

# THE SILVER LINING

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## HOLY SPIRIT

In the work of the creation, the Holy Spirit is mentioned (in Genesis 1:2)—“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” As the bestower and sustainer of life, throughout the scripture we are reminded of the Holy Spirit.

I Samuel 10:10—“And when they came to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.”

What a precious gift this is from God for his children. We should treasure this gift, for if we quench or disobey it, we will suffer as King Saul did. II Sam. 16:14—“But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.”

Let us consider the man of God, Elijah, how the Spirit of God led him (II Kings 2:9). “And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.”

We are warned again and again how God did forbear his people, and did testify against them by His prophets. They would not give ear; then God gave them into the hands of their enemy. For this reason we shall be faithful in our calling, obey God's Holy Spirit, and not quench it.

In the New Testament, both preceding and after the birth of Christ, the agency of the Holy Spirit was especially prominent in its manifestation. The presence of the Holy Spirit is constantly associated with the birth and life of Christ and the work of his disciples.

The holy conception was of the Spirit (Matt. 1:18). “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” The Holy

Spirit openly appeared at Christ's baptism by John, and afterwards led him into the wilderness (Luke 4:1). “And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”

In Christ's charge to the apostles are the words (Matt. 10:20), “For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.” Now, if we are brothers and sisters in Christ, we also have the promise of His Holy Spirit to lead us in our spiritual life, and we shall be able to feel and also understand the blessedness of the Holy Spirit.

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### CARING FOR THE FAMILY CIRCLE

Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood:

That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: . . .

Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.

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Let us not forget, when we go through a true repentance by the help and grace of God, that we remain firm in our calling, and let the Spirit of God direct us that we can labor for the Lord as we are taught in Matthew 28:19. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

The rite of laying on of hands in its relation to the Holy Spirit is referred to in Acts 8:17. “Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Only by becoming a child of God

and obeying the Holy Spirit to the end of our life shall we see God and enter into that blessed rest.

George Sinn

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### Part Of The Memorandum Twenty-five Years Ago, January

Elder's Meeting at Rittman, Ohio 1942.

All true Christians and members of the body of Christ feel most grateful for their adoption as the sons and daughters of the Most High God, realize that they are saved by grace and out of love, and that their service and devotion to their Lord must also proceed out of a heart of love. Therefore such service, devotion and obedience is not compulsory, but voluntary.

Yet at the same time they realize that their liberty may not be used as an occasion to the flesh, and that the Spirit must rule, and the flesh be held in subjection. The separation from the world must continue if we are to continue as God's people, and we cannot have fellowship with the world if we would have fellowship with God. . . .

The meeting throughout was governed by the spirit of brotherly love and a willingness on the part of each to give consideration to the opinions of the others. The same wishes and aims, concerns and fears were manifested by all.

The first matter taken into consideration was the radio.

. . . we do believe we have a duty to warn members and friends alike of the misuse, and the danger to their faith and Christian life. By this is meant light and worthless music, reports of prize fights, ball games and other sports, foolish conversations . . . As much as anything do we consider harmful . . . sermons which are spoken by men . . . who instead of warning the sinner and leading him to repentance speak only to please the ear . . .

. . . It is our duty to lay these  
(Cont. on Page 23)

### LANDSTUHL, GERMANY Harold Steiner

On the 24th of December, several months of planning finally became a reality. The first guests began arriving at the apartment of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sherry Sauder in Pirmasens, Germany to celebrate the Christmas holidays. By 6:00, 16 soldiers and Sis. Irene Baer were busy, becoming better acquainted with Ken and Sherry and renewing old acquaintances with those not seen in the past few months. After an enjoyable evening meal, we all gathered around to sing Christmas carols and other hymns, which is a privilege we do not often enjoy over here.

On Sunday, the real blessing of our coming together was felt, as we held a service, listening to a sermon by Bro. Hueni from Bremen. After the service Bro. Ken announced to all present, and also asked me to include in this report, that the first Sunday of each month, he and Sherry would have a service at their apartment for anyone who could get a pass and attend.

Following the service, Sherry unveiled several trays of sliced turkey and ham, which she had ordered from the local officers' club, and everyone enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner—"almost like home". Shortly thereafter, six of the guests began their return trip, leaving those remaining to visit, relax, and join singing in the men's quartet that had just been organized.

Speaking for the entire group, I would like to thank everyone who sent cookies, candy, and money to help make our Christmas in Europe a merry and very blessed event.

Those attending traveled from stations as distant as Paris, Nurnberg, Stuttgart, Heilbronn, and Bad Kreuznach.

### AN KHE, VIETNAM Neil Schmidgall

Again we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year. Time flies so fast, often makes one wonder what eternity will seem like, time without end. May we all strive to do God's will, that one day we may inherit that wonderful kingdom.

Even as Christmas time found us many miles from our homes, once again we have been provided for. We feel it a blessing from above when brothers and friends can gather together so many miles from home, separated by miles, in a

land of unease and unrest. On Christmas Eve, Bro. John Guingrich came up from Ban Me Thuot, here to An Khe, to spend Christmas with us. He was able to stay from Saturday evening till Tuesday morning, when he departed, to return to his duty station. We were able to gather on Sunday to sing a few hymns to the praise and honor of God and share the blessings from God's word brought to us on a tape.

There are now only 3 left here at An Khe, since three of our dear friends have ended their tour here, able to return home on a few days leave, and then finish their service time in the states. The ones that left were: Steve Aschliman (he left Dec. 15). On the 17th, Fred Beutel left, and on Dec. 21, Roger Hartter departed. Do pray their time at home will be a blessing to each. The Sunday before Steve left, all six of us were able to spend the day together. It was the only time we were all together at once, being some were in the field at varying times.

I will close wishing each a happy and blessed new year, and do pray if it could be God's will, there could be a reasonable amount of peace on this earth, while we are awaiting the return of our Lord Jesus.

### SARASOTA, FLORIDA

The first service of the new season was held on Sunday, Jan. 1. Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington was the visiting minister. Edwin delivered a most inspiring message, which was enjoyed by all. We are thankful for all those visiting ministers who are spending their vacations in the South and make an effort to be with us on a Sunday. Bro. Philip Wingeier appreciates this very much.

On Dec. 26, Sis. Clara Virkler entered the Sarasota Memorial Hospital for major surgery. Clara is getting along as well as can be expected. Sister Clara is from Croghan and has been spending the winters with us for a good many years. The Sarasota congregation wishes Clara a most speedy recovery.

### JAPAN Yoshio Yamazaki

We had really blessed Christmas here in Tokyo, and also our country churches in Yamanashi. We had service here in Tokyo on 24th of December, and near 50 people attended. We had nice Christmas pro-

gram here at the country church in Shioda, put on by our English Conversation School students. Bro. Willis counted 131 children and adults who came and joined with that program. We surely thank God that He is blessing us, and also hope He will break those young people's hearts and convert them some day in future.

However, it is very unfortunate thing, so many people were drinking, and went to miserable places for only to be satisfied that night, and so many killed in an instant in traffic accidents (like they were turkeys) and many other problems like murder, stealing, and everything like that. It is just like Sodom and Gomorrah.

According the Scriptures, we surely find that the world will be at the end pretty soon, and Satan is working his last chance. However, I can let you know here in Japan, Sisters Nancy Roth and Marie Neihouser are really working for God, and against Satan's attacks. They are teaching the word for the young people, through English language. I believe it is very difficult, as I know, but this kind of education needs patience and love more than anything else. However, Marie and Nancy are doing all for the children through power of the blood of Lord Jesus Christ. It is lots of encouragement to us and also fine example, to the country churches especially.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME, EUREKA

August Mueller

Last night a group of young members from the church came over to sing for us old members. It made me very happy when they

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asked me to sing along with them. I agree with David where he says in one of his Psalms, I will bless the Lord as long as I live and sing praises to his name while I have my being. The Psalms David wrote are also our Psalms, his prayers are our prayers, his God is our God.

When he needed help, he tells us in one of his Psalms. I look up to the hills from whence all my help cometh; we also look up to our heavenly Father. He gladly hears his children call to Him. David was under the law of Moses, but we are under the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have the promise that everything we ask in His name shall be granted. Whatever is included in the Lord's prayer, that we are allowed to ask.

Jesus was the most humble, the most soft-hearted man that ever lived on this earth. He healed many because He had compassion on them. I often wonder, when there was a multitude of people, 3 or 4 thousand, how they all could hear and understand, but it was a light thing for Jesus to bring his word to the one way in the back, so he could hear and understand as well as the one that stood in front. We know Jesus had a powerful voice. The Pharisees and those that were educated could not understand where He got His knowledge. He told them ere Abraham was I am. Let us not forget that He was with His Father ere the world was created.

I remember the case when he called that young man back to life. He asked no questions. He just told them to stand still, and He told the young man to arise. They all praised God. The poet tells us that out of pure compassion he healed us, and not out of our own righteousness.

The reason He came to us, because we could not go to Him. How fortunate are we that Jesus did come down to us, not to bring us gifts that last a short time, but to bring peace and everlasting life to all those that repent and believe on Him. What would our life be if Jesus had not come into this world? We would not have any grace. We could not walk the straight and narrow path that leads to heaven. We would be the most miserable people in this world. Thanks be to our Heavenly Father for sending His only begotten Son.

Last night a group of young members from Princeville were

here to sing. Many hymns were sung to the praise and honor of our Heavenly Father.

With deep regret I report the passing of my second daughter, Rose Mueller Bell, at the age of 49 years. She leaves to mourn, her husband, Len; 2 sons, Len Jr. and Larry; four sisters: Mrs. Akel, Miami; Mrs. Fuhrman, and Mrs. Mowrer, Marietta, Pa.; Mrs. Foehlinger, Columbia; two brothers, Ed and Walter Mueller, Union City; and me, her father, August Mueller. She will be missed by all of us. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Blessed be the name of the Lord. The funeral was held Tuesday, Dec. 13 in Columbia.

Last night there was singing here in the Home, in German, first out of the Zion's Harp, then out the long book (Heftly), then the Christmas carols in English; after we had coffee, sandwiches and cookies. The place was filled; they came from different congregations. Sis. Emma Klaus made the arrangements.

When we go to the house of the Lord to hear the word of God proclaimed, we can feel that the Lord opens the windows of heaven and showers blessings upon us. We can not see the new Jerusalem, but we can hear through the word that it must be a beautiful place, where there is peace and rest in eternity. We live in a time where we have to believe; after believing comes seeing.

When the sky is clear and the stars are out, I can see from my bedroom window one big star that outshines all the others. I can not tell how many there are. If we lead a God-fearing life and walk the straight and narrow way, the poet tells us we likewise will take our place and shine like the stars, but we have to sow good seed upon the field.

Last night, two girls June Anliker, the other Karen Kempf, recited poems, read Christmas stories, gave instrumental music, and sang. The Congerville singers were here tonight, singing Christmas carols.

Jesus did not come into this world to save the righteous. He came to save sinners. While the door of grace is open, Come ye sinners; make haste, repent, whoever you are and wherever you are. The door of grace will surely be closed.

The Eureka High School boys and girls were here singing Christmas

carols. They walked from one end to the other. I could hear them from a long distance. These halls are very long, and they carry the sound. Thank you, boys and girls.

A few more hours, and another year will close its doors behind us. Many of God's children were called home, some after years of pain and suffering, and some suddenly. They entered into peace and are resting. After this year closes the door, a new year will open. It will have new sorrow, new trials and tribulations. Our duty in the new year is to pray for the sick, the afflicted, the widows and orphans, those in trials and tribulations. If we do what we are able to do, then the Lord will do His part.

The members and friends, including myself, wish every member and friend, no matter where, the Lord's richest blessing all through the year. Only he is blest whom the Lord blesses.

Alas, another year has vanished, A year that never will return, And with it many thousand hours Have vanished like a moment's time.

#### REMINGTON, INDIANA

##### Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

James Waibel, Bro. George's son, is improving after surgery. Bro. George and Sis. Anna were called out to Lamont, Kansas, due to the death of her brother, Elmer. We are happy to report he found peace with his God. May it be an encouragement to many others in his community.

We were richly blessed when Bro. Robert Hueni and others were with us. May we all ponder over the words that were spoken for our spiritual encouragement and welfare.

Our Christmas program was well attended. Would that we could all have and keep the enthusiasm and willingness to testify for our Lord as the children do.

Sis Anna (Ervin) Bahler still has lots of pain and is still under the doctor's care and treatment.

Ed Frey and Robert Bahler were in the hospital for observation and treatment. Bro. Andy Nussbaum has had surgery some weeks ago and is not doing so well.

Chad Allen was born to Larry Pittman's. Grandparents are Bro. Odell and Sis. Marjorie Pittman.

#### Contentment

No matter what state you may

live in, the state of contentment is the best one, and can be found in Jesus. He is the only one who brings contentment to the human heart. He is nearer than you think, as promised in His word. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

### New Year

"And now at last we stand at the threshold of another year! The door closes behind us, and we enter a new room, which we are to furnish with our own hands. All that the old year held of joy success and instruction we would carry into the new. All that it held of regret, bitterness and folly we would penitently let God bury in the oblivion of His grace. A mistake can be valuable if you do four things, recognize, admit, learn, and forget. We shall plant in our heart today the sweet flower of forgetfulness, which has its proper place in our garden, even as remembrance and love have their places. Our soul would begin the new year freshened, cleansed, and righted in its relation to all other souls, newly inspired to undertake its task with purpose and hope. ". . . forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3

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

The last month of the old year ended with memories of a rocking chair. Bro. Nate and Walt Steffen visited us and gave us such a relaxing Sunday. In the services were given the teachings of one of their father's in his rocking chair, with the children on the sides and one on his lap, reading them stories from the Bible. Those memories are not forgotten . . . And what a wonderful feeling everyone has when they feel their names are written in heavenly pages.

A baby girl has given joy to the Richard Boehning family, who has two sisters and a brother to love her.

The shut-ins and lonely were blessed with the Christmas Carolers, and expressed that they will not hear any nicer singing until they get to heaven.

This is what we all want to "Be" in the New Year:

Be cheerful, Be happy,  
Be truthful, Be fair,  
Be just, Be generous,  
Be thoughtful, Be thankful,  
Be pleasant, Be patient,  
Be prompt, Be polite,  
Be kind, Be honest,  
Be pray'rful, in what may  
Befall you in 1967.

### UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

Sis. Rose Sauder of Roanoke has been visiting her daughter, Sis. Nancy Aeschleman of Wilmington, Delaware, and has visited the Union City church several times. It is always a joy to have her with us.

A soldier, Bro. Steve Kaiser of Milford was recently stationed at Aberden Proving Grounds in Maryland and attends church in Union City whenever he can. We hope to see him often in 1967.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held on the Sunday before Christmas. Ten children participated, singing songs and reciting verses about the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Everyone enjoyed the program, and we were all inspired by the sincerity of these children's offerings. The simple faith and trust exhibited by children is a good example of how we all ought to be.

Bro. John and Sis. Mary Ellen Gudeman of Bloomington, Ill., were east (visiting Bro. Allen and Sis. Dorothy Beer in Philadelphia) and to accompany "Butch" Gudeman home to Cissna Park, after his release from duties in the Army. We were blessed to have them all in church with us on Dec. 18.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Susan Rapp

Bro. J. B. Schrock discussed an almost complete history of Satan on Dec. 1. We learned of his falling from heaven, and ended with the days of tribulation. The group was invited to Fairbury for the week end, and we enjoyed worshipping with them.

The births of Christ and John the Baptist as foretold in St. Luke 1 were discussed by Bro. George Gramm of Gridley on Dec. 8. The following evening about 35 carolers sang in Normal and Congerville, ending with a get-together at the home of Bro. Joe Schrock. We delivered groceries to a needy family, and collected for a Christmas Fund, which will be sent to a recipient decided by the group.

Before Bible Class on Dec. 15, the group caroled at Americana Nursing Home, Normal. Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, spoke that evening on Phil. 2. He told us that the three important events in our life are repentance, marriage, and our life's work.

We are happy for Sis. Carol Ann Roth, an Illinois Wesleyan student, and Bro. Tom Hohulin, an ISU graduate and now a student at the University of Illinois, whose engagement was announced Dec. 20. May God richly bless them.

We enjoy visitors and welcome all who would like to come on Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. in the third floor lounge of the University Union, except during scheduled vacations or semester breaks.

### TUCSON, ARIZONA

Jay J. Bertsch — Noah Herman

### Mother at Bedtime

I tucked two little laddies  
In their snowy fragrant beds,  
And smiled to watch the sleep come  
To their tiny, touseled heads.

How many years are left, Lord,  
To tuck them in just so?  
Time is swiftly flying;  
How fast those boys do grow!

And manhood beckons little lads  
To a grown-up world apart,  
So, as I tuck them in, Lord,  
Please tuck this moment in my  
heart.

We were sorely grieved upon the passing away of our dear friend, Mrs. Inez (Ezra) Sutter. She will surely be missed at our assemblies.

Our ministering Brother Noah Herman, his wife, and daughter have returned home safely, after spending the holiday season with friends and relatives in Illinois.

We are looking forward to having winter-visitors with us. Everyone is welcome.

### WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A. Banwart

Our Bible Class enjoyed having the Winthrop Bible Class visit here. May they come again.

Many thanks to Bro Paul Butikofer for the inspiring messages brought to us, when he spent a Sunday with us recently.

Ill health has kept Bro. Wm. Metzger and Sis. Lizzie Zaugg from

assembling with us. May they soon be feeling better. Sis. Katie Alt had surgery in Ft. Dodge the past month, but was able to enjoy services with us again New Year's Day. Surgical patients in the hospital at Rochester, Minn., the past month included Bro. Earnie Schmidt, and Sis. Amy—wife of Ervin Banwart. Clinical patients there were Sis. Ida, wife of Bro. Earnie Schmidt; Bro. Walter Banwart; and Arlie Banwart. All seem to be improving satisfactorily. Leonard and Helen Anliker have had their children in Iowa City for check-ups.

The wonderful Christmas season has again renewed Christ's peace on earth, good will toward men. Could mankind but accept its simple, yet great beauty. Shut-ins and older folks enjoyed the various groups of carolers at Christmas-time. The Sunday School presented a meaningful Christmas program which we all enjoyed. Many attended a wedding reception at the home of Bro. and Sis. Arnold and Alice Metzger for their son, Bro. Duane, and his wife Peggy. May they be richly blessed in their new undertaking.

Bro. and Sis. Fahey and Marie Gress enjoyed their silver wedding anniversary with relatives. Children of Bro. and Sis. Lawrence and Ella Schneider held open house in observance of their silver wedding anniversary. May both couples continue to enjoy the help of the Lord and His blessings.

A new baby daughter, Melissa Ann, was welcomed at the Wayne and Kathy Fehr home on Dec. 19. She is the first grandchild of Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Matilda Fehr, and a great-granddaughter of Bro. and Sis. Alfred and Mary Fehr. Sis. Mary Fehr recently observed her 88th birthday. She has been fairly well this winter.

Much courage can be found in the third verse, especially, of Hymn 122 in the Zion's Harp. Sis. Charlotte Banwart, Sis. Karen Metzger and Bro. Albert Banwart have begun new duties as Sunday School teachers, following our yearly election, due to the expiration of the terms of Sis. Hazel Anliker, Sis. Evelyn Benninger and Bro. Elmer Banwart. Bro. Verner Wirtz was moved from teacher in Jr. Bible Class to the Bible Class. May God bless the retiring teachers for their many hours of labor, which often pass uncommended but deeply appreciated.

#### FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA Louise Akel

It is not often that we have the pleasure of announcing the birth of a newborn baby, as our congregation is not large. It is with joy and pleasure that we welcome Mechelle Lynne Frauhiger of La Belle, Fla. She was carried into church in her mother's arms. The door was wide open to receive her.

On Christmas Day we experienced great joy, as there were many visitors, including Bro. Henry Souder from Bremen, and Bro. Joe Shrock from Congerville. It was impressed upon us deeply to beware of false doctrines that the world presents in the name of religion. It reminds me of the Zion's Harp where we used to sing that we are to become more separated yet, especially in these times of which were prophesied. The door of grace will close. God does not close the door unless there is transgression. The Jewish people failed when they boasted that they were Abraham's children.

Bro. Richard Kaehr assisted Bro. Bud Klopfenstein with the children's Christmas program. Many visiting children took part, for which we were grateful. Sis. Joyce Troxel presented the smaller children, and we all smiled when "Kim" her small son forgot his line and eagerly sought her help with the question, "What?"

Happy New Year! Not only every year, but every day our Heavenly Father bids each to do His will. We were taught that the one son repented that he would, and failed to do so. That is the world and the resolutions it makes to do better. The other son said No, but repented and did that which was pleasing. These are the fortunate ones, be they soldiers, businessmen or hirelings that turn from the world and repent. Which of the two will you be? How great a reward awaits the one who chooses the better part.

#### BAY CITY, MICHIGAN Marlene Mosher

We have two dear souls repenting, Richard Jackson and Bill Waibel. Bill is the son of our elder brother, Joe Waibel and Sis. Elizabeth. Richard has now found peace with his Lord and his fellowman, and is awaiting the time when he can bring his testimony to the congregation and be taken into our fold. We all sincerely hope that many will follow these examples and come

to the Lord today, before it is too late.

On Christmas Eve, we lost another dear sister. Sis. Bertha Meister passed away after a long illness. She has left behind a sister, Sis. Lily Meister and a brother, Edward Meister. Bertha was a member of our church for 57 years. She also had been a Sunday School teacher for 25 years.

Within the last three years we have been losing our small flock fast, but we would hope and pray that many other souls would come to the Lord and fill in the places that are being vacated and also fill many more new places. We need them all.

Sis. Helen Schlatter met with a car accident and is in the hospital.

#### BLUFFTON, INDIANA Delutha Moser—Carolyn Gerber

With God nothing shall be impossible.  
Perhaps there is some difficult task or a loving deed to do;  
Begin the day with confidence  
And God will see you through.

Engagements: On December 25, Sis. Jeanne Gerber announced her engagement to Bro. James Rinckenberger, of Cissna Park. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Alvin Gerber and Bro. and Sis. Joe Rinckenberger.

Friend Della Gerber has announced her engagement to Marvin Steffen. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Sylvan Gerber and Bro. and Sis. Clarence Steffen.

Friend Nancy Aschliman has announced her engagement to Doyt Miller. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Roy Aschliman and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Miller.

To you who are beginning a marriage bright and new, Pray for help and guidance, as your marriage depends upon you.

Weddings: On December 17, Friend Sharon Reinhard, daughter of Glen Reinhard, was united in marriage to Larry Goodwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Goodwin Sr. On January 1, Bro. John Isch was united in holy matrimony to Sis. Mary Jane Rager, of Latty.

Shut-ins: Sisters Irene (Aaron) Reinhard, Edna Gerber and Minnie (Elmer) Isch; Bro. Elmer Isch.

We are happy to hear that Sis. Aldine (Harold) Moser is recuperating very nicely from her recent accident.

Births: Dec. 10, a daughter,

Lisa Ann to Sis. Phyllis and Herman Fiechter; Dec. 15, a son, Kirk Wayne to Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy Fiechter; Dec. 24, a son, Simeon Ray, to Bro. Ned and Sis. Dixie Kipper.

**Funerals:** On December 29, service was held for Sis. Martha M. Heyerly, age 71. Her unexpected death was due to cardiac failure. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Kenneth (Justine) Aschliman; a brother, Levi Schwartz; a sister, Mrs. Eli Gerber (Rose); three grandchildren. Bro. Samuel Aeschliman and Bro. Orval Ringger officiated the service.

On December 30, service was held for Bro. Louis F. Baumgartner, age 76. Death was due to a sudden heart attack. Surviving are the wife, Sis. Mary; two daughters, Mrs. Norman (Lucille) Steffen and Mrs. Eugene (Mable) Heyerly; two sons, Roger and Harry; one brother, John H. Baumgartner; one sister, Mrs. Joel (Lucinda) Fiechter; 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Bro. Samuel Aeschliman and Bro. Orval Ringger had the service.

#### God Is Love

God is love; His mercy brightens  
All the path in which we rove;  
Bliss He wakes and woe He  
lightens.  
God is wisdom; God is love.

Even the hour that darkest seemeth  
Will His changeless goodness  
prove.  
From the mist His brightness  
streameth.  
God is wisdom; God is love.

He with earthly cares entwineth  
Hope and comfort from above.  
Everywhere His glory shineth.  
God is wisdom; God is love.

#### DETROIT, MICH.

**Ruth Knochel Ruth Gudeman**

Hospitalized this past month for minor surgery was Sis. Kay Novak. We are thankful to say Sis. Kay is doing well and is back with us again.

Bro. Hartzel and Sis. Mary Kaisner have a new baby girl, Joanne Kay. She is welcomed at home by a brother, Kenny.

On Dec. 18 we were privileged to hear the testimonies of friends Larry Belsley and Gail Barton. Their testimonies were an inspiration to us. On Sun. the 19, they

were baptized, and entered the fold of Christian fellowship. We were happy to receive them as a brother and sister in Christ. Our Elder Bro. Joe Waibel was with us for this happy occasion.

Also on Dec. 19, the church selected Bro. Hartzel Kaisner to serve in the ministry. We pray that the Lord will grant courage and strength to Bro. Hartzel and his wife Mary in this most important work.

Other visiting ministers in Dec. were Bro. Joe Kaisner from Forrest and Bro. Art Gudeman from La Crosse. Bro. Joe's wife and Bro. Art's family accompanied them. We always appreciate the visits of ministers. Tho' the text they read has often been heard, the messages they brought were words of comfort and inspiration.

#### EUREKA, ILLINOIS

**Cathryn Wettstein  
Salome Walters**

December 7 in the evening, the wedding of Sis. Edith Tanner and Bro. Lloyd Massner (from Burlington, Iowa) was performed by Bro. Leroy Huber. They will reside on a farm near Mediapolis, Iowa. May God add His blessings to their new step in life. There were many visiting ministers in our midst the evening of this wedding. We hope that many will return and visit us soon.

Bro. James Hoerr spent one Sunday with us recently.

**Births**—William and Betty (Stoller) Kinder are the parents of a baby girl, born Dec. 9. Her name is Patricia Ann; she is the second child. Bro. and Sis. Lewis and Clara (Schmidgall) Blunier also have a baby girl, born Dec. 20. She has one sister and three brothers to welcome her; her name is Diane Marie. Jerry and Bonnie (Turner) Getz are the parents of their first child, a girl, born Jan. 3. She has been named Tami Lynn.

The annual Christmas Program was held on the Wed. evening before Christmas, with all the Sunday School classes taking part. It is always good to see the children sing praises to our Lord, and especially as we celebrate His Birthday. A little verse the four-year-olds recited together was—

Christmas is Jesus birthday;  
Do not forget.  
Give Him your heart.  
It's the best present yet!

How true this could be if all people would do this.

On Christmas day each class had a basket of groceries to be delivered to a needy family in the area. It is hoped that all who received a basket had a Blessed Christmas, and also those who helped prepare the same.

James Wettstein, six-year-old son of Bro. and Sis. Art and Donna Wettstein, is a patient in a Chicago Hospital, where he will have surgery Jan. 6.

"We want to thank all our friends and loved ones who remembered us with gifts and cards on our Golden Anniversary. May God bless you all. Levi and Sis. Della Anliker."

"We want to express our thanks to all our friends and relatives for gifts and cards sent to us on our Silver anniversary. We wish you all God's blessings. Milton and Carolyn Leman."

Milton and Carolyn are two of our converts who will be taken into the church sometime soon.

On New Year's Day, a farewell was sung for Bro. and Sis. Roy and Wanda Leman and family, who are going to leave us for four months. They are going to be living in California for that time. May God be with them and us until we meet again.

This is the summary for last year—There were 12 souls baptized; there are 7 waiting to be baptized. There were 5 funerals. There was one church wedding. There were seven new babies born.

#### FORREST, ILLINOIS

**Nancy Honegger — Martha Stoller**

Ronnie Rieger, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Marian, is spending a 30-day leave with his parents, having spent a year in Vietnam with the armed services. Richard Kupferschmid and Dale Zimmerman were home from Ft. Sam over the holidays.

Fred Rieger had a short stay at the hospital recently, as a medical patient.

Bro. Silas and Sis. Lena Clauss are both presently undergoing treatment at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester.

Sis. Louise (Sam) Zimmerman has been confined to her home with a virus, and Sis. Miriam Wenger is also convalescing at her home, following recent surgery at the Fairbury Hospital.

Henry and Sis. Marjorie Friedman have a new baby boy, Scott

Eric. This is their sixth child.

Larry and Cynthia Kaisner gave their testimonies of a conversion on Saturday evening, and were baptized on New Year's Day. We welcome them into our brotherhood. Bros. Leroy Huber and Josh Broguard assisted Bro. Henry in this work.

Bro. Richard Steffen was elected recently, to fill the need of a new Sunday School teacher. We trust that he will be granted the necessary knowledge and wisdom to carry out this duty.

Bros. Vernon Schwab and Merle Kaisner each spent a Sunday with us during the past month.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those designated who have kept us informed of the addresses, and the change of addresses, of the soldier boys. We would appreciate the co-operation of those who have not complied. The sermons-to-servicemen committee.

#### GIRARD, OHIO Jesse C. Emch

The year 1966 has been one in which we in Girard have been privileged to enjoy many blessings along with the sorrows that befall mankind. By the time this issue of the Silver Lining is published, we will have had our first anniversary of worshipping in our new church building (Jan. 16, 1966). During the past year there have been five deaths, one sister and four friends. We miss them all. The Lord still awakens souls unto repentance. We are grateful that four new converts have been added to the fold of believers. Two in their youth and two we might say in their eleventh hour. God be praised.

On Saturday evening Dec. 10, friend Martin Emch was given the opportunity to give his testimony, and the day following—Sunday, he was baptized by Elder Bro. Noah Bauman. The day was concluded by partaking of Holy Communion, being served by Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Noah Bauman. Many good teachings were given unto us, as God inspired His servants to speak.

Deaths: Friend Albert Durig, age 69 years, passed away Dec. 9. Funeral was Monday, Dec. 12. Services were by Bros. Lorentz Emch and Robt. Stoll. Albert's wife is the former Frieda Barth, daughter of the late Sis. Emma Barth of New

Martinsville. He had been ill four years. Monday, Dec. 19, friend Fred Durig, age 75 years, died. Funeral services were by Bro. Lorentz Emch, assisted by Bro. Robt. Stoll. Fred had been ill over a period of fourteen years. Fred's wife is the former Pauline Hafely of New Martinsville, a sister of the late Lydia Klotzle of Girard. Albert and Fred were brothers. Their passing brings sorrow not only to their families, but likewise to our whole congregation.

We want to thank all who have visited us during the year 1966, and welcome all to come and worship with us again.

#### LATTY, OHIO Susie Lanz

We are now standing at the threshold of a new year. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences and needs shall arise? What changes shall come? We have a comforting message from our Heavenly Father—"A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year". (Deut. 11:12)

God is in every tomorrow;  
Therefore I live for today,  
Certain of finding, at sunrise,  
Guidance and strength for the way,  
Power for each moment of weakness,  
Hope for each moment of pain,  
Comfort for every sorrow,  
Sunshine and joy after rain.

On Jan. 1, our dear Sis. Mary Jane Rager and Bro. John Isch were united in Holy Matrimony by Elder Bro. George Sinn. Parents of the couple are Bro. Bill and Sis. Elsie Rager and Bro. Harry and Sis. Clarice Isch from Bluffton. We wish them God's blessings as they "Walk Towards Tomorrow Together".

We thank the ministering brothers for their efforts on that blessed day—Maurice Frank from Chicago; Eugene Bertschi, Roanoke; Walter Anliker, Eureka; and Sam Aeschli-man from Bluffton.

Jan. 2 we held our annual business meeting. Sis. Irene (Mrs. Melvin) Stoller and Bro. Marvin Klopfenstein are the new Sunday School teachers. Elected to serve were as trustee Bro. Lester Laukhuf, and Appraiser—Bro. Ben Schlatter.

Recently, Bro. Bill Stoller injured his hand in a corn-picker accident. Also on the sick list is Sis. Velta Laukhuf. She underwent major surgery in the Cleveland Clinic Hospital on Jan. 3. We pray for a complete recovery for both of these dear ones.

Tho't for the New Year: Let the light of your faith so shine that it will illuminate the heart of another.

#### PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS Ruth Ricketts—Anna Marie Baer

God be with you through 1967. Here is a New Year. Let us begin it on our knees, humbly thanking God for all His goodness in the years gone by. He has helped, strengthened and guided us, and if we place our trust in Him, He will help us in the future. We now stand at the gate of a new opportunity. Another milestone is passed, and we are beginning another mile. God has helped us to achieve much, and He will help us to do even more. If God was with us yesterday, will He not be with us tomorrow? Let us only see to it that we hear His voice, that we are worthy to walk with Him, that humbly we strive to do that which is right . . . so shall this new year be to us a blessing, and so shall we be a blessing to others.

In reviewing the happenings of the past year, we find a few changes. Two young brothers were called into the ministry; two dear souls were added to the fold; two dear sisters were called to be with their Lord; four young friends were united in marriage; ten little ones were born into this world, six boys and four girls; four young men were called into the armed services, and four were discharged. We wonder what will the coming year have in store for us.

Sis. Louise Baurer slipped on the ice early in the month, fell and broke a bone in her upper arm. She has been carrying her arm in a sling since her accident and is getting along nicely. Sis. Lydia Seidel is not so well, and has been confined to her home for the past few weeks. Our friend, Larry Eberle, has been hospitalized and is receiving therapy treatments for a back injury received in an auto accident some months ago. We hope and pray all will soon be well and able to be with us again.

A daughter, Regina Kay, was born Dec. 6 to Sis. Joyce and Bro. Norman Streitmatter. Marlise and

David happily welcomed their little sister home. On Dec. 29, Bethany Ann was welcomed into the home of Sis. Virginia and Bro. Alfred Streitmatter and family.

Many relatives and friends, young and old, gathered Dec. 18 to listen to the Christmas Story told so sweetly and impressively by the children of the Sunday School. The songs and little verses stir the hearts so humbly told, truly an example for us all.

The Christmas Story was again expounded Christmas Day by our visiting Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend. We are thankful for all our visitors and welcome them back.

Our friends, Greg Martin, Orville Eberle, and Michael Menold have returned to their stations, after spending the holidays with their families. Greg is receiving training at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, and Orville and Michael at Ft. Sam Houston.

A family gathering was held recently in the home of Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary Leuthold, in observance of their 50th wedding anniversary. Their children were all present except their youngest daughter, Laura Lee Massner of Burnsville, Minn., who was unable to be present because of illness of her little daughter.

On December 14, 1916, Silas Leuthold and Mary Metz were united in marriage, having confidence in each other to walk life's journey together. They lived at Hurley, South Dakota for five years. While living in Dakota, far from their loved ones, one of their children became critically ill. Remembering the teachings of God-fearing parents, they turned to God for help, pleading that the life of their dear little child would be spared. God was merciful, answered their prayers, and the child recovered.

Silas and Mary felt the need to call upon the Lord in repentance, found the necessary grace to repent, and found peace in their hearts, for which they were deeply grateful. To be nearer their loved ones, they moved to Morton in 1926. They gave their testimonies of their newfound faith and were baptized in Morton, February 1927.

Bro. Silas found pleasure in teaching the young folks in Sunday School. While attending church at Peoria, he was called into the min-

istry, in 1934. In 1937 the family moved to a farm near Princeville. In June 1949, Silas was ordained elder and has truly been a faithful shepherd. Sis. Mary has stood faithfully by his side and been a firm support for him.

During the years, many hardships were suffered by the family with sickness and accident, yet the Lord was always by their side, and they could always fight faithfully onward. Many heartaches were suffered, especially when two dear little grandchildren lost their lives in tragic accidents, and then a grandson in his youth lost his life instantly. Seemingly untimely, we feel God must have had a purpose in mind, for what He doeth is well done, and we do not want to question the will of God.

Silas and Mary have eight children who have listened to the teachings of their parents and found it necessary to repent and be baptized. Bro. Arthur and Sis. Evelyn Stichling live at Ellsworth, Minnesota, and attend church at Lester; Sis. Vivian lives at home with her parents, and Bro. John lives next door to them; Sis. Marie Menold lives near Princeville; Sis. Helen Knapp near Eureka; and Sis. Martha Kieser at Bradford; and Laura Lee Massner at Burnsville, Minnesota. There are thirty grandchildren.

Bro. Silas has done quite a lot of traveling with other elders, helping with the duties of caring for the flocks. They have made many friends, and were well remembered on their Golden Anniversary. We wish them God's blessings and many more happy years together. Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary wish to thank everyone who remembered them with cards, flowers, and gifts for this occasion. May God bless you is their prayer.

#### WOLCOTT, INDIANA Arles Kropf

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18.

We have had several sick folks the past month. Bro. Irvin Lehman, Sis. Arles Kropf, Allen Oberlander, and Bro. Irvin Furrer have all had surgery, and Sis. Leah Abersoll has been a medical patient.

Jan. 1 was the 50th wedding anniversary of Pete and Sis. Lill Luthi. Sis. Lill has been an invalid for almost 9 years, is completely helpless and unable to speak, but is

wonderfully cared for by her faithful husband. May the Lord continue to give him the strength and patience to endure it all, and may he be rewarded for all the kindness that he has shown unto her.

#### A New Year's Wish

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

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

For Him who gave Himself for me,  
And taught me that my life should  
be  
A life unselfish, not self-willed,  
But with the Holy Spirit filled.

Charles Oberlander, son of Bro. and Sis. Albert, has enlisted in the Air Force.

#### RITTMAN, OHIO

Elta Mae Trent—Claribel Walters

We are reminded each New Year to take inventory of the way we have spent the past year, to see where we have failed or where we can make improvements . . . But, lest we become careless, indifferent, lukewarm, or gradually slip over a year's time, let each of us take daily inventory and ask ourselves two questions, "Have I made spiritual progress?" and "What have I done for my soul today?" It is so easy to become so involved in worldly pursuits that a person neglects **THAT WHICH REALLY MATTERS.** He may give the familiar rationalization: too tired to attend a midweek service, no free time to visit the sick or sorrowing, can't sing so why attend a song service, what would I write to a serviceman, it's too much work to get the children ready for an evening service, your clocks must be early here, I'll do that tomorrow, it won't hurt if I do this little thing—I don't see anything wrong with doing it—or no one will know if I do or don't do this. One writer feels that it's not the things you always do, but the things you leave undone that gives you a heartache when the sun sets.

Isn't it remarkable that people are willing to concentrate on God's



word for one hour on Sunday morning. How did you spend the other 167 hours of the week? It is ironical that as strangers here on a brief journey, some strive so hard to build beautiful dwelling places, yet scarcely gather a few stones for the place they hope to spend eternity.

If we have daily done those things which are edifying to the soul, and have increased our zeal to be about our Father's business, then we will know as another year ends that each day was well spent. We ought to live each day as though it were our last, for some day it will be.

Elected trustee for the coming term was Bro. John Hartzler Jr. Bro. Dan Baltic will serve us as usher.

Arising from the baptismal waters to a new life on New Year's Day were Sis. Sharon Walder and Sis. Karen Zollinger.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Lois Bauman, Bro. Herman Ingold, and Bro. Ben Gasser. Bro. Alvin Winkler still remains hospitalized.

A son, Bryan Joseph, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Grossenbacher.

Leaving for Viet Nam are Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Denny Neiman. May they be prayerfully remembered and protected wherever their call of duty leads them.

#### AKRON, OHIO Florence Graf

I am going to try to live each day,  
each hour,  
With all the force and all the loving  
power  
Which the Creator gave me to  
apply.

I am going to try.

I am going to try to feel the life in  
me  
Is but a trust, which in my custody  
Must be accounted for to One on  
high.

I am going to try.

Several of our loved ones were in hospitals this month. "Hank" Collins, Sis. Eva Wenhardt, "Huck" Cerny and Sis. Esther Graf all were hospitalized for surgery. The Lord cared for each one and granted them successful recoveries.

Dec. 18 was a blessed day for us. Bro. Merle Laukhuf of Latty and Bro. Ben Schlatter of Junction visited our congregation and left us with

many good thoughts to use in our daily life. "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." Chapter 12 of St. Matthew tells us so clearly how we should be diligently working for the Lord, that we may be counted among those who gather with him. We thank Bro. Merle and Bro. Ben, their wives, and their families for visiting us.

Our annual Christmas carol singing was held the evening of Dec. 18. A group of the younger Sunday School pupils sang several of the songs which they learn in their classes. Following the singing of carols by the congregation, Bro. Eugene Pamer spoke on the first chapter of St. Luke, where we read of the foretelling of the births of John the Baptist and of Christ. Refreshments were served during the fellowship hour which followed.

Paul Ritzman has completed his tour of active duty with the Army Reserve. We rejoice with his loved ones and welcome Paul home.

Bro. Theo. Beer of Milford was with us the evening of Dec. 29. As we looked toward the new year, we were exhorted to put on the whole armor of the Lord and continue to live for the Lord.

We have several from our congregation who are unable to assemble with us regularly. Special greetings to Bro. Adam and Sis. Grace Schuckert, Sis. Elizabeth Flaker, Sis. Marie Fritz and Sis. Martha Kaufman. We miss each one and trust the Lord will grant moderate health, that they may assemble with us once again.

Brian Pamer, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer, submitted to an emergency appendectomy, after becoming ill at home. He is recovering satisfactorily.

Our annual collection for Silver Lining fees was very successful. The generosity of our readers is gratifying—many souls will benefit from this spirit of giving. We welcome our new subscribers—may all of us strive to live for God in the coming new year.

#### VALPARAISO, INDIANA Mrs. W. A. Jacob Mrs. Harry Bucher

Ministering Bro. George Lambert of Wichita was with us on Christmas Day, and brought an inspiring message, much appreciated by us.

On December 30, Mildred Ames

and her son, Dillar were baptized. We wish them God's blessings for their every spiritual need; may they ever strive to live for the Lord, as they travel the narrow path of life.

A Christmas Program was given by the Sunday School, "The Glory of God". "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 40:5

This was indeed very impressive. May God bless every one who took part, also the teachers for putting forth their efforts.

#### BERN, KANSAS Mrs. Leonard Baumgartner Mrs. Morris Edelman

Bro. Wayne Gerber from Lester was a visiting minister this month. We thank him for visiting us and may God bless him for his effort. Another visitor that Sunday was Bro. Henry Ruegger from Biel, Switzerland.

Bro. Jake Wenger was hospitalized for a short time this month.

The Sunday before Christmas, the Sunday School sang four carols for the congregation. The Bible Class went caroling that evening, and met afterwards at Bro. Melvin Rokey's home for fellowship. The smaller classes sang for the residents of the Apostolic Home. A group of friends and young members and later a group of couples caroled for the elderly and shut-in of our community.

We have discontinued our Sunday evening singings and started mid-week services. All are invited to attend.

#### BURLINGTON, IOWA Dorothy Taeger Verna Woodward

We are happy to welcome to our congregation Bro. Lloyd Massner's new wife, Sis. Edith. We wish for them much happiness and the Lord's richest blessings.

Our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program the week before Christmas. What a delight to see their innocent, shining faces, telling with joy of our Saviour's birth. It is our sincere prayer that, as they grow up, they can also understand and grasp the meaning of His life, death and resurrection, and then receive His grace to repent and inherit salvation through faith—faith that was

sown as a tiny seed in the Sunday School classes they now attend.

Our singing on the first Sunday of the New Year was well attended.

#### CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

##### Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

Dan Beer gave his testimony and was baptized on Dec. 18. He is the son of Bro & Sis. Harold Beer. Two more souls could be announced for proving. They are Walter Laubscher, son of Bro. and Sis. Ben Laubscher, and Kathy Rinkenberger daughter of Bro. and Sis. Bill Rinkenberger.

Sis. Fridinger is hospitalized several weeks, suffering from a stroke. Sis. Ida Eisenman and Sis. Emma Reutter were hospitalized a few days for observations. Bro. Herman Bauer and Sam Knapp had surgery.

Shut-ins and ill: Sis. Mary Hari and her husband Sam, who so faithfully takes care of him. Bro. Ben Walder and his wife Katie, who faithfully stands by his side. Bro. Jon Bauer, who must make two trips to Chicago every week for treatments. Our aged sister Lydia Scharlach, Bro. Bert Gudeman. May God ever be with these loved ones, and also those that care for them.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Carol Roth, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Elmer Roth of Champaign, to Bro. Tom Hohulin, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie.

#### CROGHAN—NAUMBURG, N. Y.

##### Mrs. Lawrence Farney Mrs. David Schamback

Sis. Mary Jane (Mrs. Arthur) Hirschey has been confined to her home for the past few weeks by illness.

Friend Paul Schulz has spent some time in the hospital.

Funeral services were held from the Naumburg church on Dec. 27 for Joseph Sabo, aged 82, with Bro. Robert Beyer officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

##### Our Pioneer Family

We have chosen the Rudolph Virkler family as our pioneer family. In 1815, a French count founded what was known at the time as French Settlement, at Black River. It was mostly virgin forests, still inhabited by Indians, and the pioneers had to make the land productive at the expense of great effort and privations. People were needed, so Count de Chaumont sent one of

his men to Alsace Lorraine for colonists, and among these were the families Virkler and Farney. In the year 1834 they arrived in this country, after forty-two days on the ocean, landing at New York, traveling up the Hudson and then to the French Settlement, where they bought a large tract of land.

The head of the Virkler family was Rudolf, father of seven sons and a daughter. At the request of his oldest son Joseph, Benedict Weyeneth came from Switzerland to America in 1847, and the first congregation of Evangelical Baptists (Apostolic Christian) was founded here, with Joseph Virkler as the first elder. He was active and traveled much for the proclamation of the Gospel. His successor was his brother, Peter Virkler, who as a powerful preacher traveled all over America, and founded the congregation in Oregon. In the year 1871, he made a journey to Europe to visit the congregations there. He was succeeded, as elder, by his nephew, Solomon Virkler, who died in 1897 and was replaced by his brother, Alpheus Virkler, who preached partly in German and partly in English, and was perhaps the first to preach English in our congregation. The first meetings were held in the homes, with the first meeting place in New York State arranged in the year 1855. A church was built near Croghan in 1866, and in Naumburg in the year 1862. All these first believers rest in a common cemetery in the so-called French Settlement, and across the road from the Croghan Church.

Stories are still recounted of the hardships endured by these early settlers and their families, as they wrested a living from the land and built homes hewed from the forests. Travel from place to place was mostly on foot, and ministering brothers walked from meeting place to meeting place, sometimes in the evenings, when they sang hymns to scare away the wild animals. There were also epidemics of sickness, one of diphtheria taking the lives of many of the small children in the vicinity. The Virkler and Farney families intermarried, and their descendants comprise a large part of our congregation today. In each generation of Virklers since Rudolph, there have been brothers who were called upon to minister to the congregations of our two churches. From the fifth genera-

tion, there are at present five ministering brothers: Leland Hirschey, Robert and Ralph Beyer of the Naumburg congregation, Norbert Steiner at Croghan and Andrew Virkler at Bay City.

#### ELGIN, ILLINOIS

##### Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

Our guest ministers during the holiday season were Bros. Perry Zimmerman and Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest, and Bro. Walter Steffen of Milford. Thanks to God and to the brothers for many sincere messages.

Our Sunday School program was inspiring, as the children recited and sang beautiful songs to God's praise and glory. Many friends and members attended. We love to see them come and hear about the birthday of the King.

Some of our Sunday School children and teachers visited the sick and aged, sang carols and delivered some gifts. Those visited enjoyed this very much, and the children were so happy to do something to make others happy.

Sis. Lydianna Moser wants to extend her heartfelt thanks for the many cards and messages she received during the Christmas Season. She says she is grateful for being remembered by so many, and may God bless everyone. She has passed her ninety-first birthday, is in fair health, and happy in the Lord. The condition of her legs prevent her from assembling with us, and we miss her in our gathering, as well as others high in age. May God bless them wherever they are, and those that care for them.

Bro. Tom Schifferer is now in Viet Nam. Many sincere prayers are offered in his behalf, that God may give him courage to endure all trials, and protect him from harm and evil according to His will. As the author wrote:

In these dread days when earth  
decays,  
Who stays in Him and thus obeys  
Shall be preserved forever.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger have a new grandson, Keith Alan, born December 27. His parents are Robert and Beth Hoppe of Bethel Park, Penn. Sis. Della has been spending the past week with the new baby and the rest of the family.

College address: Douglas Kellen-

berger, PO Bx 1024, Williamsburg  
Va 23185.

**ELGIN, IOWA**

**Mrs. George Butikofer**

"The snow had begun in the evening,  
And busily all the night  
Had been heaping fields and highways  
With a whiteness deep and wide."

This bit of verse well describes the scene we view at the moment. The earth is well blanketed with snow, and we have predictions of an approaching snowstorm for today.

The Christmas season was a most enjoyable one. It was marked with a delightful Sunday School program, with a caroling session in the evening of the same day, terminating with a lunch in the dining area of our church. Toni Butikofer and Chuckie Schupbach read the account of the birth of our Saviour, according to the apostle Luke's gospel, at our program. One cannot help but marvel at the exactness of God's prophecies being revealed. May we realize the importance of paying proper homage to such a loving Saviour and Father who really care for us.

Bert Butikofer and Lawrence Gehrings spent a few days in California during the Christmas season. Sis. Beulah has a sister living in Belle, California and Gehrings visited their daughter, Janet, who is a computer programmer, in Los Angeles County.

We are acquainting ourselves with the New Gospel hymnsbooks . . . Happy to note how many of the lovely hymns have stood the test of time and appear on the pages of the new edition. The following lines constitutes a segment of one of these:

Oh 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 naught can yield me  
comfort  
Like a little talk with Him."  
No. 496

**FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS**

**Joyce Huber**

Five souls, 5 the number of faith,  
told us of their faith for their salvation:

Alene Troehler had the seed of God's word implanted in her heart when a young girl, and although she let it lie dormant many years, she now let it grow. She heeded God's calling, held strong in faith.

Donna Schieler realized her lost condition and wanted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour; acted upon God's Word, received peace, entered into the covenant. All of God's promises are hers to claim for the glory of God. II Cor. 1:20

Sharon (Moser) Kelson said her children were talking about their love for Jesus and asking questions about that which is in the Bible. This caused her to realize her need for Jesus Christ in her life, and so she sought Jesus and found Him.

Bud Kelson said he asked and received. He thought people would tell him he "couldn't do this, or had to do that," but found that no one told him what he could or couldn't do. Jesus did some miracles for him and he "wanted" to discontinue some things because he "found something better."

Steve Roth learned that a prayer summed up as "Do what is your will, Lord, if I can't have mine, "didn't avail much." After he obeyed and knew what God promised, he received peace and joy. We can claim peace because it is in the atonement and Covenant of Calvary. Isaiah 53:5

We were happy to have Bro. Roy Farney of Phoenix and Bro. Leroy Huber here the week end of the provings.

Duane and Arlene Kilgus have turned to the Lord in repentance. Having made the decision and receiving Jesus words in their hearts brings much joy.

Sis. Sarah Steffen, Sis. Hermina Zimmerman, and Bro. Ezra Steffen have been hospitalized and returned home to recuperate. We're thankful for His word, which does the healing. God sent His word and healed them.

Gideon Rinkenberger of Minn., formerly of Fairbury, passed away. Services and burial were here. We praise God for his faith.

Roger, son of Bro. and Sis. Alice Zehr, was married to Rebekah Ewbank. They plan to live at Dixon. We trust they will continue to come here for church often.

**FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

**Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber**  
Another year has passed and a

New Year has begun! Surely, one finds a continual prayer in his heart that God will be with us, as He has in the past, and may we strive to do our best for our Lord and Creator in this New Year, with His help and grace.

Our congratulations to Bro. Raymond and Sis. Mary Pulfer, who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on December 14. May God grant them many more years of happiness together.

A dear friend was taken from us, when the Lord called Alpha Keitel from this life, in his sleep the morning of December 13. Funeral services were held on December 16, with Bros. Sam Aeschliman and Norman Stoller officiating. His wife, Sis. Carrie, preceded him in death only this past August 22. They are survived by two sons, Loren and Martin, and three grandchildren.

We are thankful to Bro. Jack Bollier of the Leo congregation, who again was willing to come to bring us God's message this past month. May He ever be blessed by the Heavenly Father! Bro. David Pulver was united in marriage with Sis. Ilene Kammerer at Milford, on December 18. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Lester and Florence Pulver of Ft. Wayne, and Bro. and Sis. Andrew and Laura Kammerer of Milford. May God grant them His blessings always, in their new life together. They are presently living in an apartment in Leesburg, Indiana.

Our friend, Billy Pulver, spent a few days with his parents, Bro. and Sis. Lester and Florence, and to attend the wedding of his brother, Bro. David. He is presently serving with the US Navy and is stationed at Norfolk, Virginia.

The Christmas program was held on Wednesday evening, December 21. Surely all present could enjoy the blessings of the "Old, Old Christmas Story", as given in verse and song.

Terry Fulkerson arrived home from Germany for a 30-day leave, to be spent with his parents, Bro. and Sis. Sy and Velma, and his wife Judy. He is to report back to his post on January 19.

Margie Pfister, daughter of Bro. Levi and Sis. Lillian, fell during recess time at school and broke her left wrist, which she now has in a cast. We pray that God will grant a speedy healing to the painful, broken bones.

Our annual church election was held on New Year's Day—May all those who have been elected to any position do their best, as they serve the church and their God!

**GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS**  
Marian Wiegand

Bro. Ira and Sis. Carolyn Rokey are grandparents to twins, Jerome Ray and Jill Marie, born Dec. 22. The parents are Bro. Gene and Sis. Dolores Metzger of Rock Rapids, Iowa. The twins are also welcomed by two brothers, Blair and Kent.

College address: Jim Wagner, Student Res Halls Apt 38, 1519 Crums Lane, Louisville Kentucky 40216.

Our annual Christmas program given by the Sunday School was a joyous occasion, as each child spoke a few words regarding the miraculous birth of Christ.

The engagement of Sis. Carol Roth, daughter of the Elmer Roths, and Bro. Tom Hohulin, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin has been announced.

We extend our thanks to Bro. LeRoy Huber and Bro. Wayne Gerber for their sermons of love and encouragement.

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being . . ." Acts 17:28

**GRIDLEY, KANSAS**  
Mrs. Rudy Bahr  
Mrs. Eldon Metzger

This is one of those times I don't feel like reporting . . . yet this is a new year, and these dark clouds are lessons in disguise. Our daughter received for Christmas—the story of a 11-yr.-old girl who always found something to be glad for—she "looked!" If we look, we too can find a "silver lining."

So, the silver lining with the loss of our dear Bro. John Beyer is the wonderful comfort of knowing when a Christian dies, he didn't have to cross Jordan alone . . . that we can cast our cares on Him who takes the heavy load.

The evening of Dec. 18 we had our Sunday School Christmas program. Bro. John passed away Dec. 20. Their daughter, Marjorie, of Richmond, Virginia was able to be with Sis. Sarah and help care for him at the home, until it was necessary to take him back to the hospital, John and Sarah lived on a farm near Gridley, until they retired three years ago and moved to Madison to be near their other daughter, Mary Ann. John loved people—and

we miss his sunny presence—he was the treasurer of our personal property aid, assistant song leader, church usher, world relief representative, and had been a Sunday School teacher . . . each soul is "extra precious" in a small congregation.

Friday morning, the day after the the funeral, Sis. Dorene (Strahm) Metzger called me; she'd bring my potato kettle along to the Christmas program that evening. The program had just started, and the Strahm family was summoned. At the end of the program, we learned it was not "time" for Dorene to go to the hospital, but that Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger were involved in a two-car, head-on collision on their way to Lamont. Friend Ralph Rodgers was in the other car, and all were taken to the Coffey County Hospital for treatment. Dorene, Eldon, and Shawn received serious injuries and were sent on to K. U. Medical Center for further treatment. They didn't give much hopes for Dorene and Shawn making it to Kansas City . . . but the "silver lining" has shown. Dorene is making a good recovery. Soon after arrival there, Jo Lynn, eight pounds, was stillborn. Grave-side services were held on Monday, Dec. 26 by Bro. Sam Huber. Eldon had both bones broken in his left arm below the elbow, and his left hip socket injured. Dorene had severe facial lacerations requiring plastic surgery, pulled ligaments and broken bone in her foot. Little one-year-old Shawn received severe face and head lacerations, head concussion, and a concussion at the base of his skull.

The Lord willing, tomorrow, Jan. 7, Dorene will be released, and Eldon and Shawn will be moved to the Newman Memorial Hospital, Emporia, Kansas 66801. Eldon will have to stay off his feet at least 6 weeks. Shawn's recovery will be an undetermined extent. Paige, their 3-yr.-old son, had a head laceration and was released the night of the accident, as well as Ralph, who received broken ribs and cuts. Ralph is experiencing trouble with his one eye now.

Mark Kraft, son of Sam and Carol Kraft and grandson of Bro. Sam and Sis. Esther Kraft, had surgery during the holiday vacation.

It was good to meet and greet Sis. Mary Huber's family of mother, brother, sisters and families on New

Year's Day. Bro. Wayne Miller had the afternoon services.

**LAMONT, KANSAS**  
Glen Anliker — Mrs. Bernie Emch

We held our annual meeting Jan. 1, with Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker presiding. The following brothers and sisters in faith were elected, re-elected, or the term hasn't yet expired.

**Church Board**—Bernie Emch, Roy Wernli, Glen Anliker; **Cemetery Board**—Fred Luthi, Floyd Isch, plus the ones on the church board; **Sunday School**—Supt., Glen Anliker; Intermediate, Mrs. Bernie Emch; primary, Mrs. Roy Wernli; **Brotherhood Aid**—Personal property, Floyd Isch; Real Estate, Glen Anliker; **Silver Lining Reporters**—Mr. and Mrs. Steven Schrader.

We pray each one might do their part, according to the will of God. Even though some of our members don't hold offices, they are all needed. As our bodies need all their members, likewise the church needs all its members. There are those who do things for the church unseen by man, but seen by God. There will be reward and credit in heaven for all who labor well.

Elmer Gruber, who was hospitalized 5 weeks, departed this life at Newman Memorial Hospital, at the age of 64. Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabbath), assisted by Bro. Roy Wernli, officiated.

Timmy Anliker, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker was hospitalized one week with a broken pelvic bone. He is improving satisfactory at home.

We were refreshed in our most precious and holy faith, when Bro. and Sis. Paul Fehr, Morris, visited us, and Bro. Paul spoke the words of life to us. We thank them for their visit. May our ministers always look to their reward that awaits them in that holy land, as an encouragement to continue to preach the unadulterated word of God. Let us show our appreciation, respect, and love, and support them in our prayers.

**LEO, INDIANA**  
Mrs. Elias Souder

Home for the holiday season were Joyce Schlatter; Jyl Maxfield; Edward Frautschi and his wife Connie; Dr. Leon Stoller and his wife from Dayton, Ohio, who is in the armed services there; Harry Jo Stoller and family. They are at Indianapolis at

the present time, but soon plan on living at South Bend to serve his internship as a doctor.

Little children and young people caroled at various homes and at the Rest Homes during the Christmas season.

Maurice Frank and his family were here on Christmas day. He brought us gracious words at church services.

John Klopfenstein and Mark Souder were announced for baptism.

Bro. John Bollier Sr. and Sis. Cora Levy, who are in Rest Homes, are still about in the same condition.

Herman Conrad is improving in health. Herman is a brother to the Conrad girls.

Maudie Greuter spent a couple of days at the Parkview Hospital, and we are glad to report she is at home again.

### MANSFIELD, OHIO

Aaron A. Sauder

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest . . ." St. Luke 2:13,14.

During this past Christmas season, we also were privileged to praise God, as various groups sang hymns and carols to the ladies in our church home, nursing and county homes, as well as to a number of our older members and shut-ins. The Sunday School program was held on December 18, with the younger and older children all participating in giving "Glory to God in the highest" for His greatest of all gifts, the birth of our Lord Jesus.

On Christmas morning, Sis. Elizabeth Grossenbacher had arrived at church (although she is 91 years old, it is seldom that she has been absent from church services), when she fell and broke her hip. We are pleased to report that she is progressing satisfactorily, although she will be confined to the hospital for at least several weeks. She will surely be missed when we assemble on Sundays. Sis. Elizabeth Wahl is also a patient at Mansfield General Hospital. Sis. Dorothy (Fuhrer) Durkin has returned home, after a stay in the hospital.

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy (Sabo) Gerber and their young son from Lester. Bro. Wayne ministered to us at both Christmas and New Year's services.

Where God in truth abides  
Where two join hand and heart  
We find a threefold cord  
Not lightly rent apart.

Sis Karen Anne Miller and Bro. J. N. Feldman chose the start of the new year to also begin their life together as husband and wife. On Sunday, January 1, Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf conducted the ceremony, uniting in marriage the young couple, who will make their home in Bremen. We extend our best wishes for many blessings and happiness.

### MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Diane Olson

" . . . and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger . . ." A manger, what a strange place for the Son of the Highest to lie! Surely He could not have chosen a more humble place for His coming into this world. Perhaps it was because He wanted the humblest and poorest to know that He loved them and was willing to share their lot. Once again the beautiful story of the Christ child was brought to us through the lips of our Sunday School children.

Doug Olson, son of Everett and Sis. Kathryn Olson, was home on leave and is now stationed at Meridian, Mississippi. Roger Miller was able to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents, Bro. Noah and Sis. Laura Miller, after completing his basic training at Ft. Bliss, Texas. He is now stationed in Arizona.

" . . . but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." We rejoice with the angels in heaven over another soul who has found grace to repent. Our prayers are for Sophie Sikaparya in her new walk of life.

### MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Herman Schaefer

Mrs. Otto Schaefer

Our friend, Gideon Rinckenberger from Bagley, Minnesota, passed away on December 5, after a lingering illness. A few cars of people from our congregation went up to the chapel at Foston, Minnesota, and Bros. Harold Gramm and Alpha Moser had short services for Gideon, and then his body was taken to Fairbury, for services and burial. We are happy to report, in the last months of his illness he sought the Lord in repentance and found peace with his God before his death. Our

sympathy goes out to his dear wife, Sis. Tillie.

Again many gathered at church the evening of Dec. 18, to hear our children and grandchildren recite to us about the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour and his love for mankind. Many beautiful hymns were sung by the Bible classes. It was indeed inspiring.

We collected clothes to send for World Relief, which we hope will be put to good use. May God bless the efforts of all who had part in this.

On Dec. 29, a reception was held for our newly-married couple, Bro. and Sis. Joseph Moser Jr. We welcome her to our congregation and wish them many blessed years together.

Our Elder Bro. Paul Fehr had surgery on his hand, and is again able to use his little finger, which had a severed tendon caused in a farm accident last fall.

Submitted by Bro. Harold Gramm,  
Morris, Minn.

Truly "Confession" is good for the soul. We have again been renewed in our faith through the wonderful experience of a dear friend in repentance. In his late years in life, he realized his need of a Saviour. He had an incurable disease and was really quite ill, but he was seeking, studying the word of God and making right where he had wronged. He had also made confession. He shed many tears over the fact that he had wasted all his good years as an unbeliever, and that he had not taken his children to church, and had not taught them the way of "truth and light", taught to him by his parents. If he could but recall the years, how gladly would he serve the Saviour, but this of course was not possible.

This went on for several months, until one Sunday he told his dear wife (who had been converted quite a number of years before), there was one thing he had held back, and realizing how sick he was, he confessed to her and asked her to make this known to their elder, if he was not able. Soon after, he could say that he felt he had peace and was ready to die. When his elder came, he recognized him and smiled, but was unable to talk and soon went into a coma, which lasted for several hours. Finally, his dear wife could tell her elder what he had confessed to her, and within minutes her dear husband went to sleep,

quietly and peacefully, to awake on that Golden Shore.

The love of God is truly great. Dear sinner, let him in!

#### MORTON, ILLINOIS

Rose Getz — Ruth Rapp

We had a blessed Sunday Dec. 11, when Bro. Russell Rapp was ordained elder by Bros. Noah Schrock, Silas Leuthold, Roy Sauder and Eugene Bertschi. Bro. Arthur Baurer of Princeville was a visiting minister also.

Funeral services for Sis. Louise Heinold, 82, were held December 21. Bro. Russell Rapp officiated. She was the daughter of Adam and Fredericka Stieglitz Heinold. Surviving are her sister, Anna, and cousin, Cora Reckemmer.

Announcement has been made of the forthcoming marriage of Bro. Dan Kaufman and Sis. Marie Steiner.

Bro. Elmer and his mother, Sis. Sarah Rassi, wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all who remembered them in so many ways through this year. Bro. Elmer has been confined to his bed for many years, suffering from multiple sclerosis.

#### PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner  
Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

Suzanna Marie Thomas, daughter of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Anna Thomas, and Douglas Lamar Weaver were united in marriage on Dec. 17.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Patricia Ann Eberhardt, daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Persida Eberhardt, to David W. Dobbins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Dobbins of Peoria.

Fred Nagel, 91, died December 6. He was a resident of Peoria for 44 years, and attended church services regularly. Surviving are 3 nephews, John, Fred and Emil Schlipf, and one neice, Miss Lou Schlipf.

William Veatch died December 23. Surviving are his wife, Clara; 4 daughters, Dorothy Cary, Jeanette Furst, Beverly Pierson, Lemar Veatch, and one son, Melvin Veatch. He was the son-in-law of our Sis. Tillie Luthi.

Bro. Jacob Meier has been a hospital patient since December 4.

We enjoyed the visits from the brothers, Harry Bucher, Al Fisher, and Noah Herman. We pray that

the Lord will continue to bestow his blessings.

Note of thanks:

I owe the Lord much gratitude and praise

For the kind mercy He has shown  
In lengthening out my days.

Also I thank everyone for the love shown to me during my illness. God bless you all. Emma Weyeneth

#### My New Year Prayer

I hear the voice of the bells  
Announcing to the earth  
Another year of frost and flower,  
Of promise, hope and birth.

Lord, teach me in the ways to come  
To do some worthy deed,  
Guide some poor soul toward the  
light,  
Help some faint heart to succeed.

Let me not strive for self alone,  
But lend a hand to aid  
The stranger on the upward path,  
Who falters on the grade.

Strengthen my spirit that the weak  
At need may lean on me,  
And make me, Lord, the instrument  
To lead their hearts to Thee.

#### TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer  
Mary Jane Leuthold

As the new year again has come, we find another year of our earthly span of life is gone. We know not if we will see the rising of the sun tomorrow, so let us all live **TODAY** as we shall one time wish to have lived. Let's let our hearts shine out as brightly as the sun on a newly-fallen snow.

We have many confined to hospitals and sick beds at home. Bro. Frank Baurer is again home, after a short time in the hospital. Our dear sister Lizzie Dill wishes to be remembered in our prayers during her lengthy stay in the hospital. Sisters Louise Aberle and Mary Unsicker also spent some time in the hospital and have again returned to their homes. Friend Lena Knapp is confined to her bed, and we hope that good health will soon return to her. Jane Koch, daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol, recently had her tonsils removed. We pray that all may soon assemble with us again in God's house.

On December 11, Bro. Silas Koch, 78 years old, passed away. Funeral

services for our brother were conducted by Bro. Henry Grimm. Called at a late age into God's fold, Bro. Silas was, we believe, at peace with his Maker. We hope and pray that some day the family circle will again be reunited in that home beyond the sky.

The Lord has seen our needs for a shepherd to lead our flock. Elder Bros. Gene Bertschi, Roanoke; Leroy Huber, Eureka; Roy Sauder, Peoria; Silas Leuthold, Princeville; and Noah Schrock, Oakville assembled with us, and ordained Bro. Dan Koch as elder of our congregation. May God grant him much wisdom and grace to carry out the duties which have been laid upon him.

Janet Sue was the name given to Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner's little girl, born December 14. She truly is welcomed into this home.

Bros. Phil Sauder, Cissna, and Noah Herman, Tucson, proclaimed the good message of life to us. We thank God for sending us messengers to enlighten his least ones in faith.

Our annual Christmas program was held Dec. 18; all truly were inspired by the hand of God reaching out to our little children and young adults.

We welcome friend Fred Beutel back to his home and friends, after a year of service in Viet Nam. We thank God for bringing him safely to us.

The engagement of friends Fred Beutel, son of Bro. Will and Sis. Rose, and Jeanette Wagenbach, daughter of Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise, has been announced.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Will Unsicker, on the death of his son, Alvin, who was recently snatched from this earth in an automobile accident.

Duane Aberle wishes to extend a sincere **thank you** to all who sent cards, gifts, and boxes to him during the holiday season.

The family of Silas Koch wishes to express sincere thanks to all neighbors, friends and relatives for the prayers, words of comfort, cards, flowers, food, memorials and all other acts of kindness during the illness and the loss of their dear one. Words cannot express their deep gratitude to all.

Sheryl Koch, daughter of Bro. Cleo and Halo Koch, and David Wingert of Arizona were united in marriage December 30.

**WINTHROP, MINNESOTA**

Delores Messerli  
Carol Ann Messner

Our Christmas program was held on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 18. We can say we also receive blessings from hearing our children recite and sing in honor of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many young people traveled home for Christmas, making family circles complete. Two of our servicemen, Bradley Gutknecht and Steve Howk were home on leave.

A group went Christmas caroling and enjoyed lunch at Bro. and Sis. Dennis Messner's home afterward. The people at the old folks' homes really enjoyed the Christmas songs.

On Dec. 11, open house and singing was held at the home of Bro. Cornelius and Sis. Delores Messerli, in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary. We wish them God's blessings as they continue in their life together.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt had a new baby girl born on their 25th wedding anniversary, Dec. 27. They named her Paulette Jean.

To welcome in the New Year, church services were held Sunday night, when Noah Miller of Minneapolis proclaimed the gospel. His family accompanied him.

Our yoke is easy; our burden is light. If our cross has become heavy, maybe we have become careless in our prayers or walk of life. We ourselves make the weight of our cross.

How many of us complain about our daily labor? We heard a touching prayer by a visiting brother, who thanked God for the privilege of working.

We received word of Sis. Ida Miller passing away this evening, Jan. 5.

**FT. SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
Steve Gerst

An old year has ended; a new month and a new year has begun. We have walked the old paths, have toiled and striven, and have had many trials and tribulations. Now we must set new treasures and goals for the new year ahead—promise to be more God-like and child-like; to be more earnest in our prayers; more thoughtful, more loving; more sincere and righteous; more true, and to keep the covenant; to be more steadfast in faith and hope; more patient and humble; more constant in the growth of our heavenly wisdom and purified mind;

to be more kind and generous to our fellowman, and even our enemies; and last, but not least, to keep the commandments.

Again we were permitted to sit under the sound of the word, with dear Bro. George Lambert of Wichita. We were reminded of our high and heavenly calling. We pray that many more hearts and souls will be pricked before the door of grace shall be forever closed.

All of the friends and brothers stationed here at Ft. Sam were permitted to spend the holiday season with their loved ones at home. We all enjoyed our short time.

Bro. Joe Beer of Milford has been assigned to Company B-1 in MFSS and is working as an assistant mail-clerk. Bro. Bruce Witzig of Gridley, Ill., is currently assigned to Company A-1 in MFSS, and at the present time has just arrived from leave. Friend Russell Gerber of Bluffton has just arrived to begin his basic training. Friends Dale Blunier of Eureka and Arnold Aeschleman of Canada have received orders for Germany. Bro. Jerome Witzig has left for Ft. Hood, Texas, as his new duty station. We are so thankful that Bro. Jerome can still assemble with us on his long week-ends. Bro. Maurice Huber of Francesville has received orders for Viet Nam. May they each accept their cross, and always remember that the Lord is always near. We pray that He will grant a double portion of grace and strength to those who will be in much danger.

**BRADFORD, ILLINOIS**  
Mrs. Loris Kieser

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." We were reminded anew of the wonderful story of love, through song and verse, when our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program.

Bro. Jerry Kieser had surgery and is doing fine. Randy Ehnle was at Mayo's for a checkup again.

There were nine babies born during the past year, five boys and four girls. Four precious souls were added to the fold.

May this year that is before us be one of health, happiness, and many blessings.

**BREMEN, INDIANA**  
Mrs. Robert Hueni

And we know that all things work

together for good to them . . . who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Each of us are facing a new year—yet none of us can predict even our own future. The following poem will be a blessing to those who are called to go through deep waters. The author wrote it after the death of her young son.

**Trusting Him**

If we should walk down any street  
And stop at any door,  
Life's problems most folks have to  
meet  
Would equal ours and more.

We would not change our lot for  
theirs  
With all things weighed  
together;  
Thus we must see beyond the cloud  
And look for fairer weather.

The sun is always shining high  
And giving forth its light;  
It's but earth's shadow or a cloud  
That keeps it from our sight.

When clouds and shadows pass  
away,  
As clouds and shadows will,  
We suddenly then realize  
The sun is shining still.

And He who keeps the sun and  
moon,  
And all the stars in space,  
Can also chart a pathway that  
Our willing feet can trace.  
Bertha Annis

Congratulations are in order!

In December, Bro. Will and Sis. Anna Lemman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. We rejoice with them over this great blessing from the Lord.

In January, Ernest and Sis. Marie Germann celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more happy years together.

On January 1, Bro. J. N. Feldman was united in marriage to Sis. Karen Miller, in our Mansfield church. They will be making their home on a farm near Bremen.

Bro. Silas and Sis. Pauline Laidig came home from Mayo Clinic just in time for Christmas. While staying with her husband there, Sis. Pauline had the misfortune of falling and dislocated her shoulder, which proved to be very painful. We hear both are recovering nicely, and

All of us are looking for the time when they will again be fellowshiping with us at church.

Bro. Dan Germann is back in his own home—a desire he has had for long time. His children have arranged for someone to care for him here. We are all thankful that his "dream" could be realized.

#### BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA La Verne Roth — Kathryn Miller

Another year has ended, and as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we prayerfully hope that God will grant sufficient grace to face the day-to-day problems that are prime factors in our very existence, molding us as He would have us to be, as a child of God, with faith, patience and perservance as substances to make us spiritually stable, rendering unto all mankind the facets of the golden rule.

In the past year, four souls were added to the fold: Sisters Debra Springer and Myrtle Rathgeber, Bro. Larry and Sis. Millicent Frieden. Births include a son to Bro. and Sis. Bill Schrock, and a son to Bro. and Sis. Larry Frieden. This inventory listing also has a deceased area, of loved ones who have gone to their eternal rest, freed from the afflictions that can befall the flesh: Bro. M. A. Kisling and Sis. Dora Diel.

Christmas Sunday was a full and happy day, a day when families gathered together, especially in the House of Worship, thanking God for his unselfish gift to the world for His beloved Son, and in turn our redemption. We appreciated the visit of Bro. and Sis. Raymond Banwart of Ft Scott, and the message delivered in sincere humility by Bro. Raymond. They were here visiting Sis. Banwart's parents, Bro. and Sis. Eli Somerhalder.

Our annual Christmas Sunday School program was presented the evening of December 18. Members of the Sunday School were responsible for Christmas carols beautifully sung to the residents in the Kiowa Manor, the evening of Dec. 22; at that time they presented candy and fruit to the elderly. It meant much to the elderly to be remembered by the youth; surely such remembrance and kindness will not go unrewarded.

Sis. Carrie Michel returned home, after spending nearly two months with her daughter and family, Bro. and Sis. John Griener in Tremont.

A number from our congregation held services for the residents at the Kiowa Manor on New Year's Day, Sunday, Jan. 1.

Bro. Ed Kircher passed away in the late evening of Jan. 1, after a seriously ill episode of three weeks duration; the divine physician remains supreme in wisdom, and calls His own when earthly afflictions are too complex, remaining true to His promise that **burdens will not be greater than bearable**. Ed was born at Cissna Park, Dec. 14, 1893, and moved to Kiowa from his farm near Burlington in 1946. He was a retired farmer, and a member of the Apostolic Christian Church, becoming affiliated in 1922. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Sophia; three sons, Glen of Wichita, Bro. Wayne of Burlington, and Donald of Stroud, Okla.; and two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Snyder of Bay City and Miss Irene Kircher of Enid.

#### LA CROSSE, INDIANA Joanie Heiniger

We are so grateful that God spared us from the great loss of our new church, when a small fire was discovered early Sunday morning, December 11. With splendid cooperation from many members and friends, the building was thoroughly cleaned in one day. Only minor repairs were needed to repair the damage.

A daughter, Laurie Ann, was born Dec. 19 to Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest.

Bro. Ezra Meiss was able to return home from the hospital in time to spend Christmas with his family. We are glad to report that he is steadily improving.

On Saturday, December 31, we were privileged to hear the testimony of our friend, Jill Heinold, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Virgil and Ruth Heinold. She was baptized and received into the fold. We are always grateful for each soul that finds their need and follows the Lord. It was a wonderful way to spend New Year's Eve, instead of the merrymaking and drinking that so many people do. As a New Year has begun, may we all strive to do His good and holy will. We hear so much about new year's resolutions; a good one to make and try to keep would be to strive to do better each day, by loving God above all and treating our fellowman as ourselves.

Bro. Arthur and Sis. Mary Gude-

man are at Mayo's at Rochester, Minnesota, where Bro. Arthur is undergoing tests. We hope they may soon return home to their families and friends.

Bro. Eugene Heinold is now stationed in Alaska. He is assigned to the Vets Clinic, a branch of the Army Hospital at Ft. Wainwright, which is just outside Fairbanks.

Recently married are friends Teresa (daughter of Leonard and Fern Heinold Antrim) and Carl Melcher, on November 26; and friends Susan Belaschky and Keith (son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Marie Heinold), on December 31. May God bless these unions. May they also see their deep need for their soul's salvation and turn to the Lord, so theirs will also be a true Christian home.

Alice Heinold left during the Christmas holidays for Sarasota, to spend the rest of the winter at her home there.

#### LAMAR, MISSOURI Marie Marti

"Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." Psalm 90:16,17.

Yes, our holiday vacations have ended, and we are again resuming our routine duties. A little seven-year boy rushed in the first morning and quietly confessed, "You know I was school-sick. It's so good to be back." He was cheerfully and happily accepting his tasks, and he is satisfied only with the very best that he can do; he puts his heart into each part of it. One of the thoughts written in a treasured gift received this year goes something like this: Do your job in such a way that puts lights in people's faces; do that job in such a way that when you are out of sight, folks will always know which way you went by the lamps you left behind. May we so live for the Lord in this new year that our lights will shine forth to those round about us, and linger with them even after we are out of sight.

It was good to have so many dear ones home for the holidays to spend a few days with their families. Among them was Bro. Elmer Bucher, who brought to us two inspiring messages on Christmas Day.



We thank him for bringing to us God's holy word in truth and simplicity.

Bro. Fred Braker was hospitalized for several days for medical attention. He is home again and able to attend church half days. We hope he will soon be restored to good health.

#### PORTLAND, OREGON Mrs. Edward Unsicker

"... his name shall be called Wonderful," read a member of the Junior Sunday School Class. All down the line, the group read outstanding Old Testament prophecies of our wonderful Saviour's birth, fulfilled in—the fulness of God's time—Galatians 4:4—perfectly fulfilled, exactly fulfilled, hundreds of years later. What a God is ours!

Though surrounded by chaos and confusion, we can start the new year walking in Christ. Any of us "... if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17 No room for worry in this life in Christ; in His word are faith and confidence, power and direction. "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8.

Again we have experienced His help, far beyond our expectations. Our dear mother, Sis. Rose Miller, was very, very ill. The doctor and nurses gave us little hope for her life... but God, our great, almighty God, has raised her up! Praise His name, she is again worshipping with us in the Portland congregation!

Ely and Christine Ardu and daughters, Ann and Sarah, are joyfully welcoming Gerald to their family circle, thanking the Lord for their first little boy.

#### PULASKI, IOWA Mrs. Ray Martin

Bro. and Sis. Richard Teubel have a new baby girl, named Sally Jean. She is welcomed home by three brothers and three sisters.

The first Sunday in December, Bro. Carl Hartman from Kansas ministered unto us. We thank him for the messages he brought unto us.

#### The Gospel of Truth

The heavens with God's praise resound,

It reaches earth's remotest bound,  
Where'er our gaze is wended.  
Blest is the country, blest the clime,  
To which the word of life sublime  
Of light and truth is send.  
Truthful, joyful, heart-renewing,  
Sin subduing, comfort spending,  
To the soul its glory lending.

Though all this world should pass away,  
The truthful word of God will stay.  
It gives us bread from heaven.  
Illuminates our earthly course,  
Of strength and courage is the source,  
The humble now are given  
Knowledge, wisdom; Earth  
relenteth,  
Faith ascendeth, pure, immortal,  
Out of death to heaven's portal.

#### SABETHA, KANSAS Mrs. Joe Steiner

Our Sunday School classes gave a short program during the noon intermission, on Christmas day. It is always nice to see the interest of our youth, the future church. We appreciate their offering, and also the efforts of our Sunday School teachers.

Friend Roger Hartter arrived home on Dec. 24, after a year in Viet Nam. He is on thirty days' leave and is to report at Ft. Hood, Texas, Jan. 24. He was announced for proving last Sunday, as he had turned to the Lord shortly before leaving the States. If the Lord is willing, he will have the opportunity to bring his testimony before the congregation on Jan. 15.

Sis. Fannie Bahr is presently at the A. C. Home, while convalescing after her stay in the hospital.

We have discontinued our Sunday evening singings, but we now are holding our mid-week services again on alternate weeks with the Bern church. Services are on Wednesday, at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

#### TOLEDO, OHIO Mary Ann Weigle

We are glad to report that Bro. John Fetter was able to come home from the hospital and is making satisfactory progress in recovering from his recent stroke.

We had our annual Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 18. Various groups also went Christmas caroling to the shut-ins. It was a blessing to both the carolers and the listeners.

#### CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

#### Lorna Schrock—Jeanette Knapp

Our Sunday School pupils held their annual Christmas Program on Wed. evening, Dec. 21. How thrilling it was to hear the children and young people express in word and song their love for Jesus.

Bro. Leroy Huber was our guest minister for the month. Many timely and practical lessons were expounded from God's word.

Kenny Schrock, a high school senior and son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther, suffered a fractured ankle. He spent a few days in the hospital, and since his release has antly learned the use of crutches, enabling him to get around, in spite of his cast.

Recently announced was the engagement of Chris E. Miller Jr., son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Betty, to Phyllis Kupferschmidt, who is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Laura of Eureka. No definite wedding plans have been made.

During 1966 our church recorded 2 marriages, 2 baptisms, 7 births, and 2 deaths. Thus another year has become history. How swiftly we are approaching the hour when our Lord will call us home or come for us in the air. The following poem expresses a New Year's thought for us all.

#### All That We Say

If all that we say in a single day,  
With never a word left out,  
Were printed each night  
In clear black and white,  
'Twould prove queer reading, no  
doubt.

And then just suppose,  
Ere our eyes we could close,  
We must read the whole record  
through;  
Then wouldn't we sigh,  
And wouldn't we try  
A great deal less talking to do?

And I more than think  
That many a kink  
Would be smoother in life's tangled  
thread,  
If half that we say  
In a single day  
Were left forever unsaid.

#### FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

#### Annabelle Bahr — Marie Zaugg

The Sunday School presented a Christmas program to their parents and friends on Sunday evening, a week before Christmas.

The community was saddened and the family bereft when George Sinn, age 63, passed away unexpectedly from a heart attack, Dec. 23. He was in the hospital only a few hours. He is survived by his wife, the former Sophia Cardill, and 4 sons and 2 daughters: Don, Dick, Kenneth, Delbert, Carol (Mrs. Earl Carter) and Joyce. Funeral services were held by Bro. Samuel Anliker, Lamont. Sympathy is extended to the family in their sorrow.

Bro. Paul Fehr, Morris, ministered to our congregation at evening services, on their way to Ft Sam Houston, where they would visit our brothers and friends in service stationed there.

Little April Sinn, 10-mo.-old granddaughter of Bro. and Sis. Gus Sinn, became ill while visiting in their home with her parents, and was hospitalized several days with pneumonia. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Sinn, Littleton, Colo.

#### JUNCTION, OHIO

**Mrs. Alvin Manz — Mrs. Ben Manz**

Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz have a new baby girl, Mildred Henrietta, born on Dec. 19.

Tim Schlatter, 15, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Juliet Schlatter, had his hand severely injured in a corn-picker, Dec. 26. He was taken to Mercy Hospital in Toledo, where he had 4 fingers and part of his left hand amputated. At this writing he is home, but still will have to undergo several more operations. He is a brave young man, and we wish him much courage.

Sis. Frieda Manz injured her leg and is confined to her home.

Bro. Adam Manz was re-elected as trustee. Bro. Elias Manz and Sis. Henrietta Manz were elected as Sunday School teachers, replacing Bro. Emanuel Manz and Sis. Francis Dotterer, whose terms expired.

Our Thursday evening mid-week services have been discontinued for the winter.

Our Sunday School children went Christmas caroling to several of our widowed and shut-in sisters, and then were served refreshments at the home of Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Ruth Manz.

#### MILFORD, INDIANA Margarite Hoerr

Our business meeting on the second Sunday of the new year was held, following afternoon services. Bro. Ezra Beer was elected as

trustee to fill the office of Bro. Oliver Haab, who had diligently served his term. Bros. Carlton Beer and Ray Haab were elected as teachers, to provide the Sunday School with the additional help needed. Bro. Don Beer was elected to the office of treasurer, faithfully filled by Bro. Howard Beer formerly, and Bros. Willard Schieler and Dick Kaiser were elected to carry out the Brotherhood Aid program.

Bro. and Sis. Oscar and Hulda Graff will observe their golden wedding anniversary on Jan. 10. Their many friends, neighbors and relatives are looking forward to sharing this day with them at an open house planned by their family. They are the parents of five daughters; Mildred Levy, Sis. Helen Kaiser and Sis. Clara Kaiser of our congregation; and Sisters Kate Sauder and Phyllis Hueni of the Bremen congregation. They also have thirteen grandchildren. We, as a congregation, join in wishing them additional blessings and happiness, and many more years together.

Funeral services were held recently for our friend, Fred Haab. Fred was the son of our former minister, Bro. Ed Haab; and Fred's wife, Mary, who preceded him in death, was a former member of our congregation. Bros. Theo. and Henry Beer conducted the services.

#### APOSTOLIC PIONEER

Bro. Edward Haab, first minister of our Milford church, was a true Apostolic pioneer in our community. Born in Zurich, Switzerland, he immigrated to the United States over one hundred years ago, when he was ten years old. His first home was in Morton. His marriage to Lyda Graff took place in 1880; to this union were born ten children.

From Morton he moved to Clay-tonville, Ill., where he was a blacksmith by trade, also selling farm implements. While living there he attended the Cissna Park church and was helpful in the ministry there.

Soon after the turn of the century two real estate men, the Neff Bros. of Milford, visited many of our Illinois churches and were successful in selling farm land to some families. In 1904 Bro. Ed moved his family to this community. Just previous to his coming, the families of George Hartter, Adolph Rudin, Emil Kaiser, Henry Waldbeser and Jake Krauter had also made this

move.

Here was a nucleus of people, all of the same faith, who banded together to form our first congregation. Bro. Ed ministered to them, as they gathered in a small house just west of town. A year later more Illinois people joined them. These families are as follows: the Henry Rassis, Christ Grimms and John Rassis from Cissna, the Matthew Weissers and Andy Rapp, his mother and sister Mary from Fairbury.

By now the group was too large for the small building in which they had been gathering, and Adolph Rudin gave a parcel of ground for a church. This was the land on which our present church stands. One of our present brothers recalls that the Neff Realtors, who sold the farm land to these families, offered to give \$1000 toward a church building. Recalling that the money was considered a large sum, courage was taken by the group to begin building a church home. The original building was built in 1906, and Bro. Ed was the only minister.

After the building of the church, the congregation grew by more families moving from Illinois. From Cissna Park came Ulrich Beer, Frank Beer, Andy Beer, Emil Baumgartner, John Ruch, John Zbinden, Theodore Haab and Miss Mary Steiner; from Roanoke, Fred Wuthrich; from Tremont, Fred Graff; from Congerville, Joshua Zimmerman; and from Fairbury, the Chris Kammerer family. Children of the Andy Armbruster family of Fairbury also set up housekeeping here, with three boys, Jake, Andy and Fred farming while their sister, Dora kept house for them. John and Emily Hoerr, son and daughter of the John Hoerr's of Fairbury, tended their father's land here also, later giving over the farm to their brother, Dave and his wife, Rose.

More early families in the church's history were the Metzgers, Martins, Schmidgalls and Riggenbachs. It was recalled by one of our members that the first funeral in the new and original church was Anna Mary Rapp, mother of Andy and Mary. She died shortly after her arrival to this community.

With all of these families came many young people, and Bro. Ed was instrumental in starting a German Sunday School with the help of two teachers, Bros. Andy Rapp and Fred Wuthrich.

A few years later my grand-

father and his family, the Simon Beers, moved from Mansfield, and the George Stieglitzs moved from Metamora, Illinois.

Assisting Bro. Ed in the ministry now was Bro. Andy Rapp and Bro. George Stieglitz. These brothers faithfully ministered to the congregation's spiritual needs.

Bro. Ed had a deep concern for the young people, that they might find their way to the Lord. He used to preach that the Lord first had to instill a desire in the hearts of the unconverted to seek Him. Many of our faithful members, who used to listen to his sermons as unconverted souls, remember his influence and helpfulness in showing them the way to their Lord.

He was loved and respected throughout the community. A newspaper clipping, brittle and yellowed with age, lovingly saved by a relative since the time of his death tells that he "was well and favorably known throughout the community and was very congenial. He held a prominent place in the German church and was an enthusiastic member, commonly spoken of as one of the keystones of the church."

Previous to his death, a young man was asked by the congregation to assist Bro. Ed. This was Bro. Theo. Beer, my father, and I have heard him say what loving encouragement and kind helpfulness Bro. Ed gave to one who felt so inadequate to serve the needs of the church.

In years to follow, after Bro. Ed's death, Bro. Henry Beer was the congregation's choice to add to the ministry—and later, Bro. Elmer Hartter. Now we also have Bro. Walt Steffen to minister to our need. These three brothers, along with Bro. Theo. are our present ministers.

As we look back over the beginning of our church home here in Milford, we can only marvel at the separate paths that led so many God-fearing families to find their homes here. We also feel a deep thankfulness to those who cared enough about their faith to form a new church in this community, so that sixty years later it is still here for us to enjoy, and to find a haven in—as we go to worship the God in whom we found our salvation. Surely it is our responsibility to preserve this faith for which so many people worked so diligently. **May the Lord instill in our hearts a desire to do so.**

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

Albert Durig, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Durig of Girard, passed away on Friday evening, December 9 after a lengthy illness. He leaves his widow, Freda Barth Durig; one son Keith of home; two daughters, Mrs. Dean Dravis of Girard, Mrs. Steve Ference of Yardley, Pa.; 3 brothers, John of Niles, O., Jacob of Hubbard, O., and Joseph of Girard; one sister, Mrs. Helen Emch of Girard. He attended the Apostolic Christian Church in Girard. Services were held on December 12, with Bros. Lorentz Emch, Jesse Emch and Robert Stoll officiating. Interment took place in the cemetery in Girard.

Robert E. Witschey, son of Dan Witschey, passed away very suddenly in Charleston, W. Va., on December 24. He was born in New Martinsville, graduated from high school, attended Ohio University. He was the founder and senior partner of **Witschey, Harman & White**, and a past president of Certified Public Accountants of the West Virginia Society. He leaves his widow, one daughter, one son and one grandchild, his father, three sisters, three brothers. He served as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. Funeral services and interment were held in Charleston on December 26.

Relatives and friends were sorry to hear of the death of Fred Durig of Girard, on Dec. 19.

Dan Witschey observed his 92nd birthday on December 31. He was visited on that day by his son John, grandson Walter, great-granddaughter—Anne Elizabeth Witschey of Charleston, and many relatives living in this area.

Mrs. Albert Durig and son Keith of Girard spent the New Year weekend with relatives here.

Mrs. Robert Roth (Austa Lohr) had the misfortune to fall and suffer painful injuries in her home, on January 2. She was taken to the hospital, treated and released, and is recuperating in her home.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riegenbach, on January 2, with a good attendance. Regular business was transacted, and plans made for services at the country church again this summer, dates to be announced later. Mr. and

Mrs. Delbert Indermuhle of the Monroe Church were in attendance.

F. E. Barth of Parkersburg, W. Va., visited during the holidays with relatives.

**OAKVILLE, IOWA**  
Martha Steiner

December was the month for Christmas caroling, as various groups spent an evening singing for others, telling the story of Christ's birth—"Tis not the babe, but Christ the man who walked in Galilee; tis not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free" . . . And also, what a pleasure we receive in hearing the little children sing and tell us of God's gift to mankind.

Bro. Steve Gerst was home from Ft Sam Houston for the holidays. We wish him the Lord's guidance and protection, as he goes back to receive further assignment.

Bro. Chris Greiner departed this life in a very quiet manner and was laid to rest on December 28. He lived alone and went about his daily walk of life, in his quiet way.

A number of people have spent some time in the hospital this past month: Bros. Floyd Rowell, Leon Kuntz, and Orel Steiner, Sis. Sarah Gerst, and friend Mrs. Dorothy Holsteen. We are thankful that they are all able to be up and about again.

December was our last time for evening services for the present time. Our building program has reached the point to where it imposes a hardship in cleaning the church twice a week, which would be necessary. We are thankful that we can assemble with the Burlington congregation on Wednesday evenings to hear the word of God.

Our Elder Brother Noah and Sis. Hattie Schrock had a memorable fiftieth wedding anniversary on December 24, as friends and relatives called to visit. Their ten children and families were home to be with them on this occasion.

Our December service in Iowa City was quite well attended, in spite of the forthcoming holidays. We invite all who can to come to our meeting place, the Danforth Chapel, across from the Student Union, on the third Wednesday of each month.

Bro. George and Sis. Gladys Vierling have gained a new daughter-in-law this month, as his son, Wayne, and Kay Miller from Burlington were united in marriage.

Our ministering Bro. Gus Scheitlin suffered a slight stroke on New Year's Day. He will be confined to the hospital for several weeks, but he has incurred no disabilities. Cards and letters may be sent to him at Burlington Hospital, 602 N. 3rd, Burlington, Iowa.

Sis. Lois Heiniger will be leaving our community soon to spend several months in Phoenix. We wish her God's blessing in her new undertaking.

Thank You Letter: We wish to thank everyone who sent cards and good will wishes for our fiftieth anniversary. Your kindness and thoughtfulness meant so much and helped to make it a joyful day. Greetings and Best Wishes for health and God's rich blessing in the new year. Noah and Hattie Schrock.

#### TAYLOR MISSOURI

Mrs. Eli Sutter Mrs. Bill Heimer

The Christmas program was presented to us by the Sunday School on Dec. 18. The birth of the Baby Jesus was told in verse and song and was enjoyed by all. The program ended with the entire Sunday School singing "The Babe of Bethlehem". It was beautifully sung and touched the hearts of all of us.

Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell celebrated their 25th anniversary, at open house in their home on Sunday Dec. 18. Bro. William Cottrell was united in marriage to Sis. Ruth Butikofer on Dec. 14, 1941. She is the daughter of Bro. Will and Sis. Marie Butikofer. They are the parents of four children, Bro. Bill in Vietnam, Sis. Susanne, Sandra and Tommy at home. Many relatives and friends came to pay their respects, and wished them many more years together. We also wish them the Lord's continued blessing in their life together.

Our college students and those in nurse's training had their holiday vacation and now are back to their studies again. Edra Gerst, Oakville, spent her vacation with her parents, Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sarah Gerst; Lois Doorneweerd. Lester, with her mother, Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd and family; and Eleanor Yackley with her parents, Bro. Perry and Sis. Clara Yackley and family.

Bros. LeRoy Yackley and Russell Henning spent their Christmas vacation here. They are stationed at Ft. Sam Houston.

Visiting ministers the past month were Bro. Edward Lanz, Oakville. He was accompanied by his wife and family and her mother, Sis. Edna Wiegand, who formerly lived here. This was Bro. Edward's first visit since he is in the ministry. We enjoyed having him.

Bro. Bob Pohl, Burlington, Ia., was also a welcome visitor on Christmas Day. He and his family came to spend Christmas Eve with us.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 6. The trustee whose term expired was Bro. Dick Sutter, and Bro. Don Feller replaces him. Bro. Perry Yackley was elected for the one year unexpired term of Bro. Bill Heimer.

The teachers whose terms expired are Sisters Dona Grimm and Linda Kolthoff. They were replaced by Sisters Charlene Sutter and Kathy Haab. Bro. Marvin Wiegand was elected to teach the Senior Bible Class some time ago, when Bro. Roy Grimm was chosen for the ministry. Bro. Norman Haerr replaces Bro. Marvin Wiegand as usher. Bro. Perry Yackley, who has been our sexton for several years, continues in this capacity.

#### ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA

Doris Graf — Jeri Minger

We were happy to have several visiting ministers with us the past few months. Bros. Ben Maibach and Herman Kellenberger stopped and worshiped with us. Bro. Richard Schupbach from Phoenix, and Bro. Burt Butikofer, from Elgin, Iowa, visited and ministered unto us.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held Sunday, Dec. 18. It was truly enjoyable and uplifting to listen to these children say their pieces and sing of Christ's birth.

Before Christmas, we held Thursday evening services at the home of Bro. John Paternoster, who is not always able to attend church. It was a pleasure to sing carols to this brother, who appreciates it so much.

Sis. Joyce Minger has moved to Peoria, where she is employed. We miss her very much in our congregation.

#### CHAMPAIGN-URBANA,

ILLINOIS

Ben Blunier

We at Champaign are grateful that services are now being held every Sunday at the University

YMCA Building. May God's rich blessings continue for all who will gather.

A special thank-you to the area churches who so warmly received us when we visited on the off Sundays these past few years. We hope you will find as warm a welcome when you visit at Champaign.

Ministers will be provided by Goodfield and Cissna Park on the first and third Sundays of each month, and by other area churches as scheduled on the other Sundays. Tremont is scheduled for January 22; Wolcott, January 29; Fairbury, February 12; and Bradford, February 26.

Thanks to Bros. Henry Grimm, Emanuel Gudeman, Ed Hohulin, Henry Kilgus and Perry Zimmerman, who ministered to us this past month, adding so much to our holiday season. One interesting comparison made was the Christian and the student. We register as a Christian when we repent and are baptized. A good student stands ready for examinations, & perhaps crams somewhat for those semester exams. However, a Christian must always be ready for that final exam, for we know not what hour our Lord doth come. This is the highest school. Jesus is the teacher.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Verna Roth have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Carol to Bro. Tom Hohulin, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie. God bless them in their life together.

#### GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Lydia and Eunice Kammerer

Bro. Noah Hermann, from Tucson, was our visiting minister on Christmas Day.

Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein from Alabama was guest Wednesday evening Dec. 28.

Bro. Barnhardt Ringger, who had been ill for the past nine months, passed away at his home Jan. 3, at the age of 73. He is survived by his wife the former Leah Welk of Morton, and the following children, Edwin, Raymond, Freddie, Gridley; Alvin, Meadows; Betty Hermann, Laura; and Viola and Lillia at home; and a number of grandchildren.

With the sick: Sis. Anna Schlipf, who has been seriously ill with double pneumonia, is recuperating at Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

Bro. Sam Witzig, who had been readmitted to Methodist Hospital,

is again able to be home, following treatment for infection, resulting from injuries he suffered some months ago.

Sis. Lillian Witzig, who was hospitalized with phlebitis, has sufficiently recovered to return to her home. Sis. Fannie Wiegand is a patient in Fairbury Hospital.

We wish them all a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kiefer of Chicago are the parents of a daughter, Nichol Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lorene Kiefer, Gridley.

Announcement was made on Christmas Day of the engagement and coming marriage of Sis. Lila Hany, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Hany, and Bro. Enid Schlipf, son of Bro. Emil and Sis. Ella Schlipf of Gridley. We wish them God's blessings in their undertaking.

Sis. Leila K. Funk, daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Funk, has entered a school of special education, in Dallas, Texas, for a course in instructional surgery. Her address is Miss Leila Funk, Wilma Bass Memorial Hall, Ft. Worth Str., Dallas, Texas 75246.

Bro. Alph and Sis. Carolyn Stoller, have returned to their home, after visiting their son, Captain Dennis K. Stoller, and family in El Paso, Texas, over the Christmas holiday.

Bro. Bruce Witzig has returned to Ft. Sam Houston, after spending two weeks with his parents, Bro. Alph and Sis. Lillian Witzig.

#### MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Ruth Dapper — Julie Dapper

"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." St. Matthew 18:4.

Humility was certainly evident, when on Dec. 18 the Sunday School children presented their Christmas Program to the congregation. Truly, all those who were present could observe the sincerity and humility, as the little children recited their verses and sang their songs telling the story of the birth of the "Little Lord Jesus". May it also be a lesson to each of us, that if we can remain humble as a little child, we are given the promise of eternal life.

Our congregation was richly blest with the visit of Ministering Bro. Bert Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa. Bro. and Sis. Butikofer and their family

visited us during the holidays. We were given many inspiring messages, and were reminded of our duties here on this earth. Our prayers are that God will bless this family for visiting us here on the West Coast.

With the old year 1966 past, and the New Year 1967 here, perhaps we can all keep in mind the following verse, which was recited by one of our children at our Christmas Program:

"One gift which we received last year

We soon must cast away.

We welcomed it with glad acclaim,  
It was a festive day. . . .

That gift, of course was the new year;

It was God's gift to all.

He gave us all those glorious days  
For good deeds great and small.

Did we use wisely all it's time,

Or did we waste the hours?

We had great opportunity;

The choice, of course, was ours.

Soon God will give another year,  
Brand new with pages white.

We pray, dear God, that all our deeds

Be worthy in thy sight."

#### PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Mrs. Joe Beer — Mrs. Ervin Rokey

"I can hardly believe another year has passed." "Do you have your New Year resolutions made?"

**Business houses taking inventory.** I'm sure we all recognize these. Do we realize the importance of them?

With time flying so fast, we ought to make the utmost of every minute, realizing that very soon could be the ending of our Year. Let all of us take inventory of our life. Surely we can find something to resolve. We should try ever so hard to walk closer with our Lord, so that when our year ends, our name will be recorded in the Book of Life.

The Sunday School program was held the evening of December 18, with the Bible class singing carols, and the little children—in their innocence—expressing with poem and song the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Sunday, December 11 was a blessed day for us. It was the beginning of a new life for two young converts. Sis. Carolyn Dotterer and Bro. Loren Schrenk. Saturday evening, they gave their testimony, and

Sunday were baptized and taken into the fold. We welcome them and wish for them God's grace to travel this new journey.

Following baptism, we were privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper. Bro. Carl Kinsinger from Los Angeles assisted Bro. Roy Farny in this all-important work.

Bro. Steve Roth, another new convert from Fairbury, but attending school here, went to his home church the following week, where he gave his testimony and was baptized (Dec. 18). Bro. Roy Farny was privileged to go to Fairbury for the testimony and baptism of Steve. We are so grateful to have these young converts in our little church.

The holiday season is usually the beginning of our winter visitors. It was a surprise to see Bro. Albert Scheitlin walk into our congregation on Christmas Day. We were blessed with the message spoken by him. Bro. Al and Sis. Ann are visiting their children, Abe and Kathy Schmidgall.

Bro. Robert and Sis Christine Baum, who have been visiting Christine's parents, Bro. and Sis. Richard Schupbach and family, left to go back to their home in Morton. They have been here about one month.

Bro. and Sis. Richard Schupbach's three daughters held a surprise 25th wedding anniversary reception for them, at the home of Bro. and Sis. Joe Dotterers. This also marks a silver anniversary of their spiritual walk of life. Bro. Richard has also been serving in our little church eight years in the ministry. We wish them God's blessings and grace, and if the Lord is willing, grant them another 25 years together.

#### ROANOKE, ILLINOIS

Sara Aeschleman

We were glad to see our friends, Arnold Aeschleman and David Knapp home with their friends and loved ones for Christmas and New Years. Arnold, who is presently stationed at Ft. Sam, will be leaving shortly for Germany. Dave will be going back to Norfolk. We sincerely wish them the Lord's protection wherever they may be called upon to serve our nation.

Sun, Dec. 18, the Sunday School children and Bible class presented a very nice Christmas program. One of the Sunday School teachers said, May these children some day not

only read and sing about the little babe in the manger, but also follow Him to the cross, where they will find the true meaning of His birth.

Funeral services were held Saturday Dec. 31 for Bro. Silas Kempf, who passed away after enduring much pain and suffering. Bro. Eugene Bertschi had the services.

Faithful was he until death's day;  
Now God will wipe his tears away.  
What are the sorrows of this time  
Against God's glory, so sublime?

Bro. and Sis. Robert Bradle are the parents of their second child, a little daughter, Joyce Ann, born Jan. 6.

We want to thank Bro. Dan Koch, from Tremont, for visiting our congregation, and invite him to come back soon.

#### ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT Carlton J. Lanz

Home on leave for the Christmas holidays were Bros. Dennis Kupferschmid and Eric Kloter of Ft. Sam, Dale Zahner from a year's service in Viet Nam; Richard Hany and Mike Farney, likewise in service, spent Christmas here with their parents and relatives.

An estimated sixty-five joined in carolling at various homes and institutions, where some Christmas baskets had been left, ending up at Bro. Ervin Luginbuhl's home. A nice lunch was fixed and the somewhat chilled carolers found warmth around glowing fireplaces.

Sis. Esther Luginbuhl, who has been a patient for an appendectomy, has left the hospital to recuperate at her home. We wish her a speedy recovery. Bro. Gottlieb Zahner, in his eighties, is receiving treatment at the Manchester Memorial Hospital for injuries from a fall in his home.

Born on Jan 2, was a little boy, Brian Christian, to Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Florine (Moser) Luginbuhl.

On New Year's Day several of us attended services, in the morning, of a small church in Ohio. The weather was bad, sleet was falling and the roads icy, but we managed to reach the church safely, however a little late. As we neared the building, we heard singing and, wasting no time, we hurried inside, where we joined in with the singing of their morning hymn. Bro. Schlatter had the service, with Bro. Manz adding a few words. The service over,

we went downstairs and together enjoyed the noon-day meal, consisting of home-made bread, Swiss cheese and several varieties of sweet buns and hot coffee. We received a warm welcome and truly enjoyed the few hours we spent together here at this little church at Junction. May God bless their efforts. We left then for Latty, where we attended the wedding of Bro. John Isch and Sis. Mary Rager, of Bluffton and Latty respectively.

#### LESTER, IOWA Emelie Knobloch

Many folks sang carols for the older folks, the ill, those who needed cheer.

Bro. and Sis. John Moser celebrated their 50th anniversary, and Bro. and Sis. Wm. Nester celebrated their 40th anniversary. We wish them strength and God's blessings for more years together.

Among the ill: Sheila Moser fractured a bone in her wrist. Bro. Martin Knobloch had major surgery. Bro. Wilbert Knobloch was hospitalized over the holidays. Bro. and Sis. Raymond Meyer and family miraculously escaped serious injury in a car accident before Christmas. Sis. Twyla still has her leg in a cast. They are all recuperating nicely. Larry Leuthold was in a car accident and suffered cuts and bruises. We wish the ill God's blessings for a quick recovery.

Our Sunday School program was on Dec. 18. There is a great blessing in the teachings given by the youth.

Many students and loved ones were home over the holidays.

Births: To Mr. and Mrs. Roger Knobloch, a son, Dec. 20, Thadd Dean. To Bro. and Sis. Eugene Metzger, Dec. 22, twins, a son and a daughter. Jerome Ray and Jill Marie. Jill had to have major surgery and is still hospitalized.

#### ALABAMA Lynn Klopfenstein

Sis. Bertha Harville, 68, passed away, having a sudden heart attack on January 10. She had returned to her home the previous week, after spending a few months with her daughter, Joyce, in Mobile. Her passing has been keenly felt by the many friends and neighbors. Bertha was truly a faithful warrior for the Lord. Her faithful witness bore an influence on everyone with whom she made acquaintance. She was

seemingly unrelenting in reviewing and memorizing poems and Scripture verses. This talent was used, and through its use an impact was made upon the minds of many people. Bro. Hale conducted the funeral services at the Landersville church. Bro. Bauman assisted, and had final prayer at the graveyard.

Sis. Martha Evans of the Hillsboro church died January 11, after a lingering sickness of several months. She had resided for over a year at the Moulton Rest Home for the aged, where she passed away. She leaves to mourn a large family, including her brother, Bro. Henry Stricklin, as well as a daughter, Sis. Julia Hale, Paulding, Ohio. Her presence will be missed by the many folks who knew her, but her presence with the Lord is the source of consolation. Funeral services were held at the Moulton Funeral Home, with Bro. Junior Hale officiating.

Thus within the space of a few hours, we have experienced the passing of two beloved children of God. These children awaited their eternal rest, and rightly so, for they made preparation well ahead for heavenly rest. The thin veil has been pierced by them, and the dawn of eternity springs forth. The works of the Lord are sure, and are well done. Who is man, with a finite nature, to question the will of God, who is infinite? Let us who remain exercise faith and faithfulness, so that our eternal dawn may be bright and beautiful.

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### Part of the Memorandum . . . (Cont. from Page 1)

warnings to the hearts of members, and by doing so we lay the responsibility entirely upon their own conscience.

. . . A warning also seems to be greatly needed against wasting time reading fictitious stories and novels . . .

. . . our meeting ended with a feeling and testimony in our hearts that the Lord had been among us, and that we should be able to labor together harmoniously and in one accord . . .

Memorandum written by  
Ernest Graf Sr

## AT THE LAST STATION

[Many know Edward Kambly. As a faithful and proved pilgrim, he has journeyed with the shining city glowing in hope. Edward has a brother, Paul, from Switzerland. This article is by Paul. The words are in beautiful harmony with the spiritual life as shown in scripture.]

Not very long ago I visited a brother in the faith who was very ill. After we had exchanged greetings he said, "I am at the last station". These words were said by a dying man.

Neither the author of this article nor anybody else should think, There is still time; the last station is still very far away. Moses, the man of God, realized the frailty of human life, and he said, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away . . ."

What do we do when we are traveling, and the conductor announces that we are arriving at the last station? Certainly we shall gather our luggage and get ready to get off the train. Often we can see that travelers who have much luggage also have many difficulties when leaving the train. Is it not so, that also in our religious life we often burden ourselves with too much luggage? We know that the messenger of death is on his way by

day and night; he knocks at the door of the king's palace, as well as on the door of the servant's hut. To King Hezekiah the prophet Isaiah had to deliver the message, "Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live."

How is it with the faith of the children of God, and which preparation have they to make before arriving at the last station? Our departure is near, "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." ". . . flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."

Since this is our faith and our hope, we are well advised if we do not encumber ourselves with too much luggage, with things which have no value for eternity. What the apostle said can also be applied for us and for our time, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

The parable of our Saviour of the talents cannot be taken seriously enough. Every brother and every sister has been entrusted. We all without exception will have to give an account of what we have done with these talents.

When we arrive at the last station and step over the threshold of eternity, there will be a great luggage control. Then it will become evident if and how we have traded with the entrusted talents. We are well advised if, before arriving at the last station, we thoroughly control our luggage. How easily it could happen that we carry with us things which are absolutely worthless.

There will be many who have deceived themselves. Let us hear what our Saviour had to say: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

There could not be a greater self-deception; hope that works will be appreciated, but get severely rebuked from God . . . wanted to perform great works, but forget love.

It will be too late if we don't realize until the last station that we lack "oil" (love). The foolish virgins realized too late what a mistake they had made. How many lamps will go out when the bridegroom comes. Especially in our time, we have so many reasons to

look at the hands of the world clock.

There is no doubt that sincere endeavours are made for the spiritual welfare of the communities of the faith. We should not think our brother's opinion unimportant, and declare our opinion as the only right one. Let us beware of loveless judgment!

How can we recognize the tricks of the enemy? Open eyes must admit that Satan has succeeded already in smuggling many worldly traits into our communities, traits which should not be. In the spiritual field, the danger is great that we absorb all kinds of alien ideas. The danger of becoming worldly and shallow is greater than many brothers and sisters may think. We

should, therefore, be sincerely concerned that our dear youth is properly guided.

A revival is a grace of God, but must not be taken for a conversion, for a turning away from sin and a willing surrender to Jesus. When we build a house and do not make a strong foundation, we should not be surprised if the building gets bad cracks after some time. Superficial conversions may have impairing effects on our faith and on the life of the community.

It has been said that our communities are in danger of becoming worldly and shallow, but this is not the only danger. It must be admitted that we could drift into a state in which we would cling too much

to written rules and laws, instead of letting ourselves be guided by the law of love in our hearts. Such rules will not further our inner life, but instead the danger is great that we might judge the "other man's servant" unkindly. The Holy Bible warns us against just such judgments (Romans 14:4).

We all approach the last Station. What about our luggage? What can we take into eternity? How is our faith, and what is our solace? Many things which we think important are unimportant before God. Let the Holy Bible tell us.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

## GUARDING AT GOD'S GATE

We are God's people. We are His flock. He bought us with His own blood. We are partakers of His holiness.

Holiness holds so much. It's nice to feel clean. It's nice to be white as snow. Holiness is God's. Give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness. Some have the challenge of space and other discoveries. Here is exultant joy. Here are deep things beyond comparison, and beautiful heights waiting.

It's very important to guard our house. Yes and No are reverse sides of faith's coin. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

Jesus told about the thief. Paul plainly told the watchman in Acts 20. The apostle John said "try". This means prove. The devil always attempts to circulate counterfeit ideas. If Satan has his way, he is going to destroy. Not one excepted, each of us is figured in his plans.

To listen to God or not is a matter of life or death. How rests in reading and hearing. Through John it is put very good. "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God:" How good to recognize the gentle voice.

"Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus

Christ is come in the flesh is not of God:" No one has right to individual meaning to this, privately drawn. In God's book, He explains and defines.

In the dark night are savage wolves. They wait to tear fiercely into one of the flock. Certain members of the body are given of God the gift to tell the spirits apart. (See I Corinthians 12:10.) Some humble brother or sister holds a treasure. A shepherd's sharp eyes may pick out the form of a waiting killer.

We listen to John again, "and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." Black sin has no compartments. We are glad there are good people, beside those we have proved. There are also many, many wicked people. Pharisees and Sadducees have their modern counterparts. One may seemingly be a fine speaker. The Scripture is known and quoted. If one is not proved, there is danger in association. The same devil that comes as an angel of light also tortures without mercy. He reveals in the whole list of grisly crimes. How frightful would it be to be swept into his everlasting condemnation.

Have we wonderful success? "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in

the world." There is a reason for what takes place. It is because we have put ourselves in God's hands. It is because He works wonders. Because we prayed, He put the intruder to flight. Should we carelessly forget? Would not soon an inching wedge soon become a flood?

"They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us: he that is not of God heareth not us." God cares and keeps the far-flung universes. He is mindful of the tiny bird, nestled under its mother's wing. God's care is keeping us warm, under His wing, a separate people.

God has a perfect home in His plan for you and me.

The farmer in Bible-times would bring his sheaves to a circular floor, to be threshed. Pressure would make the kernel and the husk part. Then would come the winnowing. Starting at one end, the farmer would throw into the wind. The chaff would blow away from the wheat. The good would be together, in beautiful heaps of harvest.

God makes a thorough separation in this life. Not one grain will be missed. The bad is entirely separated.

Do we hear? "Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

The editor