

THE SILVER LINING

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THE CHRISTMAS STILL TO COME

Submitted by

Bro. Joe L. Heinsman

When Christ came the first time it was to die for the sins of the world. He came as Saviour. When He came the first time, the door of the inn was shut. He is still being shut out today, even during this Christmas season that commemorates His birth. He is shut out.

When Jerusalem closed its shop that Christmas Eve, it did not know what was taking place. It cared less. Even Bethlehem did not know. Today the whole world knows when a head of state visits another country, but the whole world did not know that the Son of God came to Bethlehem. It does not know it after 1900 years.

God had said that His birth, His life and His death should be characterized by lowliness. Describing Christ's ministry, Isaiah wrote: "He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench." Of His death the prophet declared, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

Such Scriptures were ignored by the scribes in Jesus' day—They were wrong because they had ignored the Scriptures that spoke of His lowliness.

Daniel describes visions of "... one like the Son of man", declared that to Him was given "dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

Such Scriptures refer to His coming in glory, the Christmas yet to

come. References to it appear again and again throughout the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus Christ himself reaffirmed the promises. Before He left this earth to return to heaven He said, "I will come again". These words have been the hope and the comfort of believers. He, as the glorified Christ, repeated these words to the apostle, John on the lonely island of Patmos. "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me".

He did not mean that He was coming soon—that is not what He said. He said that His coming would occupy a very brief time. The second coming of Christ will be the completion of His first coming.

He said on the cross, "It is finished". The work of redemption was finished. He had wrought for you and me a way of salvation. Paul says, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus."

Salvation is in three tenses. I can say that I have been saved. I can also say I am being saved. I can say I shall be saved. All three are true.

I have been saved: "He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life..." Here and now I have eternal life. I am being saved. There needs to be a continuing work. Paul could say to the Philippian Christians, "... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." I shall be saved. "Beloved, now are we the sons of God," writes the beloved apostle, "and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." In a very real sense my salvation will not be complete until that wonder-

ful day, the day when you and I will be like Jesus. Let us be patient with one another.

Paul writes to the Roman Christians: "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God... even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." A great day is coming!

What are you going to get for Christmas? I'll tell you what I shall—perhaps not this Christmas but whenever the great Christmas comes. I shall get a new body. It will be a body that will not have pain, disease or weakness, nor will it be subject to all the limitations of this life. The package He gives is labeled. Do not open until Christmas. The redemption of the body is in the future. What a Christmas gift that will be!

That is not all we will get for Christmas. The world at Christmas time is trying to be happy. Yet, there are many broken hearts. The hospitals are crowded; the cemeteries are being filled; even nature itself is groaning. You go down to the seaside, and you can hear the sob of the waves; you go to the mountains, and you can hear the low sigh of the wind in the treetops. Creation is groaning, waiting for a glorious Christmas, when Christ shall return.

John says: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea... And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be

their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Someone may be thinking, "I would like to have a part in this

which is coming. I would like to have part in the Christmas of the future." You may.

The Bible states the fact, offers a promise: "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons

of God, even to them that believe on his name".

He came yesterday as the world's Saviour. He will come tomorrow as the world's Sovereign. Will you share in the great Christmas ahead?

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

A POEM

In the Garden of Eden He created life;

Here dwelt the world's first man and wife.

They lived in harmony in the love of God,

Until they sinned and were expelled by God's righteous rod,

In sin, with pain to create and live from the sod.

God did not permanently close the door;

He loved his children, as ever before.

A promise was made that in generations ahead

(Jesus who taught was crucified and rose from the dead)

Back to God, through Christ, his children would be led.

Now it came to pass, people fell to evil ways,

So God caused it to rain for 40 days. Righteous Noah had built a great boat;

With mates of all life, he went afloat.

Hate evil, love God is the story this wrote.

Joseph, son of Jacob, was taken to Egypt far away;

There he interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh, one day.

The famine came and lasted seven years,

Joseph arose above all his former peers,

Later re-united with his brothers, in tears.

All the Israelites became slaves, but multiplied fast;

Then God called Moses to perform a great task.

The Bible will tell you a mighty man was he;

He delivered all his people from Egypt you see,

By leading them 'cross the divided Red Sea.

In the desert, the Israelites wandered all around;

Because of their evil ways the promised land was not first found.

On a mountain-top, Moses and God were all alone,

God made the Ten Commandments in stone.

He came down and told the people for their sins they must atone.

A quiet calm was over all the land. The birth of Jesus was now at hand.

The infant Jesus in a manger lay, In swaddling clothes, as Luke does say.

This was the first holy Christmas Day.

When Jesus was a growing lad of twelve,

In depths of knowledge he did delve. Jesus now prepared for the great outreach,

To go through the land to talk and preach,

To heal, to pray, to lead, to teach.

From town and sea, from hill and hollow,

Jesus selected twelve disciples to follow.

He fed five thousand with a few loaves of bread;

He raised beloved Lazarus up from the dead.

All who hungered after righteousness were fed.

Now came the time for God's promise to fulfill;

His Son Jesus was to carry out His will.

It was now at the end of a certain day;

Judas left the Lord's table, his Master to betray.

Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane, to pray.

They took Him out and nailed Him to the cross;

For followers and loved one, to save them from loss.

He forgave those at hand for this terrible crime;

He suffered unto death in a love divine.

He bestowed His life in a grace sublime.

We here are children of the great God divine;

Let us truly worship Him, this lovely Christmas-time,

Have a happy time and a heart full of love,

Be in close communion with the God above,

Let our life be full of love, without strife,

For our time here is but a prelude to everlasting life.

The above is mostly from a poem sent in. "... thought probably you could use it in your Christmas issue ... Yours in faith, Elza E. Leman."

In Viet Nam, our brethren labor in charity. Glory glows the footsteps. The meaning of Christmas is lived. It is a place where time and eternity often meet. It is a waiting station, with an often departure time. A place of suffering, grit and mud. Gary Maibach is a brother who carries the comfort and cheer of what makes Christmas. The story of service has been caught in part. One of the modern media, **Look** magazine, the date on it is December 26, has placed on its pages about the grace of God. Too often what can be heard, read or looked at is in caution of the chasm. These few pages of Gary in His work breathe another sphere. Let's take heart. Let's carry the banner, and let God show His grace in each of our battlefields.

ILLINOIS

The snow will fall. All around, on the ground, on cottage, castle, a blanket of white will be pretty. Inside the house of the true, there will be warmth. Charity will make life gay, in the quiet peace of everlasting life.

Such does not pass away. White in eternity is even more beautiful. Today, there are pure hearts. There will be the glistening garments, which will not have the slightest soil, beautiful white. They will never fade.

Road 150 goes west from Goodfield. Deer Creek is soon behind, Morton ahead. With many winters past, there a good, pleasant, loving couple radiate rich fellowship. Bro. Sam Getz is spry, keen of mind, of age around 90. Sis. Lydia and Bro. Sam, come February, will have travelled harmoniously together 66 years.

Sam is Joe A's uncle. There are no remaining first cousins on either side of the house . . . But with a smile and a twinkling heart of love, he lavishes gifts that do not grow old, neither pass away. During part of the 30's, he was somewhat crippled with disease's infirmity. Miraculously at 90 he helps and welcomes. Lydia is also stalwartly radiating the faith. At her bedside, the glow of tranquil peace is with Christmas happiness. She says, "I love people".

The rest home at Eureka is situated next to the church, eastward. It is built kind of like houses in Bible times, with a central open place, a courtyard. Nestled in these rooms are more than one child of the heavenly Father.

Here resides Bro. August Mueller. August loves to give spiritual gifts that keep giving. His room looks to the west, out onto the courtyard. The pale green walls, the gold drapes and bedspread add artistry of decoration. The holy Scriptures and the **Zion's Harp** hymnal showed where his heart is. Three calendars, an autumn scene, pastoral beauty, and a covered bridge were in view.

Brothers are beautiful, in elderly years, with things of the spirit. Autumn. The leaves are colored. Christmas is coming. August waits for those upper halls of merriment, where joy never declines, where evergreen peace always enriches. He glows with charity.

In Roanoke, the sweet notes of "Silent Night" glistened. This was the home of the Lemans, Bro. and Sis. Sam, Ann and family. Sam's mother was Lillian, who saw through the open gate. She saw Jesus and said it was Beautiful. The children in this home give youthful happiness and energy and have a rich heritage.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman live across part of town. Children add gay voices and help with duty. Two are members of the flock of the Good Shepherd. All show orderliness, in a house of many happinesses.

Lillian's helpmate, Bro. Jack, still labors in heavenly faith. Two other of his children with their husbands radiate light, more beautiful than the season's gay streamers. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Ann Klaus and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lydia Hohulin are God's decorations, telling of another home, where warm welcome waits.

The great gathering at Eureka glowed in heavenly rays. Conference care was for others; it is better to give than receive.

Concern was that His children should be ready when Jesus' comes. That is the success of the Conference. The homes should shine with heavenly light. The sisters have a very important work. We can win! Hope moves toward the morn. With our God and faith in how great He is, moves are marvellous, things great, for always.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME
EUREKA, ILLINOIS
August Mueller**

When we had the conference here in Eureka, Bro. Theo. Beer was the first one to visit me. Then Ed Hauter paid me a visit. The following day I went over there, but I had to come right back; the nurse was waiting for me. Thursday evening they came to visit me, Norman and his wife, Ernst Gerber with one of his sons, and many more. I was well repaid. Bro. John stayed over; he wanted to have a short sermon. I understand Corbin was driving. I want to thank them and invite them to come again; Thank you Bro. John, and you Corbin.

When Jesus healed a multitude of people, He did not heal one or two; we read where it says, and He healed them all. He was soft-hearted.

There will never be another Man like Him in this world.

ALABAMA**Ann Klopfenstein**

There was a blessed week end in Athens when Mrs. Mildred Carroll gave a testimony of Christian experience. Baptism followed the regular Sunday services. Elders Bauman and Kilgus were present.

Graveside services were conducted for the stillborn infant of Buddy and Rebecca (Barnett) Emerson; Rebecca is a sister of Sis. Doris Moore. Mrs. Will Posey, who lived across from the Landersville church, died; services were conducted by Bros. Hale and Klopfenstein.

We are thankful for the service of Holy Communion served by our elders.

Births: A son to Larry and Lydia Ivey; she is the daughter of Bro. Frank and Alma Hagggenmaker. A son, to Edward and Sis. Louise Hagggenmaker.

Glenda Carroll, daughter of Oscar and Sis. Mildred Carroll, became the bride of Dewey Moran, on Oct. 16.

**FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
Louise Akel**

Bro. Rodger Sauder and Sis. Judy give their heartfelt thanks for all the cards and expressions of sympathy received in sympathy of their infants departure from this earth.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Frances Schwartz from Grabill have purchased a house and intend to reside in Florida.

The Sunday School project is to collect food for the Half-way House, a place of refuge for migrant work-

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ers, at least a place where they can obtain a meal and some food when in need. It is halfway between Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale. Thousands of people come to this district to work in the fields, picking beans etc.

While Bro. Harry Sutter and his wife, Florence were attending the Conference in Eureka, we were left without a minister. I think it was the first time a tape was used in our church. It was deeply appreciated. Friend Duwayne Keller brought two friends to church with him. One was a Jewish lad, who stated later that he enjoyed the service.

Bro. and Sis. Bollinger are attending a funeral for George's mother. We extend our sympathy.

A discussion was held as to whether we should sing or have a service in the afternoon. All arose in favor of the service. Bro. Harry Sutter has been alone since Bro. Wendell Gerber moved. If any minister or elder would like to do a little missionary work, they could come to Ft. Lauderdale. All visitors would be most welcome. We are putting out a call for support. Prayers would be helpful. Bro. John Bahlers intends to visit and if it be God's will, another brother will be elected to the ministry.

A picnic was planned for Sunday. The weather has been ideal.

My Grace Is Sufficient For Thee

There was a time when Paul felt weak and overburdened. He sought the Lord and asked to have his thorn removed. The answer was, "My grace is sufficient for thee". We do not know our own strength. God takes the weak and base things and turns them into jewels to confound the wise. In our daily labors when we feel tired, we take a rest now and then, and resume our tasks as soon as possible. In married life there are times when things do not run smoothly and the answer is not to throw all things overboard (as some do by divorce), but to strive harder, and so in the spiritual matters; when things seem wrong, that is the time God is counting on us to put forth all our strength and energy to do His will, because His grace is sufficient. We should not divorce ourselves from the bridegroom of our souls.

I read a sign along the road. It stated, Seven days without God makes one weak.

Finding Grace Sufficient

Oh my dear brothers, Where will you go today?
Will it be on the fields of battle?
All we can do is pray.
Pray that you won't grow weary,
pray that you will not fall.
Pray that you will be ready, When you hear His call.

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

In Gratitude

I think we owe our ministers
Much thanks for all they do. . . .

So this month we most lovingly thank these dear brothers, Sam Anliker, George Yergler, Noah Bauman, and Joe Waibel, who visited us.

And now these ones want to thank our whole church for wanting to accept them as brothers and sisters in faith; then they were baptized, arising to start on the most important journey in their lives: Myra Gray, Janet Gutwein, Peggy Huber, Mary Lee Gutwein, Carol Overmyer, Rodric and Mary Huber and Emil Gutwein.

We prayed all good for our dear Sis. Catherine Neihouser, who had to be hospitalized, but are thankful she can be home with her loved ones again.

Bro. Lester Huber gave us these words from the pulpit: "We wrote to our son Maurice, who is in Vietnam, what he could use for Christmas?" He answered that "he did not wish anything for himself, but would like to receive some things to give to the very, very poor people where he is at." It touched our hearts.

To you all we wish to say: May you have the peace, the hope, and the love, which is—Christmas.

And 10 years ago my father sent us this little reading he found: I am the New Year. I am unused, unspotted, without blemish. I stretch before you 365 days long. I will present each day in its turn, a new leaf in the Book of Life, for you to place upon it your imprint. It remains for you to make of me what you will. If you can write good things done, my pages will be a joy to look upon when the next New Year comes.

Farewell in the Lord until 1968.

GIRARD, OHIO Jesse C. Emch

It is a good thing to give thanks

unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High; To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, . . . For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. Psalm 92: 1, 2, 4, 5.

Bro. Ernest and Sis. Ethel Hafely have not been able to attend church for about three months, due to illness. Bro. Jesse Emch was in the hospital for 10 days for a check-up. May each one feel God's nearness.

Elder Bro. Herman & Sis. Della Kellenberger of Elgin (Ill.), were visiting their daughter and family in Pittsburgh, Pa. On Sunday Nov. 26 they all came to Girard, to worship with us. The God-inspired message made it a blessed day for all present. We welcome them to come again.

Our annual business meeting was held Sunday Nov. 26. Bro. Harold Emch was re-elected Sunday School superintendent, Bro. Robert Stoll was re-elected trustee.

We are all aware that the Brotherhood Conference was held in Eureka. I understand there was a record attendance. It is well for those who can to attend, for this is a very important meeting. There it is brought to our attention how we should guard the stewardship with which we are entrusted as a child of God. One can also see the burden placed on the shepherds of the flock. I was told by a brother who is just a new convert, what a blessing it was to be present. We can be sure that God will reward all for their labor in His vineyard.

Hearty Greetings and best wishes to all for the Holiday Season.

MORTON, ILLINOIS Rose Getz — Ruth Rapp

Bro. and Sis. Henry Beer of Milford were with us Nov. 11 and 12. Bro. Henry spoke and showed pictures of his trip abroad, also brought us such inspiring sermons.

The Mixed Chorus from Peoria sang several numbers at our Sunday Song Service.

We are thankful Bro. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton and Bro. George Gramm of Gridley came to assist with the serving of Holy Communion.

Bro. Joe Zimmerman was chosen to assist in the ministry.

Bro. Otto Baum is recovering

quite nicely, after having had another operation on his broken hip.

Sis. Elsie (Mrs. John) Oberlander is at present receiving treatments at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

Sis. Mary (Mrs. Noah) is a patient at the Restmor Nursing Home. Sis. Rachel Bauman, whose leg was badly injured in a car accident, was able to be brought to the Restmor to convalesce.

Brad Grimm, 10-year-old son of Bro. and Sis. Henry Grimm Jr., is recovering nicely from injuries received in a car-bicycle accident. Brad suffered a concussion and head cuts, but no fractures as first reported.

Mr. and Mrs. John Plattner of 205 Birchwood, Morton, have taken up residency at the Restmor Nursing Home, 935 E. Jefferson Street.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Delutha Moser — Carolyn Gerber

What is Christmas? The golden radiance of a never-dimming star, the white peace of His love, the evergreen promise of immortality, the glow of hope . . . All of these, and more . . . are Christmas.

Shut-ins: Sis. Marjorie (David) Reimschisel, Bros. Harry Steffen, Will Frauhiger, George Ringger Sr. and Herman Steffen.

Birth: On November 24 a son, Anthony Lynn to Bro. and Sis. Jerry Gerber.

Wedding: On November 26, friends Cheryl Isch and Michael Gerber were united in holy matrimony by Elder John Yergler. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Elmer Isch and Bro. and Sis. Floyd Gerber.

A Christmas Wish

May this Christmas season bring you deep joy and many pleasant experiences. May the New Year bring you that peace that passeth the understanding of men. May your days be full of sunshine and your nights filled with pleasant dreams. May no dark clouds appear to shut out any of the beauties of life. May you be able to see stars shining through any clouds that may appear on your horizon. May you have wisdom for your problems, help in every time of need, and may you have true friends all along the way, to the very end of life's journey. This is our wish for you and yours at this Christmas season.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Mrs. Harold Zeltwanger

This morning our six-year-old son reminded me there are only 23 days left until Christmas, and as I look out on the new-fallen snow, my heart shares with him the expectancy of this wonderful season. Our congregation at Bremen joins me in wishing each of you the full joy of knowing this Christ-child as your Saviour and Friend.

We welcomed the love and Christian friendship of visiting ministers and their families this month: Bros. Gene Bertschi and Joe Zimmerman—Roanoke, and Bro. Henry Sabo—Mansfield.

Our congregation gathered together on November 19 to enjoy an inspirational Thanksgiving Day program.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Bob Grimm

There's something about the way
the starlight glitters
In the sky, so clear and blue . . .
That seems to bring the great
majestic heavens,
Near to you . . .
At Christmas-time.

There's something, too, about the
brittle crispness,
Of the winter air;
Somehow, it fills the being with a
longing,
These things to share,
At Christmas-time.

And when the cold north wind
begins ablowing,
And stately trees, their icy
branches lift,
The beauty of the snowy plains and
hillsides
Is truly nice, another glorious gift,
At Christmas-time.

It always warms the heart, and
smiles grow cheery;
Our friends just seem to mean a
little more,
So we say, "Merry Christmas, and
God bless you,
With greater joys than you have
known before",
At Christmas-time.

Truly, there is something very special about the Christmas Season; and we of the Goodfield congregation feel that we have many reasons to rejoice. It was a very solemn occasion which brought our

hearts together on Sunday, Nov. 26, to witness the ordainment of Bro. Edwin Hohulin. He is, now, the elder and shepherd of our Goodfield church. This sacred task was undertaken by three of our neighboring elders, Bros. LeRoy Huber, Silas Leuthold, and Roy Sauder. We were reminded and impressed with the depth and seriousness of this particular office, and how we, as members, can be of help by exercising our love and cooperation. May it be so, that we might work together in just this way, that God might send His blessings.

Friends Clars Hunzicker, Katie Heinold, and Howard and Vera Heinold have been announced for baptism in the near future, another blessed cause for us to rejoice.

Our friend, Steve Nohl, has received a 30-day emergency leave from the service. He was called home to help with the harvesting, when his dad, Bro. Ivan Nohl, met with a truck accident, which resulted in several broken ribs. It is reported that Bro. Ivan will be handicapped, and somewhat disabled in his farm work for at least 6 weeks. He is at home, however, and up and around.

Sis. Sandy Guingrich, along with her, husband, Larry, and their two little girls, has moved to Sparland, Illinois, and will be assembling with the Bradford congregation. We miss her and her little family.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Sue Ann Kupferschmid

The Greatest Gift of All

Many gifts will be exchanged during this Christmas season, but none of them will come near to matching the gift which God gave to each of us many years ago. This gift can work wonders. It can give hope to the hopeless, peace to the restless, strength to the weary, courage to the uncourageous, joy to the sad, and love to all.

God paid for this gift many years ago, with a great price. A precious life was given. God willingly gave His only son, that we might have the gift of salvation. He wants everyone to have this gift, but first you must ask for it; he will not shove it upon you if you refuse to accept it.

You cannot buy it for any amount of "good works". The only requirement is a cleansed heart for him to dwell in.

Once you have received this gift, guard it with your life, for if you lose it, you have lost your life. Thank God each day for it; show it to others through love, for it was through the love of God that we have received the gift of salvation and the hope of an eternal life.

"If we have fear of eternal damnation, we are not perfect in love", said Bro. Jim Hoerr on Nov. 9, "for there is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear." He also told us that if we no longer feel the chastening of the Father, we are no longer walking with Him.

Nov. 16, Bro. Harvey Heiniger was with us on Nov. 16. He reminded us how, "we treasure the day God revealed himself to us, but it could not come about until we realized our lost and wretched condition—when we realize we are standing between ourselves and God. Our eternal habitation will be determined by what we do between now and the grave."

Nov. 30, Bro. John Rocke told us to "Pray with a sincere, not an exalted heart. If we feel exalted and pray unto God only with lip-service, he will not hear us." He should seek the Creator in the days of our youth, and all we are in need of will be granted to us. "You may be young and feel you have much time," he said, "but God did not promise that we will have a tomorrow."

More from our campus who sought their Creator and have found him were baptized recently: Marj Schupbach, Tremont; Jerry Miess, Robert Meiss, Cleve Klopfenstein, and Elizabeth Punke, all of Gridley. We wish them God's blessings.

We plan to go carolling Dec. 8.

LATTY, OHIO
Dolores Grant
Marguerite Stoller

Those hospitalized this past month were Eddie Wenninger, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine, Sis. Velta Laukhuf, and Sis. Betty Laukhuf. We are happy to report all are home again and steadily improving.

A graveside service was held for the infant son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Nola Stoller on Nov. 13. We wish them God's grace in their time of bereavement.

Robert and Sis. Janet Williamson were blessed with a baby daughter

on Nov. 15. She was named Wendy Marie.

We are so thankful to have Bro. Gus Schlatter returned safely to us, after having spent a year at Okinawa. He has completed his two-year army duty and is back to civilian life.

On Nov. 4 and 5 we were privileged to hear and witness the proving and baptism of our friend, Carol Laukhuf. It truly is strengthening to know the Lord is still calling our friends to repentance.

The Prairie Choristers from Illinois honored our congregation with a visit, Nov. 18 and 19. On Sat. evening they sang 12 beautiful hymns, and after services Sunday another 6. A potluck dinner was held in the church dining room, with approximately 300 attending. It indeed was a week end of blessing.

With the holidays rapidly approaching, we wish to express our greetings.

Merry Christmas, gladsome word!
A dearer greeting ne'er was heard.
Yet somehow deep within my heart
A sudden pain will quickly start,
When thoughts of loved ones far
away

Becloud a merry Christmas day.
Merry Christmas can it be,
When hearts are in anxiety,
With loved ones scattered o'er our
land,
Upon the sea, on foreign strand?
So far removed by war's decree,
This day can hardly merry be!

But yet there is a gladsome note.
If soldiers near, in lands remote,
Will turn to Christ in thought and
prayer
They'll find the blessed Christchild
there.

Then we may join with them and
say,
There'll be a Merry Christmas Day.
From the "Garden of Verse"
by Bro. Henry Beer

MORRIS, MINNESOTA
Mrs. Herman Schaefer
Mrs. Otto Schaefer

Bro. Leo Moser, Lester, and Bro. Carl Hartman, Sabetha, visited our congregation, Sunday the 26th, when three precious souls were added to the fold. They are Diane Fehr, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Paul and Anne Fehr; Steven Schaefer, son of Bro. and Sis. John and Esther Schaefer; and Gary Dom-

nick, son of Bro. and Sis. Glen and Frances Domnick. May the blessings of the Lord be with them always.

Ilene Spohr, daughter of John and Esther Spohr, was united in marriage to Allen Burnham, on November the 25th. We wish them the blessings of God.

Sis. Lillie Luthi has been in the hospital for several days. We pray that she will soon be well, and can worship with us again.

We are thankful that our friend, Duane Nohl, son of Bro. and Sis. Alvin Nohl, has turned to the Lord in repentance. May many more souls answer the call while the door of grace is still open.

TOKYO, JAPAN
Yoshio Yamazaki

It is much worse became, the world lately, and many people are shutting the eyes and ears from the living God's word. The people of today, they are looking at the material things and walking far from our living God, the Father in the heaven. We feel really the end of the world is just at our right hand today, and also really have the responsibility among them.

Bro. Al Hunziker from the Peoria church left in Japan last Tuesday evening, the 21st of November, and we had really wonderful fellowship with him last few months here in Tokyo, and also the country churches in Yamanashi. He was surely a nice brother, and we had wonderful time together in Jesus' sake.

It is unfortunate that our little sweet girl, Gracie, 3-years-old, who is Bro. John and Sis. Betty Klaus's third daughter, had the traffic accident on the street right ahead of our Tokyo church yesterday morning, the 29th of November. She had a few stitches on the top of the nose, a little puffed up the right side of the face, and skull fracture in the back of the head. We surely thank God that He really accepted our last night's prayer, and Gracie is not too bad, far as we know about. However, it is really dangerous to the kids playing around the street, because much taxies, trucks and busses pass in high speed on such narrow road. I really would like to ask the readers of the Silver Lining folks to have honest prayer for our little girl Gracie. We believe and expect to have her back home in

less than 10 days. According to the doctor's words in the hospital, she will probably be there at least one week for observation.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A Banwart

Evening services were enjoyed, when Bro. Robert and Sis. Edna Beyer of Naumberg paid us a visit.

On Nov. 12, Sis. Jane, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Arnold and Alice Metzger and Bro. Carlos Meiss, son of Bro. and Sis. Eli and Della Meiss of Fairbury were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Leo Moser of Lester. May the Lord bless them in this important undertaking. Bro. Art Gudeman of La Crosse and Bro. Wayne Gerber of Lester also spent this enjoyable day with us. Bro. Art consented to serve us again in the evening, for which we were thankful. We are always thankful for visitors.

Among the words which were uttered at our most recent funeral, these seem to linger: "The woodman layed down his ax and said, 'I'll be back tomorrow.' The plowman unhitched his plow and said, 'I'll be back tomorrow.' Peggy waved good-bye and said, 'I'll see you afterwhile.'" On Nov. 13, a tragic head-on collision instantly claimed the life of our dear Sis. Peggy (Heinold) Metzger—age 21. She was the wife of Bro. Duane Metzger. Peggy had only been with this congregation since she had finished her nurse's training last June. She and her 6-week-old daughter had been to the doctor for a check-up and were returning, when the accident occurred near her home. Bro. Arthur Gudeman, La Crosse, and Bros. Noah Gerber and Earl Banwart of here officiated the funeral services. Left behind to mourn the sudden departure of a dearly beloved are: her husband, Bro. Duane and her daughter, Sara Jean (who is now making remarkable recovery after brain surgery, which was required when a blood clot and excessive pressure developed from a severe concussion); her parents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace Heinold; Sisters Fula and Emily Heinold (of Kouts, Ind.); Mrs. Don (Gwen) Bucher (La Crosse); Bros. Marshall (Peoria), Melvin (Kouts), Marvin (Crawfordsville), Eugene (in the Army, Fairbanks, Alaska), & Glen (in college). Peggy was preceded in death by her mother, Em-

ma (Marti) Heinhold, in 1951. The Arnold Metzger family and the whole congregation will greatly miss the presence of this rare and beautiful blossom which has been added to the Master's bouquet. Sincere and heartfelt thanks from the family comes, for each and every deed and act of love and kindness.

Bro. Martin Zaugg has recovered satisfactorily from a lip injury. Ray Frieden has returned from the hospital at Iowa City and is improving. Tonsillectomies the past month were: Debbie and Susie, daughters of Jim and Sherrie Schmidt; Ronda and Karla, daughters of Bro. and Sis. Victor and Marilyn Banwart; and Rodney and Ellen, children of Bro. and Sis. Richard and Betty Schmidt.

As the angels rejoiced on that first glad Christmas Day and again the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth, so we rejoice as more souls in our congregation have heeded the call of the Lord. Friends seeking Him in repentance are: Sharon, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Sillas and Della Metzger; Jim, son of Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Matilda Fehr; Judy, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Verner and Beverly Wirtz; and Gary, son of Bro. and Sis. Lawrence and Ella Schneider. May the Lord never tire of our pleading for His Divine help at all times and in all things.

Bro. Leland Metzger and Warren Kellenberger have enrolled for the winter quarter at ISU in Ames, Iowa.

The late Bro. John Gerber, who passed away recently, had three surviving sisters: Sis. Elizabeth Zaugg, residing in the rest home in Algona, Sis. Mary Fehr and Sis. Lydia Jurgens, both of West Bend. All are able to be up and about, but in failing health.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Delores Messerli and Carol Messner

Our visiting ministers, Bros. Harold Gramm, Floyd Schmidgall (with their families, and others from Morris) were welcome visitors. They shared the Gospel teachings with us. We were reminded of how we cannot drink from the cup of the Lord and the cup of the devil, if we are to remain on the straight path of life. We must walk straight toward the Lord and be careful not to go sideways.

As people, we would never jump

into a kettle of boiling water; but if we go in gradually we would never notice how hot the water would be. This is comparing sinful ways to a kettle of hot water. So we must take heed and not stray off the narrow path. For if we once again return to our former sinful lives, what is there left?

Linda Howk and baby Brian left for Germany November 20, to join her husband Steve, who is stationed near Swabish Hall.

Welcome home Bradley Gutknecht. Brad completed his military obligation and recently became engaged to Beverly Jean Iverson. He is the grandson of Sis. Carrie Messner.

John and Jane Messner became the parents of a boy, their first child. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Florence Messner.

The Holiday time of the year is upon us, and we are most busy buying gifts, entertaining families and friends, Christmas caroling, etc. . . . But let us remember the very important reason why we have Christmas. How thankful we should be because God gave us His only begotten Son, that through Him the world might be saved. Remember His humble life and birth in the stable at Bethlehem. O Holy Night it truly was.

Someone once said, "The more one gives to others, the more he has for his own."

Somhow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Mrs. Lawrence Farney

Mrs. David Schamback

Sis. Martha Steiner is hospitalized and doing nicely, after an operation for eye cataract. Bro. John Haney has undergone major surgery, and Bro. Dave Schambach has returned home, after being hospitalized for treatment. Bro. Arthur Herzig is improving slowly at his home, after several weeks in the hospital where he underwent major surgery.

Bro. Reuben and Sis. Lavina Farney quietly observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Nov. 22.

They were given a family dinner at the home of their son, Urban and his wife, with twenty-eight

present. Besides son Urban, they have two daughters, Mrs. Harold (Katherine) Virkler and Mrs. Richard (Betty) Babel. We wish them many more happy years.

The children of the Sunday School are preparing their recitations and songs for their Christmas program.

Kindness

One never knows
How far a word of kindness goes;
One never sees
How far a smile of friendship flees.
Sown through the years,
The deed forgotten reappears.

One kindly word
The souls of many here has stirred.
Man goes his way
And tells with every passing day,
Until life's end:
Once unto me he played the friend.

We cannot say
What lips are praising us today.
We cannot tell
Whose prayers ask God to guard
us well,
But kindness lives
Beyond the memory of him who
gives.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen — Katie Kachelmuss

Our guest ministers were Bro. Walter Steffen of Milford and Bro. Maurice Frank of Chicago. We appreciate their visits and the sincere messages and teachings from God's precious word.

Our Sunday School enjoyed the visit of some brothers. They mentioned how they observed on their way here that not all people obey the commandment given by Moses from God, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy". They saw men on the highways coming here who were hauling corn to town; they stated, that if it was His will, He could provide a favorable harvest-time, other than doing such work on the Lord's Day, the day of rest.

Sis. Rose Preiss enjoyed having her family together for the wedding of her daughter, Suzanne to Oscar Bjork, which took place November 4. Her son Warren (who was in the Armed Services in Turkey) came, as did her daughter Cynthia from California, as well as the rest of her family in this vicinity. The following week, Sis. Rose, Jeannette and

Cynthia left to make their home in California. We wish Oscar and Suzanne God's blessings.

One of our dear, aged sisters, Amelia Geyer Bolliger, passed away at the age of 91 years. She was an invalid for many years, and now it pleased God to take her home to her eternal rest. May He bless her family, who so tenderly cared for her in the long illness.

Quite a group of us were privileged to see the slides which Bro. Tom Schifferer brought back from Viet Nam. It was very interesting to see just what our boys are doing over there, and what they have to endure on account of the weather conditions, although Tom said they never had to go hungry, even if it wasn't always as they would have liked to have it. When one observes the dangers that surround them at times, it shows that God really watches over His own and protects them according to His will.

We had a day of rejoicing with the angels: six precious young souls were added to the flock, Beverly, Lindy and Cindy (twins), and Christine, daughters of Bro. Edward and Sis. Jennie Wuetrich Schambach; and August and Kathleen, son and daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Mildred Liebig Dietrich. On this blessed occasion, we had with us Bros. Roy Sauder and Joshua Broquard, Edmund Kloter and Walter Anliker. We rejoice to see our youth answer the call of the Lord, but we also surely would like to see the older ones avail themselves of the opportunity to enter the Ark of the New Covenant, while the door of grace is still open.

Born November 3, a daughter, Amy Jane to Arthur and Betty Martin Metz.

We wish all a joyous and blessed Christmas season, a time when we can enjoy the beautiful Christmas carols, the children telling again in verse and song the story of the Babe of Bethlehem. Truly it is a time of rejoicing and praising God for the undeserved gift of His own beloved Son, to bring the world salvation.

"Dec. 4 . . . Dear Bros. Souder. This morning I mailed our report, and in it we mentioned about Sis. Rose Preiss, her daughter's wedding and her leaving for California to make her home again. This afternoon we received word that she (Rose) passed away at the hospital;

they were taking tests, prior to leg surgery, and she suffered a heart attack. Katie Kachelmuss"

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

" . . . blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." Luke 1:45. Mary believed, and so the greatest miracle was performed; the Saviour, Jesus was born of a virgin. With that birth we are commemorating this season, a new world of believing opened. Mary's believing brought a miracle, and others too may believe and receive, because Jesus said " . . . If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23.

We're thankful that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, meditated on this when he spent a week end with us. He said God performed miracles for Elisha because he was honest and upright in his devotion; since we have the same God as Elisha, if God sees in our heart the desire and faith that Elisha possessed, God will do for us the same wonderful things and miracles as He did for Elisha.

Our Sunday School is presenting a program this month, telling the Christmas Story, and our groups are caroling and delivering tokens of cheer to the shut-ins.

Bro. Carlos Meiss and Sis. Jane Metzger of West Bend were united in marriage Nov. 12. We welcome Sis. Jane in our congregation, and wish the Lord's blessings upon them as they serve the Lord together.

Sis. Annie Sohn, who was our oldest sister, passed away at the age of 92. Sis. Annie's health was good enough for her to attend church until about 3½ months before, with July 23 being the last Sunday in church. Surviving are two daughters, Sis. Louise and Sis. Helen; 2 sons, Bro. Emil and Bro. Albert; 3 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Bro. Carl Schmidgall passed away at the Fairbury Hospital, with his funeral Nov. 25. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Emma, 7 daughters, 2 sons, 17 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren.

We thank Bro. Earl Kilgus of Remington for visiting us Nov. 26 and his inspiring messages on love.

Richard Stoller and Karen Lehmann were married Nov. 26. May God be with them.

Duane Schieler is on his way to Viet Nam.

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

Recently we were reminded of the many teachings and admonitions of Paul in I Thessalonians, chapter 5, by visiting minister John Bollier of our Leo congregation. Paul warns of how the Lord will come as a thief in the night, and how sudden destruction shall come upon and overtake those in darkness . . . And that we, as children of the light and day should not sleep, but be ever watchful and sober, putting on the breastplate of FAITH and LOVE, and having for an helmet, the HOPE of salvation . . .

For it is God's will that none be found without that hope, but that we all obtain salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord, so that whenever He comes, whether we are awake or asleep in Him, we shall be caught up together in the clouds, to meet Him in the air, and be FOREVER with Him. Surely this is a great comfort for us who have that precious hope; and for those still in darkness, what better time to turn from darkness to that marvelous light than now, at this Christmas Season, when we celebrate the birth of Him who has made our salvation possible.

God Is Our Light

However dark the day may be,
 However deep the night,
 As long as we belong to God
 There is sufficient light.
 There is no need for loneliness
 Or cause for any fear,
 But there is consolation and
 The way is always clear.
 We know what God expects of us
 And what we have to do,
 To show that we are honest and
 Our loyalty is true.
 We have our human weaknesses
 And sometimes they prevail,
 But if we put our trust in God,
 We cannot ever fail,
 For He is always at our side
 To help us in our fight,
 And darkness disappears before
 His EVERLASTING LIGHT.

The above poem was given to me, to share with you by one of our

older brothers, Bro. Noah Gerber, for it has brought him much comfort.

Sis. Nettie Drayer was hospitalized for one day less than 3 weeks, and submitted to gall bladder surgery on November 8. She returned to her home two weeks later, and at this writing reports that the doctor is well pleased with her improvement, for which we are thankful. Her sister, Sis. Ellen Troxel of Gary, is staying with her at this time. Sis. Nettie wishes to thank all who remembered her in any way, for all was greatly appreciated.

A Thanksgiving Program was held on Sunday evening, November 19. We were reminded of many reasons for giving thanks, now and in years past, through verse and song. May God bless all who took part in this blessed evening.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. John Bollier of the Leo congregation and Merle Laukhuf of Latty. We are thankful for the messages they brought to us and welcome them back soon again.

This past Sunday, December 3, a number of us, including ministering Bro. Verlin Stoller, accompanied the two older Sunday School classes for a blessed day with our loved ones at Bremen. We surely enjoyed our day and the love and fellowship we could experience . . . And again we would say "Thank You" and "God Bless You"!

In closing,

This prayer is sent to all to say,
 God's richest blessings this
 Christmas day."

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr
 Mrs. Eldon Metzger

Sis. Alice Raaf was 91 years of age November 22. Since her release from the hospital in August, she has been confined to her home. She is able to walk a little, with help, and be up part of the time most days. We miss her presence at church.

Sis. Lydia Bahr spent from Friday till the Sunday after Thanksgiving at her home and in church with us. Two of her daughters, Sis. Dorothy Brown and Lucille Herr brought her for the short visit, and they returned to Wichita, where she can be close to the doctor.

Thanksgiving eve services were held here with the Lamont congregation. We were reminded we received a bountiful harvest (we had a dry spell and were able to harvest our crops), and the question was asked, "What kind of a harvest can the Lord expect?"

The Sunday School Christmas program, to be held the 17th, will be based on the **Gates of Christmas**. The gates of heaven were opened, and God gave His son to be born in a lowly stable. When God's Son came to earth, He received no royal reception. The gates of earth were closed to Him—fear closed the gates of the palace, for Herod feared his throne would fall; **hate** closed the gate at Bethlehem, and He had to flee from death; **pride** of the teachers closed the synagogue gate; **unbelief** closed the gate of Jerusalem, where He died. The Saviour stands and gently calls us to open the gate of our **heart**. Jesus came to open the gate of life. These "keys" cannot open the gate: pleasure, friendships, possessions, learning, pride, good works. He is the key to open the gate of life. He came to be our Saviour.

May we not neglect Him,
 Or shut Him from our gate,
 But let him into our hearts
 Before it is too late.

"He that hath the Son hath life"
 . . . the real meaning of Christmas.

LAMAR, MISSOURI

Marie Marti

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

May we this Christmas season pause in our busy lives, and spend some time in peaceful quiet and solitude, where minds can drift back over the centuries, to that special night in Bethlehem when the Son of God came to live among us for awhile. May we go with the shepherds and the wise men to that little Judaeon town, and in our hearts be near to the One who was to say, ". . . peace I give unto you".

May we have our loved ones around us—children with shining eyes as we tell them the story of Bethlehem's manger. Several years ago the telephone rang on Christmas Eve. It was a father with a

simple, yet touching request, "My little girl would like to come to your house tonight, so that you might tell her the Christmas story. Would you have time?"

May we all have gifts to give, feel the joy of giving. We give little when we give of our possessions. It is when we give of ourselves that we really give.

May we all remember Christmas, its joy, beauty, hope and its abiding faith which will bring a peace to us all, that passeth all understanding.

We truly do have reason to rejoice. Two of our friends, Willie Stefan and Danny Braker, have turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that God will grant them an abundance of grace and understanding.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Raymond Banwart, who proclaimed the word to us in the spirit of love. We pray that his inspiring message touched the hearts of many.

Louisa Rentsch is in the hospital at the present time. She has undergone surgery, for the removal of a pin which had been inserted about two years ago, following leg fracture. We pray for her quick recovery.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts — Anna Marie Baer

Many assembled Thanksgiving morning in the house of worship, to give thanks and to praise the Lord for our many blessings. We truly have many reasons to give thanks every day for all the Lord bestows on us. Many families enjoyed fellowshiping together.

Something To Ponder

The average of the world's great civilizations has been 200 years. Some nations have progressed through this sequence:

From Bondage to Faith
 From Faith to Great Courage
 From Courage to Liberty
 From Liberty to Abundance
 From Abundance to Selfishness
 From Selfishness to Complacency
 From Complacency to Apathy
 From Apathy to Dependency
 From Dependency back again into Bondage.

In nine years our United States will be exactly 200 years old.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:

and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

Soon it will be Christmas Day, the birthday of our Saviour, The Prince of Peace. This should be a time of rejoicing, yet the world is anxious and divided, and many fear what tomorrow may bring. The believers need have no fear nor despair, for they have so many promises of reward to the true and faithful. He is with us wherever we are, and has promised grace and strength to the lowly and faithful.

Remember the old, old story that when He was born, He first opened His eyes in a lowly stable, because there was no room at the inn. Is there any room for Him today in the wide world? There is trouble everywhere it seems; wars, famines and earthquakes. People are so restless, and rush here and there. We wonder what are they striving for. There is jealousy, greed and selfishness prevalent everywhere.

At this time of year, the time of peace, love, forgiving and sharing, if each individual tried a little harder to strive for these virtues with humbleness, the Lord would be especially near. We can be more ardent in prayer and think more of others and less of self. . . Go to visit the sick and shut-ins, cheer up the lonely, and by doing for others we find we have done more for ourselves.

Keep unspotted from the world; don't pick up things we have once put away. Let our lights shine, so that those around us may inquire how we achieve our happy, peaceful attitude.

Recently a young man in the service wrote the Sunday School, acknowledging a gift-box sent to him. As he shared it with his buddies, they inquired of the church he attended. An impression was made on them. Another said how close he felt to God there at camp, and would be so thankful when he got home again, so he could go to the Apostolic Christian Church. He was so thankful he found this church, made up of people who care and think of others.

Let us all appreciate our church and its members, but most of all that God sent His only Son to this earth, gave His life, shed His blood for us all. Let us all be more fervent to do His will, and keep this

Christmas blessed and holy. There was no room in the inn; is there not room in your heart, Friend?

Sleep little Son of Heaven, welcome this day.

Sleep in Thy manger bed, as Luke did say.

Wise men and shepherds watch o'er Thee, Newborn;

Angels proclaim the news—'Tis Christmas morn.

Not yet man's ridicule, taunts, jeers and scorn,

Not yet the scourge, the sharp, sharp crown of thorn,

Not yet the lash, the cross, sharp Roman spear,

Not yet the lonely tomb, cold, stony bier.

Hark to the sound of bells, triumphant, pealing!

Peace to all hearts you bring, blessing and healing.

Hear now our thanks to Thee as thus we pray,

Blessed Redeemer, on this Christmas Day.

May the Lord bless you, one and all, not only at Christmas, but everyday in the coming year, is the wish from our congregation.

REMINGTON, INDIANA

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

We were glad to assemble for services on Monday evening, as Bros. John and Corbin Bahler, and their wives & others, from Rockville were here . . . still remembered, how our father and Bro. John's father enjoyed meeting one another many years ago; when they were young men, they worked together at Fairbury.

Nov. 19, Bro. Ernest Gerber and others from Rockville spent Sunday with us . . . always grateful, to any and all the brethren that take time to come and worship with us.

He who thanks but with the lips

Thanks but in part,

The full, the true Thanksgiving.

Comes from the heart.

Oh God, Thou who hast given us so much; give us one more thing, a grateful heart!

We are grateful if we have learned the lesson of contentment. We should be content with anything God chooses to send to us. Then we can bless Him for what we have and trust Him for what we want. True thankfulness is a heart condition

that is not dependent upon outward circumstances.

Is your heart overflowing with praise, or are you secretly rebellious because the Lord has withheld certain sweets for which you crave? Discontentment with God's will is a grievous sin. May we all ask for grace to be truly thankful and happy. As Christians, do we rejoice in Him as we should? Can others see we are redeemed?

An author wrote, "The truly happy man was born in the city of regeneration, in the parish of repentance. He owns the largest state in the country, of contentment; yet wears the plain garments of humility. He has **meat to eat that the world knows not of.** He has gospel submission in his conduct, due order in his affection, sound peace in his conscience, and sanctifying love and joy in his soul. Happy is the man who trusteth in the Lord.

When people look at you, do they declare: The Lord has made him joyful. (Ezra 6:22) The song in the Christian's heart should repeat itself in his face!

A Thanksgiving Wish

Through this year and always, may you have
 Enough happiness to keep you sweet;
 Enough trials to keep you strong,
 Enough sorrow to keep you human,
 Enough hope to keep you happy,
 Enough of thorns to keep you humble,
 Enough success to keep you eager,
 Enough friends to give you comfort,
 Enough faith to give you courage,
 Enough wealth to meet your needs,
 and
 Enough determination to make each day a good day, and give God thanks for everything.

Robert and Sis. Rose (Frey) Bahler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 26, with most of their own children and brothers and sisters on both sides attending. May God richly bless their lives in the future.

Sorry to report, Sis. Mary Bahler is still in the hospital after an emergency operation for gallstones.

To you — at Christmas

Oh may the star the wise men saw shed holy light upon your way: May hope and peace, with sacredness, Be truly yours this Christmas

Day. May you have loads of goodly cheer, But keep your heart forever true to Him whose birth we celebrate. This is my Christmas prayer for you.

Ruben Scharlach is among our weak and sick. Trust is each one can look up to Jesus, which will make their lot bearable.

BERN, KANSAS

Esther and Stella Moser

We assembled with the Sabetha congregation on Thanksgiving morning for special services. Bro. Lester Hartter spoke to us; we give thanks each day, not only on this one day set aside, for all blessings, both spiritual and material, and above all, for our wonderful plan of redemption. It was nice to have our college youth home over the long holiday, and to have them assemble with us, also other visitors "home" with their loved ones.

Our friend, Ernest Gerber, is in the hospital with infection in one of his legs. Ernest is 88, lives alone, and does his own housekeeping, plus a nice garden in summer.

Know Each Other Better

I have in mind two sisters and their niece, all three practical nurses, and while we have other sisters just as capable, these three are special to me, as at various times they used their talent in our homes.

Sis. Lizzie Strahm at the age of 19 started taking care of the first mother and newborn baby, then on through the years and until quite recently, always another baby. She really loved them all. In between times she nursed the sick. Now past 80, she is nurse and companion to a wheel-chair patient.

Sis. Emma Strahm was also young when she started caring for mothers and their babies. She later went to work in the County Convalescent Home (welfare). She was supervisor there for many years, is now retired. However, she still helps out some in special cases of need, at present is helping care for Sis. Marie Leuthold.

Now we come to the next generation, Sis. Anna Ulmer. Again she started very young, first helping along with her aunts, then on her own in baby care. It was hard work, nurse, hired girl, and what have you. These three sisters soothed

many a crying baby, anxious new mother, and fevered brow. Then 23 years ago, Sis. Anna went to work with her Aunt Emma, and is now supervisor of the home. In addition to her duties at the home, Ann is able to maintain a home for her handicapped brother and her frail mother, Sis. Rose Ulmer. (Sis. Rose will be 85 shortly, and due to a heart condition must take things slowly; she is able to assemble with us only part-time. She does handwork, mostly crossstitching, and she loves to have visitors. I for one always enjoy visiting with her. She knows many interesting things to tell. Rose for many years cleaned our church house, always is cheerful, and her lot wasn't easy as she traveled life's pathway.)

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Mrs. W. A. Jacob
 Mrs. Harry Bucher

From Matthew 11

Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

We are happy to announce that our dear Bro. Jack Bucher has left the hospital, and is convalescing at home. He has improved very much; altho rather weak, he can assemble with us a half day. May God grant him strength, that he may continue to good health.

Our dear friend, Clarence Morris, is slowly improving. May God be merciful to him. They have moved to their new home at 202 14th St., Chester Indiana 46304.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

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

Our visiting ministers the past month were Bros. John Widrick, Orville Ringger, Sam Aeschliman, Walter Steffen, Bob Grimm. It is such a pleasure to meet and greet loved ones.

Sis. Lena Rocke had major surgery, and is recuperating at her home. Bro. Herman Honegger was hospitalized a short time and is home again.

A number from our congregation attended the wedding of Bro. Bob

Moser to Sis. Joni Honegger, at Forrest on Thanksgiving Day. Our best wishes are extended to them as they journey hand in hand joined in the bond of grace.

We are asked to make a combined collection again for the Silver Lining dues, which are due the first of the year. Contact your reporters.

We have many in our congregation who are not able to go to the house of worship. Let us be especially mindful of them in this Holiday Season.

"I am going to the city where the roses never fade" was sung at the funeral services for Bro. Jon Bauer, age 26, on Nov. 27, who through 10 years of illness bore his cross patiently. He had to enter the Passavant Hospital in Chicago twice a week, to be put on the kidney machine, for 2½ years. He passed away at the hospital Nov. 25. He was married to Sis. Joyce Hodel, who survives; also a daughter, Julie; his parents, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Marguerite; a sister, Jayne; a brother, Aaron; a foster sister, Mary Ann Merrill; and a foster brother, Randy Merrill. Our home ministers conducted the services. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family. The family wishes to express their thanks to all who have through the years remembered Jon with gifts and acts of kindness.

Bro. Jon handed this poem to his beloved wife shortly before his departure.

I am Home in Heaven, dear ones;
Oh so happy and so bright!
There is perfect joy and beauty
In this everlasting light.

All the pain and grief are over;
Every restless tossing passed;
I am now at peace for ever,
Safely Home in Heaven at last!

Did you wonder I so calmly
Trod the valley of the shade?
Ah! but Jesus' love illumined
Every dark and fearful glade.

And He came Himself to meet me
In that way so hard to tread;
And with Jesus' arm to lean on,
Could I have one doubt to dread?

Then you must not grieve so sorely,
For I love you dearly still:
Try to look beyond earth's
shadows,
Pray to trust our Father's will.

There is work still waiting for you,
So you must not idly stand;
Do it now, while life remaineth,
You shall rest in Jesus' land.

When that work is all completed
He will gently call you Home:
Oh the rapture of that meeting!
Oh the joy to see you come!

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Lorna Schrock — Jeanette Knapp

Visiting ministers for the past month were Bros. John Widrick, Croghan; Josh Broquard, Fairbury; Silas Leuthold, Princeville; John Rokey, Goodfield; and Edwin Bahler, Remington. We are so thankful for their words of love and exhortation.

On Oct. 22, Barbara Wettstein, daughter of Bro. John and the late Sis. Carrie Wettstein, was united in marriage to Norman Ricketts, son of Bro. Levi and Sis. Margaret Ricketts of Morton. We wish the newlyweds, who are making their home in Morton, the Lord's blessing and guidance in their future together.

We've had several on the sick list during the past month. Bro. Ralph Knapp sustained chest and shoulder injuries, when a car he was working under fell from the jack, onto some blocks, which prevented more serious injuries. He remained in bed for over a week.

Barb Zimmerman, a college student and daughter of Mahlon and Kathryn Zimmerman, underwent a tonsillectomy. One-year-old Lorie Schrock, daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol, was hospitalized four days with the croup.

While working, Bro. Harvey Schieber fell, fracturing an arm. Following surgery and the application of a cast, he has returned home from the hospital. Sis. Lena Schieber was released from the hospital, following a mild stroke, and is now convalescing in the Eureka A.C. Home. Our prayer for all who are ill is that they may experience God's healing power.

Duane Miller, serving in the Air Force, spent the Thanksgiving holidays at home with his parents, Elmer and Ruth Miller. Also at home on a 20-day leave are Chris Miller Jr. and his wife, the former Phyllis Kupferschmid. Chris, the son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Betty, has received orders for an assignment in Viet Nam. We wish all con-

cerned much courage and the protection of our Heavenly Father, who is still the God of the universe and cares for all who cry unto Him.

At Christmastime we often think of gifts, giving and receiving. This thought about the Greatest Gift is worthy of repeating: "We are evermore asking God for many gifts, and these He loves to bestow. . . . But do our prayers fully recognize that the greatest and most satisfying gift is **the Giver Himself?**"

Sadness swept over our congregation when we learned of the passing of Janet Rokey Klaus, wife of Terry Klaus, on Nov. 21 in Phoenix. Janet, the daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Ione Hartter Rokey, was born in Peoria on Dec. 16, 1939, and grew up and married in our community. Short services were held in Phoenix the evening of her death, and funeral services were held in Congerville on Sat., Nov. 25, with Bros. Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, and Theo. Beer, Milford, being in charge. We all can rejoice, even in the midst of sorrow and loneliness, that in the last two weeks of her life she repented and received the peace of God, which passeth all understanding. Janet was among the sweetest of persons to all who were privileged to know her; and we know she shall be sorely missed, especially by her husband and her family, who so faithfully and lovingly cared for her during her illness. Preceding her in death was her brother, Bro. Jim Rokey, who like her was a victim of cystic fibrosis. Also surviving in addition to her husband, Terry, whom she married Aug. 19, 1962, and her parents are: a sister, Mrs. Judy Knepp of Roanoke; and two brothers, Jerome and Jeffrey, both at home with their parents in Mesa, Arizona. We wish them all much comfort and courage in the days that lie ahead and would like to print this poem with which Bro. Schupbach concluded his sermon.

"My Life and the Weaver"

My life is but a weaving
between my Lord and I.
I cannot choose the colors;
He weaveth steadily.
Oft'times He weaveth sorrow
and I, in foolish pride,
Forgets He sees the upper
—and I the underside.
Not 'til the weaving's finished
and the shuttles cease to fly,

Shall God unroll the canvas
and show the reason why
The dark threads are as needful
in the skillful weaver's hand,
As the threads of gold and silver,
in the pattern He has planned.

SARDIS, OHIO
Doris Indermuhle

The Christmas season is here once again; let's stop and think a few minutes about it. Is it a time to rush around to buy gifts to make others happy? Yes, perhaps it is. Is it a time to deck our homes with things that suggest a cheery season? Yes, perhaps this has its place. Is it a time to go upon the highways to visit those near and dear to us? Yes, perhaps it is . . . But, in the heart, is this what Christmas really is? This poem states our thoughts a little better.

It's Christmas in the mansion,
Yule log fires and silken frocks;
It is Christmas in the cottage,
Mother's filling little socks.

It is Christmas on the highway,
In the thronging, busy mart;
But the dearest, truest Christmas
Is the Christmas in the heart.

Let's not forget what Christmas really means in the heart; let's not forget to tell others what it means to each of us.

MANSFIELD, OHIO
Aaron A. Sauder

"Make a joyful noise unto God . . . Sing forth the honour of his name". During the past few weeks, the Vesper Choir was privileged to present a program of Thanksgiving to the Richland County Home, the Geriatrics Center, and to our Church Home, where we also enjoyed an hour of fellowship with the residents there, following the singing.

We appreciated the messages brought to us by the visiting ministers, who were Bros. Fred Marti and Elmer Zollinger of Rittman on November 5, and Bro. Aaron Steffen of Alto, on November 26.

Bro. Henry Sabo officiated at the wedding of Darlene Ramsier and Larry Enderle, who exchanged marriage vows at the home of the bride's parents on November 10. The new Mrs. Enderle is the daughter of Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier, and the groom is the son

of Henry and Sis. Martha Enderle. We wish them blessings and guidance from the Lord in their life together.

Patients in the hospital this past month were Sis. Barbara Gross Bricker, who underwent tests, and little Laura Beer (daughter of Bro. Kenny and Sis. Pat), who had a tonsillectomy.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ida Schaaf, whose brother Sam Them died on November 12. Sam was well known by many from our congregation, as he had attended our Sunday School and church, but in recent years had resided in Newark, Ohio, where he lived at the time of his death. We also offer sympathy to Bro. Martin Kleshinski, who just in October lost a sister, and has this past month also had a brother pass away.

From earthly tasks lift up thine
eyes,
Within a crib, in slumber lies
A little Child, so young and fair:
'Tis Christ, the Lord, Who resteth
there!

Welcome to earth, Thou noble
Guest,
Thru Whom the world is ever blest!
Himself wil our salvation be,
Himself will all from sin set free.

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

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

"Behold, what manner of love the
Father hath bestowed upon us . . ."
I John 3:1

TREMONT, ILLINOIS
Josephine Schaefer
Mary Jane Leuthold

Susan Marie was the name chosen for the little girl born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank, Nov. 6. She has one brother to welcome her home.

Our Sis. Lena Burk was hospitalized this month but is again home.

Our congregation was again richly blessed with visiting ministers: Bros. Noah Gerber, West Bend; Ernie Gerber, Rockville; Henry Beer, Milford; and Ben Fehr and

Eugene Bertschi, Roanoke. Thank you for the inspired words of God, and may you visit with us soon again.

Bro. Eugene assisted our elder, Nov. 19, when three souls gave their testimonies and spoke their promising vows before God and man. Those who are now our sisters and brother in faith are: Vickie Rocke, daughter of Sis. Doris and Bro. Orval; Marge Schupbach, daughter of Sis. Eunice and Bro. Ed; and Bruce Sauder, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna. May the grace and humbleness of God always remain and grow in your hearts.

We were all saddened by the sudden death of our Bro. John Schweigert. He died Nov. 14 of a heart attack. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Henry Grimm, Morton. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mary; six daughters, Sisters Viola and Lucille, Sis. Vera Aberle (Walt), Sis. Till Koch (Ralph), Eunice Rowell (Harold), and Sis. Bernice Frank (Elmer); a son, Bro. Chris; and a sister, Mrs. Leah Williams, Pekin. May God fill the vacancy in your hearts with his grace and comforting Spirit.

The Tremont congregation extends their sincere sympathy to the Theo. Reuter family. They had made their home in Tremont for many years, before moving to Eureka.

Christian Endeavor was held in Tremont Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. We always enjoy the songs by our young people.

Dale Edward arrived in the home of Bro. Daniel and Sis. Shirley Steiner Dec. 2. He is welcomed by a sister, Diane and a brother, Mark.

We rejoice with the angels on high as Nelson Musselman, son of Sis. Esther, has turned his heart unto the Lord. May God provide you with a rich measure of grace and faith.

May the blessings of our Lord be upon you and your home during the coming holiday season.

LEO, INDIANA
Mrs. Elias Souder

Christmas will soon be here, a time of the year to rejoice and praise the Lord for His wonderful Gift to men. The Sunday School children are planning a program about our Saviour and King.

Hymn-singing at the Fellowship

Center was enjoyed by a group of young people.

Sisters Elizabeth Pulfer, Rose Conrad and Mary Troxel are again able to be with their loved ones. Sis. Mary is at the present time at the home of her daughter, Pearl Winzeler.

We are rejoicing with our friend, Fred Wiggs, at the Butler Rest Home. He is one of the patients. He is ill with a serious illness and feels his days here are numbered. The first Sunday of the month, groups traveled to the two rest homes. We all enjoyed the help of our visitors. We found our friend, Fred happy of a gift from the Lord. (He had been seeking in truth.) In the morning, his heart seemed tense. Knowing the church group was coming in the afternoon, he wondered what he would tell them. Then he received a wonderful feeling, like a fountain, in his heart, and now believes he has peace with the Lord.

Know Each Other Better

Carolling, beautiful Christmas melody . . . the Lamplighter, touching the light reaching beyond a thousand centuries, forever . . . Heart with heart in love ignited . . . Friendship deeply engraved in another's heart, so one grows richer and deeper . . . Hospitality of the heart, a welcome that carries a belonging, a caring . . . sweet voices lilting a melody of peace, with promise of no end. This is God's house.

Pleasant Street, Churubusco, Indiana. On this way resides Sis. Elizabeth Pulfer. A kind sister with gracious charity, she has lived wisdom's ways of pleasantness. With 80 behind her, she is faithful still. A hymn beloved to her summaries her hours, "Be True". Her ambition is to go to heaven.

Charity and cheer are not only at this season, but the year round for the children of God.

Bro. Joel Souder resides with his wife, Sis. Mary, on Second Street in Grabill. He is a minister of the glad tidings. His messages of comfort and cheer are in the riches of love. His sympathetic heart is large in consolation. Bro. Joel, past 80, beams the beautiful tidings of holiday home in glory.

Somewhat southeast of Grabill, beyond Harlan, Bro. George Stieglitz, his wife and two daughters are

at home. He has a beautiful view, open expanses of sunset, and winter-white in lovely stretches. The far-off spiritual beauty is even more lovely. George knows the brevity of days, and the value of depositing his soul each day to a faithful Creator.

He related of a certain salesman. One day he was in a business establishment in Grabill. A man had died of a heart attack, and conversation was on this. The salesman said to this effect, Here's one there not going to get. **That very night**, he died.

Bro. George is one of the staunch, stalwart supporters of foundational truth. The true have found warmth in the glowing and glistening, where unspeakable joy and glory can chime the soul. The heavenly-beautified rooms are in rich contentment.

In the days of the iron-horse steam locomotive, another episode transpired. The engine had a coal-car with it. Coal would be fed to the roaring flames in the engine. Power from the boiler would drive those huge wheels, pulling the train.

One day something went wrong. There was danger! The water system or the boilers, out of control of safety! The engineer left one way. The fireman went over the coal-car. As he went over the coal, he told George, he thought of every mean thing he had ever done in his life. When it was over, both of these strong men cried as children.

We live in momentary expectation. We know things can happen. Every day is an emergency with God. Work days are disappearing. Eternity is in view. We have sweet dreams, not of Santa Claus on rooftop, but Someone who can do all things. He brings rich gifts of eternal value now. Wait til the morn, when Jesus comes in power and great glory.

ALTO, MICHIGAN

Myrna Steffen — Loretta Steffen

Our hearts rejoiced as three friends, Sharon Wingeier, Linda Schrenk and Susan Root were added to the fold Sunday, Dec. 3. Elder Bros. Rudy Graf and Joe Waibel were with us for the provings and baptisms. We are thankful for their inspiring messages and labors of love.

Friend Don Yeiter, son-in-law of Sis. Lena Roth, was hospitalized recently as the result of a corn-picker accident. May the Lord guide and strengthen him during his recuperation.

We extend our love and prayers to Sis. Fern and Bro. Phillip Wingeier, as they plan to leave our congregation this month for their yearly trip to Sarasota. We will miss them in Alto.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Derry Schutte, whose father passed away recently.

Thought for the Christmas season:

Instead of complaining about Christmas becoming so commercialized, ask yourself what you can do to keep the real, spiritual meaning alive. Do you welcome the lonely? Do you give to those whom nobody remembers? Jesus made no distinction between persons—whether they were wise or ignorant, cultured or rude, rich or poor. Are you willing to see all sorts of people through the eyes of Christ?

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Millicent Frieden and Laverne Roth

Ministering Bros. Eli Somerhalder and Ronald Nelson attended the conference in Eureka.

Friend Mary Guthrie of Ann Arbor, Mich., has been announced to have found peace with God. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Richard Guthrie of our congregation.

Services were held at the Kiowa Manor Rest Home, on Nov. 12. These souls who are unable to go in and out seem to appreciate the efforts of those who bring God's teachings and hymns of praise to them.

We were privileged to have had two visiting ministers in our midst this past month. Nov. 19, Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife, Sis. Barbara, of Phoenix were among us, and Nov. 26 Bro. George Lambert of Wichita dwelt with us. We are thankful for the visits and messages of truth; we appreciate them so much.

The evening of Nov. 22 we held Thanksgiving services. Such a large group turned out that the services had to be held upstairs in the assembly room, in order to accommodate everyone. This evening also marked the beginning of our Wednesday evening services for this winter.

Bro. Eli and Sis. Ollie Frieden recently observed their 60th wedding anniversary. Sis. Ollie has been a shut-in for several years, following a stroke and later falling and breaking her hip. May God bless and strengthen them, that they might enjoy many more years together.

Bro. Eli Somerhalder was at Ft. Sam Houston, the week end of Nov. 25 to minister to the group. He seemed to have had a very worthwhile trip.

Funeral services were held at the Harper Kansas Funeral Chapel for Elmer Gaug, age 53, Nov. 29. Officiating ministers were Bros. Eli Somerhalder and Raymond Roth. Surviving are Elmer's mother, Lydia, and several brothers and sisters. Sympathy is extended to the family.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Matilda Schupbach, Bro. John Hoffman and Janet Murrow, daughter of Gerald and Sis. Murrow, who are all home now and recuperating. Bro. John Schupbach remains hospitalized; however, he seems to be improving.

Now as another Christmas is almost upon us, we become aware of signs all around us: beautifully lighted trees, decorated homes, gifts, delicious food and of course the hustle and bustle of happy people preparing for a holiday. Yet if one looks carefully enough he can see other signs—the open Bible, sacred Christmas cards from loved ones, selections of Christmas carols or even the shining light in a toddler's eyes, as he halts his play for an instant to run to the picture of Christ and, eagerly holding up his tiny arms, says "Jesus" in a language the Lord could understand.

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Martha Stoller

Carolyn Zimmerman

Sis. Joni Honegger, daughter of Bro. Perry and Sis. Louise, and Bro. Robert Moser, Cissna Park, were married on Thanksgiving Day. Bro. Emanuel Gudeman performed the marriage ceremony, in which we were reminded how we, the church, as the bride shall strive to be ready without spot or wrinkle, when Christ as the groom comes to claim His own.

Rita Kay Rieger, daughter of Leonard and Mary Ann, and Steve

Metz, son of the Ivan Metz, were married on Nov. 12. They will make their home in California for the present time, where Steve is serving in the Navy.

Bros. Silas Leuthold, Princeville, and Josh Broquard, Fairbury, assisted our elder, Bro. Henry Kilgus in ordaining Bro. Perry Zimmerman as deacon. Henry is thankful to share his responsibilities with a younger, and physically stronger brother, as he has for sometime felt the infirmities of the body. We admire his willingness to share the load with Perry. May the love of God remain in their hearts as they walk along together.

The same Wednesday evening when the elders were here our two friends, John Stoller and Ronnie Koehl, brought their testimonies before the congregation. They were baptized the following Sunday. Ronnie shared with us how God called him through a dream. For two nights in succession, he saw himself lying in a casket. Friends were calling at visitation, trying to comfort his grief-stricken parents. Through this he became spiritually awakened and pleaded to God for mercy.

Other visiting ministers recently were Bros. Ernest Gerber, Rockville, and Earl Kilgus, Remington.

Newly-married Albert and Jeanne (Strahm) Edelman have found the need of a Saviour, as they establish a home together. May His grace be with them as they begin this new walk of life.

Mary Ann Rieger, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Marian, and Daniel Bradley were married on Dec. 2. They will live in Saybrook. We hope our young couples will continue to worship with us; by their presence, we trust they have a desire for His blessed fellowship.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

A son, Alan Bruce, was born on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 23 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lauretta (Haerr) Schafer.

Sis. Ella Thomas and Bro. Paul Wagler were united in marriage Nov. 19. It was a precious privilege to have Bros. Bob Pohl, Uriel Gehring and all the brethren from Burlington, Ia, who assembled with

us that day. We will miss Sis. Ella, but we're confident she is welcomed in the Burlington congregation.

The announcement of the engagement of Sis. Lois Reisinger to Bro. Alan Herman, son of Bro. Noah and His. Lorraine Herman was made to our congregation.

Sis. Tillie Asal died Nov. 15, after an extended illness. Surviving are four sisters, Amelia, Sisters Louise, Lena and Mae. Funeral services were held from Wright and Salmon Mortuary, with Bro. Michael Weyeneth officiating.

Our sympathy is also extended to Sisters Caroline, Ida and Katherine Schmidgall, whose brother, Bro. Carl Schmidgall of Fairbury died Nov. 23. Likewise, Sis. Susan Zeller whose brother Bro. Theo. Reuter of Eureka died Dec. 2; Bro. Marshall Heinold and family, whose sister, Sis. Peggy Metzger of West Bend was called so suddenly to leave her duties as a young wife and mother. For those who are ready to meet their Lord, and we believe these dear souls were, we could wish nothing better than for the Lord to say, "Come, enter into my rest." This is what a child of God longs for! It's hard for the ones who remain; they miss their loved ones so.

Sis. Barbara Merkel has been with her daughter, Katherine Baer in Barrington, Illinois for several months. She has been in the hospital there for a couple of weeks. I'm sure she would enjoy hearing from her friends. Not knowing how long she will have to remain in the hospital, I will list Katherine's address: 831 S. Grove, Barrington Illinois 60010.

Bros. Edward Frank and Merle Bucher and several families from the La Crosse church were with us for the day and evening for our Hymn-sing. We all enjoyed the blessed fellowship together, the word of God which was proclaimed so clear and plain, and the blending of voices in song to God's praise and honor. We thank them all. It was so beautifully expressed in the services about faith—and that we perhaps would not be here today in this hour of worship if the Pilgrims had not had the faith to journey to a land where they could have freedom of worship. As the Christmas season approaches, the wondrous birth of Christ gives us much to ponder over.

PULASKI, IOWA
Mrs. Dave Wiegand

The engagement of Ken Rinkenberger to Jill Ross, from Traer, Iowa, was announced. Ken is the son of Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinkenberger. We wish them many blessings from above and many happy years together.

Harvest is coming along slowly here. One by one, farmers are getting done, but there is still a lot of corn to be picked.

FT. SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS
Steve Gerst

The Serviceman's Christmas Prayer

Our Lord and Saviour who art in heaven; humbly do I come before Thee in prayer. At this special time of year I do find it needful to thank Thee for the wondrous gifts and blessings showered upon me. I realize, O Heavenly Father, that without thy birth there could be no resurrection, no conversion or cleansing of sins. Thou has been merciful. (has sent His only Son into this sinful world.) Those of us who have been cleansed and sanctified by the blood of the Lamb do know of Thy love for man, and we do thank Thee.

It would be my wish to assemble around the table with my loved ones, but there are many miles stretched between us. I know my earthly body will not be in their presence, but I pray that my heart shall be. I also do pray for the protection and guidance of myself and my fellow brethren and friends who art stationed on foreign soil at this holy time.

Last, but not least, be with my beloved wife and loved ones at home. Make their holiday season a very blessed one. If it should be Thy will that I should not return home, I pray that thy shielding wings and protecting arms will guide and lead them safely further on.

Now as I close in prayer, may Thy will be done, and not man's. In thy infinite wisdom and loving name I pray. AMEN.

Visiting Ministers: We were the recipients of God's divine word, when Bro. Harvey Grimm of Bern visited on Nov. 12; Bro. Ben Maibach of Detroit on Nov. 19; and Bro. Eli Somerhalder of Burlington (Okla) on Nov. 26. This past month we were blessed with many good

teachings of love. Love is presented in the scripture as the very nature of God and the greatest of the Christian virtues. This love in its true reality and power is seen only in the light of Calvary. It is created in the believer by the Holy Spirit, prompting him to love both God and man.

Army News: New assignments were given to those graduating from medical training. They were: Friend Stan Hartzler of Rittman, Viet Nam; Friends Chris and Phyllis Miller of Eureka, Viet Nam; Bro. Larry Belsley of Detroit, Korea; and Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf of Gridley (Ill.), Korea. Their many faces, including their wives, will be missed in our small flock. We pray our Supreme Being will comfort, guide and shield them from all harm and danger. There is a small tingling in our hearts as we see them leave and we stay behind. It can be a consolation as one song writer wrote:

“Ready to suffer grief or pain,
Ready to stand the test;
Ready to stay at home and send
Others, if He sees best.

Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.”

Visitor: Linda Belsley of Detroit came with her uncle, Bro. Ben Maibach, to visit her brother, Bro. Larry. It was unknown to Larry that she was coming, and he received quite a shock.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
Howard and Louise Getz

We are glad to report that we will continue our weekly church services in Indianapolis. On Nov. 19, Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman met with the families involved, and the feeling was that for both the families' and the students' sakes we should continue. One of the student-friends commented that he appreciated having church “available” each Sunday, because if one's studies were too heavy on a given week end to attend church, it would be a month until he could come again. We have received so much cooperation from the many ministers who have so lovingly served us. It is hoped that more permanent arrangements can be made in the near future.

Because so many students and families will be going to their hometowns at Christmastime, it was decided that services will not be held on Dec. 24 or Dec. 31.

Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville was also in Indianapolis on Nov. 19 and shared with us the fruits of his study of the Scriptures refuting evolution; we all certainly learned much.

On Nov. 12 Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka lent himself in the service of the Lord, and on Nov. 26 Bro. Verlin Stoller of Ft Wayne had the post-Thanksgiving messages. Bro. Emanuel Gudeman and a good number of his children and their spouses from Cissna Park, Normal, Champaign and Morton gathered with us on Dec. 3. His lessons from Revelation were thought-provoking, and make one want to be more and more prayerful for our loved ones and friends, so they too can receive God's forgiveness and grace.

We send the combined best wishes of our congregation for a Blessed Christmas season for you and yours.

NOTE: If you know of students at Indiana University that we can contact or help in any way, please write to us at: Tulip Tree House No. 916, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

JUNCTION, OHIO

Mrs. Ben Manz
Mrs. Alvin H. Manz

Bro. Sam Schlatter, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther, broke a bone in his foot, but is able to get around with the help of a walking cast.

Know Each Other Better

Sis. Leona Stoller Dotterer was born at Fairbury on July 7, 1894 to Bro. John and Sis. Louise Mangold Stoller. Her father, who was born in Switzerland, came to this country at the age of three years, and her mother who was born in France came at the age of eighteen. Sis. Leona was the oldest in the family of eleven children, 4 girls and seven boys. The family moved to Gridley when she was 10 years old, and at the age of 16 years she became converted and was baptized by Bro. Rudolph Witzig in Gridley. In 1913 her family left Illinois and moved to Latty, where she lived until 1923.

On March 11, 1923 she was married to Bro. Andrew Dotterer of Junction by Bro. Henry Souder of

Leo. They had six children, Mrs. Richard (Sis. Juliet) Schlatter, Mrs. Ben (Sis. Esther) Schlatter, both of Junction; Bro. Henry and Bro. John Dotterer of Rittman; Mrs. Eugene (Sis. Marilyn) Fetter of Toledo; and Ann Elizabeth, who died in infancy. In 1927 Bro. Andrew was called upon to serve as a minister in the Junction congregation, which he did faithfully. He suffered a stroke in Dec. 1962; this stroke left him partially paralyzed. He was confined to his home for about 2½ years, until his death on July 6, 1965, although he was able to leave a few times in a wheelchair. During this time, she faithfully and patiently cared for him. Sis. Leona has 34 living grandchildren (one died in infancy), and can rejoice that six of them have become converted and are now serving the Lord. She lives alone and is one of our representatives for the World Relief Sewing Group. She spends much of her time, when she is able, making mittens, shoes and clothing for World Relief, and also piecing comfort tops for our meetings. Her help and support is very much appreciated.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

A beautiful evening ceremony, Dec. 2, united in marriage Carol Beer and Dane Rumpfelt. Carol is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth Beer, and Dane's parents are the Bob Rumpfelts of our community. The young couple will make their home northeast of Milford. Dane has returned recently from his tour of duty in Vietnam. As God has granted his safe return, may He continue His blessings in their life together.

Jim Beer was involved in a car accident, following his sister's wedding, as his car skidded on icy pavement, left the road and sheared a utility pole. We are thankful to report he escaped with only minor injuries.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Mike Reuter whose brother, Theo, passed away in Eureka.

The church dining room was a busy spot last Thursday, as the group of ladies sewing for relief knotted five colorful warm comforters, while in another part of the room boxes were being packed for our servicemen. We are fortunate at this time to have only four boys

from our congregation in service. Each one leaves a vacancy that is keenly felt, however, and we anxiously anticipate the time they'll worship with us again.

Much has been said and written about the Christmas spirit prevailing in the hearts during this time of the year. We admit, the warmth and generosity does have a firmer grip on our hearts, as we center our thoughts on the great love God has shown to us in the birth of our Lord Jesus.

Some of our dear older sisters in this congregation seem to have the secret of housing these traits in their hearts the year around. If they were made aware of the lift they give to some of us who are younger, as they greet us with their friendly smiles each Sunday, they would no doubt express surprise. We find ourselves looking forward to, even counting on, the benefits that are gained through a short conversation with them. Surely God smiles as he sees the love radiate from these souls. Just as surely are their mansions prepared for them. Through their influence and His grace we are hopeful of patterning our own lives after them. It is out of pure gratitude that the above lines are written.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Diane Olson

Who am I? Where am I going?

These are questions we must ask ourselves, and with prayer and God's teachings in the Bible we can resolve the answer. This was the message brought to us by Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa. Bro. Carl Feucht, Lester, also shared God's word with us this past month. We thank the visiting ministers and those who came with them for assembling with us.

Into our congregation we welcome Bro. Donald and Sis. Bernadine Miller and family. Formerly of Winthrop, they are now living in Northfield.

As joy spreads over the earth at this holiday season, think what blissful happiness awaits God's children in that eternal holiday in heaven.

Glad tidings herald the Christ child's birth

Joy to the World and Peace on Earth

"Glory to God", let all men rejoice

And harken once more to the angel's voice.

It matters not who or what you are,
All men can behold the Christmas Star,
For the Star that shone is shining still
In the hearts of men,
of peace and good-will,
It offers the answer to every man's need,
Regardless of color or race, do heed.

So joining together in brotherly love,
Let us worship again our Father above,
And forgetting our own little selfish desires,
May we seek what the Star of Christmas inspires.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Mrs. Gus Weltz Miss Della Witschey

On Monday morning, Nov. 27, a Coastal Tank Lines truck failed to make a sharp curve on Route 7, about 2 miles east of New Martinsville, and plunged about sixty feet over an embankment into a ravine, a little after 4:00 in the morning. The 3,000 gallon truck contained phosphorous tri-chloride, a chemical which creates an acid fog when mixed with air. The vapor is harmful to the mucous membranes of the nose and lungs when inhaled in quantities. The driver of the truck was hospitalized with a broken ankle and other injuries. Residents of the area, Rolling Acres, were evacuated at once, many going to the homes of relatives and friends; a Red Cross station was set up, where they were quartered until Tuesday afternoon. They were able to return to their homes after the truck had been emptied of its contents and brought up from the ravine. Much of the chemical ran into Fishing Creek. Several Witschey families were among the more than 150 families that had to leave their homes. This happened about three miles from our home.

Miss Ruth Mullett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mullett, was a hospital patient recently. Dan Witschey is resting in his home at this time, and has his good days and the bad ones as well. Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Johnson both have been hospitalized, Mr. Johnson in the local hos-

pital and Mrs. Johnson in a Wheeling hospital, where she had neck surgery. Both are getting along nicely at this time. Mrs. Jessie Bleuer has not been well for some time, but is able to get out. Junior Bland of this city and William Bland of Wheeling, sons of Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood, both have had automobile wrecks the past month but are able to be home again.

Karen, Mark, Gloria and Larry Wade of Columbus, O., spent the Thanksgiving holiday here with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thomas.

The Rainbow Shoppe, owned and operated by Miss Hazel Hazlett, was badly damaged by fire on Dec. 1. A trailer owned by Ann Cochran Sands in the Steelton area was badly damaged by fire on Nov. 29. No one was living in it at the time.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Emch on Nov. 16, a great-grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Emch.

Mrs. Fred Berthel of Wheeling was the guest of the J. C. Froelich family for the Thanksgiving holiday.

F. E. Barth of Zephyrhills, Florida came back over the Thanksgiving holiday to get many needed items for their stay in Florida. They are enjoying the Florida sunshine and expect to stay for the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Thomas of Niles, O., and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lee (Ruth Kocher) of Brighton, Mich., visited the Durig families recently. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mason and family of Chesapeake, Va., were recent guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Durig and Mrs. Rosa Mason.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Stuart on December 3, in the local hospital. He has been named Stephen Mark. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Barth; great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth of Parkersburg, and the late Mrs. Emma Barth would be the great-great-grandmother.

We all wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

OAKVILLE, IOWA Martha Steiner

We enjoyed a blessed Sunday on Nov. 21, when Charlen Schrock

was proved and baptized by her grandpa, Elder Brother Noah Schrock. Her parents are Bro. John and Sis. Ruth (Marti) Schrock.

The following Saturday evening, Bro. Schrock performed the marriage ceremony of another granddaughter, Mary Jo Wiegand, and Galen Metzger from West Bend. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois (Schrock) Wiegand, and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice (Kellenberger) Metzger.

Bro. Art Gudeman of La Crosse spent the following day with us in expounding God's holy word. We certainly enjoyed a blessed day and thank him and his wife for their visit.

Gregory Lynn Gerst is welcomed by three brothers into the home of James and Sis. Linda (Rowell) Gerst. He was born Nov. 17.

Several from our congregation attended the funeral services in Galesburg conducted by Bro. Harvey Heiniger for Sis. Katie Loso, Nov. 21.

The engagement was announced of Sis. Judy Hodel to Bro. Bill Gerst, who is currently working in Michigan and attends the Alto church. Their parents are Sis. Ruth Reiman, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva Gerst, all of this congregation.

SABETHA, KANSAS Mrs. Joe Steiner

We enjoyed the presence of Bro. Sam Huber of Gridley in our midst one Sunday recently. We thank him for ministering unto us.

The engagement of Kathleen Kocher and Robert Steiner was announced recently. They are planning to be married in March. He is a son of Reuben and Opal Steiner and a grandson of Sis. Edna Steiner.

We again have much to be thankful for in this life. We assembled together on Thanksgiving Day, to bring thanks unto our Lord for all he has done for us. He has blessed us with a bountiful harvest. In the next few weeks we will hear much about the birth of our Lord, how he came into this world as a babe in the manger, to bring salvation to all mankind.

Today we were reminded of his death and suffering on the cross, of his broken body and shed blood for the remission of our sins. We partook of Holy Communion, as we

were commanded to do, as it is written in I Cor. II. "Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." "This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." Bro. Lester Hartter was here to assist our elder, Bro. Eugene Marti in the fulfilling of this Holy Sacrament.

AKRON, OHIO Florence Graf

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Bros. John and Corbin Bahler from Rockville were our visiting ministers during a midweek service. We truly appreciate their efforts toward us, and trust the Lord will continue to spread the word in this wonderful manner.

Rudy and Jean Graf and Ernie and Vicki Graf were among the worshippers in our congregation over the Thanksgiving holidays. Rudy has completed his tour of duty with the Seabees in Viet Nam and will be discharged shortly. Ernie faces possible overseas duty in the near future. Truly the Lord is merciful, in that He protects and brings home many of our servicemen . . . we can only commit all unto His care and protection.

RITTMAN, OHIO Ella Mae Trent — Claribel Walters Your Christmas

A bright and blessed Christmas Day.

With echoes of the angels' praise,
And peace that cannot pass away,
And holy gladness, calm and strong,
And sweet heart carols, flowing free,
These form our Christmas wish for thee.

Ned and Sis. Gail Spangler welcomed their first child, Lisa Gail, Nov. 29. Grandparents are Tug and Sis. Alma Maibach and Don and Sis. Louise Spangler.

A son was born to Dan and Brenda Saurer on Dec. 5.

Hospitalized this past month were Bros. Carl Ingold, Joe Rufener, Herman Ingold, Larry Miller, Sis. Judy Schar, Ronnie and Jeffery Stoller.

Home on leave before departure for Viet Nam is Stanley Hartzler, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara. May he feel God's nearness and protection wherever he may go.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Marlene Mosher

We are sorry to say that we have lost another dear soul from our midst this past month. Our dear and beloved brother, George Lambert, was taken out of this life of war and sorrow, leaving behind him: his wife, Sis. Louise; three daughters, Joyce Laskowski, Judy Rytlewski and Shirley Lamber; three sons, Gerald, Darrell and George, and grandchildren.

Two weeks before the passing of George, a brother, Ernest Lambert was put to rest, leaving behind his wife, Lucille; a son, Clifford, and grandchildren. Left behind, by these two brothers were four other brothers, Bro. John, Dave, Dan, and Joe, and two sisters, Sis. Ellen (Carl) Wackerle and Lydia (Eddie) Erickson. We wish those left behind comfort and consolation in their times of sorrow.

Sis. Neola Wackerle and Bro. Byron Nussbaum were united in holy matrimony. Neola is the daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Ellen Wackerle, and Byron is the son of Sis. Leona Nussbaum of Fairbury. We wish the new couple a happy and godly life in their new life together.

That time of the year of peace on earth and good will to men, Christmas is with us once again. Let us remember the manger and who was born. Let us not forget that this isn't the most important thing to remember. Let us not remember just the manger, but more important, let us remember the cross where our Lord died and shed His blood for us. What are we doing for Him in return?

BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Loris Kieser Mrs. Don Duckworth

We are thankful for an abundant harvest, even tho' some still remains standing in the field, due to an extremely wet fall.

We welcome back into our community Larry and Sis. Sandra

Guingrich and 2 daughters, Michelle and Tonya. They have lived the past year in Goodfield.

We also welcome Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, Ill., to our Wednesday evening gatherings. He is working near here and assembles with us when he can.

Our little folks are busy learning their Christmas pieces, as they anxiously look forward to their program. May we never forget the real meaning of Christmas, for 'tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

Cathryn Wettstein—Salome Walter

Bro. Dan Wiegand is still a patient in Eureka Hospital; he is improving now. Sis. Elizabeth Bittner is now a resident of the A. C. Home, since leaving the hospital. Bobbie Prather, son of Bro. and Sis. Jack and Milly, had his tonsils removed recently. Jimmy Wettstein, son of Bro. and Sis. Art and Donna, had more surgery on his ear recently in Chicago. Myron Blunier, son of Bro. and Sis. Vernon and Verda, underwent an appendectomy, but has returned to his home now. Sis. Doris Fehr, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ralph and Lula, had surgery, but has also returned home. May God help each through all their illness and help them to be restored to good health again, when it be His will. All the prayers offered in their behalf can help.

Our community was shocked with the sudden passing away of Bro. Elias Fischer, Nov. 16, who passed away at his farm where his son Fredrick lives. He was 75 years old. His funeral was Nov. 19, conducted by Bros. Vernon Leman and Russell Rapp (Morton). He is survived by his wife, Sis. Lydia; six sons and three daughters, Bro. Fredrick (Roanoke), Bro. Lyle (Ft Scott), Bros. Robert and James (Morton), Leroy and Elias (Washington), Sis. Lorene (at home), Sis. Arlette Fehr (Roanoke), Sis. Wilma Teubel (Bloomfield Ia); two brothers, four sisters, and 33 grandchildren. May God comfort the family in their sudden bereavement.

A neighbor to the Fischers was Bro. Theo. Reuter, who was taken suddenly ill following a stroke. He passed away in the Eureka Hospital, after being a patient for three days. He was 73 years old. His funeral was Dec. 4, with Bros. Walter

Anliker and Al Aberle (from Tremont) in charge. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mary; one son, Bro. Robert of Wolcott; one grandson; two brothers, a sister, a half-sister and a half-brother. May God be near to comfort this family. These two brothers will be missed in our church very much.

Births: A son to Ed and Judy Knecht, born Nov. 22, Kenneth John; he has a brother and two sisters. A daughter to Bro. and Sis. Roy and Norma Hangartner, Lena Marie, born Nov. 28; this is their first girl, but they have two sons.

Card of thanks: We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their many kindnesses, prayers, food, gifts, cards and flowers extended to us during the sudden death and loss of our beloved husband and father. Mrs. Eli Fischer and Family.

As we are approaching the Christmas season, let us all remember and think of the real, true meaning of it, with the thought of it being more blessed to give than to receive.

LAMONT, KANSAS

Mrs. Stephen Schrader

During this past month, the Lord has called Home one of His own. Our dear sister-in-faith, Julia Wernli Isch, departed this life on Nov. 15, after a long illness of cancer. Hers was always a cheerful disposition, and the indwelling Christ shown clearly through her life. Those who went to comfort her were sent away comforted, with a new assurance that Christ is sufficient at all times. Julia was the daughter of Sis. Emma Wernli and the late Bro. John Wernli. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Floyd, her sons, Lloyd, Bro. Ronnie, Dale and Glen, a daughter-in-law, Janice and a grandson. Julia was a sister of Bro. Roy Wernli, one of our ministers, and Sis. Dena Emch. Services were held November 18 by our elder, Bro. Samuel Anliker, and Bro. Sam Huber of Gridley.

Amen

I cannot say,
Beneath the pressure of life's care
today,
I joy in these;
But I can say
That I had rather walk this rugged
way,
If Him it please.

I cannot feel
That all is well when dark'ning
clouds conceal
The shining sun;
But this I know
God lives and loves; and say, since
it is so,
"Thy will be done".

I cannot speak
In happy tones; the tear-drops on
my cheek
Show I am sad;
But I can speak
Of grace to suffer with submission
meek,
Until made glad.

I may not try
To keep the hot tears back; but
hush that sigh
It might have been;
And try to still
Each rising murmur, and to God's
sweet will
Respond—Amen.

Our Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker and Sis. Kathryn journeyed to Illinois to attend the annual conference meetings. While there they visited their daughter and family, Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard and children of Fairbury. We pray that these meetings can be a source of exhortation and unity for the brotherhood.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Marcelle Dapper — Ruth Dapper
Jan Elsasser

We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the Herman Hackenjos family in the loss of their loved one. We pray that the Lord will comfort the family in their lonely hours.

Our annual Sunday School picnic was held at Griffith Park. The day seemed to be enjoyed by all, especially the children.

We were happy to have Bros. Noah Schrock and Ben Maibach visit us on their return trip from Japan. These brothers truly left us many blessings and teachings to live by. We thank God for bringing them safely home and thank them for their visit.

We are happy to have in our midst again Bro. John and Sis. Julia Dapper, after being away on a three-weeks' vacation. They visited many churches in the East and were in Eureka for the Conference. We are thankful that the Lord watched over them during their

journey and brought them safely home.

Sis. Christine Locher has again recuperated, after having surgery. We are happy to have her assemble with us again, and thank God for His Almighty Power in restoring to sound health.

Sunday evening Nov. 19, Bro. Robert Beyer from New York brought us many wonderful teachings. We wish to thank Bro. and Sis. Beyer for their visit, and pray that the Lord will richly bless their visit.

The week end of Nov. 18 and 19 will certainly be remembered as a very blessed week end in our community, as a group of 8 brothers, sisters, and friends from the Phoenix congregation visited both of our California churches. Bro. Dave Koch from Tremont who is stationed in El Paso, Texas flew in to spend the week end with us. Once again we must certainly testify that we have a most precious faith. Before departing, the songs "Blest Be The Tie That Binds" and "God Be With You Till We Meet" were sung, and truly the love of God showered down upon us, binding us together in this wonderful fellowship we have. The group then left our community to return. Even greater blessings have been felt since, as we hear that Dan Roth has now submitted his heart to the Lord in repentance. We truly wish Dan the Lord's richest blessings.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Earl Palmer. Earl is a brother of Sis. Mary Schick and Sis. Julia Milinkovich, both of our congregation. We extend to the family our deepest sympathy.

Our friends, Terry and Penny Julien, who have professed their peace with God and man were announced to the congregation for proving and baptism. As the angels in Heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth, we too in the Maywood congregation rejoice over the repentance of these two souls.

Now, as the 1967 Christmas Season is upon us, we wish to extend holiday greetings and the Lord's blessings to each. May we remember the birth of our Lord and His purpose for coming into this world, to bring unto us a plan of salvation. We should be ever so thankful for this privilege which is afforded us. As we begin a new year, let us all take inventory of our lives and do

our part in living a life more pleasing to God.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Carlton J. Lanz

Births: On November 16, twin boys—Bruce and Brian—to Anton and Linda Zutter. Grandparents, Bro. Alfred and Sis. Frieda Zutter and Mrs. Lucille Morse. The couple already has one little girl, Laura. On Nov. 25, a little girl—LaNae Verne was born to Bro. Edwin and Sis. Beverly Gerber. Grandparents, Bro. Arthur & Sis. Verne (Fanny) Lanz, and Bro. Walter and Sis. Leah Gerber. On Nov. 28, a little boy, Alan Lloyd was born to Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lois Schultz. Grandparents, Bro. William and Sis. Martha Schneider, and Sis. Rozella Schultz.

The engagement of Sis. Harriet Welti to Bro. Dale Zahner was announced here Sunday, Dec. 3. They have our best wishes.

We here at Rockville extend to our many friends and readers of **The Silver Lining** a very Merry Christmas and a most Blessed New Year.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

Ed Aeschleman

About 30 of the brethren from Rockville congregation visited us on Sunday, Nov. 5. We all enjoyed the warm fellowship and the opportunity to worship together. Many of them stayed for dinner at the church, after services.

Our Elder Bro. John Bahler, his wife Sis. Julia, his son Corbin and family and others from Rockville were with us last Sunday. We appreciated God-inspired messages of truth and love.

A dear friend, Arnold Knecht, was stricken by a stroke two weeks ago. He is progressing reasonably well at home, and we pray to God for his full recovery.

Sis. Frieda Wartman recently underwent eye surgery and is convalescing at her home. May God be her constant companion and restore her again with His healing power.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

Our church was filled for services on Thanksgiving morning when our neighbors, the Remington congregation assembled with us. It was brought to our attention how different things are in our land today

than they were on that first Thanksgiving Day. After such a year of hardship, those Pilgrim fathers found reason to set aside a day of Thanksgiving—how much greater reasons do we have today with all our bounty. May we make every day of our lives a day of Thanksgiving.

We thank Bro. Ernest Gerber of the Rockville church for spending an evening with us and bringing us the message of salvation, during his visit in this area.

The Lord has blessed two families with baby sons during the past month. Chris William was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest on Nov. 26, and Allen Troy to Allen and Linda Oberlander on Nov. 28.

Bro. John Anker has entered the hospital for observation and treatment. We pray God will grant him a speedy recovery.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

Yes, dreams are in Christmas windows,
But the giver himself must share,
Must join in the love of giving
Or the gift becomes plain and bare.

Our Sunday School pupils are practicing Christmas songs and their verses, which they are planning to present at our annual program to be held on the 17th of December. May the true meaning of the birth of Christ permeate our thoughts. What a wonderful love God has shown to mankind in His plan for the salvation of our souls. May you all enjoy a blessed Christmas.

We have some good news to share with you. Here it is. Mrs. Edwin Frieden (Joy) has turned to the Lord for her salvation. She testified that she has peace in her heart and accordingly was baptized. Bro. Leo Moser from Lester and Bro. Paul Banwart, West Bend, were here for the occasion. May God ever be her guide and stay. 'Twas indeed a blessed Sunday for us, the day we witnessed the foregoing event.

It is a pleasure to have Johnny Schupbach in our midst again. His stay in the army has terminated, and he is now a partner with his father and mother in the farming operation.

Thomas Allen has come to grace the home of Bro. Albert and Sis. La Verne Butikofer. He was born

on the eighteenth of November. We extend congratulations to the Butikoferes.

We are sorry to write that three of our folks are at present hospitalized. They are Bros. Gottlieb Pulfer, George Butikofer and Fred Marti. May God grant them patience, and bless the treatment which they are receiving so that they may soon be able to return to their homes.

A Prayer for the New Year

May it be Thy will,
Our God and God of our fathers,
That this coming year be unto all
Thy people
A year of plenty
A year of blessings
A year of assembly in Thy
sanctuary
A year of happy life, through Thee,
A year of dew and rain and warmth
A year in which Thou wilt bless our
bread and water
A year in which Thy mercies will
be moved toward us
A year of peace and tranquillity,
in which Thou wilt set a blessing
upon the work of our
hands.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Mrs. Edward Unsicker

How happy we are on Sundays when the Lord leads Bro. Ray Sr. and Sis. Anna Cooper all the way from Powers, Oregon to worship with us, or Bro. Dick and Sis. Darlene Voeller and family from Seattle, or Sis. Golda Ditch from Medford! Perhaps this is a special kind of fellowship not experienced in large congregations—and yet when we remember the blessed union in all the churches we recently visited, we can only praise God for His great gift to all of us. Should I say, the question is—"Can any of you dear ones in "crowded churches" really realize how much you would be appreciated at one of God's "out-posts"? Can any of you hear God's voice calling you to a place where you can perhaps be of greater service to Him and to your fellowman? Recently we heard our elders say, on the Brotherhood Conference tape, "May God help us to be among those who will rise to meet Jesus in the air in the glorious Rapture, and not of those who must remain for the great tribulation and suffer untold loss; may we, by His marvellous grace, be worthy to be spared!"

How very important that we listen to God's voice, in order to be in His will and service in these swiftly-flying days.

Plans have been made for Bro. Garth and Sis. Connie Steffen's new Sunday School Craft Shop. The children can hardly wait—they all remember how much they enjoyed their years in the old craft shop in Steffen's previous home! May the Lord add His blessing, without which all efforts would be in vain.

What a joy it is to see Sis. Margaret Banwart (Bro. Ray's wife) holding her rosy-cheeked year-old grandson, Daren Dau, the baby who spent many of his first months in the hospital, fighting against seemingly impossible odds—the **miracle baby**, they call him. He's still not quite well, but God has indeed been good.

May I humbly share the tremendous blessing the Lord has recently given me from Colossians? (Chapter 1, from verse 9) "... that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature..." and, in 2:6,7 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Jay Bertsch Noah Herman

The Tucson church received a wonderful and most needed addition to its membership; Bro. Alfred and Sis. Anna Thomas of Peoria will be appreciated in the singing and many other activities in our services. May the Lord bless their new home in Tucson. We surely welcome them

and anyone else who wishes to come and increase our assembly.

Cy and Sis. Lydia Moabs are with us again after a pleasant week and with their daughter and new granddaughter in California.

Our assembly was blessed with a visit from Ministering Bro. Robert Beyer and his wife from Naumberg. He stirred our thoughts with the beautiful teachings of the sermon on the mount. His visit was really appreciated by all. May the Lord bless him for his efforts, and may others be encouraged to come our way.

We appreciate those who came to worship with us. Sis. Lorraine Herman is in Illinois with her children and grandchildren.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Verna Woodward
Elaine Eisenmann

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith Massner are the happy parents of a new baby daughter.

Sis. Sarah Gerst had the misfortune of falling and fracturing seven ribs. She was hospitalized with the painful injury, but seems to be making satisfactory progress.

A number of our congregation attended the wedding of Bro. Paul Wagler and Sis. Ella Thomas in Peoria, Nov. 19. We now welcome Sis. Ella into our midst and wish them both many blessings and much happiness.

We enjoyed very much having Bro. Art Gudeman with us for an evening service, Sunday Dec. 3. The service was well attended; we received many good teachings and a feeling of rich blessing, being able to sit with the brothers and sisters of Christ, and be taught from His holy word.

PIRMASENS, GERMANY

Sherry and Ken Sauder

Our visitors have dwindled in Germany as the climate changed to the typical cold, rainy, windy wintertime weather. A brief snow the last week of November took away the cold, wet, drab appearance and enlightened our spirits. Now the small villages and large cities are bedecking themselves with many lights and Christmas ornaments.

Traveling over here in the wintertime is not so pleasant as in the summer, but a few of the service boys still venture to see more. Switzerland, Italy, England, Ire-

land, Scotland and Wales were included in the itineraries of some. On different week ends, small groups have met and enjoyed each other's fellowship at Neuhutton, Stuttgart and Rothenburg. We especially wish to thank the Heinz Maurer family at Neuhutton for their kindness and hospitality they always give to visiting Americans.

Your reporters are to be discharged from the Army and return home the end of December. For all of the service boys, we wish to express appreciative thanks and wish you God's blessings, for remembering those serving your country abroad with your cards, letters, gifts and prayers.

Auf Wiedersehen!

LESTER, IOWA

Emelie Knobloch

We heard some blessed teachings Thanksgiving Day. Bro. Leo Moser meditated. Could we still thank God for the blessings throughout the year if we suffered the trials the Pilgrims bore their first year in the new country? Could we feel as grateful as they did! We seem to always complain of weather, crops or wealth, and we are blessed with more than we anticipate. He stressed we should be more thankful and content with whatever our lot may be.

Bro. Dennis Warner still has his leg in a cast, but has been teaching Sunday School again. Little Cheryl Gerber (John) was hospitalized with pneumonia for several days. Ben Feucht had to be hospitalized for tests and observation.

Gary and Roy Metzger both remain in the National Guard, but they have completed their 6-month tour of duty.

James Metzger and Lois Wagenbach, Tremont; Ernest Gerber and Sharon DeHaan; and Keith Metzger and Mary Bly of Sioux Falls have announced their engagements. May God's blessings be shown to them.

Grandma and Grandpa Metzger (Fred and Carrie) celebrated their 60th anniversary. May the Lord grant them a fair measure of health and strength. They are past 80, and keep their own home.

Word was received from David Moser that he was released from the hospital in Japan and is at his base in Thailand.

Born to Bro. and Sis. Dale Metzger, a daughter, Nov. 15, Sherri

Lynn.

As we approach the holiday season, may we not get so involved that we do not spare a moment for the real meaning of the first Christmas, God's gift of the birth of Christ for our soul's salvation.

We plan our Sunday School program Dec. 17. The happiness on the faces of children, as they renew His birth by reciting words of truth and singing praises to His Honor is evidence of His love.

As the New Year is fast upon us, may we be thankful for God's blessings in the past year. May we with strength and faith in His love prayerfully solve the trials, temptations or disappointment.

May we share holiday blessings to all, especially those who may be far from their loved ones, the ill, and those in bereavement.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Mrs. Joe Beer — Mrs. Ervan Rokey

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

Our Sunday School classes are practicing for the coming Christmas program which will be held on Dec. 17. It is always such a blessing to hear these children and young adults speak and sing of Christ's birth.

Several brethren were able to attend the Conference: Elder Bro. Roy Farney, Bros. Henry Schrenk, Herbert Knochel, and Joe Beer.

Ministering Bro. Glenn Hackenjos and family from Altadena spent the Thanksgiving week end in Phoenix. We thank Bro. Glenn for his message.

Our community has been saddened by the loss of a dear friend, Janet (Rokey) Klaus. Janet died in the Lord, Nov. 14, at the Good Samaritan Hospital after several years of illness, at the age of 27. She was born Dec. 16, 1939, at Peoria. On August 19, 1962, she was united in marriage to Terry Klaus of Eureka. Janet and Terry moved to Mesa, from Illinois in the fall of 1963. During Janet's illness, she diligently sought God, became converted and expressed peace in her heart. She left a testimony to all. Survivors include her husband, Terry, her parents, Bro. and Sis. Ervan Rokey; two brothers, Jerome and Jeffrey, all of Mesa; a sister, Mrs. Judy Knepp of Roanoke; two

grandmothers, Sis. Jacob Hartter of Congerville, and Sis. Joseph Rokey of Sabetha. A brother, Jim, preceded her in death in 1960. Short memorial services were held in Mesa Nov. 15, with Bros. Roy Farney and Richard Schupbach officiating.

Bro. and Sis. Henry Mauerer from Fairbury and their daughter, Sis. Mary Beth arrived in Phoenix and plan to spend around three months with us. We welcome them here.

A little son, Scott Gregory was born to friends Clyde and Betty (Mohrman) Mulch on Nov. 15. Grandparents are Herb and Shirley Mohrman and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mulch.

Our annual business meeting was held. Bro. Allan Freed was elected chairman of the board, replacing Bro. Ervan Rokey whose term had expired. Bro. Loren Schrenk was elected as usher, to assist ushers, Bros. Paul Emch and Roy Stevig.

Bro. David Stevig is attending medical school in Chicago.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Velta Laukhuf

Church services will be held this winter in the Women's Club Building, at the corner of Palm Ave. and Park Ct. starting Dec. 24. Services are at 1 P.M. EST. Bro. Philip Wingeier will be staying at 3824 Bee Ridge Rd. Sarasota is located on the Gulf coast, between Tampa and Ft. Meyers. Our minister, Bro. Phil, extends a most welcome invitation to stop and worship with us.

At this time of the year the trees, flowers and fruit is a beautiful sight. It makes one realize the power of God and that his works and creations are everywhere.

TAYLOR, MISSOURI

Mrs. Eli Sutter

We were glad to have Bro. Bob Pohl and family, Burlington, Ia., with us on the 26th, also glad to have Bro. Noah Schrock and Sis. Hattie with us Wednesday evening, Dec. 6.

Many in our congregation have had flu and bad colds, but are thankful that no one has been hospitalized the past month.

Charles Linstrom, father of Sis. Rosella (Clarence) Kolthoff passed away. Our sympathy goes out to the family, as they have also lost both of Bro. Clarence's parents the past year.

Don and Elaine Hoerr have turned to the Lord in repentance. Don is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Rose Hoerr, and Elaine the daughter of Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel. We pray the Lord will give them grace to work out their soul's salvation, and that there will be many more turn to Him in the short time that is left.

The announcement was made of the engagement of Bro Bill Gerst and Sis. Judy Hodel of the Oakville congregation. Bro. Bill made his home here for many years, but is presently working at Muskegan, Mich. We wish them the Lord's blessing.

The announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Stan Heimer and Sis. Linda Kolthoff. Bro. Stan is the son of Sis. Naomi Heimer, and Sis. Linda is the daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Rosella Kolthoff. We wish them the Lord's blessing.

The Sunday School children are practicing for the Christmas program, to be given on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 17.

Christmas-time is almost here, the day we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. From the time we were little children this season has meant so much to us, and as we brought up our family it has lost none of its beauty. We hope we have been able to pass it on to our children and grandchildren. We hear complaints about how it is being commercialized and we know it is, but in this we have to account only for ourselves. The shepherds and the wise men brought their gifts to the baby Jesus, and so if we give gifts in love we will receive a blessing.

We have a program of our own with scripture reading, singing of carols and the children reciting their Sunday School parts, before our gift exchange. A blessed time is had by all, as we celebrate the birthday of our King.

WICHITA, KANSAS

Mrs. Larry J. Farney Mrs. Harvey Smith

We have started regular monthly singings at the church the last Sunday of each month. We gather at 7:00 p.m. and welcome all to attend.

It seems that we are caught up in the rush of getting ready for the holidays. Let us be careful to keep them "holydays". Once again at

Thanksgiving time we were blessed with being able to assemble with loved ones that live away.

This is one of the many things we have to be thankful for, specifically the blood Christ shed on the cross as a ransom for all.

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TOLEDO, OHIO
Mary Ann Weigele

Sis. Lydia Meister recently suffered a broken arm in a fall at home. Little Heidi Baer has been hospitalized.

On Dec. 3 we enjoyed having Bro. Hartzel Kaisner of Detroit minister unto us.

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for little children. The Christmas story is so wonderful and awe-inspiring to them. It is a joy for

parents to relive their own childhood Christmas experiences through their children. We can observe their wonder and happiness at hearing about "Baby Jesus" and remember our own when first we heard of His wondrous birth.

CHALLENGE

Henry Souder Jr.

Some undertook to conquer the towering, tallest mountain. Man stood, triumphant. Some like an earthly trophy. The best challenge is this: Your life challenged in God's word.

Challenge: Being of one accord. "For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;"

To improve, increase, or go, we must start in the right place. That is at the source, the heavenly Father. Then, rivers of water will stream. A river does not just start in the dry desert, but must flow from a hidden place.

Success is not in isolation. God moves and gives the open door. Together-To-knit means work. That is progress for greater things.

Challenge: charity "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." This challenge reaches. There is victory at Calvary. Its power is in His glorious resurrection. How much did He love? He brought joy to a heart-broken mother . . . touch of mercy to the disease scarred leper . . . constantly serving, bringing help . . . thinking, praying for others. How much? The scourge slashed and stung, rawing, welting, willingly taken. Stripes, to heal us. There was the awful, dreaded moment of **Why hast thou forsaken me?** He was the Light, fully enjoy-

ing the Father, constantly. Cut off in dreaded forsakenness. That is as He loved, to the end.

Challenge: Treasures. ". . . I desire fruit that may abound to your account." What we give has very important bearing on our life in that Home of God. It is not man. God gives us light on this. He sees rich benefits, take-home pay, currency equal to what He can and will do.

Challenge: Doing for God. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus . . ."

Hours in the plant. Care of children. Store hours. Details, problems. The light shines to radiate the common task with rays eternal. Retirement is to eternal youth, perfect satisfaction.

Who wants to see his working conditions improve? It's a challenge, to keep in mind our heavenly Employer. Do it for Him. Do it in the sweet atmosphere of His charity. Kindness and thoughtfulness are keys to happiness.

Challenge: Awaiting our Lord's return. The exact date is kept in absolute secrecy. Not even the Son, only the Father knows. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

Stir the fire! There is joyful surprise. There's a child's wonder, a beautiful night, the breaking of dawn. Hours hasten. Soon the morning . . . And there will be gifts more than we can dream.

Challenge: Sending His word:

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Radiant living sows. To that person we see once-in-awhile or once-in-a-lifetime, we can be kind. We can spread cheer, when clouds are low. We can walk the second mile, take reproach lovingly. We can pray for those who do not like us. We can live the verses of a pure life.

We have the golden opportunity of sending the scriptures nearby, or far off. We can be ready, with power, to give someone an answer of our hope. We can treasure those golden moments when we can tell someone the word.

Challenge: Prayer. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Someone has said, More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams. The hardest thing that ever happened was obtained in prayerful Gethsemane. Can we discern the mighty movement behind the scenes?

Prayer is labor. Work hard. Look at the Saviour. Drops streamed from Him as blood. An angel strengthened Him. What would happen if we with mightier earnestness would ask? Somewhere, in His mind, our askings are received. What dramatic happenings are in store if we persevere in power, increasing our effort?

Challenge! So many things: being kind to the sick, hungry, handicapped. One day challenge will change to conclusion.

That is the Dawn.