



But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places

in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

CHRISTMAS! Children with eager enthusiasm, Home with heartening welcome, Religion with spiritual solace, Idealism with faithful belief, Sentiment with lasting memories, Thoughtfulness with friendly cheer, Merriment with sparkling gladness, Affection with tender devotion, Selflessness with enduring satisfaction. Let's remember, that CHRIST is the only reason for CHRISTMAS.

CHRISTMAS

By Elder Bro. Ernest Graf Sr., Akron, Ohio, who is now resting in a glorious holiday.

Christmas is the festival on which we celebrate the birth of Christ. It is of all birthdays the most important, because it means that a Saviour and Redeemer was born unto mankind. Sin had entered the world when our first parents were induced by the craftiness and deception of Satan to disregard the commandment of God . . . It is written that to be carnally minded is enmity toward God, yet God wished to befriend man again and restore him unto harmony with Him. He told Adam and Eve that from their seed He would raise up One who would crush the head of the serpent. Moses also said to Israel, "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken". David also and many of the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah. Thus He was expected by the people of Israel; and kings and prophets had hoped to see His day, but died without seeing it. . .

. . . now the fullness of time had arrived in which God fulfilled His promises. First we read how unto Zacharias and Elizabeth was born a son, John the Baptist, who was to prepare the way of the Lord. Before John was born, an angel appeared unto a virgin, Mary, of the house of David, announcing to her that she was chosen of God to become the mother of His only begotten son. Although Christ had been with His Father in heaven as the Son of God, He was also to put on flesh and blood and become the Son of man, thus uniting the two natures in one body, so that He might be able in the body to suffer and atone for the sin of mankind. Luke tells us that in the reign of Caesar Augustus a decree went out that all the world should be taxed or registered. Instead of the census-taker going from house to house as is the case today, everyone was summoned to the city of their birth. So Mary and Joseph her espoused husband went up from

Galilee to the city of David which is called Bethlehem. Having no room in the inn, they had to be content to rest in a stable. There in poverty and lowliness Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. Had it been God's will, He could have caused His Son to be born in a palace in grandeur, with angels to wait upon Him. But in the humble surroundings of Jesus' birth we have a lesson in lowliness and humility: that we should not strive after high things, but condescend to men of low estate.

And who was first to be apprised of the Saviour's birth? The lowly shepherds, keeping guard over their flocks by night. An angel of the Lord appeared unto them and brought the good tidings of great joy, that on that day a Saviour was born, which is Christ, the Lord. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." They went and found it even as the angel had told them . . .

. . . now, how shall we receive Him, and how shall we celebrate this day? By dedicating to Him our soul and body, and proving our love by obeying Him who gave His life and shed His blood on Calvary, that we might have life, and have it more abundantly . . . let us remember that Jesus came to bring the heavenly bread to the hungry, living water to the thirsty, and light to those who dwelt in darkness. He became poor that we might become rich in God.

The peace on earth which the angels proclaimed is not an outward peace, as there has been much strife and many bloody wars since then, for the prince of darkness still has his work in the children of unbelief. But to the true believer the inward peace has come. Through repentance, faith, baptism and new birth has transformed us

from sinners to children of God, and being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's children also love their enemies, and being endowed with the spirit of Christ, they strive to be at peace with all men. The good-will of God toward man was manifested in sending His Son upon earth to seek and save that which was lost. And we can manifest our good-will by accepting this precious gift unto our soul's salvation.

To me Christmas will always be a day of blessed memory, because on Christmas day in the year 1889 I was baptized into Christ. After a period of sorrow and contrition I was permitted to enter into the covenant of grace and peace with God. Now we cannot all be baptized on Christmas day, but no matter at what time of the year it may be, every child of God can on this day renew the promises that he will be faithful unto death, even as He was faithful unto the death on the cross. And those who are yet unrepentant should remember the debt of love which they owe unto Him, and say, "Here, Lord, is my heart."

Although the birth of Christ was cause for great rejoicing, let us remember that His death and resurrection is our hope of eternal life.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

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TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki

Beloved, my dear American brothers and sisters in faith and love of our Christ Jesus, and all readers of this **Silver Lining**: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Greetings to you from Japan, and may you have peace, love and hope of eternal life in heavenly Father! I really thank God that He gave us a wonderful gift and also to have an opportunity to celebrate this Christmas. I also thank Him that He gave me so many brethren in Japan and the United States.

In the time of Noah, God gave special grace which permitted him to make the Ark to save all the creation of many kinds of the animals. It wasn't so easy to build the ark; it required much patience. It was a time of insult and patience, for many years with him and his family. It wasn't sufficient if he did not have complete love, faith and trust in Him and it was almost an impossible situation. Noah splendidly did such a wonderful job of God.

We Christian's privileges and responsibilities are very important like Noah's, probably even more so than Noah's. We should build up our own faith and should lead the worldly people through a true repentance and turn to God, the Father. It is great big job. We should have more love, patience and courage. Only complete trust, love and faith in God gives us power of glorifying Him. Sometimes people laugh at me and I might lose a friend. Probably parents and brothers and sisters might persecute us by misunderstanding, but we should not give up from such Satan's work. We should stand with our feet on the ground. Jesus Himself was born in stable. Jesus himself was despised, abused, betrayed, then at last He hung on the cross with robbers.

The mission work isn't so easy, probably more difficult than the United States or Europe, because we did not have any background of real Christianity. The Japanese people have lived within the culture of Shinto and Buddha for more than 1000 years. Traditions and customs are more strong than the constitution of the government. I would like to humbly ask you brothers

and sisters in America to be patient and pray for us and our small congregations in Japan. I believe our God, the Father surely gives us many blessings and great rewards for us, for **works of faith, labors of love, and patience of hope**. We shouldn't give up when we started.

Dear brethren and dear ones, I surely understand how much the Lord loves us and has much patience with us, such weak persons that we are. Christmas has really meaning for us. However, we should remember that Christmas of 1969 won't come back to us anymore. Same as the water as of the Mississippi. The water of the river is running down everyday, but it isn't same water. Our days are very important, and today will never come back to us anymore. I hope you'll have a very wonderful Christmas within Him and all your brethren and dear ones' families, and may the Lord bless you in new year.

MORTON, ILLINOIS

Mrs. John Oberlander
Mrs. Ken Getz

Our community has been saddened by the loss of three dear souls. Bro. John Plattner, 84, died Nov. 11 at Rest-Mor Nursing Home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Lena Kaiser Plattner; eight sons, Walter, Rickard, Lester, Marion, Edward, Harold, Jacob, and Robert; a daughter, Mrs. Walter (Clara) Vogel; four sisters, Mrs. Fannie Witzig, Mrs. Dave (Julia) Leman, Mrs. Ben (Anna) Kaiser and Miss Hulda Plattner; and a brother, Joseph. Sis. Matilda Frank, 81, passed away Nov. 26 at Methodist Hospital, where she had been a patient since Nov. 7. She is survived by two brothers, John and Samuel, and a sister, Mrs. Samuel (Clara) Welk. Bro. Paul Schambach, 76, died Nov. 27 at his residence. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Frida Zimmerman Schambach; two sisters, Mrs. Pauline Barth in Germany and Mrs. John (Rose) Teubel. Our sympathy is extended unto the families. May the Lord guide them through each day.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Eli Somerhalder, Henry Beer, Roy Sauder and Harold Zeltwanger. Harold was with us on Thanksgiving Day and reminded us of our many blessings.

A near tragedy hit two Morton families on Sunday afternoon Nov. 15. Two sons, Steve and Ted of the

John Schick Jr. family and their cousin, Mark, of the Herman Schmidt family were involved in a 1-car accident close to their homes. How suddenly the Lord does speak. Steve and Mark are recovering at home; Ted is still in critical condition at Methodist Hospital in Peoria. Our prayers are with these dear ones and their families.

Bro. Harry Schmidgall fell at work and is in the hospital, recovering from a back injury. Those confined at home are: Miles Hunter, Bros. Chris Knapp, Henry Rapp, Sam L. Getz, and Sisters Kate Belsley and Kate Rapp.

Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria Vierling Leman are the parents of a daughter, Renee Lynn. Two brothers and a sister welcome her home.

FRANCESVILLE, IND.

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Oh God, my heart is filled with a wonderful happiness. Two of our sisters can say this, Sandra Huber and Deborah Wuethrich, whose engagements were announced to Glenn Price Jr. and Ned Speicher, both from Milford. The parents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred Huber, Bro. Dave and Sis. Barbara Wuethrich, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathleen Price, and Bro. Lew and Sis. Miriam Speicher.

A happy family is the Dennis Lemans, who wish to thank God for their baby son Randall, whom his sister Michelle will enjoy.

Sis. Luella Pelsy would like to thank any who sent her cards while she was in the hospital. We are so thankful that she can assemble with us again. We are sorry to say that Sis. Julia Boehning has to be hospitalized, and Sis. Anna Banwart has had to be confined to her bed. We want to really pray hard for them.

We want to say what great joy we had when Dwight and Carol Bucher turned to the Lord. Then sad news came that their son Terry had an accident, but thankful it wasn't worse. Dwight said, "I would like to lie on his bed and bear the pain that he has." That is like earthly father and son feel, and the heavenly Father and Son's love is even greater to all mankind.

Our youngest little grandson Chris had the misfortune of having a severe fall, but so thankful to God that he is doing well, for his

mother, as his father, Dr. Charles Lyons, had to leave for Viet Nam.

Dear Sis. Tillie Geyer "God Will Take Care Of You", her beloved companion Bro. Sam could say. "Farewell, I've waited long for this glad hour in Christ", was sung. These were our dear Tillie's words when Sam passed away: "I do not know of anyone with more patience, he did not even ask for a glass of water." Their dear children and grandchildren were given many comforting words by our Bros. Wendell and Elmer, that their example of patience will stay with them. Sam lived on this earth 80 years. "Shall We Meet Again Up Yonder", is the prayer that this will be.

Thanks to you, Dear Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss, Perry Zimmerman and Edwin Bahler for your "Love Visits". We will humbly try to do as we heard: "Each one of us is given a talent: we must keep cultivating it." . . . Also to think "What can I give?" instead of "What can I receive?" . . . And "How many times do we cry in our hearts, but do not shed any tears?"

This is the Christmas greeting (in part) that my dear departed father printed 10 years ago, and know if he were still here he would enjoy to mail one to everyone of you. "Greetings to our loved ones, near and far. Once again we are impressed with the realization of how very much the world needs Christ today. How much we all need Him. His hands are full of blessings to those who will receive Him. As we begin the New Year, let us use the key of LOVE, which unlocks all locks."

MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

Elizabeth K. Kaisner

Greetings from the West . . . let us rejoice that there was a Saviour born into this world for the salvation of mankind. AS Christ was born, suddenly the angels praised God, saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. O let us exalt our dear Lord and proclaim . . . as songs of the angels in sweetest accord, our thanks and our praises shall rise to the LORD. We will look forward to the Sunday School children to proclaim their faith and praise to the Lord in their Christmas program.

As time is passing by so swiftly, we that are becoming older cannot help but be reminded as follows:

When I must leave this world I
hope

There's nothing that I've done
That I've not asked forgiveness for,
From God or anyone.

I want to feel I've done my best,
And life has been worthwhile;
When I must leave this world, I
hope

There's peace within my soul.

On Nov. 2, Elder Bro. Roy Farney from Phoenix was our visitor and helped our Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger serve communion, with Altadena joining with us. It is a blessing to partake of, humbles one, and reveals to us our duties.

Sisters Julie Ann Dapper, Jan Elsasser and Penny Julien are visiting in the East and visited at Lester with Bro. and Sis. Carl Feucht, at their 25th wedding anniversary.

THREE TESTS: When I want to speak, let me think first, Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? If not, let it be left unsaid.

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Alma Morris

"Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day."

Bro. Elmer Hartter visited on Nov. 2. Elmer gave us a very inspiring message and told us all of our talents and how we should strive to use them. We enjoyed his sermons very much.

Bro. Harry and Sis. Lena are back with us. Harry is a well of inspiration everytime he teaches us.

Ed and Sis. Caroline Lester have a new daughter, Christine Carol. She has a 3-year-old brother, Ed Jr.

Lynn Frieden, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Aldene is back, after serving in the National Guards in South Carolina.

On Nov. 30 we were blessed with company. Bro. Earl Kilgus ministered unto us and gave fresh insights into the significance of conversion and repentance, using the conversion of Paul as his example.

LONG BINH, VIET NAM

Merle Rocke

Greetings of Christian love from the small, isolated outposts of the Lord here in Southeast Asia. We are few in number, yet rich in blessings; weak and young in faith, yet willing to offer what light or

help we can while in this war-ravaged land. I have been asked to continue writing of news and of our experiences from time to time; this I will attempt in my weakness.

Those of us who have been able to fellowship together have experienced feelings of love and unity which seems to surpass anything we have felt before. Many of the blessings we cherish are not often experienced under normal circumstances at home. The Thanksgiving season has just passed, and although far from loved ones for whom our hearts ache, we yet have countless blessings for which we rejoice.

As you might expect, it isn't extremely pleasant here. The hours are long, the physical facilities not the best, and it's hard to be separated from our wives, parents, and loved ones. Probably all of us here would agree it's the separation from our loved ones which is the hardest. Yet this loneliness is really a blessing, for in a foreign land as this, away from our church and fellowship of the brethren, it seems that our needs are greater—so we seek more diligently, we knock a little louder, and we find more often. We did not ask to come here. Had we been given a choice we would not have come. Yet the value of the personal experiences we have made cannot be measured.

Many brothers and friends have finished their tour and have returned home. Those who are left and those who have arrived are rather widely scattered. Bro. Barry Isch has been home over a month, and I certainly miss him, as we had been permitted to be together several times each week, and he was truly a help and support for many of us. Bro. Leland Metzger (West Bend) and Convert Al Kupferschmid (Forrest) expect to depart in the near future. Soldiers who arrived in the RVN are Lynn Dornword (Lester), Convert Jim Wagenbach (Tremont), and Bro. Jerry Drayer (Bluffton). I was fortunate to spend a Sunday with Friend Marvin Ginzler, who is in the Air Force at Tan Son Nhut A.F.B. We had attended the Eureka Church together as children. It is truly wonderful to be permitted to meet one another.

We sincerely thank you for your prayers, which we covet earnestly. May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours now and always. As Christmas approaches,

it is evident that although we are physically here with duties to perform, our thoughts and our hearts are at home with those we dearly love.

PULASKI, IOWA

Mrs. Dave Wiegand

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Bros. Gene Bertschi and Walter Anliker were among a group of brothers and sisters from Roanoke and Eureka who came on Nov. 23 to spend the day with us. They both stressed the importance of having faith in these latter days. It was a blessed day, enjoyed by all.

Harvest is again over, and we truly thank the Lord for His abundant blessings on our efforts.

The engagement of Sonia Rinckenberger and Kirk Wegner has been made known. Sonia is the daughter of Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinckenberger. We wish them much happiness!

URBANA, ILLINOIS

Nada Baumgartner

Sue Zimmerman

As the Christmas season approaches we are reminded of our Saviour's birth and of His complete love for mankind. It is important that we not forget the real meaning of Christmas, amid the festivities that are common to this season.

We were richly blessed with visitors, for which we are always so thankful. A small group from West Bend spent the week-end here. We thank God and all who took part in making these wonderful days of blessings and fellowship.

Rich Shock from Elgin has begun to seek the Lord in repentance. May God bless him in his new walk in life.

A son was born to Sis. Joan and Bro. Keith Hanson. Thane Edwin has two older brothers, Ethan, 4 yrs. and Brent, 6 yrs. to welcome him home. A son, named Weslie Alan was born to Wayne and Joann Knapp. He has one older sister, Wendy, 2½ yrs.

Bro. Roy Sauder, Peoria, and Bro. Ed Hohulin Goodfield, were with us on Wed., Nov. 12, for the memorandum.

Other visiting ministers were: Bros. Leroy Huber, Eureka; Russel Rapp, Morton; Harold Schmidgall, Gridley; Morris Frank, Chicago;

Ed Alt, Phil Sauder, Cissna Park; Merle Kaisner, Fairbury; and Elmer Witzig, Gridley. We want to thank them for being with us and making a special blessing on those days.

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

Wendell Anliker

Another year is coming to an end, which reminds us that Christmas will soon be here. As we drive down the streets of our cities we can see the brightly shining Christmas decorations, the people hurrying up and down the streets, buying gifts for one another, but hardly realizing the gift that God sent into the world, a gift that all mankind can be recipients of.

Even as it was on the night Christ was born, very few had respect for Him, even if it was God's plan that He should come in a humble way. It seems the same way today—no room for Jesus, who even loves the greatest sinner! Let us all make room or more room for Jesus. Let's put this thought at the top of our resolutions. I don't believe we would ever regret it.

Much love and fellowship was brought into our midst when many of our parents and friends visited us. May we always cherish our new acquaintances, and may the richest blessing of our Heavenly Father rest upon all who visited us.

We welcome to Ft. Sam Bros. Cleve Klopfenstein Gridley, and Charles Sinn from Ft. Scott, who have started their basic training.

Bro. Dave Knoblock and Friend Bruce Messner were transferred to Ft. Hood, Texas. We trust the Lord will be with them in their new duty station, and we look forward to having them come back to visit with us on week-ends.

Convert Bill and Carol Schmidgall and son Scotty are enjoying a leave at home before Bill leaves for Viet Nam. We enjoyed the love and fellowship shown unto us by Bill and Carol and will surely miss them. We trust the Lord will be with them at all times.

UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

Ed. Aeschleman

A baby boy, Mark Philip, was born to Bro. Philip and Sis. Janice Weber. This is their first child and a true blessing to the parents. May God help them in their efforts to nourish and raise him in a manner pleasing to God and man.

We sincerely welcome Bro.

Leonard and Sis. Audrey Hitz with their four boys to our congregation. The Hitz family moved from Detroit to the Newark, New Jersey area, for his employer. They are a blessed addition to our small congregation.

BERN, KANSAS

Esther and Stella Moser

Now thank we all our God
With heart, and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In Whom the world rejoices,
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

On Thanksgiving morning we assembled with the Sabetha congregation. Bro. Alphai Moser (Morris) was the guest minister; we heard, a child of God has much to be thankful for, not only on this special day of Thanksgiving, but everyday of our life.

Our spring started out so late . . . Much rain and cold weather made planting late . . . then a very dry period, with harvest time rainy and wet. We still gathered in a bountiful harvest. Makes one just a little ashamed to be so lacking in faith.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie Grimm have reached the 25th milestone of their marriage. A group gathered at their home to help them observe it in an evening of song and fellowship. May the Lord continue to bless them, as they journey onward.

Sis. Lola Luthi (Glenn) is on the take-it-easy list due to eye surgery. Bro. Louis Meyer Sr. is a new resident at the A. C. Home. Bro. Frank Hertzell was able to have the cast removed from his ankle. He has now handed the crutches to Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Leonard), who had the misfortune to break a bone in her ankle.

As we bring this year's reporting to a close, we wish to extend our best wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season to all our readers.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen

Katie Kachelmuss

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

Bro. Jesse Schrock visited and

served us with the Bread of Life. He read in Jeremiah of going to the potter's house and watching him make vessels, how the one was marred so he made it again. He spoke of how Paul wrote about the vessels in a large house, some to honor and some to dishonor. We should strive, with the help and grace of God, to become vessels unto honor, sanctified and made meet for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work. Bro. Perry Zimmerman visited us on Thanksgiving Day. Perry mentioned that we have so many things to be thankful, for the plan of salvation which Christ brought down upon this earth, and many other blessings, especially the assurance that God never breaks His promises to man if they will keep the faith until the end.

Sis. Martha Lanz, 116 Hilton Place, had major surgery. She wishes to thank all for the prayers, cards and other tokens of love. May God bless you all. Sis. Sarah (Albert) Schmidgall, 721 Diane Avenue and Sis. Esther Kachelmuss, 363 Hamilton Ave, had ear surgery and are getting along well. Bro. Nathan Kellenberger was hospitalized due to an arm injury, but is at home again with his loved ones at 520 McClure Ave.

Bro. Joshua Broquard was with us for a Wed. evening gathering when the memorandum was brought to us. We're always glad to have him, as he has been coming to visit us for a number of years and has been helpful to our elders often. May God be his reward for his efforts.

Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Ida Wewetzer Steffen had the privilege of observing their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 16. All of their family were with them for dinner at the home of their oldest son, David Steffen of Fairbury. They wish to thank all for the many cards, well wishes, and other tokens of love. May God bless you all.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Mrs. Rudy Bahr
Mrs. Eldon Metzger

Sometimes we receive spiritual gifts without realizing they have been given . . . the everyday blessings and happenings of God. Monday, Paula came home from high school telling about the good talk a man gave to them. The high school chorus was to sing for the revival meeting at the grade school

that night, and the man was to speak, and Paula wanted us to go, since she was a chorus member . . . The meeting was upsetting for her: she was bewildered when he asked people to come forward who wanted to live for Christ, and wanting to challenge his statement on these ministers who don't have any religious training for the ministry.

Jeff, our 7th grader, had talked with a friend who had told him what a good speaker he was. Jeff had wanted to go. He asked, "Why doesn't our church have some meetings and have that dark-haired minister who was here come speak?" . . . referring to Bro. Fred Knapp of Congerville, who through God's Spirit brought us such wonderful food several weeks ago. (He and his family came with Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth and family, visiting Pauline's aunt, Sis. Lena and Bro. Mathias Strahm. Bro. Knapp brought out in his sermon that when we become Christians we are all equal, and remain that way—each must try, and try and try to obtain the perfection Paul spoke of. If we have a field of corn, we must keep weeding our own field; we don't go and weed our neighbor's fields.) Ministers speaking words from God are eternal gifts. I told Jeff we have our guest speakers or ministers spread through the year . . . and thinking about it as I write—how nice to receive gifts throughout the year!

Thanksgiving services were held, with Lamont joining us.

Bro. Art and Sis. Emelie Leuthold and three children from Lester were here to meet their son, Chuck, who is stationed at Okla. City. (Chuck had been at Ft. Riley and visited us with Bro. Dave Kaeb of Fairbury, who is still stationed at Ft. Riley.)

At Christmas, we think of being home with our loved ones. While looking for program material for Sunday School, I came across this thought: Home for Christmas—think of THE HOME Christ left for us—the dreary earth comparison He came to, because He loved us.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY **Christy Koch**

God of our past, our times are in thy hand;

With us abide.

Lead us by faith to hope's true Promised Land;

Be thou our guide.

With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

Where else could we go in this world but to this loving Saviour whose birth we are celebrating. I often think of the poor students and people of the world who do not have this Rock and Refuge to pour out their troubles to, and release their pressures. How wonderful it is to walk hand-in-hand with Christ.

On Nov. 6, Bro. Ed Hohulin reminded us of the Holy Spirit, given to us by the grace of God. Bro. Ed Ringger told us that sin is the most horrible disease. Bro. Harvey Heiniger reminded us that it is good to review the first love we had when we were first reconciled to God. We thank all of these brothers for their labors.

Plans are being made for Christmas caroling on the evening of Dec. 15.

God be with you now at Christmas,
Give you peace and joy of heart,
And with loving care direct you,
Through the year that soon will start.

LANDERSVILLE, ALA.

Billie Jo Harville

As we are at the close of another year, we all have much to be thankful for. The Lord Jesus has been very good to us. Before we make New Year's plans we should thank him for all he has done for us. Sis. Marion Klopfenstein opened her home for the Joy Group, to meet, sew and fellowship together. We enjoyed visiting with her two aunts, Louise and Hulda Martin, and cousin, Margaret Rassi. We all had a nice day. The youth group from Landersville and Hillsboro met twice for their regular meeting, first at Hillsboro church. We were sure glad to have with us Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Betty Schumacher and boys. Lloyd gave the devotion, which we all enjoyed. We hope to have them again sometime. Thanksgiving week, both groups met at the nursing home in Moulton to sing, which is always a blessing to share the joy of singing with others who are not able to go to God's house.

We meet twice a month for worship service in the home of Luther and Sis. Virginia Arnold in Phil Campbell. We always have a nice time. We are happy to welcome

Margaret Hale at Hillsboro as a sister in faith; she is the mother of Bro. Junior Hale.

Those who have been in the hospital are Mr. Will Posey, Eunice Beermen, Kim Harville, Will Latham.

LAMAR, MISSOURI Marie Marti

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Christmas is a story of divine and human love, a compassionate, all-encompassing love which tugs on the hearts of mankind. Without love, there could never have been that first Christmas.

Christmas is a time for music. Let us sing out the ancient carols and rejoice in the birth of the Christ Child, Let us sing with hearts filled with gladness and love for the Heavenly King. Christmas is a time for giving. Let us give precious gifts from our heart's rich store. Let us feel the joy of giving self and the happiness that giving brings.

Christmas is a time for praying. Let us value most the eternal things. Let us pray that our hearts may see beyond the stars and candles—to Eternity. Let us keep Christmas throughout the year. Our hearts were filled with an abundance of warmth and love on a Sunday in November, when three dear ones gave their testimonies and were baptized. The peace of God which passeth all understanding now dwells in their hearts. We are happy to welcome into the fold Bro. Noah Schlupp and Sis. Bonnie and Bro. Leonard Braker. May God bless them richly. Elder Bros. Sam Anliker and Eugene Marti were with us for the blessed occasion.

REMLINGTON, INDIANA

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

Sis. Sandra Clauss and Bro. James Schwartz of Bluffton announced their engagement Nov. 9. The parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Mildred. and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Elizabeth . . . May the Lord be their guide. They are both at school at Purdue.

Mich and Coleen (Clauss) Culp and baby were here, on furlough. He is in the marines in California and will soon be out.

My brother, Andy, 63 of Fowler, Ind. passed away Dec. 1 at the hospital in Bluffton, after being very

ill there for a month. He was married to Ann Bolliger of Tremont in 1937. They had 2 sons, Richard of Wilmington, Del. and David of Toledo. His brothers are Herman and Paul of here, Arnold of Lakeland Florida; and his sisters, Louise, Eunice, Sarah and myself of here. Andy worked for Bro. Edwin Bahler, with his Farm Builder business for a number of years. Funeral services were held Thurs., Dec. 4; burial in our cemetery.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Bertha Scharlachs' family of Hoopston, Ill. Several went to visitation and the funeral. We've known the family for many years.

There comes a time for all of us
When we must say good-bye,
But faith and hope and love and
trust can never, never die,
Although the curtain falls at last
Is that a cause to grieve?
The future's fairer than the past
If only we believe
And trust in God's eternal care,
So when the Master calls,
Let's say that life is still more fair,
Although the curtain falls.

SHIODA, JAPAN

Toshio Uchida

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son. His name shall be called Immanuel. Christmas greetings to everyone in the Lord in the American church!

Elder Bros. Noah Schrock and Ben Maibach came to visit us on Oct. 15. For about two weeks we visited together about the church and various things.

In Ichimiva-Cho, the rural area where our Shioda church is located, there was an epidemic of dysentery from about the beginning of November. Many people had to be hospitalized, including Sis. Haruko Saegusa and her husband. It's a good thing this didn't happen during the American brothers' visit. The disease did not spread to Ehnle San's family or to my family due to God's protection for which we are most thankful.

We learned from the Elder brethren about the large home that is being built by the American church for the purpose of instructing and teaching mentally retarded and handicapped children. I believe God's grace and blessing will be upon all in the church who cooperate in this effort. Do you say,

If possible. All things are possible to him who believes.

In our church, Ehnle San and all the brothers and sisters are well. Marie San and Carol San are busy teaching the children. Christmas has drawn near, and they are thinking about a program. I think we shall have a good Christmas.

We ask all of you to please encourage Miss Junko Hatsuomi, who has gone from Japan to visit in the home of Bro. Alvin Schrock in Congerville.

Let us wholeheartedly commemorate the birth of Christ, and may the blessings of God be upon all of you in the American churches in an ever increasing measure.

TAMAHATA, JAPAN

Willis Ehnle

During the recent visit of our Elder brethren, Holy Communion was served at the Tamahata church. Bro. Schrock commented that there were just twelve of us around the table, the same number of persons present at the Lord's table the night he was betrayed, not including Judas Iscariot.

November was a special month of Thanksgiving, as it marks the end of harvest-time and the beginning of winter in that part of the earth governed by a temperate climate and the four seasons. It is good to remember that thanksgiving and joy go hand in hand. He who constantly gives thanks constantly rejoices.

The three persimmon trees in our Tamahata church-yard bore fruit abundantly this year. The lovely orange fruit was splendid to look upon and delicious to eat. In our spiritual lives, may we each seek to bear some fruit that will abide forever.

TUCSON, ARIZONA

Noah Herman

On Thanksgiving Day, we held morning services and were reminded of the faith of the Pilgrims. This is a portion of a poem which tells of their faith and courage:

The ocean eagle soared from her nest by the white wave foam. And the rocking pines of the forest roared; this was their welcome home.

There were men with hoary hair—Amidst that pilgrim band. Why had they come to wither there. away from their childhood land?

Aye, Call it holy ground, the

soil where first they trod. They have left unstained what there they found: Freedom to worship God!

Eleanor Blessman has again been hospitalized, and underwent major surgery. We pray she will recover soon and can again be home with her family.

William Griffith is serving a tour of duty in Thailand. He is the son-in-law of Bro. Jay Bertsch.

Ministering Bro. Clarence Yackley and Elder Bro. Roy Farney of Phoenix visited us. We certainly enjoyed the time we spent together.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Whitely and three children have been attending church regularly. We are thankful, and enjoy having them worship with us.

We extend a warm welcome to all who travel in the Southwest.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Mrs. Gary Anliker

Our faith in the Almighty God was renewed when Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville spoke to us at our monthly meeting. When we learn of the many evil activities even in this supposedly "Christian" country, we realize that the only thing a true believer can cling to is God and His precious word. Those of us living in this time must try to walk ever nearer to our God, for we can read, that even some of the elect will be deceived in these perilous times.

Since most of us are not in a position of authority to deal directly with some of these matters, we may feel there is nothing we can do. However, we should pray for those in authority, that they would seek God in their decisions. Certainly we should pray for the grace and strength to remain true to our promise to God, so that we can be a guiding light to our families and friends.

We are looking forward to a visiting minister from West Bend for December.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Mrs. Herman Schaefer

Mrs. Carl Joos

Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmiggall are the parents of a little girl, born Nov. 6; she has been named Beth Ann. She has a brother, Paul J., at home.

Bros. Leo Moser and Paul Butikof visited our congregation and read the conclusions of the memorandum. We are thankful for their

visit and thoughts they left with us.

Sis. Lillie Luthi was hospitalized. We are thankful she is able to assemble with us again.

Paul Fehr Jr., son of our Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr, met with a car accident. He suffered a broken leg, arm, and jaw. He is still hospitalized, but we are thankful that he is on the road to recovery.

ALTO, MICHIGAN

Loretta Steffen

All the beautiful Christmas songs that we find stored in our memories are renewed at this time of the year. We sing them from the depths of our hearts in love toward Jesus.

To really enjoy the fulness of Christmas, the birth of our blessed Saviour, we must realize the suffering and shame he endured, the death and glorious resurrection, and our hearts should feel overwhelmed when we think of Him. The hymnwriter said it so beautifully when he wrote,

Jesus the very thought of Thee
with sweetness fills my breast,
But sweeter far thy face to see
And in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing, no heart can
frame,

Nor can the memory find
A sweeter sound than Jesus' name,
The Saviour of mankind.

Bro. Dennis Koehl and Sis. Linda Schrenk were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Joe Waibel on Nov. 9. Their address is RR, Lake Odesa Mich 48849.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss and Nathan Steffen. We are always thankful for visiting ministers and appreciate all our guests, too.

A baby boy was born to Sherrie and Gordon Henney. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ellen Oesch.

Hospitalized and released were Sisters Fern Wingeier and Loretta Steffen.

Our annual meeting was held Nov. 26. Those elected to offices were as follows; Sunday School teachers: Sis. Linda Koehl. Bro. Derry Schutte and Bro. Bill Gerst. Trustees: Bro. Dick Gerst and Bro. Lyman Feldman. Bro. Carl Steffen is in charge of singing for the following year. We are always thankful the Lord helps us find capable brethren for these jobs.

In closing, I would wish all of you dear readers a Joyous Christmas and Blessed New Year.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, ILL.

Lyle and Lois Stoller

Our visiting ministers during November were: Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke; Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin; Bro. Eli Somerhalder, Burlington; Bro. August Bolliger, Tremont; Bro. Frederick Knapp, Congerville. We sincerely thank them for bringing us God's most holy and precious word.

It seems that our small congregation has little news to write about, and as the old saying goes, "No news is good news." We thank our Heavenly Father for providing us a place to worship this past year, and pray that He will continue to bless our congregation in the future as He has so bountifully in the past.

We wish to thank all those who have visited us, and extend a hearty welcome to all our brethren to visit us when the way opens for each one. Truly it is a blessing from God above, being able to enjoy the fellowship of loved ones of like mind and faith.

BLUFFTON, INDIANA

Imogene Steffen — Pat Isch

Christmas day is rapidly approaching, and everyone finds himself busily occupied in preparations . . . We must remember, however, that Christmas is not a day or a season, but a condition of the heart and mind. If we love our neighbor as ourselves, if we are poor in spirit and rich in grace, if charity vaunteth not itself, but suffereth long and is kind, if we give of ourselves for another's welfare—then every day is Christ's day and Christmas is always near.

The funeral services of Sis. Mary Steffen (Amos) were held Nov. 18, with Bro. John Yergler officiating. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Amos; two daughters, Sis. Marcella (Charles) Sauder of Mansfield and Sis. Marie (Nelson) Moser of Bluffton; two sons, Bro. Louis of Bluffton and Bro. Luther of Ft. Wayne; two sisters Sis. Lydia (John) Fiechter of Bluffton and Sis. Hulda (Joel) Heinold of Phoenix; three brothers, Bro. Eli Gerber of Goshen, Bros. Sam and Jack Gerber of Bluffton. May God in his infinite love provide consolation to the sorrowing in their dark hours of grief,

In the month of November we again were privileged to have several visiting ministers to stir us up in our faith, that we could renew our high and heavenly calling. They are Bro. Elmer Witzig of the Gridley congregation, Bro. Ed Frank of LaCrosse, Bro. Maurice Frank of Chicago, and Bro. Henry Beer of Milford. We truly appreciate the inspiration they have given.

On Nov. 9, Elder Bro. John Yergler united in Holy matrimony Sis. Ruth Kipfer and Bro. Keith Baumgartner. Parents of this couple are Bro. Martin and Sis. Marguerite Kipfer and Bro. Chester and Sis. Betty Baumgartner. On Nov. 23 Bro. Ed Schwartz and Sis. Jeni Fiechter were married by Bro. Yergler. Their parents are Bro. Edward and Sis. Josephine Schwartz and Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter. Our friends, Julie Miner and Lonnie Frauhiger were married on Sat. Dec. 6. Parents are Mr. Andrew Miner and Mrs. Evelyn Marckres and Bro. Herbert and Sis. Lucille Frauhiger. May they find much happiness in their married lives.

Several engagements have been announced: Sis. Lou Ann Fiechter to Bro. Bill Rager of Latty; parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter and Bro. William and Sis. Elsie Rager. Sis. Sandy Clauss of Remington and Bro. James Schwartz have made known their engagement; their parents are Bro. Robert & Sis. Mildred Clauss & Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Elizabeth Schwartz. Also betrothed are Sis. Carol Ringger and Bro. Dennis Klopfenstein of Latty. Carol's parents are Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Vi Ringger, and Denny's parents are Floren and Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein . . . Wishing the Lord's blessings on these couples as they plan their future days together.

We are happy to report our Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman has been dismissed from his long stay in the hospital and is recuperating in his home. We hope he will soon be able to assemble with us. Bros. Joe Steffen, Wilmer Steffen and Sam H. Gerber submitted to surgery. Bros. Joe and Wilmer have been dismissed and are improving, following eye surgery.

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

Changing address? Tell your reporter. Remember to send zip number!

the editor

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

Marlene Mosher

Sis. Margaret Molner has been in the hospital for an operation, but now she is home and doing fine. Sis. Arlene Wieland is in the hospital for minor surgery, and is doing fine.

Our dear Ministering Brother, Henry Wackerle is to undergo surgery and wishes for the prayers of everyone. We hope if it is the Lord's will that he will be back with us very soon.

This is the time of year we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Saviour. Let us remember that it is the Cross that can give us peace of mind, if we but give our hearts to Christ . . .

Because if our Lord had only been born and had not shed his blood on the Cross, we would not have a hope of eternal life. It would be nice if every day could be, Peace on earth, good will to men, and not only at Christmas-time.

Let us especially think and pray for our loved ones who are shut-in at Christmas-time or anytime . . . May our Lord watch over them and give them an extra blessing.

BREMEN, INDIANA

Pauline Laidig — Helen Zimmer

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, . . . For unto you is born this day . . . A Saviour. Our hearts should overflow with joy, for it was on this day the Saviour came to redeem our souls from eternal death.

A number from our congregation accompanied Bro. Verdon Feldman to Indianapolis on Nov. 16 for church services. It is always a pleasure to fellowship with our loved ones there. One student remarked: "I look forward to Sunday and attending church here . . . because the people are so kind and loving." How wonderful it is that our youth away at school feel closely drawn to others of like mind and faith. Others, that day, went to Fort Wayne for the Hymn Sing, while our young folks attended Christian Endeavor at Milford.

We gathered together on Sun. evening Nov. 23 for the annual Thanksgiving Program. We were richly reminded of the many blessings the Lord bestows upon us.

We wish to thank our Elder Brothers, Joe Waibel, David Bertsch, and Theo. Beer for visiting us the end of November. A blessed and solemn week-end was experi-

enced by our congregation. Bro. Earl Zeltwanger was ordained deacon. We pray that our Heavenly Father will grant him a full measure of grace, strength and wisdom to carry out his duties at all times.

Sis. Becky Feldman was again able to assemble with us, after being absent for awhile; we are grateful for answered prayers. The condition of other shut-ins remain about the same.

Our Sunday School children are planning a Christmas program and a time of carolling on Dec. 22. To all our friends and readers of the Silver Lining we wish a very blessed Holiday Season.

This Christmas Day, let's kneel, and pray.

The Lord to help us on our way,
And give us strength that we may tread

With confidence the road ahead;
Let's humbly ask, whate'er the task

That he assigned for us to do,
That He be near, and quiet fear
And kindle faith in men anew.

Full well we know, long years ago,
When He was on the earth below,
His cares were greater then by far
Than ours have ever been or are;
And though the way be dark today,
And difficult the path to see,
Let's lay aside our selfish pride,
And follow Him of Galilee.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Don Sauder of Roanoke and Joe Schrock of Congerville. We were richly blessed with many sincere, wholesome teachings. Joe showed slides of Japan on Sat. evening, which were quite interesting and informative.

Bro. Cleve Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine, has entered the service and is at Ft. Sam. We wish him the Lord's protection and grace.

We were saddened by the passing of Sis. Bertha Scharlach, who was stricken this past summer while working here, yet we rejoice over the courageous faith which she maintained unto the very last. Funeral services were conducted in Cissna Park on Dec. 6.

CONGERVILLE, ILLINOIS

Fannie Schieber — Pauline Roth

The Thanksgiving holiday is past, and the Christmas Season is fast approaching. We enjoyed

meeting the college students who were home for vacation. Thanksgiving services were held Thurs. morning. We had a nice attendance.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Robert Pohl, Burlington; Vernon Schwab, Wolcott; and Willis Wiegand, Goodfield. We enjoy our visitors and hope they will visit us again soon. I wish I could remember more of the good teachings I hear.

Sis. Elizabeth Hartter is in the Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington. We hope she will soon feel much better and can be home again. Sis. Cora Schumacher has the cast removed from her arm now. Vern Williamson is still on crutches, but is able to attend school and Sunday School again. We hope they will all continue to improve.

The Bible class and teachers and their wives have chartered a bus and plan to go to Alto. We hope they have a safe journey. We know they will enjoy their stay at Alto.

Our friend, Duane Miller, son of Elmer and Ruth, is a medical patient at Mennonite Hospital. He seems to be progressing satisfactorily and hopes to soon be dismissed.

Christmas, like the Bible,
Means varied things to man—

To some a day of gladness,
A special time and place,

To give a gift, to greet a friend,
Or wear a smiling face.

Some there are, who seem to me,
Forever set apart,

Who through the years serenely
walk
With Christmas in their heart.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

Again it is Christmas, the season of goodwill, love and gift-giving. Time again to read Luke's account of the birth of Jesus, of the shepherds, the star, the wise men and to sing familiar carols. It is the season of home-going, the gathering of loved ones, the fellowship of friends, and the time to send and receive greetings and letters of good wishes. Greatly to be cherished is the wish for peace. Only as we have peace of mind and heart, peace with God and man can we have happiness and joy.

Here is a story: It was Christ-

mas day. The king sat upon his throne to receive the gift of his people. They brought him freely of their riches, of their art and beauty, of their wisdom. All but one. He stood without the throng with bowed head and thoughtful mien.

So it came about that when all had given but the one, the king turned to him, "And where are thy gifts." Then the man bowed his head still lower. "I have neither gold, nor beauty, nor wisdom; I can give you only of my heart which is friendly, because full of faith . . . which is happy, because free of malice . . . which is peaceful, because full of hope. Of that only can I give you, but of such as I have I give you both willingly and freely, for my store is unlimited. The king bade the man to sit beside him on the throne saying, "Thine be the honor of having brought me the rich and rare gift . . . a friend!"

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber
God gave us sunshine, birds, and trees,

The star-filled sky above;
He gave us beauty, flowers and friends,

And special folks to love.
And then because each life would bring

Its share of stress and care,
He gave to us a wondrous gift —
The Miracle of Prayer.

He knew the sun would sometimes
hide

Behind a cloud of gray,
And we'd have need of faith and hope

And strength for each new
day —

How comforting it is to know
His love is always there
To comfort, help, and guide us,
Through the "Miracle of Prayer."

The above words on a card sent to Dad (Bro. Will Beutel of Tremont, who has been a surgical patient at the St. Francis Hospital in Peoria), surely have much meaning for us. . . .

We were reminded by Bro. August Bolliger at Tremont of the saying, "Where there's a will, there's a way!" — Not only in material ways, but spiritually as well— As he spoke to our dear friends, "If you have the will or desire to find your salvation, God will pro-

vide the way or you will find the way is already there. Surely this is refreshed each year at the Christmas season when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, who is the way of salvation for all mankind . . . And is the greatest gift man can receive!

In a message here we were asked if we feel the need to say thanks for gifts we receive from God or man, or do we just accept and appreciate them, and never tell the giver— Much joy could be given to others if we would express our thanks more often— God gives us much, but he likes to hear our thanks and praise in our prayers and through songs we sing.

Sis. Mary Martin was a surgical patient, but has made a satisfactory recovery and is able to assemble with us again. Sis. Katie Stoller has returned to her home, for which she is glad and thankful, even though she requires a "Companion Helper" to be with her.

Elaine Kay Pfister was born Nov. 8. She is the daughter of Robert and Sis. Janice of R. R. 2, Ft. Wayne 46805, and was welcomed by Nancy and Johnny.

Sis. Lillian Levy is spending the winter in Florida with her sister and husband, Bro. George and Sis. Ida Graff. Her son, David, spent several days with relative in Ft. Wayne enroute from Panama to Viet Nam, where he arrived the middle of November. Surely we remember him in our prayers.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Luther Steffen in the loss of his mother, Sis. Mary Steffen of Bluffton, and to Bro. Noah Gerber and Sisters Laura Gerber and Edith Lieberenz in the death of their brother, Bro. Jesse Gerber of Latty. May they be comforted in knowing their loved ones have reached that better home and will be waiting for them!

Plans are being completed for our annual Christmas program to be held on Sunday evening, Dec. 21. It is always a joy and blessing to hear of the birth of our Saviour.

GIRARD, OHIO

Jesse C. Emch

As this news item is being written, we realize Thanksgiving Day has just passed. Have we been thankful enough for the bountiful harvest that has been ours to enjoy, in this another year that is nearing its end? Already we can see the glitter and glare. Will we

let all this blind us to the real meaning? Namely, Christ the Saviour is born.

Friend Harry Deislinger has been a patient in the Doctor's Hospital Inc., Room 821, 170 East End Ave., New York, N. Y. 10028. Harry had been in the Youngstown Hospital. His wife, Emma Lou is able to have a room in the hospital so she can be near her husband. We wish him a good recovery, and God bless him.

Mrs. Josephine Wiseman, age 83, Youngstown, died Nov. 28 in the St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Youngstown. She died following internal surgery. She was a daughter of the late Bro. Fred and Sis. Rose Thomas of New Martinsville, W. Va.; a sister to Sis. Elizabeth Games, of Girard. She leaves to mourn her departure, three daughters; one son; four sisters; one brother. Funeral services were Monday, Dec. 1, at Weller Funeral Home, Youngstown.

On Sunday, Nov. 23, Friends Richard Stoll and Cathy Hickman were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf, at the home of the groom's parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Monell Stoll, Rodgers, Ohio. We wish the young couple God's blessing as they go through life together. They will make their home in Calcutta, Ohio. This is also the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Hickman.

MANSFIELD, OHIO

Aaron A. Sauder

Farewell, farewell, my morning
dawns

Farewell, my rest I see.

The strife is o'er, my morning
dawns,

The Master calleth me.

Farewell, farewell, I go to rest. . . .

On Oct. 25, Bro. Amos and Sis. Mary Steffen came from Bluffton to Mansfield, to make their home with their daughter and her husband, Sis. Marcella and Bro. Charles Sauder. Amos has not been well for several years, and Mary's health was failing. Eternal morning dawned for Sis. Mary on Nov. 15, when her Master called. Funeral services were held on Nov. 18, in Bluffton. We extend our love and sympathy to her husband and daughter here; her sons—Bro. Louis and Bro. Luther; daughter—Sis. Marie Moser (Nelson); her brothers, Ely, Jack and Sam; her sisters, Lydia Fiechter (John), all

of Indiana, Hulda Heinold (Joe) of Arizona.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Esther Smith, who has returned to her home; Bro. Dick Bricker, who had back surgery; Sis. Ola Froelich, who has just been readmitted to the hospital because of a serious heart condition; and Sis. Anna Hoffman (Earl), who has entered for tests.

Our best wishes for God's blessings in their lives together go to the two newly married couples: James R. Zimmer and Cheryl Grover exchanged wedding vows on November 21; Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Sabo Zimmer are parents of the groom. Laura Morrison and Frank Coleman were united in marriage on Nov. 26; the mother of the bride is Sis. Catherine Morrison (Robert).

Announcement is being made of the birth of a son to Richard and Hilda Enderle, in Aberdeen, Maryland, on Nov. 11. The baby has been named Brian Curt; Henry and Sis. Martha Sabo Enderle are the grandparents.

When Melinda Zimmer's birth was listed in last month's Silver Lining, the names of the grandparents were inadvertently omitted. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Louise Sabo; and the paternal grandmother is May Zimmer of Bremen.

As we are nearing the Christmas season, the children are eagerly practicing for the annual Sunday School program, which is to be presented on Sunday evening, Dec. 21. Plans are being made by the various groups to sing carols and hymns for the various hospitals, as well as to individual shut-ins and aged.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

Larry Kammerer, son of Bro. Andy and Sis. Laura had surgery to correct a knee injury. He's had a rapid recovery and was able to be back in Sunday School, minus crutches and all.

Our sincere congratulations to Sis. Sandra Huber and Bro. Glenn Price Jr., whose engagement was announced. Sandra is the daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildred Huber of Francesville, and Glenn's parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate of Milford. They are planning to be married the 22nd of February. We ask God's blessings on this very happy period of their lives and

His nearness as they make their future plans.

Planning a March wedding are Sis. Debbie Wuethrich, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Barbara of Francesville and Bro. Ned Speicher, son of Bro. Lew and Sis. Miriam of our congregation. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to them. May their future lives be blessed with true love and happiness.

Those of us in the Milford congregation send our best wishes for a blessed and happy Christmas to all of our church homes, wherever they are, at home and abroad. We also send warm wishes and prayers for our servicemen. May God keep you and grant you special blessings.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Veronica Bucher — Deb Wuethrich

We will soon celebrate Christmas. Gifts are given, but not to Him, and the festivities of the day are often out of keeping with His life and purpose. We should remember His birth, but not forget that He is more than a Babe in a manger. As He grew up, He lived a life that was a pattern for us to follow. . . . So while we think of that Bethlehem scene, let us think of Jesus as our Saviour who now dwells in Heaven.

Especially at Christmastime we feel the importance of giving. . . . But we are so fortunate at Purdue that our ministering brethren so willingly give of their talents throughout the whole year. Our Nov. 12 meeting was held by the Milford congregation, and Bro. Walt Steffen gave the evening meditation. Bro. Merle Bucher from LaCrosse was with us Dec. 3 to give inspiring words from God.

We would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to our newly engaged couples—Bro. Jim Swartz (Bluffton) was announced to Sis. Sandy Clauss (Remington), and the engagement of Bro. Ned Speicher (Milford) to Sis. Deb Wuethrich (Francesville) was announced. We wish you God's blessings always.

Another year will soon be over. As we all wonder where it went, the coming year comes into mind, and we ponder over "The Road Ahead"—

I placed another calendar
Today upon the wall,

And pondered on the coming year
And just what may befall.

In all the days and weeks and
months

Before the year has fled,
I wonder why I cannot see
The road that lies ahead.

We strive to put each in its place,
As through the year we tread.
Sometime a hopeless puzzle seems,
The year that lies ahead.

But God in His far wiser way
Makes time a book unread,
And we must walk in hope and
faith
The year that lies ahead.

WINTHROP, MINNESOTA

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

We thank Elder Brethren Leo Moser and Paul Fehr for sharing the memorandum with the Winthrop and Minneapolis congregations. Ministering Bro. Noah Miller was here also.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Sarah Kellenberger were visitors. Sis. Sarah has most of her brothers and sisters living here. We really enjoyed their visit. Bro. Raymond and Sis. Bernadine Messner's son, Stan, was home on leave from the Navy. Bob Messner was discharged from the service. We rejoice with his family.

The holiday season is upon us, and we thank the Lord for the escape He has provided for us from this world of sin through the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

From a child's verse: "We Did Need a Saviour" . . .

If Jesus hadn't come that day
So very long ago
We would not have a Saviour
To love us here below.

But we're so very glad He came
On that first Christmas Day
For we needed a Saviour
To take our sins away.

For Winthrop:

Please pay for the Silver Lining during the month of January.

WOLCOTT, INDIANA

Arles Kropf

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

A blessed evening was spent when the members of the Wolcott and Remington churches assembled

together and had Elder Bros. Leo Moser, Herman Kellenberger, and Wendell Gudeman in our midst. Our thanks go to these brothers for their love and efforts in our behalf, bringing us the memorandum.

A baby daughter, Tammy Sue was born Nov. 16 to Roger and Brenda Kyburz. Welcoming their baby sister are her brothers, Greg and Charles.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 1 for our friend Kathryn Miller, age 66, who passed away unexpectedly in her home. Bro. Joe Kaisner and our local ministers conducted services. She is survived by her husband, Ben; 5 children, Vernon of Wolcott, Earl, and Carolyn Benker of Lafayette, Reuben of Fowler, and Sis. Juanita Schneider of Forrest; her step-mother, Sis. Lena Kyburz; and 12 brothers and sisters.

EUREKA, ILLINOIS

**Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher**

Our visitors were as follows: Bro. Eli Somerhalder, Burlington, Bro. Roy Wieland, Bro. Andrew Virkler, Bay City.

Those who have been in the hospital and returned home are: Sis. Ruth Martin (Bro. George's wife), surgical; Bro. Roland Martin, eye surgery; Sis. Clara Huber (Bro. Leroy's wife) surgical; Bro. Nelson Rocke, (Bro. and Sis. Virgil and Pauline's son) was involved in a car accident. Sis. Minnie Leman remains a patient in Eureka Hospital, but hopes to return home soon. May God be near all those who have been ill and restore their health.

On a Wed. evening, Bro. Dan Koch from Tremont came to help Bro. Leroy Huber read the memorandum.

Thanksgiving Day services were held, with a large crowd attending. Bro. Walter Anliker had the services.

Births—a son, Craig Allen to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein, born Oct. 21; he is their first child; a daughter, Melinda Ann, to Bro. and Sis. Ervin and Sandra Knecht; she was born Nov. 18. She has a little sister, Michelle.

The Sunday School classes are busy, getting ready for the Christmas Program. May we all try to appreciate the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas. May everyone have a blessed Christmas Season.

Think!

Of stepping on a shore and finding it heaven;
Of taking hold of a hand and finding it God's hand;
Of breathing a new air and finding it celestial air;
Of feeling invigorated and finding it immortality;
Of passing from storm and tempest to an unbroken calm;
Of waking up, and finding it "HOME".

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Judith Aberle — Donna Hartzler

Bro. Bob and Sis. Diana Kaiser are returning to Illinois, where Bob will be working in Peoria. They plan to make their home in Morton. They have been with us in Detroit for the greater part of two years, while Bob was going to school and working. We will miss them, but wish them much happiness and the rich blessings of God in their new home.

Ours was a blessed week-end, when on Sat. Dec. 6, Katharina Koprince, mother of Sis. Vi Barton gave a testimony of her conversion and faith in God. Evelyn Polk, daughter of Bro. Homer and Sis. Alice gave a testimony of how God had worked in her heart, bringing her to repentance, finding peace with God and a hope for eternal life. On Sunday, Dec. 7, Evelyn was baptized, and she and Mother Koprince were united with us as sisters in Christ. May God grant them grace to live their lives for Him.

Bro. Joe Waibel was with us for this blessed occasion. He brought us many good teachings from God's holy word. We were taught that we are all as Zacchaeus, who climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus; and as Jesus told Zacchaeus to come down, for He must abide at his house, so must we all be brought down, that Jesus may abide in our house and heart.

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Keith and Sharon Kellenberger

Now it is time for us to say "aloha" to Hawaii. Keith's year and a half of military service at Tripler General Hospital is over. Tomorrow Rachel and I fly to California to meet Keith, who has been processing at Oakland, and then, the Lord willing, we will all fly home together to Illinois. We are looking forward to being with our families and friends and to assembling with those of like faith in church. We

are thankful for having had such a pleasant duty station, for the health and happiness we were blessed with.

We are glad Bill and Charlotte Metzger and their daughter Stephanie are now settled in a home in Wailua. Last week, however, twice they had to evacuate their home, which is about 1½ blocks from the ocean, due to high surf caused by storms about 1000 miles offshore. Waves as high as 40 and 50 feet hit various places along the North shore of Oahu, destroying around 50 homes. We are thankful that Bill and Charlotte's home was far enough from the ocean to escape damage, and that the dangerous surf warnings are over.

Bill and Charlotte expect to be here until the end of August, 1970. They would appreciate phone calls from any R&R servicemen or other visitors to Hawaii. Their address is R. R. 1, Box 417A, Wailua, Hawaii 96791. Their phone number is 637-5802. Dave Grosshans of Fairbury will be here in Hawaii until March, 1970, working at Tripler.

As I close this last article we will write from Honolulu, here's a wish for a blessed Christmas season. . . . aloha!

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Ames, Iowa

Mary Jo Metzger

We are beginning a new quarter at Iowa State. We enjoyed a short break, which included Thanksgiving vacation.

Bro. Wayne Banwart, son of Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart of West Bend, has graduated. He received his B.S. in Agronomy and plans to continue here as a graduate student.

Church services were held here Nov. 9. Bro. Albert Wuthrich from Pulaski and Bro. Paul Banwart from West Bend ministered to us.

We welcome Bro. Harlan Metzger and Mike Wirtz from West Bend as new students. They are taking a winter quarter in farm Operation.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA Alma and Gus Baum

A blessed Christmas to all, with a special prayer for those in hospitals, the bereaved, and those separated from loved ones.

Our thanks to the ministering brothers who visited us. They were Bros. Cleo Rinkenberger—Pulaski, Harold Gramm and Floyd Schmid-

gal, Morris. Many blessed teachings were left with us. Stressed was how they as ministers depend upon our prayers, that they be given words to speak and expound God's holy word . . . referring to this as a miracle, since they come unprepared, depending upon God's help—how each child of God desire to be a light, especially so in these dark days of unrest and turmoil. Just as one light in a huge dark cave is visible, so our light of good works and deeds can shine in the darkness of our time.

We are happy to report that purchase papers are in process for a church building, not too far distant from our present meeting-place, where we have held worship services in a YMCA. Eagerly we await the day when the required cleanup and repair is completed, and we can assemble in an edifice of our own.

As we bid farewell to 1969 and enter 1970, let us prayerfully seek strength in His name, to retain this, our most precious faith.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weveneth

The engagement of Sis. Barbara Pfister and Bro. Dave Hoerr was announced to our congregation. Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Miller of Marseilles announced the engagement of their daughter, Janis Marie to Ronald Dean Plattner, son of Bro. Marion and Sis. Ella Plattner.

John and Brenda Klein are the parents of Tami Yvette, born Dec. 3. John was fortunate to be home on leave when the baby was born. He will soon be reporting to Ft Hood, Texas, where Brenda and Tami hope to join him in the near future.

Sis. Johanna Rapp and Bro. Joe Plattner are hospital patients.

Work has started on the very much needed addition of an infirmary to our Church Home on Skyline Drive. A German singing was enjoyed at the Home one Sunday evening. Several brethren from the Roanoke area joined in fellowship and singing.

Our sympathy is extended to the Peters and Plattner families. Sis. Bertha Peters son, Walter, from Brook, Indiana died in Ft Lauderdale where he and his wife had intended to spend the winter months. Bro. John Plattner, who was the father of Bros. Walter, Richard, Robert and Marion Plattner, and a brother of Bro. Joe and Sis. Hulda

Plattner, died in Morton at the Rest Mor Nursing home, where he had been in failing health for many years.

PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS Ruth Ricketts

We were very happy to have Ministering Bros. Merle Bucher of LaCrosse and Harvey Grimm of Sabetha. We heard . . . of the Creation, temptation, fall of man, and the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the world. Faith is again renewed.

On Nov. 23, Bros. Mike Weyeneth of Peoria, Joe Kaisner and Perry Zimmerman of Forrest were our guest ministers. There were many present to hear the warning of the fate of those who do not prepare for eternity. What a dreadful thing to fall into the pitfall of sin and remain there. For the Princeville congregation it was rather a sad day, as it was the last day for us to assemble in our old house of worship. We sang the Parting Hymn, "May now the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The peace and love of God, The fellowship of His Holy Spirit Abide with us all, Yea, with us all! Amen." The song books were closed, the last sermon had been preached, and the last prayer uttered in the assembly room. We were all concerned that the peace and fellowship would follow us.

Thanksgiving Day dawned bright and clear and was a truly blessed day. Many gathered to worship in our new edifice. We could all worship together, and no one had to remain downstairs. A peaceful feeling came over me as I sat among all our dear ones. We were thankful so many of our friends worshipped with us. Bro. Silas felt it fitting to sing Number 38. "Brethren be ye not affrighted, God is yet among you here; You are still with Him united, And His grace is ever near."

After all it is not the building that makes the church, but the people who assemble there. We are thankful for the beautiful new edifice and expect to receive numerous blessings in it.

Bro. Joshua Broquard of Fairbury came the last week-end in November to assist Bro. Silas in proving our young friend Steven Elsasser. Steve had been going to college and was among those who were ungodly and practiced things Steve knew wasn't right. He heeded a call from the Lord, repented

of his sins, and found that wonderful peace. He gave his testimony before a large assembly Saturday evening, and on Sunday was the first to be baptized in our new church. How happy we are to welcome him into the fold. We were thankful so many of our friends stayed for the baptism and witnessed the laying on of hands by the elder. We pray many of them can also be added to the fold and enjoy the blessings of a true child of God.

The first name on our guest register was Sis. Jan Elasser of Maywood, and thought how nice it was, as she was at home in Princeville congregation before going to California to make her home. It was with us she found salvation. Sisters Julie Dapper and Penny Julien were with her. The sisters were impressed to see snowfall. The first part of December we did have a beautiful Sunday morning, with the snow falling in the night, and covered everything beautiful and white. The trees were so very pretty. No man could have placed it so perfectly.

Bro. Walter Herrmann had a fall from a grain bin some weeks ago and received a badly crushed arm. It was very painful for some time, but is now healing nicely. Our friend, Otto Baer, underwent surgery and is recovering nicely. We were thankful he could worship with us on Sunday before entering the hospital. Friend Liesel Rapp has gotten home, after several weeks treatment in the hospital following a stroke. She is slowly recuperating and thankful to be at home. She was thankful to hear from all her friends while in the hospital.

We sang a farewell hymn for the California sisters who had been visiting us, and for Sis. Frieda Streitmatter, mother of Bros. Harold and Burton, who is leaving our congregation to make her home at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka. May she find comfort and contentment there, and may she feel the Lord's nearness at all times.

Teachers and children are busy preparing for the Sunday School program. Soon will Christmas be here, and such a beautiful time of the year. How nice it is to hear the Christmas carols, and how it warms the heart to hear them sung by young and old. Let us keep the Spirit of Christmas, the love and peace, with good-will toward man-

kind in our hearts every day.

As a new year will soon be dawning, it seems a good time to make a good beginning. For those who wish I would be glad to accept donations for the Silver Lining during the month of January. Your reporter.

AKRON, OHIO

Kathy Graf

We enjoyed a truly wonderful day of worship and fellowship in our new church for the first time on Dec. 7. After two weeks in which the workers had to put in carpeting throughout the building, benches in the assembly room, and tables in the dining room, the building was finished so that we could have regular services as well as lunch. May God bless each who contributed labor in the building, as well as those who have given contributions and offered prayers.

I was just recently informed of the death of Bro. Friedrich Scheifele, father of Sis. Elizabeth Heib. He and his wife, Pauline, who passed away last February, were members of the church over in Neuhutten, Germany. Sis. Elizabeth Heib, who is a member of the Akron church, is married to Bro. Leo Heib, and they have two children, Brigette and Hans.

On Nov. 23, a number of former Akron brethren and friends returned to the Akron church. It was a day of reminiscing of former days, especially for the older ones.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Meryl Laukhuf, who visited on Nov. 16, and Bro. Ben Stavenik, who visited on Nov. 23. May God richly bless them for their services to us.

Sis. Freda VonGunten is in bed as a result of an accident in which she injured two vertebrae. She is able to have visitors. Robert Kaufman is home now, after major surgery; he is quite cheerful and appears to be doing well. Robert Graf Jr. was hospitalized for surgery as a result of an injury. However, he is well enough to be home again. Robert is the son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Florence Graf.

Sis. Eva Emery has moved to a new address at 1096 St. Michaels Avenue, Akron Ohio 44320. Bro. Peter and Sis. Eva Wenhardt have moved to a new address at 1658 Williams Street, Cuyahoga Falls Ohio 44221.

The amount suggested for the Silver Lining, \$2.00 per year.

RITTMAN, OHIO

Janette Blough Florence Hartzler

As the Christmas season approaches, let us not be so caught up in today's commercialization of Christmas that we forget the true meaning of why we celebrate this time of year. Amid all the clamoring and commotion in this world, we realize more and more how great our need for our salvation is and how wonderful is God's love for us, that His son Jesus was born so that we might live.

Our friend Sarah Webb, who resides at Horn Nursing Home in Wooster, has been announced for proving and baptism. Friend Roger Gasser has also found peace and is waiting baptism. Paulette Calame, Joyce Beery, Keith and Linda Dotterer have recently been taken into the fold. We are so happy for each new soul who gives his life to Christ.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Ella Fankhouser, who died after being in ill health for several years. Surviving are sons Willard of Rittman, Woodrow of Sterling, and Merle of East Canton; daughters Sis. Hazel Riggenbach of Sardis and Irene Weigand of Rittman.

Bro. Daniel Hartzler was laid to rest, after a short illness. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Selma; two brothers, Bro. John and Bro. Ernest; four sisters, Sis. Catherine Bauman, Sis. Mary Stoller, Sis. Rhoda Riggenbach, Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier.

Our sick list includes Paul Trent, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Marilyn, who was hospitalized with spinal meningitis. We are glad Paul is home and recovering from his illness. Sis. Elda Gasser is still confined to the hospital. Our prayers are with our dear sister and her family. Others hospitalized are Sis. Ida Winkler, Sis. Linda Zollinger, Sis. Eileen Emch, and Ed Mathys. We wish all a speedy recovery and good health.

CISSNA PARK, ILLINOIS

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

Sis. Bertha Scharlach, age 60, passed away peacefully at the home of her sister, (Mary) Mrs. Loren Anderson, where she had been cared for after an illness of 4 months. Her last words were though so weak she scarcely could say them: "I have so much to be thankful for." Survivors include five brothers: Clyde, Arthur, Aaron, Lester, and Harry; five sis-

ters, Sis. Ella, Cora, Clara, Nettie and Mary Anderson. Funeral services were held Dec. 6; our home ministers officiated. Our sympathy is extended to the family. May they find comfort to know their loved one is at rest.

The circle is broken; one seat is forsaken.

One bud from the tree of our friendship is shaken.

One heart from among us no longer shall thrill

With joy in our gladness or grief in our ill.

As a cloud of the sunset, slow melting in heaven,

As a star that is lost, as the daylight is given,

As a glad dream of slumber which wakens in bliss,

She has passed to the world of the Holy from this.

Bros. Carl Moser, Ben Laub-scher, Gene Hauptli were hospitalized for medication. Ronnie Farney, son of Bro. and Sis. Gerry Farney, was shut-in for some time, but all are better again, which we are thankful for. Our oldest member, Bro. Will Baumgartner observed his 97th birthday. He has not been able to assemble with us for some time, but he still enjoys visitors. Charles Knapp, son of Sis. Priscilla Knapp was hospitalized due to injuries received while at work.

Bro. Henry Grimm brought us many good teachings. He reminded us, "We cannot go any other way, but by the way of the Lord." Bro. Eli Somerhalder reminded us of faith of our fathers, and he also mentioned to forgive and forget. We are thankful for all visitors, special those that served us so faithfully also our elders, Bros. John Bahler & Herman Kellenberger. On Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Bob and Bro. Roy Grimm visited our congregation. It is **always uplifting** to have visitors. May God bless them.

Sis. Joann Rudin and Bro. Frederick Maul were united in Holy Matrimony, Dec. 7, by Bro. Ezra Feller. Our best wishes are extended to them. God bless the home that you will share: God keep you close in thought and prayer, And grant to you as man and wife The sweetest joys of married life..

Our dear friend, Ezra Winger, age 71, passed away Dec. 5 after a long illness. Survivors include three brothers, George, Sam, and

Roy; and two sisters, Sis's. Minnie Lehman and Martha Brenner, who faithfully cared for him. Funeral services were held Dec. 8, our home ministers officiating. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

We wish to remind all subscribers to the Silver Lining of Cissna Park, we are making the collection in the month of January.

The Sunday School children plan to bring us the Christmas program on Dec. 21.

It was the expressed wish of Sis. Bertha to thank the many relatives and friends for their continued flow of letters and cards, and other expressions of love and understanding, the prayers offered in her behalf, and the many comforting visits by our beloved ministers in faith. The Family.

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS

Joyce Huber

Bro. David and Sis. Gloria Wettstein became a Dad and Mother, as a baby boy was born to them Nov. 4, whom they named Douglas Lynn. They reside at Streator, as David teaches there. This makes Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb grandparents, and paternal grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ben Wettstein of Gridley.

We are thankful that some of our boys overseas have returned safely: Duane Bach, son of Bro. and Sis. Reuben Bach, and Herbert Steffen, son of Bro. and Sis. Alph Steffen, are discharged, having returned from Europe. Charles Wenger, son of Bro. and Sis. Willard Wenger, is discharged, returning from Viet Nam; and Dan Kaeb, son of Bro. and Sis. David Kaeb, has returned to the States from Vietnam. Gerald Schmidt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schmidt, has been sent to Viet Nam.

The Sunday School Bible Classes of surrounding churches presented interesting programs at Christian Endeavors Nov. 23 and 30.

Sis. Della Meiss and Sis. Ruth Walter are home recuperating from surgery, Ruth's being foot surgery at Hopedale. Sis. Carrie Roth and Mrs. Ronnie Zehr are home, after being hospitalized. Mr. and Mrs. Keith Moser's son, Brian, and Bro. Chris Huette, Sr. have entered the hospital. Sis. Lydia Bittner has been ill at home, and her daughter Cynthia is home (from the misfortune of falling and breaking her leg).

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Dale Eisenman, Chicago; Bro. Willis Wiegand, Goodfield; Bro. Earl Kilgus, Remington; and Bro. Alfred Bahler, Wolcott.

Many plans for Christmas activities are being planned, including a Sunday School program on Sunday evening.

FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

Ida E. Sinn

Praise be to God. The waters have been troubled and four dear friends have turned to the Lord in repentance, namely, John and Ruby Sinn, and Evelyn and Connie Miller. These young folks are in the schools of higher learning, Ruby and Connie in Manhattan and John and Evelyn in Ft Scott, yet they felt the need of their Saviour. May God bless them according to their needs, that they may continue their good work.

Bro. Charles Sinn entered the service of his country on Nov. 19. Right now he is at Ft Sam Houston. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Charles and Dorothy Sinn.

Bro. Dave Kaeb, who is stationed at Ft. Riley, has been assembling with us. Yesterday, I heard the brother say, "If it weren't for our faith and God's plan of salvation we'd probably never have known each other." What a blessing we receive from our fellowship in the Lord that the world knows nothing of.

A son, Jason Keith, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Sinn. Jason has five sisters to welcome him home. Bro. and Sis. Fred and Elsie Sinn are the paternal grandparents.

JUNCTION, OHIO

Henrietta Manz — Betty Manz

Our Elder Bro. George Sinn, Latty, met with us one Thursday evening; after services we held our business meeting. Bro. Ben Manz was chosen as Church Treasurer and Secretary of the Trustees, Bro. Alvin Manz was chosen as Janitor, and Bro. Sam Schlatter was chosen to complete the unexpired term of Sunday School teacher. Bro. Emmanuel Manz was chosen as Trustee. We have many young brothers talented in song leading, and they were encouraged to take part. May God give a special measure of grace to the brothers who now have added duties.

Elder Bros. David Bertsch—Leo, George Sinn—Latty, and George Gramm—Gridley, and Bros. Mar-

vin Stieglitz—Leo, Walter Rehkla—Toledo, Joe Schrock—Congerville, Irvin Stoller—Latty, and Eugene Fetter—Toledo, assembled with us. Many good teachings were brought to us. The importance of prayer was emphasized. Jesus prayed so earnestly his sweat was as drops of blood. Have we spent enough time in prayer? We were told it is a shame that daily so many go to a Christless grave when the price has been paid.

I surely wish everyone could have heard the wonderful experience of a person who had not yet heard of our faith how when he was young, how he came in contact with believers. For many years he had said he was going to preach, but he did not have the right faith at all. It was so interesting how he was led to believers and the right way. We know that if we have the desire for the right, somehow, somehow, God will lead to His people.

We heard about the calling of the young to the Lord. When one of the brothers mentioned, "If He calls them He can help them" it brought to mind one of our dear departed brothers, when his young son started to repent. When he told the boy's grandmother, "He's so young," she told him, "The Lord called him and He'll help him." Our old pillars can often give us timely advice.

Our lives were compared to a cocoon. When we are finished with this shell we emerge as a beautiful butterfly. When we are ripe, then God takes us home, and we have no more use for this mortal shell.

The families of Sis. Ruth Manz, Bros. Ben and Richard Schlatter wish to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all who so lovingly rendered their services to them in the time of their sorrow. Your love and kindness will be long remembered. May God richly bless one and all.

Mary Manz is able to be out and around. Mary Sutter has her cast removed and is able to go out. Sis. Juliet Schlatter is slowly improving. She was told by her doctor in Toledo that it is like a slow-moving train; it almost seems it isn't moving, but in several days or a week when you look back, you can see that progress is being made. I guess we shouldn't look for big things, but as long as progress is being made we should be thankful.

We are happy to report a new baby in our church. Ministering Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz have been blessed with a boy, Steven Henry, born Nov. 26. This is the first baby born since we have moved into our new church and is the first boy in the Junction congregation for over eight years. Ministering Bro. Henry Manz is the grandfather. May God bless the dear family and help all the parents to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Little Steven was a welcome baby, especially by Judy, Tina and Debbie.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Mrs. Craig Gutwein

Greetings in the name of God our Father and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who died for us on the cross that we might have eternal life. Bro. Herman Norr has been such a help to us, not only giving us information about the children's homes, but he also has given us guidance looking for a church site. We would like to give him special thanks.

May God bless Latty, Bremen, Ft. Wayne and Leo for their many labors. They gave us much support this month. We enjoyed them coming and worshipping with us.

Dear brothers and sisters, Christmas-time is here.

Our song of praise to God ascend,
And there with angels' voices
blend.

The day of gladness now is here;
Sing hallelujah with good cheer.

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

We here in Indianapolis would like to wish all of you a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and may the love and giving of this season last all year.

LA CROSSE, INDIANA

Mrs. Lucille Heiniger

Our friend Emil Hitz submitted to surgery in a Chicago hospital. We are glad to report that he is getting along quite well and was able to return home a few days ago.

Bro. Glenn Heinold, son of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Grace, spent several weeks at home on furlough. He returned Dec. 2 to Fort Sam, where

he is awaiting his orders to be sent to Viet Nam. We wish for him God's grace and protection during his stay over there.

Our Christmas program, to be given by the Sunday School children, is planned for Dec. 14. As the Christmas season is drawing near, we are reminded of the real meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour and His real reason for being here on earth. It behooves us all to thank God for sending His Only Begotten Son, because without His coming to save all who will heed His call, our hopes for a Heavenly Home would have probably been only a dream.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Harry Bucher, Valparaiso; Dale Eisenman, Chicago; and Aaron Steffen, Alto. We welcome all who wish to visit us.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of Bro. Jessie Gerber of Latty and Sis. Matilda Frank of Morton, who have finished their course of life as a faithful servant of God.

LATTY, OHIO

Dolores Grant — Iva Stoller

Christmas time is here again,
and hearts once more recall
The age-old story of the child
who came to save us all . . .
So may that hope and happiness,
and all that faith and cheer,
Renew themselves on Christmas

Day

and bless you through the year.

We are so very happy to report three more souls have chosen Christ as their Saviour: Rodney Laukhuf and his wife, Edith (Ramseyer), son and daughter-in-law of Ministering Bro. Merrill and Sis. Martha Laukhuf; and Suzanne Wieland, daughter of Bro. Clem and Sis. Elizabeth Wieland.

We were privileged to have four visiting ministers during November. They were Bro. Verlin Stoller, Ft. Wayne; Bro. George Gramm, Gridley; Bro. Joe Schrock, Congerville; and Bro. Benj. Fehr, Roanoke.

Hospital patients were Mary Ann Breitwieser, daughter of Henry and Sis. Katie; Sis. Bena DeLong; and Bro. Joey Schlatter, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie. They have returned home, for which we are thankful. Wendell Stoller, son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy was involved in an accident and was very fortunate to escape injury.

We have two engagement announcements to report: Bro. Bill Rager, son of Bro. William and Sis. Elsie, to Sis. Lou Ann Fiechter, daughter of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris of the Bluffton congregation; and Bro. Dennis Klopfenstein, son of Bro. Floren and Sis. Mary Ella, to Sis. Carol Ringger, daughter of Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Violet, from Bluffton. Dennis and Carol are planning a January wedding.

We are saddened to report the death of our dear Bro. Jesse Gerber, on Nov. 24. After a two-year illness, the Lord saw fit to relieve him of his earthly cares and sufferings. He was indeed one of the pillars in our church and will be sadly missed. Many of us had him for our Sunday School teacher in younger years. We all remember him as a faithful song leader for many years until he resigned, feeling this obligation could be passed down to others. How he did love and appreciate beautiful music.

At the age of 76, he leaves behind his widow, Mary (Souder); two daughters, Catherine Klopfenstein; and Colleen Beltz; two sons, Richard, Haviland, and Jack; four sisters, Ollie Laukhuf, Laura Gerber, Edith Lieberenz and Helen Hartter; two brothers, Noah and Alfred. Funeral services were held on Nov. 28; Bro. Loren Stoller had the services.

Note of Thanks: We wish to express our thanks for all the wonderful, loving considerations extended to us and our departed loved one. Starting from Jesse's first illness, his partial recovery and all through his late illness and departure, we gratefully appreciate, and thank God, for using you to show His love to us through the many cards, gifts, personal visits, and all other loving services, but especially your personal remarks of comfort and prayers for our behalf. May God bless for your love. The Jesse Gerber Family.

LESTER, IOWA Emelie M. Knobloch

The falling of the snow tonight reminds us of the purity of the birth of the Babe, at this Yule-time, with its white and sparkling features. May we look beyond the glitter, to the Saviour's birth and resurrection.

Bro. Eugene Metzger expounded, the seed that is planted in the spring must make a change, and grow in a new life, spring forth its

fruit, an example to the life of man. We should grow and prosper in our spiritual life. May we take our older Christian members as a loving light in their evening hours of life. May we look to God for our our guidance, and encourage the children which will be our future church.

Many loved ones attended Thanksgiving services. We are glad they felt the need of thanking God for their blessings.

It was this time of the year, God's love called me to repentance. The holiday season has many memories in store. When reading last year's Silver Lining, the verses in the Portland news caused me to shed few tears since this is the first holiday season that our parents have both gone to their Eternal Reward.

Sis. Lydia Nester is seriously ill at the Rock Rapids Hospital. Sis. Joan Knobloch was hospitalized; Bro. John Moser has been ill.

We wish to extend our Christmas wishes, and spiritual blessing for each individual who reads the Silver Lining.

From the Portland news 1968.

Our loved ones and friends are fast passing away,
To the country that's wondrously fair;
Our circle down here grows smaller each day,
But the circle grows larger up there.

Our hearts are made sad when we bid them goodbye,
As they pass from this country of care,
But there comes a joy as we look t'ward the sky,
For the circle grows larger up there.

It will not be long 'till the glories above,
With our loved ones and friends we shall share;
United again by the Saviour's great love,
In the unbroken Circle up there.

NEW MARTINSVILLE, W. VA. Mrs. Gus Weltz — Della Witschey

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Witschey and son Paul and daughter Thelma of Moundsville, W. Va., visited with relatives here during the month of November.

Mrs. Pearl Schupbach Zink of Hannibal, O., has been a patient in

the local hospital for some time. W. E. Riggenbach remains a patient in the hospital here and is not doing too well.

Howard Riggenbach, who has been very ill since Aug. 6, remains a patient in the University hospital in Morgantown, W. Va. His right leg was amputated above the knee in November, with another slight operation on Dec. 1. His condition is fair. Mrs. Lena Frayer remains a very ill patient in the local hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Riggenbach became grandparents on Dec. 1, when their daughter presented them with a granddaughter. The husband and father is in the Philippines, serving in the U. S. Army.

C. W. (Web) Goddard, husband of the former Pearl Bleuer, passed away in his sleep on Nov. 30. He leaves his widow, one daughter, and two sons, five grandchildren.

As the Christmas season approaches, this would be our wish for all: May the peace of Christmas bring happiness to you all through the year.

ROANOKE, ILLINOIS

Norene Herbst — Mary Hoffman

Another pilgrim was called to rest, when Bro. Joe Leman Sr. passed away Nov. 17 at the age of 95 years. He had resided at Rest-Mor Nursing Home in Morton the past 4½ years. Funeral services were held Nov. 19, with Bro. Gene Bertschi officiating, assisted by our local ministers. Joe united with the church when he was 17 years of age and had been a member 78 yrs. He is survived by Bros. Henry (Francesville), William (Bremen), and Alpheus (Eureka), and Sis. Eliza, Eureka. A son, a daughter, five brothers, six sisters, and a stepbrother preceded him in death. He married Bena Unsicker, who died in 1927. He later married Mary Gerber. She died in 1963. In tribute to Bro. Joe, we recall that the son and daughter who preceded him in death were taken into his home in his earlier married years. The children, Caroline and Fred, had lived in a Children's Home, and after making their home with Joe and Bena, the children became converted to our faith. Bro. Fred devoted much time and effort in helping translate our Zion's Harps. He was married to Sis. Mattie Herbst. Sis. Caroline never married.

On Sunday, Nov. 9, Bros. Her-

man Menold and Harold Krantz visited us, bringing a model of the proposed home for the handicapped. They explained the plans after our church services.

Those of our congregation who were among the young people who assisted at the Dessie Scott home in Kentucky during Thanksgiving vacation were Bros. Kenneth Hodel, David Hodel and Roger Bradle and Sisters Pat Sauder, Joyce Roth, Maxinge Kempf, Linda Mangold, Marlis Miller, Sandra Leman and Kathy Fischer.

Neil Hodel (son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorene) has arrived in Vietnam and is stationed near Saigon.

Several from our assembly have been in the hospital or confined to their homes. They are Bro. Ben P. Martin, Sis. Mae Sauder, Sis. Esther Beer, Ray W. Beer, Charles Blunier, Miss Theda Bucher, Gary Edwards, Roy R. Beer, Jay Leman and Jimmy Leman. Some have had a short period of confinement, others a longer period, but all are able to be about, for which we are thankful.

Thanksgiving services were held Nov. 27, with many in attendance. Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Union City) shared the word with us, assisted by our home ministers. We enjoyed having Ed and his family with us, as well as all the others who were **Home for Thanksgiving**.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marjorie (Sauder) Braker have moved back to Roanoke from Ft. Wayne. Bro. Tim and Sis. Jean (Moser) Hoffman have moved back from Ft. Lauderdale. We welcome their return.

Bro. Herb Blunier and Sis. Joyce Aeschleman were united in marriage Sunday, Dec. 7. Bro. Eugene Bertschi performed the marriage ceremony. The young couple plan to reside near Roanoke.

Our friends, Mary Bradle and Wanda Kupferschmid Edwards have been announced to give a testimony of their faith and be baptized.

SABETHA, KANSAS **Mrs. Joe Steiner**

We are approaching the season
and soon all will sing
Those beautiful Christmas carols.
Let all our voices ring.

We give much thought to the
Christ-child
His birth at Bethlehem

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

It isn't just the birth of the baby
Jesus
that will set us free
But much more, His death on the
cross
and the blood He shed for you and
me.

So let us all resolve that in
this coming year
We will take up our cross,
and more closely follow near.

We enjoyed the visit of Ministering Bro. Elias Somerhalder of Burlington, one Sunday.

On Thanksgiving morning the Bern congregation assembled with us to hear the words of life by Bro. Alphai Moser of Morris. We have much to be thankful for, in that we can assemble together, and that brothers are willing to proclaim the word.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Frieda Strahm on the death of her sister, Mrs. Rose (Wegman) Mayer, who died Nov. 30.

Hospitalized were Sis. Ida Stoldt, Sis. Fanny Bahr and Sis. Marian Kellenberger.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Charlotte Aberle have adopted a three-month-old baby boy. He has been named Matthew James. The grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Liseten Aberle and Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Lehman. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance for, as in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

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

This morning, Sunday Dec. 7, when I woke up, I remembered that snow was predicted, so the first thing I did was to look out of the window. I beheld a fairyland of white, with all the ugliness covered up. Every branch, bush and even the corn stubbles were covered completely. It must have snowed 4 inches or more, and still snowing. Only the Lord can create such pure loveliness, and He can do it with our lives if we come to Him in true repentance. He will wash away our sins and give us a robe as white as snow.

Mrs. Rita Jepson and little daughter assembled with us one

Sunday, as she did quite regularly before her husband was transferred. She calls this "her church" and misses the service and the fellowship. She is a native Puerto Rican. Before her marriage she worked in surgery at Blessing Hospital with Charlotte (Haerr) Meyer.

Bro. Bob Pohl spent Sun. Nov. 30 with us and brought God's precious word. They also came to have a belated Thanksgiving with us. All our children were here except Bob and Marilyn Frieden and daughters from California, who assemble with the Maywood congregation. We always enjoy being together as families do, but again we miss the presence of our loved one, my beloved husband, Bro. Eli, who passed away a year ago, Nov. 21.

We are practicing for the Christmas program which is to be given Sunday evening, Dec. 21. The program helps to teach the little ones the meaning of Christmas, as they recite and sing of the little baby born in a manger.

Word was received of the birth of a son Dec. 5 to Mr. and Mrs. Ron Hoenes of Columbia, Mo. Mrs. Hoenes is the former Faye Yackley. Grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Clara Yackley and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoenes. They named him Clifford Wayne and have two other sons, Jeffery and Vernon.

LAMONT, KANSAS **Mrs. Stephen G. Schrader**

With the advent of the Christmas season, our thoughts turn more often to God's greatest Gift to mankind — Christ, His only begotten Son. May this be for each of us a joyous, blessed, and thankful time — especially thankful for Christ's birth, death and resurrection which made possible our salvation.

Still driven by a thousand cares
The pilgrims come and go;
The hurried caravans press on;
The inns are crowded so!

Here are the rich and busy ones,
With things that must be sold,
No room for simple things within
This hostelry of gold.

Yet hunger dwells within these
walls,
These shining walls and bright.
And blindness groping here and
there
Without a ray of light.

Let not our hearts be busy inns,
That have no room for Thee,
But cradles for the living Christ
And His nativity.

We have been blest with the visit of Bro. Alphi Moser of Morris, and Bro. Wayne Miller of Ft. Scott.

Bro. Moser read of David's sin in numbering the children of Israel. When David was asked by God's prophet which of three punishments he chose, David chose to fall into the hand of the Lord and not the hand of man, for he knew that the mercies of the Lord were great. This reminds us that our reliance, not only in mercy but also in strength, comes from the Lord.

SARASOTA, FLORIDA Philip Wingeier

"O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD."

Bro. Ben Maibach was in Sarasota for the Thanksgiving season and had services. There are a nice number to be together so early in the season for which we are very happy.

We are sorry for the error stating we would be at the same place as a year ago, which we now are unable to have. Our new address will be as follows: 4620 Proctor Rd. E., Sarasota, Fla. 33581. Call information for phone number.

Again trusting all who travel this way to come and worship with us. May God give all the true Holiday Spirit.

Church service at 1:00 P.M. E.S.T. at the Womens Club Building, Palm Ave. and Park Ct.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA Millicent Frieden — Laverne Roth

Bethlehem's bells
On Christmas Day
Their old familiar
Carols play;
And in every street
And every glen
Glad hearts cry out—
Good Will to Men!

Our visiting ministers were Bros. George Lambert, Wichita; Joe Zimmerman Sr., Roanoke; and Joe Zimmerman Jr., Morton. We thank the Lord for leading them safely into our midst to bring in-

spirational messages of God's word.

We enjoyed having Bro. and Sis. Jim Heiniger of Morton, who are stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla.; Charles Leuthold of Lester, who is stationed at Oklahoma City; and George Freund of Mansfield, who was attending a banker's school at Oklahoma University, Norman, Okla. It is wonderful that souls will drive several hundred miles to hear God's word and seek Christian fellowship.

There has been an epidemic of colds and flu. Two of our ministers, Bros. Ronald Nelson and Raymond Roth, were ill with the flu and unable to attend Thanksgiving services, which were held the preceding evening.

Monthly hymn singings have been held in the homes of Bro. and Sis. Ronald Allenbach and Bro. and Sis. Elmer Kisling.

The engagement of Gay Webs and Tom Farney was announced. Tom is the son of Bro. and Sis. Huber Farney.

Our congregation was responsible for services held at the Kiowa Manor Rest Home on Sunday, Nov. 16.

Sis. George Diel has been a patient at an Enid, Okla., hospital for bone surgery. Sis. Marie Farney, a resident of the rest home, has been able to attend church several Sundays; we are thankful that she is able to get out some.

Now that Christmas is here and another year is almost gone, we pause a moment to thank the Lord for His great goodness. May the joy of Christmas abide with each of you throughout the new year.

FORREST, ILLINOIS Carolyn Zimmerman Juanita Schneider

A little child once came to earth,
In lowly manger at His birth;
And since that night when Mary
pressed
The Christ Child close against her
breast,
From peasant hut to kingly throne
The world a greater love has
known.
Across the years, love speaks
today:
A little child shall lead the way.

Bro. Sam Maier is a patient at Fairbury Hospital. Sis. Leona Wil-lace spent several days at Fairbury Hospital and is home again. Sis. Martha Honegger has submitted to surgery on her feet, in an effort to relieve discomfort caused by arth-

ritis. She has returned home and is reported feeling some relief. Paul Honegger has broken his arm. He is the son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor. Barb Kupferschmid and Devra Ifft, 2-year-old daughters of Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid and Warren and Sis. Betty Ifft, spent some time in the hospital; both are home and improving.

Our Thanksgiving services were held with Bro. Earl Kilgus, Remington, ministering to us. We were reminded to be ever thankful for the many things God gives unto us that we oftentimes take for granted. We also had blessed days when Ministering Brothers Homer Reinick, Toledo, and Elmer Schrenk, Alto, spent their day with us. A wedding reception for Bro. Dennis Koehl and his wife, Linda (Schrenk), daughter of Bro. and Sis. Elmer was held that day.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Becky Kupferschmid welcomed a baby boy into their home. He has been named Chad Allen. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. William Kupferschmid, Forrest, and Bro. and Sis. Merle Kaisner, Fairbury.

Steve Zimmerman, son of Bro. Les and Sis. Edith, and Art Lehmann, son of Bro. George and Sis. Alice have left for their duty in the armed service. May they always remember where their help cometh.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS Lydia and Eunice Kammerer

Our friend, William Schmidtgal, and his wife and infant son are home on leave, before William departs for duty in Viet Nam, Dec. 17. William, who turned to the Lord, will give his testimony, on Saturday evening Dec. 13, with baptism the following day. We are sorry to see Bill go to Viet Nam, but trust the Lord will protect him wherever he is.

Tom, son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Hermine Miller, has turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish him much grace in his new life, and wish many more would follow.

Sis. Rose Schlipf, who underwent surgery in Brokaw Hospital, Bloomington, has returned to her home, and is recovering nicely. Sisters Kathryn and Elizabeth Funk, have returned home, after being patients in Fairbury Hospital for some time. My sister Lydia is slowly improving from surgery. We

hope our shut-ins will soon be able to assemble with us again.

Bro. Edwin Hohulin and Bro. Eugene Bertschi will assist Bro. Gramm in bringing the memorandum, on Wed. evening, Dec. 10. Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller visited their son, Joe, who is attending school in Florida.

Bro. Elmer Bucher, from Francisville was our guest minister on Thanksgiving Day, bringing us a very interesting message.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Ella Wagler — Rosella Obermann

WHAT IS AGE?

Age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another dress . . .
And as the evening twilight fades away,
The sky is filled with stars invisible by day.

Certainly we could all learn much by looking to those who have weathered the storm and, by their experiences, have much to offer.

Hospitalized were Sisters Martha Perdlewitz and Sarah Gerst and Bro. Bill Oberman. May they all have speedy recoveries.

OAKVILLE, IOWA

Martha K. Steiner

Tricia Renae Pflum was welcomed by two brothers, Keith and David, into the home of Friends Lyle and Marian (Frank) Pflum. Tricia was born Nov. 9.

Bro. Doss and Sis. Bertha Lee (Wagenbach) Massner are the happy parents of a daughter, Mara Gay, born Nov. 18. She has two brothers, David and Derek.

Bros. Silas Leuthold, Princeville, and Josh Broquard, Fairbury, spent a Sunday with us and assisted Bro. Noah Schrock, our beloved Elder, in reading the report from the conference. We greatly appreciated their visit and spent a blessed day with them. In accord with the wishes of the congregation, Bro. Harvey Heiniger was ordained by the elder brethren as deacon of the Oakville church. We sincerely pray that he will receive much grace in carrying out his duties according to the will of God.

While the world is busy with its celebrations and acclamations at this time of year, let us pause a moment and reflect upon the Divine Plan by which our Heavenly Father offers us the hope of salvation. Truly we have much reason

to sing praises unto His high and Holy Name that goes far beyond the manger, up to the cross on Calvary.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Carolyn Dotterer

We were blessed with a wonderful message when Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle and family, and Sis. Helen Klotzle, all of Altadena, spent Thanksgiving week-end with us. May God richly reward our ministering brothers for their efforts.

PORTLAND, OREGON

Connie Steffen

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light . . ." "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." It's a privilege to read words like these, and to have in our lives this Light. What a joy to see this Light gleaming and growing in lives of those about us. Paulette Leman, Sharon Unsicker, and Linda Miller have seen this Light and have given their hearts and lives to the Lord. May He bless them and all who will yet seek Him.

Our friend Lowell Ditch is making very good progress, since the bone graft on his ankle. He now has his cast off and is taking therapy to regain the use of his knee and ankle.

Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger was with us and gave words of encouragement. He reminded us that our lives should not be ill spent. We often need to view and review our own lives; time passes too fast to sit idle in the market place. We appreciate Carl's visit and hearing the memorandum read.

The New Year is very near. Not all of us will be here to see another year. Are we ready? How will we appear before God's throne?

LEO, INDIANA

Mrs. Elias Souder

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Edward Hall met with a car and train accident and was killed instantly. Funeral services were at the Leo church. He leaves one son and one daughter to mourn his passing.

Edw. Bertsch remains about the same, as he has been at the long-term unit of the Park View Hos-

pital in Ft Wayne. Sarah Schwartz is back in her home and improving. Mary Lantz had the misfortune to break her foot and was in a cast for 6 weeks. Louise Schlatter broke one of her ribs, which is causing her quite a little pain and discomfort. We are wishing them a speedy recovery.

A Thanksgiving program was enjoyed at the Fellowship Center the Sun. evening before Thanksgiving, with guests from the Junction congregation in attendance. Church services for Thanksgiving Day were held in the morning.

The wedding for Carolyn Miller and Steve Bollier is planned for Sun. Dec. 21.

At this Christmas season we find our men in service scattered all over: John Klopfenstein in Texas, Bill Hartman in Colorado, and James Winzeler on the high seas. It is wonderful to know, God is everywhere.

Feature

Chairman of the Board of Trustees itself carries its special work. Yet it need not be a fixed line of only that work; there are other very good opportunities.

Bro. Albert Frautschi, with his wife, Sis. Marjorie, live just outside the town limits of Grabill. Situated on a small hill, the view is pleasant and away. His home was Toledo Ohio. His parents had spoken to him of the Way of life. He had not heeded. His grandfather, John Conrad, lived near the Leo church. One time at grandpa's, a sister talked to him. "What are you going to do if you are laying there like your grandma? Are you ready to meet your God?" It struck home, and Al turned to the Lord. The sister was Mary Gerber.

His two co-trustees are Bros. Oliver Stieglitz and Henry Kipfer. Oliver lives eastward from Harlan with his wife, Sis. Emma Jean, and family. Henry lives near the church with his wife, Sis. Arvilla. Henry, Oliver, Al, each different, yet each wishing to do their best, to please God. Tribute from God, and His rewarding . . . there is nothing in wages nor worldly words worthy to be compared to this.

Bro. Joel Souder died. There was the activity, the conversation of those days . . . the beautiful hymns, the one at the cemetery being, "The Eastern Gate" . . . there was the widow, Sis. Mary . . . things quiet down. . . We sat in

the living room . . . future ahead, memories behind (and ahead). Al said, "you aren't done . . . can't let it stop here."

Now is when to take the initiative. . . . If she wants to, would like to help her. She can still fit herself into the pattern of things. **Isn't that what we should look for?** To help others to fit into the pattern of things. There is challenge.

Sis. Mabel and Bro. Ed Hall had been cleaning the church, not very long. (The trustees have a vital interest in this, to superintend). Then it happened to Mabel, a massive heart attack. Hospital . . . oxygen . . . work undone . . . cares about it for dear sister. Al visited her. In the church building, he put his heart and hands to work, and did some cleaning. Common tasks well done hold great promise. Now Mabel is Beyond The Sunset. . . . memories await. . .

The storm is high . . . great, angry, billowing clouds blacken the world's horizon. The sands are sanding out.

And with November Bro. Ed was wafted through the open gates.

Bro. Ed Hall helped his dear wife clean the church, in 1969. She passed on. Ed had a dream. He saw his wife; she beckoned, gave him a message to come. She was dressed in white. Ed said there were church people all over the place. Aug. 10 was when she died; Nov. 11, Ed followed.

If we grasp how much good a prayer of a shut-in, or the little common tasks that are laced with love of eternal jewel, how we would embrace them! It certainly lifts our faith, and gives us the desire to finish in triumph. This is the right road.

There was a misty beauty on the hills and greenery of northern Indiana. We went together that day. The body of Sis. Ida Stuart would be placed in the bosom of the earth. County roads . . . Interstate 69 . . . the turnpike. Mile, mile, mile.

Years before when Ida was a friend, emergency had struck . . . appendicitis . . . there would be an operation. She repented, confessed in a whisper. The Lord gave peace . . . in a vision, she heard Him saying that he would send two angels.

Time went on . . . life's great interstate was travelled. That Friday night, she cleaned the chandelier . . . and called her husband, Steve to look. Not long afterward, the massive heart attack came. She

told her sister she was ready to go. . . . Monday, she reached the exit of the Great Interchange.

Trustee or other work, let us travel the mile well, so we reach that Interchange with delight.

ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT

Carlton J. Lanz

" . . . I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Nearly two thousand years ago the Saviour, Jesus Christ, spoke these immortal words. This beautiful thought or verse, as it still stands, recorded in St. Luke 15:10, tells us very clearly that the soul of a penitent sinner is precious in the sight of God. It also gives cause in which all can rejoice, if one so chooses.

On Sunday Nov. 16, several dear friends were baptized. That a true conversion was made in their repentance was evidenced by the testimonies they presented. Asked if the church order is too strict, none would want it otherwise, they asserted. It was interesting to note that, with all of the awards and high honors, in sports and other school and college activities that they enjoyed at the time, they could go no further when the Spirit of God moved in and called. The general feeling was, as they expressed it, "I felt that I was not saved!" The names of these young friends and their identifying parents are as follows: Kenny Luginbuhl, Brian Webb, Curtis (Curt) and Warren Zahner and Jane Luginbuhl. Their parents: Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Florine Luginbuhl, Bro. and Sis. Eloise Webb, Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Clara Zahner, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl. These are times for rejoicing, indeed.

The beautiful holiday season once again is just before us, as we are being reminded of, and would celebrate, perhaps world-wide, the Great Event that took place so long ago—the birth of Christ, the Saviour of the world. His coming as we know had a very Divine purpose! The true believer who has been enlightened knows this purpose and true meaning. We can believe that the masses of people, if they could learn to know God rightly, a solution to the great confusion and restlessness that exists today could be found. I recall once Bro. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton said,

"It is sad that not more people know God."

The marriage of Sis. Karen Virkler, daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Christian Virkler, to Bro. Roger Honegger, son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Clara Honegger, Forrest, was solemnized Sunday Dec. 7 by Elder John Bahler. A wedding supper was served in the church dining room, followed with a reception at the home of Bro. Christian Luginbuhl. On returning from a trip through the South, they plan to make their home in Forrest. May God bless them, and with His Spirit dwell within their home.

Born to Raymond and Judy Hany, a son, William Carl. He is a second child and their first son . . . Grandparents, Bro. Arnold and Sis. Hulda Hany and Mrs. Stella Mitchell.

SARDIS, OHIO

Doris Miller

With the Christmas season at hand, what a joy it is to know that God sent His only son into this world. Let's not forget a very important part, as we can sing in the beautiful hymn:

'Tis not the babe, but Christ the man

Who walked in Galilee:

'Tis not the manger, but the cross
That sets the spirit free.

We are very happy to welcome two little ones: a son, Eric Robert, was born to Bro. Robert and Sis. Karen Indermuhle. Eric is their first child and the first grandchild of Bro. Robert and Sis. Arlene Stoll, Girard and Bro. Delbert and Sis. Martha Indermuhle. Robert and Eldora Trader are the parents of Keith Wayne. Keith has a brother, Dwight, and his grandparents are Isaac and Sis. Pearl Gehring.

We were happy to have Bro. Fred Marty, Rittman, here to minister to us.

TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer
Mary Jane Leuthold

As I listened to the small Sunday School children practice their song for the Christmas program, the earnestness with which they sang the words, "God's best gift to us is Jesus, born on earth at Christmas-time" certainly made the message very plain. Who is there that can ever find a gift of the magnitude of the Christ child? There have perhaps been those who gave their

lives for others, but it was only for a few. God's gift of His Son brought salvation to those of the past who have sought Him, or those of today who seek Him. Wasn't then the Christ child not only God's best gift, but the best gift of all?

We thank Bros. Noah Schrock and John Steiner of Oakville for the good teachings they brought us. Noah reminded us that even though we must live in this world surrounded by many temptations, we must not let the world be in us. He used as a comparison a boat. A boat needs the water of the seas to be of value, but this same water which is so vital to a boat when it remains on the outside, will destroy and sink the boat if it is allowed to come into the boat.

Kenny Koch, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Frances, is home on leave before he leaves for Germany, where he has been assigned for duty.

Charlotte Metzger and her small daughter has joined her husband, Bill in Hawaii, where he is stationed. Until Bill was able to find a place for them to live, Charlotte stayed in our community with her parents, Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach.

Sis. Ruth Pflederer was hospitalized, but we are thankful that she is now on the way to recovery. Sis. Hanna Koch has been confined to her home for several weeks, and Sheryl Beutel is hospitalized. Bro. Will Beutel is still confined to the hospital, but the reports of his progress are encouraging.

Many of us have found words of wisdom, instruction and comfort in the beautiful words of the **Zion's Harp** hymns, especially in the time of need. When the words

Jesus lives! I live with Him.
Death no more my soul shall frighten"

fell open to a young convert from our congregation stationed on the battlefields of Viet Nam, they were, through his testimony, of extreme comfort. A comfort which perhaps those of us who have never been in a similar situation cannot fully realize in its fullness.

The following illustration was given to us by Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington during his visit. It certainly has a very timely message.

A certain rich man who did much

building had in his employ a carpenter who did all his work. This man had labored faithfully for the rich man for many years and he was fully trusted. Before leaving on an extended journey, the rich man left this faithful carpenter with instructions to build him a beautiful new home in his absence and to use only the best of materials and workmanship. He left sufficient funds.

The carpenter began his work and labored many, many hours. As time went on, he had men come to him with bargains. They said unto him, "Look here; You have these funds to spend, and you could make many savings here. You could cover this and that up in your work, and no one would ever know. These savings would go into your pocket. Have you been so well paid that you couldn't stand a little extra on the side?" The carpenter began to cheat a little here and a little there. He was very careful; being a good workman, he covered it all up. When it was completed it was beautiful indeed, and no one knew that the carpenter had cheated.

The rich man came home, and the day of accounting finally came. He was very pleased with the beautiful new home, but as a gesture of gratitude to this carpenter, the rich man presented the new home as a gift to him.

As the rich man turned the key over to the carpenter, the carpenter was at a loss for words. He didn't know what to say. He tried to thank him, but yet he was stricken by conscience, and he was heard to say as he walked away, "I have cheated only myself." Bro. Edwin reminded us that if we are not faithful in our calling, we will be cheating ourself, as did this carpenter. We may be able to cover up very well so that no one will ever know, but we cannot deceive God.

WEST BEND, IOWA

Anna Schmidt

Mrs. Betty Banwart

What have you given your Saviour each day of the past year? At this time of year when giving is so much in mind, let us do more of the giving of the more rewarding gifts such as love, friendliness, kindness and helpfulness. These can often change the whole outlook of the day to the ones receiving, as well as those giving them.

We rejoice to report that Friend

Barb Banwart has been announced as having peace. What a joy it is to have such experience in our midst.

Bro. and Sis. Duane and Elizabeth Metzger were blessed with a new baby boy, Brent Arnold, on Nov. 21. May the Lord bless them. A sister, Sarah Jean, welcomed him home.

Sis. Mary Traub has returned to the rest home; Bro. Noah Gerber is home and doing well, after having surgery. Nathan Banwart has returned home, after being hospitalized a few days, while Bro. Noah Anliker still remains in the hospital. May the Lord's will be done in all things; let us remember those less fortunate who are not able to enjoy good health.

At our annual election, Bro. Wayne Fehr and Sis. Bernice Banwart were elected as our new Sunday School teachers. Bro. Philip Fisher has been entrusted with trustee-ship. May we ever put the Lord's will before ours, and remember whatsoever is done sincerely in the fear of the Lord will be rewarded.

Bro. Noah Gerber wishes to extend a hearty **Thank You** for all the prayers, cards, gifts, and kindness shown him and his family during his illness.

It fills our hearts with humbleness and thankfulness as the service boys return home safe and sound, one by one. We enjoy having Bro. Harlan Metzger assemble with us since his return from service. Bro. Harlan and Mike, son of Bro. and Sis. Verner and Beverly Wirtz have enrolled in Ames for the winter.

As we enjoy this happy Christmas Season, may its joy and blessedness be felt by all, and may we keep peace and joy in our hearts the whole New Year through.

A certain man once wrote: "The happiest state of a Christian on earth seems to be this—that he should have few wants. If a man has Christ in his heart, heaven before his eyes, and only as much of temporal blessings as is just needful to carry him safely through life, the pain and sorrow have little to shoot at—such a man has very little to lose."

But we live in a day, the spirit of which is almost the opposite of that philosophy. The wants of our pioneer forefathers were few and simple; ours are many and complex.

The luxuries of yesterday have become the "necessities" of today. Furthermore, our wants constantly multiply, as modern technology lengthens the list of things available to satisfy those wants, and as advertising through many media convinces us we need more and more.

However, one of the great frustrations of our age is that things do not bring either real or lasting satisfaction. Jesus himself said, **Watch out, and guard yourselves from any kind of greed: for a man's true life is not made up of the things he owns, no matter how rich he may be.** The challenge still stands, "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

If you are moving or have moved . . . Make a quick note, a reminder, and then you can send in or tell your reporter. Tell when to change. Give 30 days notice ahead when you can.

SERVICE ADDRESSES:

Do a good deed? Write some kind thoughts to someone away.

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GOD

Henry Souder Jr.

What if cold was to increase and increase? The frigid night would stifle all life. What if night was to deepen and deepen? And the last star disappear? no light . . .

He who becomes acquainted with God sees Light streaming in everlasting morning. Without Him we cannot be happy. He breathed; man became a living soul. In the part that matters most, we have feelings, longings that can only rejoice in Him: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

KNOW. There's beautiful things. When we see Him face to face, one look will show if He knows us. An infant is born. Days lengthen into years . . . that precious one becomes part of the heart. We know; we know we love, and care. We learn way deep down.

We enrich our heavenly Father's ties, ". . . to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge . . ." Knowledge . . . know . . . they are great, vast . . . real. Youth thinks there are wondrous things to discover. The scientist works and plans. Man strains over a checkerboard of moves. The things of the spirit he leaves untouched. Life is what man needs. The dimensions

of the soul can only be satisfied with God. "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: . . ."

Our own ways are the reason all the sweetness is not with us. We need to think God's thoughts, till confidence soars. We need to feel God's emotions . . . His pity, His plea, His yearning for the lost . . . His turning to take the other blow, His unprotected back to the smiters. There's a fellowship in suffering, a knowing, a joy of acquaintance. Do We really want to know Him better?

There is knowing the power of His resurrection. God is the joy of the heart. The scriptures glow with this life. It streams in glorious gift. We live everlasting Life. "God hath revealed **them** unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

Moses face shone when he had been with God. We behold the glory of God, as in a mirror. We "are changed into the same image from glory to glory . . ." What all we could be! There's drawing power, glorious personality, magnetic sweetness in this Jesus. Men clung

to Him; they saw something great. Mary recognized her living Lord. In her one word, "Master" is a wealth of knowing, glad some glory.

There are beautiful ties in Life. There are the lovely moments of Today, when love holds perfect command. Bliss reigns. This is the way God is, all the time!

We were meant to walk with God. Without Him, days hold a ceaseless wandering in aimless places. Like gravity, He holds the soul in true happiness. Like sunshine, He radiates His beautiful life. Like day's good things, He gives and fills with everlasting life. His people shall never die. Oh the riches of His goodness!

The best is yet to come. We rejoice. It is good to feel the rough hewn cross on our shoulder. It is good to hope for the freeing of our body. Someday we shall Rest. Then He is going to lead us to living fountains of waters. We'll taste of the hidden manna, and see how the fruit of the tree of life is. We'll know the joy of not going out anymore at all. We'll be inside His temple, a pillar. Loved ones will be with us, forever; we'll burst into song, and our spirit will be as in a dream, a paradise of perfect satisfaction.