

THE SILVER LINING

Volume 18

JANUARY 1968

Number 4

HEAVEN

Submitted by

Elder Bro. John Bahler, Rockville

There was an old man who was very ill, that had been converted many years ago. He was invited to attend a Bible discussion the following Sunday, the topic being Heaven. The following is a letter that he sent:

"Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over 55 years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price . . . But the donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. I am not holding it for speculation, since the title is not transferable. It is not a vacant lot. For more than half a century I have been sending materials. The greatest architect and builder of

the universe has been building a home for me, which will never need to be repaired, because it will suit me perfectly, individually, and will never grow old. Termites can never undermine its foundations, for they rest upon the Rock of Ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away. No locks nor bolts will ever be placed upon its doors, for no vicious person can ever enter that land where my dwelling stands, now almost completed and almost ready for me to enter and abide in peace eternally, without fear of being ejected.

There is a valley of deep shadows between the place where I live, and that to which I shall journey in a very short time. I cannot reach my home in that City without pass-

ing through this dark valley of shadows . . . But I am not afraid, because the best Friend I ever had went through the same valley long, long ago and drove away all its gloom. He has stuck by me through thick and thin, since we first became acquainted 55 years ago, and I hold His promise in printed form never to forsake me nor to leave me alone. He will be with me as I walk through the valley of shadows, and I shall not lose my way when He is with me.

My ticket to heaven has no date marked for the journey, no return coupon, and no permit for baggage. Yes, I am all ready to go, and I may not be here while you are talking next Sunday evening, but I shall meet you there some day."

TODAY

Bro. Elias Souder

I have no yesterday;
Time has taken it away.
Tomorrow may not be—
But I have today.

Yesterday is gone forever. Have we accomplished anything? Have we shown any kindness, or have we just been to ourselves? The way we have lived is the way it is recorded in God's record.

There was a family . . . father, mother and little daughter. The mother and daughter died; the father had a dream that he went to heaven. When he came to the judgment, there he saw his wife and daughter all dressed in beautiful white; they began to check in the books, but his name could not be found. The answer to him was,

"You will have to go back and serve the one you served before." Then he awoke. How glad he was that this was just a dream. Afterwards he got on his knees. He made preparation to meet the little girl and mother. Everyone must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Will your name or mine be in the book of life? If not, millions of years will bring no nearer to the end of torment than one poor hour. O eternity, eternity: who can discover the abyss of eternity? Who can paraphrase upon these words—forever and forever.

Millions and millions of years in hell. Just think of one minute, complete darkness, no light, terrible torment, begging for a drop of water to cool the tongue. That is what the

Bible says; that is what Christ said. He warned all people to escape.

Don't blame Christ, if you go to hell. He has done so much for you. He gave His all and is beckoning to come. **Behold I stand at the door and knock.** This is the kindest and most wonderful announcement in Scripture. He might well have demanded admittance to the soul; instead, He graciously seeks admission. He has many times knocked at your heart's door. You must open. Are we going to let today idly slip?

I know there are thousands of prayers offered for our dear children and friends. Who don't offer prayers for their children, even lay awake nights, asking the Lord to have patience till they are all in?

Otto Norr preached in one of his last sermons; he said he prayed and prayed for something, but his prayers were not answered. Prayers can be answered long after parents have gone to rest. The prophet Habakkuk said, O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! . . . and thou wilt not save!

The story is told of a father and mother. They had a beautiful nicely furnished home. She was a Christian. He was not. She said she would live on bread and water if only he was a Christian. Isn't that the truth? How many of us wouldn't do the same for our dear children and friends.

The story is told of a mother dying. Before she died, she called all the children in, kissed them one by one and told them **Good-night**. When the last boy came, she told him good-by. He wanted to know why she told the rest all good-night and him good-by. You can imagine it was terrible to tell good-by to her wayward, dear son. She told him, Unless you change your ways, I shall never see you again. He gave her the assurance that he will meet her in heaven. So she also could tell her dear son **Good-night**. When our parting comes, may it be that we can tell our dear ones **Good-night**. Soon we can gather around the throne of God, be reunited and say **Good-morning**. O what joy that will be to meet one another and never again be parted, where there are pleasures evermore, and the

beautiful mansions are prepared.

Remember, dear ones, you may never see tomorrow. You have no promise in the Bible. Heaven is real, Hell is real, and eternity is only a breath away. Shall we live as though salvation were a dream, as though we did not know? We shall, everyone, be called to give an account. Make no mistake about that. In the solemn hour, the books will be opened. What will the answer be! Will He say to you, **Verily I say unto you, I know you not?**

Sometimes the children are ready to meet their Savior, but the parents are not. There was a young girl. The daughter was very anxious for her parents to meet her in heaven. Her mother told her daughter, I hope I shall sometime. Her daughter said, Do it now ma, and urged with all her childlike earnestness, to give herself to the Saviour. Finding that she could not prevail that way, she thought to secure a promise from her mother, feeling sure she would do what she promised. (Her parents had made it a point never to make her a promise without carefully fulfilling it.) Time after time she would say, Promise me, ma. The mother would reply, I do not like to promise you, Mary, for fear I shall not fulfill.

Mary grew worse, uttered her last word on earth. Her mother was never again to hear that earnest entreaty, Promise me, ma . . . but the little one's spirit lingered, as if

it were detained. The weeping mother stood watching her darling child, who seemed to say by her look, Ma, promise me and let me go to Jesus. There was a great struggle in mother's heart. Why do I not promise this child? I mean to give my heart to Jesus. Why not now? If I do not promise here, I never will. Mary, I will give my heart to Jesus. When her mother told her, a peaceful smile lit up her face. No longer able to speak, she raised her little pale hands. Pointing upward, she seemed to say, "Ma, we shall meet up there." Her life's work was done, and her spirit returned to Him who gave it. The parents went into the room where the little darling slept so sweetly in death. The mother said, I promised my darling I will meet her in heaven, now won't you, daddy? He took the little cold hands in his, kneeling beside his sweet little darling, hoping to meet her some day.

Why delay, dear ones? How often do you hear it said, It is later than you think. The whole world is headed for destruction. There are enough bombs ready to drop, one bomb each day, for 140 years—each bomb more destructive than the one dropped on Hiroshima.

The Bible says, If the days were not shortened there would be no flesh saved. Tomorrow may be too late. Why not today? If you do not today, you may not at all.

A FAMINE FOR GOD'S WORD

Amos 8:11-13

Bro. Henry Beer

The long-foretold prophecy, given by divine inspiration to the prophet, Amos is evidently beginning to fulfill itself in this our very day. One-third of the earth's population is under great tribulation, oppression and affliction, where the word of God is no longer published nor permitted to be distributed among the people.

A few years ago the American Bible Society came out with a report that only ten thousand Bibles had been printed in Russia during the last twenty years, making one Bible to two hundred people. From

the testimony of a Christian prisoner serving fourteen years in a Communist prison camp for his faith's sake, given before both houses of Congress in May 1967, we have the further report that the believers in the ironbound countries are suffering untold hardship and tribulation.

The attack is made expressly against the word of God, which is a forbidden book, but even then the desires of the soul implanted by God in the human heart are truly desirous for the word of God. People will give or trade a goat or

cow for just one page of the Bible. Whole pages and parts of the existing Bibles are copied by longhand, in writing. Christian printers, working in print-shops steal away after the working hours of the day to run out copies of pages of the Bible during the late hours of the night.

In one instance, after the Christian prisoner was set free, two poor men came from a neighboring village and offered to work at length, shoveling snow and frozen soil, for a Bible. The released prisoner had a Bible on hand for them and did not require them to work for it.

However, in a few days, thirty letters came to the giver, in which humble thanks were expressed. The Bible he had given them was divided into thirty parts and given to thirty families, who expressed their deep and humble appreciation and thanks to get a part of the precious word.

Then too, when Christian fathers are cast into prison for their faith's sake, the government withholds all material aid from the prisoners

family, working untold hardship and even starvation. The true church is underground, as in the first century after Christ's time, and must worship in secret, in attics, cellars and cornfields.

A channel is opening by which the word and material aid can be sent to the dear suffering Christians behind the iron curtain.

How should we evaluate every opportunity to gather with each other so unhindered, having the

word of God available? But the question arises how long, as we see the spread of unbelief, the name of the Lord rejected and a wave of unrighteousness spreading like a flood over the earth?

The prophet Amos has proclaimed, There shall be a famine, not for bread or of thirst for water, but for the word. This prophecy, we are led to believe, will eventually become universal. Let us therefore occupy until He comes.

HISTORY AMERICAN ELDERS

(Continued)

Gutwein, Phillip Sr. Born in Szeghegy (then Hungary). Installed elder in 1932 by Bros. Michael Mangold, Roanoke, and Ernest Graf Sr., Akron. Died Dec. 19, 1958.

Bro. Gutwein's parents, Ludwig and Angelika Gutwein, were constituent members of the church of Szeghegy. While the name of the town is Hungarian, the people were German Evangelical Lutherans of the Augsburg confession. The original members "came out from among" this "State Church" to be a separated people.

Ludwig Gutwein was a minister and his son, Philip likewise was called into the ministry in his early twenties. In 1891 he moved to Cservenka, a larger German community, with a larger congregation. Here he served the church until his separ-

ture for America, in the spring of 1906, temporarily locating at Fairbury.

In the fall of 1906, the Gutweins settled in Francesville. Other members had already bought farms. Among the original purchasers were: Bros. Joseph Leman, Joseph Pelsy, Albert and David Gudeman, Ernest Anliker, Jacob Boehning, Jacob Schick, Henry Schumacher, Sigmund Sorg, Christ and John Wuethrich, Eli Weyenth, Jacob Getz, Fred Yaggie, Jacob Honegger, Eugene Schladenhaufen, Joseph Guingrich, Sam Stoller.

Services at first were held in houses, upon invitation. Later a house, pulpit and some pews were purchased. Bro. Philip Gutwein Jr. began to assist in the ministry.

In 1912, the church building was

erected on the present site, largely upon the direction of Bros. David & Albert Gudeman Sr., Bro. Albert providing the lot. The first addition to the original building became necessary in 1942, and another was made in 1953.

La Crosse

Yergler, George W. Born in Gridley, Illinois, Dec. 21, 1887. Ordained elder Oct. 25, 1936 by Bros. Elias Dotterer, Junction; Emil Schubert, Peoria; Philip Gutwein Sr., Francesville; and David Mangold, Roanoke.

In 1915, a number of families from Cissna Park moved to La Crosse. In 1916 the first church was
(Continued on Page 24)

Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie Leman, omitted in the article titled "Illinois", are followers of Jesus. Bro. Paul is a son of Bro. Jack Leman and his wife, who has gone on, Sis. Lillian.

Postmarked FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Eugene Heinold

"... how wonderful to have been granted the grace to be called unto God, from places where people would only get dirty, tired, and weary of traveling, unto that super-express highway of God's, where crosses are lifted, and the road is built on a firm foundation that will carry us on to our goal and destination. It matters not if we travel this road for one minute or for many hours and years, it is that destination of a heavenly home, in mansions so fair, that we all are traveling upon this same highway. ... may me, with God's help and grace, ever stay awake and alert, so

that we would not go to the left or right and hinder others and ourselves from reaching the beloved-sought goal.

I must say that my time in the service thus far has been lightened and lifted by many a dear child of God ...

One thought that comforts me many, many times is when I think of the churches that pray each time they gather for the brothers and friends in the service, and those that are alone in so many places. ... also to think of all the prayers that daily and even hourly are offered in our behalf. May one and all be blessed at all times for the many deeds of kindness done to so many. When God is for us, Who can be against us ..."

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Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor: Henry Souder Jr.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America

Counsellors: Theo. Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

News Correspondent: Ed Souder

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, Ind. 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, Indiana 46741.

Amt. suggested for a year, \$2.00.

Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address.

ALABAMA**Ann Klopfenstein**

Sunday, Dec. 5, was a blessed day, when we could hear the testimony of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by Bro. Oscar Carroll; he then received baptism.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Pearl Stricklin have moved into the Moulton Rest Home.

Mrs. Junior (Addie) Stricklin submitted to surgery. Mr. Will Lat-ham has been admitted to the hospital in Moulton. He is the father of Sis. Barbara Jean Simmons, Mauvlyn and Billy Jo Harville.

Sis. Ora Kelley, who has been in poor health for several months, has had surgery. The results of the tests were not as serious as had been expected. We thank the Lord that she is now home and recuperating satisfactorily, although she is to have complete rest for many months. Sis. Ora received many cards and letters from the brethren of the northern churches. They offer heartfelt thanks for the prayers and expressions of love made on their behalf during the confinement of Ora.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**Louise Akel**

Saturday Dec. 16, a group met at the church at noon and went to Sutter's Orange Grove. Bro. Richard showed the Sunday School children where they could pick the oranges off the trees, to put in the bags for the migrant workers. About 100 bags had candy, nuts, gifts and 3 oranges in each. We went to the camp and left them, to be distributed to the needy on Christmas. Several brothers beside Bro. Bob Yergler collected toys and used items for the same cause.

Bro. and Sis. Sauder had a singing at their home. All were invited. Dec. 17, a picnic was held at Peter's Road Park. Many of our members are leaving for the Christmas holiday. We wish them all safe travel and happiness as they are reunited with their families.

Bro. and Sis. Troxel are attending the funeral of Joyce's father. We extend our sympathy.

Bro. Bud Klopfenstein's wife and children had severe colds, but felt well enough to attend church Sunday.

Sis. Florence Sutter asked visiting Sis. Judith Pfister of Bluffton if she would like them to visit and

sing Christmas carols. A happy "yes" was the reply.

Jesus said "Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? . . . when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, then shall they fast . . ."

I was visiting a home during a religious holiday, and a young girl told me she was going to fast from candy. Then she said, "You don't fast at all, do you?" My answer surprised her. "We fast not only for a few days, but all year round, a true fast that pleases God. Our elders of old thought it best that we should fast from worldly pleasures, movies, dancing, smoking, drinking in excess, make-up, jewelry, things of vanity and I remember being told, even as a child, that we were not to eat blood balony. This is spiritual fasting.

A blessed New Year to all friends and members, and especially the boys in the Service.

LESTER, IOWA
Emelie Knobloch**One Life**

You only have one life to live,
Do all the good you can
To make the world a better place
For all your fellowman.

You only have one life to live;
Time is fleeting fast.
Only the good that you can do
Will forever last.

You only have one life to live;
Be true to God and man.
The false will some day disappear,
And truth will rise again.

You only have one life to live.
Let love rule in your heart,
And you will know the peace of God
When you have done your part.

ALTO, MICHIGAN
Donna Steffen

Proverbs 3:6 "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." May we strive diligently each day anew to follow in the footsteps of our Lord, for at the end of this narrow path is the beautiful, promised land for which we are striving.

Since July 31, Bro. Herbert (Dick) Gerst from Taylor and his nephew, Bro. Bill Gerst (son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva of Oakville) have been here in Alto, due to their

job transfer. We have surely enjoyed having them in our congregation, and are blessed richly whenever we can fellowship with them.

On Dec. 8, Bro. Dick Gerst had a serious automobile accident. We certainly thank God for sparing his life. He was in the hospital a couple days, then flew to his home in Missouri to recuperate. We surely miss our dear brother in our congregation, and pray that he will soon recover and come back to Alto, Lord willing.

Our dear Sis. Bertha Swartz has been ill. We pray that good health will soon be restored to her.

An Ode to Children
Sis. Donna Steffen

A child is a token of God's great
love
Sent to us from heaven above.
It fills our hearts with bliss and
joy,
Makes no difference, girl or boy.

A child is tender, soft and sweet;
It helps to make our lives complete.
We care for it both day and night,
And help to teach it wrong from
right.

The child will ever so quickly grow,
And soon it's time for him to go
Away from his happy childhood
home,
To find a mate and a life of his own.

So very soon he will, like the rest
Want his home to be happy and
blest.
A child is then born, tender and
sweet,
And now this family's life is com-
plete.

Oh thank-you, Dear Father, for
your gift of great love,
Sent to this earth from heaven
above,
A gift which is greater than riches
and gold,
An unfailling love which should
never be sold.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME
EUREKA, ILLINOIS
August Mueller

Children: Do not love the world nor what there is therein. I know too many rather not eat than miss a game. We have to be as one that is waiting for the coming of his Master. He will come at a time when we least expect Him.

Now that Christmas is over and a

new year will soon come in, let us give God the honor for His mercy and love, which He did bestow upon us, His poor children. We cannot find enough words to praise His Holy name.

My sympathy goes out for the Knecht family. As far as I know, they only had boys in that family, no girls. Arnold left 2 sons and 2 daughters; they are all married. Charlie comes to church. Bertha, one of daughters, comes once in awhile. I feel very sorry for them. Arnold came every Sunday.

REMINGTON, INDIANA

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

May this year's greatest blessing
Be the fullness of the Lord,
Drawing you to sweet communion
With Himself, in full accord.

May His word be your foundation
For each thought and purpose true,
That His Holy Spirit's working
May work out God's will in you.

Another year for living,
Another year to plan,
One more year for giving,
And doing all we can . . .

We all rejoice with Bro. Robert and Sis. Mildred Clauss, as their oldest daughter, Colleen is repenting.

But joy alternates with woe, as we are getting ready to go to Lakeland, Fla., where our brother, Arnold's wife has suffered a cerebral hemorrhage and is not expected to live.

Recently heard was that Ernest Peter's wife passed away. They lived at Hammond, Ind. Our sympathy goes out to all concerned. Ernest lived in our community. Many years. His mother, Sis. Bertha Peters lives in Peoria.

A few of our group went caroling one cold winter's night. There's lots of colds and flu around, so trust is those that went were especially blessed for their efforts. Many of our elderly and sick look forward to our coming.

Chris Knochel has been in the hospital for 3 months or more, due to a farm accident in which he received a badly broken leg—He will go to his home in Florida as soon as he is able. He is a brother to Bro. Gus Knochel.

Bros. Elmer Witzig of Gridley, (Ill.) Roy Wernli of Lamont; Verlin Stoller of Ft. Wayne held serv-

ices in our midst recently. Each one's message gives much food for thought.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts — Anna Marie Baer

It hardly seems possible that a year could pass so quickly. We have a new year ahead. There will be ups and downs, joys and sorrows, happiness and grief. But, as we enter, let us remember we are not alone. There is One who is with us in everything we do, to help, guide and comfort. Let us step forward, determined with God's help to make it a brighter and better one. Let us resolve to spread a little more cheer and think more of others and less of self.

In the past year our congregation experienced joy and sadness. Four young couples were united in marriage; eight babies were born, four girls and four boys; the death angel claimed eight souls, three brothers in faith, one sister, four friends. When the congregation remains united in love, joins in happiness and sorrow, our burdens seem lighter. We have each other to lean on, and most important we have our dear Father up in Heaven, who is looking down and will graciously give help if we ask.

Early in December our Sunday School Bible Class enjoyed an evening of singing and fellowship in Tremont.

Our church was filled to overflowing Dec. 10, when Sis. Karen Kieser and Bro. Harold Steiner of Tremont were united in marriage. The bride's father, Bro. David Kieser, performed the impressive ceremony, in the presence of many friends and relatives. Bro. David and Sis. Ruth are the parents of Karen, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophia Steiner the parents of Harold. May the Lord bless this newly-married couple.

Among the visitors for the wedding were visiting ministers, Bros. August Bolliger and Simon Wagenbach of Tremont and Arthur Gudeman of La Crosse. So many impressive teachings were received from them, and we feel our cup was filled to overflowing.

On the evening of Dec. 17, a large number gathered to listen to the Christmas Story, told so innocently and beautifully in verse and song by the children in Sunday School. It was humbling and impressing to listen to the clear voices praising

their Lord. One song seemed to have words with such deep meaning.

A Gift So Wonderful

A gift so wonderful; Our God has given,

How very wonderful, His Son from heaven.

The richest treasure fair Could not with Him compare,
None else our sins could bear, O gift divine

O gift so wonderful, salvation free;
How very wonderful, His child to be.

To be His loved, His own, heir to His royal throne,

To walk with Him along, O wondrous gift!

A gift so wonderful He doth impart,
How very wonderful, A holy heart.
A heart made pure within, and cleansed from every sin,

Where shall His praise begin, O gift divine!

O gift so wonderful, So very wonderful,

The gift of God's beloved Son;

Born in deep poverty, Dying upon the tree,

That He might ransom me, O gift divine!

Bro. Edward and Sis. Lucy Woertz quietly observed their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 20. Eddie has been a most faithful janitor for the church for twenty years, and spends much time seeing to the comforts of others. Lucy has done her part; she helped clean the church for eighteen years. May the Lord bless them for their kindly deeds of service, and may they share more years of health and blessings together.

Sis. Lillian Stahl is convalescing in her home, following recent surgery. May she receive blessing from the Lord, who will help her carry her cross and ease the burden.

How happy we were to have Bro. Harvey Grimm and family with us on Sunday and on Christmas Day.

Harvey told the Christmas story so nicely to the large number gathered. Following services, many family gatherings were held. Aren't we a fortunate people to be so privileged to have these opportunities?

William and Diane (Baer) Streitmatter are the happy parents of their first child, a son, Ronald William, born Dec. 29. William and Diane have recently been converted and are anxiously awaiting

and baptism. May they receive the blessings from the Lord.

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

Safe In The Arms of Jesus

In the beginning of this new year, our dear Sis. Katie Kahler was laid to her well-earned, sweet rest. She was a loving companion to Bro. Will for 53 years, and very suddenly God called her. Her daughter spoke of the many nice things her mother did for her; the last was coming to help make Christmas cookies. She was one, whom we all could see the affectionate love for everyone. Her virtues never will be forgotten. How she rejoiced to see her oldest granddaughter, Lona Pfledderer step into the waters of baptism.

Also baptized were these precious teenagers, Kathy Huber, Debra Wuethrich, Linda Bucher, Kristene Leman, Rebecca Wuethrich, Ronda Pelsy, Darlene Yaggie and Cathy Novotny. They will all want to walk in the godly, kind and loving path that Lona's dear grandmother walked.

Heaven smiles down on these homes as they welcomed their new babies, Wayne and Sis. Paulette Putt, a son; Bro. Ron and Sis. Diane Vogt, a daughter; and Bro. Rodric and Sis. Mary Huber, a son.

Sis. Zura Streitmatter was hospitalized with a back injury and is slowly improving at home, where she is so thankful to be.

Sis. Marlene Erb was released from the hospital, but must remain bedfast most of the time. Going to visit her, to bring her cheer, she quoted this from the scripture, **Be content in whatsoever state you are.** How touching these words were from her. She asked to have a **Thank You** given for the prayers, visits, cards, gifts and all the many kindnesses shown her, her husband and their three precious sons. They are so deeply touched by what the people have done for them.

New Year Resolution—Let us try to send cards etc. more often to those who are shut-in all the time, or most of the time.

GIRARD, OHIO

Jesse C. Emch

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His dis-

ciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Our Sunday School presented a very impressive Christmas program on Sunday evening Dec. 24. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Following the program, our regular Christmas eve service was held.

Bro. Ernest A. Hafely, age 86, passed away Wed. Dec. 27 at the Youngstown Hospital, following a four months' illness. The funeral was held Sat. Dec. 30 at the church. Elder Bro. Noah Bauman from Rittman officiated, assisted by Bros. Ernest Graf and Robert Stoll. Beside his wife, Sis. Ethel, he leaves five daughters, Mrs. Esther Triclet, Indianapolis; Mrs. Ruth Brobst, Howland; Mrs. Mabel Fitchet, Youngstown; Mrs. Betty Miller, Tracy (Cal), Mrs. Shirley Allen of Longview (Tex); and three sons, Reed, George, and Jack, all of Girard, a sister, Sis. Pauline Durig, Dayton; a brother, Louis, Wadsworth; 18 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. May the Lord be a continual comfort to Ethel. We will all miss him.

The year 1967 has now come to an end. I believe we all can review the past and say many have been our blessings. Thanks be to God. May He give each of us the grace to serve Him during the new year. Wishing all a blessed New Year.

PULASKI, IOWA

Mrs. Dave Wiegand

On Dec. 12, Eddie, Audrey, Kathy and Sheryl Martin got a new little brother, Timothy Jay. Their parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna Martin.

We had our Christmas program at church the evening of Dec. 17. It truly was a blessing to see these children with their smiling faces recite and sing about the baby Jesus.

Most of us here went Christmas caroling on Dec. 18. We could feel the Lord's nearness, as we sang for several older people in the Pulaski area.

Our little flock has again increased. We welcomed Bro. Bill and Sis. Verle Funk and their family on Dec. 31. They have moved to a farm about 70 miles from here. We wish them many rich blessings from above in their new home. We are

very thankful to have them assemble with us. They moved from Gridley, Ill.

Know Each Other Better

Bro. Albert Wuthrich is one of our two ministers. He was the only one, until Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger was selected in 1952.

Bro. Albert moved to West Bend, and married Sis. Elizabeth Banwart in 1922. They lived there 11 years, and moved back here. He spent all but those 11 years here.

They were blessed with 4 boys and 3 girls. Three of the boys are converted and live here; all three girls are converted. They have 22 grandchildren.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth have moved to a new home in Bloomfield. His youngest son, Bro. Bill, and his wife live on the farm. He enjoys helping his boys and gets out on the farm frequently. They are enjoying their new home, and always welcome visitors. May God bless them.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A. Banwart

A reception was held at the home of Bro. and Sis. Arnold and Alice Metzger for their son, Galen, and the former Mary Jo Weigand of Oakville, who were united in marriage Dec. 2. The engagement of Bro. Art Mogler and Sis. Eula Heinrich of La Crosse has been announced. May the Lord bless these young people in these important undertakings.

During a recent election, the various duties were passed on to other brethren in our congregation. Bro. Don Bruellman was voted trustee, as Bro. Elmer Fehr's term has expired. In our Sunday School, the terms of Sis. Elma Mogler and Bro. Ray Anliker expired; they will be replaced by Sis. Marilyn Schneider and Bro. Duane Metzger. May the Lord bless each for lending themselves to help, that the church may carry on for the future generation.

The holiday season was brightened for Sis. Lizzie Zaugg (who has been in the hospital for some time in failing health), when her daughter, Sis. Margaret (Mrs. Ray) Banwart from Oregon came to visit. We all enjoyed the holiday visitors from various churches, which included Bro. Alphi Moser and family from Morris, who ministered with a

timely message on the last Sunday of the year.

David, son of Bro. and Sis. Noah and Emma Gerber, was hospitalized but seems to be improving. Bernadine, daughter of Sis. Lydia Jergens, has been hospitalized and remains about the same.

There have been three boys from our congregation called into the service of our government: Eldon, son of Bro. and Sis. Earl and Edna Banwart; Jim, son of Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Matilda Fehr; and Bro. Dennis, son of Sis. Nima Fehr. We're thankful they could join family circles for Christmas yet. How very thankful we can be that the Lord can be everywhere.

Sis. Mary, wife of Bro. Alfred Fehr, enjoyed the presence of all her children at a birthday dinner in the home of her daughter, Sis. Hulda and Fred Wirtz. She is 89 years old.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr
Mrs. Eldon Metzger

It was a pleasure to have Bro. and Sis. Joe Aberle and Bro. Steve spend the church day with us the 17th.

Bro. Joe Somerhalder fell and broke his leg Dec. 12. He is home now, able to be up on crutches part of the time. The Sunday School students gathered a sunshine box for the family. **Thank-you note:** We are grateful to the dear Lord for Christian friends who showered us with so many blessings since Joe's misfortune! Special thanks to our ministers, who held services for him in the Topeka hospital. May He reward each one now—and in eternity. The Joe Somerhalders.

God said to His people, You shall have no other gods before Me. He followed with a strict commandment against making and worshipping idols. To whatever the heart clings, that is a god. Jesus said, You cannot serve both God and Mammon. All are confronted with the true and living God (whom we know by revelation); are also tempted to worship other gods. Elijah challenged, on Mount Carmel, How long will you halt (or limp along) between two opinions? Baals are prestige and position, prosperity and success, power and influence, security. Which is it, one God or many gods?

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Herman Schaefer
Mrs. Otto Schaefer

There were four hospital patients this past month: Bro. Reuben Luthi, Alfred Luthi, Sis. Marie Koehl and Sis. Helen Schaefer. Sis. Marie is presently at the Villa of St. Frances, recovering from a broken hip. Sis. Helen is recuperating from a broken leg; she is presently at the Morris Hospital. We pray that they all will be well soon and be able to worship with us, but **God Knows Best.**

Our Father knows what's best for us,
So why should we complain.
We always want the sunshine,
But he knows there must be rain.

Our Father tests us often
With suffering and with sorrow;
He tests us not to punish us,
But to help us meet Tomorrow.

For growing trees are strengthened
When they withstand the storm,
And the sharp cut of the chisel
Gives the marble grace and form.

God never hurts us needlessly,
And He never wastes our pain,
For every loss He sends to us
Is followed by rich gain.

For Our Father loves His children
And to Him all things are plain,
So He never sends us pleasure
When the soul's deep need is pain.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Mrs. Gus Weltz
Miss Della Witschey

We have had very severe cold weather since Christmas, much snow and ice, with temperatures dropping to zero and below in many parts of the state.

Another tragedy in the state was the collapse of the Silver Bridge at Pt. Pleasant, W. Va., which is 110 miles south of here. At this time there are still bodies missing. Raymond Barth, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth, works in that area (in charge of barges on the river owned by Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company), crossed the bridge two and three times a day, and had crossed it at three o'clock that afternoon, on his way home. It collapsed at five o'clock. We were very thankful that he was not among the missing.

Virgil Raymond Frei, of Limestone Ridge, son of the late Ed and Louise Frei, passed away on Dec. 29, after a lengthy illness. He is survived by two sisters, Hazel and Pearl, of home. Funeral services were held on Dec. 31, and interment followed in Greenlawn Cemetery.

Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood celebrated her 85th birthday on Dec. 24. Her two daughters invited all of her neices in for a little surprise. She was presented with many lovely gifts, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Church Cemetery Association was held on Jan. 1, in the home of Miss Della Witschey. Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Indermuhle attended. Several items of business were discussed, and plans made for services at the country church on June 30, with another Sunday in September if plans work out. There was a good attendance, and all officers will carry on for another year.

Homer Schupbach, son of Mrs. Emma Schupbach and the late Ed Schupbach, has been very ill in the hospital in Wheeling, but his condition is improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Verda Fankhouser of Easton, Md., spent the holidays here with her father, Mr. Dan Witschey. Ralph Witschey of Dallas, Texas, also visited his father during the holidays.

Mr. Dan Witschey observed his 93rd birthday on Dec. 31, and received many cards and well wishes from his host of friends. His condition at this time is much improved.

John Witschey of Charleston visited with his home folks here on Jan. 5.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Velta Laukhuf

Our visiting minister for over the Holiday Season was Bro. Edwin Bahler from Remington. Bro. Bahler gave a most inspiring sermon, pertaining to the true Christmas Spirit, which included the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This is often forgotten during the turmoil of the earthly possessions; most people forget that our many blessings come from the Almighty Lord and our Saviour above.

We had many visitors during the holiday season, from all parts of the north. Several have been on the sick list with the flu, which has

been very widespread. Sis. Fanny Sauder from Eureka has been hospitalized for treatment. We are happy and grateful to announce at this time that she is able to be home again.

Services, 1 p.m. WOMENS CLUB BUILDING.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Delores Messerli and Carol Messner

We at Winthrop extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Emma Schmidt, over the loss of their son and brother, Eli Schmidt of near Elgin Ill. He grew up in our community. May the Lord be with them in their hours of sorrow.

Kathy, daughter of Bro. Cornelius and Sis. Delores Messerli, was in the hospital with a throat infection. She is now recovering at home.

The engagement of Brad Gutkencht and Beverly Jean Iverson was made known. Brad is the son of Sid and Florence Gutknecht. Sis. Carrie Messner is the maternal grandmother.

CM Sgt. Bob Messner, his wife Margie, and their 4 boys spent the holidays with his parents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Florence Messner. Bob is stationed in South Carolina and has been in the army almost 20 years. They recently arrived back in the States from a 3-year stay in West Germany.

Know Each Other Better

Our senior minister is Bro. Harold Messner. He and his wife, Sis. Jerry, and family live at Gaylord, Minn., where he is employed by the city of Gaylord. They have five children: Patty (Mrs. Glen Meyer), Bruce, Jennifer, Doug and Vern. Steve Meyer is their only grandchild.

Bro. Elmer Schmidt is also a minister, who resides at Lafayette Minn. with his wife, Sis. Hazel and family. His oldest daughter, Beverly (Mrs. Terry Miller) and two children attend church at Remington. Their married son, Dick and his wife, Mary Lou, attend church here. Nancy, Mark, Janice, Tim, Charlene and Paulette live at home. Bro. Elmer is employed by Kraft cheese in New Ulm.

Bro. Le Roy Messner is our youngest minister, and farms near Gaylord. He and his wife, Sis. Joanne, have three girls, Cheryl, Sandra and Bonnie. We truly thank our ministers for all of their love, fellowship and concern shown to-

ward our congregation. Their wonderful words which we come to hear each Sunday fill our hearts with many blessings; words of admonishment we gladly receive.

A New Year's thought is: Haste and seek your soul salvation.

I have many New Year wishes
For you within my heart,
And all my special wishes
Have a true love to impart.

May your blessings be so many
That you can truly say,
My cup has runneth over;
I thank Thee, Lord, each day.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer
Mary Jane Leuthold

We were richly blessed through the visits of Bros. Noah Herman, Tucson; Francis Rother, Morton; & Philip Sauder, Cissna Park, during the past month. We are thankful for these blessings, and pray that God will continue to empty his servants, that His word might come forth and not just merely man's wisdom.

Marie Schurter has been hospitalized, but we have received the report that she will return home within the next few days.

Sis. Karen Kieser and Bro. Harold Steiner were united in marriage in Princeville on Dec. 10. We are happy to have Sis. Karen become a part of our congregation, and we wish for them an abundant measure of blessings.

With Christmas just passed, many pleasant memories linger, and among these memories is the wonderful and blessed hour we spent listening to the joyful and beautiful hymns which the Sunday School children sang, reminding us of God's gift to us, the Babe of Bethlehem.

God has a thousand ways,
Where I can see not one;
When all my means have reached
their end,
Then His have just begun.

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Mrs. Harry Bucher
Mrs. W. A. Jacob

Our visiting minister for December was Bro. George Lambert. We appreciated his message very much. A son, Daniel James came to bless Bro. Art and Sis. Earlene Yergler, Nov. 22. A brother, Billy and sister,

Jori welcomed him home. The Sunday School program, held Dec. 17, was very inspiring to all of us.

What God hath promised

God hath not promised skies
always blue
Flower-strewn pathways all our
lives through.
God hath not promised sun without
rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without
pain.
God hath not promised we shall not
know
Toil and temptation, trouble and
woe.
He hath not told us we shall not
bear
Many a burden, many a care;
But God hath promised strength
for the day,
Rest for the laborer, light for the
way,
Grace for the trials, help from
above,
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA

Doris Graf — Jeri Minger

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted".

Welcoming their first child, a baby daughter, were Bro. and Sis. Virgil and Marilyn Graf, on Dec. 15. Little Elaine Kay's grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Clarence Graf and Bro. and Sis. Joe Dotterer. The Dotterer family travelled here from Phoenix, to spend the holidays with their children.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held on Sunday, Dec. 17. The songs and recitations presented by the children were truly inspiring, as we could see the simple faith they have in this baby, Jesus.

Our sincere sympathy to the family of Sis. Rose Preiss, who passed away recently. Sis. Rose lived here for several years. Sis. Margaret Kinsinger's father, Bro. Joe Bauman, died recently in Morton. Our prayers are that God will comfort those who are left behind.

Stephen Vermillion, son of Dorothy (Meister) Vermillion, has recently entered the service.

Bro. and Sis. John Klotzle and children flew to Connecticut to spend several weeks with her parents, Bro. and Sis. Alfred Hoffman. After a wonderful time and visit

together, and during their preparation at the airport to leave, Bro. Alfred suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, and passed away two days later. Bro. John has made the comment of how plans can so easily be changed so fast. We were thankful that their family could stay for the funeral, and thank God that He has brought them safely home again.

BERN, KANSAS

Esther and Stella Moser
New Year Prayer

Dear Lord, I ask Thee
For this new year,
An extra gift of courage
My little trials to bear.
I ask not for success;
For wealth or fame or power;
I ask for added faith
To live life hour by hour.
Give me kindly thoughts, Lord,
To use for charity.
I want no gold to give;
I'll spend kind thoughts for Thee.

On Christmas morning, the Sabetha congregation assembled with us for services in commemorating the birth of our Saviour. Bro. Gene Marti read the age-old, ever-new story, (Luke-2). Bro. Gene likened it to a road or path you go over every day, then one day you see something new. It has always been there, but we just didn't see it before. So it is with God's word. We read it over and find something we had missed other times.

In a short program the day before, our Sunday School youth told the same story in song. Do we ever think to extend our appreciation to the brothers and sisters who so patiently teach our young folks? Sunday after Sunday they must be satisfied with half a loaf at the Lord's table, as half the time they spend in the classroom.

Sis. Pearl Meyer has a new grandson, Dennis Lynn, born Dec. 13 to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Meyer.

Ernest Gerber is still hospitalized, although much improved. Sis. Lucinda Brunner is a hospital patient since Dec. 2, when she suffered a stroke. She is unable to talk or help herself in any way. Bro. Dave Strahm was hospitalized a few days for observation. We have many sick folks in our midst, due to the flu bug. It seems there are several "species" going the rounds.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Hulda Strahm have gone to the home of their daughter, Sis. Reva Waibel, Rem-

ington for the winter. We miss them in our assembly.

Our singing hour has been discontinued, and we have started Wednesday evening services until Easter. We alternate with Sabetha.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Delutha Moser — Carolyn Gerber
Divine strength comes to us as we humble ourselves in God's presence.

Births: Bro. John and Sis. Etta Steffen are the parents of a son, Todd Lavern, Bro. Stan and Genny Isch are the parents of a daughter, Jill Irene. Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard are the parents of a son, Kent David. Bro. Richard and Sis. Rosie Kipfer are the parents of a daughter, Wendy Jo.

Engagements: The engagement of Sis. Carol Tonner to Bro. Steve Stuckey was made known. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Earl Stuckey and Harry and Sis. Clara Tonner. The engagement of Sis. Rosemary Eisenmann to Bro. Edwin Hegerfeld was made known. Bro. and Sis. Henry Gerber are the parents of Sis. Rosemary. Bro. Edwin's parents are both deceased. The engagement of Sis. Nancy Gilliom to Bro. Herb Frank was announced. Parents of the couple are Sis. Hazel Gilliom and Bro. and Sis. John Frank.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." The following dear friends brought forth their testimonies and were baptized by Elders Sam Aeschliman and John Yergler: Allen Ringger, Barry Isch, Sam Gerber, Tom Neuenschwander, Betty (Steffen) Smeltzer and Mick Cupp.

Shut-ins: Sisters, Lydia (John) Fiechter Sr., Martha Liechty, Naomi (Orville) Ringger, Emma Isch, Ella (John) Yergler, Berniece (Melvin) Maller; Bros. Walter Kaehr and Harold Geisel.

Funeral services were held for Friend Obed Moser, age 72. Death was due to a heart attack. Surviving are the widow, Sis. Mary; one son, Russell; 3 daughters, Sis. Wanda (Wendell) Gerber, Sis. Dorothy (Vernon) Gerber and Sis. Joyce (Kenneth) Troxel; three brothers, Guy, Albert and Bro. Harold; six sisters, Mrs. Carl (Judith) Frank, Mrs. Harry (Frances) Dubach, Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Pfister,

Mrs. Fred (Sada) Moser, Mrs. Harold (Clara) Eward and Miss Martha Moser; and 19 grandchildren. Bro. Sam Aeschliman officiated the services.

Thank-you note: Bro. Sam Kaehr—I want to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts and prayers during my stay in the hospital. Everything was greatly appreciated. May God bless your kindness.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

Cathryn Wettstein—Salome Walter

Last month was truly a blessed time, because eight souls were added to the fold. On Dec. 6, Bro. Eugene Bertschi was our guest and also helped with the proving of Lillian Fehr. Her testimony was accepted by the members, and she was baptized that evening. Now she is our sister in faith; may God's grace be ever near her to help along on this narrow path of life. On Dec. 9, seven more souls were proved. They were Karen Hartter, Kenneth Fehr, Keith Leman, Evelyn Blunier, Lynn Wuthrich, Nelson Rocke, and Mark Rocke. Bros. George Gramm from Gridley, Ezra Feller from Cissna Park, Dan Koch from Tremont assisted Bro. Leroy Huber in this important work. Their testimonies were all accepted, and they were all baptized the next day. As these dear young souls told of their experiences and how God heard their pleading and prayers, and then gave them peace in their hearts, we must believe and hope that God will yet call many more souls unto this marvellous way of life. There are so many dear ones yet outside the door. Knock and it shall be opened unto you.

Dec. 17 we had our Sunday School Christmas Program, with all the classes taking part. It was so good to see the little folks singing Christmas songs and praising Jesus, who was born many, many years ago, and laid in a humble manger because there was no room in the inn. It seems that so many people still have no room for Jesus in their hearts, because they are too busy with the things of this world. How sad!

The day before Christmas, the Sunday School teachers and all the children that could go delivered boxes of groceries to 10 needy families in this vicinity. This gives the children opportunity to see sharing in action at Christmas with the

thought, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Hospitalized recently were: Baby girl Rocke (Gail Renee), daughter of Bro. and Sis. Eldon and Ida Mae, in the Eureka Hospital nearly a week, but is now at home. Bro. Dan Wiegand has returned to his home, after being in the hospital nearly seven weeks, following surgery. Sis. Irene Hartter was in the hospital a few days as a medical patient. Bro. Clarence Wenger is now in the Eureka Hospital.

The summary from last year is: —2 weddings in church, 6 funerals, 11 babies born, 15 souls baptized, and 6 more are waiting to be baptized.

Card of thanks: We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for their acts of kindness and love, prayers, food, gifts, cards and flowers extended to us during the death and loss of our beloved husband and father. Mrs. Mary Reuter, son and grandson.

Wishing all a Blessed New Year. May we all become more aware of what might be in store for each in the coming days, so we should all walk carefully and prayerfully each day, so that when Jesus calls us, we will be ready to meet Him.

This is a part of the poem taken from Bro. Henry Beer's "My Garden of Verse"

When January days begin,
The New Year season enters in.
The New Year comes with hope and cheer,
With needed blessings for the year.
We trust in providential hand
To bless our hearts and home and land.

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

Ae we enter into this new year, may we thank God for what He has given us in the past, and remember those things that have benefited us.

Our Christmas program was held on Sunday evening, Dec. 17—It was expounded to us that Christmas is a time for praising the Saviour, whose holy birth brought hope and joy to all people.

Who shall abide at His coming?
And who shall stand at His appearance?
Are we not ever warned of the need to prepare for His coming, that we may welcome His appearance with open arms?— What bet-

ter Gift exchange could anyone experience, than that of giving oneself to God in exchange for His gift of salvation . . . How would it be, to enter into eternity almost persuaded, but lost. Thus we were reminded in a Christmas message at Cissna Park.

Many have been absent for one illness or another, and we pray that God did bring the needed comfort and healing.

We were happy to have many of our college students and service boys home over the Christmas holiday, as we always enjoy seeing and meeting them—And May God be near unto all that are separated from home and loved ones in the New Year!

We welcome Sis. Mary Pulver back to our congregation, after spending the past few months in Alabama.

Our annual election was held on Jan. 1, following the New Year's Day services.

May His blessings rest on one and all in this New Year!

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Sue Ann Kupferschmid

Where do you see God? Is your heart as cold as the outdoors around you? Let God melt your heart. You will then see Him as a loving God. His voice will speak to you as softly as a quiet spring rain. Gentle as a soft, summer breeze. Don't let the cold remain in you year round, but seek God and know an eternal warmth.

On Dec. 7, Bro. Joe Schrock was with us. His text for the evening was on law, grace, works and faith. He likened the old law to a mirror whereby we can see ourselves in our unconverted state. "Grace" was defined as godly power with divine help. "Works" is grace in action. We must pray for grace to bring forth works, for "faith" alone will not save. Bro. Uriel Gehring read from Luke 16 on Dec. 14. He told us that "it is contrary to human nature to repent . . . Satan tells people you can't do it: But he doesn't tell them you can do it with God's help." Bro. Uriel told us, we couldn't leave this meeting with a more potent message than this one—"Fear God" .

After a long Christmas vacation, we met on Jan. 4, with Bro. Noah

Schrock as our guest minister.

"No amount of New Year's resolutions will do any good," Bro. Noah said. "One needs to be redeemed and delivered from Satan's power." He told us that the person recognized on that judgment day will be the overcomer, not just a believer. "We should be both."

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Howard and Louise Getz

We were blessed with messages from God's word on Dec. 10 by Bro. Irvin Lehman (Wolcott), and the following Sunday by Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington). Bro. Earl pointed out that one should learn to know himself, so he can see his shortcomings and failings and, in allowing Christ to guide him, live a new and more rewarding life. On Jan. 7 Bro. Elmer Bucher (Francesville) mentioned, in helping one to make decisions that he could refer to Isaiah I—"Come now, and let us reason together saith the LORD . . . But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

Bro. Herman Norr, his wife, Helen and daughter, Elaine spent their Christmas in Kentucky, visiting four foster homes. The Norrs took with them gifts provided by numerous brothers and sisters from several of our churches. The purchasing and packaging was taken care of by the Norrs and others of the Leo church. Bro. Herman said they were given a warm welcome everywhere, and that the gifts were certainly appreciated.

Bro. John and Sis. Mary Isch have recently moved to a new address, not far from the Krannert YMCA where our services are held. We pray their home will be filled with Christian love.

As we look back over 1967, we feel a deep sense of gratitude to the John Mayer family and the Herman Norr family for their loving welcome to the new families and students sharing fellowship in Indianapolis. May they be richly blessed for all of their kindnesses.

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Aaron A. Sauder

The time flies on and death draws nigh;
Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity.

Many loved ones have gone to be with the Lord during the past year. So we are reminded that the time will also come to each to meet his Maker. We are taught in God's word to be ready at all times, whether it be morning, noon or night.

We extend our sympathy to Henry Enderle, whose father passed away in December.

Sis. Katie Bertka was hospitalized as a result of a fall, but has been able to attend church again. Sis. Mary Sabo has again worshipped with us, after having undergone surgery. Little Karla Beer was a hospital patient, when she recently was a pneumonia victim. Her mother, Sis. Janet Beer (Mrs. Alvin), with a mother's love and devotion cared for her little daughter to the point of her own exhaustion, and as a result she was hospitalized and is now convalescing from a case of hepatitis. Bro. Albert Gasser has been confined to the hospital, but is reported to be much improved. Bro. Ted Witschi has recently been admitted to the hospital again. At this writing Fred Bidinger is critically ill with double pneumonia. Our prayers are with each one, that the Lord's presence may be felt in the hour of need.

On Dec. 10, Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Noah Baumann visited our congregation and ministered to us. In the evening of Dec. 17, the Sunday School children presented the Christmas program. How inspiring it is to witness the joy of the children, as they radiantly tell of the birth of the Saviour . . . And how happy each of us was, who was privileged to carol with one of the groups who sang at our church home, various nursing home, hospitals and for shut-ins, proclaiming the Christmas story. "Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God . . ."

LAMONT, KANSAS

Mrs. Stephen Schrader

The Gridley congregation gathered with us, to hold joint services on Christmas Eve. It was indeed a wonderful plan whereby Christ came into the world as flesh and blood, dwelt among us, and became the propitiation for our sins. We have much for which to be thankful—now and in eternity.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to Bro. Pete Fankhauser, who lost his

helpmate Dec. 28. Sis. Katie was called Home suddenly and without warning. The last few months, she had been at the Meadows Rest Home, after earlier suffering a stroke and being hospitalized. Sis. Katie leaves to mourn her passing Bro. Pete and their children: Clarence, Arnold, Willis, Sis. Edna Frieden (of Lamar), Roy, Dale, Orval, Paul, Robert, Mrs. Wayne (Kathryn) Brooks, and Sis. Clarence (Geraldine) Beyer (of Phoenix), and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Services were held Sunday, Dec. 31 by Bros. Samuel Anliker and Loren Strahm. We know that parting brings with it painful longing especially after having many happy years together here, but what a consolation to know that we will meet our loved ones in Christ again, when "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

The following Tuesday, Jan. 2, Bro. Pete was admitted to Newman Memorial Hospital, Emporia, for rest and observation. We wish him the Lord's nearness during this time of bereavement and illness.

Bro. Chris Sauder, Sis. Katie's brother, is also a patient at Newman Memorial Hospital. We trust that he will feel the Lord's nearness and sustaining grace at all times.

LATTY, OHIO

Dolores Grant
Marguerite Stoller

"Forsake me not, O LORD: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation." Surely such must also have been the words of Sis. Alice Stoller, one early Sunday morning, Dec. 3. She was enroute to the hospital, where she cooks breakfast for the patients. The roads were wet from the freshly-fallen snow. Before approaching a bridge, she lost control on the slippery pavement and plunged into a creek, swollen with water from the recent rains. Her car was hidden from view under the bridge, and partly submerged under water. With a crushed ankle and broken knee, she sat helpless, waiting for rescue.

One hour, two hours, three hours went by, and so did many cars. Finally after four long hours, someone

noticed the tracks leading down to the creek. He turned around to examine it once more, and there he shuddered at the sight. He immediately sought help for her rescue from the ice cold waters. Sis. Alice is in the Lutheran Hospital, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, patiently awaiting her recovery. Quoted from the man who found her: "never had he seen a woman with more courage."

John Schlatter was a hospital patient in December, but is home again.

Bro. Orville Ringger, from the Bluffton congregation, came to minister unto us Dec. 10. We were grateful for this inspiring day and his many humble teachings.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Velta Laukhuf have again departed to their winter home in Sarasota.

The evening of Dec. 20 was our Christmas program, presented by the entire Sunday School. It is a truly cheerful time of the year. Not only should it be at this time, but our prayer is that the **Peace and Good Will to all men** could linger in our hearts throughout this new year.

It is also the time of year when new Sunday School teachers are added. They are Bro. Gary Stoller; Bro. Delmar Stoller and Sis. Marguerite Stoller. Bro. Willis Stoller was elected as trustee. May God guide them in their new task.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

" . . . the land whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: a land which the LORD thy God careth for; the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year . . ."

Bro. Roy Wernli of the Lamont congregation spent a Sunday morning with us and proclaimed the good word. May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

The Sunday School classes presented their Christmas program on Wed. evening, Dec. 20, in place of our regular service.

We have several who have been hospitalized or ill at home recently. Bro. John Anker and Sis. Marietta Kyburz are both at home after hospitalization, and Bro. Ed Kyburz has been confined to his home by illness. May the Lord the Great Physician grant recovery.

"I asked the New Year for some motto sweet,
Some rule of life by which to guide my feet.
I asked and paused; it answered soft and low,
God's will to know.

Will knowledge then suffice? New Year, I cried,
But ere the question into silence died
The answer came, No, this remember too,
God's will to do.

Once more I asked, is there still more to tell?
And once again the answer sweetly fell;
Yes, this one thing all other things above,
God's will to love."

Thus while we live, may our prayers be to know, do, and love
His good and perfect will.

LEO, INDIANA

Mrs. Elias Souder

Lo! here hath been dawning another new year. Think! Wilt thou let it slip useless away? With the renewal of old and new friends, the holiday season has come and gone.

Our guest ministers for the past month were Bros. John Bahler from Rockville, Joe Waibel from Bay City, Theo. Beer from Milford, Loren Stoller from Latty, Samuel Aeschliman from Bluffton, Maurice Frank from Chicago. Many blessings were received from their teaching, such as one of the brothers spoke: None of us want to commit murder, or be a thief or a liar, yet the one who wrote these commandments also wrote the one not to covet, meaning not to want what is rightly another's.

Mary Troxel and Bertha Keller are still our shut-ins. Rose Conrad is able to be around; so is Frances Bertsch. Both were hospitalized for a time. Sis. Pearl Greuter is at the home of her daughter's, Warren Hardings' of New Haven Ind.

My nephew David Getz, who also was hospitalized for awhile, is at home and on the mend.

A group of young people spent New Year's eve at the Edw. Souder home, as they have been doing the last few years. It was nice to have Joyce Schlatter and Addle Rocourt with them. Joyce is back at school

in North Carolina and Addle with her mother in Iowa.

Our serviceman, James Winzeler, is aboard the USS Canberra. Dec. 23 he received a large letter from his friends and relatives. There were near to 150 small letters, connected into one large one. When he began reading his letter his buddies shared the letter and it looked like an assembly line. He said it brought him closer to his home and friends at Christmas-time.

Weather here is making history for a particular day. The temperature on Sunday night, Jan. 7 dropped to 17 below zero. It will not last long.

The church has received the go-ahead sign for improvement and enlargement of our Sunday school-rooms and other work. Work will possibly begin when the weather warms up.

Know Each Other Better

Bro. Ed Bertsch, also past the station of 80, lives in the Grabill area. About one hundred years ago, in 1868, the Bertsch family came from Germany. The original home-place was built a year later. Now, down the years, Ed finds grace to live and continue, true. Sometimes he has very severe and intense pain, like boiling water. Yet he sometimes assembles with the brethren. It will be worth it all, when that glory to be revealed is seen, firsthand. Hold to the faith.

Sis. Diane Conrad lives on Philip Way, in or near Ft. Wayne. Philip, the evangelist, brought beautiful tidings on a desert way. Diane and her two sisters, Rose and Adele, listened to these glad tidings, and are still following. Far away in the night, others can watch these lights as on a hill.

In holy warning, we are cautioned to **Look Out!** Deceivers there are, who say they are the ones. Diane lived in California more than one year. One day she received a couple of visitors. There was interest in a property. She was there to look after things, the mansion and its grounds. The man was a well-known radio voice. He had a friend, it seems a financial backer, with him. His friend was a **gambler**. In the darkness is many a voice, calling. Do be careful of confusion!

Bro. Ed and these sisters see Home ahead. It is beautiful in glorious splendor.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Marlene Mosher

Sis. Lydia Friedinger has had an operation, but is now doing fine. Eli Zimmerman, husband of Sis. Emma Zimmerman, has also been on the sick list.

Sis. Faye Wackerle and Bro. George Knochel are on our shut-in list. We wish our shut-ins the Lords blessings and grace to see them through their trials of pain and woe. May each of us send up a prayer for these dear souls and others that are suffering either in body or mind.

We have begun another new year. Ground is laden with a new coat of snow, so beautiful, pure and white. Let us try to live each new day with a pure mind, heart and spirit. Let us live each day of this new year for our Lord, instead of for ourselves and our material wants and needs. Let us try to do for others instead of ourselves, love one another, do for one another, pray for one another and live each day to its fullest for our Lord.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Mrs. Harold Zeltwanger

This morning I visited with Sis. Elizabeth Yackley over the telephone. She has been unable to assemble with us for a long time, and due to extreme weakness has to be in bed much of the time. However, she has hope in her heart when spring time draws nearer, that she will have the strength to join us back at church.

Bro. Sam Nicholas is in poor condition, having had surgery in Memorial Hospital, South Bend, Indiana.

Bro. Dan Clauss, who was involved in a serious farm accident several months ago, is recuperating nicely at his home. He and his wife, Hazel, express their sincere thanks for the many cards and prayers.

Bro. Dan Germann is still unable to attend church services. We are always welcomed with a warm smile when we visit Bro. Dan, and it is encouraging to us to see the tremendous amount of patience he has shown during his long illness.

Kevin Joe was the name chosen by Richard and Sue Grewe for their new little son. He was welcomed home by a sister, Shelley.

On December 3 we enjoyed the visit of the Ft. Wayne Sunday School and their teachers, along

with visiting minister, Bro. Verlin Stoller. We thank everyone who was willing to come.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

The Sunday School children presented a nice Christmas program on Dec. 17. How nice to hear the little children blend their voices. The young people went out singing Christmas carols to the shut-ins and aged. What a lot of cheer this brings to the ones below, and how pleasing it must be to the Heavenly Father.

On Dec. 17, Sis. Jayne Kaufmann and Bro. Daniel Plattner of Tremont were united in holy matrimony by Elder Bro. Emmanuel Gudeman. Our best wishes are extended to the couple as they walk the pathway together. Bro. Ed Hohulin spent the day with us and brought inspiring messages.

On Christmas day, we gladly welcomed Bro. Dale Eisenman from the Chicago congregation into our assembly, as he brought the message of salvation. May God bless him further.

Other visiting ministers the past month were Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka and Bro. Ben Fehr of Roanoke. We thank them, along with their families, for spending the day with us.

Our midweek services were cancelled, as we had Christmas and New Year services. This brings great desire to assemble when we are privileged. There is no better place than to assemble around the word of God in times like these.

A son, Ryan William, was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Mary Jane Egolf Dec. 21.

Bro. Fred G. Knapp was hospitalized a few days, but has been able to assemble with us again.

Our aged Sis. Lena Feller is at the present time in the Americana Nursing Center, 600 North Coler St., Urbana Ill 61801. She would like to receive mail.

Here is the address of Martin Edelman, who was seriously hurt in an accident. Rehabilitation Institution, 401 Ohio St., Room 601, Chicago Ill. Martin is a nephew of Sis. Naomi Knapp and Sis. Nettie Clauss.

Word was received that Mark Schmidt was critically wounded in Vietnam. Mark is a grandson of Sis. Mabel Vogel.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Lorna Schrock — Jeanette Knapp

"The Christmas Story" was presented by the Sunday School children as their annual Christmas program on Dec. 20. It was inspiring to be reminded again of God's great love for us, in sending His Son into the world so long ago.

A warm welcome awaited Ernie Stahl, son of Bro. Emil and Sis. Della, when he returned on Christmas eve from Viet Nam. Ernie and his wife, the former Norma Miller, are among our last group of converts awaiting baptism.

Chris Miller Jr. recently arrived in Viet Nam. Our prayers go out for him, his parents—Bro. Chris and Sis. Betty, and his wife—the former Phyllis Kupferschmid of Eureka.

We had a very blessed week-end, the last in the old year, when five souls gave their testimonies and were baptized. They are Bill and Sherri Dietrich, son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sarah; Sandra Miller, daughter of Bro. Jake and Sis. Marion; Bonnie Grusy, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie; and Rhonda Sides, daughter of Bro. Edgar and Sis. Mary. We heartily welcome them into our fellowship, and wish them God's continued peace and guidance in the coming days. Bros. Josh Broquard and Silas Leuthold were with us for the occasion.

Also visiting us in the past month were Bros. Ed Hohulin and Willis Weigand of Goodfield.

Our congregation is happy to welcome back Bro. Stan and Sis. Naomi Vogel and their three children, who recently returned to our area from Kouts, Ind., where they moved late last summer.

In reviewing the events of the past year, 1967, we found that among the members and friends of our congregation, three babies were born, and two marriages took place. Fourteen souls were baptized, and five additional converts are awaiting baptism. No deaths were recorded.

In this time when we hear so much about New Year's resolutions, let's take the following poem as a guide for our daily walk of life during 1968!

Let Me So Live

I'm going to try to live my life
So when I'm dead and gone,

Some kind thing that I've said or done
May helpfully live on.

If I can brush some tear aside,
And shoulder someone's blame;
If I can point someone to God,
I won't have lived in vain.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Mrs. Lawrence Farney

Mrs. David Schamback

Bro. Raymond Stockburger is a hospital patient at present. Bro. John Haney has been removed from Mercy Hospital to the Greystone Manor Nursing Home at Martinsburg.

We are happy to report, Sis. Anna Farney was able to again worship with us on Sunday, after a long confinement in her home and in the hospital, where she underwent major surgery in the early fall. Sis. Anna wishes to thank everyone who sent cards and gifts, and for the prayers offered in her behalf.

Bro. Sam Virkler, son of Bro. Clifton and Sis. Charlotte, who has spent some weeks in the hospital, shows considerable improvement but must spend more time there.

Ronald Hirschey, son of Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice has received his discharge from the army and is spending some time at home. He spent most of his time in the service at Fort Carson Colorado.

Our community was shocked and saddened Jan. 2, when Carl Lee Virkler, 21, son of Bro. Arthur and Sis. Pearl Virkler met sudden death beneath the wheels of his own tractor-trailer. Beside his parents, he is survived by his wife, the former Joyce Purvines, whom he married in October 1966, and two brothers, Alton-Lowville, and Elwood-Croghan. Funeral services were held from the Croghan church, with Bro. John Widrick officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery in the spring. We will all miss Carl, as he was a regular attendant at church, with a ready smile and word for everyone. There were few dry eyes at the service when the choir sang, "Sometime We'll Understand".

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Annabelle Bahr — Marie Zaugg

Bro. and Sis. Gus Sinn attended the wedding of their son, Larry, to Lauren West, Dec. 2. The newlyweds are at home at 4106 11th St.,

East Moline, Ill. May God bless and keep them in their future life together.

On Dec 10, we were granted a blessed privilege to dedicate our new building to our Lord. Bro. Ben Maibach of the Detroit congregation held the dedicatory service. Many brethren and friends, representing nine different states, assembled with us for this wonderful occasion. Our dear shepherd, Bro. Sam Anliker, led the proceedings of the day, and we were most grateful to all the brethren who took part in this occasion. The weather was dreary and chilly, but on the inside the atmosphere was warm, inspiring and indeed must be a for-taste of the beautiful city of God. Other ministers present were: Bros. Leroy Messner-Winthrop; Earl Banwart-West Bend; John Wagenbach-Oakville; Raymond Roth-Burlington, Okla.; Carl Hartman, Joe Aberle-Sabetha; Pete Fankhauser-Lamont; Sam Huber-Gridley, Kans.; Fred Marti, Lester Braker, Charles Marti-Lamar.

On Saturday evening, Bro. Ben Maibach gave us an accounting of his recent trip to Japan. The Lamar brethren and those that came Saturday evening from other congregations enjoyed the report on our brethren in Japan. We know that only the Father can lead a soul unto Him, and so we trust that He will continue this wonderful work in Japan, and that many believing families can enjoy the blessed communion of their living God in this life and then to live with Him in eternity. Not only would we wish and pray this for Japan, but for all nations.

On Dec. 31, we held open house for our local townspeople. Because of an epidemic of flu, and cold and blustery weather, and other interests, attendance was small.

We here at Fort Scott are deeply grateful for the blessings of our Lord in making it possible for us to have this new edifice, where we can praise His holy name. We extend to all readers of the Silver Lining an invitation to assemble and worship with us at anytime they can. To us it will be a privilege to be your host.

A Christmas program was presented by the Sunday School, on Wednesday evening before Christmas. Surely they will be rewarded and blessed for their efforts to remember the birth of Christ in

verse and song.

Bro. Sam Huber was the visiting minister the day before Christmas. Christmas Eve services were held, with our neighboring church, Lamar, being our guests; Bro. Elmer Bucher, Francesville was the guest minister. Also present were Bros. Charles Marti, Lester Braker, and Fred Marti-Lamar. Thanks to these brothers for serving the living word of God . . . and heartily invite them to visit us again.

Bro. Joe Muelbauer, Richards, Mo., had the misfortune of accidentally getting his clothes on fire, resulting in burns to his left arm and shoulder. He was taken by a neighbor to a hospital in Nevada, Mo., where he is recuperating and expects soon to be discharged. We hope he will make a complete recovery. We miss each one when they are absent from our small congregation.

Cause for rejoicing amongst us and the angels in heaven is the decision of friend Tom Sinn to turn from his former ways and to live for the Lord. May he experience a rich measure of grace to carry out his decision.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

We have come into a New Year, but we are thankful that we have the same God, and that Jesus Christ is the same today as yesterday . . . And so we face the New Year with confidence that the same kind of faith as in Bible times will cause the Lord Jesus to do the same kind of miracles.

Sis. Emma VonBergen, who resides at Fairview Haven, had her 91st birthday Christmas Day, and wanted to express her thanks for the 196 cards, plus gifts received. She said she was really blessed, and that she is thankful she can be up, taking care of herself every day.

Steve Drach served a year in Viet Nam and just returned to the States. For the first time he got to see his baby, born while he was gone. He, his wife, and child visited here with Steve's mother, Evelyn, and grandmother, Sis. Amelia Zimmerman, before returning to finish his service-time.

JUNCTION, OHIO

Mrs. Ben Manz

Mrs. Alvin H. Manz

Elder Bros. John Bahler of Rockville and Joe Waibel of Bay City

were with us recently for mid-week services. Bro. Bahler spoke of the children of Israel, and mentioned that although they believed in God, many of them were not allowed to enter into the promised land because they did not obey his commandments. He said it is not enough for us to believe in God; we must also obey his word.

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 24, all of our Sunday School children, teachers, and several others sang for residents at the Paulding County Home and at the Autumn Manor Rest Home. It was a rewarding experience for all, and impressed the children how thankful they should be to have a sound mind, health and good homes. Lunch was served at the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz.

On Christmas Day we were thankful that Bro. Walter Rehklau from Toledo was able to be with us again. He mentioned how God had people ready, awaiting the birth of Christ, and how we should be ready awaiting His second coming.

Word has been received that John Rehklau, 84, Pioneer Ohio died on Jan. 4. He was a brother of Sisters Lydia, Priscilla and Naomi Rehklau, who are now residing in a rest home in Toledo.

We were glad that Rolland Manz, son of Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Ruth Manz was able to be home a short while during Christmas. He has spent the last seven months in Minnesota, and has now returned to finish his schooling.

Our Thursday evening mid-week service has now been discontinued for the remainder of the winter.

LAMAR, MISSOURI

Marie Marti

Prayer! Prayer is one of the greatest spiritual assets in the world. Long ago a lonely prayer ascended to God. "Daniel . . . his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem . . . kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God . . ." How can we make the days of this new year good ones? This was the question under discussion on the second day of this new year in the classroom. The children are seven years old; many of them were thinking and responding with some very fine suggestions. Suddenly a little girl in the back row raised her hand. Shyly, yet very clearly came her answer,

"Prayer". How good it was to hear this simple, though priceless thought which she had expressed. How thankful we are that we have youth today who still realize the value and power of prayer. Let us be constant in offering prayers for gratitude, praise and thanksgiving during each day of this new year.

We want to thank Bro. Elmer Bucher for visiting us and bringing inspirational messages. He reminded us of the sin of omission. We so often do not think about this. To know to do good and fail to do it is neglecting something very important.

Mae Schlupp is critically ill in the hospital in Springfield. Our prayers go out for her and her family. Louise Rentsch has returned to the hospital for treatment for flu and pneumonia. We hope and pray that good health will soon be restored, and that she will again be able to be at home where her dear daughter, Sis. Lydia Rentsch, so faithfully and patiently cares for her.

SABETHA, KANSAS

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Our Sunday School children gave a Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 24. It was held during the noon intermission, preceding afternoon service. We always enjoy hearing what our youth have to offer in verse and song. We pray that the seed that is sown will take root and grow.

We are again having our mid-week services, alternating each Wednesday with Bern. Services begin at 7:30; everyone is welcome.

Sis. Mary Aberle is a new resident at the A.C. Home.

This new year entered on a rather severe note, with sub-zero temperatures and snow. Many in our community have been having the flu; some have been hospitalized for a short time.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Carlton J. Lanz

Birth: On Dec. 12 a son, Peter John, to Bro. Ernest and Sis. Aline Ballasy.

Engagements: Wayne Kupferschmid to Marcia Kloter. (Wayne's parents are Bro. Werner and Sis. Clara Kupferschmid; Marcia's are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Florence Kloter.) On Christmas Day, Sis. Mary Luginbuhl to Bro. Keith Kloter. (Their parents, Bro. Ervin

and Sis. Viola Luginbuhl and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter, respectively.) Both couples have our best wishes.

Funeral services of Sis. Emily Fluckiger were held at 1:30 p.m. at the church on Monday, Dec. 18. Death came quietly to her Friday at the Rockville General Hospital. Survivors are, a son Elmer; daughter, Mrs. F. Wallace Prella; and several grandchildren. Conducting the services were Bros. John Bahler and John Klotzle of Altadena. Burial was at Ellington.

The unexpected death, on Dec. 30, of Bro. Alfred Hoffman cast a sadness over the church and to the community. He had been custodian for the church for several years and also sexton for Ellington Center Cemetery. Over the years that he served, many difficulties and frustrations he was faced with, yet few knew of them. He was not of the complaining type, as one might normally expect with this kind of work but was calm and willing to work toward that which might defer possible misunderstandings. His good qualities—qualities becoming to a Christian—were apparent in his everyday life.

He was stricken ill at the airport, where he had gone with his daughter, Sis. Lois, and her husband, Bro. John Klotzle and children. They were about to board their flight to California. Their departure was postponed. Bro. Alfred died later at Rockville General Hospital. He was 72. Besides his wife, Sis. Emma, he is survived by two sons, Walter and Bro. Edwin; three daughters, Sisters Oline Ballasy, Janet Goric, and Lois; one brother, John; and four sisters, Lena Ludwig, Anna Ruch, Elizabeth and Frieda Hoffman. Bro. John Bahler had the service, assisted by Bros. Ernest Luginbuhl and Ernest Gerber. Interment was in Ellington Center Cemetery.

Sis. Emily Hoffman is at a Boston hospital, receiving treatment.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Millicent Frieden and Laverne Roth

The old year has gone now—leaving its moments of griefs, joys, sorrows and happiness behind, to be filed away in our memories. Our works during the year, both good and bad, are also filed away in God's Book. May the year 1967 have been for each of us a worthwhile

chapter in the Book—one pleasing to our Lord and Master.

Among the old year's memories for our congregation is the birth of a daughter to Bro. and Sis. Ronald Allenbach, and the passing of six souls: Bro. Ed Kircher, Sis. Fredericka Schif, Sis. Lydia Ott, Friend Doris Domnick, Sis. Emma Domnick of Morton, and Friend Elmer Gaug of Harper, Kans. A joyous memory of the past year occurred just at Christmastime—the repentance of two dear souls. The drought of new converts in our congregation ended after nearly two years, with the decisions of Marie (Frieden) Tucker and Elmer Kissing to live for the Lord. Our fervent wish and prayer is that God might grant them much grace, and that others will be moved to follow in their footsteps.

Dec. 17, the Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program. How wonderful to see the little children profess their love of Baby Jesus in their songs and phrases; how marvelous to hear the teenagers' voices blend in beautiful harmony and listen to their reading of the Holy Scriptures. We realize the need of devoted teachers to plant the seed of faith in these growing minds—so subject to the whims of the evil world.

The Sunday School children and their teachers also spread the joy of Christ's birth, by caroling one evening before Christmas. Various shut-ins and residents of the Rest Home were recipients of the Christmas hymns. Everyone enjoyed refreshments at the home of Bro. and Sis. Ronald Allenbach, following the caroling.

Among our many visitors Dec. 24 were Bro. Raymond Banwart and his wife, Sis. Kathryn, of Fort Scott. Bro. Raymond ministered to us of the precious birth of Christ and what it means to Christians. Services were also held Monday morning, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day.

We report only one hospital patient this month, our ministering brother, Eli Somerhalder, who submitted to surgery. We are happy to report he is now back with us and in his regular place on the pulpit.

As we commence the New Year let us strive to make it the "Lord's Year" and keep this thought in mind: Count your obligations, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord wants done.

FORREST, ILLINOIS

**Martha Stoller
Carolyn Zimmerman**

Work has begun on a 2-level addition to our present church building. The upper level will be dining and kitchen facilities. The lower level will be used for Sunday School purposes.

Four of our Sunday school teachers who have served faithfully for a number of years have been relieved of their duties. They are Bros. Albert Wenger and Byron Nussbaum, and Sisters Laura Wenger and Lorene Geyer. New teachers chosen to fill these vacancies are Bros. Melvin Steffen, Earl Gerber, Allen Zimmerman, and Wayne Anliker, Sisters Margaret Fehr and Nancy Honegger. May they feel the Lord's presence in the hours spent with the children, our future church.

We thank Bros. Roy Wernli, Lamont; Vernon Schwab, Wolcott; and Merle Kaisner, Fairbury, for spending a Sunday with us recently.

Medical patients at Fairbury hospital the past month were Bro. Emil Sohn and Philip Sohn. Both have returned to their homes.

Sis. Bertha Maurer has returned from Marshalltown, Iowa, where she underwent surgery on both eyes. She is presently convalescing at the home of her sister, Sis. Leona Wallace. A baby girl was welcomed into the home of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz. She has been named Kimberly Kay.

The following young men who are serving in the armed forces were privileged to spend some time with their parents during the holiday season: Bro. Dennis Koehl, Phoenixville, Pa.; Richard Kupferschmid, Ft. Hood, Texas; James Honegger, Ft. Leonardwood, Mo.; Jim Plattner, Ft. Bliss, Texas; and Roger Huette, San Antonio, Texas.

The family of Sis. Lena Bach wish to thank everyone who remembered their mother at Christmas-time. Sis. Lena has not been able to assemble with us for several months. She does, however, enjoy visitors and mail. She is presently at the home of her daughter, Sis. Ruth (Dan) Schlatter, Chatsworth, Illinois.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen — Katie Kachelmuss

Our guest ministers were Bros.

Perry Zimmerman, Clarence Kachelmuss and Dan Koch. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

On Dec. 7 we had two funerals, Minnie Gschwind who formerly lived here and passed away at the Restmor Home in Morton, and Sis. Rosa Preiss, who passed away at Burbank California Hospital. Two weeks after Sis. Rosa's death, her mother, Sis. Anna Grimm passed away, at the age of ninety-four years. She had been living with her daughter, Emma Grimm.

Here the dearest of ties we must sever;

Tears of sorrow are seen everyday,
But no sickness, no sighing forever,
When we've gone the last mile of the way.

(new Gospel Hymns)

The Stanley Kellenbergers of Appleton, Wisconsin, and the Robert Hoppe family of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, visited their parents, Bro. and Sis. Herman Kellenberger, and assembled with us in our House of Worship. We're glad to have our friends in our midst from time to time when they come to Elgin.

Two more dear souls were added to our flock, Carol Schambach, daughter of Bro. Albert and Dorothy Anliker Schambach; and Dale Heiniger, son of Lester and Emma Reber Heiniger. How we all rejoice over everyone that is added to the household of faith.

We received a little note from our aged sister, Lydianna Moser, stating that she would like to thank everyone personally for the many kind remembrances during the holiday season, but since this is impossible, she would like to thank all for their kindness; also, she enjoyed three groups of carolers. May God bless you all.

A son, Keith Walter, was born to Bro. Herman and Sis. Sharon Braun, on Dec. 14.

We miss Bro. Keith Kellenberger in our church circle; he was called into the Service and is enroute to Texas. We wish him God's help and protection in all his ways.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Rose Getz — Ruth Rapp

Our community was saddened to learn of the death of Sis. Elsie (Mrs. John) Oberlander, age 50.

Funeral services were held Dec. 16. She was the daughter of Bro. and Sis. John Plattner. Surviving are her husband, Bro. John, and three sons, Keith (Omaha, Nebraska); Robert (Los Angeles, California); and Larry (a student at the University of Illinois); also eight brothers, Bro. Walter, Jacob, Marion, Richard and Lester (of Peoria), Edward (Forrest), Harold (Goodfield), Robert (Dunlap), and one sister, Sis. Clara Vogel of Cissna Park. Bro. Emanuel Gudeman of Cissna and our home ministers conducted the services.

Funeral services for Bro. Joseph Bauman, 93, were held Dec. 28. He was the son of Henry and Elizabeth Berger Bauman. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Emma Belsley Bauman; one son, Bro. Frank; and a daughter, Sis. Margaret (Mrs. Carl) Kinsinger of Altadena. Services were conducted by Bros. Henry Grimm, Russell Rapp, and Bros. Albert Aberle and Simon Wagenbach of Tremont.

Funeral services were held Dec. 28 for Conrad Herman, 58. He was the son of the late Bro. Fred Herman and Sis. Katie Schurter Herman. Surviving are his wife, Helen Collins Herman; one son, Thomas; a daughter, Bonnie (Mrs. Steven) Paluska; his mother; six brothers, Bros. Reuben, Donald, Fred, Arthur, Norman and Romeo; four sisters, Sis. Christine, Kathryn Becker, Florence Witter and Lucille Knabe.

We were very thankful Bro. Francis Rother, who had major surgery, was able to minister to us Sunday.

Bro. George Belsley, who also had major surgery, is convalescing at home.

Bro. Henry Rapp is home again, after spending several weeks under intensive care at the Methodist Hospital, and also Restmor Nursing Home, for heart failure.

A late December wedding was held in Chicago for Karen Plattner, daughter of Bro. Jacob and Sis. Bernice Getz Plattner, and Jan Sagett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sagett of Chicago.

A daughter, Joan Marie, was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Springer Isbell on Dec. 10.

Bro. and Sis. Fred Huette have moved to their new home, 431 E. Forestwood, and Bro. and Sis. Myron Springer have moved to their new home, 437 E. Forestwood.

PORTLAND, OREGON**Mrs. Edward Unsicker**

Is there any joy that can ever compare to the joy of knowing the presence of God? I can never describe His goodness toward us as His Spirit visited us during our New Year's service. As Bro. Bob Miller read and mediated from Romans 12, God surely diffused grace and love sufficient for starting the New Year in Him. How can we ever praise Him as we should?

Thrilled and happy parents are Jerry and Sharon Rumbold. God has richly blest them by giving them Danny, their newly-adopted son. Little Danny's grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold.

Bro. Sam Feucht has been holding wood-working craft shop sessions for the boys in his basement. Our son, Tom, reported that there is a "great" saw, with which he could much more precisely cut pieces for the furniture he was making. May God add His blessing to efforts of His people who endeavor to hold the interest of children and young folk, that they may be directed to His glory.

We were so happy that Sis. Lydia Sever from Salt Lake City could spend a week (including two Sundays) fellowshiping with us in Portland. Lydia stayed with her sister, Sis. Leona Feucht, and Bro. Sam. Lydia is the only member in Salt Lake, which is too great a distance to allow her to attend services here or elsewhere very often. However, as many of you may know, Salt Lake is on the most direct East-West route, so when you can, stop to visit Lydia and her husband, Rudy. They are very hospitable, and she will greatly appreciate your fellowship! Lydia's address is: Mrs. Rudolph Sever, 930 N. 950 E., Bountiful Utah 84010.

Tears were shed as we told Christine Ardu and her three small children goodbye, on the eve of their departure for France. Christine has been very dear to our hearts. Her husband, Ely, hopes to follow soon.

Recently, as we have visited Sis. Clara Kaufman at the Rehabilitation Center, we have noticed that she has been much more optimistic, and she has been telling us that she believes the treatments are really helping her. How good God is—we praise Him for answering

the prayers of many people on her behalf.

It's so good to have Sis. Margaret Wanner back in Silverton again, after an absence of a couple of months, during which time she enjoyed wonderful fellowship with her friends and relatives in the Middle West and East.

RITTMAN, OHIO**Ella Mae Trent — Claribel Walters**

There was much rejoicing in our community when two of our brothers, Fred Stoller and Gary Maibach returned home from military service in foreign lands. Ready to serve us, Bro. Gary resumed his position as usher.

Elected to fill vacancies were Bro. Alvin Steiner, as head of the Brotherhood Aid, Bro. Orin Rufener as Sunday School superintendent and Bro. Nelson Ramsier as trustee.

Called in the eleventh hour to serve the Lord was Sis. Ida Powell. She was welcomed into our brotherhood on Dec. 31.

An infant daughter, Marlene Rose, was welcomed into the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene Miller on Dec. 28. Paul Nathan joined Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn Trent's family on Dec. 3.

The engagement of Leo Marty to Joyce Shoup and Jean Marty to Tom Meyers were made known.

Unable to assemble with us because of illness were Sis. Lillian Beery, Bro. Albert Gasser Sr., and Bro. Dean Marty.

SARDIS, OHIO**Doris Indermuhle**

One sweetly solemn thought comes to me o'er and o'er;

I'm nearer home today than I have been before.

Nearer my Father's house, where many mansions be;

Nearer the great white throne,
Nearer the crystal sea.

Nearer the bound of life where burdens are laid down.

Nearer to leave the cross today,
and nearer to the crown.

As we leave another year behind, we can think of being one year "nearer our home today."

We held our first Christmas together at the church this year. There were about 50 who spent the evening together. After a lunch, we sang Christmas songs to commemorate our dear Saviour's birth.

We are very happy to have John,

Paula, and Little Andy Figel back to broaden our small church circle. John has just completed his service with the Army at Ft. Hood, Texas.

We were fortunate to have visitors with us for the New Year's week end. They included Bro. Fred Marty and Sis. Erma. We wish them God's richest blessings for their efforts.

TAYLOR, MISSOURI**Mrs. Eli Sutter Mrs. Bill Heimer**

Our visiting ministers the past month were Elder Bros. Noah Schrock and Herman Kellenberger.

On Dec. 8, Bro. Dick Gerst was seriously injured in an automobile accident at Holland Mich., where he is vice-president and general manager of construction for mechanical contractors.

The other car involved went out of control, hitting Bro. Dick's car and killing the driver. Bro. Dick has a broken leg, fractured shoulder and knee-cap, also lacerations and bruises. It will be some time before he can walk, but we are thankful to the Lord that his life was spared. He came home by plane, after a few days at a hospital in Holland.

Bro. Eli Sutter is presently a patient at the hospital, with a heart condition. We are thankful that he is improving, and hope he will soon be able to return home.

Bro. LeRoy Yackley (who is stationed at Ft. Sam Houston) spent his leave in Japan, visiting the churches there. On his way home he spent a few hours with his parents, Bro. Perry and Sis. Clara Yackley.

Bro. Bill Cottrell spent a few days after Christmas with his parents, Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell. He is stationed at Ft. Walters, Texas.

Sis. Sue (Russ) Henning spent her Christmas vacation with her husband, Bro. Russ, at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Haab are the parents of a son, Grant Edward, born on Jan. 3. They have another son, Greg, 4 years old.

Donald Strahm, Sabetha, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen Strahm, has enrolled in the school of Horology at Gem City College, Quincy Ill. We are glad to have him in our assembly.

We had our annual business meeting Friday evening, Jan. 5. Bro. Perry Yackley was elected for

a 3-year term as trustee, after finishing the unexpired term of Bro. Bill Heimer. Sis. Elizabeth Sutter was elected to finish the unexpired term of Sis. Kathy Haab. The election of other teachers has been changed to August.

We have not had much snow so far, but very cold weather, several nights of below zero temperatures. Most of the farmers were late getting their corn harvested, some not finished until just before Christmas. We are all thankful to have it finished since it turned so cold.

BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Loris Kieser

Mrs. Don Duckworth

We thank Bros. George Wagenbach and Art Baurer, of Princeville, who visited us while Bros. Jim Ringger and Nate Stoller went through Mayo's in Rochester. Thankful are we for their safe return, and that they are both in a fair measure of health.

Gladys Jean, 7-year-old daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Eunice Klumpp, had an appendectomy over the holidays. She is recovering nicely.

Our annual Christmas program was well attended, and we are thankful anew for the teachers who spend much time and effort to teach our children.

A goodly number of us gathered in church one Sunday evening and listened to the tape of the conference. It proved to be a very interesting and worthwhile evening.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Elaine Eisenmann — Ella Wagler

As another year begins, may we all live a closer life with our God and try to do more for others each day. As we were recently reminded, we should all make a greater effort to visit the sick, the aged, and widows, and to have more LOVE one towards another.

We enjoyed having Bro. Cleo Rinckenberger of Pulaski misiter to us. Bro. Keith Shipley and his wife, Myrna, from Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, also visited our congregation, along with our elder, Bro. Noah Schrock, and Bro. Harvey Heiniger of Oakville.

The following have spent some time in the hospital this month: Sis. Lillian (Mrs. Adolph) Massner, Keith Massner (son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn), David Applegarth (son of Bro. Blaine and Sis. Betty),

and Sis. Betty (Mrs. James) Anliker. We hope they will soon be back among us.

Timna, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Dorothy Taeger, was born December 14. She has three older sisters. Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Helen Seggerman are the parents of a boy, Gregory Allen. He was born Jan. 4, and was the first baby of the new year in Henry County. Congratulations to both families!

The Sunday School classes presented a Christmas program on Dec. 17. In the evening many of us went caroling.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

Momentarily, a typical winter scene meets our gaze. It is really a pretty picture; in the sun the snow glistens like so many diamonds.

We have many wild birds visiting at the feeding stations, some eager for suet and others preferring the sun flower seeds. Speaking of color, the red of the cardinal, the grey and black of the woodpeckers, the grey of the titmice and junco, in addition to the blue and white of the bluejays lends us much to enjoy this season of the year.

I will attempt to recall who some of the folks were whom I met at church yesterday. This might be of interest to some of the folks who live many miles away. Here then are some: Andy, Florence and Esther Braker, my mother Sis. Marie, and nephew Milton Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Schupbach and sons Johnny and Chuckie, Jake and Bertha Gehring, Lawrence and Edna Gehring, the Jack Willett family (from Cedar Falls), Paul and Mildred Butikofer and son Timmy, Bert and Beulah Butikofer and children, Lena Pulfer, Marie Butikofer and daughter Ruth, Ruth and Lena Schupbach, Elizabeth Moore and sons Dale, Wilmer and Eugene and daughter Karla, the Ervin Metzger family, Mrs. Paul Pulfer, Gottlieb and Bertha Pulfer, Gloria Frieden, Alta and Clarence Thoman, Floyd Frieden, Lawrence and Carolyn Butikofer, the William Butikofer family, Mary Pulfer, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Butikofer and son Thomas, Eleanor Yackley, Linda Kolthoff, my husband Geo., Anna Butikofer; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Butikofer, Bob Moore and son Alan.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Corbin and son Todd are visiting their home folks. Ronald is in the service of our

country and stationed in Germany, and is on a 30-day leave. His wife and son have been with him in Europe for awhile. Mrs. Corbin is the former Marsha Frieden, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Frieden.

Sis. Marie Schmid has been in the hospital for a few weeks now, following surgery. She is getting along real well and will no doubt soon return to her home. The following brothers in faith, namely Gottlieb Pulfer, Fred Marti and Geo. Butikofer also are feeling better and are back home, after hospitalization. Sis. Celia Butikofer was hospitalized for a few days, but is now able to be home again. Bro. Arthur Hunziker of Independence is feeling better, too, after surgery.

On life's busy thoroughfare
We met with angels unawares,
So, Father, make us kind and wise
So we may always recognize
The blessings that are ours to take,
The friendships that are ours to
make,

If we but open our hearts door wide
To let the sunshine of love inside.

FT. SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Steve Gerst

We have now thrown away our old calendars, and predictions, and have put up our new account books and schedules. As we look back on the old '67, it was a year of love, peace and war; good health and suffering; happiness and sorrow; and victory and peace. Yes, also a year of rain and drought; wealth and poverty; and reunion and parting. The new year of 1968 is now facing us.

Our Lord God is first and should be the first and only before all things. In this new season, we should strive to serve Him more faithfully and earnestly.

Ten lepers our Saviour cleansed, and nine out of the ten didn't even thank Him. We have many dear souls close to our hearts who have not surrendered their lives to Him. Does this mean 1968 will be a year of thoughtless and unthankful lepers?

There are 6 working days in a calendar, and Lord's, week. The Lord gave us the week; we should give Him a day of honor and praise.

The beatitudes set forth qualities and experiences a child of God should possess. With all these treasures put to use, this should be a very grand year for all.

ARMY NEWS—Bro. Jack and Sis. Elizabeth Gramm of Gridley, Ill., have received orders for Korea as the new assignment. May the Lord guide and direct them through their new undertaking. When miles depart them, may the union love still sparkle in their hearts.

We wish to welcome several new service boys in our midst: Bro. Barry Isch of Bluffton; Bro. Keith Kellenberger of Elgin, Ill.; Gary Bauman of Goodfield; and Eldon Banwart of West Bend. . . . And while it's hard to understand the uncertainty and the complexities of war, may their safety and security lie solely in our Comforter's hands.

Bro. LeRoy Yackley of Taylor visited the Japan churches while on an overseas furlough.

All of the brothers and friends stationed at Ft Hood and Ft Sam Houston enjoyed the holiday season with their loved ones at home. We thank the Lord for leading us safely back to our duty.

It may be needful to mention, as more servicemen are being drafted, our address and telephone number—504 Elmhurst Apt. 4, San Antonio, Texas, zip code 78209. Telephone: TA4-9803. Please beloved ones, feel free to mail any civilian clothing to the above address. Also, write us before your entering the service.

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Mrs. Bob Grimm

Let the righteous be glad; Let them rejoice before God: Yea, let them **exceedingly rejoice**. How dear to our hearts are these words of the psalmist. Sometimes our souls fairly tingle with joy, as we sit beneath the sound of His word; and especially so, when we are privileged to hear the beautiful testimonies of loved ones who have been called into His service.

We had such an enjoyable evening on Dec. 6, when Katie Heinold and Clara Hunzicker were proved before our congregation. It was Bro. Ed Hohulin's first experience in proving repentant souls. Bro. Roy Sauder was here to assist him. The deep sincerity and child-like attitudes of the converts **and** the shepherds was very soul-stirring, and many tears of joy were shed. Katie and Clara were baptized on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held in our

church on Wednesday evening, Dec. 13.

A baby boy was born to Bro. and Sis. Don and Peggy Heinold on Dec. 30. He is their first child, and has been named Brent Alan. Bro. and Sis. Melvin and Mary Helen Heinold are the paternal grandparents. Bro. and Sis. John and Dorothy Bittner are the maternal grandparents. Bro. and Sis. Larry and Betty Bauman also have a new baby boy. He was born on Jan. 4, is their third child and their third son. His name is Daniel Joseph. Bro. and Sis. Lou and Norma Bauman are the paternal grandparents. Bro. and Sis. Ezra and Verelda Schlipf are the maternal grandparents.

Brad Alan, 10-month-old son of Bro. and Sis. Steve and Mary Ellen Weigand, was hospitalized for a few days the first week in January for a bronchial infection. We are happy to report that he is at home again, and getting along satisfactorily.

Dan, son of Bro. and Sis. Melvin and Mary Helen Heinold; Linda, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Wilbur and Mildred Heinold; Linda and Wes, daughter and son of Bro. and Sis. Chris and Vi Hohulin, were proved and baptized on Saturday and Sunday, Jan 6 and 7, respectively. Bro. Gene Bertschi was here to share the services with Bro. Ed Hohulin. Needless to elaborate . . . it was another very memorable week end, with the love of many souls flowing together.

Seven more souls have professed peace with God and man, have been announced, and are waiting their turns for proving and baptism. They are Glenn Joos, son of Bro. and Sis. Bill and Clem Joos, and his wife, Beverly (Heinold) Joos, daughter of Howard and Vera Heinold; Terry, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Bob and Elna Grimm; Molly, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Hans and Arlene Hinrichsen; Wayne, son of Bro. and Sis. Willis and Betty Weigand; Stephen, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold and Violet Reeser; and Carol (Weigand) Martin, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Henry and Perceda Weigand.

Our friend, Roy Weigand, son of Bro. and Sis. Willis and Betty Weigand, was inducted into the service on Jan. 3. His parents are waiting to hear where he will be stationed.

Bro. Dan Plattner, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold and Gerry Plattner,

was married to Sis. Jayne Kaufmann, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Bob and Marie Kaufmann, at Cissna Park on Sunday, Dec. 17. Dan and Jayne are presently making their home in Peoria.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Eunice and Lydia Kammerer

Our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Gene Bertschi and Bro. Ed Hohulin, assisted our Elder Bro. George Gramm in giving us Holy Communion.

We will miss our family, Bro. William and Sis. Verle Funk, who with their family moved to Pulaski to make their home. We wish them God's blessing in their new undertaking.

Bro. Gene Funk has sufficiently recovered from the surgery he underwent, for removal of cataracts, to return to his home.

Sis. Clara Funk is in fair condition in Brokaw hospital, Bloomington, Ill. We hope Sis. Clara can soon be back home with her family.

Sis. Lorene Kiefer entered Menonite Hospital to undergo cataract surgery. The last report is, she is recovering nicely.

Bro. Lyle Wetstein, who was on leave, left to be sent to Viet Nam. We wish Lyle God's presence on whatever mission he will be placed.

Bro. Bruce Witzig left, to return to his base at Ft Sam Houston, after a two-weeks' leave with his parents, Bro. Alph and Sis. Lillian Witzig.

Our friend, Raymond Witzig left for Viet Nam, following a two-weeks' leave with his parents, George and Sis. Pauline Witzig.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf returned from Ft Sam Houston. Bro. Dale had a two-week's leave, before going to Korea, where he will be serving for the coming two years.

Bro. Jack Gramm, son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Ruth Gramm, and Sis. Elizabeth Punke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Punke, were united in holy matrimony by Bro. George Gramm. Bro. Jack was home on leave with his parents.

Announcement was made of the coming marriage of Bro. Bruce Witzig and Sis. Leila Funk. Bruce is the son of Bro. Alf and Sis. Lillian Witzig, and Leila is the daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Katherine Funk.

We are happy to learn that friend Elsa Stoller has found need of turn-

ing to the Lord in repentance. Elsa is the daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Mary Stoller.

Bro. Eugene Funk had an eye operation for removal of a cataract. Bro. Elmer Meiss was hospitalized for X-ray. Friend Alvin Funk was a patient several days for observation. Friend Walter Schieler is recovering satisfactorily, following a heart attack. He has also been hospitalized.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Marcelle Dapper — Ruth Dapper
Jan Elsasser

The year of 1967 is past, and I don't think there isn't one of us who can't look back and know of loved ones or friends who have passed out of this life into eternity, young and old, some prepared and some unprepared—how uncertain and how brief our life really is. This should not depress us as Christians, for God never intended that this earth should be our final home. Nevertheless, it should move all of us to enter with a spirit of humble dependence upon God, for this is our only source of strength.

Sis. Rose Preiss, formerly of Elgin, Ill., who spent some of the later years of her life here in California, passed away while being prepared for surgery, the week of Dec. 4. No services were conducted here. She was loved by all, and with her affliction, she certainly bore her cross with patience and always wore a happy smile. We do extend our sympathy to her family she left behind.

Our congregation wishes to also extend our sympathy to our dear friend, Sadona (Gail) Ruehle Dubow, in the loss of her husband, Murray Dubow; and also to Sis. Margaret Kinsinger and Sis. Lois Klotzle of Altadena in the recent death of their fathers—Bro. Joe Bauman of Morton and Bro. Alfred Hoffman of Rockville. Bro. Hoffman is also an uncle of Sis. Ruth Dapper of Maywood.

It is the time of the year when California is blessed with many visitors from the East. It is truly a blessing to meet and greet loved ones from afar, and often it is expressed, it is a foretaste of yet greater joys to come. We thank everyone for their visit.

On Dec. 17, our Sunday School presented to our congregation the annual Christmas program. We feel confident that all those who were

present received a wonderful blessing in hearing the youth of our congregation tell of the birth of Christ.

January 6 was a wonderful way to begin our new year in Maywood, as two dear souls were taken into the fold. Our friends, Terry and Penny Julien, brought their testimonies and expounded to us the faith which they have in their Lord and God. Many hearts were touched when it was revealed to the congregation that during Terry's repentance, he stated to one of our ministers that he would rather be an angel in heaven than to get up and walk from his wheel-chair. Terry has been in a wheel-chair since he was 9 years of age, and is a patient of Muscular Distrophy. We were also blest to have with us Bro. Roy Farney from Phoenix to assist our elder, Bro. Carl Kinsinger in this most important work. Terry and Penny's aunt, Sis. Emma Feucht of Lester was also able to be with us to witness the testimonies and baptism of her neice and nephew, for which we are very thankful, and pray that God will bless her for her long journey. We welcome Terry and Penny as a brother and sister in faith, and pray that God will guide and protect them as they start life's journey down this narrow path of life.

OAKVILLE, IOWA

Martha Steiner

We certainly enjoyed meeting and visiting with Bro. Keith Shipley and his wife Myrna, from Regina, Saskatchewan. How wonderful it is to be able to enjoy fellowship with those of like mind and faith who live in a faraway country.

We spent an especially blessed Sunday when Bro. Earl Banwart from West Bend unexpectedly came to visit us and willingly lent himself in expounding God's holy word.

Bro. Joe Schrock from Congerville and his wife shared with us their pictures taken in the Holy Land during their visit several years ago. They were interesting to all who were present.

Our December meeting at the university in Iowa City was devoted almost entirely to song service, which was uplifting to all. We are encouraged by the continued faithful support of the students, as well as those from various congregations.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Shirley Frank — Mary Heinold

Our last evening service before Christmas vacation were held on Dec. 13, with Francesville church as our host.

Hoping to celebrate the holiday season in a way which would have a special meaning to all of us, we told the Christmas story in song, with different groups from Illinois State University, Indiana University, Francesville, and Purdue University participating. Again we heard the story of the birth of our Saviour, and were reminded of our Father's great love for us in sending His Son. We especially wish to thank our ministering brethren, Elmer Bucher and Wendell Gudeman, for their helpful instruction and encouragement.

Students were able to leave for the Christmas vacation on Dec. 20, and returned on Jan. 3, when classes resumed.

Wolcott will be our host for the next meeting, on Jan. 10. We extend a sincere welcome to all who wish to meet with us, and wish everyone every happiness for this new year.

AKRON, OHIO

Florence Graf

The annual Christmas carol singing was held the evening of Dec. 17. The younger Sunday School children sang carols and songs which they had been practicing several weeks. Congregational carol singing was followed by refreshments and a fellowship hour in the church dining-room.

A group of brethren and friends spent the evening of Dec. 22 in singing carols, visiting those who are unable to get about freely. These beautiful songs remind us of the birth of One whose coming gave us a hope for eternal life.

Sis. Elizabeth Flaker passed away Dec. 22 at the age of ninety-one years. Elizabeth always enjoyed attending services, but had been unable to do so for sometime, due to failing health. Funeral services were held at the church Dec. 26, with burial in Lakewood Cemetery.

Bro. Merle Laukhuf of Latty was our visiting minister on Dec. 24 and 25, reading and ministering upon the 27th chapter of Acts. This is an interesting account of Paul's stormy voyage to Rome. Bro. Merle compared our lives to Paul's voyage—are we looking to Him who can guide us through all storms on the

sea of life—are we thinking enough upon our soul's salvation?

On Jan. 18, Joe and Sis. Anna Hanla observed their 60th wedding anniversary. May the Lord continue to be with them and their loved ones, as He has been in these past years.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA

Sis. Eula Heinold, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Aaron Heinold, was announced to be married to Bro. Arthur Mogler of West Bend. The wedding date has been set for Feb. 11.

Bro. Edward Frank was recently chosen to serve as deacon in the church. We wish him God's blessings to carry the work.

Another soul, Arden, son of Bro. and Sis. Arthur Bucher, has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. May God grant grace and blessings from above to continue on.

A daughter, Malissa was born Nov. 24 to Diana and Robert Gudeman. Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman are the paternal grandparents.

A birthday surprise was carried out for the birthday of Bro. George Yergler on his 80th birthday, Dec. 21. The evening was spent singing Christmas carols. Bro. Ed Frank gave a brief history of Bro. George's life, from the time our church began in La Crosse. He received a small gift from the congregation. Refreshments were served for all who came. Some of Bro. George's family from Cissna Park came to spend the evening with us.

For those who are interested in David's condition, we are glad to report that, after having many difficulties, he is well on the way to recovery. He is home and able to attend church with us again. This Thursday he is to be measured for an artificial limb, as his upper leg has healed satisfactorily.

We wish to take this means of thanking all who remembered David with prayers, cards, gifts and flowers during his long stay in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you all. Bro. John, Sis. Lucille and David Heiniger.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

We are happily anticipating a day of fellowship with the Bremen congregation this coming week-end, when we will exchange ministry for the day. Following services, we are looking forward to a fellowship dinner in our church dining-room, which will include members and friends of both congregations.

Linda and Doug Coy became the parents of a little girl, Dawn Marie on Jan. 8. Bro. Ray and Mildred Levy are the happy grandparents.

After having undergone surgery recently at the Whitley County Hospital, Lowell Beer is recuperating at the home of his parents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Alice Beer.

Bro. Sam Reimchisel was admitted to the Goshen General Hospital recently, with a suspected coronary. Many prayers were offered in his behalf. We are pleased to report it was not as serious as was first believed, and his recovery is progressing rapidly.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."

United in marriage were Linda Jane Hoerr and Millard Michael McMullen. Her parents are August and Marie Hoerr, and his parents live in Springfield.

Sis. Lois Reisinger and Bro. Alan Herman were united in marriage Dec. 31. Her parents live in Tremont, and his parents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Lorraine Herman of Tucson.

A son, Michael Joseph, was born Dec. 12 to William and Sis. Joyce Waibel.

Bro. Ken Sauder was discharged from the Army. Sis. Sherry and Bro. Ken arrived in Peoria Dec. 23. It is so good to see them in our assembly again!

Sis. Hulda Hoerr died Dec. 8. She was the widow of Phillip Hoerr. Surviving are five sons, Alvin, William, Daniel, Phil and Warren; three daughters, Mrs. Anna Flitcroft, Mrs. Clara Kumpf and Mrs. Hilda Keith; two sisters, Sisters Anna Novakow and Dorothy Schneider, both of our congregation; one brother, Ben Detweiler, of La-

mar; 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Anna Novakow has been in the hospital; at the present she is recuperating at her daughter's home in Morton. Sis. Emma Binkele fell in her home on Christmas Day and broke her hip; she is in the St. Francis Hospital at the present.

Bros. Noah Herman and Ed Lanz were our visiting ministers. We appreciate their labors of love. May we give earnest heed to God's call and follow where He leads us.

Five dear friends have heeded the call to repent and have been announced for proving. They are Alan and Gary Unsicker, sons of Bro. Leslie and Sis. Eunice Unsicker; Paul Erkert, son of Bro. Herbert and Sis. Christianne Erkert; Tim and Steve Klaus, sons of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Vera Klaus.

We will miss Sisters Mary, Ruth and Esther Aberle in our congregation. They bought a home in Morton and are moving into it, and plan to assemble with the congregation in Morton.

Know Each Other Better

It was through this remark: "Grandma Baurer would surely give her approval if she could be here tonight," (our dear elder Bro. Roy Sauder told to his niece, Sis. Rita Koehl the evening of her proving) which prompted me to try to write about Sis. Christine Baurer and her family, so we may know each other better. Five of her children live in Peoria and assemble regularly, whenever God's word is proclaimed. It is remarkable that all ten of her children repented and were baptized. I'm sure she's been very thankful for this over and over again. Sis. Christine, or Mother Baurer as I may sometimes refer to her in this writing, is the oldest member in our church in Peoria. She was born May 10, 1872 in Germany, the daughter of Margaret (Frank) and John Gauger. Her father was a minister in our church. The John Gauger family came to this country when Christine was 2 years old. They settled on a farm near Tremont. Their family grew—3 boys and 3 girls. Christine sought employment in Peoria when she grew up, and it was here she met John Baurer. He had also been born in Germany and had settled in Peoria. They were married in 1892. After 3 years of marriage, she was 23 at the time, she sought her

Moving? Have moved? Give the information to your reporter, or send to The Silver Lining, Grabill.

soul's salvation, turning to the Lord in repentance. They were living in Peoria at the time. She was baptized at the Green Street church.

Five children were born in Peoria, before they moved to the farm her father had settled on near Tremont. Their children are: Sis. Mary (Mrs. Dan) Koch of Tremont, Bro. John Baurer of Princeville, Sis. Emma (Mrs. John) Sinn (deceased), Sis. Eva Baurer, Sis. Wilhelmine Baurer, Sis. Louise (Mrs. Sam) Martin of Princeville, Bro. Frank Baurer of Tremont, Sis. Gertrude (Mrs. Roy) Sauder, Sis. Lillian (Mrs. Harold) Koehl, and Bro. Ben Baurer.

Sis. Christine's husband found grace to repent on his death-bed, at the age of 49. He called his children around him and asked them to repent and seek their soul's salvation, before it would be too late. It was about a year later that Wilhelmine, Eva and Emma repented. Mother Baurer lived in town (Tremont) for a while, until the children were out of school. About 35 years ago they moved back to Peoria. After Sisters Gertrude and Lillian and Bro. Ben married, Sisters Eva, Wilhelmine and Mother lived together until about one and a half years ago.

For the past 3 years Mother Baurer hasn't been able to come to church—but until that time she always enjoyed and loved to come to church. There is much evidence that she spent her time in prayer and sought her refuge in the Lord. Mother Baurer has 46 grandchildren, (of which 35 have repented and two are ministers in our churches, Elder Bro. Dan Koch of Tremont and Bro. Art Baurer of Princeville); 85 great-grandchildren (of which 4 have repented); and 1 great-great-grandson.

Five of Mother Baurer's children attend our assembly here in Peoria: Sis. Eva, with whom she makes her home. Sis. Eva repented when she was 19, and is a very good example of a faithful child of God. She gives so unselfishly of herself in caring for others.

Sis. Wilhelmine repented at the age of 17. She also is a strong pillar in our church. Somehow whenever you chat and visit with her, you leave with more love in your heart and a zeal to try to live a little closer to God. I guess it just sort of radiates from her. Sis. Wilhelmine spends a lot of time caring for her

mother, too. May God strengthen both these dear sisters, so they can carry out their labors of love in caring for their aged mother.

Sis. Gertrude Sauder repented at the age of 18. She and Bro. Roy Sauder were married in 1937. They have two sons, Bro. Ken and Steve who, we're thankful, has found the need for repentance. Sis. Gertrude also finds time in her busy schedule of an elder's wife to help care for her mother.

Sis. Lillian Koehl repented at the age of 21. She and Bro. Harold Koehl were married in June 1940. They have three daughters, Sis. Judy (Mrs. John) Woerner, Bonnie (Mrs. Rich) Hodel, Sis. Rita Koehl; one son, Duane; and one grand-daughter. We can see, too that the love of God radiates in this home. Their prayers also have been answered—some of their children could come to be children of God. Sis. Lillian helps a lot with the care of her mother; it is especially handy for Eva to know Lillian is just next door.

Bro. Ben Baurer repented at the age of 17. He was only 3 years old when his father died. He and Sis. Berna Hari of Cissna Park were married in the fall of 1940. Their children are Ron, Dennis and Pat. Bro. Ben has been very helpful over the years as a Sunday School teacher, and I'm sure he has experienced many joys when some of his former pupils could repent and have the hope of salvation for their souls.

All of Mother Baurer's children are good to her and show their love by coming to Eva's home and staying with their mother at different intervals. Eva was telling me the other evening that her mother, who is 95 now, watches for the mailman every day. Her address is: 1006 W Ridge Rd, Peoria Ill. 61614.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS

Norene Herbst Sara Aeschleman

Our Christmas program was on Sunday evening, Dec. 17. New Year services were held New Year's Eve.

James Wiegand, son of Bro. Morris and Sis. Lena Wiegand, was hos-

pitalized in December for an appendectomy. Bro. John Leman has been dismissed from the hospital. Bro. Vincent and Sis. Mae Kae Hodel have been at Mayo's Clinic at Rochester, Minn., where Bro. Vince has been a patient since Dec. 25.

Sgt. David Knapp has received his discharge from the military service, having completed his two years. He was stationed at Norfolk, Va. He is the son of Bro. Maurice and Sis. Helen Knapp.

Graveside services were held here Dec. 20 for Scott Douglas Moser, infant son of Bro. Douglas and Sis. Carol (Metzger) Moser, who are living at Champaign.

Visiting ministers serving us this past month were Bros. Merle Laukhuf, Leroy Huber and Ed Hohulin.

This year found Sis. Alice Funk grandmother of twins (the third time). Her, son, Norman and his wife, Esther are parents of twins, a son and daughter. They were named Andy and Amy.

Births: A son, Brett Joseph to John and Mary (Vogel) Leman. A daughter, Lisa Marie to Larry and Majorie (Bowald) Moritz. A son, Brent Alan to Bro. Don and Sis. Peg (Bittner) Heinold. A daughter, Colleen Kay to Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara (Wilkey) Fischer. Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen (Woertz) Martin are the parents of a daughter, Sally Kathleen.

John Beer was married to Joan Bennett of Marshall, Dec. 30. He is the son of Roy and Sis. Rose Beer.

Card of Thanks: I would like to thank everyone who so kindly helped to make my ninetieth birthday such a enjoyable and wonderful day. Your cards and gifts were truly appreciated. May God bless you all.

Mrs. Hulda Beer

Announcement has been made of the engagement of our friends, Lloyd Des Carpentrie and Kay Sauder. Lloyd is the son of Sis. Lois DesCarpentrie and Kay is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Don Sauder.

Our friend, Noah Aeschleman passed away at the age of 88 years.

It is suggested that, for every home into which the Silver Lining goes, there should be given \$2.00 per year, where it works no hardship.
the editor

He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Lola Reiter of Cissna Park, and one son, Ellis of Roanoke.

Sis. Elizabeth (Mrs. Dave) Fehr died, at the age of 87. She has been a dear old sister in the church for many years and now has gone to her reward.

Sis Angela Rassi has returned home, after spending some time in the hospital. Sis. Viola Gudeman sustained fractured ribs in a fall.

WICHITA, KANSAS

Mrs. Larry J. Farney
Mrs. Harvey Smith

The annual Sunday School Christmas program was held Dec. 17. The eager looks and smiles on the little children's faces is always a joy to all. We also enjoyed the readings and singings of the older classes. Many thanks to the Sunday School teachers and the children for their effort.

Many have been ill with the flu this past month. It has reached epidemic proportions here in Wichita. Fortunately no one has had to be hospitalized, for which we are very thankful.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Carolyn Dotterer and Lois Heiniger

Dec. 17 was our Sunday School Christmas program. Hearing the story of Christ's birth told with childlike simplicity, we are reminded of the Lord's words: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Our small congregation rejoices with our dear friend, Dan Kokanovich, in his repentance and newly-found peace. We look forward to hearing his testimony in the near future.

We welcome Sister Emma Moser, from Elgin Ill. into our midst. She has come to spend several months with her son, Lester Moser, and his family.

Also visiting us is Sis. Sophie Sikopaarija from Minneapolis.

We are glad to have Bro. Alan Freed with us again, after his short stay in the hospital. Recently hospitalized was our friend, Bob Farney.

Bro. Alan and Sis. Edith Freed and family have moved to their new home. Their address is 8620 No. 14th Street, Phoenix Ariz. 85020.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie Beer and daughter, Sheri welcome the arri-

val of a baby boy, Jan. 9. His grandparents are Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach of Phoenix, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Twyla Beer of Cissna Park.

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AND PEACE AT NIGHT

Henry Souder Jr.

How can His child be happy? The word of God plainly tells. It shows what makes a soul miserable. "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."

This was a rich man. Times were good. Harvest, great. Income stood high. God's word in another place points that riches themselves can be handled right. There was something wrong with this man.

"But God said unto him, **Thou** fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" The man thought in "years". God said "this night". The man's ideas wrapped around himself. Nothing going out. God sees "required" and "then whose".

"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." We were created by God. He made us like Him. Sin came; man died. That which breathed of better life and walk with God became burned out cinders. He thinks and does; it could be wonderful. Layeth up, man will, for something.

"And he said unto his disciples, Therefore, I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is **more** than raiment."

Providing, to labor is needful. Paul plainly points out this. It is the taking thought, the worry, and other ideas that need not be. The chase that goes round and round is without fruit. Jesus points out something. Something was lost. He has a way of doing that shines far above just food and clothing.

"Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?" We were not used to this way. Our thoughts and ways were a prison, shutting

in to self. Some things we need yet to learn. "Consider" is a call that Jesus has something to show. He takes care. In the inner man, He wants us to be as free as the raven. He wants us to soar in beautiful thought.

"And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?" We could turn our thoughts every way . . . could use the best learning . . . and try again in the morning. Yet we would be no farther. That is spinning the wheels. We should see something here that is familiar. If we look closely, here are some of our very own thoughts that have light on them.

"If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?" Our mind and our soul are wonderfully made. They have great possibility. Jesus wants to get them working right. If we can't get taller by taking thought, then how can we do other things? Time is too valuable. It's too hard on us to fret and worry.

"Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." How does a lily grow? It makes no effort outside of **receiving** what God gives. It's face is in the sunshine. It drinks in the rain. It is content. It waits for His answer. Jesus knows what good art really is: He sees beauty in the lily more than all the glory that Solomon had.

"If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more **will he clothe** you, O ye of little faith?" Who does the action here? **Who** clothes? Taking thought don't act like that. Taking thought is part of the old, worn-out way, about self. God knows everything. He has all power. It is He that gave the words, "how much more". He acts. We **RECEIVE**. He wants us to see.

"And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind." There is a way that lifts us above the just work of everyday life. There is an unfolding of the flower, a soaring of the bird that joys in the thoughts of heaven. It's not the job and problem that is so hard; it's the seek and the doubt. What we carry around.

"For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things." Our Father has far, far more facts than all the libraries in the world. There is no guess in any. The nations of the world are turned around the old idea. Like to the contented face of a flower our Lord points us. The Father knoweth, and what wealth.

"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Don't you see the light! We may look in vain on earthly horizon. Neither on horizon of **take thought**. There! where He says: the things not seen. It is a beautiful city of light. Seek. Look for. Knock on His door. Carefully check page after page, again and again. He promises He will add; it shall be.

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

How wonderful.

And at night, still peace.

History American Elders—

(Continued from Page 3)

built. There were 20 members. The Church was served mainly by brethren from Bluffton, Milford and Francesville. In 1938, a new building was erected; there were 83 members. Dedication services were held Sept. 11, 1938. The first elder serving the La Crosse church was Bro. Gottfried Rauch, Bluffton, followed by Bro. Geo. W. Yergler.

A new church building was dedicated in 1966.