Jay is the name of the son born on November 9 to Bro. Bernie and Sis. Beverly (Dolce) Washington. Little Matt has two brothers and a sister.

"Know ye that the LORD he is God: . . . be thankful unto him, and bless his name." We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Sam Aeschliman with us for services on Thanksgiving morning. After services, Susan Mayer, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Edith Mayer, gave her testimony of her conversion, with baptism following. Sis. Susan resides in Indianapolis and attends services there, but as she lived in Mansfield when she was a young child, and her grandparents (Bro. Karl and Sis. Tillie Oesch) reside in Mansfield, she desired to be baptized in our church. May the Lord bless her in her new life.

We were sorry to learn of the misfortune of Sis. Catherine Morrison, who was seriously injured in a fall at her home recently. We trust she will feel the presence of the Great Physician during her confinement in the hospital.

From earthly tasks lift up thine eyes.

Within a crib, in slumber lies
A little Child, so young and fair;
Tis Christ the Lord who resteth
there!

O dearest Lord, Thou holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A resting place, kept quiet for Thee.

For very joy my heart doth leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto men His Son hath giv'n.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Ruth Dapper — Julie Dapper

On Wednesday evening, November 16, Bro. Ben Maibach of Detroit and Bro. Herman Kellenberger of Elgin held services with us. Bro. Herman was accompanied by his wife. We received many blessed teachings, and thank them for their visit. They were on their return trip from Japan.

We are thankful to the Lord for

restoring moderate health and strength to Bro. Mike Reichardt, who again is able to assemble with us.

Bro. Harvey Kaisner has moved to California from Oregon; we are glad to have him in our midst again.

Our Congregation was indeed saddened by the sudden passing of Sis. Helen Gerber, on November 19. She was born in Ohio. Services were at the Peak Funeral Home in Mid Way City, California, on November 23, by Bro. John Dapper. She leaves a daughter, Mrs. Donald Barrow; a son, Richard; and four grandchildren.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

Many from our community were privileged to attend the Bluffton wedding of Bro. Ken Beer and Sis. Lynn Aeschliman. Ken is the son of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Betty Beer, and Lynn is the daughter of Bro. Walt and Sis. Imogene Aeschliman, of the Bluffton congregation. Our sincere wishes for true happiness together is extended to this young couple. They will be making their home in Bluffton for the present. Ken is a student at IU extension in Fort Wayne, and Lynn is completing her final year at Ball State University.

Following our Thanksgiving morning services we were favored with hymns by our Sunday School choir and by our Primary and Intermediate classes. A special blessing was derived from this, as the youngest to the oldest in our congregation joined their voices in giving praise and thanksgiving to the good God, who has blessed us again and again in the past year.

The death of Bro. Forrest Ritzman of the Akron congregation was felt as a personal loss to our Milford church. His voice, expounding the word of God from our pulpit, as it had so many times, will never be heard in this life again, but as it was the Living Word, we know the effects of it will live on and on. His kind and loving way to all who knew him will also be a treasured remembrance in all of our minds. We are thankful to have shared in all this.

Bro. Clarence Rassi is hospitalized at the present time for medical treatment, in Warsaw. We ask that a speedy recovery be granted him.

The anniversary of our dear Lord's birth is near us again. Many preparations are being made for different occasions to commemorate

it. School programs, Sunday School programs, caroling, all of the familiar and treasured Christmas hymns back to us once more. Nothing brings the wonder and truth of it more near than hearing these hymns sung by children. The sparkle in their eyes and the happiness on their faces, as they sing the familiar words, makes the miracle live anew in us as we review the greatest evidence of God's love.

The Sunday before Christmas will be the date for the wedding of Bro. Dave Pulver, of Ft. Wayne, and Sis. Illene Kammerer of our congregation. May the love and joy that shines throughout the Christmas season make this an even more treasured occasion for them. Dave is the son of Bro. Lester and Sis. Florence Pulver, and Illene is the daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura Kammerer.

A Note of Thanks: We wish to thank the many friends, relatives and neighbors who remembered us with your cards, gifts and letters for our Golden Anniversary. Each individual wish and remembrance helped make the day a more memorable occasion for us, and we extend our heartfelt thanks. Ezra and Louelia Beer.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Mrs. Gus Weltz

Miss Della Witschey

We have had a taste of real winter, altho' at this writing we have warmer weather, with rain which is still very badly needed. Temperature dropped to near zero on December 5 and 6.

Dan Witschey has been very ill, and was taken to a hospital in Charleston, W. Va., on November 27, where he is doing fine at this time and hopes to be home again by Christmas.

Mrs. Ortie Hassig, wife of Virgil Hassig of Limestone Ridge, passed away on November 17, following a lengthy illness. She leaves her husband, one son and three daughters. Funeral services were held on November 19.

Joe Witschey was a patient in the local hospital for a day in late November, suffered a very bad nose bleed, but has fully recovered.

Mrs. Gus Weltz, Mrs. Elza Ritz, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berger attended services at the Monroe church on November 13.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Froelich attended services at the church on November 20.

It is Christmas time again; may we wish you all a Merry Christmas. This poem is very good and has much meaning. "When the praise of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and the princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins . . . To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers, to make music in the heart.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Lafayette, Indiana

Kathy Schneider—Suzanne Bucher

Our friends, Norma Schini and Elaine Steffen have seen their deep need for the Lord, and are turning to Him in repentance. We wish them God's grace, as they strive to live for the Lord

On November 27, Mary Heinold and Shirley Frank were baptized. We rejoice with them and hope that they will ever strive to stay close to their God.

We are again celebrating Christmas with a program. We plan to hold it at our regular Wednesday night meeting, on December 14. Place: 200 Russel Street, We invite everyone to come and worship with us.

Our host churches for the month of December are La Crosse and Francesville.

TOLEDO, OHIO

Mary Ann Weigele

We have lost one of our dear sisters in faith, Mary Frautschi, who passed away on November 20, at the age of 61. She died after an illness of only 6 weeks. She had been in fairly good health until this time so her death came as a surprise. This serves as an example, that we know not what life holds in store and must strive to be prepared at all times to meet our Maker. Mary repented in her youth and has been a faithful and sincere sister in our congregation. We will miss her quiet and cheerful ways. Funeral services were Nov. 23, with Bros. Rudolph Graf, Ben Maibach and Theo. Beer officiating. Surviving are: sisters, Emily at home, Mrs. Josephine Reineck of Sylvania Ohio, Mrs. Ralph Troxel of Bluffton; and brothers, Albert of Grabill, Arthur of Toledo, and Carl of Bloomington (Ill.).

We have enjoyed the messages brought to us by several visiting

ministers this past month. On Thanksgiving Day, Elder Bro. George Sinn from Latty was with us. The following Sunday, Bro. Floyd Wieland of Detroit shared the day with us. Another Sunday, Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. Herman Norr from Leo visited here to give us a report on the World Relief program. Bro. Henry Manz from Junction was also here and ministered unto us that Sunday.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer

God richly blessed us this past month through the visits of Bros. Earl Banwart, West Bend; Robert Beer, Mansfield; Noah Gerber, West Bend; Robert Pohl, Burlington; Floyd Schmidgall, Morris; and Elmer Witzig, Gridley (Ill.) We are thankful there are brothers such as these who are willing to proclaim the word of God, that we may be instructed in the things that are eternal.

On November 27, Katherine Lang passed away at the age of 91, in the home of Sis. Elizabeth Woerner. May God comfort all who mourn her passing, especially her sister (who is a member of our congregation)—Sis. Pauline Waldbeser, and her niece, Sis. Elizabeth, with whom she lived for a great many years.

We are glad to report that Sis. Elsie Sinn, after having spent some time in the hospital, is now able to assemble with us again. Diane Steiner, daughter of Bro. Daniel and Sis. Shirley, was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy. Also hospitalized were Pete Winzeler, Mrs. Fred Endress and Bro. Si Koch.

This year, let's keep Christmas in a simple, quiet, reverent way which will be an honor and glory unto God. All the hustle and bustle, the glitter and clatter are merely devices to take our time and attention, until we are so busy we have hardly a moment left to be thankful that, on that first Christmas Day, God gave us the greatest and most precious gift of all—His Son—that men "should not perish, but have everlasting life."

TAYLOR MISSOURI

Mrs. Eli Sutter Mrs. Bill Heimer

We appreciated having Bro. Bob Pohl, Burlington, Ia., minister to us on Thanksgiving Day. His family came with him to spend the day with us.

The Sunday School pupils and

teachers are practicing for the Christmas program that is to be given on Sun. the 18th.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Huber and family are presently living in La Grange, Mo., having been transferred from Rhode Island to the Naval Reserve Training Center at Quincy, Ill. Both Vernon and Judy were formerly from Morton. We are glad to welcome them to our assembly.

In behalf of those of us that were fortunate enough to be able to attend the Aid Meeting and Conference, we would like to thank the brothers and sisters of the Fairbury church for all they did for us, for the love and hospitality they showed us, and the good food they served us. We are deeply grateful.

We wish all of you a blessed Christmas season, and pray that all who put their trust in Him may receive grace and strength for what the New Year may bring us.

LEO, INDIANA

Mrs. Elias Souder

Services for Thanksgiving were Thursday forenoon, and our friend, Steve Bollier, was announced, to give his testimony before the church.

The children of the Sunday School gave their program on Sunday evening, at the church. Carolyn Miller was announced this day to give her testimony before the church.

Edward and Connie Frautschi were baptized and partook of communion with the church. Bros. George Sinn and Irvin Stoller of Latty and Henry Souder of Bremen were here. A dinner at the Fellowship Center was enjoyed by all.

We extend our sympathy to the Jacob Frautschi family, in the loss of their loved one, Mary. Mary's mother was a sister to Rose, Diana and Adella Conrad, and Mary is a sister of Albert Frautschi.

One of our dear friends at the Butler Rest Home passed away. She had visited the church here while she was feeling quite well yet. She died of a heart condition.

Sis. Cora Levy is about the same at the Crow's Rest Home in Fort Wayne and Bro. John Bollier is at the Parnell Park Nursing Home. Saturday was his birthday. We all wish the best for body and soul for him.

Gospel Hymns Revised 1 to 6 has been completed. Many have already

received their book. Approximately 3400 were delivered or picked up. Approximately 1600 more will be finished the week of the 12th. Many of these are already sold. Anyone wanting more books should order now. Wherever it is used, it is uplifting and inspiring to climb on to higher ground. There are 148 new songs.

Some of the songs are fragrant with memory of our loved ones: Sunset . . . Bro. Louis Getz of Ft. Wayne. "The Master Calls for Reapers" and "We Shall Know Up Yonder" Bro. Samuel Gerber of Bremen. Elder Brother Henry Souded loved the song, "No, Not One".

If you would like to know which songs were put in, and where, refer to the Nov., 1965 issue of the Silver Lining. Gospel Hymns Publishing Co., Grabill, Ind. a non-profit organization.

About the Ministry of Singing

Paul was a great advocate of hymn-singing. He repeatedly urged people to use them. When he and Silas were thrown in prison, they sang. Can't you just imagine someone saying or thinking, **Listen to those men. They really have something!** The ministry of music binds people together.

I heard about an American, badly injured in the street fighting in a riot in the Near East. He was driven long miles to a hospital by a man who know no English. The American tried a little "school boy" French and German with the driver. No response. Finally, to get his mind off his pain, the injured man tried singing a hymn softly. At once the driver took up the tune and joined in singing the hymn, in his own language. Even across language barriers, a Christian hymn had become a kind link.

ALABAMA

Lynn Klopfenstein

John and Betty (Frost) Byars are the parents of a son, born Nov. 19. He is the second son, and has been named James Arlon. Woodrow and Sis. Eva Will Hagggenmaker are parents of their third daughter, born November 28. They also have two sons.

Construction of the new church house in the Moulton-Landersville area is moving ahead rapidly. Inside work is being done, and as of this writing, the interior paneling is almost completed in the assem-

bly room. The heating system is almost entirely installed, and the rough plumbing work is completed. The Lord be praised for the assistance that He has provided and the help that many have offered.

The Athens Thanksgiving service was held at the home of Bro. and Sis. George Kelly in Tennessee. There was a large gathering, and a good time was experienced around the word of God.

A Singspiration was held at the home of Sis. Clara Heiniger. Many from the three area churches were there to enjoy the spirited singing.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

La Verne Roth — Kathryn Miller

All of Bro. and Sis. Sam Schupbach's children and grandchildren were here, to visit their parents and grandparents and attend the Schupbach Reunion Thanksgiving Day. On Thanksgiving Eve, Bro. Richard Schupbach, of Phoenix, delivered an inspiring message from the word of God.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Elizabeth Otti and Sis. Elmer Kisling.

Bros. Eli Somerhalder and Raymond Roth attended the Conference at Fairbury.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Lydia and Eunice Kammerer

Visiting ministers the past month were the following: Bros. Floyd Schmidgal and Harold Gramm, Morris; Bro. Ernest Graf, Akron; Bro. Marty, Lamar; Bro. Moore, Alabama; and Bro. James Ringger, Bradford.

Sisters Loretta and Jane Gramm have returned to their respective homes from Mennonite Hospital, where both had undergone surgery several weeks ago. Both are recovering nicely.

Bro. Barnhardt Ringger is a patient in Brokaw Hospital. We hope he will soon be able to return to his home again.

Sis. Emily Schlipf passed away unexpectedly at her home, on Sunday, Nov. 27. She had returned to her home from the hospital the day before, and seemingly was getting along all right. Then the summons came. Emily is survived by four sisters, Martha and Anna, Gridley; Mrs. Ida Pfaffman, Peoria; Esther, Oregon; two brothers, Adam and Carl, Gridley; and several nieces and nephews.

Bros. Elmer Witzig, Emil Grusy, Wilbert Funk and Art Gramm were

the brothers from Gridley who went to Alabama to assist with the building of the new church.

Our guest singers for November were Bro. Lloyd Schumacher and his group from Eureka and Roanoke. We hope they will return again sometime, as their presentation of hymns was both inspiring and beautiful. Thank you, Roanoke and Eureka.

Address: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kaufman Jr., Dunn Apt. 77, Carbondale, Illinois.

LESTER, IOWA

Emelie Knobloch

Patty Knobloch, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Dale Knobloch, was hospitalized with bronchitis; for observation. Bro. Carl Feucht, Bro. Edwin Knobloch has returned to his home from Rochester and is recuperating nicely, following major surgery. Carl Leuthold is back at school. All these loved ones have been able to attend services again.

Lonnie Feucht and LeRoy Kellenberger have been discharged from the services. Marvin Metzger enlisted in the National Guard.

Many folks from here attended the annual Conference in Fairbury.

Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger celebrated their 59th wedding, November 17. May God share his blessings upon their years together.

As we approved the holiday season again, may we be reminded of God's promise of a Saviour. May we not leave the real meaning out of Christmas, but review the blessed story of Jesus birth and sing Christmas carols, to exercise faith in Christ. May we be thankful for God's blessings of the past year, as a new Book of Time lies before many of us, with the New Year rapidly approaching. May we prayerfully solve the trials, sorrows, disappointments and surprises we may have in store for this the new year. May the Lord bestow his blessings, so whatever may befall us, we may accept as a teaching, so we may share a heavenly reunion. May we share our holiday greetings to all, especially those loved ones who will be unable to be home with their families, or those who are ill.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Herman Schaefer

Mrs. Otto Schaefer

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Luthi are the parents of a daughter. She has been named Rita Marie.

Bro. Ernest Kellenberger Jr. received a broken shoulder and fractured wrist, while helping dig the water line for the new church. We pray that he will soon be completely recovered.

Sis. Martha Griener has undergone surgery, but is able to assemble with us again.

"Lets Keep Christ In Christmas"

"A ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRIP"

Concluded

Charles, our son, surprised us by meeting us at Zurich; to put it mildly we were happy as well, both to see him again after a considerable absence and to have him guide us in this strange land, among people of a different language. We were soon through customs and then on our way by train to Innsbruck, Austria to meet Charles's wife, Ingrid, and their 13-month-old son, Michael, whom we had never seen. We spent two very wonderful weeks in and out of their home, seeing the beautiful mountains. We climbed them, walked them and rode the cable cars. We stayed for 2 or 3 days in a remote Alpine Chalet, beside a beautiful snow water creek, which also furnished power by turbine for our electric lights in the Chalet. Mom and I went climbing up the mountains to the snow lines—saw the beautiful Alpine roses. Three kinds of Alpine flowers are so well known that they are embroidered in many of the doilies, handkerchiefs and tablecloths at Switzerland's embroidery center. A few people lose their lives every year trying to pick the highly prized Edelweiss flower, which grows only high on the peaks.

Innsbruck is situated in the Inn River Valley in the Tyrolean Alps, and is one of the beauty spots of Europe. It is 20 or 30 miles from the Brenner Pass, so well known in history and the wars between nations. On the South or Italian side of the pass, the weather is considerably more mild. You wouldn't have to travel much farther south to find citrus and palm trees, we were told. A week after we were at Brenner, there was a snowfall there which backed up the autos for 20 miles to the new Europa bridge, highest in Europe, on Europe's north-south highway, which is within sight of Innsbuckers.

Most European homes are 2 or more stories high and built of masonry. Two or more families live in nearly all of them. Much fruit, vegetables and also beautiful

flowers are grown in the yards. We also saw the interesting historical sights of Innsbruck and traveled by train to Vienna thru Salzburg, Linz etc. Much of Eastern Austria is agricultural. The fields of wheat, barley and oats were beginning to ripen and were real pretty, which reminds us of the promise, that seed-time and harvest shall not fail so long as the earth shall stand. European farming operations are becoming more mechanized.

We looked forward with a great deal of longing to meet with Bro. Schrock and Bro. Bahler and our dear soldier brethren and friends at the church at Neuhutten. This meeting leaves a memory precious to our hearts. To see the happiness on these young men's faces for this privilege, made possible by many willing hearts and hands, was something we who saw and experienced can never forget. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least . . . ye have done it unto me." What a blessing to again hear the precious word of life, as it was brought to these dear young men and (to us all) so far from their loved ones and from their home congregations by the brothers, who became willing to spend and to be spent out of love for the Lord to feed His lambs and sheep. Most of us lingered as long as we could in the environment of this fellowship. The time came to part, as it must, our separate ways.

The church people of the Neuhutten congregation were very hospitable. Taking the soldier boys and us all into their homes as if they had known us for a long time, sharing the use of their church for our services in our own language, inviting us to stay for their services in the German language, and also inviting us to a hymn singing on Sunday evening, which we enjoyed very much.

We were taken through the Old Folk's Home at Neuhutten, which has a heart-touching background. The European churches would not have been able to build this home (it was frankly stated) without the help of the American churches. They were very thankful and deeply appreciative. Its facilities have been fully utilized since it was built just after the last World war. Some 33 (more or less) widows are staying there. Many of our older members will remember the correspondence from Europe, which told of the pitiful conditions, hunger, cold and sickness after the war, also large

numbers of displaced people who had to flee from their homes and somehow had to be cared for. How comforting now to realize that our little mite reached this destination and was put to good use. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Hans Heer, one of the ministers at Neuhutten church, took Charles, Ingrid, Mikie, Mom and I to Oerlingen to catch the train to Heidelberg, where we wanted to look up some of Tillie's cousins. We were real fortunate in this and enjoyed our stay and getting acquainted with them. The memory jewel of this portion of our trip was finding the home where Grandma Metzger (my wife's mother) was born and grew to young womanhood. How it stirred our hearts to see the home where she was a girl—had walked these very streets—went in and out of that very home and left for a strange new land with faith that God would bless them there, which we who knew her can testify. She died in the faith and left a good testimony of faithfulness, humility and love for all.

In Switzerland we visited for five days, experiencing again the hospitality of church people. As you see the beauty of this land you can not help thinking of the beautiful words of the Psalmist, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork." Here we saw the old "Gibble Church, where my mother first went to church. It is still standing, but is now used as a dwelling. As I looked at it and the picture formed in my mind of my own dear mother going to church here as a child, of first hearing the "truth" which later made her free, it brought tears to my eyes. She repented just after she came across the ocean—she promised God if He would bring her safely through the stormy seas, she would become His child and follower. This she did by the grace of God, and left for us, her children, both a good example, many teachings, a blessed memory and the comfort that she is at rest in those beautiful mansions.

This experience, with some variations, we made again as we visited Eastern Switzerland, where my father was born and raised. It does stir one's heart to see the land where parents and grandparents came from, and we can only conclude with the thought, "Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out; he is excellent in power, and in

judgment . . . Men do therefore fear Him . . ."

OAKVILLE, IOWA Martha Steiner

Bro. Connie and Sis. Roletta Gerst have been blessed with a sweet little girl named Linda Marie, who came to live with them and their small son Roy when she was only five days old.

Bros. Noah Gerber and Earl Banwart from West Bend, accompanied by their wives, spent a blessed evening with us in the house of God, after the conference in Fairbury. Bro. Roy Farney from Phoenix was with us that evening and again on Sunday. Bro. Noah Herman from Tucson also spent that Sunday afternoon with us. We are truly thankful for everyone who is led by God to preach His holy word in truth and simplicity.

Sis. Della, dear wife of Bro. Joe Reiman, departed this life on Sunday morning, Nov. 13. Surviving beside her husband are a daughter, Sis. Josephine (Glen) Martin and two sons. Another son preceded her in death.

Sis. Emma Frank was laid to rest that same week. She had been living in Peoria. Her family in Oakville includes Sis. Lena (Fred) Siegle and Bros. John and Ernest Frank.

Friend Richard Stoller passed away the evening before Thanksgiving Day. Survivors include his wife and children. His brother, Bro. Earl Stoller, is of our congregation.

A number of young people from our Sunday School participated in picking up corn in a field owned by Bro. Orttie Rocke. They earned for our church building. We appreciate their efforts, put forth in the interest of the Sunday School and dining room addition to our church.

Our November meeting in Iowa City was well attended by the students, also the members of the Iowa congregations. We welcome everyone who has a desire to come and worship with us each month.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS Sara Aeschleman

Announcement has been made of the coming marriage of our friends, Mary Kay Hodel, daughter of Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann Hodel, to Rodric Huber—son of the Eugene Hubers of Medaryville, Indiana.

John Moser, 10-year-old son of Harley and Sis. Gerry Moser, had

his appendix removed and is getting along nicely.

We are so glad and thankful at this Christmas season for our dear friends Kathy Fischer, Kenneth Hodel, Gary and Joyce Roth, who have turned their backs to the world and Satan and are now seeking their soul's salvation.

So, take my promise, Lord;
Too long in sin I've bided.
I'd be henceforth for Thee,
By Thee, my Saviour, guided!
O do Thou hold me fast;
From sin, O make me free,
So that henceforth my heart
Thy temple pure may be!

Sun. Nov. 27, Bro. Eugene Bertschi was ordained elder. Bros. John Bahler, Noah Bauman, Joe Waibel, and LeRoy Huber had the services. It was truly an inspiring act, performed before God and many witnesses. It would be our sincere prayer and wish that the Lord would give much grace to Bro. Gene, and guide and direct him in all things, as he takes responsibility of elder and shepherd of our flock. May God give each member a sincere desire to be faithful and obedient, and as the songwriter expressed himself: Be faithful in small and unimportant matters, yet to be careful and sincere, not knowingly to faults consenting, however small they may appear. Remember, soul, that not the humblest obedience shall the Lord forget.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA, ILLINOIS Ben Blunier

Peace on earth, good will to men. The beautiful message is there, always. Peace, in our own hearts, first, is our continuing task to strive to maintain, as Satan so often and so easily tries to disturb it. Now as the new year comes on, shouldn't we dedicate ourselves anew to **Love God**? There is no room for hate in a heart full of His love.

God is good. The inspired messages as delivered this month by Bros. Eli Somerhalder, Burlington, Oklahoma; Uriel Gehring, Burlington, Iowa; Joe Schrock, Congerville; and Emanuel Gudeman, Cissna Park, were wonderful spiritual food, with exhortation to better Christian service. The call to sinners to come and taste and see came out clearly. Thank you, brothers; may God add the increase.

Bob Beebe, Cissna Park; Loretta

(Kupferschmid) Leman, Eureka; and Kenneth Hodel and Gary Roth, Roanoke, are repenting. God bless them with their every spiritual need.

Beginning January 1, 1967, there will be services every Sunday at Champaign, continuing at the University YMCA, 1001 South Wright Street, at 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Bros. Emanuel Gudeman and Ed Hohulin will each serve as minister once a month, and other churches will provide a minister on the other Sundays. Schedules have been sent to the ministers of the participating churches, as well as to students and residents in the area. We hope our assembling will continue to be blessed as it has been in the past.

WICHITA, KANSAS

Mrs. Larry Farney
Mrs. Harvey Smith

Hospital patients this month were Susie Conrad, granddaughter of Sis. Hattie Farney, for a tonsillectomy; and Phyllis Bowers, daughter of Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bowers, for a kidney infection.

The building fund has constructed a lovely model of the proposed new church. The members and Sunday School children are making donations each Sunday.

The Thanksgiving holidays were blessed this year with the repentance of two dear souls. Marty Langhofer, son of Bro. Al Langhofer and Sis. Judy, and Sarah Bowers, daughter of Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian, have seen the importance of devoting their lives to the Lord in these days of trials and tribulations. We wish these dear souls the grace of the Lord to complete what they have begun.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Marian Wiegand

As carols resound and glad tidings are spread, a feeling of joy fills the air. It is Christmas! . . . A day to lay aside our daily problems, and rejoice that God sent his Son to redeem the lost.

After six weeks training at Lackland Air Force Base, David Wiegand has returned home and will continue his training at Peoria.

Shawn Franklin was the name chosen for the son born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Sandy Hohulin. This is their third son. Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin are the paternal grandparents, and Bro. Orville and Sis. Priscilla Martin are the maternal grandparents.

Our best wishes go to Bro. Richard Hartter and Sis. Verna Martin. They have plans for a January wedding.

Phyllis Zobrist is recuperating at home of injuries received when she fell.

Sis. Julia Leman has been dismissed from the hospital. She was a patient there for 5½ weeks. We are happy to report she is getting along very well, and no longer needs her walker.

College address: Don Frank, 414 Walker Hall, Normal Ill.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Lorna Schrock—Jeanette Knapp

Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder are parents of a baby girl, Janet Lynn, born on Nov. 9.

Hospitalized during the past month were Sis. Irene Schrock and Sis. Elsie Knapp. Both underwent minor surgery and are assembling with us again.

In the hospital was 3½-year-old Tommy Sides, son of Gladys Sides and grandson of Bro. Edgar and Sis. Mary Sides. He had pneumonia and has suffered partial paralysis, due to complications. We pray that the Lord will continue to restore his body to full health.

We were grateful for the ministry of Bro. Charles Marti from Lamar.

Christmas! What does it mean to you? As we are once again in the Christmas season, let us ponder over the true meaning of Christmas. Matthew 1:21 says: ". . . thou shalt call His name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Yes, He came to live and die that we might be saved from our sins and the dire consequences of sin. Truly His coming was wonderful!

Wonderful

Wonderful birth, to a manger He came,
Made in the likeness of men, to proclaim
God's boundless love for a world,
sick with sin,
Pleading with sinners to let Him come in.

Wonderful life, full of service so free,
Friend to the poor and the needy was He.
Unfailing goodness on all He bestowed;
Undying faith in the vilest He showed.

Wonderful death, for it meant not defeat;
Calvary made His great mission complete,
Wrought our redemption, and when He arose,
Banished forever the last of our foes.

Wonderful hope; He is coming again,
Coming as King o'er the nations to reign.
Glorious promise; He word cannot fail.
His righteous kingdom at last must prevail!

RITTMAN, OHIO

Ella Mae Trent—Claribel Walters

The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

On Dec. 2, our congregation was deeply saddened with the sudden death of Sis. Lois Gasser. She leaves her husband, Bro. Glenn; six children, Linda, Virgil, Dan, Dale, Jolleen, and Ben, all at home; her father, Bro. John Hartzler; two brothers, Bros. Joseph and John Hartzler Jr. and five sisters, Sis. Jane Klotzle, Sis. Marjorie Zollinger, Sis. Rosemary Gerber, Sis. Verna Rufener, and Elaine McCreary.

The Lord comes at an unexpected hour. Can we all say we are ready, as we feel Lois was?

Gail Maibach, daughter of Elmer and Sis. Alma Maibach, and Ned Spangler, son of Donald and Sis. Louise Spangler, were united in Holy Matrimony on Nov. 27 by our elder, Bro. Noah Bauman.

A son, Scott Edward was born to Mrs. Edward Winkler on Nov. 3. Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach welcome their first child, a daughter, Karen Lou, born Nov. 16. A son, Christopher Michael, was born to Sam and Judy Hilty, on Nov. 23.

Bro. Denny Nieman, Bro. Gary and Sis. Mary Ann Maibach are home on leave for Christmas. They are to leave for Viet Nam in early January. May the Lord be with them wherever they go.

Another dear soul has answered the call of the Lord. Friend Sharon Walder, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder, has repented and found peace. She has been announced and awaits proving. Also repenting are Friends Jack and Clara Maibach and Galen and Cheryl Indermuhle.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA Joanie Heiniger

On Sunday, Nov. 13, dedication services were held, with Bros. Sam Aeschliman and Ezra Feller giving the Dedication Sermon. It was brought out that this was only a building, and that the real church was in the inside. May our new house of worship always be a sacred place, where those who wish may worship the Lord in truth and sincerity, and may there always be unity among the members. There is a blessing and much strength in unity. Approximately 700 attended the services. It was surely a blessed day and should be a very pleasant memory for all who were here.

On Thanksgiving Day, our Sis. Peggy Heinold and Bro. Duane Metzger (from West Bend) were united in holy matrimony by Bro. George Yergler. May God always be with them, and bless them as they begin another Christian home. Many from a distance were here to attend the wedding. Bro. Eugene Heinold was home from the service to attend the wedding of his sister.

Sunday, Nov. 27 was again a blessed day, as friends Shirley Frank and Mary Heinold gave their testimony, were baptized and received into the fold. It surely is a joy when one, or more, souls turn to the Lord and become a child of God. It always brings back memories of the day we were baptized and were accepted into the fold.

Bro. Albert Schneider and Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl from Rockville spent an evening with us and brought a message for all.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Garnet Nuest are the parents of a baby girl, born Nov. 20. They named her Elaine Louise. Vernon and Kathleen Nuest are the parents of a son, born Nov. 30. They named him Shawn Michael. He has a brother, Scott to welcome him. Bro. Lester and Sis. Anna Nuest are the paternal grandparents of both babies.

Bro. Ezra Meiss was stricken with a heart attack the week before Thanksgiving. He is seriously ill in the Porter Memorial Hospital in Valparaiso. He is slowly improving, for which we are grateful.

HISTORY OF THE LACROSSE CHURCH

The Apostolic Christian Church of LaCrosse made its beginning with a small group of brothers and sisters, mostly from Illinois, mov-

ing to this area. This part of Indiana had not been established and populated nearly as long as the areas in Illinois, where these brothers and sisters had lived. This area, being as new as it was, offered many opportunities in agriculture. The older, established Apostolic Christian churches were also being blessed spiritually and were growing in numbers. God had at various times provided opportunities in different parts of the world which were sought out and somehow found, by His children, that they might be witnesses of His true word throughout the world.

The Bro. Joe Swing family of Fairbury was the first family of this faith to move to the LaCrosse area. They established their home on a farm east of LaCrosse in the year 1914. The families of George Yergler and Ed Troxel settled in the community of LaCrosse in the year 1915. Edward Wittmer and his sisters, Emma and Anna also moved to this community the same year. The families of Andrew Heiniger, Sam Heinold, Joe Heinold and Harvey Adams established homes in the vicinity of Kouts, also in the year 1915.

There was no church of the Apostolic Christian faith in the area at this time, so these brothers and sisters in faith attended worship services at the Francesville church whenever possible.

The following year, in 1916, the families of Chris Siebenthal, David Siebenthal Jr., Henry Meiss, Sam Frank and Henry Swing moved into the community. Otto Fritz and John Meiss also came the same year.

It was then decided by this small body of twenty-one members to erect a church building at the south end of LaCrosse. It was further agreed that this building was to be erected in the form of a home, trusting that, when the Lord added His blessing with enough members, that a larger church building would be erected. Until this first building was completed, they assembled in the various homes for worship services.

On June 2, 1916 Willis Troxel, six-year-old son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Troxel, passed away. Funeral services were conducted at their home, and burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery.

In June 1916 the building for worship services was completed, and the first services were held June

18, with Bro. Ed Eglin of Morris officiating.

The next service was held July 2, with Bro. Dan Gerber of Bluffton officiating. It was then decided to gather every Sunday, with assurance of the Bluffton and Francesville brethren to provide this little flock with a minister one Sunday a month from each church, leaving two Sundays a month waiting upon the blessing of the Lord, either to send a visiting minister or just gather to sing spiritual hymns, read scripture and have a prayer. This continued until September, 1918, when Bro. George Yergler was instated into the ministry.

In the fall of 1916, the family of John Nuest moved to the vicinity. The families of Rudolph Germann and George Moser arrived in 1917. The Louis Zimmerman and Will Troxel families came in 1918. In 1919 the families of David Sieben-thal Sr., Carl Hotter and Carl Weiss moved here. In 1918, Otto Fritz was baptized, the first convert to be added to this little congregation.

In 1920 the families of Albert Bucher, Eli Stoller, Ludwig Heller, Sam Wuthrich, Adam Pfladderer, Fred Heinold, Jake Heiniger, Henry Heiniger, Emil Marti, and Dave Alt moved into the vicinity. The Weiser Brothers, Harry Bucher, Joe Klopfenstein and Sam Heiniger also came that year. In the spring of 1920, Leah Meiss, the widow of Fred Meiss, moved to LaCrosse with her family. On November 7, 1920, Otto Fritz and Pauline Heinold were united in holy matrimony. This was the first marriage ceremony in this church.

In 1921, the families of Chris Heiniger and John Heinold came to this community, and the families, Matt Heinold, John Alt, Ezra Meiss came in 1922. In 1924 Bro. Harry Bucher was instated into the ministry.

These brothers and sisters which are yet living well remember the bond of Christian love which prevailed and tied this small church so close together. Although the Lord always blessed them with sufficient food and raiment, there was no flourishing era of prosperity at that time, which made the spiritual blessings so much more precious. This we believe is in accordance with the last instructions of our Lord to His apostles, when He said, "These things I command you, that ye love one another."

In the year of 1933 the Lord add-

ed one of the greatest blessings to the church, when twenty-nine souls repented and were baptized.

Bro. George Yergler was ordained elder in 1936. By 1938, twenty-two years after the first church building had been erected, the blessing of the Lord which the church had hoped and prayed for became a reality. The building was too small. The congregation of Cissna Park had a church building which was no longer in use. It was dismantled, moved to LaCrosse and rebuilt. Dedication services were held September 11, 1938, with Bro. Herman Hueni of Bremen officiating.

On January 10, 1948, Bro. Arthur Gudeman was instated into the ministry.

In 1962 a group of members living in the Valparaiso area decided to establish a church in that area. A building was purchased, and they had their first service June 10, with Bro. Harry Bucher being their minister.

On April 7, 1963, Bro. Merle Bucher and Bro. Edward Frank were instated into the ministry (at LaCrosse).

Due to inadequate facilities within the church, and the present building not having the potential for extensive improvements, in 1963 the church had a final decision to build a new church building. The Kritch property in the southwest part of town was purchased. The new building was started in the summer of 1965. On October 16, 1966 the new church building was occupied for the first time for worship services. Open House was held, and dedication of the church was Sunday, November 13.

The Dedicated Church

With our new church dedicated
To our God and to His Son,
Jesus Christ its true foundation
Is its own firm cornerstone.

As the nails and glue and mortar
Hold the bricks and boards in place,
Makes the strong new house of
worship
Even fiercest storms to face . . .

Let us learn the good example
How the little things on earth
Are of just as much importance
As the things of greatest worth.

Likewise love of every member
Holds the church of God secure,

Through the midst of storm and
anguish
Every trial to endure

There's a moral in this story;
Truly, there is no finer gift,
Next to serving God in Heaven,
To help another's load to lift.

Although humble seems our service
That to God and church we bring,
To some soul 'twill be essential
And will please the Heavenly King.

So let us put our soul and body
Into everything that is good;
If we love our loving Saviour,
We will love His brotherhood.

REMINGTON, INDIANA

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Irvin Lehman for Bro. Phil L. Getz, Nov. 11. He was in the hospital only a few days, although he had been in failing health for a number of years. His departure was not expected. He had his 70th birthday in September. He was married to Sis. Ida Gruber in 1922. She passed away in Aug., 1939. In 1942 he married Sis. Eliza Bahler, who survives with the following children, Ronald, Bro. Eldon at home, Sis. Lucile Steffen of Rensselaer, Sis. Kathryn Beer of Milford, Bro. Maurice of Reynolds and Sis. Marilyn Bahler of Wolcott. Four brothers and three sisters also survive. Our congregation will miss him. He was an inspiration to all as he bore his affliction bravely and courageously.

The family wishes to express their thanks to all who remembered him from time to time, & now to all those who in anyway expressed their sympathy.

We are happy to report two more of our friends have found their need of a Saviour, Norma Schini, daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Amelia, and Elaine Steffen, daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Lucile Steffen. We wish them God's richest blessings and trust this step in faith will help others.

Jack and Linda Pherson have a baby boy, Bryan Scott. Bro. Odell and Sis. Marjorie Pittman are the happy grandparents

We had many visitors Thanksgiving Day from surrounding congregations. We appreciated the inspiring message by Bro. Joe Kaisner of Forrest . . . Reminding us how fortunate we are and how thankful we should be that we can assemble

as we do. Yet, so many neglect this privilege.

We were happy to meet Sis. Irene Merkel Knobloch and family from Lester. Few of us remembered her. She was the daughter of Bro. Jake Merkel, who was minister at Wolcott for some time. She was quite young when her parents passed away. She moved from here. Her brother Otto and family still live here; his son is soon leaving for Viet Nam. Our thoughts and prayers go out for all who are called upon to serve our government.

Bro. Andy Nussbaum has been in the hospital for several days for observation.

Sis. Marilyn (Elmer) Bahler was in the hospital for surgery.

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Card of Thanks: Will take this opportunity to thank all our loved ones who so kindly remembered us with get-well wishes and gifts during our stay in Wisconsin seeking help and relief for my trouble.

Also many thanks for the beautiful Birthday greetings, gifts and prayers since we are at home. We wish you God's blessings; may He richly reward you. Even a glass of cool water shall have a reward when given in a disciple's name. Bro. Erwin and Sis. Anna Bahler.

The love of the Lord to cheer the way,
The strength of the Lord to be thy stay,
The word of the Lord to be thy guide,
The hand of the Lord to still provide,
The arm of the Lord to hold thee fast,
The home of the Lord thy rest at last!

May we all strive to grow in faith, to grasp the blessings that can be ours thru His love and grace.

Christmas is more than a day at
the end of the year,
More than a season of joy
and good cheer,
Christmas is really
God's pattern for living

To be followed all year by
unselfish giving . . .

For the holiday season
awakens good cheer

And draws us closer to those we
hold dear . . .

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

We are thankful to Ministering Brothers Walter Rehklau of Toledo and Merril Laukhuff and Irvin Stoller of Latty for their visits and messages. May the Heavenly Father ever bless them.

A Thanksgiving program was held on Sunday evening, Nov. 13. This was also the night of our monthly singing. We wish to thank those from Latty for their part in the program and for their support, shown in the large number in attendance.

Those of us who could enjoy a very blessed day, Nov. 20, with our beloved brethren and friends at Bremen, wish to express our sincere thanks. May God bless you for your love and kindness.

In a recent sermon we were reminded that, "If you are tired of the old life you are living, what better time than today to start a new life . . ." The Bible says of Jesus, "If you will come unto me, I will receive you. We must come surrendered. Friends, why not consider this very carefully while the door of grace is yet open? **Know ye not that it is your Master's choice that not one of you shall be lost, but that all shall be found worthy to enter the Heavenly Kingdom?**

Bro. and Sis. Raymond and Mary Pulfer became grandparents, on November 8, when Michelle Lynn was born to their daughter and husband, Bro. and Sis. Dale and Karen Frauhiger, of La Belle Florida. Sis. Clara Stoller is the new grandmother of Steven Michael Yoder, who arrived on November 21. His parents are Eugene and Marian Yoder of Nappanee, Indiana.

Preparation is being made for our Christmas program, which will be held on Wednesday evening, December 21. How thankful we are that **Christ, the Savior was born**, as was said by the angels on that first Christmas night. As our thoughts are turned to the events of that first Christmas, one can only marvel at the wonders of the Almighty God, who is our Heavenly Father.

May we wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year!

"Wisemen and Shepherds"

Bro. Verlin Stoller

. . . there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field . . . (Luke 2:8) . . . behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, (Matthew 2:1)

The Shepherds

were **common people**— they came to Bethlehem seeking the Saviour, after receiving the message from the angels. At the opposite end of the intellectual and social ladder were Wise Men—scientists, educated, rich and cultured. They came to the royal city of Jerusalem seeking a King. The Shepherds found the Saviour as a baby in a stable and had nothing to bring **except** worship and praise. The Wise Men, however, found not an infant, but a child. They found Him not in a stable, but in a house. They brought Him their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

We can learn a lesson from the announcements of the two events. The angels announced a Saviour, but the star announced a King. These suggest the two comings of Christ. He first came as a Saviour, poor and with no room for Him at the inn. He soon felt the scorn of men and was ultimately rejected by His own people He came to redeem. Only a few recognized Him and received Him as the Son of God. Matthew's record, however, proclaims the good news of His coming as King of Kings—to receive the royal welcome and reception of His loyal subjects when "every knee shall bow". The first coming of Christ as Saviour is incomplete without His second triumphant coming in glory. Only as we own Him as Saviour now will we be ready to meet Him as King at His coming, again.

Apostolic Pioneers

The faith of this departed pioneer of our precious faith was surely grounded firmly on the solid rock, as was revealed by several of her daughters in a recent visit with them.

She was one who had a great belief in her church, willingly served as best she could, and accepted the teachings and church order as had been given to her, even in her youth.

She often took her concerns to her Lord, and as one of her daughters stated, "She can remember yet, hearing her mother uttering words of prayer through closed doors, and one would often find her spending

her Sunday evenings reading her Bible".

This departed sister was seldom one to complain, but bore her trials or afflictions in silence through talking to the Lord in prayer. This brings to mind the words of one of our beloved hymns: "O, I love to talk with Jesus, for it smoothes the rugged road; And it seems to help me onward, when I faint beneath my load; When my heart is crushed with sorrow, And my eyes with tears are dim, There is nought can yield me comfort like a little talk with Him"—

Surely, we think of Christians as being willing to share with one another and to lend a helping hand when needed. These things one could find in this dear sister, as she would remember her friends and neighbors with little gifts, such as at butchering time; and one particular time she went to the home of a neighbor, who was sick with the flu, to care for her. This was a great worry to her children, as they feared their mother would get sick, too!

She was usually quiet, but seemed to be liked by others. She did have difficulty speaking the English language, so consequently would sit and listen rather than take part in conversations. She was one to face each new day with faith, courage and prayer, had a great respect for the faith, and guarded it whole-heartedly.

Her father was an elder in Europe, and this was also bestowed upon him when he came to this country with his family, soon after two of the older children had come. No doubt being raised by "born again" parents who had a great respect for the church brought this dear one to realize her need for seeking her Lord at a very early age.

Her children could witness that she had no continuing city here, for she had the hope of a better home after this life and "looked forward" to that time. This vision or hope gave her the necessary faith and courage to continue on life's pilgrimage until she was called from this life.

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Treasures are where you put them. Writing a good letter of kindness, showing light, is doing good. Passing this way but once? Yes, Write a serviceman.

A CHRISTIAN'S CHRISTMAS

As the fleeting tide of time
Bring each year upon this earth
Tidings of God's plan divine,
Of the Saviour's wondrous birth,
Listen to the song of love,
Hear again His gracious plan,
How His Son from realms above
Came on earth as mortal man.

Humble was our Saviour's birth;
Meek and lowly was His life.
Sin prevailed upon this earth,
But pure He lived in all its strife.
They who find in Him their rest,
Ever strive that they might be
With His heav'nly virtues blest,
Living in humility.

As the wise men brought rich gifts,
Laying them at Jesus' feet,
Humbly did they worship Him,
Sought in Him salvation sweet,
But rich gifts He does not ask,
Rather that our hearts we give,
Serving, loving, heeding Him,
Evermore in Him to live.

There the shepherds heard with joy
Angels speak the blest refrain,
**Peace on earth, good will to men,
Glory to His holy name.**
Jesus is the Shepherd true,
Leads His flock in righteous ways,
Fills our hearts with peace and love,
Tunes our hearts to sing His praise.

Ever does His blessed birth
Kindle righteous hearts anew
With a flame of love and faith
In our Lord and Master true.
Not in feasting or in play,
But in truth and righteousness
Should we ever keep this day—
Day of peace and holiness.

—Henry Beer.

ALL THROUGH THE YEAR LOVE GLOWS

(From a booklet assembled by a faithful Apostolic Pioneer, Bro. Will Stettner. Now Will is happy in God's beautiful rest. Notice the warmth in the letter, like the blazing Yule fire.)

From a letter written by Elder Johann Schlipf, Dauernberg, Germany, December 3, 1884, to the congregation of Elgin, Illinois

In our Lord Jesus, my beloved brethren in Elgin, Illinois, USA, who with us have received the grace of life in Christ Jesus. God grant to you much grace, mercy, and peace through the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord, that you may

not be in want of any good gift, but rather have life, and that more abundantly, so that your lips may overflow with praise to God.

Beloved brothers and sisters, as I have written a letter to my sister, I cannot forbear to also write to you. You are all in my heart, and day and night I walk in the spirit among you, only you cannot see me. I inquire about you, how you are getting along, and admonish you as it is needful.

Just in this past night, when I had sleepless hours, I was in the spirit in Elbing with the loved ones there, in Hungary, in Switzerland, in Alsace, in Baden, in Luzern, and in America, to and fro among the brothers and sisters. I had to say to myself during the night, Had I but wings, I would fly over mountains and valleys, so fervent was my feeling of love for the dear ones whom we know, and especially for those who departed from us according to the body, in which you are also included. My wish for all of you is that you live in love, peace and unity, to the honor of the name of Jesus Christ, for we all bear His name.

When I think of you, I pray heartily to God.

I embrace, O Lord, Thy servants,
Joined to them in love so fervent,
Asking, Lord, that from Thy face
They receive a thousand blessings;
In thy ways Thy strength
possessing
Lead them in Thy light and grace."

We are so poor and needy from our own self to serve our God, according to His good will and pleasure, and to keep His commandments. But with His grace and power, we can in obedience of His good will walk according to His pleasure, and bring joy to our Father's heart.

He loves us dearly, as the apostle writes, Behold what manner of love has the Father bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God. Oh what a treasure it is to be a child of God, redeemed and delivered from the wrath which will soon come over all the ungodly and their works. But unto you who fear God shall shine the Sun of Righteousness and Salvation, under the shadow of His wings. Ye shall go in and out and increase like the calves of the stall. What precious promises do the children of God have, those who are true in love and faith until the end.

The true Shepherd, Jesus Christ, give unto you shepherds to pasture you in all teachings and wisdom, that you may live, that you grow and increase in all knowledge of good and obedience of the truth. I also feel as did John when he wrote, "I have no greater joy than when I hear that my children walk in truth." But contrariwise, where they do not walk in the truth, it causes much grief to our Lord, and to His servants. . . .

I beseech you, my beloved ones, be diligent to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace, that you may obtain peace. For blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called the children of God. Love one another as we have received the commandment from our dear Lord. The author says, Make my love real, pure and true, that it may not be deceitful.

Hold fast onto humility, for God resists all who are proud, but to the humble He gives His grace. Beware that you do not fashion yourselves like the world, but prove what is pleasing unto the Lord, as the apostle writes, Do not walk anymore like the others do in the vanity of their minds. . . . Vanity let neither in thy heart nor . . . words reign or live. For through vanity many have been led astray by the tempter and have become a spoil of Satan.

Therefore, warn one another, and admonish one another, as it is needful for your own protection and safekeeping in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and brotherly love, which is the band of protection.

My hearty greeting to you all. Remember us in your prayers, that we, with you, may be kept to eternal life and remain by the grace of God. The brother who loves you in the Lord. Johann Schlipf.

A CHALLENGE OF SONG

There is a work. Bro. David Mangold it is said, estimated that 25% of the hymns are sung 75% of the time. There is beauty, glistening treasure in hymns hidden away, somewhat or altogether.

Here are opportunities: **Zion's Harp, Hymns Of Zion, Gospel Hymns.** Repetition in many things brings success.

It is the song leaders duty and opportunity to go over the hymns at home. Others can rise to the challenge. Learning and practice can be done at home. Singing is

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more beautiful. Where there are lessons suggest to a music teacher she assign these hymns.

Wonderful can it be, the harmony of hymns, in full chorus in church.
—the editor.

DID YOU KNOW?

"I have never seen things worse in India than at the present time." says one person. "In all of this time I have never seen famine so stark, so many people hungry . . .

Recently while in India I visited . . . where the needs are great and hunger abounds. One out of three goes to bed daily without a grain of rice in their stomachs.

'I will tell you good-bye now,' said an old Indian. 'For when you come back I will not be alive; I cannot eat and see our children starving.'

When I returned to that section of hungry India, I inquired and was told, 'They have died, for they gave their food to the children . . . to save the young ones from starving.'

Can you see these people and little ones, as we travel down the road of the good Samaritan?

Can it be that now, today,
While we have abundance here,
There are hungry need some help?
Human heart, to someone dear?

It's a happy, happy thing
To give some food to one
Whose day was pressed and
hungered,
And do as you want done.

HOLIDAY ALWAYS

Henry Souder Jr.

God has no fear. In far uncountable ages the Father and His Son rejoiced. They were completely happy. Not even the slightest shroud or cloud entered.

Ponder of this One who has perfect dwelling and perfect well-being. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

The Word was (not became). He is revealed through the printed page and spoken utterance. To find God is to find the spring of life. God is the One expressing God, showing love in the flesh to mankind.

"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." What a wonderful mind is His. The blue of the sky, the green of the field and forest, the friendly fireside, the family, He gave.

"In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Life is the thriving, active wholesome, holy light that floods every room in His house. It is love, kindling the fireside, giving joy to His children. Life is that which comes after emptiness.

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." Sin is schooling to a hard and merciless mind. Darkness bruises the soul and prisons the heart in the blinded passions of death. He who does not lay hold of light must forever remain in darkness.

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John." Preparation there must be. The baptist preached repentance. Sorrow is good. Truth levels the road for the Coming King.

"The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light." We cannot fathom the holy brightness that radiates heavenly circles.

Someone has stated that a pinpoint of heat from the sun's core is enough to kill a man a hundred miles away. Sun flames soar thousands of miles into space. God created this. Light Himself is a sight that fills eternity. Light awes and thrills. Hope is a dawning adventure. Ages that will never end hold the delights of Him who fills the hereafter with what eye has not seen, nor ear heard. Things to do will center in Him. What discoveries and dreams await.

"That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Sunrise here can be seen. Far more important is the Light that shines of unsurpassing radiance. Who will arise, and seek the path of that shining light?

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not." He walked the shores of Galilee. This Creator, He who is from everlasting, sees and talks where we are. What must be in the making if God Himself

comes to you?

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Darkness hides the fact that this is the dividing place of time and eternity.

The people He had planned, those His own hands had fashioned, made once in His image, received him not. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

Tired of sin, weary of the world, the soul turns. The Father's watching, sees a long way off and comes to meet each returning soul.

Souls returned to the right relation, the true center around which all happiness revolves: "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Shining Light unfolds a glorious will. We are weak. Mortal thought is often impressed with impressions just passed by, or worldly crowd. God saw we wanted: He granted grace with a will that had gone forth before.

Now we look to the continuing city.

He means all to His own. He is the food that fills, life, the water that quenches forever. He is the pure light that awakens to glory. "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"

Knowing God we have life, and go to where it's far better.