

THE SILVER LINING

VOLUME 19

JANUARY 1969

NUMBER 4

The Lord Jesus Christ Cares About You

Bro. Willis R. Ehnle, Japan

After education, in chronological order, one is usually concerned about employment. With the increased urbanization of our society and the mechanization of agriculture, the number of persons remaining on the farm continues to decrease. The "stay close to nature and God, and away from temptations" concept is being severely threatened, in fact most of us have already been thrown out into a sea of human activities. If we remember the lesson of the mother eagle rooting her young from their nest in order that they may learn to fly, we take new hope and courage. By the grace of Jesus Christ, God's Son who loved us, died for us and rose again, we must sail along above the tumult of this world, on

a higher spiritual plane.

In considering what avenues for employment are open, one immediately thinks of the professions of nursing and teaching. The need for male nurses and more male teachers, even at the elementary level, is now being recognized, so more and more the women will be sharing these professions with the men. Business . . . here the guidance of brothers who have had experience in this field should be sought and followed if there is very much risk involved. High hopes often turn into nightmares.

Some prefer the professions of engineering or medicine, though much hard work and financing are required. Others prefer to be employed in industry or in business

offices. Unions have become so strong that laborers are sometimes better off financially than the managers.

In any case, Jesus Christ cares about you, your education, and your employment. He cares for your eternal destiny, enough to die for you. You owe it to Him to turn away from everything harmful to a spiritual life and to seek His cleansing power and guidance. Go see your minister or elder and counsel with him. Then you should choose your vocation or employment on the basis of which job will bring the most glory to Jesus Christ.

In Him we live and move and have our being.

Soon We'll Immigrate

Bro. Elias Souder

We are going to stay but a little while; our life is as a vapor. Only a shadow. We meet one another, greet, pass on. Then eternal ages roll. What has this world to offer? Not much at all. We try to make our homes beautiful, nice lawns, trees, furniture. There is nothing wrong in this, but what makes the home? The family circle. When the family circle gets broken, there is something missing.

We begin to search where our loves have gone, like the father who was not much concerned about the future until his only son died. With tears he searched the Bible, trying to find out. What would we do without that blessed Bible? This world is full of sadness. It will not change. One thing made very clear in the Bible is we are going to be like Him; God will never hide his face from us there. Satan will never show his.

We like to think that dear ones, who have been reconciled with God, are in a far better place. Paul said he would prefer to be absent from the body and be with Christ.

In new Jerusalem, the walls are of jasper. The city is pure gold, like unto clear glass. The foundation of the wall is garnished with all manner of precious stones. Such a city! Who wouldn't want to go there? A city built to last. Let's hope that someday the circle will again be complete, not one missing. That will be thousands of times nicer than any mansion that was ever built here.

Let's compare this city with some of the cities on this earth. There was Babylon; it is nothing but a dust heap. Nineveh, its grand towers have fallen. Ephesus, crowned with buildings as large as Washington D.C. looks more like a neglected graveyard. Athens (Paul

preached there) had a street over three miles long, stretching across the entire town. The city was garnished with rows of columns and covered galleries; at every corner stood carved statues. The poor, preaching tentmaker who entered its portals stands out in history.

What would heaven be without its inhabitants? God who will be right among the rest, and our dear Lord and Saviour, plus all the loved ones. God who made the world out of nothing will really have pleasures evermore. Paul saw some of the beauties. Why he was not permitted to say what he saw, we don't know. Anyway he was ready to depart.

Sometimes we feel, if we could only meet our dear ones same as we are here, that would really be nice enough. God has prepared something much better. This body is not fit to walk on streets of gold

or enter that beautiful city. This corruptible body could never stand it. It takes an entirely different body; no human being has ever been able to see God. They simply couldn't and live. He is going to give each one a body as it pleases Him, perfect. Just how it will be we don't know, but we shall know each other as we are known here.

Mary Magdalene was the first one that saw Jesus after he arose; she didn't know him till He spoke to her. He was walking along with two of his disciples; they did not recognize Him till He offered a blessing for food. Ah dear ones, it will be a different body but don't forget, far superior to the one we have. Take a little seed; plant it in the ground. The seed will go back to earth; a beautiful flower will spring up, much more beautiful than any artist can paint.

Let's keep looking up. It's better higher up. The writer had a dream, went up into a high building, entered a room that was all decorated with most every imaginable fruit. It was just beautiful; the only answer I gave them was that it's better up higher.

A long time ago I read a story. If anyone wanted to get refreshed in spirit, they would go and see these sick people. There was a

missionary that made it her business to visit these places quite often. She had a friend that was quite worldly, and rich; she begged her to go with her a number of times. Finally she consented. They went up one flight of stairs, dark and dirty. The lady said, "Why did you bring me in such a place". The missionary said, "It's better up higher", so they went up another flight. No better. She complained again; they went up five flights, and opened a door. There was this sick lady, in a beautiful room decorated with flowers, all carpeted, and a beautiful bird singing. The lady said to her, "It must be very hard for you to be up here." "Oh", she said, "it's not hard at all; it's better up higher."

A sweet little one went to be with Jesus at the age of 6. She was taught to repeat the Lord's prayer every night. As the child lay on her dying bed, the hour of departure drawing near, all of a sudden she opened her soft, blue eyes. Looking confidently into her mother's face she said, "Mama, I forgot to say my prayers." Summoning what strength she had, she clasped her little hands and like a little angel prayed:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,

I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take.

After she said her prayer, Jesus took her home, a beautiful flower in the Garden of God.

Let's repeat the last words of John Bunyan: "We shall meet ere long to sing the new song, and remain happy ever more in a world without end." Dear ones who are not reconciled with God, you have a date with death. You will be on time. Will you go alone, or with Christ at your side? Think this over now, not when it's too late. Jesus is calling you to come; He is pleading with you. Will you not open your heart's door and let Him enter?

If you move, please let us know 30 days in advance. Give both old and new addresses. There is a charge of 10c on second class mail everytime the postal department notifies us.

"I have a good supply of "church directories", revised in 1968. I have mailed out over 3500 this edition, but have several hundred left, at 3 copies per \$1.00 . . .

Orel Steiner
Oakville, Iowa 52646

WICHITA, KANSAS

Mrs. Larry Farney
Mrs. Harvey Smith

Camille Lanette was born on Nov. 20 to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm. We wish them much happiness in the addition to their family circle.

We witnessed another birth, an even more important one, the spiritual birth of our friend, Jeff Groom. Jeff was baptized and taken into the church. It is so humbling to hear the testimony of a new child of God. The grace and mercy of God allows each of us to clean our slate at the end of each day, and remain as true in our love and devotion as the day each was born again.

We miss Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia, since they have moved to Sabetha, where Wayne will be working at Wenger's Manufacturing. We wish them happiness, and hope they will return to visit us often.

Dec. 22, the Sunday School gave their annual Christmas program.

The effort the children put forth was a joy to those who heard them. Many of our loved ones were home for the Christmas holidays. We thank the Lord for granting them safety on the highways.

We are at the beginning of another new year. May this be a year of deeper dedication to our Lord, and if it be His will, may we enjoy many of His manifold blessings, both material and spiritual.

On Jan. 5 we heard the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Marilyn (Susie) Frieden to Bro. Jeff Groom, both from our congregation. We rejoice with them and wish them the Lord's richest blessings together.

ASCHAFFENBURG, GERMANY

Harlan Metzger

As I sit here all alone on this New Year's Eve, my thoughts wander back over the past year. I think of all the joyful times, mixed with sadness and sorrow of loved ones who have passed on . . . and now all that lingers are precious

memories. Time has ticked away, and once again we stand on the threshold of a new year. May we fill each moment pleasing unto our Saviour, that we might be ready to stay or ready to go, whichever might be His good and holy will.

On the week end of the 21st of Dec., Bro. Bill Emch and Jerry and Deanna Gasser were able to take a short leave, to visit Berlin. One finds it very interesting to be able to see the difference between West Berlin, and cross the Iron Curtain to visit East Berlin.

On the 23rd of Dec., Bro. Bill went down to Switzerland to spend Christmas with his relatives. Bros. Eldon Getz, Dennis Koehl and Harlan Metzger were able to spend a very nice and interesting Christmas with the Heinz Maurer family at Nuehutzen. We certainly have to thank the Lord for providing for us brothers over here in Germany, so far from home, for the hospitality and fellowship we receive from the German families.

Bro. Bill Emch is scheduled to

leave Germany the 16th of Jan., as he has now fulfilled his time in the service. May we pray for each other as each one must go on his way.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

Ed Aeschleman

Our dear Sis. Bertha Weisert had been confined to her home for several weeks due to illness. We pray God will bless her with good health through his healing power, and that she will soon be able to gather with us again. We thank God that Sis. Mary Diggelman is able to attend church, after suffering a severe cold.

Eleven children participated in our Christmas program on Sunday, Dec. 22. There is always a blessing received in hearing children proclaim God's holy truth, especially regarding the humble birth of our precious Saviour. The sincerity exhibited by these children helps us to understand what the Lord meant when He said we must become as a little child. If we could all only have such faith.

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Keith and Sharon Kellenberger

As we face a new year, we pause to recall the many changes in the army has brought. A year ago in January we were at Ft. Sam Houston, where for nearly five months we enjoyed the love and fellowship so abundant there. We and all the servicemen truly appreciated the efforts of the ministering brethren who journeyed long distances to preach the word to us. Then home to Roanoke and Elgin for a short leave in May, so filled with visits, dinner invitations, and singings with our dear friends and relatives. All too soon Keith had to leave for

Hawaii, where I joined him in a month. Our six months here have passed so quickly, with the birth of our daughter Rachel in August, moving into Honolulu from our small cottage near Haleiwa, and visits with many vacationers. We have fond memories of the days with Bros. Denny and Jim Fehr of West Bend, and Friend Dan Gill of Tennessee, while stationed here before being sent to Japan, and of the many others who could spend time with us. We're happy to have Dave Grosshans of Fairbury (stationed at Tripler General Hospital) with us since September. He joined us for church services and on his days off whenever possible. The Lord willing, Keith will be stationed here at Tripler until his discharge in Dec. 1969.

We have learned much in our service days. We have a much deeper appreciation of the love of God which unites us as brethren, though our homes be far apart. How wonderful that we could greet and enjoy fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Lord from many widely scattered states while here and in Texas. Now we realize what a privilege it is to be able to assemble with a congregation of God's children. Though the Lord has been faithful to His promise to be in the midst where two or three are gathered in His name, how wonderful it will be to sit among our brethren and hear the many voices blend in singing God's praise, to greet our beloved sisters and brothers, and to again fellowship with them.

We would like to thank everyone who remembered us this Christmas and throughout the year with cards and letters.

We had many visitors this past month. Dale and Lorraine Tatge, Keith's sister and her husband stayed with us for two weeks. We all ate out with Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister, Bro. David and Sis. Lillian Meister and Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy Herman, all of Peoria, and enjoyed a pleasant evening with them in our apartment before they left to fly back to the mainland. A week and a half later, three couples from Bluffton spent a Sunday with us. After listening to a taped sermon, we took a scenic drive in the mountains. They were Bro. Harold and Sis. Aldine Moser, Bro. Truman and Sis. Marcella Yergler and Bro. Laurin and Sis. Lillian Bertsch. Later in the week,

we and Dave Grosshans spent another evening with them. A few days ago, we and Dave enjoyed a meal and pleasant visit with Bro. Mike and Sis. Jill Kauffman of the Morton congregation. Later that evening we were thrilled to welcome Keith's father and mother, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Minnie Kellenberger and to introduce Rachel to them. We are enjoying their visit very much.

The Lord has truly blessed us, and we are so thankful. May we all strive to follow His holy example more closely in the coming year. God's richest blessings to you all.

REMINGTON, INDIANA

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

Our visiting brothers included Bros. Kellenberger, Graf, Bauman, Bahler, Waibel, and Lehman, at which time Bro. Edwin Bahler was given the duties of deacon. We trust God in His mercy will give him much light, wisdom, understanding, courage, and patience to deal with all the problems and circumstances that arise.

We are sorry to report, Bro. Irvin Lehman has resigned as our elder, due to ill health. We thank him for all he has done for each of us. We trust he will regain his health, that he might still be with us often. Bro. Kellenberger from Elgin will take over the duties as elder here. May God be with him in every way.

Our community has been shocked more than a dozen times the past 2 months of deaths by accident, sickness, old age, in early 40's, 50, 60, some of them prominent businessmen, almost like an epidemic . . . makes one think, would I be ready if it were me? Among these was Sis. Louise (Knochel) Scharlach, 77, sick only 2 days. She passed away Fri. Dec. 13. with a heart attack. She was married in 1912 to Ruben, who has been poorly for a number of years . . . surviving are 2 sons, Melvin of Iowa City, Weslev of Hammond; 3 daughters, Sis. Amelia Schini of here, Aldine Taylor of Minnetonka, Minn., Doris Zeltwanger of Bremen; a brother, Bro. Gust and Sis. Lena and Ida Tyler of here, Sis. Sophie Farney of Wolcott, and Sis. Lydia Pelsey of Francesville. Our sympathy is extended. All of us will miss her. She did lots of quilting; we often went to help her. She wanted each grandchild to have a quilt. I hope she got them all made.

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Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor: Henry Souder Jr.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Cousellors: 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.

The young folks went caroling on Sun. Another week end a group went to Goodfield, accompanied by some of the parents.

A number from here went to Ranoke to attend the reception given in honor of Jim D. Braker, Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara's son of here, and his bride, Marjorie (Sauder). We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

Bro. Alfred Bahler and family spent a Sunday with us.

What a blessing a song can be! . . . would we could make the suggestion that a new year's resolution be made, that every time we get together different songs are sung, as we have such a large variety. The blessing is lost when we fail to use them.

The Christmas program was well attended, given by the Sunday School. Some from Wolcott assembled with us for Christmas Day services.

Sis. Mary Bahler is now making her home at the A.C. Home at Eureka.

Time is a Gift from God . . . How will we use the days of this year and the time God has placed in our hands? Will we waste the minutes and squander the hours, leaving "no prints behind in time's sands" . . . Will we vainly complain that life is so swift, that we haven't the time to do good . . . Our days are too crowded, our hours too short to do all the good things we should . . . But teach us to take time for praying and to find time for "Listening to You . . . So each day is spent well, and wisely doing what You most want us to do.

Bro. Jake Bahler was in the hospital for observation and treatment for several days.

We are very sorry to report that Bro. Ben Braker's Gamble Store, across the street from us, was completely destroyed by fire, Thurs. Jan. 2. A faulty furnace was blamed. The store was built 2 years ago. The family certainly has the heartfelt sympathy of the whole community, as this store was much appreciated by all. In a small town this is a great loss.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA Velta Laukhuf

During this holiday season, we here had many visitors from the various churches in the North. It was the largest group that ever assembled with us at this time of the year. It really makes one's heart

feel joyful to see all the seats filled in the house of God. Among the visitors were many children and grandchildren of the ones living here.

On Dec. 29, Bro. Edwin Bahler of the Remington church was our visiting minister. He read from the first chapter of St. Mark, and stressed the importance of repentance and baptism and how we must have both.

On Jan. 5, our visiting minister was Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville. He explained the importance of using one's talents to the fullest of our ability, to the honor and glory of God.

Bro. Philip Wingeier, our minister, extends a hearty welcome to all that visit in Florida, to come and worship with us. Services are at the Women's Club Building, Corner of Palm Ave. and Park Ct. Time 1 p.m.

ATHENS, ALABAMA

Mrs. William Haggenmaker

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Indeed these words are a comfort. It would be nice should it happen today, but in God's own time this shall be. All Christians shall rejoice. Let us remain true and faithful until then.

We are beginning a new year. All Christians should strive to do better and work harder for the Lord, so that all who are not saved can be shown the way, that they might be, for who can say if the Lord will tarry another year.

Sis. Emma Bradshaw is now one of those asleep in the Lord that will be in the first resurrection, when our Saviour descends from heaven. What a wonderful comfort.

We have some sick folks that you might like to remember in prayer. Mark Klopfenstein has been having some trouble with his hip; he is able to walk now, and we hope that he is going to be completely well. A very dear sister and a hard worker for the Lord, Miriam Klopfenstein, is also ill and has been for several weeks with hepatitis. She seems to be getting better, for which we are very thankful. Remember these dear ones in prayer.

We would not forget to say

thank you for all the visitors who have come, and we ask you all to come again, anytime.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Marlene Mosher

We are sorry to report that Friend Eugene Meylan was wounded in Viet Nam; he is the son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Eunice Meylan.

We have turned our calendars to another New Year. We hope and pray that in this coming year, our Lord will touch many hearts with His finger of love, and that there will be many that will heed His call, pick up their cross, and follow Him.

We were unable to have church for two Thursday evenings and a Sunday, because of the snow we have had, and roads have been almost impassable for two and three days at a time.

We enjoyed having with us Bro. Loren Strahm of Kansas and Bro. Floyd Wieland of Detroit ministering with us.

A baby boy, Brian James was born to Jon and Sis. Darlene Cluff. The maternal grandparents are Marshall and Sis. Muriel Rylance.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Delutha Moser — Carolyn Gerber

Christ's will for us is that we achieve victory over evil.

Engagement: Sis. LuAnn Tonner has made known her engagement to Bro. Dave Klopfenstein of Latty. Parents of the couple are Bro. and Sis. Curtis Tonner and Bro. and Sis. Floren Klopfenstein.

Shut-ins: Sisters Clara (Harry) Tonner, Martha (Joe) Moser, Emma Isch, Mary Krummen, Bros. Neal Edington, Joe Aschliman, Henry Drayer.

During the past month we had provings and baptisms of three dear friends. Nova Steffen, Mary Dean Schladenhauffen, and Michael Meade. We are happy to hear that a few more friends have surrendered their hearts to the Lord.

Births: A son, Kip Michael, to Bro. and Sis. Michael Gerber; a daughter, Susan Yvonne, to Bro. and Sis. Charles Kaehr; a daughter, Angela Elise, to Bro. and Sis. Charles Frauhiger; a daughter, Kathy Luann, to Bro. and Sis. Walter Neuenschwander Jr.; a son, Kirt Allen, to Bro. and Sis. Robert Reimschisel; a son, Christopher John, to Bro. and Sis. John Steffen.

Parenthood

A tiny bundle warm and soft
Knocked at your heart's door;
You opened and took in love,
You never had known before.

And this great happiness that's
come
To bless you in your home,
Pray don't forget belongs to God;
He's merely made a loan.

I hope you prayerfully have
thanked
The Giver of all good,
For trusting to your tender care.
This bliss of parenthood.

BREMEN, INDIANA

**Ann Zimmer — Becky Feldman
For Whom You Cared**

The one for whom you cared
With such abiding love
Has found the wondrous shining
path

Up to the home above,
The home where joy forever dwells,
Where loved ones but await
For us to share their happiness,
Beyond the heavenly gate.

Sis. Matilda Hirstein, known to all of us as "Tillie", went to be with our Lord on Dec. 28. Her smiling presence has been missed already, as she was always among the first to church and, in spite of her age, was always ready to lend a helping hand during the lunch hour each Sunday. While here on earth, Tillie enjoyed singing praises to the Lord, and so we now rejoice that she can forever glorify Him with songs.

As this new year dawns, our hearts are encouraged and our faith is strengthened, for Ronnie and Connie Johnson have found peace and are awaiting baptism. Ronnie is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Jeanette Johnson.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Fannie Schieber — Jeanette Knapp

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield and Bro. Joe Zimmerman Jr. of Morton. We thank them for the words of wisdom; we wish we could retain all the good advice.

We have had quite a lot of sickness in our community, so much flu, and so many different kinds. Bros. Jake Miller and Harold Schieber were both at the Brokaw Hospital in Normal for surgery. Susan, infant daughter of Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Marjorie Knapp

was also a hospital patient for several days. We are glad they are all at their homes again and improving.

The day after Christmas, tragedy struck our Community. Friend Tracy Zimmerman was killed about 1 p.m. in a car accident. He was the son of Mahlon and Kathryn Ott Zimmerman of Congerville. He had one sister, Barbara, a student at Western College. Tracy was 18 and a senior at Eureka High School. Tracy always attended church and Bible class with his parents and sister. We will miss Tracy so much, and extend our heartfelt sympathy to all the family. Sis. Lillian Zimmerman of Morton is the grandmother and Sis. Mary Ott of Peoria is a great aunt. Bros. Fredrick Knapp, Joe Zimmerman Jr., Bob Grimm and Leroy Huber had charge of the funeral services.

A new year has started, and as we look back on 1968, we know we had some joys and some sorrows. We all wonder what 1969 has in store for us.

In January of 1968, 5 souls were baptized, a joy for us all.

Fifteen babies were born, seven boys and eight girls. They are all little joys, and we know our future church lies in the young folks of our church.

We had three deaths the past year. Bro. Fred Knapp Sr. in May, Friend Mike Miller in June, and Tracy in December, the old, the middle age, and the young; we had an example of each. We never know who will be next, just so we are all ready when our time comes.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Judith Aberle — Donna Hartzler

Saturday, Dec. 14, Paul Sabados Jr., son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary gave a testimony of his faith. Elder Bro. Joe Waibel was with us for the proving, and on Sunday for Paul's baptism. May God grant our new brother grace to live a life according to his faith and testimony.

Ben Maibach III and Barbara Smiley were united in marriage in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Dec. 21. The new couple is living in Lansing, where Ben is completing his education at Michigan State University.

On Sunday, Dec. 22, Bro. David Gasser and Sis. Gail Barton, daughter of Bro. James and Sis. Vi, were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Ben Maibach. Bro. David's parents, Bro. Arthur and Sis. Ber-

tha and other relatives attended from Rittman. We thank visiting Bro. Ben Hartzler for ministering to us.

We wish both newly-married couples God's richest blessings for a long and happy married life.

Our annual election of officers was held on Sunday, Jan. 5. Those elected to new offices were: Sunday School teachers—Bro. James Barton and Sis. Mary Guthrie; Trustees—Bros. Harve Bertsch and Ernest Weigele; Secretary—Sis. Linda Shaw; and Treasurer—Bro. Dan Knochel. May God grant them all needed grace to faithfully carry out their new duties.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen — Katie Kachelmuss

Our Sunday School Christmas Program was a time of rejoicing, when we heard in song and verse how the children told of the Saviour's birth. May God bless the teachers and all who took part in this work of love with our youth.

Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest visited on Christmas Day, and ministered unto us the holy word of God.

May God bless and inspire His servants ever,

His Gospel to proclaim, that prompted by His Spirit

They work and toil with merit, unto the glory of His name.

Sis. Luise Messerschmidt is hospitalized. May God be with all the sick wherever they are, at home, in hospitals, or rest homes, and may He give strength to all who care for the sick and the aged. There is much sickness all around the country.

Paul Kaptain, husband of Sis. Frances, and father of Sis. Phyllis, passed away at the age of 54 years. May God be a comfort to Frances and Phyllis in their sorrow.

Now that we have entered into a new year, our prayers would be that many dear souls would be added to the flock of Jesus, while He is yet to be found.

George Parsons, grandson of Bro. Albert and Sis. Julia Wewetzer, was home on a furlough, and has reported back to his camp in Ft. Riley, Kansas. It's always good to have them come home, but the time of departing comes so soon. It brings back to mind the song we sometimes sang when the boys would come home on furlough during World War II:

With friends on earth we meet in gladness
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the thought of sadness
That we must say "Good-by".

Sis. Lydianna Moser always enjoys and looks forward to the Christmas Season, when the carolers come. This year three groups came to her home. She wishes also to extend her thanks for cards, letters, flowers and other tokens of love.

At a recent meeting, we selected Bro. Robert (Bob) Greiner for a trustee, to take Bro. Clarence Dietrich's place, who now retires. May God be his help in his new duties.

FORREST, ILLINOIS

Martha Stoller

Carolyn Zimmerman

Our ministering brother, Joe Kaisner, was stricken with a severe heart attack on Dec. 11. He still remains in the Fairbury Hospital. However, we are encouraged to report that he was improved considerably. May he continue to gain in strength, so he can again soon assemble with us. His absence is keenly felt in our midst. Bro. Alvie Kilgus and George Bach were both recently hospitalized. They have returned to their homes. Sis. Kathryn Schneider had her ankle in a cast several weeks, following a fall on a stairway in her home. Hazel Karcher has her right hand in a cast. She fell in her home, breaking a bone in her wrist.

Funeral services for Sis. Martha Metz, 77, were held on Dec. 26. After an extended illness, which she bore patiently, we feel she deserves her rest. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Roy; five daughters, Mildred Allen, Sis. Mary Ann Plattner and Ruth Thiel, Forrest; Sis. Betty Nussbaum, Chatsworth, and Royalene Toombs, Urbana; two sons, Earl, and Ivan, Forrest; 24 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Gary Kupferschmid has given his heart to his Lord in repentance. We rejoice each time a new convert assembles with us.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Ricketts have named their new baby Brian Keith. They have two other children, Allen and Amy.

Bro. Dave Metz is assembling with us again. He has completed a series of therapy treatments at Denver, Colo. Dave feels some re-

lief from pain when walking and standing. Let us appreciate the portion of health granted us daily.

We were refreshed by the visits of the following ministers: Bros. Harvey Heiniger, Oakville; Robert Pohl, Burlington; Dave Wiegand, Champaign; Vernon Schwab, Walcott; Earl Kilgus, Remington; and Noah Schrock, Oakville. Thank you, brothers!

OUR CIRCLE

At this season, when each one must take accurate inventory of their gains and losses, we would like to apply this to "Our Circle", and take a yearly inventory of our congregation.

Ps. 35:9 tells us, ". . . my soul shall be joyful in the LORD. . . it shall rejoice in his salvation." We have added fourteen dear souls to our membership. Three dear souls, all sisters have gained their eternal goals. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

God has gifted 12 families with new babies. May each one be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, for God's word teaches us to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

We sincerely pray for God to continue to bless "Our Circle" in this coming year. May we strive to dwell together in spiritual unity.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Wanda Kraft—Marie Zaugg

Dec. 22, the Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program. It is always a special blessing to hear the children profess their love for Baby Jesus, to hear the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and to listen to the teenagers' voices blend in beautiful harmony.

We were richly blessed by the inspirational message (St. Luke Chapter 12) of our visiting minister, Bro. Earl Banwart of West Bend. This chapter contains a very timely admonition for all of us. Earl brought out the importance of spiritual rather than material possessions. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also". He likened our Christian walk of life to that of a driver in a blizzard. How very careful we must be to watch and pray, that we not slip. "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he com-

eth shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them."

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Dixie Stoller

As each year passes by, we can see more and more prophecies quickly being fulfilled, and as Bro. Joe Schrock reminded us, we know not when the end will come, but we do know the end is sure for all of us. If we hope to reach heaven's shore, then we must repent and follow our Lord and Saviour all the remaining days of our life.

Bro. Elmer Bucher of Francesville was so kind to travel a good distance and minister to us. We certainly appreciated his sincere message of love, and we were lifted in heart and spirit, as we could feel that God had made Himself known unto us.

Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield brought us our Christmas service message and helped us to recall the humble birth of our Saviour. There is a natural drive to want to understand spiritual things; if we don't believe that Christ was born of a virgin and that He died upon the cross, then two basics of our faith are lost. If we have the faith to believe in the miracles of Christ, then we should let it show in our lives. Bro. Grimm then read to us the following to summarize his message.

"One Solitary Life"

"He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that."

Following our Christmas service, the Prairie Choristers, led by Bro. Stan Hodel, sang several beautiful Christmas carols. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for their efforts, and hope they will soon return.

We had our annual Christmas caroling event before school was out, and gathered at Bro. Joe and Sis. Irene Schrock's for lunch. We

wish to thank them for having us, and for the many other kindnesses shown to us during the past year.

We wish to extend our best wishes and all of God's richest blessings to Sis. Barb Hodel and Bro. Mike Meece, who have announced their engagement.

JUNCTION, OHIO

Mrs. Ben Manz — Mrs. Alvin Manz
Hospitalized and released was Sis. Kathy Schlatter.

Virginia Manz, daughter of Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Ruth, having turned to the Lord, has now been announced. How thankful we are to have one soul added to the fold!

Our older Sunday School children and many from the church again went caroling this Christmas season. Places visited were: Autumn Manor Rest Home, Mr. and Mrs. John Slane (parents of Sis. Betty Manz), and Sis. Madeline Manz, who has been unable to attend services for much of the past year. Refreshments were served by the Richard Schlatter family.

Sunday School teachers elected for four-year terms were Bro. Richard Schlatter and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father." Let us give our prayers and support to the important work of Sunday School.

Bro. Ben Schlatter was re-elected trustee for a six-year term.

Bros. George Sinn and Loren Stoller were with us to read the memorandum and to give needed exhortations. Only three of our brethren were able to attend the Conference; however, the blessings therefrom are available to all obedient believers. We thank our elder brother for his labors now and throughout the year. One of our brothers raised the question, "Where would our church be if we had not had conferences over the years?"

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Henry Wackerle, Bay City; Bro. Eugene Fetter, Toledo.

Our college students were with us over the holidays, for which we are thankful. Bro. Don Manz attends Ohio State University at Mansfield; Bro. Dave Manz attends International College at Ft. Wayne (sons of Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn). Bro. Bill Schlatter attends General Motors Institute at Flint, Michi-

gan; Sis. Janet Schlatter attends Defiance College (son and daughters of Bro. Richard and Sis. Juliet). Bro. Sam Schlatter attends Defiance College; Sis. Betty and Lois Schlatter are in training at Toledo Hospital (son and daughters of Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther).

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Aaron A. Sauder

We start out this New Year by welcoming two "bundles from heaven". Mr. and Mrs. Walter Witschi became parents of a daughter, before the old year was quite over; on Dec. 28 little Sarah Jane arrived. The Witschis also have a son; Bro. Ted and Sis. Marie Witschi are the paternal grandparents. On Jan. 4 of this new year, Michelle Ann was born to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sauder; the Sauders also are the parents of a son. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Wilma Sauder, and great-grandparents, Bro. Will and Sis. Mary Sauder.

As seems to be the condition over much of our country, many have been absent from church services because of colds and flu. Those who have spent time in the hospital were Bro. Henry Sabo for tests and treatment, Sis. Ola Froelich for treatment, and Bro. Bob Sauder for flu. We pray the Lord will strengthen each one.

Note of thanks: I wish to thank all for their prayers and cards of good wishes while at the hospital. I'm sorry I did not get to finish my mailing list this year, but my Good Wishes and Blessings to all. Henry C. Sabo.

Soon this life will all be over
And our pilgrimage will end,
Soon we'll take our heav'nly journey,

Be at home again with friends.

On Sunday, Dec. 1, J. Menan Weil was with us for morning worship services; by the next Saturday evening, Dec. 7, his life was over. We shall all miss Duby, for with his cheery greeting and smile, his friendly personality endeared him to those of us who were fortunate to know him. Our love and sympathy is extended to his wife, who is our daughter, Louise Sauder Weil.

On Dec. 19, death also claimed Clarence Dawson, who had been in failing health for a number of months. We offer our sympathy to his wife, Marjorie Domka Dawson,

and his two sons, James and Edward T. Dawson.

Bro. Karl Oesch's mind had not always been too clear in these past few years, when the infirmities of advanced age often plagued him, but he always knew and expressed that he wanted "to go home." On Dec. 27, his wish was granted, and the Lord took him "Home." Born in Switzerland Jan. 28, 1884, Karl came to the United States as a young man and settled in Michigan, where he was a member of the Alto congregation. He moved his family to Mansfield in 1930, and has been an active and loving brother in our congregation. Regardless how his health had been during the past week, when Sunday came Bro. Karl wanted to come to church; his place was seldom vacant. We shall continue to feel his presence, even though the seat will be empty. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his family, Sis. Tillie Fuhrer Oesch, with whom he shared almost 55 years of marriage; his four sons, Ben Oesch of Rialto, Calif., Bro. John Oesch and Elmer Oesch of this area and Robert at home; six daughters, Sis. Ann Farney (Harvey) of Wichita, Rose Munson (William) of Mansfield, Sisters Edith Mayer (John) of Indianapolis, Emilie Went (Harold), Martha Oesch, and Helen Ramsier (Walter), all of the Mansfield area. Bro. Karl also had 41 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one sister, Elise Oesch, who is a deaconess nurse in Bern, Switzerland.

To all the above dear ones, whose sorrow is still so new and hard to bear, we would like to leave this promise found in Isaiah: For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, Fear not, I will help you.

LATTY, OHIO

Dolores Grant — Marguerite Stoller

We were privileged to hear the testimony of our dear friend, Kerry Lanz, son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Clare, who was then baptized and taken in to the fold on Dec. 15. Bro. Dave Bertsch from Leo conducted services. Due to the death of Sis. Ida Sinn, formerly from our congregation, sister of our elder, Bro. George Sinn, he was not able to be with us for proving and baptism.

Bro. Henry Wackerle, Bay City, ministered on the 8th of Dec. We are thankful for their efforts.

Those on the hospital list in December were: Timmy Gerber, infant son of Bro. Jack and Sis. Mary; Sis. Hilda Wenninger, who was admitted for surgery; and Bro. Delmar Stoller, hospitalized several days for tests. All are home and improving.

We have one birth to report, a son, Ross Eugene, born Dec. 16 to Larry and Charlotte Laukhuf, son and daughter-in-law of Sis. Betty Laukhuf.

The following note of thanks was submitted by Bro. Jesse Gerber—

I want to again thank everyone that remembered me in their prayers, and with cards, letters and gifts while in my stay in the hospital and while convalescing at home. God bless everyone. Thanks to God, I am now able to go in and out and can attend church services again.—Jesse Gerber

Yes, we too join in thanks to God that Bro. Jesse is able to assemble with us again. Bro. Jesse and Sis. Mary observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 22nd of Dec. A dinner was planned for them, and many guests attended. They want to express their thanks to all who remembered them on their special day. Guests from the furthest distance were Bro. Paul and Sis. Bertha Lanz from Rockville. They also were happy to be present at the baptism of their grandson, Kerry Lanz.

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Mary

By an elder brother

We wish to greet you in Christ's name,

For we know we all feel the same. Now we on your Golden Wedding day,

Remind you, Brother, that we did pray

That you could live with us a while, For you did prove to be God's child.

Now that God permits you to come and go,

We all rejoice to know it is so. So may we each one as God's Child Not complain when we have a trial. We are thankful God lets you rejoice again.

For thus it is in His great Plan. We only write you these few lines To be remembering former times. May we continue to share with each other

This pure love as Christ's brother.

Three more souls were announced to be taken into the fold in the near future. They are Emily Stoller, a daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis.

Laura; Elizabeth Dunham, daughter of Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura; and Portia Stoller, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Irene.

An old year has ended; a new year has begun. We see business places having clearance sales and inventory. We as Christians should take inventory of ourselves. We might find it necessary to have a spiritual clearance.

We wish to extend to all our readers a very Blessed New Year.

PULASKI, IOWA

Mrs. Dave Wiegand

Winter has really come. The ground is white, and the temperature is around zero.

Our Sunday School Christmas Program was held on Sunday, Dec. 15. The little children always look so happy, telling us the story of the **Babe in Bethlehem**. It is a story that never grows old.

We were happy to welcome Dale and Carol Strassheim into the fold as our new brother and sister in faith. May the Lord ever be near them in their new walk of life. Sis. Carol is the daughter of Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinckenberger from here.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Carol Schieler — Shirley Anliker

The students at Purdue have enjoyed a two-week Christmas vacation. All have returned and are now busy studying for semester exams next week, which will be followed by a week's vacation, as a semester break.

Second Semester Schedule: Feb. 5 — Remington; Feb. 19 — Ft. Wayne; Mar. 5 — La Crosse; Mar. 19 — Valparaiso; April 9 — Bluffton; April 23 — Milford; May 7 — Open; May 21 — Francesville.

SHIODA, JAPAN

Toshio Uchida

We greet all the brothers, sisters and friends in this new year with the wish and prayer that God will bless and guide each of us for His glory.

Christmas was a blessed time for us, with about 40 adults attending Christmas eve service at Shioda. Services were held at our Tamahata church on the evening of Christmas Day.

Sis. Nancy Roth of our Fairbury church plans to return to the U.S. the end of January, after having spent 2½ years teaching American elementary school and English Con-

versation in our school system at the Shioda church. We thank her very, very much and pray God's guidance will be upon her as she returns to the States, so that she can continue to serve our Lord faithfully and earnestly, and that our church might be strengthened in the Lord. She has been faithful and a good testimony while in Japan. Japan.

Sis. Marie Neihouser of Francesville will be coming to Japan to continue in the elementary school in place of Sis. Nancy Roth, and for this we are most grateful. However, we have some concern about next fall, when Sis. Nancy Schrock of Congerville will complete her two years in Japan and will be returning to the States. She is our kindergarten teacher, and we would like to ask each of you to help us find a suitable person to take her place in kindergarten. Bro. Willis Ehnle requests that anyone interested should please inform Bro. Ben Maibach through the local elder, for the consideration of the missionary committee.

We ask that all the brothers and sisters in the States pray for us in Japan and pray also that a sister can be found for our kindergarten.

Let us never cease to thank God for His abundant mercy toward us in Jesus Christ.

Translated by Willis R. Ehnle

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

**Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher**

Our visitors have been Bro. Perry Zimmerman—Forrest, Bro. Ben Maibach—Detroit.

The annual Christmas Program was held Dec. 18, with all classes from the Sunday School having a part. It was wonderful to hear the singing about the birth of our Lord.

Among the ill and in the hospital are: Bro. Lester Martin was in Brokaw Hospital about 3 weeks because of a broken leg. Bro. Ed Bitterner was a surgical patient in the Carle Clinic at Urbana. Douglas Zobrist, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol had his appendix removed at Eureka Hospital. Sis. Arlene Tanner had her appendix removed at Eureka Hospital.

We are all rejoicing with our new converts—They are as follows: Three sons of Bro. Fred and Sis. Emma Knecht and their wives—Ervin and Sandra Knecht, Ernest and Judy Knecht, Edward and

Judy Knecht; Jerry and Jane Schumacher (he is the son of Bro. Walter Schumacher), Shirley Getz, daughter of Bro. Emery and Sis. Mabel; and Jane Stoller, daughter of Sis. Clara (Stoller) Huber. May God grant grace, strength and courage to each, and perhaps many more will see the **Light** in this dark world and time.

Birth: A baby girl to Willis and Margaret (Farney) Hodel, born Dec. 15. She has been named Sally Beth, and has two brothers to **welcome**.

Death: The funeral for Bro. Arthur Hunziker, who passed away in Independence, Iowa, was held on Dec. 18 at our church. His burial was in Mackinaw Dells Cemetery. His wife was the former Dena Hartter. They were former residents of this locality. Bro. Uriel Gehring conducted the services.

Sis. Irene Hartter, age 52, passed away Jan. 4 at the Eureka Hospital, after being in the hospital for a week. She is survived by two brothers, Bro. Dan and Bro. Richard of Eureka; and six sisters, Sis. Salome, Sis. Emma and Sis. Corrine (who lived with her), Sis. Esther Tanner of Deer Creek, Ida Meinders of Roanoke, and Sis. Frieda Schaeffer of Tremont. Bro. Leroy Huber and Ed Hohulin conducted the funeral services, Jan. 6. May God comfort the family through His good word and Spirit, knowing that Sis. Irene had the hope of going to a better place.

The years that come, the years that go,
As volumes written plain
Are stored upon the shelf of time
Where memories remain.

Each year is like a little Book
With leaves and covers bound.
Our deeds and acts are written there;
The year's events are found.
Taken from **Henry Beer's Book**

BERN, KANSAS

Esther and Stella Moser

We have two joy bundles to report. On Dec. 20 Craig Eldon was born to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner. Two little sisters, Angela and Beth happily welcome him into the family circle. Bro. John and Sis. Marie Plattner—Sabetha, Bro. Danny and Sis. Dorothy Sinn—Ft. Scott are the grandparents. Dec. 29, Todd Allen Rokey was born to Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda. First

time grandparents all around are Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm, Sabetha. Sis. Elizabeth Marti, Sabetha is great-grandmother.

After living in Wichita the past 18 months, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and baby Camille have moved back to our community. We are happy to have them worship with us again.

Sorry to report, Gordon Grimm (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie) has received his orders for Vietnam. Our wish and prayers are for a safe return.

We gathered with Sabetha Christmas morning for services. Then, on New Years Sabetha gathered with us. We enjoyed a full house both times. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the Lord's house could be filled to capacity each Sunday. Our college students and all our service boys stationed in the States were home during the holidays. We also had many other visitors.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Ben Fehr—Roanoke, Bro. James Ramseyer—Bay City. Each left us much food for thought. We wish to thank them and extend a sincere invitation to come again. We thoroughly enjoyed Bro. Jim, Sis. Marlene, Beth, Debra and Wendy; to many of us, Jim and Marlene were no strangers, having spent many a week end with the Bern and Sabetha congregations when Jim was in service at Ft Riley.

1969 started out with a sad beginning, when it was made known Sis. Emma Strahm had passed away unexpectedly after a short illness. Emma was born to Bro. Ulrich and Sis. Elizabeth (Marti) Strahm on June 2, 1890 near Sabetha, and lived in the community all her life. Her life work was practical nursing, and she was always busy, right up until the day before she entered the hospital. As was brought out at the service, first she served her Lord, and second mankind. She leaves to mourn her passing her twin brother, Bro. Amos Strahm; two sisters, Sisters Rose Ulmer, Lizzie Strahm; nieces, nephews and a host of friends, as Emma never met a stranger. Our local ministers conducted services Jan. 4, with burial in the church cemetery among her parents, three brothers and a sister.

Song service has been discontinued in favor of Wed. evening services. We alternate with Sabetha. Everyone welcome, starting

time 7:30.

Dennis Esslinger, 14-year-old son of Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene is having more than his share of troubles. He had the misfortune to break a finger last fall, and only last month had the cast removed. Now on Jan. 9 he is to have hip surgery.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

Sis. Gloria Kaeb was united in marriage to Bro. David Wettstein of Gridley on Dec. 29. Both Sis. Gloria and Bro. David are school teachers and will be living in Peoria for the present time. May God bless them together as they claim His promise that, "... if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father . . ."

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Steffen repented and gave their testimonies, confessing peace with God, and baptismal services were held for them. May they "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Sis. Fannie Maurer has been hospitalized. We pray that she will have a speedy complete recovery, as God said the Lord Jesus "took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

Sis. Mary Hannie passed away at the age of 96. She had been residing with her daughter, Kathryn Schlipf, and was brought to Fairbury for burial.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus welcomed a new baby boy into their family circle, and named him Paul Matthew. Their family circle includes: Jeff, Kent, Todd, Ronda and Brenda.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA

Robert and Janice Sutter

We were privileged to have Bro. Roy Luginbuhl and his wife over the holidays. Bro. Roy had comforting words, when he exclaimed that the believer's heart need fall but once, and that is to the Son of God. Then if we walk in His footsteps our heart will never fall again.

Bro. John and Sis. Ann Wagler also paid us a visit on their way to the Island of Haiti. We wish them the Lord's blessing and guidance.

FT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Wendell Anliker

While certain men have more wealth, talent or education than

others, have you ever thought of the fact that we are all equal in regard to the amount of time allotted to us each year? How we will use our time during 1969 is of utmost importance. The Bible frequently reminds us that we must be especially conscientious as to how we spend our measured hours on earth. We are to fill this life with praise to God and with loving service for others.

Rather than aimlessly counting the days, we must make the days count!

And now, before Thine altar, Lord,
I face the year to be,
And as Thy child I dedicate
Its unborn days to Thee!

Bros. Merle Rocke, Dale Strassheim, and Steve Bucher got orders for permanent party here at Ft. Sam. Merle is staying at the church apartment, and Dale and Steve are living with their wives.

We welcome into our fold Bro. John Klopfenstein from Leo and Bro. Steve Roth from Fairbury, who were inducted into the service Dec. 2. We trust that God will be with them throughout their many trials and temptations while in the service.

A little bundle of joy and happiness arrived in the home of Lonnie and Candy Kupferschmid Dec. 5, when they were blessed with a little girl named Kimberly Ann. Lonnie's parents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Laura Kupferschmid were down to visit them, Dec. 24 till the 31.

On Dec. 8 we were richly blessed when Bro. Roy Ehnle from Bradford expounded God's precious word unto us. Bro. Roy's wife, Sis. Donna, and Bro. Larry Endress came with him.

All the brothers and friends here at Ft. Sam enjoyed being reunited with our loved ones again, especially during this holiday season and thank the Lord for leading us safely back to our duty.

Our apartment address is: 504 Elmhurst Apt. 4, San Antonio Texas 78209. Tel. No. 824-9803. We ask if anyone is drafted, to please feel free to send any civilian clothes to this address, and also to write us before your entering the service.

FT. WAYNE, INDIANA

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber
Our hearty greetings to all, and

a special prayer for God's richest blessings and your happiness all through this New Year.

From a Christmas Greeting comes this message:

Lord, make me an instrument of thy PEACE. Where there is hatred, let me sow LOVE; Where there is injury—PARDON; Where there is doubt—FAITH; Where there is despair—HOPE; Where there is darkness—LIGHT; Where there is sadness—JOY.

We are ever thankful for the visits and messages of our dear ones, and we were surely blessed by the messages of Elder Bros. Sam Aeschliman and John Yergler of Bluffton on Dec. 8. At the close of the services, Bro. Sam announced he was turning the eldership of our church over to Bro. John Yergler, due to his health. Surely we have appreciated his love and kindness, and are ever thankful for his services to us during the formative and early years of our church. May God richly bless him; may it be our heart's desire, and may Bro. John feel our full support, as he serves us as our elder. On Wed. evening of that week, Bros. Sam and John were again with us to share the report of the conference. May we be obedient children.

Sis. Ida Sinn passed away at her home on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 12, following a lingering illness. Funeral services were conducted Dec. 15 by Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman and Bro. Robert Meyer of Bluffton. Our sympathy is extended to her family, and especially to her sisters in our congregation. Sisters Katherine Stoller, Louise Sinn, Sophia Sinn and Clara Stoller. The family wish to express their thanks and appreciation to all who remembered them in any way during the illness and death of their dear one. We know she is greatly missed by the family, but her cheerful, friendly nature is a great loss in our fellowship too!

We have enjoyed having our college students assemble with us over the holidays, for it is always a pleasure to meet them. Dave Levy and Bro. and Sis. Edwin and Cindy Stoller spent furloughs with their families and friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with our service boys. Bro. Bill Steffen returned to his home Dec. 24, having had his

induction cancelled, and a medical separation given him.

Our Christmas Program was presented by the children on the Sunday evening before Christmas. We were reminded that Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good-will, to be plenteous in mercy is to have the real Christmas spirit.

We thank Elder Bro. David Bertsch of Leo for so willingly serving on Christmas Day in the absence of both our own ministers, due to the flu. May God be his rich rewarder.

Hospitalized were Neil Stoller, surgical and Bro. Lester Pulver, medical.

Our annual business meeting was held on New Years Day, following New Year's services.

New address for the Ken Honegggers is 295 Home Street, Huntington Ind. 46750.

LAMONT, KANSAS

Mrs. Stephen G. Schrader

A new year has dawned, and with it comes the feeling that we must press on toward our heavenly goal. Another year and another milestone has been reached.

Among our visitors was Bro. Alphia Strahm Jr. of Bern, who ministered unto us. He was accompanied by his wife, Sis. Mamie and his parents. Bro. and Sis. Alphia Strahm Sr.

Sis. Clara Ott has been a hospital patient, but is once again at home. We hope she can assemble with us soon.

Sis. Dena Fechter has moved to Phoenix for the winter. We hope her condition will improve. Her address is 802 East Keim, Apt. 3, Phoenix Ariz. 85014.

It was our privilege to enjoy a Christmas program put on by the three Sunday School classes. The songs and readings were edifying, coming from our youth, the hope for our church of tomorrow.

Our annual church meeting was held Jan. 5. The present Sunday School teachers were re-elected. They are: Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Glen Anliker; Intermediate Class, Sis. Dena Emch; and Primary Class, Sis. Betty Wernli.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA.

Mrs. Gus Weltz
Miss Della Witschey

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Church Cemetery Associ-

ation was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Weltz, on Monday evening Jan. 6. Despite the bad weather, a goodly number were present. Plans were made to have services at the country church on June 29 1969. Delbert Indermuhle will secure a guest speaker for the day, and further announcements will be made in May.

Jess H. Rothlisberger, a well-known citizen, passed away on Dec. 21 after a two-year illness. Services were held on Jan. 24.

Leslie E. Anthony, 77, passed away on Dec. 28 following a lengthy illness. Services were held on Dec. 31.

Charles E. Frayer, husband of Lena Widmer Frayer, died on Jan. 4, following a brief illness. Services were held on Jan. 7. Mrs. Frayer has been very ill also and feels her loss very keenly.

The family of Mrs. Elizabeth Riggenbach Isinghood gathered in her home on Dec. 24 to celebrate her 86th birthday. She is enjoying fairly good health and continues to keep house for her son and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Verda Fankhouser of Easton, Md., spent the holidays here with the Witschey families.

Paul Berger retired from the Scott Lumber Company on Dec. 31, after working for the company for 27 years. He and his wife Gail will continue to live in their home in Rolling Acres and enjoy his retirement.

W. E. Durig enjoyed a trip to Phoenix, having earned the trip through his efforts and association with the soil conservation of West Virginia. The trip was made by plane, and while he enjoyed the beauties of the various states enroute, he still prefers West Virginia, snow, sleet, etc.

Walter Emch is a patient again in the local hospital, and remains as usual. He was in a rest home, but illness forced his return to the hospital.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Joan Getz — Mrs. Ken Getz

We were very thankful for the words of love of our visiting ministers, Bros. Jim Hoerr, Joe Stoller and Nathan Stoller.

Bro. Roy Sauder held funeral services for Theodore (Ted) Rapp, son of the late Bro. Matthew and Sis. Mary (Getz) Rapp, on Dec. 9.

With the flu prevailing throughout the country, there has been much sickness in our congregation.

Many of our loved ones are in the hospital. Bro. Kenneth Kaiser and Sis. Mary (Aupperle) Roecker have both had surgery. Bro. Roger Belsley suffered broken ribs and face lacerations, when a car hit his, on his way to work. Sis. Mary (Ackerman) Jacob is very thankful to be home, after having surgery. We are very happy to hear that Sis. Hilda (Waibel) Roth is recuperating at Restmor. May we remember all the sick in our prayers.

Sis. Mary (Voepel) Alt, who has been a patient at Restmor for many years, has gone to her rest. Funeral services were held on Sunday, Dec. 29.

RITTMAN, OHIO

Florence Hartzler

Elma Stoller

1969! Another year has dawned. Let us show a little more love to each other during this coming year. The 13th Chapter of 1st Corinthians was read, and an "abundance of love" was received by all who attended the New Year Services. At the close of services, we sang hymn No. 37, "Love of all gifts is the greatest, which the spirit does bestow; though I had a voice like angels, lacking love I truly know that I'd be a tinkling cymbal, or a wretched sounding brass; for although the sound were present, lifeless through this life I'd pass."

We have three births to report, and they are all boys. Dan and Breda Saurers' new son is named Douglas Scott. Greg welcomed his new brother, too. Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Ruth Steiner are parents of a boy named Rodney William. Robin and Rochell were delighted with their new brother. Bro. Darrell and Sis. Janet Indermuhle have a new son, born Dec. 31 and named Scott David, welcomed by Dennis, Neil, and Darlene. We wish many blessings to these families and their new members.

Surgical patients were Bro. Forest Hartzler, Sis. Elda Gasser; Sis. Elma Stoller and Max Miller were patients too for a few days. Sis. Elda is still confined to the hospital, after major surgery, and is reported as somewhat improved. Son Jim has arrived home from Germany for a 30-day furlough. Our prayers and thoughts are with this dear sister and her family.

It was good to see some of our loved ones home for the holidays.

Among those we saw Mark and Micky Steiner, home from the service. They are sons of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora.

As this is the beginning of another year, it is also the beginning of a new term for the trustees and ushers. Bro. George Riggenbach's term as trustee was now given to Bro. Melvin Beery. Bro. Everett Beery was relieved as usher, and Bro. John Riggenbach took his place.

The New Year

The years that come, the years that go, as volumes written plain, Are stored upon the shelf of time where memories remain.

Each year is like a little book with leaves and covers bound.

Our deeds and acts are written there; the year's events are found.

The great Librarian keeps the books; our records are all true. And from the pages written plain our lives we may review.

To childhood days our thoughts return; there memories abound.

The life once free from care and toil within these books are found. Within these books of youth we find that toil and cares increase; The doubting heart and wavering mind—Yea less of joy and peace.

Our youth is filled with joy and mirth, and lest we would forget, The books record our wayward life; there's much we do regret.

When manhood days come into view, our strength will scarce suffice

To give us courage, purpose true in trials, toil and strife . . .

And then the year eventful came, most precious to achieve;

The record of the past events was all removed by grace.

He then a book with pages fair within our hearts did place.

We trust that He may now record some deeds of truth and light!

May goodness in our life abound to make the pages bright.

He knows the weakness of our frame, our failings all—no less . . .

And for His love and mercy's sake our hearts' book He will bless.

When once the Records all are made, though few our deeds may be,

If to my own these deeds you've done, you've done it unto me.

This year will come, the grand New Year; no bound shall mark its days.

Eternal life by merits won, we'll join in endless praise.

SABETHA, KANSAS**Mrs. Joe Steiner****Reported by Janice Wysong**

We have had several visiting ministers. Bro. Al Langhofer and his family of Wichita spent the week end of Dec. 15 with us. On Saturday evening, after having a potluck supper at the Fellowship Center, Bro. Al showed slides of his recent trip to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Two brothers from our vicinity, Bro. Emil Strahm of Bern and Bro. Ben Aberle made the trip with Bro. Al and helped with the narration of the pictures. We also enjoyed his ministry on Sunday.

On Dec. 29, Bro. James Ramseyer of Bay City ministered to us. Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene made Sabetha their church several years ago, when Bro. Jim was in service, stationed at Ft. Riley. We always enjoy having their family come back to visit.

Bro. Ben Fehr and his family of Roanoke spent the week end of Jan. 4-5 with us. On Sat. evening his daughter, Sis. Chris was honored with a bridal shower at the Fellowship Center. She will be married to Bro. Bob Hartter on Jan. 19. We appreciated hearing Bro. Ben minister to us on Sunday morning.

The third grandchild of Bro. John and Sis. Marie Plattner, Craig Eldon, was born to Bro. Eldon and Sis. Waneta Plattner. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm also became grandparents on Dec. 29, with the birth of Todd Allen to Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held on Dec. 22. Pieces were recited by the young children, and Christmas hymns were sung by the older classes.

The high school age Sunday School classes from Sabetha and Bern met and went Christmas caroling on Dec. 23. They called at the local hospital, the home for the aged, and several shut-ins, before going to the Fellowship Center to enjoy refreshments and visiting.

Sis. Mildred (Walter) Strahm underwent major surgery at the Sabetha Hospital and is recovering satisfactorily. Sis. Mary Aberle, who celebrated her 88th birthday in October, is also a hospital patient.

We are happy to have Sis. Bessie Elliott assemble with us again, after convalescing for quite some time with a broken hip.

The Bern congregation assembled with us for Christmas morning services, and on New Year's Day services were held at Bern.

Mid-week services, held on Wed. evenings from the first of the year until Easter, will start on Jan. 8 at the Sabetha church. We alternate with the Bern church, and meet together each Wed. evening at 7:30.

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

The Christmas program was presented and enjoyed by those in attendance. The program concluded by the singing of "Joy to the World" by the whole Sunday School.

That evening, Dec. 22, the Bible Classes, teachers and many others sang carols at the hospitals and rest homes. After the caroling they went to Bro. Norman Haerr's home for refreshments, ending a day of thanksgiving and praise to our Lord for the gift to us of His only begotten Son.

Vicky Sue, daughter of Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter had two wisdom teeth removed by surgery. There has been a lot of flu around, but so far no one has been seriously ill.

We are so glad to report that Marcia Sutter has turned to the Lord in repentance. She is the daughter of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie Sutter.

Karen Yackley spent the holidays with her parents, the Bro. Perry Yackleys. She attends KSTC at Kirksville, Mo. Sis. Edra Gerst, daughter of Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sarah Gerst of Oakville spent her vacation with her parents and has returned to continue her studies at Blessing School of Nursing. She is now staying with her aunt, Sis. Elizabeth Sutter.

Sis. Judy Wirtz of West Bend, who is taking 12 weeks of psychiatric training at St. Louis State Hospital in connection with nurse's training, spent the week-end with Sis. Edra Gerst.

On Sunday, Jan. 5, our Elder Bro. Noah Schrock and his wife, Sis. Hattie were here. We enjoyed the blessings of holy communion and were reminded of the importance of what the Lord has done for us.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the Vernon Huber family, in the sudden death of Judy's father, Bro. Ezra Birkey of the Morton church.

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and remembering us with cards, letters and gifts since our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Bro. Eli Sutter went to be with the Lord. May He bless you for your love and kindness.

The following poem was on one of the cards received.

Sometime

If we could push ajar the gates of life
And stand within and all God's workings see,
We could interpret all this doubt and strife,
And for each mystery find a ready key.

But not today. Then be content, sad heart!
God's plans, like lilies, pure and white unfold.
We must not tear the close-shut leaves apart . . .
Time will reveal the calyxes of gold.

And if, through patient toil, we reach the land
Where tired feet, with sandals loosed, may rest,
When we shall clearly see and understand,
I think that we shall say, "God knew the best."

VALPARAISO, INDIANA**Mrs. W. A. Jacobs****Mrs. H. G. Bucher**

We are grateful for Bro. Edwin Ringger's labor and love, also many visitors from Gridley Ill, including twelve converts (during the month of December). We rejoice that the Lord is still calling souls to repentance; we pray that God will grant them grace in their new walk of life. We served dinner at the church, following the services; the converts sang hymns in which we all joined. Truly we had a blessed day and wish them all back.

I tell myself it's Christ alone
Who makes my life worth living,
And when I cross the narrow ridge,
He'll be there all forgiving.

But this thought never scares me,
Because He welcomes there
All who know and claim Him,
As their Saviour here.

What happens when our souls depart,

And where do they really go?
To Christ, or to the devil?
Depends who owns your soul.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A. Banwart

We are reminded to use the words, **The Lord willing** when speaking of plans we have made, as the elements of the weather caused many of us to make alterations in our holiday plans. Travel was hampered despite man's inventions, as icy winds blew snow into drifts over ice-covered streets and roads. How much more sincere is our thankfulness for our daily food, clothing and shelter when storms are raging without.

As we enter a new year and review all the blessings of a bountiful spiritual and material harvest, our hearts overflow with thankfulness. May our prayers be for those less fortunate.

Our sick this past month include: Sis. Kathy, wife of Bro. Wayne Fehr, has recovered satisfactorily from a tonsillectomy. Bro. Noah Anliker remains in the hospital, but is greatly improved. Marcia, 18-month-old daughter of Fred Jr. and Joann Traub, is home and getting along fine, after being hospitalized from a fall. Sis. Anna Anliker has been confined to her home for some time. We hope her health can improve, so she can assemble with us soon. As with all shut-ins, mail is appreciated. Sis. Anna's address is just West Bend Ia 50597.

Word has just been received that Ray Freiden passed away. He had been transferred from the hospital in Emmetsburg to the one at Iowa City. Ray Arthur Frieden, son of George and Minnie Marti Frieden, was born July 23, 1915 at Lamar, where he grew up and received his education. In 1940 he married Mariam Banwart; they have farmed in the West Bend and Ottosen community since 1940. Surviving are his wife, Mariam; two sons, Jay of Revere Mass. and Terry of Biloxi Miss.; a daughter, Nancy at home; one grandson; four brothers, Fred, George Jr., Virgil, all of Lamar, Roy of Wheatfield, Ind.; two sisters, Mrs. Herbert Parkieson, Liberal, Mo., and Mrs. Arlene Gastel, Nevada, Mo.

The engagement of Bro. Duane Metzger and Sis. Elizabeth Rocke of Oakville has been announced. May the Lord bless their undertaking.

FRANCESVILLE, INDIANA

**Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich**

Our Cup ran over in December. We had five more Lambs added to our flock. They were William Stefan Jr., Jerry Gutwein (Harold), Brian and Cindy Huber (Wayne), and Wanda Huber (Eugene). The elders that were so willing to come to us were—John Bahler, Noah Bauman, Rudolph Graf and Joe Waibel. One elder asked one of our lambs if they were humble. The answer was, "I am humble, but could still be more". This answer was so touching, as it is fine if we still want to improve . . . So we certainly do wish that these lambs will have many green pastures to partake of.

Another thing that humbled us so was one of the elders said, "I do greatly enjoy this fellowship here," and "We must learn to have much patience".

An elder was talking about giving for the Handicapped Home, and he said, "This is the joy the rich man did not have, The Joy of Giving."

We are thankful that Bro. George Erb and Sis. Lois Yaggie can assemble with us again, after their hospital care.

God quietly took the mother of our dear Sis. Zura Streitmatter. The grandchildren always talked so good of their grandmother, which is always a Christian's joy.

In one of our minister's prayers, he was with Bro. Philip Wingeier, of the Alto church, who has much patience, peace and love. They need our prayers.

Now in closing—an older member was asked "If you could live your life over, what would you change?" The answer was, "I would strive to show more love. Love is like cream on the milk."

GOODFIELD, ILLINOIS

Elna Grimm

"Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee . . . for we be brethren." **Our Circle** . . . How truly well this describes the **endless** love which is perpetuated by the body of Christ. Our little circle in Goodfield was enlarged just before Christmas, as Sam Scheiler and Loretta Hess were added to the fold. At Christmas-time . . . what a beautiful time to be reborn, when men are busy exercising and distributing that extra bit of love among each other!

It was inspiring to listen to these souls profess their love for the Lord and His people. It was humiliating to hear them testify that it was the love of the congregation that spurred them on . . . For again, surely **such** love can only be God-given. Our hearts were stirred as we joined in the prayer with our shepherd, Bro. Ed Hohulin. His deep concern for the flock and for these dear new converts is contagious. It causes us to tremble and to search that we might do more for one another, and clasp more tightly each hand of those in our circle. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" . . . "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it . . ."

We rejoice with our friend Jesse Hunziker, who has been recently announced for proving and baptism, the Lord willing.

The engagement of Bro. Mike Meece, son of Eloise Meece, was announced to Sis. Barbara Hodel, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Stanley Hodel of Roanoke.

Little Renee Lynn was born on Dec. 10 to Bro. and Sis. Glenn and Beverly Joos. Bro. and Sis. Howard and Vera Heinold are the maternal grandparents; Bro. and Sis. Bill and Clem Joos are the paternal grandparents. Sis. Katie Heinold is the maternal great-grandmother, and Bro. Will Knapp is the paternal great-grandfather. They are all of our congregation. Bro. and Sis. Richard and Verna Hartter were blessed with a little girl on Jan. 4. They have named her Beth Ann. She is welcomed home by three brothers and two sisters.

Bro. Marvin Schmidgall from Eureka was our visiting minister. We are grateful for the message which he brought to us. Bro. Leroy Huber was with us on Sat. evening Dec. 14 to assist with the provings.

It was good to see so many young folks on Sun. Dec. 8, as our Bible Class hosted the Wolcott and Remington Bible Classes. We like to see our young folks get to know each other and enjoy each other . . . for in them, we see our future church.

Those hospitalized have been Sis. Laura Hohulin, Sis. Freida Grusy, and Sis. Hannah Nohl. Many others have been quite ill with flu and various ailments. "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the LORD

hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted."

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held on Sunday evening Dec. 15. It was a very nice program, and in observing it we were given a chance to see what our Sunday School teachers are doing, and how well they are performing their tasks. It is so easy to take things for granted, but we do wish that our teachers know how very much we love them, and appreciate the many many hours they devote to our children.

LAMAR, MISSOURI

Marie Marti

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Moses went up into the mountain, and God gave him the fundamental principles called the "Ten Commandments"—ten laws for the guidance of the Hebrew people. **God must be in the center of things or they won't go well.**

We extend our sympathy to the Ray Frieden family. May God comfort his loved ones as only He can do. Ray grew to manhood on a farm near Lamar and attended church and Sunday School in our little country church. How vividly we recall sitting on the long wooden benches across the table from Ray's father, the late Bro. George Frieden, as he led the singing during the noon hour following lunch and just preceding the Sunday School lesson. Ray sat among us. What a joyous and blessed time that was. Words from one of the songs that still clearly remain in my memory was from the German song, "Do you hear the bells? They chime so beautifully." It was one of our favorite songs. We loved the words and the melody.

Louisa Rentsch has again been hospitalized for medical attention.

Sis. Dorothy Schneider, who was visiting a brother in Lamar, had the misfortune of falling and fracturing her shoulder. She has been confined to the hospital for a number of weeks. She wishes to express her sincere thanks and appreciation to her many friends for their blessed kindnesses, which have brightened the long days for her in the hospital.

ALTO, MICHIGAN

Loretta Steffen

Bro. Loren Stoller of Latty was our visiting minister. We are thankful for his visit, and pray the

Lord will bless his efforts.

In summarizing the yearly events, we find there were 3 funerals, 2 babies, and 2 new families were welcomed by our congregation. There were 3 weddings of friends at Alto.

Tim Steffen, son of Sis. Helen, was driving to church one Sunday morning and was totally astonished to see a large deer bound directly in front of the car. There was quite an impact, but Tim and his passengers were uninjured. Only the deer lost its life.

Speaking of wildlife, Michigan is quite a place! From our kitchen window we watch a small band of wild turkeys nearly every day.

They are huge birds with legs half their height, and are almost completely black. Whenever they become frightened, they fly to the treetops with the greatest ease.

We can usually tell when the next big snowstorm is on its way, because the turkeys spend most of the day searching for corn in the field near our house.

Each time we watch them I am reminded of the precious passage in the Holy Scripture, Matthew 6:25-34.

... Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ...

... Be therefore not anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow will be anxious for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is its own evil.

BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Delores Duckworth

Martha Kieser

I love winter, for it covers o'er
Dark places of the earth;
The snow so soft and pure
Seems to give new faith, new birth.

As we look out of the window today, everything is covered with snow. How beautiful it is, making everything look clean and pure! Our sins can also be covered and our hearts made white as snow, if we but turn to our dear Saviour for help. As we begin this new year, let us examine our own life and see what resolutions should be made—to serve our God better.

We have been richly blessed with the visits of Bros. Eli Somerhalder, Burlington, Okla., and Nathan

Steffen, Elgin, for midweek services, and Bro. Clifford Grimm, West Bend, on Christmas Day.

Bro. Herman Dietz has returned home from Rochester and is able to be among us again. Sis. Emma (Clarence) Knobloch had surgery and is now home, convalescing nicely. We are thankful that Randy Stisser, son of Bro. Lorie and Sis. Lottie, escaped with only minor injuries from a car accident. We truly do not know what lies before us, even in the next minute. The important thing is that we can be prepared at any time to meet our God.

A boy, Robert Daniel, was born to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser on Dec. 13. Barbara, Joey, and Mary Ann welcome their little brother home. Sis. Emma Moser, formerly of Elgin, Ill. but now living in Phoenix, and Bro. Sam and Sis. Lucille Kieser are the grandparents.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held Dec. 22. How the dear children try to do their best, speaking and singing about Jesus' wonderful birthday! May we also try to do our best for Jesus!

At last it is all over . . . And the new year on its way . . . The Christmas rush a memory now . . . Of a fond and happy day . . . But wouldn't it be wonderful . . . If we could keep Christmas cheer . . . Around us in our lives . . . Throughout each day this year . . . If we could only keep in mind . . . The reason for that day . . . And thank God every single night . . . For the love He sent our way . . .

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

We were fortunate to have visiting ministers in our midst. On Dec. 15, Bro. Walter Anliker and family of Eureka were with us, and on Jan. 5 Bro. Roy Wieland of Bay City visited us. We are thankful to God for the blessings of fellowship and spiritual teachings which were given in abundance.

The story of the birth of Christ was presented to us very effectively by our Sunday School children on the evening of Dec. 18.

On New Year's evening, many of our congregation gathered together for supper and song service at the church. We were happy to have with us our friends, Phil and Janice Webber, formerly of Chicago, who now live in Philadelphia.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS**Lydia and Eunice Kammerer**

Our annual Christmas program was given on Dec. 22 by all of the Sunday School classes. It is inspiring to listen to the innocent little ones giving their message of the birth of our Saviour.

Rose Aupperle, who has been ill for many months, passed away in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka. We are glad for Rose that she found peace with her Lord and Saviour during her illness.

Bro. Lyle Wettstein and Sis. Lynda Klim were united in Holy Matrimony in Peoria Dec. 19. Bro. David Wettstein and Sis. Gloria Kaeb were united in marriage at Fairbury on Dec. 29.

Friend Gladys Foar was announced for proving in the near future. She is the daughter of Bro. Henry and Sis. Emma Ringger.

Sis. Grace Kiefer has been dismissed from Mennonite Hospital, and entered the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

Due to the flu epidemic, their were many missing from our congregation . . . Happy to say, most everyone has recovered, able to be out again.

Our congregation extends sympathy to Sis. Louise Mae and Bro. Richard Kiefer, in the sudden death of her father, Bro. Ezra Birkey, Morton. Our congregation extends sympathy to the family of our dear Sis. Mary Hannie, who passed away after a long illness. Sis. Mary attended our congregation when the weather was permissible. She made her home with her daughter, Kathryn Schlipf, Bloomington Ill.

Vickie Hodel, student nurse and daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Jean Hodel, is affiliating in Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago.

LANDERSVILLE, ALABAMA**R. R. 1, Moulton, Alabama****Billie Jo Harville**

We are glad to welcome the new year. It comes with hope and cheer, with needed blessing for the year to bless our hearts, home and lands.

Our Sunday School children gave an interesting Christmas program on the birth of our Lord Jesus, on Sunday morning before Christmas.

A group from our church met at the nursing home in Moulton to sing Christmas carols. It is nice to share the Christmas season with others.

Our three churches in Alabama met at Hillsboro Church New

Year's Eve for worship service. Refreshments were served to everyone. We all joined in praying the old year out and the new year in.

May 1969 be the most successful year you ever had. May you prosper in all you do for God's glory.

LEO, INDIANA**Mrs. Elias Souder**

Home for Christmas were Joyce Schlatter and Terrill Stoller. Both are back in school. John Klopfenstein was home for Christmas, and is back in Texas.

Maurice Frank conducted our Christmas church service Christmas morning. He was accompanied by his family. We also had church service New Year's Day forenoon.

One of the Rest Homes we visit has been quarantined because of the flu. One of our dear ones passed away. The flu has been very prevalent here.

David Lantz and Oliver Stieglitz spent several days in Kentucky with the orphanage there.

We wish to thank our many friends, relatives and brethren for the lovely cards, gifts and prayers since our accident. We cannot thank Him enough for His wondrous healing. George, Elizabeth and Imogene Stieglitz.

LESTER, IOWA**Emelie Knobloch**

" . . . the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." ". . . whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him." Let this be our eternal reward or goal. May we strive for this as we again reach into the new year, and be fishers of men, as Bro. Fred Grimm related in his message.

Announcement of the engagement of Bro. Jacob Metzger and Sis. Donna Dell Moser was made known.

Births: To Bro. and Sis. Alfred Knobloch, a son, Nov. 27, Cameron Micheal; Mr. and Mrs. James Metzger, a son, Clint Edward, Nov. 30.

Bro. Alfred Feucht is recuperating from an appendectomy. Bro. Jacob Metzger has been able to gather with us.

Sis. Martha Wiese was seriously hurt with a conventional washer. We can only be thankful her suffering was not of a long duration. She is deeply missed by her rela-

tives and friends, known to all the children as "Aunt Martha".

All who knew her will have good memories of her kindness. She now has gone to meet her Maker.

We had over 20 inches of snow the Sunday before Christmas. As I write the news, we had rain and everything is very slippery. Due to the weather, our annual program was cancelled until the Sunday after Christmas. The words and songs proclaiming the birth of the Saviour always refreshes us.

A group of folks carolled for the old folks, ill, and those that suffered the loss of a loved one during the past year.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Metzger were on furlough from Ft Sam. Gary Feucht was home on leave from the Navy. Dan Moser returned to the naval school at Memphis.

Betty ter Wee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garret ter Wee, and Jim Leuthold, son of Bro. and Sis. Arthur Leuthold have announced their engagement and plan a March wedding. Beth Ann Moser, daughter of Sis. Donna Dell Moser and Gary Metzger, son of Bro. and Sis. Elmer Metzger have announced their engagement.

Virgil Metzger had the misfortune of dislocating his shoulder in a fall, so has it in a sling. Bro. Ed Gerber is hospitalized at Le Mars, Ia., undergoing tests. We wish the ill a speedy recovery and may the Lord be their comforter.

Births: To Bro. and Sis. Alfred Knobloch, a son, Nov. 27, Cameron Michael; to Mr. and Mrs. Larry Knobloch, a daughter, Valerie Leigh, Nov. 14; to Mr. and Mrs. James Gerber, a son, Jon Anthony, Nov. 14.

Bro. Leo Moser expounded on the gospel and the two destinies, the eternal reward on high, or destruction.

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA**Marcelle Dapper — Jan Elsasser**

I'm sure we can recall blessings of the past year and can even think of our failures. However, the words of Psalm 121:8 should be a great comfort to every Christian: "The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." We were reminded at the close of our worship on Jan. 5, now that the old year is past and we approach the new year, this is a good time to take inventory of our own spiritual life to see how we, as an individual,

stand before God. Could we at this time in our life say as the apostle Paul that we have fought a good fight and have kept the faith? We intercede for God's blessings upon you in the forthcoming year.

Our aged Sis. Rose Eigner passed away in a convalescent hospital in El Monte, Calif. She originally came from Toledo, and reached the age of about 89.

Our ministering Bro. John Dapper returned to the hospital for a short time, but has now been released and is back to work. We thank God for granting him measurable health.

Many gathered for our annual Sunday School Christmas Program, which was held Dec. 15. It always touches us to see the innocent children so sincerely tell the story of Christ's birth.

Dec. 15 was a happy day for the Fred Erhart family, as their son Johnny returned home from Viet Nam and has been released from the service. We thank God for returning him safely home.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Baer family in the loss of their brother, Reuben, who passed away Dec. 20. He had lived here in California since May 1968 and spent the past several months in a convalescent hospital. His two sisters, Sis. Marie (Mrs. Reuben) Farney and Sis. Frieda (Mrs. Bill) Minger are living here in California, and he has several brothers and sisters living in Illinois. Bro. Herman Baer of Edelstein and Mrs. Lydia (Baer) Hautter of Morton flew in from Illinois for the funeral. We pray that God will comfort the dear family in their sorrow.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

Our friend, Fred Wuthrich passed away Dec. 26 at the age of sixty-five. He died of a heart attack at his home, east of Milford. He is survived by his wife, the former Bertha Smith, and three brothers, Walter and John of Milford, and Eli of Morton. Fred was a regular attender of our church services, and he had many friends among us. We miss him very much, and our sympathy is extended to his family.

Bro. Don Beer had major surgery at Elkhart Hospital. He has been dismissed and is making a satisfactory recovery at his home.

My husband, Bob, was also hos-

pitalized for major surgery. His recovery time was lengthened by a return trip to the hospital over the Christmas holidays, but he has been making satisfactory progress since then. Don and Bob are badly needed by their families, and we thank God for competent doctors and answered prayer.

Sis. Rose Haab has been through a series of treatments at South Bend, which are now completed. She is able to be home, where she is being cared for by members of her loving family. We miss her in church and are looking forward to seeing her with us soon again.

Tom Speicher, son of Bro. Lew and Sis. Mim was involved in a one-car accident, which resulted in hospitalization. A mild concussion and neck injuries are keeping him at home, but he is recovering satisfactorily. His mother will be entering the hospital for minor surgery. Our prayers go with her, as they do with everyone who must be away from their family for any space of time.

The engagement of Barney Beer and Debra Sue Loy of Indianapolis has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Wallace. Barney is the son of Bro. Harlan and Phyllis Beer of our community. Their marriage will take place Jan. 25 in Indianapolis, and they will be making their home in Terra Haute, where both are attending Indiana State University. We wish them a life of happiness together and God's blessings on their marriage.

Flu has made its inroads into our community and has made its presence felt in our church and Sunday School attendance. Ice and snow have been with us also, and we are thankful if we can carry on our daily duties and have warm homes to shelter us when the temperatures dip to zero outside.

The New Year is full of promise. May each experience of the old year make us better prepared to meet the new with courage. May we have renewed determination to make our own little corner of it a better place, because we as Christians walked here.

A happy and blessed New Year to you all.

OAKVILLE, IOWA

Martha Steiner

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Al Aberle and Simon Wagenbach, Tremont; Silas Leuthold and George Wagenbach, Princeville;

Cleo Rinkenberger, Pulaski; Arnold Gerst, Chicago. We certainly enjoyed many blessings from their service for the Lord and invite them back.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol (Rinkenberger) Strassheim were able to spend several days in this community while on leave from duty in the armed forces. We were privileged to hear the testimonies of these two new converts and witnessed their baptism into the fellowship of Christ. They are now back in San Antonio, where Bro. Dale is currently stationed.

The engagement of Sis. Elizabeth Rocke and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) was announced to the congregation on Dec. 22. Their parents are Bro. Orttie and Sis. Verna Rocke and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger.

On Christmas Day, the announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Rebecca Steiner and Bro. Larry Endress (Bradford). Their parents are Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner and Bro. Levi and Sis. Mildred Endress (Princeville).

We wish both couples God's richest blessings as they prepare to walk life's pathway together.

Sis. Esther Wagner was laid to rest in Burlington on Dec. 14. She had been living at the Apostolic Christian home in Eureka. Her son, Don lives in Detroit, and a sister, Sis. Priscilla Rauhaus, lives in Oakville.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Annette (Rocke) Massner are the happy parents of a boy, born Jan. 7. He is welcomed by a brother and sister. Daniel Lee is the name given a son born to Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby (Miller) Eberhardt on Dec. 3. The baby boy born to Bro. Harold and Sis. Annette Massner has been named Craig Allen.

TOLEDO, OHIO

Emily Frautschi Mary Ann Weigle

Our annual Sunday School Christmas program was held on Dec. 22. The next night the Sunday School group planned to go Christmas caroling to the shut-ins, etc. A sudden snowstorm changed the plans. By the time everyone had met at the gathering point, it was determined the roads were too bad to go. We called up most of the people on the list and everyone gathered 'round and did our caroling by phone.

Many from our congregation have been sick with the flu, colds, etc. We will be glad when this season of sickness passes.

On Dec. 8 we held our annual membership meeting. Bro. Joe Fetter was elected as a new trustee. Bro. Dick Clark was elected chairman of the trustees for the year.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer
Mary Jane Leuthold

Friends Duane Aberle and Barb Kaisner, Morton, have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. He is the son of Bro. Al and Sis. Emma, and she is the daughter of Bro. Victor and Sis. Ruth.

Among those in the hospital were Jill Koch, daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Myrna; Fern Glueck, daughter of Karl and Velda; and Bro. Levi Sauder. All are improving very nicely. Jill and Fern are home, and we expect Bro. Levi to be dismissed this week.

We extend our sympathy to the Ernest Schaefer family, upon the passing away of Sis. Irene Harter of Eureka.

Bro. Noah Herman, Tucson, labored in our midst on the 29th of Dec.; and Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bay City, unexpectedly came New Years eve. We certainly appreciate and thank all visitors that are led into our midst.

Note: I want to thank all my friends and relatives for the many birthday cards and gifts I received on my 80th birthday. Everything was deeply appreciated. Katie Oerle

Another new year is upon us.
How many more will God, to us,
entrust?
We know He grants these short
years,
That we might strive to meet Him
without any fears.
Those who have not turned from
sin
Might find this the last hour to
turn to Him.
Those who have sought and found
the Lord should be
Building up works that will make
us worthy His face to see.
Another year for all mankind,
To work and labor, as the Lord
reminds.
This year will find some, or us all,
Answering the Lord's great call.
May our desire be to work for him

And hope and pray we can all,
together, enter in.

TUSCON, ARIZONA

Anna Thomas

We had a beautiful red sunrise this morning. We also have another year dawning. **Dear Master, let it be in working or in waiting, another year with thee.**

We are so thankful that our new church is almost finished. We are looking forward to assembling next Sunday, Jan. 12. Dedication service is set for Jan. 26.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. John Somerhalder and Clarence Yackley.

Work, for the night is coming.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Mrs. Paul Eisenmann
Mrs. Paul Wagler

Christmas has come and gone, and left are memories—

The entire Sunday School participated in speaking and singing of Christ's birth, after regular services Dec. 22. That evening a group went caroling. Christmas services were held at Oakville on Christmas morning, and at Burlington that night.

On Dec. 29 we heard the testimonies of Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim at the Oakville church. (Dale is a brother of Sis. Judy Gehring of Burlington). Following the provings, Bro. Noah Schrock, with the help of Bro. Silas Leuthold of Princeville, gave a report of the brother meeting. We truly enjoyed a blessed evening.

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs. Esther Wagner on Dec. 12. She was a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka for about 14 months. She was formerly from Dearborn, Michigan, was born in Cissna Park on April 15, 1900, the daughter of Paul and Anna Miller Reeb. Those surviving are a son, Donald Wagner of Westland, Mich.; two brothers—John of Oakville, William of Port Byron, Ill.; and five sisters—Mrs. Wm. Rauhhaus of Kingston, Iowa; Mrs. Herbert Perrine of Washington; Mrs. Elmer Sauder of Detroit; Mrs. Harvey Kreipke of Birmingham, Michigan; and Mrs. Joseph Best of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Services were held at the Prugh Funeral Home, Burlington, by Bro. Noah Schrock on Dec. 14. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery, Burlington.

Little Paige Massner, daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Ann, had

the misfortune of falling and breaking her leg. She is getting along fine and hopes to be rid of her cast soon.

Due to bad weather, our monthly singing was cut short, and those who had braved the ice and snow were glad to have an early start home. However, we did enjoy singing a few songs to the praise and honor of God.

On Christmas Day, Sis. Helen Seggerman accidentally caught her clothing on fire and received first and second degree burns on her back. This happened at home near Mt. Union, Ia. Sis Helen is the wife of Bro. Wilbert.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Millicent Frieden — Laverne Roth

The old year has now come and gone. . . It leaves behind joyous memories, as well as a few sorrowful ones. In summarizing the year's events we find we had one birth, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stevenson; four deaths, Sis. Mary Somerhalder, Bro. Claude Springer, Sis. Minnie Schupbach, and Sis. Lydia Schrock; and five dear souls added to the fold, Sis. Marie Tucker, Bro. Elmer Kisling, Bro. Joe Frieden, Sis. Aleta Farney, and Sis. Betsy Diel. May God add his blessing to this, our new year, as well.

We enjoyed the presence of a number of visitors over the holidays, including one visiting minister, Bro. Raymond Banwart of Ft. Scott, who was accompanied by his wife and sons.

Our monthly singing and fellowship was held at Sis. Sophia Kirchers, with a good turnout of old and young alike.

A Christmas program was presented by the Sunday School on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 15. Surely the students and teachers will be rewarded and blessed for their efforts to remember the birth of Christ in verse and song.

Dec. 22 following church services, we were responsible for services at the Kiowa Manor Rest Home.

A number of our Sunday School students caroled for the aged and shut-ins the evening of Dec. 23, followed by refreshment at the home of Bro. and Sis. Ronald Allenbach.

At our Christmas service, held Christmas evening, it was brought out by our ministering brother that nothing stood in the way not even their occupations of the shepherds,

who made haste to go to the manger. Do we make haste when our Saviour calls?

A hospital patient was one of our small Sunday School students, Janette Stevenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stevenson, for a tonsillectomy.

February is the month to collect the annual dues for the Silver Lining from the Burlington congregation. They can be given to one of your reporters; your cooperation is appreciated.

CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Susan Zimmerman — Jan Herman
Greetings in the Lord!

"Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross . . ." It seems that those of us who go to school and work with people who try to not believe in God are often called upon to "stand up for Jesus." Therefore, we sincerely appreciate the encouragement and guidance we receive from our ministering brothers. Brothers who have come to us are: George Gramm (Gridley), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Walter Anliker (Eureka), Emanuel Gudeman (Cissna Park), Ed Hohulin (Goodfield), Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Ben Fehr (Roanoke).

Sis. Kay Baumgartner (Champaign/Cissna Park) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Chicago) have announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings as they continue on the path of life together.

On the morning of Dec. 1 a beautiful, light snow fell. It gave an added touch of "holiness" and "purity" to the Sabbath. This was the day we had invited the former U of I students and families to come back and worship with us. The snow made the roads slick and prevented some of our loved ones from gathering with us. We are thankful for those who were able to be with us, and urge everyone to come visit us.

How long has it been since you've written to one of our boys in Service?

One of our visiting ministers recently spoke about happiness. He observed that "We can only find happiness by giving it to others"! Could this be one reason why we find so much happiness during this time of year, the glorious Christmas season? We are so intent on finding things that we can give to others to make them happy that we

forget "self" for awhile and find that we have happiness! Wouldn't it be wonderful if we would keep Christmas in our hearts all year long!

The Lord willing, our congregation plans to move into our new dwelling in the very near future. Six years ago we began gathering on Sundays at the YMCA on campus, for services every other Sunday. About a year ago we started having services every Sunday at the YMCA, with midweek services at the Illini Union every other Wednesday evening. We are very thankful that the hand of the Lord has been with us, and we now have possession of a small dwelling located on 702 E. Mumfard Drive in Urbana. We welcome all to gather with us on both Sundays and Wednesday evenings.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Bill Blunier to Krystal Koch. Bill's parents are Bro. and Sis. Ben and Wilma Blunier.

Bro. Steve Roeschley, Bro. Fred Kaiser, and Sis. Susan Zimmerman have accepted positions in our Sunday School. It is an inspiration to see the childlike simplicity and eager desire for the word in young children.

We are thankful for the labors of Bros. Willis Wiegand, Goodfield; Dale Eisenmann, Chicago; Edwin Hohulin, Goodfield; Edwin Ringger, Gridley; Ben Fehr, Roanoke; Vernon Leman, Eureka; and Edmund Kloter, Fairbury.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Connie Steffen

We have been having an unusually severe winter, much more snow than usual, and freezing rain.

We gladly welcome two families to our Oregon congregations. Bro. Arthur and Sis. Betty Metz and their two daughter have moved to Portland. They are now in their home at 9301 N.W. Cornell Rd., Portland Ore. 97229. Bro. Ray (Sr.) and Sis. Anna Cooper have returned to their home in Salem, after Bro. Ray's retirement from a mill in southern Oregon. We are certainly happy to have all of these dear ones fellowshiping with us.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS

Norene Herbst — Mary Hoffman

The announcement was made Sunday, Dec. 8 of the coming marriage of Sis. Barbara Hodel to Bro. Mike Meece of the Goodfield congregation. Barbara is the daughter of Bro. Stan and Sis. Ver-

na Hodel of Roanoke. Mike returned recently from his tour of duty in Viet Nam. He is the son of Eloise Stoller Meece and the late C. G. Meece of Bloomington.

On Sunday evening Dec. 15, a short service was held, with our local ministers taking part. This was followed by congregational singing of Christmas hymns. The Prairie Choristers also sang a number of Christmas hymns and carols.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held the evening of Dec. 22; and the evening was well spent. It was a pleasure to see our young people exercise their talents in telling the Christmas story and bringing praise and thanks to the Lord.

On Christmas Day, Bro. Art Baurer of Princeville served us in the ministry.

Bro. Gary Roth and Neil Hodel were given leave, to spend the Christmas holidays with their families.

Sis. Ruth Knepp had been in the hospital for major surgery, but she has been able to return home. Bro. Mike Belsley suffered a heart attack Sunday, Dec. 29 and is in the Eureka Hospital. We are glad to report that he is improving and getting along well, with continued rest and relaxation. Bro. Dave Fehr is at the Eureka Hospital and has been reported to be improving after surgery. He reached the ripe age of 91 years last October.

Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Janice Getz are the parents of a son, their fifth child. He was born Dec. 30 and has been named Chad Martin.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Carolyn Dotterer — Lois Heiniger

Sis. Dena Fechter of Lamont is spending several months with us. She and Sis. Emma Moser are making their home at 802 E. Keim Drive, Phoenix.

Through repentance, our Friend Cedrick Messner has found peace. We look forward to hearing his testimony. He is the son of Bro. Louis and Sis. Judy Messner.

Visiting Ministers were: Bro. Al Scheitlin of Elgin, Ill., Bro. Noah Herman of Tucson, and Bro. Lester Hartter of Bern. We thank them for their visits.

Our annual business meeting was held Dec. 4. New officers are: superintendent of Sunday School, Bro. Joe Beer; Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School, Bro. Bill Dot-

terer; Secretary of the Board, Bro. Clarence Beyer; Usher, Bro. Dan Roth; Charge of Lunch Fund, Bro. Ervan Rokey.

On Dec. 23, a large group of all ages visited several homes and nursing homes, to sing Christmas carols. Such visits make us keenly aware of our many blessings.

The Sunday School Christmas Program was held Dec. 22. The children sang and recited, telling the story of Christ's birth. To observe their simplicity and sincerity should make us consider our daily walk of life, for Christ said, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child he shall not enter therein.

We have been blessed with many visitors. We are thankful for the fellowship we share with each other, and extend a hearty welcome to all. Reading news of weather elsewhere this time of year we feel especially blessed with warm, sunny days, and wish we could share them with many more of you.

AKRON, OHIO

Florence Graf

We have begun a new year—none knows what the months ahead have in store for us—but we look forward with anticipation and determination to make the best use of the year.

Definite progress has been made toward the selling of our present church property. We have reason to believe our plans for the building of our new church will take place in the very near future.

Three more souls are repenting and are looking forward to living for the Lord. Esther Fritz, wife of Harold Fritz; David Graf, son of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise Graf; and Donna Palmer are the loved ones we are happy to say will perhaps be part of our small congregation.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Carlton J. Lanz

Births: A daughter, Lucinda was born Dec. 13 to Lucius and Marge Cook; Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Cook and Bro. Walter and Sis. Marie Hany. A son, Michael Loren, was born Dec. 13 to Bryant and RayAnne Bourque; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Miller and Ernest and Sis. Julia Bourque. A son, Jeffery Lewis was born Dec. 25 to George and Gloria Shambach; grandparents, Bro.

Charles and Sis. Lydia Lanz. A son, Elmer Greene III was born Dec. 16, to Edmund and Judy Greene Jr.; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Greene Sr. and Bro. Walter and Sis. Marie Hany. A son, Ted Alan was born Jan. 4 to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl; grandparents, Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise Graf of Akron and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl.

The East has had its share of colds and illness this winter. We have not been exempted here. Seems that each year or so there is another kind of flu with a different name. There has been quite a bit of absenteeism in our places of business and in our church. Bro. Al. Schneider was absent on Sunday, and Bro. John Bahler was also on Sunday and at the midweek service. Bro. Carl Erismann, in his late eighties, is in a convalescent home. Sis. Lena Kupferschmid fell and suffered a broken knee cap, but was able to assemble again after a few weeks of confinement.

Sis. Emily Hoffman, 64, passed away peacefully at the Rockville General Hospital Jan. 8. Ailing for sometime, she entered the hospital only a couple of days ago. Emily's life was not a path of roses. She learned to know what a cross meant in her lifetime. However, her many friends did much to make her life pleasant. Her family, all but one brother, have preceded her in death. She made her home with an elderly woman, at the same time caring for the home. Funeral services will be Saturday. Burial will be at Ellington Cemetery.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

I've read this sign which said, "It is hard to be humble when you are as great a man as I am"; when you have this feeling and attitude, God can not work in your heart. Wherefore it says in James, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Contributed by Bro. LeRoy Messner.

A severe winter storm caused the postponement of service Sunday, Dec. 22. The Sunday School program was held the following Sunday evening. Regular Christmas eve services were held, with a host of members, friends, and visitors attending.

Henry Schmidt submitted to surgery. He is in the Veteran's Hospital in St. Paul. Sis. Celina in-

formed me he is making a satisfactory recovery.

Rules For Daily Life

Begin The Day with God;
Kneel down to Him in prayer.
Lift up thy heart to His abode,
And seek His love to share.
Open the Book of God,
And read a portion there,
That is may hallow all thy thoughts,
And sweeten all thy care.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

Our fields and highways present a typical old-time winter scene. There is snow on every side, accented with huge drifts. In our own home area we have been snowbound for a period of many days. We have been unable to post mail in our rural box, due to huge drifts. We were thankful that we had sufficient food and feed during the snowbound period. We did run out of suet and sunflower seed for the wild birds, but we discovered some cracked corn which the birds soon learned to partake of to keep them alive.

We are going to miss Bro. Arthur Hunziker. He passed away on the 15th of December at the People's Memorial Hospital at Independence, Ia. He had been in ill health for over a year. Special services were held in a funeral home at Independence. The final services were held in Eureka, Illinois was the state where he and his family had spent most of their years, before moving to Iowa. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Dena; 4 daughters, Mrs. Alvin Wallace—Tipton, Ind., Mrs. David Scherie—Ventura, Cal.; Mrs. Stephen Underhill—East Peoria, and Mrs. Edward Rice—Peoria; four sons, Lawrence—Winthrop Ia., Donald and Arthur Jr.—Washington, Ill., and Kenneth—Iowa City. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family.

According to our knowledge, this is the first time in the history of our church that we have a resident elder in our midst. Bro. Paul Butikofer was recently ordained, and we are very thankful to God for this blessing. Elders Noah Schrock, Leo Moser and Paul Banwart were here to carry out the necessary procedures.

Sis. Bertha Pulfer has been confined to her home for a number of weeks, but is now very much im-

proved. Fact is she was able to assemble with us last Sunday, for which we are thankful.

Our Sunday School pupils presented a very nice program to commemorate the birth of our Saviour. There were songs and poems in keeping with the theme of the special day. In the evening, we went caroling to various homes. The group enjoyed this annual event very much. A nice luncheon was served in the dining area of our church, after the caroling was over.

Caroling

There is no sweeter sound
Than carols sung
By a group of voices
Clear and young;
Akin to the angels
Of long ago
The notes float out
O'er the glistening snow.

And as the voices
Rise and blend,
The listener hopes
It shall never end.
This way of telling
Awaiting earth
The age old news
Of a Saviour's birth.

May you experience many God-given blessings during this new year.

Apparently mail is piling up at my home in Germany, and also there is a possibility that servicemen who come to Germany may wish to contact me. Presently my address is as follows: Miss Irene Baer, c/o R. B. Ellis, 3999 S. W. Dogwood Lane, Portland, Ore. 97225. In case newly-stationed soldiers in Germany wish information as to where to attend church and how to get there, they should contact Werner Mueller, 7151 Wuestenrot, Spatzenhof Germany. Werner, who is a young member, has been very hospitable in the past, and I know he will be most willing to give any assistance he can. Not only Werner, but his entire family is most gracious in sharing their home with anyone. Several members of the Mueller family speak English. Also, of course, the Neuhuetten church welcomes everyone.

The amount suggested for one year, if you wish to pay, is \$2.00. There are quite a few churches where you may give at a specified time or times, in a

combined collection. Check with your reporter. [Many service addresses are sent without charge. APO New York and APO San Francisco are sent air mail, also FPO San Francisco and N.Y.]

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

The Christmas season was full of blessings in our area, as we trust it was elsewhere. On the 14th, the various Sunday School classes gathered for their annual Christmas Fellowship. Our little children from nursery, kindergarten and primary classes always do something at this time to bring joy to others. Our project this year was making scrapbooks for the children at Des-sie Scott Home in Kentucky. These were then delivered by our brothers who went to assist in the building project.

On the 19th, a few of us went caroling for some shut-ins and those who do not regularly get to gather with us.

The evening of the 20th, our Sunday School classes brought us the true meaning of Christmas in verse and song.

We enjoyed the presence of our young brothers home from college during the holidays.

New Year's Day services were held here, with Remington gathering with us. We were reminded that we can find joy and good in this troubled world and unknown future, if we go forth in faith and with "the mind of Christ."

LA CROSSE, INDIANA

Mrs. Lucille Heiniger

Bro. Ezra Meiss is at the Evergreen Nursing Home at Valparaiso, slowly improving. Bro. Edward Wittmer, my father, had surgery. He is home now and steadily improving. Bro. Ed Frank is able to worship with us again.

Ministering Bro. Walter Steffen from Milford visited us.

Another soul, Bill Frank, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Lea, has found his deep need for his soul's salvation and has turned to the Lord in repentance. Even the angels rejoice when one soul dedicates his life for the Lord.

Bro. Edward Frank submitted to surgery, has made a good recovery, and is able to assemble with the congregation on Sunday. Bro. Edward Wittmer submitted to surgery and is now recuperating at home, for which we are grateful.

Sis. Janet Heinold, daughter of

Bro. Ray and Sis. Marie, and Daryl Haris engagement was announced. A spring wedding is being planned.

Dale Stewart, son of Bro. Doyne and Dorothy, was married on Sat. Dec. 28 to Nola Miller of Kouts. An open house was held on Sunday, Dec. 29 in their honor. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Sunday afternoon, the college students left for their respective schools, after spending Christmas vacation at home, to begin their class work. We wish them all God's protection and blessings, so they may stay true and not lose faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A number from our church formed three groups and spent an enjoyable evening singing Christmas carols to the sick, the aged, widows and widowers. It is a joy for all who take part to see the happiness in the hearts of those being sung to.

On Sunday before Christmas, a program on the birth of Christ was given by the Sunday School children and several adults. It is a pleasure to listen to the little ones recite and sing with all their hearts. It really is heart-warming to sit and listen to the real meaning of Christmas, instead of the commercializing that we see everyday in the world.

Notes of Thanks

"I wish to thank everyone for cards, visits and prayers during the time I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless each one of you. Bro. Edward Frank.

I wish to thank one and all for cards, visits, prayers and gifts during the time I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God bless you. Bro. Edward Wittmer.

Our Circle

As we gather on Sunday morning one by one, each takes their place in the auditorium, and the children hurry to the Sunday School room to attend their classes. What a blessing to be there to sing the first song. The minister reads a part of the scripture and prays, then expounds those wonderful words of life. It is indeed spiritual manna to help sustain us for another week, and what a blessing to be able to take part in the singing of the beautiful hymns. All too soon it is over, and we all move to the dining room, where several sisters have prepared a lunch.

There we partake of food for our mortal body and fellowship with other loved ones. Then we return to the auditorium for our afternoon services, preceded by approximately fifteen minutes of song worship. Soon the afternoon service is over. What a wonderful way to spend the first day of each week. It helps us on our way throughout the week.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

Bros. Uriel Gehring and Noah Herman visited our assembly and left many kind exhortations and much food for thought. We thank them all for their favors of love.

Sis. Linda Klein and Bro. Lyle Wettstein were united in marriage Dec. 15. Sis. Linda is the daughter of Sis. Edna Klein, and Bro. Lyle is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein of Gridley, Ill. Bro. Lyle has just recently returned from service in Vietnam. The new-lweds are going to Ft. Benning, Ga., where they hope to spend the next six months, until Bro. Lyle gets his discharge. We wish God's grace and many blessings bestowed on them.

Some of the Gridley brethren came to our January Hymn Sing. Outside it was snowing and blowing, but inside we had good warm fellowship and hearty singing. The Gridley chorus sang several selections which we all enjoyed. At the close we all sang, "God be With You Till We Meet Again". Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda are to leave for Georgia, and we pray the Gridley folks have a safe return to their homes.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Rose Hoerr have observed their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 21. They received relatives and friends at a reception on Dec. 8 at Ramada Inn.

Tom and Jessica Martin are the parents of Lisa Marie, born Dec. 9. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Eunice Martin. Richard and Ronnie Hodel are the parents of Richard Earl II, born Dec. 11. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Lillian Koehl, and paternal grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude Hodel of Cissna Park.

Sis. Dorothy Schneider fell and broke her shoulder, while visiting at her brother's home in Lamar, on Dec. 5. She is in the hospital in Lamar. Bros. Dave Hoerr and Jack

Koehl are hospital patients. Bros. Leroy Hartman, Will Perdelwitz and Joe Heinsman have been discharged from the hospital and are home recuperating. May the Lord heal and restore health in good measure, if it could be His will.

Sis. Ida Farney died Dec. 12 at the A. C. home in Eureka, where she has been the past four months. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Sam; five sisters, Sisters Persida Rocke, Eureka; Alice Funk, Roanoke; Eunice Steffen, Eureka; Katherine Fehr and Lillian Hartter, both of Peoria; one brother, Bro. Ed Steffen of Goodfield. Services were held here at the church by Bro. Roy Sauder.

Alvin Hoerr died Dec. 29 at St. Francis Hospital, where he was admitted nine days before. He was a son of Phillip and Lydia Plattner Hoerr. His wife, Dessie, died in March of this year. Surviving are two sons, Wayne of Norwood Park and Dean of Pekin; three sisters, Mrs. Irving (Hilda) Keith of Sherman Oaks, Calif.; Mrs. Peter (Anne) Flitcroft of Peoria; and Mrs. Edmund (Clara) Kumpf of Pekin; four brothers, William R. and Daniel Hoerr, both of Peoria; Phillip Hoerr of Yokohama, Japan; Warren Hoerr, of Rockford; and five grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Wilton Mortuary, with Bro. Jim Hoerr officiating.

Charles Howse died Dec. 30. He married Sarah Getz in Peoria Nov. 11, 1945. Surviving are his wife, two sisters and two brothers. Services were held at Wilton Mortuary, with Bro. Michael Weyeneth officiating.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts — Anna Marie Baer

Another year has passed and a new year dawns. Do we look to a new year with fear, or do we have courage to face each day cheerfully? We cannot see what lies ahead, but we can pray that we have courage and faith in God to face whatever may come. Let us pray that we can each do our bit to help the poor, the sick, the weary of heart, those who are in grief, or anyone in need. Let us be ready to speak a kind word of encouragement. Let us look to God, and esteem our brother higher than ourself.

We were thankful for all our visitors in the past year, and especially the ones who ministered to us, sharing the Lord's word. May

the Lord richly bless them. In the past year we had nine souls added to the fold, and have three young souls who have recently heeded the call to repentance. There were five weddings; three were in our church; two were friends. We laid a dear sister and a dear brother to rest. Six little girls and three boys were born. Four friends were discharged from the armed forces; at present we have none in service. Our new church building was started and work has progressed very satisfactorily.

We had many precious teachings. One Sunday recently one of our brothers said how important it was to keep the oil of love so that we will always be pliable like clay. When you squeeze it in your hand, it leaves the print of your hand. Let us not let our heart get hard and cold.

We were so thankful for the inspiring words spoken by Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville one Wednesday evening. Bro. Joe explained the 15th chapter of I Corinthians. We are thankful we can look forward to a resurrection and meet our loved ones who have gone before. The last verse contains much: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Outside the wind was blowing so strong, but inside we were warm, secure, and enjoyed many blessings. Thanks be to God for giving brothers who so willingly share the gospel with us. A young friend from Japan, Hatsune Uchida who is a guest in the Schrock home, accompanied Bro. and Sister Schrock.

Bro. Cleo and Sis. Ester Rinkenger visited us. Bro. Cleo said, when he at one time sat in the back benches of his church he never thought he would be occupying the pulpit, proclaiming God's precious word. The Apostle Paul advised Timothy, it is good for us to stay close to God and not let the worldly life creep into our lives. May the Lord add His blessings to Bro. Cleo and family.

The death angel claimed another of our dear brothers in faith, George Berchtold. George had gone to town on the morning of Dec. 16, and didn't feel well when he came home. Relatives were called and a doctor summoned, but all stood around helpless, for the Lord

found it time for Bro. George, who was a silent pillar of our church, to end his time here. His work was done, and now he has gained the reward which he so faithfully worked for. He had spent many hours helping in the construction of our new church building, and no doubt never realized he wouldn't be permitted to assemble there.

Bro. Dave Kieser and our other ministers conducted services Dec. 19, and he was laid to rest in the Streitmatter Cemetery. May the family find comfort in the 23rd Psalm that was read and in the hymn "The Best Refuge", which was so beautifully sung. Those who mourn his passing are his devoted wife, Sis. Clara; a son, Bro. La-Vern; and two daughters, Catherine Peterson and Joann Rumbold. His nine grandchildren will sorely miss him, as will all of our congregation.

Many humble teachings were spoken on the evening of Dec. 22, when the Sunday School children told of the birth of Christ in verse and song.

How do we use the wonderful gifts that God has given to us? Perhaps at Christmas-time this is something we should discuss. . . . How do we use the gift of time? Do we let it drift away, with nothing much accomplished at the ending of each day? . . . How do we use our talents? Only for personal gain? Or do we use them in God's work, to strengthen His domain? . . . How do we use God's message? He gave His only Son! And we should spread His gospel on earth, to everyone! . . . God's gifts are great and many; they are precious and sublime. Let us use them well and wisely for Him this Christmas-time!

We were indeed thankful to have the benches filled, when many friends and members gathered Christmas Day to honor the Lord. We feel there must be rejoicing in heaven to know there are souls that find no better place to spend an hour together than in the house of worship, thanking and praising God for His great gift. We were pleased that a goodly number assembled New Year's eve.

Three engagements have been made known. On Christmas Day the engagement of Bro. Larry Endress, son of Bro. Levi and Sis. Mildred, to Sis. Rebecca Steiner, daughter of Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose of Oakville, was announced. Bro.

John and Sis. Edith Stahl have made known the engagement of their daughter, Joyce, to Dale Blunier, son of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier of Eureka. Bro. Edward and Sis. Lucille Knobloch have told of the engagement of their daughter, Donna, to Kenneth Gehrig, son of Robert and Helen Gehrig. We ask the Lord's blessings.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

We had many visiting ministers. We thank them and their company for coming and bringing us precious teachings.

Sis. Sue Kupferschmid and Bro. Robert Beebe were united in Holy Matrimony by Bro. Ed Hohuhlin. Sis. Alta Kay Zbinden and Bro. Ronald Kaufman were united in Holy Matrimony by Bro. Ed Hohuhlin. Our best wishes are extended to these couples. Where two join hand and heart, we find a threefold cord not lightly rent apart.

During the Christmas season, many of our brothers and sisters visited the shut-ins and went caroling. This brought much cheer to the shut-ins, and we are confident those doing it received a blessing.

The Sunday School children brought us a nice program in verse and song, "Worship the King".

We have many sick and shut-ins, due to flu and other sickness. Bro. Phil Aeschleman has been confined at home for some time. Bro. Phil Sauder had surgery and is getting along nicely. We are thankful that he is able to assemble with us again. Sis. Eliza Schmitt was hospitalized. Bro. Joe Waldbeser had surgery for cataract and seems to be getting along very well. Sis. Helen Bauer was hospitalized, but is home and showing improvement. Sis. Helen Knapp was hospitalized and is home again. Sis. Lizzi (Wm.) Farney is in the hospital. We wish all these loved ones grace to endure patiently.

GIRARD, OHIO

Jesse C. Emch

"Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy

neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

Friend Grace Stoll passed away Dec. 9, at the age of 73. Her funeral was Dec. 11, at the Reese Funeral Home, Niles Ohio. Bros. Jess and Lorentz Emch officiated. She was born at Black, Missouri, a daughter of James and Emaline Johnson. Her husband, Bro. Orrie, died in Oct. 1967. She leaves to mourn her passing a daughter, Mrs. Edward May of Mineral Ridge, Ohio; two step-sons, Bro. Robt. Stoll of Girard and Bro. Don Stoll of Rodgers, Ohio; a brother, Luther Johnson of Gary, Ind.; a sister, Mrs. Mont Dennison, of Niles, Ohio, and ten grandchildren. Grace was loved by everyone, and we miss her very much.

An unusual amount of colds and flu prevails in our community.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr

Mrs. Eldon Metzger

Friends Ralph Rodgers and Steve Owens were home on leave over Christmas.

The Lord willing, our congregation will again be privileged to rejoice with another couple on their 50th wedding anniversary. The children of Bro. Andrew and Sis. Lydia Young plan to have a reception for them Jan. 12. May the Lord bless them.

The call again went out from our pulpit—"In Days of Youth, Seek Ye The Lord." There were many faithful youth used in the Bible. Samuel, Timothy, Joseph, etc. Don't sell your birthright (salvation) for a morsel of pleasure like Esau.

We thank Bros. Earl Banwart of West Bend, and Jim Ramseyer. Bay City, and their families for visiting us.

A new year has begun—time to reflect and improve upon the things that "we wish we had done better last year." An incident recalled the thought I had when I was a Sunday School teacher—how the Lord's work could be furthered more, if parents would inquire of their children's progress,

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Write us, or tell one of the reporters, if so.

letting the teacher know that you want and expect your children to be respectful in the house of the Lord, and visiting Sunday School occasionally.

This is the incident that happened (not in our church). A teenage boy came up from Sunday School, and sat by his father in church—another teenage boy was being so disrespectful to the Sunday School teacher that he could no longer take it. According to the Bible, we parents are responsible for our children. We heard Sunday that God is a God of order.

If one or two students disrupt the class, they are actually stealing the word of God from their classmates. How would Jesus feel if He visited our Sunday School this Sunday? Would the Sunday School teachers and ministers be held accountable and bear part of the responsibility for allowing such things to go on? Sunday School is a great responsibility . . . it is our future church.

I am not speaking of occasional, ordinary normal student misbehavior. I'm speaking of the students who don't respond to loving correction and keep right on whispering, pestering others, heckling the teacher. I wonder if these children knew that their parents occasionally ask their teacher how they are doing (showing that the parent is interested and expects respect for one short hour a week in the Lord's house) if it might not help. It has been my experience that "on the whole", the friends' children are more respectful in class than member's children—this should not be.

Being a parent is quite a responsibility—we need the prayers of all. Speaking of respect, we children of God need to be more quiet and orderly in God's house also. Let us all work and pray together, and SHOW our thanks to God for what He has done for us . . .

"My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth . . ."

ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA

Mrs. Virgil Graf

"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. . ."

Matt and Irene Olivero are the

parents of a daughter, Jennifer Marie, born Nov. 17. She is their first child. Bro. Bill and Sis. Freda Minger are the maternal grandparents. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig are the parents of a son, Frederick Elmer, born Nov. 26. On Nov. 26, a son was born to Nancy and Bob Scharloch. He has been named Gregory Robert and has one brother, Randy. Steven Michael is the name given to the first child of Roy and Christel Vintch. He was born Dec. 17. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Roy Sr. and Sis. Clara Vintch.

Sis. Rose Eigner passed away Dec. 6, and funeral services were held on Dec. 10. Sis. Rose had been failing in health for several years.

Reuben Baer passed away Dec. 30, and funeral services were held on Jan. 3. He had been ill for several months. We extend sympathy to Sis. Freda Minger and Sis. Marie Farney at the death of their brother.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG, N. Y.

Carol Virkler

Mrs. David Schamback

On Sunday, Dec. 22, the Naumburg congregation assembled with the Croghan congregation at the Croghan church. After the afternoon services, we were privileged to be able to listen to the combined Sunday Schools present their Christmas program, with recitations and songs of praise and honor to commemorate the birth of our precious Saviour.

Sisters Mary Rohr and Minnie Ebersol are hospital patients. Minnie's daughter, Edna Russell, is recovering from recent surgery. Sis. Elva Schulz has returned home from the hospital, much improved, after undergoing surgery.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice Farney in the death of Alice's father, Gregory Everard.

Several families in our communities have been having the "flu" type illness and colds, and many of our children have had chicken pox.

Edward and Sandra Zehr are parents of a baby boy. They have two other sons and one daughter. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Mabel Ebersol.

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When Stormeth The Night

Henry Souder Jr.

After downcast, dreary days, there is bright beautiful sunshine.

There was a day He hung on the wood. Jesus . . . good, kind, always helping. The nails were there, and He hung. Tired, the body would pull down. To draw up were the nails. Pierced . . . hurting . . . tiring . . . no relief. He was brave and loving. Razor-sharp words cut deep, hurting. Look around. Bright sunshine that day? "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour."

He hung in darkness that we might come to light. "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

Night. The soul unredeemed is in night. Can't breathe in water. Can't live in night. There is no life. We were created to rejoice in God. The living God, only in Him is the soul happy.

What happened when Adam and Eve did not listen? They surely died. The same sun rose and set, as beautiful as ever. The fruits and the flowers were wonderful. The birds sang . . . But sin had come. It had stole. It blackened with night.

There comes a time when the Lord gives up a soul entirely to night. Satan forges the last link with one blow. It was so with miserable Judas. He went out, ". . . and it was night."

In Jesus all is Light. "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve

hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him."

The day is beautifully guided of God. There is purpose, meaning, goal. The night, there is no color without light. Life brightens the one who walks those twelve hours.

It was "In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn" that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb. Dawn. Night had been in every crevice, darkness over every line. Dawn's early light would bring song-filled beauty. The golden morn glows on an awakened world. How wonderful is Light. The resurrected Lord came forth in beauty to live for evermore.

It was night in the fields, when Jesus was born. The shepherds were busy, looking after their sheep. It became light and lovely. "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid."

How do you take the message?

We were frightened. Something suddenly startles. This glory with its golden message leads to full day. Deeper than a natural fright, the pure ray gives us a look as we really are. God shone into the night. The angel's praise yet sounds. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

It was night on the waters. The disciples were in a ship. The wind was against them, blowing fiercely. Hard work, rowing, pulling, wind blowing, slow, slow. Light comes; the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came. He walked on those waters. They were afraid, but He said, "It is I; be not afraid." How happy they were to receive Him into the ship.

That is the way He is. In the stormy of life. In deep night, when no one hears. When strength is spent, and we seem to get nowhere. When we don't know how. We need to look. Jesus came on the waters. They needed to get to land. They did when He came. That's the way He is. The things to do, He gives help to be done.

The wedding party was not coming. All ten virgins had taken lamps, to be in the joyful occasion. They nodded, then dropped off, deep sleep. Five had made a deadly error. They took no oil. "And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

Night. Careless. Lamps, going out! They asked the wise. None to spare. They would go and buy some quick. "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."

Night will deepen for someone. till all is night. Absolutely all night. No light . . . "there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."