



Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the LORD: lift up

thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street.

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

# THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

VOLUME 21

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NUMBER 3

**THE HOUR-GLASS: LIFE STANDS. THE SANDS OF SWIFT PASSING MOMENTS SLIP SWIFTLY BY. THE MOMENT IS ONE OF SADNESS, OF RISING BLACK CLOUDS, AND MOANING, CRYING HUMAN PEOPLE. GIVING CAN GIVE JOY, CHRISTMAS HAPPINESS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE ALWAYS.**

### His Name at the Top

I had the nicest Christmas list,  
The longest one in town,  
Till Daddy looked at it and said,  
"You'll have to cut it down."

I knew that what he said was true  
Beyond the faintest doubt,  
But was amazed to hear him say,  
"You've left your best Friend  
out."

And so I scanned my list again,  
And said, "Oh, that's not true!"  
But Daddy said, "His name's not  
there,  
That Friend who died for you."

And then I clearly understood,  
'Twas Jesus that he meant;  
For Him who should come first of  
all  
I hadn't planned a cent!

I'd made a Christmas birthday list,  
And left the Saviour out!  
But, oh, it didn't take me long  
To change the list about.

And tho' I've had to drop some  
names  
Of folks I like a lot,  
My Lord must have the most—  
because

His name is at the top!

### WILL YOU HELP?

(From an organization)

While Americans will be eating well Thanksgiving Day, 10,000 men, women and children from underdeveloped countries will die from a lack of nutritious food. Pitifully, the same shocking thing will happen on Christmas Day and all other days of the year: 7 will die every minute because of malnutrition . . . that's the heart-breaking statistic on world poverty. . . . Most of them will be children—too young, too weak, and too helpless to help themselves.

To give means that you will reach across the oceans to give to those so badly in need of a helping hand. You will help feed hungry men, women and children. You will help them to become self-sufficient. You will save lives and brighten the future. They have proven that when they are given

a chance, they will work hard and long to end their crippling poverty. . . . whisper to a needy child, "I am here with you and have brought you the things you need."

### WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOVE!

The present population of the world is 3½ billion or more. The following gives a kind of an idea of how American people compare on some things with the rest of the world. Picture the entire population of the world represented in a village of 1000. It is something like this:

Sixty persons would represent the United States population, 940 the rest of the world. The 60 U.S. citizens would own over half of the wealth of the town . . . The 940 would share the remainder.

The 60 Americans would have 15 times as much in material comforts as all the rest, on an average. Those 60 would produce 16 percent

of the town's total food supply. They would eat all but about 2 percent of that, and keep most of the excess for their future use. Many, many of the 940 non-Americans would be hungry and never certain of sufficient food to eat.

### DISASTER STRIKES PAKISTAN

A cyclone and tidal wave have devastated coastal area of East Pakistan. Estimates of dead range up to 500,000. 2,000,000 people believed homeless. Crops over hundreds of thousands of acres damaged or destroyed. Cholera and typhoid spreading. Over 1,000,000 cattle dead.

Listen to what some say . . . In their words, tho' we can't count the souls and their count, is the reached-out hand of opportunity, rich with treasures unending.

### WORLD RELIEF MEETING AT PRINCEVILLE

GIVE TIME AND MONEY THROUGH YOUR WORLD RELIEF

Submitted by Bro. Jim Hoerr

Activities were read, along with a brief explanation of financial disbursements, including a letter of thanks for donations to the orphanage in Brazil and the Open Door in Kentucky. Bro. Orin Rufner explained the building progress at the Open Door Children's Home and Dessie Scott.

Bro. Jim Hoerr related experiences of the trip to investigate the Rural Gospel and Medical Mission of B. B. Bhagwat near Bombay, India. Bros. Joe Waibel, Carl Kinsinger and Jim made the trip in March. Bro. Nick Knobloch explained the procedure followed to obtain and prepare the cattle for Heifer Project shipments. Bro. Charles Kieser commented on their trip to Guatemala as observers on a cattle shipment. He noted, it would help to set up guidelines, as to the requirements and arrangements necessary for assisting in streamlining future shipments.

Bro. Harlan Metzger, West Bend, commented on the European serv-

icemen using the Heinz Maurer residence on week-ends, and supported the financial assistance given them as very helpful.

Bro. Sidney Leman explained how local disaster committees are formed. Universal identification is desirable to obtain admittance to disaster areas. Help in obtaining information for your own local

### THE SILVER LINING

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groups can be obtained from Sidney of Forrest Ill., or Bro. Vernon Leman—Eureka, Ill. Sidney commented on the distribution of the printed sermons for servicemen. Better cooperation on current addresses would be very helpful.

Bro. Jack Krantz explained progress to date on the Children's Home committee. The report read at the meeting with the elder brethren was well received, and permission granted to further col-

lect data and information leading towards the establishment of our own Home for Neglected Children.

Bro. Joe Schrock reported on the Draft Committee, established to investigate civilian services in lieu of military duty. Elder brethren concluded, the present church policies would stand unchanged in this matter. Bro. Art Gasser mentioned the need of the Peruvian people in their disaster. Bro. Art Gudeman suggested making contri-

bution through the Red Cross where a great distance is involved.

Many ideas were brought to be considered for future projects and activities, primarily to involve more people on a local level, close to their respective homes, with projects available for specific groups as they come forth to offer themselves for service for the less fortunate.

Bro. Art Gasser, Rittman, closed the meeting with a prayer.

Good reason to rejoice for the treasures delivered to us . . .  
And to preserve and strive for the best!

## DISCIPLINE IN TODAY'S CHURCHES

From A Magazine

Date of issue printed Nov. 15 1970 (Bro. Ed. gave this to the editor. The author has several degrees of scholarship.)

One hundred years or more ago, evangelical congregations in America practiced church discipline. If a member became guilty of gross sin or failed to live up to the membership standards, he was excluded from the church. This meant that his name was removed from the membership roll and that he was forbidden to take part in the Lord's supper. However, he was still welcome to attend church services.

In our times, it is difficult to find a church which seriously attempts to maintain such discipline, even among the most fundamentalist churches. The New Testament certainly does teach that churches should discipline wayward members. Here are the offenses which require discipline:

Heresy (Rom. 16:17; Gal. 1:8-9; I Tim. 6:3-5; Titus 3:10-11; II John 9-11; Rev. 2:20-24).

Troublemaking and causing divisions (Rom. 16:17; II Thess. 3:6; I Tim. 6:3-5; III John 1:9-10).

Immorality (I Cor. 5:1-7; 6:9-10, 18).

Drunkenness (Rom. 13:13; I Cor. 6:10; Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:18).

Murder and other vicious sins (Mark 7:21; Rom. 1:26-32; Gal. 5:19-21; I John 3:15; Rev. 21:8; 22:15).

Reveling and lascivious conduct (Matt. 24:46-51; Rom. 13:12-14; I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-7; Col. 3:5-9; I Thess. 4:3-5;

I John 2:15-17).

Irreconcilable attitudes (Matt. 18:15-17; I John 2:11; 31:15).

Why is there such hesitancy to practice church discipline today? We all know that sins condoned and unjudged in the church hurt its spiritual vitality and lower its reputation in the community. Let us consider some of the reasons why we are reluctant to administer discipline.

1. Sin does not hurt or offend us as once it did.

2. We misapply such Scripture passages as that about the wheat and the tares (Matt. 13:24-30, 37-43) and about the woman taken in adultery (John 8:1-11). The tares are to be left in the kingdom, not in the church. Jesus did not condemn the woman taken in adultery, but the law of Moses did. There is no teaching here about the church.

3. Many churches become so big today that they lose contact with individuals, and ungodly conduct is ignored.

4. Officials in the church will not push discipline because some of them are guilty of the same sins or because they know of other prominent people in the church who are guilty of them.

5. Deacons and elders fear that disciplinary action may alienate some well-paying members and divide families—maybe even the church.

6. Other churches would readily receive into good standing excluded members of another church, and this nullifies the effect of the discipline.

7. It is simply easier to let discipline slide than to press it.

No wonder it is difficult to have revivals in such churches or to implement spiritual programs!

Is there anything positive we can do to remedy this situation? We believe there is, and we would like to offer some ideas.

. . . we should exercise more care in receiving members. As far as humanly possible, we should make certain that they are born again, surrendered to the will of God, and willing to live by the teachings of the New Testament.

. . . we should shepherd all members carefully. The deacons should assist the pastor in the care of the church. When members fall into sin, they should be prayed for and counseled with Christian compassion.

. . . the preaching and teaching ministry of the church should expose the heinousness of sin, warning against its subtlety and danger. Pointed sermons on the particular sins for which discipline should fall would be in order from time to time.

. . . churches should not be too eager to hang on to members who have ceased to participate. Some method of reclaiming them or of dismissing them should be practiced . . . And we should not grant letters of transfer in good standing to members who are not really in good standing.

. . . a plan of receiving new members which weeds out the insincere applicants can be tried . . .

We recognize that none of the

suggestions we have made are identical with church discipline, but they do tend to minimize the necessity for it. That would seem to be about as far as most churches care to go.

The modern practice of revising the church roll every ten years or so, dropping any names from it when the particular individuals can not be found or no longer respond to inquiries, is not a good one. Some of these members could have been reclaimed if efforts had been made in time; and perhaps some of them have united with other churches. The local church has a responsibility for the spiritual welfare of every member who unites with it, and this responsibility does not cease when a member becomes a dropout. The good shepherd is more concerned about the one lost sheep than about the ninety-nine who are safely in the fold (Luke 15: 3-7).

The quality of church membership is as important as—if not more important than—the number of members. And discipline is essential to quality.

#### MORTON

Mrs. John Oberlander  
Mrs. Kenneth Getz

Every day can be Christmas Day  
If Jesus is in our hearts.  
When He becomes a part of us,  
His love to us He imparts.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Robert Meyer, Wendell Gerber, Loren Stoller, and Arthur Baurer. One of the brothers said. It is easy to live close to God when adversities overwhelm us.

Sis. Christine W i e d m a n , 88, passed away at Restmor Nursing Home. Her husband, Albert, preceded her in death in 1964. She is survived by two brothers: Bro. George and Herman; two sisters, Lena Knapp and Pauline Schafer.

Mrs. Anna Seidel Burger, 70, formerly of Morton, died at her home in Plymouth, Indiana. Her husband, Carl, died in April 1961. She is survived by three brothers: Bro. George, Bro. Joe, and William; three sisters, Mrs. Marv Gunther, Esther and Sis. Margaret Seidel.

Larry Stephens, son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Shirley Joos Stephens, is convalescing at home after surgery.

A fourth son, David G. was born

to Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Ann Zeltwanger Witzig. David has one sister, Marla.

#### WOLCOTT Arles Kropf

Bro. Loren Strahm of Gridley, Kansas was with us for evening services on Nov. 16.

Michael Minniear has been inducted into the Army and is taking basic training at Ft. Knox, Ky.

A blessed day was ours on Nov. 22, when we had with us Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Herman Kellenberger, and George Yergler. Their mission was to find what was God's will for us in an ordained deacon. This duty fell on Bro. Alfred Bahler. An impressive ordination service was held in the presence of our members and many friends. We certainly give Alfred and Frances our full support and pray God's blessing upon them and upon our church as a whole.

Funeral services were conducted Nov. 25 by Bro. Wendell Gudeman for Bro. Joe Stoller, 73, who passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack. He was first married to Celia Danner, and to this union were born four sons, Ervin, Bro. Richard, Danny, and Larry; and four daughters, Phyllis Baird, Beverly Blume, Sis. Norma Blume, and Sis. Frances Bahler, all who survive. His second marriage was to Sis. Tillie Furrer, who was killed in an accident in 1960. In 1963 he was married to Sis. Emma Blume, who also survives. Other survivors include two brothers, Bros. Elmer and Walter of Wolcott and four sisters Sis's. Helen Knapp and Arvilla Yerler of Cissna Park, Lillian Stahl of Princeville, and Mary Hitz of Wolcott.

Russell Stoller has been a hospital patient, but is improving.

Bros. Henry and Earl Kilgus were our visiting ministers on Nov. 29.

#### GIRARD, OHIO Caroline Emch

Our visiting ministers for November were Bro. John Danner from Maywood; our elder, Bro. Rudy Graf; Bro. Paul Gasser from Akron. They brought us many blessings from God's word. May God bless each one for his effort. Our Thanksgiving service was held Thanksgiving Day forenoon.

Our annual business meeting was held Nov. 29.

On our sick list is Sis. Inez Brown; she has not been able to attend church for several Sundays. Bro. Jesse Emch is in the hospital for eye surgery, South Side Hospital, Youngstown, Ohio. We wish them speedy recovery.

#### BREMEN, INDIANA Emma Unsicker

Somehow hearts grow lighter  
As Christmastime draws near;  
The season brings contentment  
And friends become more dear.

Oh accept God's gift this  
Christmas  
And obey His every word,  
Echoing once again the story  
That the wondering shepherds  
heard.

We sincerely thank the Mansfield Vesper Choir for spending a Sunday with us. Much Christian love was enjoyed with all of them through song and fellowship.

We at Bremen, and I'm sure many others, pause in loving memory, to thank God for one who finished his course and kept the faith. A crown of righteousness is the reward of the faithful. Bro. William Leman, age 86, passed from this life on Nov. 23. He spent 2½ years on his bed of affliction, but his patience in suffering was certainly reflected in the song, sung by his nephews, "It is well with my soul". William will always be remembered as a pillar of the Bremen church. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Earl Zeltwanger. Bro. George Yergler gave some kind, closing remarks.

Steven and Donnalyn Unsicker have a new baby daughter. She was named Kelly Danville, and is my fifth grandchild. Kelly has a brother, Troy, who is 3 years old.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MANHATTAN, KANSAS Mrs. Darvl Meyer

In this glad Christmas season, as we celebrate the birth of Christ let us not forget the words of one of our hymns . . .

"Tis not the babe, but Christ the man  
Who walked in Galilee;  
Tis not the manger, but the cross  
That sets the spirit free."

Bro. Loren Strahm, Gridley; Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern; and Bro.

Sam Huber, Sabetha, were our guest ministers Wed. evening, Nov. 11. A Bible study was held from the book of Galatians.

We want to wish everyone a very happy and blessed Christmas.

#### REMINGTON

Anna M. Waibel

**In the Lord we've found redemption, grace and glory in God's Son. O the height and depth of mercy! Christ and His redeemed are one.**

We were happy to have the privilege of having Bro. Herman Kellenberger of Elgin and Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park for supper Nov. 7, Sat. They were here for the proving and baptism of my nephew, Clyde, wife Mary Sue (my brother, Herman and Sis. Anna's son) and Cheryl Knochel (Bro. Al and Sis. Evelyn's daughter). Bro. Herman passed away Aug. 22, but knew of their conversion, for which we all were very thankful. I'm sure he would again express his thanks for his own redemption, as well as everyone else's, as he always did in his prayers when he said, "Foremost and above all we give thanks for our redemption."

We had joy and sorrow on that Sunday; our cousin, Robert Bahler, 76, passed away (he had been poorly for sometime). He was married to Rose Frey in 1917. Her brother, Bro. Ed Frey passed away just 2 weeks ago. She survives, with 3 sons of here: Don, Russell, Victor; 2 daughters, Elberta Thomas of Saratoga, Calif. and Betty Hall of Indianapolis; one brother, Harry of Monticello Ind. and one sister, Til Schaibley of Frankfort Indiana.

In the early evening of the same day, word comes that a young man, a senior, was killed in a car accident a mile from church. He has been coming to church with some of our teenagers and seemingly enjoyed coming.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Beverly Miller have a baby girl, Stacy Jo, born Nov. 13; they have two other children.

Bro. George Yergler, La Crosse, was with us on Sunday morning, Nov. 22, and again in the evening with Bro. Herman Kellenberger, Elgin Ill., and Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, for Communion, ever a reminder of Christ's suffering and death for us.

Bro. Alfie Clauss has been laid up with a blood clot in his foot.

We had inspiring and revealing messages on Sunday, conducted by Bro. Verlin Stoller of Ft. Wayne.

We are happy to report, Libby Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois) is repenting. What a human can supply does not quench the thirst of the soul. The ever available well of God is deep and fathomless, overflowing with grace. Jesus is the true water of life.

#### AKRON, OHIO

Katherine Ries

"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." While this took place in the days of old, these words live today, fill the hearts of men with joy. Because of His birth salvation is his gift that extends into eternity.

Thanks and praise be to God for our ministers who bring us His word. November was the last month of our first year in our new church. It has been a blessed year for us, for which we are most grateful and thankful to God for the wondrous way He led us to its completion, grateful and thankful for the love and kindness of our brethren nation wide that made it possible. For all this and the additional blessings that have come our way, we repeat the words from the beginning of Psalm 92 which was read and meditated upon in its entirety during our morning services Thanksgiving Day, "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High; To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound. For thou LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. O LORD, how great are thy works! . . ."

Ministering Bro. Ernest Graf with Sis. Louise visited their son Bro. David at Ft. Sam Houston, and upon their return was moved to report—"Our week-end at Ft. Sam afforded us many blessings and lessons. We were happy to meet loved ones near and dear, and to meet brethren and friends from many of our congregations. Close ties are formed when those of like faith and background are thrown together by the events of their life

in a military camp among many who know not our Lord. What a daily opportunity to confess the Lord, in that which they do and that wherein they deny themselves for his sake . . . in that which they say and in that wherein they take no part by being silent! May we be diligent in writing to them, and in prayerful support of which they can certainly feel aware."

Ministering Bros. John Dapper of Maywood and Kenneth Sauder of Mansfield were welcome visitors.

On Nov. 10, Susan and Jerry Ritzman were blessed with a little girl, Krista Marie. The baby is doing well at paternal grandmother's home, Sis. Marie, while Susan remains hospitalized. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hopkins. On Nov. 21, a baby boy was born to Sis. Carol and Bro. Don Gasser. A brother, Tim, and sisters, Stefanie and Kathy welcome him.

Sis. Esther Graf, wife of Bro. Elsworth, is recuperating at home after surgery. Fred Burr (husband of Helen) is at home, recovering from his heart attack while awaiting surgery. Sis. Mary Stanoyevic has been unable to assemble with us for many weeks, due to illness.

Bro. Stanley and Ann Francis now reside at 3418 Fairway Dr., Norton Ohio 44203.

We wish all a happy and blessed Christmas.

#### BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

Delores Duckworth

Martha Kieser

As Christmas Day approaches, may we each rejoice in its true meaning, the birth of our Saviour!

God's love was revealed to us in the visits of Ministering Bros. Bill Gudeman, Elgin; Willis Wiegand, Goodfield; Bob Walder, Congerville; and Everett Hari, Normal.

United in marriage on Nov. 28 were Rebecca Guinerrich, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris, and Dennis Pyles, son of Ernest and Lottie Pyles of Sparland. The ceremony was performed in Guinerrich's home by Bro. Dave Kieser.

Kevin Eberle, son of Ronnie and Sue, was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy.

Another couple has been added to our small congregation! We sincerely welcome Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doris Kuntz and their children, Michael, Steven, and Andrea, from Oakville, who have moved to An-

nawan. Jerry is employed at Bettendorf, Iowa.

In closing, we wish you all a most blessed Christmas! "May the meaning of Christmas be deeper, its faith stronger, and its hopes brighter . . ."

### IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

We were blessed to hear the holy word proclaimed by Bro. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski at our October meeting and Bro. Paul Banwart of West Bend at our November meeting.

We are happy to have with us Gail, daughter of Lawrence and Sis. Lorraine Whipple of Oakville. Gail is attending school in Des Moines.

### MAYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

#### Elizabeth K. Kaisner

In California we are beginning our rainy season, after almost nine months of dry weather.

Sis. Betty Yeges is quite ill at times; she has been moved to another convalescent hospital. Her new address is Douglas Belaire Conv. Hosp., 1836 No. Fair Oaks Ave; Pasadena, Calif.

Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer visited at the Maywood church on Wednesday evening Dec. 2, and provided us with a message of comfort and instruction.

As we are nearing the time in which the birth of our Lord and Saviour will be revered, the Sunday School children are practicing for their program.

#### The Saviour is Born

HIS fate on earth was sorrow and woe,

Due to many who despised HIM so.

To be a SAVIOUR was HIS calling  
As sin on earth became appalling.

Though many ages have gone by  
Since JESUS came for all to die,  
HE does the contrite sinner hear,  
And to HIS own is very near.

### PEORIA

#### Emily Tanner

#### Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

"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."

Let us look forward with hope

and anticipation when the Lord shall come again, and those that are asleep shall arise, and we shall be caught up in the skies and be forever with the Lord.

Miss Lillian Bessler died Nov. 24. She was born in Peoria, a daughter of Frederick and Catherine Frank Bessler. Surviving are two brothers, Albert and Fritz Bessler; and two sisters, Mrs. William (Elsie) Kieser and Mrs. Harvey (Marie) Darrow, all of Peoria. Services were held at the Wilton Mortuary. Our sympathy is extended to Herbert Schwenk, whose mother died Nov. 24. She lived in Morton.

Sis. Olive Rocke died Nov. 29 at Rest Mor Nursing Home in Morton, where she had lived since 1967. She was married to Samuel Rocke in Peoria in 1920. He died in 1938. Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. John (Ruth) Rahn of East Peoria, Mrs. Eldon (Irene) Stahl of Dunlap, and Mrs. Eugene (Rita) Chiavini of Peoria; one stepdaughter, Mrs. James (Lucille) Bessler of East Peoria; three stepsons, David of East Peoria, Willis of Morton, and Norman of Peoria; two sisters, Sisters Lydia and Emma Siebanthal, and one brother, Herman, all of Peoria.

We have had several hospital patients . . . thankful some have recuperated and are home: Bros. Dave Hoerr and Conrad Woerner, Sisters Barbara Hoerr, Bernice Hartman, and Kathryn Lubitz.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Lena Sauder have gone to spend the winter in Phoenix, and Bro. Will and Sis. Mayme Erkert to Fort Lauderdale.

We enjoyed the Christian fellowship of the Latty brethren, who spent the week-end of Nov. 7-8. Our monthly Hymn-sing was on Saturday evening at the Fellowship Hall, so the Latty folks could get an earlier start for home on Sunday.

Thomas R. Martin is now stationed in Ft. Carson, Colorado. He is the son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Eunice Martin; I'm sure his wife and family are very thankful to have him back from Viet Nam.

Mrs. G. Witzig celebrated her 90th birthday Nov. 20. She is a very dear sister-in-faith and assembles regularly for church services. One thing that probably contributes to her spryness is the fact that she has always enjoyed walking a lot. She is still very active

and able to do her own housekeeping. She wishes to thank everyone for their kind expressions of love, cards, and gifts which she received. "May God bless you all."

### PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS

#### Ruth Ricketts

We were richly blessed to have Bros. LeRoy Huber, John Rokey, Willis Wiegand, and Joshua Broguard minister the word. We heard so much about charity; give not only of material things, but much more of spiritual things. There is a time coming when there will be poverty of hearing the true word of God. We read how young men and maidens will walk from one end of the earth to the other, wishing for one more day of grace, and will not find it.

Advice was given to forsake this world of vanity and take advantage while the door of grace is yet open. A new convert had said how she had always wanted to repent and knew she must, but thought it was such a hard thing to do. Once she had surrendered her own will it was so easy, and now she is very happy. When God leads our lives we need fear nothing, for His is the only way to true happiness and contentment.

On Nov. 11, Greg and Bonnie Martin were blessed with a little boy, Eric Eli. Happy grandparents for the first time are Sis. Edith Martin and Ed and Linda Fehr of Eureka.

The Bible Class and teachers spent a very pleasant day in Peoria. They wish to thank all for making it such a memorable day.

"Praised be the Lord who gives us strength,  
Who leads and gives direction.  
My brethren, when you kneel in prayer,  
For me make intercession.

'Twill not be vain; Prayer as a chain  
Binds us in God together,  
And when we part, Unites each heart  
In Jesus name forever."

Thus was the hymn sung by the congregation as a parting for Bro. Steven Elsasser, son of Bro. John and Sis. Lillian, who has been called into the service of his country. Ralph Endress, son of Sis. Mildred, spent some time at home be-

fore being sent to Korea. They may be sure of prayer support from their loved ones at home.

Sis. Clara Marie Gerber is recovering nicely from surgery. She had the plate removed from her leg, broken last year in an auto accident. She is able to worship with us, and gets about without the aid of crutches or cane. She has always displayed a pleasant disposition during her year of suffering, and we are happy that she is now getting along nicely.

Bro. Chris Martin, who has been ill, is receiving treatments in the hospital, and is much improved. Sis. Louise A. Martin is receiving treatment in the hospital and is improved. Brad, 2½-year-old son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Herrmann, is suffering from nephrosis, and is receiving treatment in the hospital. He is responding to medication. Sis. Ida Huber spends most of her time in bed and remains about the same. Sis. Marie Endress is slowly regaining strength and is able to be up part of the time. Sis. Ruth Streitmatter is able to be out again and has been to church recently. May they place their trust in the Lord.

"A sincere thanks to all who remembered me in the hospital and since returning home. The cards, gifts, and prayers were greatly appreciated." Sis. Ruth Streitmatter.

We are approaching the Christmas season, one of the most beautiful seasons. How rewarding it is when we can join in singing the beautiful carols, visit the shut-ins and unfortunate, and spread cheer. It seems that the more we can do for others gives us a deeper contentment. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

As we read the Christmas story, let us compare our thoughts and actions with those present at the humble birth. Would not we be frightened too if we were in the presence of a host of angels? How would we feel if an angel told us of the Saviour's birth? Would we truly believe and go in search of the babe? Wisemen believed, traveled from far away, and didn't give up until they had found the babe and presented their gifts. We should search until we can find the Christ child, surrender to him, then walk by faith and give Him gifts of faithfulness, kindness, love, patience.

The name of Sis. Helen Knapp of Cissna Park as great-grandmother of Darin Eugene Blunier, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce, was inadvertently omitted in the last issue.

In a simple ceremony on the evening of Dec. 5, Wolfgang Christ and Barbara Troutman were united in marriage. Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elsa Christ, and Dean and Peggy Troutman are the parents of the couple. We wish them God's blessings as they walk their new life together.

Bro. Steve Elsasser called his parents, saying he had arrived at Ft. Sam Houston.

Sis. Perceda Hodel in the Church Home in Eureka is maternal great-grandmother. This is of Eric Eli Martin, son of Greg and Bonnie.

"I wish to thank everyone for the many kind deeds, cards, and prayers for me during my illness. May God bless you all." Sis. Marie Endress.

#### ROANOKE

Marilyn Weyeneth—Norene Herbst

The engagement of Carol Beth Wulf to David L. Knapp has been announced by her parents, the Wilhelm Wulfs of Hills, Minnesota. David's parents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Helen Knapp. A February wedding is planned.

A son, Thomas J., was born to Tom S. and DeAnn (Aeschleman) Anderson of Bloomington. He arrived Nov. 9, and is their first child.

Visiting ministers were Bros. J. B. Schrock (Congerville), Dave Kieser, (Princeville), and Leroy Huber (Eureka).

Those who have been hospital patients are Sis. Marie Aeschleman (Orie), Sis. Lavine Leman (Wilmer), Sis. Fannie Minger, and Bro. Andy Leman.

Our friends, Neil Hodel and Bob DeSigne are home on leave, having completed tours of duty in Viet Nam. Neil spent one year there, and Bob eleven months. Bob is being sent to Anchorage Alaska, and Neil reports for further duty in January.

Cassie Fehr and Alan Rocke were married Wed. evening, Nov. 25, at her parent's home. The couple is making their home in Roanoke. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Fehr are the parents.

#### SHIODA, JAPAN

Willis R. Ehnle

When older believers do not support the church of which they are a part, the young people are quick to pick up the voice of criticism. Thus the church and church leadership are sometimes blamed for all kinds of personal insufficiencies and problems.

On Sat., Nov. 28, three young men in high school uniforms appeared in our churchyard. They had come on their bicycles to ask me about Christianity. I ushered them into one of the class rooms in our church building, and we began our conversation.

The first question on their written list was, "What is Christianity?" I replied that it is the teaching that Christ is the Son of the living God, that he died for our sins, and that He arose again.

Another question was, "Is it not true that those who become Christians are weak and feel they must trust in God for support while strong individuals do not have this need?" I replied that actually it takes more strength, determination and effort to repent and follow Christ than it does to flow along with the crowd. Few people are willing or able to say "No" to things which even they realize are wrong and harmful to the individual and to society.

A further question was to ask my idea on the suppression of scientific research and progress by the church in Europe towards the end of the Dark Ages and during the period of the Renaissance. I replied that the church was wrong. I am very much in favor of scientific research and progress.

I was queried as to the conflict between science and religion, and I replied that there is no conflict between true science and the Bible. They have been studying biology and along with it the various theories of evolution. Although plants and animals adapt to their environment, which Darwin observed on the Pescadore Islands off the coast of South America, there is absolutely no evidence that plants or animals can cross over from species to species. The evolutionists have not explained how the one-celled, something from which all other life, both plant and animal, supposedly sprang, got its life in the first place. The first thing a

scientist should do is confess that there is a living God with super intelligence and super power, and start from there.

My student friends were quite provoked at me, but I told them they should not have expected me to be wavering as to what I believe. The Bible, God's word, is not wrong.

#### BLUFFTON

**Imogene Steffen — Pat Isch**

Wherever you go, wherever you are,  
Keep in your heart the Christmas star;  
Keep in your eyes the Christmas dream.

May faith, hope and love mark your Christmas Day  
But keep each safe in your heart alway.

Indeed we will miss, and have already, our dear departed Bro. John Baumgartner, who passed away suddenly while he and his wife, Sis. Mary were beginning their winter stay in Florida, and had just been there less than three weeks. John was very active in the church, serving as a song leader. We will not soon forget his many talents he shared with us. Our sympathy goes to his wife and eleven surviving children: Four sons, Bro. Truman, Bro. Howard, Bro. Galen and Bro. Gene; seven daughters, Sis. Carolyn (Robert) Yergler, Delores (Bill) Shady, Lillian (Kent) Sprunger, Jo Ann McKee, Helen (Tom) Woodard, Anna Rose (Don) Lloyd, and Lois (Lloyd) Tackwell; one sister, Mrs. Joel (Sis. Lucinda) Fiechter. May the Lord be near this family circle and bless them all.

What a fortunate people we are to be privileged to depend on the Holy Spirit to inspire our ministering brethren. The month of November brought Bro. Ben Fehr of Roanoke and Bro. Frederick Knapp from Congerville. We treasure such visits.

On Sat. Nov. 28, Friends Janice Neuenschwander and Donald Joe Schwartz were united in marriage at our Fellowship Hall. May their hearts be bound with love and trust. Bro. and Sis. William and Mildred Neuenschwander and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Schwartz are the parents.

A serious truck accident several

weeks ago has hospitalized Friend Lonnie Frauhiger, son of Bro. Herbert and Sis. Lucille. Although he was gravely injured, we hope and pray that he may be restored to health through God's healing hand. Sis. Elizabeth Strahm sustained fractures of both wrists from a fall. Others hospitalized were Sis. Lucille (Walter) Kaehr, Sis. Sadie Gerber, Bro. Joe Isch, Bro. Leonard Grandlienard, Rodney Bucher (son of Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis), and Scott and Mark Kaehr, sons of Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Kaehr. May we thank God every day for the returning health of our loved ones.

Jesus loves me! this I know  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong;  
They are weak, but He is strong.

A son, Ked Marshal, was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl (Isch) Gerber; a brother, Kip Michael welcomes a new playmate. Friends Clem and Karen Reinhard welcomed their first child, Shawn Lynn, into their home.

We were happy to have in our presence the Christian Endeavor group which involved all high school students of the Indiana churches. They spent the day of worship with us on Dec. 6 and in the evening provided an enjoyable program of singing.

#### WICHITA

**Dave and Barbara Hangartner**

May He who hears our every prayer, Look down from above, And bless us with his abiding love.

We enjoyed our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker's inspiring messages of truth and love.

We welcome Sis. Jeanie (Ricketts) Langhofer in our congregation. She and Steve were married. We wish them the Lord's rich blessings.

Patty and Gary Miskimon are now stationed at 19 Sebert Lane, Ft Leonard Wood, Mo. 65475. Patty is the daughter of Bro. Milton and Sis. Lillian Bower.

Sis. Ruth Yackley wishes to express her thanks for all the cards and expressions of love extended to her. She is doing real well with her pacemaker.

Andy Yackley, Sis. Ruth and Bro. Roy's son, has his Masters Degree from McGill Univ. Montreal Ca. He now is teaching in beautiful Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Attending Thanksgiving Service were Bros. Terry Farney, Marty Langhofer, Dennis Fehr, Lloyd Stoller; Sisters Berty Farney, Neta Knobloch, Mary Hohulin; Merick Huston (British subject); John Coe (Formosa).

Our loved ones are attending school. May they always look for guidance and walk daily with the Lord.

Our dear Sis. Dora Young is leaving for Phoenix. She plans to stay a couple of months with her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Vera and Bro. Clarence Yackley.

#### ELGIN, ILLINOIS

**Louise Steffen Katie Kachelmuss**

Soon we will hear the children singing, "O Little Town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie." . . . and are reminded of St. Matthew 2:6. "And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel." . . . But we also are reminded in the lovely song, **The Babe of Bethlehem**, "Be not content this babe to know, nor stay at Bethlehem, But go with Christ to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem. 'Tis there men learn to know the Christ, for there He bore man's sin. Then open wide the door of heart, and let the Saviour in."

Bros. Robert Pohl of Burlington, Iowa, and Roy Sauder of Peoria, visited us and we were reminded how the prophecies of the Bible are being fulfilled in these times, and how thankful we should be that God has preserved His word so we can be strengthened in our faith. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than his brother Cain; by faith Enoch walked with God. Without faith it is impossible to please God. May God continue to give teachers to show us the heavenly way.

We had visitors from a distance, this time from the West. Albert Jr. and Kay Scheitlin Schmidgall from Phoenix visited their parents and assembled with us around God's word.

May God watch over our shut-ins at all times, and we pray that God will give them an extra blessing at this Christmas-time, as well as those who care for them.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Patsy Schambach and Bro. John Stoller of For-



rest. We wish them God's blessing.

John Koch, 1026 Morton Ave., Elgin Ill. 60120, has been hospitalized. May God be near to all the sick and according to His will restore to health.

#### FRANCESVILLE, IND.

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich  
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Dear Precious Ones in Faith,

It is a joy to greet you because of Christ, which is Christmas. As we are coming to the close of the year 1970, we would enjoy to share with you some of our bountiful blessings of the past year.

We will start with our 17 babies, which are so touching to everyone's heart . . . and to so lovingly watch them grow up. Christmas is a sweet joy in families.

The years pass so swiftly then, in happy Christian homes, as we had 10 loving teenagers to graduate from high school. Christmas is the tender knowledge that you are loved by someone.

Now the most important step in life is to fully give your heart to the Lord, which 6 precious souls did. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer were the last to be baptized. We love them so dearly with their darling little family. They were privileged to have Bro. George Yergler, who is the longest serving elder, to assist our Bro. Wendell Gudeman. Christmas is believing in prayer.

Our assembly was so very, very thankful 5 times, to have those in the service return home safely. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

We had 7 to start their "new homes" as husband and wife. Bro. Dave Wuethrich's daughter, Brenda, was our last one . . . We wish them a long, happy Christian life.

Christmas is faith above, as 5 loved ones were called to Heaven.

It was God's will to give us a new minister, so he serves Christmas in a selfless spirit for others.

Sis. Marie Neihouser spent nearly 18 months in Japan, giving children gifts of guidance, so was like "Christmas giving" every day.

Don't we all like company? Five families have moved here, so Christmas is another "Welcome" to them.

Our yearly letter so far told of spiritual happenings, but can hard-

ly end this without saying that 80 names are on our church list to give us bodily strength, to keep on loving each other for another year.

May God grant you New Year's blessings.

Humbly Yours,  
Francesville People

#### GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Edna Somerhalder — Wilma Young

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." As we observe our Saviour's birth, may it cause a deep appreciation for His willingness to bear our sins, that, through His shed blood, we may find remission of our sins and the promise of life eternal.

Sis. Susan Kraft and Bro. Bill Emch were united in marriage Nov. 8. Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker performed the ceremony. Immediately following the wedding, a reception was held at the Grade School; then dinner was served in the church basement. They are living in Madison, where Bill is associated with his Dad in the Feed Store.

We rejoice that Douglas Kraft is repenting. We wish him the needed grace. He is Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine's son.

Sis. Doris (Roy) Bahr was hospitalized a week, for tests and observation. Sis. Rosa Bahr has spent four days in the hospital, following a light stroke. She hopes to be released soon.

Barry Robert, born Nov. 30, is the new son of Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger; he must remain in the hospital until he weighs 5 lbs. Paige, Shawn, Philip, and Wendy are anxious to welcome him home.

Gary Beyer has returned to the freshman class on crutches. He hopes to have his leg cast removed soon.

Those attending schools of higher learning are: Ralph and Dale Rodgers, (grandsons of Bro. Jake Beyer), Debra Bahr (granddaughter of Sis. Lydia Bahr), Roseann Strahm (daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten).

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Raymond Roth, Roy Wernli, Joe Aberli and Samuel Huber.

Moving? Drop a card ahead. Tell both old and new address. Give plenty of time.

#### INDIANAPOLIS

Charles and Doris Neuenschwander

As once again we celebrate  
The birth of Christ our King,  
May you truly know the joy and  
peace  
This blessed day can bring.

A meeting was held at Indianapolis on Dec. 5 to consider purchasing a church site. We were assisted by brothers from neighboring churches with our decision. The meeting was opened with a prayer asking God's direction and guidance.

After examining five different plots, a discussion period was held. One by one they were eliminated, and finally one on East 71st street was chosen. An option to purchase was signed. The meeting was closed with a prayer asking God's blessing.

Brothers bringing us spiritual blessings were Bros. Carl Kipfer, Arthur Gudeman, Earl Zeltwanger and Wendell Gerber.

As the year of 1970 comes to a close, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and may God bless you in the new year.

We will have no services here on Dec. 27, but plan to start the New Year with services on Jan. 3.

#### MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Ann Meiss — Helen Joos

Glory to God in the highest! and on earth Peace, good will toward men! . . . as the angels praised, that night so long ago.

Christ was born in a stable and put in a manger . . . such a lowly and humble beginning for the greatest man. Let us never forget the true meaning of this blessed day, Christmas!

A daughter, Tami Jean was born Nov. 4 to Bro. Don and Sis. Virginia Schmidgall. Sis. Emma Schmidgall is the grandmother. We know they are thankful to God for this precious gift.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Pearl Moser, Alfred Luthi, and Julie Fehr.

We pray God will restore them good health again.

Our friend, Arnold Koehl gave his testimony and was baptized on Sunday, Nov. 29. We welcome him as a new brother in faith, and wish him God's blessing in his new walk of life; Bro. Arnold is the son of Bro. and Sis. E. O. Koehl. How we wish all who are outside the fold

could experience this love, joy and peace.

#### A Prayer For Parents

O Lord, make me a better parent;  
Teach me to understand my children.

To listen to what they have to say,  
And to answer all questions kindly . . .

Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Give me the courage to confess my sins against my children,  
And to ask of them forgiveness when I know that I have done them wrong . . .

Help me to grow up with my children, to treat them as those of their own age; but let me not expect of them the judgments and conventions of adults.

Allow me not to rob them of the opportunity to wait upon themselves, to think, to choose, and to make decisions.

God forbid that I should ever punish them for my selfish satisfaction.

May I grant them all their wishes that are reasonable, and have the courage always to withhold a privilege which I know will do them harm.

Make me so fair and just, so considerate and companionable to my children that they will have a genuine esteem for me.

Fit me to be loved and imitated by my children.

With all the gifts, Heavenly Father, give me calm and poise and self-control. Amen.

#### MINNEAPOLIS

Alma Baum — Gus Baum

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

Though Christ a thousand times  
In Bethlehem be born,  
If He's not born in thee  
Thy soul is steel forlorn.  
The Cross on Golgotha  
Will never save thy soul;  
The cross in thine own heart  
Alone can make thee whole.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Herman Kellenberger—Elgin Ill., and Paul Banwart—West Bend Iowa. We give them our sincere thanks.

The beauty of winter is upon us. Twelve inches of newly-fallen snow isolate us at the moment in the

Northwoods.

We in behalf of the Minneapolis church extend to all, warm wishes for a blessed Christmas, lasting through the new year.

#### PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Emily Heinold — Linda Laidig  
Christmas Prayer

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 humble ask, what'er the task  
That be 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 this 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.

During the Thanksgiving season we stop for a moment to think of our many blessings. One outstanding one is the freedom and privilege we have to worship and fellowship together. Bro. Joe Shrock was with us on Nov. 4 and Bro. Theo. Beer on the 18th. May we always have our house in order, for we do not know when our Lord shall return, but one day He will come . . . who would desire to endure the tribulation period, rather than to escape it by keeping ourselves ready for His coming.

We all give a special thanks to Bro. Edwin Bahler for his service he gives to the students here. On Dec. 2 he brought the message for St. Luke 14. We often make excuses for not coming to our Lord, but do they really hold water?

As we again enter the Christmas season, we are planning for our Christmas program, which will be on Dec. 16. As we celebrate Christ's birth, may we not forget the reason He was sent.

#### VALPARAISO, INDIANA

Alma Morris

" . . . the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Bro. Harry and Sis. Lena greeted friend and relative on Nov. 22nd, their 50th wedding anniversary, in the fellowship room of our church.

Their children served cake, coffee and punch, and after the afternoon reception they had a dinner. It was a heart-warming day. We were blessed by messages from Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park and Bro. Al Fisher from Chicago.

You've shared another happy year,  
And on this special day  
May heaven bless the two of you.  
A very special way!

Bill Feller, son of Willis and Eunice, was married to Cam Primroy on Nov. 28. We wish them God's richest blessing as they start out their life together.

#### WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

May you have the gladness of  
Christmas, which is HOPE,  
The spirit of Christmas which is  
PEACE,  
The heart of Christmas which is  
LOVE.

The Christmas season is upon us. "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The marriage of Nancy Schmidt, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel, to Dick Van Deest took place on Nov. 21. We wish them God's blessings together.

We thank Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend for ministering unto us. The fellowship God gives His believers is something far more precious than silver or gold. The opportunity to worship and fellowship together helps to ever renew our body and spirit.

SILVER LINING contributions are due during the month of January.

#### BERN, KANSAS

Esther and Stella Moser

Thanksgiving morning, the Sabetha congregation assembled with us for services. Bro. Carl Hartman brought out in the message how Plymouth Rock must be that the Pilgrims could land on it. We have a large rock to land on, the solid rock of Jesus Christ.

We have two new baby boys to welcome. Adrian Lee was born Dec. 2 to Bro. Wayne and Sis.

Claudia Strahm. He has one sister, Camille. Grandparents are Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Lorene Strahm. On Nov. 29, Alan Wayne was born to James and Jean Meyer. Grandparents are Sis. Pearl Meyer and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Ruth Metzger, Elgin (Iowa).

Hospital patients are Sis. Louisa Baumgartner, Sis. Lydia Hanhart, both medical. Sis. Tillie Stoller fell and broke her leg close to the ankle. Surgical patients have been Bro. Eldon Plattner and Sis. Mamie Strahm (Bro. Alpha.) Mamie handed me the following in thanks and appreciation.

As I lay on my hospital bed,  
Thinking of all the prayers that  
were said in my behalf,  
It humbled me.

There were days I couldn't pray;  
Your prayers arose to God that day.  
Thank you dear brethren and  
friends.

Thank you for cards and letters,  
Or whatever it may be,  
Such as helping with our family.  
God bless you all.

Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Joe Benninger, West Bend, kept things going smoothly in the home during Mamie's hospitalization, no small task with seven lively boys.

As we bring another year's reporting to a close, to all the Silver Lining readers we extend Seasons' Greetings, with the Lord's richest blessings in the New Year.

#### BURLINGTON, IOWA

Verna Woodward

Rosella Obermann

"Christ is the head of this house,  
The unseen guest at every meal,  
The silent listener in every  
conversation."

This was found in a magazine we get; it has such good, true meaning in every line. It would be good for all to memorize it, and think of it several times a day. It will surely help us in our daily walk of life.

Hospitalized a few days with tonsillectomies were Carolyn and Deyona Massner, daughters of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Edith.

We have had a few cases of flu in our congregation, but all seem to be feeling better.

The Sunday School children are

getting ready for their Christmas program. They seem so happy and joyful about it.

#### CONGERVILLE

Pauline Roth — Phyllis Knapp

This Christmas

Let us now, in our pursuit of things material, pause.

Let us contemplate the true purpose for which each of us has been created.

Let us, in deepest sincerity, reaffirm our unshakeable faith in our Creator and in His Master plan for each of us.

Let us, in humility and gratitude, offer up thanks for Christ, whose birth we now in joy commemorate.

Let us strive to remember, always, that without Him we are nothing, but that with Him all things are possible.

Our Thanksgiving Day services were well attended, and we felt a special joy in seeing so many of our college students assemble with us.

Dennis Knapp (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Jeanette) is spending several weeks at his home, prior to reporting to his next assignment with the army, which will be in Germany. We pray the Lord will protect him, and bring him home safely.

We are so thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance, and that two souls in our midst, Rick and Kathy Knapp, have answered His call.

We have been blessed with the visits of several ministering brothers, Bros. Uriel Gehring—Burlington; Elmer Witzig, Gridley; Dave Kieser, Princeville; and Ben Fehr, Roanoke. We were reminded so well that we have no time to lose, as God's word rapidly goes into fulfillment.

Our Bible Class enjoyed the visit of the Bible classes from Alto and Taylor.

Several from our congregation have been or are in hospitals. Bro. C. E. Steffen spent almost 3 weeks at Mayo's where he submitted to hip surgery. Bro. Ben Zimmerman spent a few days at Eureka Hospital, and is at the Eureka Home. Bro. Sam Zimmerman has been dismissed from Mennonite Hospital in Bloomington. My mother, Ida Nussbaum, is a patient at Mennonite Hospital. Kevin Knapp (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis) submit-

ted to an emergency appendectomy. He recovered nicely and is again able to assemble with us.

Two sweet little girls have been born: Rachel Ann is the daughter of Vernon and Judy Wettstein. Born Nov. 19, she is the sister of Rhonda, Michelle and Peggy. Grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach, Tremont and Bro. John Wettstein. Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst welcome Tiffany Nicole into their home. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie Grusy and Bro. Richard and Sis. Liberty Gerst, Oakville. Tiffany was born Nov. 22.

Our children are busily getting ready for the annual Christmas program, which is to be presented December 16.

Thank you note: I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for all the cards, gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital and since returning home. They were appreciated very much, and God bless all of you. Chas. E. Steffen.

#### FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

Referring to the birth of Jesus. God said: His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. God's word is always fulfilled. For instance, in the first name, "Wonderful", the Lord Jesus was wonderful in His birth, His works to the sick, His words to all people, His death and resurrection, and He will be wonderful in His return. The salvation He offers is wonderful; and it's wonderful that He is our Counsellor each day, speaking to us His wonderful words, for He is wonderfully the same today as yesterday.

Bro. Lloyd Zimmerman, Gene Zimmerman, Sis. Carol Bazzel and Joe Slagel were hospitalized. An ear specialist performed special surgery for Sis. Lena Zehr, and may God grant her wish to hear the singing of hymns again.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill (Isch) Roth became the parents of a baby girl, born Nov. 24, named Erica Ann. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Earl Roth of Fairbury, and Bro. and Sis. Roger Isch of Bluffton. Great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Henry Maurer and Sis. Carrie Roth.

We welcome Sis. Emily Miller to our congregation ; she moved from Chicago.

May we each accept wonderful peace from the Prince of Peace this Christmas and always.

#### FT. SAM HOUSTON Walt Steffen

Nearly everyone looks forward with great anticipation to some kind of promotion, whether in school, military, or other important events in our lives, I recently met a man that appeared rather unsuccessful in gaining promotion in his twenty years of military service. Although he seemed content and cheerful, I immediately formed a biased impression of him. As our conversation ended, he said, "I have something for you that may be beneficial to you." As he proceeded out the door, I glanced down at the pamphlet he gave me, entitled 'He Lives!' I realized then, he who appeared as a man of little rank or status in his profession may have attained the highest promotion offered to man, A rebirth in Christ.

Bob Shambach, Robert Witzig, Bro. Roger Witzig, Dave Klopfenstein, Bro. Dave Graf, and Bro. John Zeller have all completed medical training and received orders for Germany. Ken Reutter has completed training and is enroute to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. Those just beginning their military service are: Bro. Gary Ifft, Maurice Braker, Bro. Brian Stuber, Bro. Steve Elsasser, Eldon Sherer, and Vernon Eggleman. May each have our prayer support and the Lord's richest blessings.

Visiting ministers for November were: Bro. Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Bro. Bob Stoll (Girard), and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley). We thank them for the spiritual food they shared with us.

Dave Bogner from Mansfield, who was injured in Viet Nam, has returned to Fort Polk, La. to finish his military service. He visited us Thanksgiving week-end and was very enthused with his recovery.

#### GOODFIELD Elna Grimm

Christmas is your faith in all that is good . . . Christmas is the selfless spirit of doing for others . . . Christmas is friendship . . . and the spreading of cheer . . . And

it is the guileless wonder of childhood . . . Christmas is the sweet joy of families united . . . It is the tender knowledge that you're loved by someone . . . and that you have someone to love . . . Christmas is believing in prayer . . . and the power that answers it . . . Plus the right to sing of your belief . . . Christmas . . . Let us keep it shining for all the world.

A baby girl, Cheryl Lynn, was born to Bro. and Sis. Don and Peg Heinold of Eureka on Nov. 20. Bro. and Sis. Melvin and Mary Helen Heinold of R. R. Deer Creek and Bro. and Sis. John and Dorothy Bittner of Eureka are the grandparents.

A baby girl, Heidi Lynn, was born to Bro. and Sis. Sam and Pat Plattner of Eureka on Nov. 23. Bro. and Sis. Harold and Gerry Plattner of Goodfield, and Bro. and Sis. Ben and Audrey Ehnle of Bradford are the grandparents.

Bro. Gene Metzger from Lester ministered to us one Sunday. We always welcome him and his wife Dolores, who is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ira and Carolyn Rokey of our congregation.

#### GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS Ruth Gramm

##### What Is Christmas?

Christmas is a season;  
It comes but once a year;  
Christmas is the birthday  
Of our Lord and Saviour dear.

Christmas is a happy time  
For little folks, and yet,  
The true Spirit of Christmas  
We never should forget.

Christmas means redemption  
From our awful load of sin;  
Christ the blessed Saviour came  
That we eternal life might win.

What is Christmas, without the  
cross  
On which our Saviour died?  
The Babe, The CROSS, salvation,  
Peace, love, this is Christmas-tide.

The stark reality of life and death was again present in our congregation. We sympathize with Friends Orville and Elaine Rinkenberg over the tragic death of their son, Joseph, who was killed in a car accident on Thanksgiving Day.

We were blessed to have Bro. Chuck Hemmer minister to us on Nov. 29.

We are happy to have Bro. Bill Schmidgall home from Viet Nam. He and his wife plan to move to Morton, where Bill will return to his old job, the Lord willing.

Bro. Ezra Stoller is back in church, after being in the hospital for surgery. We are thankful he is getting along all right. He sends this note: "I wish to thank each of my beloved brethren for remembering me during my illness with prayers, cards and gifts. May God bless each of you. Matthew 25:40. Humbly, Ezra Stoller.

#### LATTY, OHIO

##### Delores Grant — Iva Stoller

We had a blessed day the 15th of November. Three visiting ministers were among us. They were Bro. Al Fisher from Chicago, Bro. Walter Rehklau and Bro. Walter Rager from Toledo. We were privileged to hear the testimony of our friend, Caroline Zeltwanger, on Sat. evening, and on Sunday she was added to our fold. May that precious first love ever stay within her heart.

Our elder brother, George Sinn, and Sis. Eunice Gerber were both in the hospital. We are happy to see them both well enough to attend our services again. Madie Laukhuf still remains hospitalized. Our prayers are with her, hoping she can enjoy good health. Bro. Rex Plummer and son Ricky are in the hospital, having had surgery. May they be blessed with a complete recovery.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Henry Beer of Milford, Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington, and Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley. We were surely richly blessed, and none had to go hungry for the word of God.

Now 'tis the Christmas season. May we rejoice in the true meaning of Christmas, and strive to follow the road that leads to Christ.

#### The Road To Bethlehem

Come take the road to Bethlehem!  
For on a Christmas Night,  
Illumined by a host of stars,  
Its holy way is bright—

As bright as when an amber star  
Hung poised above His bed,  
And Mary bent in joyous awe  
Beside a drowsy head.

The poorest man may lay the gold  
Of worship at His feet;  
And love is frankincense, and  
myrrh  
Of sacrifice is sweet.

Here by the Baby of Bethlehem  
Is comfort for the sad;  
World-weary hearts, made old by  
sin,  
Grow young once more, and glad . . .

And all, both rich and poor, may  
come  
And find a sure release  
From cares that fret, and doubts  
that prey,  
Through Him, the Prince of Peace.

O wondrous Child of Bethlehem!  
O Man of Majesty  
Who lifted high above the star  
The cross of Calvary!

Christ of the lowly manger,  
Christ of Gethsemane,  
Bless any heart this Christmas  
night  
That takes the road to Thee!

#### MILFORD, INDIANA Marguerite Hoerr

The Christmas season will be less joyful for three families in our church community this year, as they feel the emptiness of places formerly filled by their loved ones. I ran across this quotation and I hope it can comfort them as it did me . . . "I believe that when death closes our eyes, we shall awaken to a light of which our sunlight is but the shadow" . . .

Our sympathy was expressed to the family of our dear Bro. Andrew Beer, who has gone on to his eternal reward. We were grateful for each Sunday he and Sis. Bertha could worship with us, and our loss is keenly felt. May Sis. Bertha and his sons, Bro. Don and Walter, and his daughter, Sis. Mary Bauer find comfort at this time.

Meeting death rather suddenly after a short illness was our friend, Clarence Stieglitz. Sincere sympathy is extended to his family: Sisters Madeline Zimmerman, Louise Rapp, Emma and Frieda Stieglitz and Florence; also his brothers, Henry and Ed.

Death has claimed our dear Bro. Dick Hunsberger. Dick was loved by everyone of us, and our sorrow is sharp as we try in a small way to express our sympathy to his wife, our Sis. Melba and his four

sons, Rodger, Norman, Bruce and Keith. Special sympathy also to Sis. Mary Good, Melba's mother, who feels his loss deeply along with the rest of his family.

The following poem expresses the need of those left behind:

Ah friends, dear friends as years  
go on and heads get gray,  
How fast the guests do go—  
Touch hands, touch hands with  
those that stay.  
Strong hands to weak—old hands  
to young, across the  
Christmas board, touch hands.

The false forget, the foe forgive,  
for every guest will go,  
and every fire burn low, and  
cabins empty stand.  
Forget, forgive, for those who  
may, say that Christmas day  
may never come to host or guest  
again.  
Touch hands!

#### TAYLOR, MO.

Mrs. Eli Sutter—Mrs. Bill Heimer

We were thankful to have Bro. Bob Pohl bring the word to us on Sunday 22 of Nov. He and his family came to spend Thanksgiving with us. Several college students and others were here to spend the holiday with their families.

A baby boy, Rondell Henry II, was born to Ron and Dona Hodel on Dec. 3. They have a little girl, Ronda Lee, 4-years-old. Grandparents are Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Green, all of Quincy.

Kent, son of Sis. Naomi Heimer was involved in a car accident and spent a short time in the hospital. Bro. Dick Sutter had surgery, and little Carrie, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr was a patient for a short stay. They are all at home and getting along very well.

The Sunday School pupils and teachers are practicing for the Christmas program, to be given Dec. 20.

#### TOLEDO Diane Reineck

Our little congregation spent a blessed Sunday together Dec. 6. We witnessed the testimony and baptism of our new sister in Christ, Clorice Burkholder. We can all learn from this dear soul. She searched for a church that would give her some meaning in life. She

heard of our church, and through various means located us in Toledo. She travels by herself from Morenci, Michigan every Sunday. Not only did she give us this lesson in diligence, but Clorice is also deaf. She had an automobile accident years ago, thereby completely losing her hearing. What **faith** she has! She reads the lips of our ministers during sermons and prayers. She always has a smile for everyone. Oh that all of us could dwell on our blessings and forget our complaints! Her testimony was a joy to her. Her expressions were so spontaneous and straight from the heart. Her daughter was asked if she had noticed a change in her mother's life. She said that she had not seen her mother happier in forty years!

We thank Elder Bros. Rudy Graf and Ben Maibach for their wonderful messages.

#### NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz  
Miss Della Witschey

Mr. and Mrs. William Emch of Lamont visited here on Nov. 17 with relatives; they were newlyweds, and visited the country church and the Monroe church. Come again.

Walter Emch is a patient in the local hospital, and his condition remains about the same. Mr. Harry Burton has been able to return home, after a several-day stay in the local hospital. Mrs. Forest Schupbach is slowly recovering from injuries received in an automobile accident several weeks ago. Mrs. Daisy (Wm.) Emch continues to improve, after a several-day stay in the local hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth of Parkersburg left Dec. 4 for their winter home in Zephyrhills, Florida, and will spend the next few months enjoying the sunshine. Mr. and Mrs. John Witschey and family of Charleston, W. Va., spent Thanksgiving with his sisters, Miss Margaret and Mrs. Elizabeth Hawkins.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade were hosts to the members of their immediate family at dinner on Thanksgiving. Sixteen members were present. Miss Mary Witschey visited with friends in Steubenville, Ohio. Jimmy Wade, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade is home for three weeks, following boot training. He will join his platoon

on Dec. 12 in Ft. Lewis, Washington, and their shipping destination is Viet Nam. We are praying for his safe return, along with all other boys in the service of our country.

Miss Della Witschey had as her guests on Thanksgiving Day for the annual dinner, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Estep and three sons, Mrs. Paul Barcus. Mrs. J. C. Froelich had the misfortune to fall in her home and is slowly recovering from those injuries.

Mr. and Mrs. Elza Ritz, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Weltz were Thanksgiving Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock.

A Merry Christmas to all, in this gentle season.

#### PULASKI, IOWA

**Mary Wiegand Nancy Musselman**  
'Tis not the babe, but Christ the man,

Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free.  
Be not content this babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,  
But go with Christ to Calvary's brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the Christ,  
For there He bore man's sin.  
Then open wide the door of heart,  
And let the Saviour in.

Sis. Minnie Wuthrich Getz is still at the Silver Haven Rest Home in Bloomfield, but she hopes to go home in the next few weeks. She is recovering from a broken hip and wrist, which she suffered in August. Bro. Albert Wuthrich spent some time in the hospital, but is home and able to assemble with us.

Our friend, Lydia Jean Banwart Payne, spent a few at Rochester, Minnesota, undergoing tests. We are happy to say that she is able to be home again.

#### ALTADENA

**Freda and Rhoda Minger**

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

These two verses served as the text, when the Maywood and Altadena congregations joined in a Thanksgiving eve worship. How

shallow our praise would be if it were heard only during a 24-hour period, which would come once a year in November. That hardly could be classified as giving thanks always!

As the Christmas season approaches and the end of the year is at hand, we pause to reflect a moment—even though God has brought illness to our little flock during the past year, He has again restored moderate health; even though He has led several to leave our community and make their homes again in the East (most recent to feel God's direction for her was to return to her native state of Illinois was Friend LaBeth Metz. We will miss her, but pray that God will bring her many blessings.) He has added to our flock by conversion and by leading two families to make their homes in California and worship with us; even though there has been many severe fires because of dryness, God has again brought rain. We could go on with our reflections, but the poet has said it well, and we would leave these few words to meditate on.

We thank Him for the sun;  
Do we thank Him for the rain?  
We thank Him for the joy;  
Do we thank Him for the pain?  
We thank Him for the gains;  
Do we thank Him for the losses?  
We thank Him for the blessings;  
Do we thank Him for the crosses?

Let us begin our new year by dedicating our lives to greater appreciation and thanksgiving.

#### ALTO, MICHIGAN

**Loretta Steffen**

The poet wrote so beautifully the following verse which I've copied from a Christmas card:

"Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so"  
Little children ask no more,  
For love is all they're looking for,  
And in a small child's shining eyes  
The faith of all the ages lies—  
And tiny hands and tousled heads  
That kneel in prayer by little beds  
Are closer to the dear Lord's heart  
And of His kingdom more a part  
Than we who search, and never find,

The answers to our questioning mind  
Oh, Father, grant once more to men  
A simple child-like faith again.

Little Nathan Steffen was hospitalized with croup, and the next morning, Nov. 7 his baby brother, David Aaron was born. The happy parents are Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta.

Bro. Joe Oesch is hospitalized, after submitting to back surgery. He will have to be in a cast for several months. Joe is a busy farmer, and we certainly pray the Lord will give him patience and strength to accept **His will**. We know the extra burdens placed on his dear wife, Sis. Melva and their 6 children, and pray the Lord will bless and sustain them as Joe recuperates. Their address: 13042 84th St. S.E., Alto, Mi. 49302.

Bro. Roy Wieland (Bay City) was our guest minister. We thank the Lord for the wonderful messages.

Our Sunday School class was guest of Congerville, and we thank them for all their kindness and hospitality rendered our dear children.

Our congregation, and especially the Schrenk family, rejoiced Thanksgiving morning when Bro. Duane Schrenk arrived home safely and unexpected from Germany, where he was stationed. He was discharged a few month's early. We thank the Lord for these wonderful surprises.

The following evening, Bro. Terry Zimmerman and Sis. Sharon showed slides of the W. R. trip to Guatamala. We all enjoyed the enlightening slides and resume.

"And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

'Tis the season to be jolly?  
'Tis the season to be gay?  
No, it's the season to be joyful!  
Christ was born on Christmas day.

He's the Saviour of all mankind;  
He's the Lord of all the earth.  
There is none so dear and precious;  
We are thankful for His birth.

#### BAY CITY

**Carolyn Knochel—Marlene Mosher**

"O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

What a wealth of meaning in so few words! The psalmist urges us to thank God, for everything we have we owe to Him.

**He is good: we have food, cloth-**

ing, shelter, loved ones, ability to think, to enjoy health, opportunity to worship without persecution—one could go on and on with the many blessings we all enjoy in various measures, because God is good.

**His mercy endureth for ever:** for did He not send His beloved son Jesus to die for us? What greater mercy and proof of His love can we ask? And in His mercy, He asks only that we repent and live for Him.

And we can see how enduring His mercy is. In the face of so much sin, He still lets the world linger on, giving a little more time for one soul to repent, perhaps your loved one or mine.

Thanksgiving evening, Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit) brought us the message of faith—and surely we are thankful that the “old, old story” never changes!

#### BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Virgil and Shirley Funk

Visiting ministers include: Joe Stoller, Princeville; George Gramm, Gridley; Donald Sauder and James Leman, Roanoke; and Vernon Leman, Eureka.

Pvt. 1st Class James Martin, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Aldine, is spending an 18-day furlough with his parents. He plans to return to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas on Dec. 8. His engagement has been announced, to Donna Fread of Normal.

As we approach the Christmas season, the humble birth of Jesus should inspire all of our hearts anew.

Perhaps one of the most significant events that occurred on that night was a visit by the angels to the lowly shepherds tending their flocks. A little story of spiritual significance involving sheep and shepherds came across our pulpit recently, and it would seem rather appropriate to repeat it this time of the year. Although the following account may not be word for word, it is hoped that it will be sufficiently accurate to convey the desired meaning.

It seems that a tourist visited a place where sheep herding was practiced rather extensively. Several shepherds brought their sheep together to a common watering-place, as a result of which the various groups of sheep became intermingled. The tourist was concerned

as to how each shepherd would retrieve his sheep from the large group. Finally one shepherd walked away calling, “Meeny meeny meeny”, as a result of which his sheep followed him. Soon a second shepherd did the same thing, and his sheep also followed him.

About this time the tourist began questioning one of the remaining shepherds, and after some conversation expressed the conviction that he would be able to get the sheep to follow him by employing the same technique as the other shepherds had done. In order to attempt the feat, he started walking away and calling, “Meeny meeny meeny.” However, none of the sheep followed him.

After his unsuccessful attempt, the tourist asked one of the remaining shepherds if they ever lost any sheep this way. The shepherd replied, “The only ones we lose are the ones who become sick.”

#### CISSNA PARK

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

We rejoice at this Christmas season, to know that for all the blind in sin, for the deaf in sin, for all those impure, and all those dead in their trespasses and sins, there is salvation through Jesus Christ, but we must repent and receive forgiveness.

For our Thanksgiving service, Bro. Roy Grimm and Bro. Everett Hari were in our midst, which we rejoiced over very much. Bro. Ezra Feller spoke a few words and said how thankful we are for the many blessings, but most of all we thank God that he has called souls unto repentance.

Our community was shocked Nov. 22 when Bro. Christ Eisenman, age 60, passed away at the Iroquois Hospital after a brief illness. He leaves to mourn his wife, Sis. Lydia (Koehl); three sons, Bros. John, Dale, Kenneth; one sister, Sis. Katie Steiner. Funeral services were held Nov. 25. Our home ministers officiated, assisted by Bro. Joshua Broquard. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Our Sis. Esther Fisher was a surgical patient, but is home again and getting along nicely. Sis. Esther Siegle is in the hospital, having had surgery. Bro. Clarence Knapp is a medical patient. We pray God will

ever be near them, and pour in the healing balm.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Katie Steiner have gone to live at Fairhaven Resident Home at Fairbury; we miss them in our midst, and hope they will come back and visit us often.

Born to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney on Dec. 1, a baby girl, Sheryl Lyn. She is welcomed by three brothers. Bro. Edward and Sis. Dorothy Grusy and Sis. Kathryn Farney are the grandparents.

Notice To Cissna Park Church: It is requested that Silver Lining dues be paid to their reporters in the month of January.

#### CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Carol Virkler Mrs. David Schamback

The beautiful story of Christmas Again is retold upon earth, A story of peace and good-will to men,  
Through the wonderful gift of Christ's birth.

So then let the story of Christmas Its wonderful message impart . . . And the year ahead filled with gladness  
Bring God's love and peace to your heart.

We have a clean, white and sparkling cover of snow here to remind us of this season, and when Christ was come as a pure, snow-white cover for our sins. **Though they be red as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.**

We enjoyed many blessings at the Lord's hand, with a visit of Ministering Bro. Joe Ramsier of Rittman. Many teachings will remain with us.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Ronald Herzig, son of Ted and Gert Herzig, to Sis. Eleanor Virkler, daughter of Bro. Clifton and Sis. Charlotte Virkler. We extend our best wishes to them, and would wish them the Lord's blessings.

Hospitalized and home are Wayne and Dawn Farney, children of Bro. Clifton and Sis. Bessie; Pam Herzig, Edward Virkler and Barbara Nortz. Now in the hospital are Andrew Virkler, Bro. Asa Virkler and Janice Lehman. May God be near each one in their afflictions.

Pam Herzig and Wendy Petzoldt

would like to thank all who remembered them while they were hospitalized in Syracuse. Both are now home and on the road to recovery.

### EUREKA

Cathryn Wettstein  
Salome Schumacher

Bro. Noah Schrock from Oakville was our guest. Thanksgiving services were held this day. Bro. Leroy Huber spoke the message. It surely is a day for the thanksgiving; however, each day should be thus. We can never thank Him enough for all He has done for all mankind, in that He sent His only begotten son into this world to save the people from their sins . . . So let us be more thankful each day that we live.

Sis. Rose Wuethrich, age 88, passed away at the Eureka Hospital, after being a patient 5 days. She was the last one of her family. Surviving are a large number of nieces and nephews. She had resided at the A. C. Home for some time. We will surely miss her among our folks in the Home. Bro. Leroy Huber conducted her funeral on Sunday Dec. 6. He mentioned that, at the age of 16 she accepted the call to repent, and had lived a true and faithful life till the end.

Bro. Raymond Herbst, age 67, passed away in his home in Washington Friday night, Dec. 4. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Elizabeth; two sons, R. George and Edward H.; three daughters, Mrs. Harold Neumann, Mrs. Robert Kling, and Mrs. James Smith; three brothers; and four sisters. His funeral was Dec. 7, conducted by Bro. Joe Zimmerman. May God comfort the families as only He can. Ray will surely be missed by many people in his hometown and in our church.

With the Christmas season approaching, may all people everywhere have a blessed Christmas time and enjoy the real true meaning of Christmas.

### Bible reading Schedule for January

Jan. 1, Genesis, chapters 1-3; Jan. 2, 4-7; Jan. 3, 8-10; Jan. 4, 11-14; Jan. 5, 15-17; Jan. 6, 18-20; Jan. 7, 21-23; Jan. 8, 24-25; Jan. 9, 26-27; Jan. 10, 28-30; Jan. 11, 31-33; Jan. 12, 34-36; Jan. 13, 37-39; Jan. 14, 40-41; Jan. 15, 42-44; Jan. 16, 45-47; Jan. 17, 48-50; Jan. 18, Exodus, chapters 1-3; Jan. 19, 4-6; Jan. 20, 7-9; Jan. 21, 10-12; Jan. 22, 13-15; Jan. 23, 16-18; Jan. 24,

19-21; Jan. 25, 22-24; Jan. 26, 25-27; Jan. 27, 28-29; Jan. 28, 30-32; Jan. 29, 33-34; Jan. 30, 35-37; Jan. 31, 38-40.

### FORT WAYNE

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

#### Christmas Gifts of Love

As you gather 'round your Christmas table,

May your thoughts revert to a humble stable.

There in a manger, filled with hay,  
Baby Jesus was born on that first Christmas Day.

As you receive and send "gifts of love",

Think of Our Saviour, in the heavens above.

For God so loved the world, 'tis true,

He sent His greatest gift for me and you.

As the Son of God at your door stands to knock,

Will you this Redeemer's entry block?

May He not tire of waiting, we pray,

But, dear friends, may you answer without delay.

So, this Christmas, may your hearts be filled—

With His Gift of Love, as God has willed . . .

And may His blessings of goodwill and cheer

Be ever with you all throughout the New Year!

God has again given us a bountiful harvest and many reasons to offer our thanks and praise, not just at Thanksgiving-Time, but daily!

I spent a day helping with eye testing at our school. In the afternoon we worked with the handicapped children, which have a special area of our school. "Oh Lord, may you give a special measure of understanding, love, and patience to those teachers and to the parents of these children who care and provide their daily needs. And, Lord, too, make us more willing to lend a helping hand where the need is great. For many of us do not know or realize the trials and cares that befall these children and their families." How thankful we ought to be for healthy, happy, children: I can't

help but think of one little boy who could hardly keep his head up and was in a frame with four wheels to help him walk, who when asked where he got his go-cart, answered, "My Daddy made it for me"!

We rejoice that our friend, David Levy has returned home safely, after spending the past 13 months in Viet Nam. Dave received his discharge on Nov. 14, and is now at the home of his mother, Sis. Lillian. He has hopes of returning to school at Indiana University, Bloomington in February. Dave has spent the past 3 years and 9 months in the service, and we thank God for his safe return.

In talking with Sis. Edith Leiberenz (Floren), we learn that their son, John, is returning from the waters of Viet Nam, and has hopes of being home in time for Christmas. May this be the Lord's will.

Heidi Kay was born on Thursday morning, Dec. 3. This little miss was welcomed home by sisters Melanie and Annette; her parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorene Hackenjos.

A blessed day was ours when the Sunday School high school classes from seven of our Indiana churches and teachers spent Sunday in Bluffton, ending with the Christian Endeavor singing in the evening. May the efforts of the dear ones in Bluffton who made this day possible be richly rewarded. A special thanks from us here in Ft. Wayne!

Our annual Christmas program is being planned for Sunday evening, Dec. 21. It is always a blessing to sit and listen to the Christmas story each year, as our children present this program in verse and song.

### HONOLULU, HAWAII

Bill and Sharon Dotterer

The month of November brings Thanksgiving Day, and to the Christian it has a special meaning. The Lord has blessed us abundantly with many spiritual blessings that are hidden from the world. Truly we are a fortunate people and have much to be thankful for.

This wonderful fellowship we enjoy with others of the same faith is just one of our heavenly blessings money could never buy.

Bro. Stan Wuthrich from Milford came here for his R & R from Viet Nam. His wife, Sis. Linda, along with his parents, Walter and



Martha Wuthrich, met Stan here. We wish God's extra protection and strength for all those serving in war-torn lands.

Bro. Sherman Lanz from Rockville received orders for Hawaii and is now stationed at Schoffield Barracks. We welcome him here and hope to be able to spend much time together.

We have moved into a 2 bedroom apartment. Our new address is 1235 Ala Kapuna Apt. 201, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819; our phone number remains the same, 839-0965. We would welcome anyone planning to visit Hawaii to get in touch with us, so we might get together.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Jerry Meiss

The tide of time rolls on and on, and we are all looking forward to Christmas vacation . . . On Nov. 12, we were pleased to have Bro. Jim Hoerr from Peoria in our midst. He spoke from Paul's Epistle to Philemon. He said that those who have learned to know the Lord can feel the bond of love that ties everyone together. We heard how Paul wanted to build a fidelity in Onesimus, and likewise how we should strive to be faithful. Many mellow and harmonious sounds were emitted by the Mortonaires in the Normal air. Each song had an introduction from one of the participating brothers. They sang, "Hallelujah, We Shall Rise", "On the Wings of Prayer", "Beholding the Lord Jesus", "In Your Hands", "Where Could I Go" and "Higher Hands".

Then on Nov. 19, Bro. Francis Rother of Morton spoke from Proverbs chapter three. He told us that we should profit from reading of some of the mistakes made by the men of the Bible. He said we should have a respect for authority, and that each day we are playing a game. We win, only if we play by the rules. He conveyed to us that people will respect us for our faith if we express ourselves honestly and sincerely. Bro. Rother pointed out that godly wisdom and understanding are as good as fine gold and precious rubies. It is impossible for man to walk in two directions at the same time, and it is necessary for us to apply this to our spiritual lives, to see if we are walking backwards or forwards. He pointed out that the commandments should be about

our neck and that Christ should be foremost in our minds.

On Dec. 3, Bro. Joe Schrock delivered the message from the word. Joe read from the first chapter of St. John and also from Genesis chapter one. He reminded us that the first Adam fell, and likewise all of mankind fell. However, Christ, or the second Adam, was faithful to the end, thus engendering the supreme sacrifice. He discussed the fallacies in the theory of evolution also. While many engage in philosophical discourse on the subject, Joe told us that simple, childlike faith is the victory . . . He deliberated somewhat on the flood and spoke of the menagerie of animals that Noah had on the ark. He also cautioned us of the mendacious perils of sensitivity training.

A not too wealthy young man was once known to have said, "By and large, the love I've known is the love I've shown." He also said, "Wouldn't life be grand if we could remember the things that are worth valuing and value the things that are worth remembering?"

We want to wish everyone a joyous and meaningful Christmas, and hope that the spirit of Christmas will be yours all through the year.

### LA CROSSE Lucille Heiniger

A son, Thomas Marvin, was born Dec. 5 to Bro. Richard and Sis. Garnet Nuest. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Nuest. Great-grandmother is Sis. Lena Nuest.

The Bible Class, accompanied by several teachers and their wives of Oakville spent the past week-end with the Bible Class here.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Nathan Steffen of Elgin, Bro. Joe Schrock of Congerville, and Bro. Robert Pohl of Burlington.

The Christmas season is upon us already. We have to wonder just how many really know and realize the true meaning of Christmas, and that it is the commemoration of Christ's birth. It was He who came as an infant to die for us that we might live.

Following the Christmas holidays comes the new year. We can reflect back on the old year and see the mistakes we have made, and ask the Lord for His grace, to do His will more fully in the new year. This would make a good resolution . . . and then live it.

### LAMAR, MO.

#### Bonnie Braker — Evelyn Marti

There was a young couple so happy and gay,  
For a baby was born to them one summer day.  
Twas a little boy, so they called him Jacky;  
Both father and mother were very happy. . . .  
But alas, father and mother, both dead and cold,  
When Jacky was only six years old.

Six years had gone by since his parents had died,  
Poor Jackie, no friends in this world so wide,  
With no one to bring him happiness and joy,  
For Christmas he received not a toy.

So Jackie was left for him to roam,  
With no one to feed him or give him some clothes.

At night in the alley he would find his sleep;

When hungry, the garbage-can furnished him eat.

When Christmas Day come, other children so gay,

For Christmas to them was the happiest day.

Only poor Jackie was left for himself to roam,

For he had no place to call it his home.

Poor Jackie, no shoes, his clothes ragged and torn,

Half naked, starved, the home he was born,

Was sold for the mortgage by a man on Wall Street,

So Jackie was left his own shelter to seek.

Many were the days he tramped down the street

To ask and to beg for something to eat,

But none would hear his childish appeal,

So hunger drove little Jackie to steal. . . .

And soon he stole little things here and there,

For he had no one to love him or care,

He was beaten around, kicked out in the street;

He had to go out in the rain, cold and sleet.

When Jack was 20, he found him a job,

He knew not the Saviour, never heard of a God.

He went to work in an old stuffy  
saloon,  
Where many a soul has gone down  
to his doom.  
One day poor Jackie himself took  
to drink,  
Until his head whirled; he no longer  
could think.  
He was pushed through the door,  
out in the street;  
There he lay drunk, in the cold,  
rain and sleet.  
So a policeman quite roughly took  
him to Jail  
For Jack to sober up, for he was  
drunk, sick and pale,

And there he dozed off to sleep,  
did poor drunken Jack,  
A horrible dream he would never  
forget.  
He dreamed he was sick and would  
never get well,  
He lay dying and nearing the wide  
gates of hell,  
Where the devil was waiting for  
Jack to come in,  
To receive his reward for his past  
life of sin.  
When Jack did awake from this  
horrible dream,  
He jumped to his feet in a terrible  
scream,  
And promised the jailer, who carried  
the key,  
He'd live a straight life, if he'd let  
him go free.

So Jack went to church, with the  
rest of the few.  
He walked down the aisle and sat  
down in the pew,  
When the minister stood up, poor  
Jack was amazed,  
For he heard him praying for souls  
to be saved.  
The first time in church, Jack was  
touched by God's word.  
Of God's plan of salvation, he never  
had heard.

He went to witness for Christ  
on the street  
Where once he lay drunk, in the  
cold, rain and sleet.

Wayne Marti son of Bro. Dean  
and Sis. Arline, and Beck Spears  
of Springfield were married in  
Springfield. They will make their  
home in Springfield.

Bro. Willie and Sis. Hilda Steffen  
presented us with two new  
songs that we glued in the backs  
of our songbook. We certainly  
hope the Lord will bless them for  
their generosity.

Sis. Lizzie Remm remains in the  
hospital. We hope she can soon be  
home again.

Thanksgiving has come and  
gone. Truly we have much to thank  
God for. Now Christmas is just  
around the corner. Christmas can  
be in our hearts all year long. May  
we remember that Christmas is  
Jesus' birthday. He was born in  
such a humble way . . . And for  
us he bore the cross.

#### LAMONT, MO.

Mrs. Stephen G. Schraeder

"And the word was made flesh,  
and dwelt among us." What a wonderful  
gift to mankind; may we  
ever be mindful of and grateful  
for God's plan of eternal salvation  
wrought through His Son, Jesus  
Christ.

"The life that knoweth Him  
shall bide apart and keep eternal  
Christmas in the heart."

We welcome Sis. Susan, the bride  
of Bro. Bill Emch into our congregation  
and wish them a long and  
fruitful life together in the Lord.

Our dear sister-in-faith, Leah  
Fechter has again had a physical  
mishap; she fell, fracturing a hip.  
She is home again, following surgery  
and a period of convalescence.  
May the Lord's healing power be  
upon her.

Our sympathy goes to Sam and  
Emma Enz at the loss of Joe, Sam's  
brother.

#### LANDERSVILLE

Billie Jo Harville

We are at the end of 1970, and  
time is certainly going fast, but the  
born again believer can say another  
wonderful year has been  
spent working for the Lord, and  
we're just a little nearer to meeting  
our Saviour. For the unbeliever, it  
is just another year spent, and  
closer to eternity, and what will it  
be. It will be sad to hear: **Depart  
from me, I never knew you, and be  
cast into everlasting fire prepared  
for the devil and his angels.**

We had a wonderful Spirit-filled  
service when Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein  
was ordained as our deacon.  
I think it humbled all of us.

We are thankful for Bro. David  
Bertsch and Bro. Wendell Gudeman,  
who came so far to be with  
us. Our prayer is that God will  
bless them in every undertaking  
they do in God's great work.

We had three nights of meeting  
Thanksgiving week at our Hills-

boro church. Our speaker was Bro.  
Verlin Stoller.

We were reminded of just how  
thankful we all should be, not only  
on Thanksgiving but all the year  
for a Saviour who died on Calvary  
for our sins.

I would like for everyone to re-  
member Price Harville in prayer.  
He underwent surgery for lung  
cancer. He is at home, but not  
showing much improvement. He is  
the son of the late Sis. Bertha Har-  
ville.

Hospitalized are: Mrs. Eunice  
Berryman; Mrs. Alta Dutton,  
mother of Bro. Billy Dutton.

A baby girl was born to Mr. and  
Mrs. Freman Lou Allen.

Much praying — much Spirit  
Little praying — little Spirit

#### RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler—Janette Blough

"How beautiful are the feet of  
them that preach the gospel of  
peace". We were so thankful to  
have Bro. Merrill Laukuf of Latty  
and Bro. Joel Stoller and Bro. Art  
Bauer of Princeville as visiting  
ministers.

We are sorry to report that Bro.  
Robert Gasser is again in Univer-  
sity Hospital in Cleveland, where  
he has had emergency surgery.  
Robert had one kidney removed  
and was home recuperating, when  
he had to be taken back when his  
remaining kidney didn't function  
properly. We pray for Bro. Robert,  
who is very ill, and hope all will re-  
member him in their prayers.

Sis. Joan Bauman was hospital-  
ized for a short time for tests and  
is home again. Roy VanNostran is  
also hospitalized. We hope he will  
not have to be hospitalized too long.

We are happy to report that Bro.  
Elmer Zollinger, who suffered a  
heart attack, has returned home.  
We pray that Elmer will have a  
good recovery and that he will soon  
be able to attend services with us  
again.

Bro. Karl Beery has had back  
surgery at Akron City Hospital and  
is home recovering. We hope and  
pray for all our sick.

How happy we are to report  
Rosetta Cunningham has turned to  
the Lord in repentance. May the  
Lord bless her, guide her and give  
her peace in her heart.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic  
are the parents of a new baby boy,  
Milan Mitchell. Little Milan has

two sisters, Stephanie and Denise, to welcome him home.

During the coming holiday season, may we all remember the true meaning of Christmas, which is often hidden and missed in all the hurry and scurry of our holiday preparations.

**TUCSON, ARIZONA**  
**Tucson Sewing Circle**  
**954 So. Magnolia**

On Saturday Nov. 14 the Tucson church enjoyed a Sunday School picnic in Saguaro National Park. We enjoyed a nice afternoon in the mountains, close to God's creation.

The next Saturday, Bro. Alan Freed drove the Phoenix Bible class to Tucson and, together with the Tucson Bible class, they all went to Old Mexico shopping.

The following day, Bro. Clarence Yackley from Phoenix spent the day here. After services the entire church enjoyed a picnic in the park.

This past Sunday, our Elder Bro. Roy Farney spent the day in Tucson. Roy read the report of the conference to the Tucson congregation.

On Tues. evening we held our monthly Fellowship dinner. A delicious meal was served, and the evening was spent in singing Christmas carols.

Lillian Whitely is in the hospital, recovering from surgery. We wish her God's healing power.

**UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY**  
**Gail Gasser**

Sis. Ida Knecht is recovering at home, after a stay in the hospital. She is progressing well, and we hope that she will soon be able to assemble with us again.

As we look forward to this blessed Christmas season, may we always remember:

'Tis not the babe, but Christ the man  
 Who walked in Galilee;  
 'Tis not the manger, but the cross  
 That sets the spirit free.

**URBANA, ILLINOIS**  
**Teresa Hufford**  
**Susan Zimmerman**

We thank our ministering brothers for their faithfulness in serving us. Our visitors were Bros. Ed Alt, Joe Schrock, Nathan Steffen, Simon Wagenbach, Ed Hohulin and Jim Hoerr. God bless them for their service of love.

The engagement was announced

of Bro. Steve Roeschley, Morton and Sis. Linda Leman, Sabetha. Steve is a student at U. of I. We wish them God's blessings.

With Christmas upon us, our hearts are warm with the spirit of love and giving. It behooves each one to strive to work together in love and unity, as we tread on to meet our Maker. A new year of blessings to all!

**CHICAGO**

Bro. Maurice Frank of Leo visited us. We always enjoy having them with us.

We were sorry to see Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter leave us. Duane has entered the service, and Kay is presently living with her parents in Cissna Park. May God provide for them in whatever lies ahead.

Our congregation was blessed with the arrival of two little infants. Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Sauder are the parents of a little girl, Jennifer Kay. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Roy Sauder (Peoria) and Bro. and Sis. Orville Rocke (Tremont). A son, Shannon Scott, was born to Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria Stahl. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. William Stahl (Princeville) and Bro. and Sis. Silas Metzger (West Bend).

**WEST BEND, IOWA**

**Anna Schmidt — Mrs. A. Banwart**  
**Glory to God in the Highest!**  
 What more could we ask for to make our Christmas Season more meaningful and complete than took place in our midst Dec. 6. Elder Bros. Eugene Marti of Sabetha, Paul Fehr of Morris, and Leo Moser of Lester came for the provings and baptisms of eight precious souls. Welcomed into the fold of the Lord were: Lavilla, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Oscar and Francis Zaugg; Charles, son of Bro. & Sis. Ervin and Elma Mogler; Eileen, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Philip and Katherine Fisher; Mrs. Irene (Lyle) Rick, daughter of Bro. Noah Anliker; Leann and Kenneth, children of Bro. and Sis. Earl and Edna Banwart; and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Grimm, children of Bro. and Sis. Clifford and Rosene Grimm and Bro. and Sis. Albert and Betty Banwart. Among those adding to and sharing the blessings of this day were Ministering Bros. Walter Anliker of Eureka, Harold Messner, Elmer Schmidt; and the Bible

Class with their teachers from Winthrop. How beautiful heaven must be, if there the joy, peace and contentment which filled our hearts on this day cannot ever be disturbed.

To conclude the day, the memorandum was presented and expounded on, which if heeded will certainly make the duties of our elders and ministers much easier and rewarding. With God's help, let us each one do our small part each day.

Sis. Esther (Nathan) Banwart is slowly improving from her surgery. Sam Metzger is convalescing, after his hospitalization at the home of his daughter, Marie Torgelson in Humboldt, Iowa.

Results of our elections have put Bro. Ray Anliker in as Bible Class teacher and Sisters Betty (Richard) Schmidt and Adele (Harley) Bruellman teaching younger children.

Three sets of parents have been blessed with new little boys. Bro. and Sis. Art and Eula Mogler have named their son, which arrived Nov. 27, Lynn Arthur; he has one sister June. Adolph and Jean Knobloch's new son, born Nov. 30, is Tadd Lee; he has two brothers, Todd and Ted. Bro. and Sis. Martin and Doris Zaugg are parents for the first time; their boy, David Martin, was born Dec. 4. May the Lord bless them, and help all parents to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord.

**LEO**

**Mrs. Elias Souder**

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

The Christian spirit is the Christmas spirit, extended through the whole year; it is an attitude toward every person, the atmosphere of every act.

Four wheel-chair patients from the Butler Rest home were our guests at our Thanksgiving dinner at the Fellowship Center. The Sunday School gave their program after the dinner.

We do not appreciate enough our benefits our Lord gives us, and we had to realize that when one of the patients at the rest home so gratefully thanked us for the use of the recorder. Now, she said, I can again hear the word of God. My eyes have failed me, and I couldn't read my Bible.

Jim Winzeler, son of Raymond and Pearl, will be out of service in January. He is helping to decommission a ship in California.

Andrew Bertsch spent some time in the hospital and is at home now. Our friend, Mrs. Warren Harding, also spent some time at the hospital, is improved and at home.

Our older Sunday School classes spent an enjoyable time attending the Bluffton congregation Sun. Dec. 6.

A wedding shower honoring Diana Tonner is planned Dec. 19. Diana and John Klopfenstein are to be married in January.

Another of our loved ones has gone to be with the Lord. Louise Schlatter's funeral services were Dec. 2, Bro. Wendell Gudeman of the Francesville congregation and Bro. Loren Stoller of the Latty congregation officiating. Sis. Louise was a very active member of our Sewing Circle, also in times past a helper with the **Silver Lining**. Surviving are a sister, Sis. Ida Winzeler, and a brother, Bro. Otto Schlatter.

#### **BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA** **Mrs. Raymond Roth**

Our visiting minister on Nov. 15 was Bro. Gene Marti of Sabetha. A covered dish supper was enjoyed by many in the church dining-room.

Sis. Ida Schrock was a hospital patient.

We were blest with three visiting ministers the week-end of Dec. 4: our elder, Bro. Roy Farney, and Bro. Richard Schupbach of Phoenix, and Bro. Al Fisher of Chicago. On Friday evening, Bros. Farney and Fisher shared with us the summary of the deliberations of the Conference. May we all strive harder to obey the wishes and decisions of our elders, thus preserving our humble way of life.

On Sunday evening, another covered-dish supper was enjoyed in the church dining-room, followed by services in the evening.

#### **FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA** **Howard and Joyce Baumgartner**

Our hearts were deeply touched at the passing away of Bro. John Baumgartner, who had come South along with Sis. Mary to live in their winter home, which they loved so much. Visitation was held here, after which the body was returned to Bluffton for services and burial. We pray God will share this

bereavement with Sis. Mary and her large family, as we know "Dad" will be greatly missed.

On Sunday Nov. 29, Friend Betty Black gave her testimony of repentance, then was baptized and accepted into the fold. We wish Sis. Betty a special measure of guidance, as she has no family forerunners of our Faith. She felt the need of a Saviour, so visited different churches. Our Faith was her choice, as she could feel the nearness of God and the warmth of members in our congregation. We thank God He still leads souls the way, if they seek.

#### **OAKVILLE, IOWA** **Martha Steiner**

Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Bro. James Ringger (Bradford) spent Sundays with us recently, and we appreciated their visits. We are always grateful for brothers who will lend themselves as instruments of God.

We spent another blessed week-end hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of souls who have learned to know and love the Lord. Our new sisters are Gail Wagenbach (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Marti Wagenbach), Sandra Stoller (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Wilma Wegman Stoller), and Janet Steiner (Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Thomas Steiner).

There are four more young men who may soon be ready to give their testimonies. Since early spring, we have had twenty-two young people who decided to make a change in their lives. We are never satisfied, because there are still loved ones without the fold; nevertheless, we greatly rejoice with all those who are now on the path that leads to Heaven.

#### **MANSFIELD, OHIO** **Aaron A. Sauder**

Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf heard the vows of Sis. Karen Ramsier and Bro. Pete Baltic, when he performed their wedding ceremony on Nov. 22. The new Mrs. Baltic is the daughter of Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Oesch Ramsier; the groom's parents are Bro. and Sis. Mitch Baltic of Rittman. Our best wishes for much happiness and the Lord's blessings are extended to this young couple.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Joyce Cordrey (Jack), Sis. Ruth Weiss (Carl), and Bro. Byron Rice.

**Thank you:** from Sis. Mary Sauder (Will) for the prayers, cards and letters she received during her illness. (We are happy to learn that she is home from the hospital and slowly regaining her strength.)

**Thank you:** from the Vesper Choir and Youth Group to the Bremen congregation for the love shown us and the fellowship we enjoyed together when we were their guests Nov. 14 and 15; the Lord's blessings were surely felt by us all.

We appreciated the messages of the visiting ministers who worshipped with us, including Bros. John Dapper, Homer Reineck and Joe Ramsier.

The joyous Christmas season is here again, and the Sunday School children are eagerly preparing for the annual program, while older groups are making plans for caroling to the aged and shut-ins.

The heavens blazed in glory  
On that first Christmas night,  
And the shepherds were affrighted  
Before the awesome sight.

And still at Christmastime we see  
The heavens filled with light,  
For then the stars appear to shine  
With radiance more bright.

And so it seems that light has come  
To symbolize His birth . . .  
This gentle child who came to be  
Our blessed Light of earth.

' 'I am the light of the world'.

#### **PHOENIX, ARIZONA** **Wilma Pulfer**

We welcome to the Phoenix congregation Friend Carl Richardson from Fairbury. He will be living in our area.

Hospitalized for surgeries were Sis. Irene Emch and Bro. Tom Freed. We are thankful for their recoveries, and they are both able to assemble with us again. Also in the hospital for therapy of a slipped disc is our Friend Herb Mohrman. We pray he will be well again soon.

As this Christmas season is near, I would like to share a poem I found in a booklet of Mother Pulfer's, entitled "The Little Things at Christmas".

Especially at Christmastime  
We find great joy in little things . . .  
The melody of carols sung,

The memory an angel chorus  
brings.

The tiny candle from the window  
seen  
Burns with a certain holy light;  
It brings to mind the one bright  
star  
That shone on that most holy night.

The gifts we wrap for those we  
love,  
No matter whether big or small,  
Are tokens of our love for them  
As wise men's offerings we recall.

The happiness and love on this one  
day  
Bring thoughts which warm and  
cheer.  
May we keep Christmas in our  
hearts  
Through every day of all the year.

### PORTLAND, OREGON

#### Connie Steffen

With little people around, it's  
really easy to be caught up in the  
excitement of Christmas. The story  
of Christmas, the real Christmas,  
in poem and song gives us a real  
joy in these troubled times. "...  
But when the fulness of the time  
was come, God sent forth his Son,  
... that we might receive the adop-  
tion of sons."

Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer, Elgin  
Iowa, visited with us and brought  
a message of love. We certainly  
enjoyed his stay.

### ROCKVILLE

#### Carlton J. Lanz

A daughter, Heidi Lynn, their  
first child, was born to Sis. Joan  
and Bro. Roger Moser. Grandpar-  
ents of the infant are, Bro. Wilbur  
and Sis. Florence (Lanz) Kloter;  
and Sis. Emma (Gottier) and the  
late Bro. Rudolph Moser.

The marriage of Sis. Crystal  
Luginbuhl to Bro. Chris Hansen on  
Sunday was solemnized by Elder  
John Bahler. The wedding supper  
that followed was served at the  
church, with a reception later given  
at the home of the bride's parents,  
Bro. Urban and Sis. Charlotte  
Luginbuhl. May the Spirit of God  
reign in their home. They have our  
blessings.

Funeral services of Bro. Alfred  
Zutter, 64, was on Wednesday at  
the church. He died early Sunday  
morning Nov. 11 at Rockville Gen-  
eral Hospital. His life was marked  
with lengthy afflictions and adver-

sities, but in all these he never lost  
his faith; he remained patient.  
Baptized as an infant, yet when  
giving his testimony in the pres-  
ence of this our congregation here  
he said (in the German language),  
"Es hat kein wert!" . . . It has no  
value. He leaves besides his wife,  
Sis. Frieda, four sons, Walter E.  
and Martin with the Army, Alfred  
H. of Switzerland and Anton H.  
Zutter of Ellington; a sister, Mrs.  
Alfred Andrini, of Switzerland.  
Burial was in the Ellington Center  
Cemetery, with Bros. John Bahler  
and Ernest Gerber officiating.

### SABETHA, KANSAS

#### Mrs. Joe Steiner

We rejoice that we could as-  
semble to hear the testimonies and  
to witness the baptism of Phil Bahr  
and Don Plattner. Bro. Phil is the  
son of Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise  
Bahr. Bro. Don is the son of Bro.  
John and Sis. Marie Plattner. Bro.  
Lester Hartter was here to assist  
Bro. Eugene Marti in this good  
work. May the Lord continue to  
reach souls while it is still the day  
of grace.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Leh-  
man had the engagement announ-  
ced of their daughter, Sis. Linda  
Lehman to Bro. Steve Roeschly of  
Morton. Linda is a student of nurs-  
ing in Peoria; Steve is attending  
the University of Illinois. May the  
Lord be with them in all their  
future plans.

Friend Carroll Plattner had the  
misfortune of striking a cow while  
riding his motorcycle one foggy  
morning. He was taken to the hos-  
pital, where it was found he had a  
broken collarbone and bruises  
about the head and arms. He is re-  
covering very nicely and has re-  
turned to his home to recuperate.  
Carroll returned earlier this year,  
after doing his tour of duty in Viet  
Nam. He is the son of Bro. John  
and Sis. Marie Plattner.

Hospital patients are Sis. Eloise  
Bahr and Sis. Louise Hartman,  
both surgical patients.

### SARASOTA

#### Phillip Wingeier

The book of Isaiah is the first of  
the group of five books called  
major prophets. It is the book of  
the wonderful preaching, teaching  
and visions of the prophet Isaiah,  
carrying the message of God to the  
people of Israel and Judah. He  
pleads with them to turn from

their sins, and promises them good  
and happiness if they do right, and  
terrible punishment if they do  
wrong. In this book, God gives the  
promise of His Son to be the Sav-  
iour of the world.

A promise from the book of  
Isaiah of the coming of Jesus—  
"For unto us a child is born, unto  
us a son is given: and the govern-  
ment shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called Won-  
derful, Counsellor, The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father, the Prince  
of Peace."

Again the time is drawing near  
for us to renew in our heart the  
birth of our Saviour and Lord,  
especially our youth become so in-  
spired and become taught of Jesus,  
the way of life and truth.

We have had a nice number at  
church each Sunday for being so  
early in the season.

Bro. Ben Maibach worshipped  
with us on Nov. 22. We always en-  
joy all visiting elders and ministers,  
as well as all others who stop and  
worship with us.

Bro. George Graf was hospital-  
ized with pneumonia for a short  
time. We are thankful to God that  
he is much better and again at his  
home here in Sarasota.

Bro. Leon and Lydia Virkler had  
an accident with their car, doing  
quite a lot of damage to the car;  
we are very grateful to God that  
they were not hurt.

We all have the promise of these  
few words: "Behold, I stand at the  
door, and knock: if any man hear  
my voice, and open the door, I will  
come in to him, and will sup with  
him, and he with me."

Place of Church Service: The  
Women's Club Building, Palm Ave.  
and Park Ct., at 1:00 EST.

### DETROIT

#### Donna Hartzler — Judith Aberle

Charlotte Barton was warmly  
welcomed into our brotherhood  
through baptism on Sunday, Nov.  
15, having given a testimony of her  
conversion on Saturday evening.  
Sis. Charlotte is the daughter Bro.  
Jim and Sis. Vi Barton.

For this special occasion, we  
were privileged to have with us  
Elder Bro. Theo. Beer, as well as  
other visitors. Theo. spoke on the  
beautiful privilege of prayer, and  
brought out that our prayers should  
be from the heart, and not just a  
prayer we have memorized . . .

Hospitalized are Sis. Christine

Dimitrie and Joseph Sabados. May God be near those whose portion is to suffer pain, and grant them grace and courage to bear their lot.

### ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

Late autumn has come to the Midwest. The trees are quite bare, except for some oaks which retain their leaves all winter. Suet and sunflower seeds for the wild birds are again in order. So far we have seen the jays, titmice, chickadees and woodpeckers partaking of these morsels.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." May we not lose the true significance of the day, amid the festivities.

Our Sunday School children are practicing for our annual program.

We have many nice things to report about. Here are some—while Elder Leo Moser was here, we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Bro. Elmer Butikofer and Sis. Marion Moore. May the Holy Spirit ever guide them in paths of righteousness.

Sis. Aunt Ella Gehring, who was confined to the Good Samaritan Home for many weeks due to a fractured hip, was able to come to church last Sunday. She is now staying at my mother's home, who is Sis. Elizabeth Schneider.

We have a new minister of the gospel. He is Bro. Dale Moore. May God always give him the much needed grace to exhort and expound the scriptures in simplicity and truth.

We are looking forward to seeing our elder, Paul Butikofer and his wife, Sis. Mildred, return from a trip to California in company with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Butikofer, who have a son stationed there in the service of our country.

Charles Schneider, son of La Verne Schneider, who completed his tour of duty in the Navy, and David Metzger, son of the Ervin Metzgers are both enrolled in the Area One school of Calmar, Iowa. The former is taking a course in carpentering, and the latter in farm mechanics.

### IOWA CITY

Beverly Mogler

The Christmas season is again upon us and brings with it many warm and happy moments. . . . the

shepherds rejoiced in that lowly stable; we can still feel the awe and admiration they had for the Christ child. May we always appreciate the deep meaning of this most precious gift.

We certainly appreciated the warnings and teachings brought to us by Bro. Joe Schrock, Congerville, at our last meeting. Surely many of the current events he spoke of are a fulfillment of the scriptures. How important it is for us to watch and pray.

### JUNCTION

Henrietta Manz — Betty Manz

We were thankful to have Bro. Eugene Fetter, Toledo, read and meditate on the word on Thanksgiving Day. We were reminded that we should be thankful **Every** day for the blessings we have.

The following poem was written by a child about twenty-five years ago who is now a member of our congregation:

#### The Church and The World

The church was walking down the street,

And the world looked at her feet.

"My dear, your shoes are too plain," she said.

The church's face turned red . . .

"But," said the church, "my clothes should be plain."

"No," said the world, "beauty should be your aim."

Then the world changed the church's ways.

And made her mean in a few days.

Many people do the same,

Even though it is a shame.

Let us keep on the narrow way.

And strive to do good each day.

May the Lord bless each one this Christmas season. To think the Lord came into this evil world and endured the hardships of life, all for us and out of love! We hope in our small way we can do something for Him too. He doesn't ask great things of us, but if we are humble and obedient we hope we can some day enter that beautiful home in heaven.

### TREMONT, ILLINOIS

Josephine Schaefer

Mary Jane Leuthold

How bountifully God provided for us through the ministry of Bros. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park; Phil Sauder, Cissna Park; Nathan Stephen, William Gudeman, Elgin,

Ill.; Harold Zeltwanger, Bremen; John Steiner, Oakville; and Harold Schmidgall, Gridley. We received many good teachings and **words of life**. One of the brothers stressed that God is a worker of miracles. He can move mountains, but all too often we forget, and we do not have enough faith to fully realize this.

In these days when it so often seems the world grows increasingly evil and fewer and fewer people have any real regard for God, it certainly is comforting when we can see that God is still calling souls to repentance, and that He will hearken unto those who will listen. We rejoice that God did call Dale and Jane Kaufman and that they did listen. Upon a confession of their faith and baptism, they have now become our brother and sister in Christ.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder have a new little son. His name is James David, and he arrived on Dec. 1. Jimmy has one other brother, Johnny.

Sis. Barbara Moser is hospitalized. We would hope and pray that her recovery will be forthcoming shortly.

Bro. Will Unsicker is not at Restmoor Nursing Home as reported last month.

After her recent surgery, Sis. Hannah Pflederer is well on the way to a complete recovery. She has asked that we express her thanks to all those who remembered her with cards, gifts, prayers and for the many kindnesses shown to her.

### SERVICE ADDRESSES

[Write those in service. The world is cold, but love warms the halls of the believer. Jot a little message, and give of your time for another.]

Pfc Thomas Fehr 329422488

Advisory Team No. 95

Admin Box 298

APO San Francisco 96227

Roanoke

Sp4 Barry D Bucher

SSAN 311-50-9414

Tn CA Co

APO San Francisco 96266

Valparaiso

Pfc Randy Stisser 344408612

Co D [MED] 25 CSS BN

25th Div

APO San Francisco 96268

Bradford

Sp4 Ron Meiss E476-54-4420

AFKN RADIO

APO San Francisco 96301

Morris

Sp4 Sidney E Kaufman 345424935  
513th Engr Co [DT] **Cissna Pk**  
APO San Francisco 96321

Sp5 Arlyn Musselman 359389823  
544th Medium Boat Trans Co  
APO San Francisco 96325 **Morton**

Sp4 Bruce H Messner 471606755  
588th Maint Co **Winthrop**  
79th Maint Bu  
APO San Francisco 96384

SA Gary R Messner B654280  
USS Iwo Jima [Lp H2] Div V  
FPO San Francisco 96601 **Winthrop**

Mr and Mrs Ronald Kyburz  
R R 3 Box 234 **Wolcott**  
Enterprise Alabama 36330

Pvt E2 Leon D Bahr 515560503  
4th Pt Btry F 2nd Tng Bn  
1st AIT Bde USATC FA  
Ft Sill Okla 73503 **Gridley Ks**

Dan Roth  
463 Eleanor St **Fairbury**  
San Antonio Texas 78209

Lt and Mrs Morris Wiegand Jr  
17 November Dr **Roanoke**  
Big Spring Texas 79720

Pvt Sam Miller 476-52-5848  
Co G [St UENL] **Winthrop**  
1st BN [QMS-BDE] Class 71-79  
Ft Lee Virginia 23801

Pvt Mark Unsicker 2577227  
Co G PH 3027 3rd BN MCRD  
Parris Island S Carolina 29905  
**Bremen**

Mr and Mrs William Dotterer  
1235 Ala Kapuna Apt 201  
Honolulu Hawaii 96819

Pfc Richard L Hoffman 320400109  
Co A USA MED CO **Roanoke**  
Box 384  
APO San Francisco 96331  
**Okinawa**

Pfc Dennis Pulfer 311-54-8957  
53rd Aviation Bn HHC **Ft Wayne**  
Ft Rucker Alabama 36360

Pvt Marcus E Hari 354-36-9193  
Co E 3rd Bn 1st Bde  
Holding Party **Cissna Pk**  
Ft Lewis Wash 98433

Lt Roger C Locher 511489189  
555 TAC FTR SQDN  
Box 55 5662  
APO San Francisco 96237

AMM Keith D Weber  
Tuslog Det 175  
Box 235 **Detroit**  
APO New York 09289

Mr and Mrs John Reardon  
2439 B. Street **Detroit**  
San Diego Calif 92102

Pfc Sherman Lanz 042384040  
HHC 2/5 INF 4th BDE 25th Div  
APO San Francisco 96557

Sp 5 James E Wagenbach 329461741  
Med Co US PAH **Tremont**  
Ft. Monmouth NJ 07703

Sp4 Steven Meiss US 56593813  
HHC USARSUP THAI [PIO]  
APO San Francisco 96233  
**Bloomington-Normal**

1st Lt Harley Meister Jr  
306-38-0210 Advisory Team No 18  
Box 72 **Bremen**  
APO San Francisco 96258

Pvt Cedric J Messner US472601633  
582nd MED Co **Phoenix**  
APO New York 09154  
**Germany**

SA Jeffrey L Messner B653149  
USS Iwo Jima [Lp H2] Div C-R  
FPO San Francisco 96601 **Winthrop**

Pfc Eugene A Meylan US54976924  
Co E 4th Bn 39th Inf **Bay City**  
9th Inf Div  
APO San Francisco 96371

Sp4 Mark Moser US311501872  
HHC 1/6 198th Inf Lib  
APO San Francisco 96374

Robert K Moser  
1779 Ravina Pk Rd  
Decatur Ill 62526

PFC James C Patterson US 55809499  
Hq & Hq Co 78th Engr Bn  
APO New York 09164

Sp4 Douglas Reeser 333405337  
HHC 1st Bn 39th ARTY [Metro]  
APO San Francisco 96495 **Goodfield**

John Reimchisel  
174 B Cain Ave **Bluffton**  
DeRidder La 70634

Sgt William Richards  
CMR Box 1703  
APO New York 09132

Connie Ringger HA B558404W  
94-245 Leowling Apt 124  
Waipahu Hawaii 96797 **Valparaiso**

Pvt Duane A Riggenbach US56593623  
133rd Medical Group  
165th Medical Detachment  
APO San Francisco 96233

Pvt Harry Roth Jr 327401785  
Class 124 Co D 1 BN USAMTC  
Ft Sam Houston Texas 78234

Pfc David Rumbold 542623264  
Co C 361st Sig Bn  
Plietu Det **Portland**  
APO San Francisco 96318

Pvt Howard P Rumbold US333404078  
Tripler General Hospital-Honolulu  
Box 577 **Princeville**  
APO San Francisco 96438

Pvt Keith Schmidgall 475600567  
AMEDD Co B AMB Sect  
Madigan General Hosp **Morris**  
Tacoma Wash 98433

Sp4 Jerald Schmidt 320-36-1537  
247th MD Det **Fairbury**  
APO San Francisco 96321

Lt Stan Schupbach 0345341284  
149th Advisory Detachment  
Box 105  
APO San Francisco 96243

Mr. and Mrs Don Scott  
343 Elm Rd Apt 9  
Radcliff Ky 40160 **Burlington Ia**

Sp4 Dallas R Shaffer 512500208  
HQ USE UCOM **Gridley Ks**  
APO New York 09128  
**Germany**

Sp-4 Charles D Sinn 512522144  
HHC 5th Bn 7th Cav  
1st Cav Div [AM] **Ft Scott**  
APO San Francisco 96490

Sp4 Samuel J Somerhalder 487520479  
Co D 45th Med Bn **Gridley Ks**  
APO New York 09165  
near **Frankfurt Germany**

Mr & Mrs Donn Steffen  
142 1/2 Wallace Ave **Bluffton**  
Brunswick Georgia 31520

Sp4 Keith E Steffen US361382977  
HQ US ARMY Med Com Viet Nam  
APO San Francisco 96384 **Fairbury**  
**Long Biehn**

Walter L Steffen  
463 Eleanor St **Fairbury**  
San Antonio Texas 78209

Mr and Mrs Michael Steiner  
R R 3 Box 220 **Rittman**  
Laurinburg N Carolina 28352

Harold G Stickling  
Apostolic Christian Church Apt  
463 Eleanor **Lester**  
San Antonio Texas 78209

Pvt E2 Harvey J Stoller US51886983  
690th Med Co [Amb] **Latty**  
Ft Benning Georgia 31905

Dale Wiegand  
RR 2 Box 96A  
Eureka Ill 6152 61530

Lt JG Harold Stoller Jr Barkwood Apt No 8 398 Wolcott Middleton Rhode Island 02840	<b>Gridley II</b>	Sgt & Mrs David A Ward 21 40 COMM Sq Det 11 APO New York 09223	<b>Francesville</b>	James Wood 2755 Coldsprings Dr Xenia Ohio 45385	<b>Girard</b>
Pvt Roger E Stoller 2637852 Plt 2005 [F] Co MCRD San Diego Calif 92140	<b>Ft Wayne</b>	AMN and Mrs Roger Ward 1517 Philip Dr Jacksonville Arkansas 72076		Pfc Richard Wuethrich US55833256 543rd QM Group Service Branch MHE Shop APO San Francisco 96243	
Lt David Unsicker Fleet Activity Box 48 FPO Seattle Wash 98766	<b>Ft Wayne</b>	Capt Eli J Wirtz 123 Vandenberg Sherman Texas 75090		Sp4 Stan Wuthrich 303523062 Co C 23 Medical Bn APO San Francisco 96256	<b>Milford</b>
Sp5 Steven G Vermillion 554724535 174 ASIT HEL Co APO San Francisco 96217		Sp5 Wm E Witzig 320361553 USAREUR AG DPC APO New York 09403	<b>Gridley II</b>	S/Sgt Raymond D Young AF17670134 RR 1 Box 20 Herndon West Va 24726	<b>Lamont</b>
AMN Greg Wackerle 363569295 SQ 3384 No 4 Box 19341 Keesler AFB Mississippi 39534	<b>Bay City</b>	Sp5 Ray A Wulf RA 16986375 33SC Sig BN Co A APO Seattle Wash 98749	<b>Lester</b>	Pfc Wm Zaugg 482-60-7825 HHC 2nd Bn 14th Inf APO San Francisco 96225	<b>West Bend</b>

## "ye are clean"

Henry Souder Jr.

The Master had a very important lesson: "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself."

He saw His church. He loved His people. The form is clearly marked out. What He does is for the best interests of children of His Father.

Our Lord had work in mind. See His determination. It's a Plan. It is carried out with purpose. "After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded."

Washing gets rid of dust and dirt. If they would not have walked and went, there would be no dirty feet . . . But the doing in daily life brings a clinging of particles that do not belong. The washing Jesus gave would separate this foreign dirt.

"Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" Here is a man who would fill a very important place. He would be a Shepherd and a Bishop. To him was committed the gospel to the circumcision. More than one impor-

tant key would be turned by him.

Peter could sum up at a glance of his physical eye what was physically taking place. He could plainly see it was his turn, and the Lord was ready to wash his feet. If this was all, the Lord would not have pointed out to Peter as He did. "Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

Peter knew He was washing, but he didn't grasp what He was doing.

The writer to Hebrews calls to His church to follow holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. To be a glorious church, presentable to the great Bridegroom, there must be "the washing of water by the word." To win the race, Peter had to submit to washing. "Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."

The words of Jesus light up the clear structure of His unseen church. There is a difference in sin, in dirtiness. Jesus gives eyes to sense, to clearly perceive that line. "Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my

hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit."

We see the light illuminating. There is a difference. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." The heavenly Father does not mean the believing won't have to cry and plead "to wash his feet". He does mean His people remain clean from the categories listed in I Corinthians 6:9, 10.

How keenly those flaming eyes of Jesus can see the line of demarcation. Then it was, ". . . and ye are clean, but not all." Such sin must be dealt with. Judas pushed past the last possibility of pardon. The last possibility lurks in every wayward path. Some sins are not as severe as others. There are some who can be saved, even to the greatly fallen: "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

Let us be happy servants, doing our Lord's will!