



And take the helmet of
salvation, and the sword

of the Spirit, which is
the word of God:

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

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HOW POWERFUL AND LIVING IS THE WORD OF GOD! THERE WAS A HAPPENING THAT WENT SOMETHING LIKE THIS: A CERTAIN MAN WAS WITH A YOUNG MAN WHO DID NOT BELIEVE IN GOD. THE ONE WHO HAD FAITH MET EACH THRUST OF THE UNBELIEVER WITH THE WORD OF GOD. THE YOUNG MAN WAS ANGRY AND PARTED COMPANY. LATER AGAIN, THE TWO MET. SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED IN THE YOUNG MAN'S LIFE. HE NOW SAW A HEAVENLY LIGHT. EACH TIME THE WORD OF GOD HAD BEEN QUOTED, HE MADE KNOWN, WAS LIKE A PIERCING INSIDE. HOW MIGHTY IS THE POWER OF THE WORD! WHAT IS THAT IN THINE HAND?

ON EVOLUTION

The writer, a member of our brotherhood, writes "... the context just seemed to lie heavy on my heart when I was taking Biology ..."

Do all college and high school Biology classes choose God's glorious springtime as most advantageous to teaching the theory of evolution? At any rate, millions of students are again being bombarded by the anti-God and anti-faith findings of this "Age of Reason". These presentations are being masked by "Think", "Think for yourselves; don't accept what other people have told you!" ... And yet, ironically, they are being taught to believe broken chains of vague speculations which constitute the theory of evolution!

Since God has allowed man to glimpse the fantastic complexity of life in one single tiny cell, should we not pay even greater tribute to the wisdom of the Creator? **Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth,** God asked Job (Job 38:4). Who but God knows?

Who but God knows the actual substance and proportion of molecules for every cell comprising each special kind of organism? And who but God can cause the bare, brown branch to sprout and swell with live, new buds? Or for that matter who but God can explain the **missing link** between animal instinct and the **spirit of man**, which directs men of all cultures to some type of worship of God?

If we were to check what Biology has been teaching over these years, we would find that theories are constantly being refuted or revamped to meet new discoveries. Yet all of this has been presented as "fact" ... But, has the word of God ever changed? No, not over thousands of years and multitudinous persecutions! Even after numerous translations, we read, **But God hath given it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds** (I Cor. 15:38, 39), and in Genesis 1:25, "And God

made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good." After its **kind!** Has anybody ever seen a fossil of an organism in one of its "transition stages" as it was "evolving"? No, ferns have always been ferns, and fish have always been fish. When God created man in His own image (Gen. 1:26), would He (God) have to start by allowing a microscopically small protein molecule in the sea to "find" another one, and another, and so on, forming the "first" one-celled organism—and, from thence an invertebrate ... and ultimately become **Man?** In **God's** own image! One wonders how such a fantastic "web" of theory can appeal to logical, educated man! Again, I believe the answer can be found in the Bible (Rom. 1:21-32). Vain man doesn't like to believe **The soul that sinneth shall surely die,** and accept God's remedy for sin. It seems that he would maintain that man is evolving into a higher and better life here on earth?

Zion's Harp—Beautiful, peaceful songs, a hymnal that gives blessed moments with an eternal uplook. The **Zion's Harp** songbook may be obtained by writing Sam Aschleman, R.R. 3, Bluffton Ind 46714, or Ray Gerber, R R 4 Bluffton 46714. **Hymns Of Zion**, another wonderful hymnal, may be secured by contacting Henry Beer, Box 547, Milford Ind 46542.

MORTON

Mrs. John Oberlander

Mrs. Ken Getz

Mrs. Jessie Myers Schwenk, 81, died Nov. 24 at Restmor. She is survived by two sons, Charles and Herbert. She had been widowed in 1921.

Mrs. Sam (Sis. Mary Jacob) Hu-

ette, 89, died at Restmor Nov. 25, where she had resided many years. She is survived by a son, Walter; a daughter, Eunice (Mrs. Paul) Chaffer; a sister, Sis. Carrie Jacob; and a brother, Bro. Emanuel Jacob.

Ministering brothers visiting us were Bros. Edward Frank, Dave Wiegand, Eli Somerhalder and Al Fisher. We thank them for their messages of God's love.

Three dear ones have been baptized into the body of Christ: George Ackerman, who had been ill for some time, has been given strength from God to attend services each week; Rita Bertschi, daughter of Bro. Rudy and Sis. Irene Sauder Bertschi; and Nancy Rapp, daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Beyer Rapp. We

are so pleased to welcome these dear ones as brothers and sisters in faith.

A son, William E., was born to Bro. Edward and Sis. Shirley Witzig Hauter. Two brothers and three sisters welcomed him home.

Those in the hospital and convalescing are: Sisters Marie Kaufman and Emma Kaufman and Bros. Donat Widmer and Chris Kipfer.

The engagement and forthcoming marriage of Sis. Linda Lehman, daughter of Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Grimm Lehman of Sabeth and Bro. Steve Roeschley, son Sis. Mabel Bauman Roeschley and the late Ray Roeschley was announced. Bro. Chris Getz and Sis. Esther Kaisner Aupperle's engage-

ment was announced. We wish these loved ones many happy years together and in God's abiding love.

BREMEN

Emma Unsicker

Another year has dawned. The unfinished task before us is no greater than the unlimited power of God behind us. May our New Year's resolution be to earnestly study the most wonderful, the most marvelous Book in all the literature of the world—The Bible. In it we will learn: The true value of time . . . The need of perseverance . . . The pleasure of serving . . . The dignity of simplicity . . . The true value of character . . . The power of kindness . . . The influence of example . . . The obligation of duty . . . The virtue of patience . . . and most of all The teachings of Him who said, **Learn of me.**

On Sat. evening Dec. 12, Bro. Wendell Gudeman brought us a wonderful message and then was assisted by Bro. Earl Zeltwanger in serving us the Lord's Supper.

Our Christmas program was Dec. 20. The children sang carols of praise and honor to our Lord and Saviour. We enjoyed several songs in German by a group from our congregation.

Much joy and love was experienced on New Year's Eve, in our fellowship hall. Testimonies were given through songs and word of the many blessings we received this past year.

FRANCESVILLE

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Isn't it good to obey? We are to write about a saint who has weathered the storms of the past and still radiates love, joy and peace. These people were easy to pick, dear Uncle Henry Leman and his "Liebe Frau", Aunt Cordia. Bro. Henry was 91, our church's oldest, on Dec. 2, and Sis. Cordia will be 88 April 7. Today they were brought to church in the snow, said they like it, as when they were married the snow was as high as the buggy wheels. Tracks were made for them to drive, and they never will forget that day, how the wheels squeaked in the snow, and the sun shone nicely. Their 67th anniversary will be Feb. 16, if the Lord permits them to remain here with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren. They have a "jewel daughter," Sis. Frances, who certainly cares for her parents as a shining light, and how she also "Shines" with all the other youth and all ages of life.

This is something that will almost give tears of joy, could it happen again! They were the start of 106 that gave in to the "Call of the Lord". Yes, we just want everyone to get to go to heaven, even their days on this earth are ended.

Uncle Henry says he likes to lay down most of the time in his home, as he then does not have much pain. Aunt Cordia is the opposite; she doesn't like to go to bed, and then she is always glad to get up, as her leg hurts more while laying.

Some nice remarks when I visited them: "I get along good with everybody" . . . "I think we have very good ministers" . . . I like to eat everything" (but think Frances cooks just good things) . . . and then . . . "I like it when people come and sit and talk by me at the church Lunch Hour, as can see them better; I really like it when children come to me too."

Their oldest smile is still among the biggest.

Now we have two good news items. The Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobels' son, Virgil Jr. has taken the happy step in life to be married to Sharon Wayne, and we sure wish them many years of happiness together. . . . And we were glad the snow did not keep Bro. Walter Steffens from coming to us, as he said as it kept falling so nicely at Milford, it was easy to stay at home, but he felt much better when he got to us and saw the sun shining. So we had "Sunshine" in the church all day. Thanks Dear Bro. Walter and all for it.

A brother told me to write this: "How nice the evening at Purdue was, when they had their Christmas Program." Yes we could see that they walk hand in hand with Jesus every day."

P.S. This month's news was finished, when a terrible shock came to us. Our dear, cherished Bro. Sam Gudeman's days on this earth were finished, and he was laid to rest on New Year's Day. Words just cannot say how he spread sunshine to everyone, and loving memories will grow deeper every day by his wife Sis. Kathryn, his sons:

Bro. Willis and Wendell, the grandchildren, and his brothers and sisters. We just have to say it hurts us all, but have to think it was God's will. A poem was read "In Loving Memory Of Our Dear Departed One", which space does not permit to give to you, but the Bro. that wrote it was given he words to write just how we all feel . . . and also can hardly give the names of all the cherished Elders and Ministers who came, and all had godly-given things to say about our Dear Sam Gudeman who could leave this earth as "Good", as he was a "Good Christian".

REMINGTON

Anna M. Waibel

Bro. Wendell Gudeman of Francesville was with us on Wednesday evening Dec. 9. We sympathize with him and all concerned, as the news came of the sudden departure of his father, Bro. Sam Gudeman; his wife, Sis. Kathryn (Frey) lived here, across the street from where we now live. Our parents and hers were good friends, and I remember when we were children we used to go see them when they lived out on the farm, north of town. May God comfort and sustain them and give faith and courage for each new day. We have had so many deaths in our three surrounding churches the past year. May it draw many to the Saviour's Love and redemption.

Bro. Jake Bahler had a hernia operation. He is doing well.

Elmer and Nettie (Clauss) Warner are having a farm sale Jan. 9, as they have moved to town.

Bro. Edwin Bahler announced the engagement of his son, Bro. Kurt

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to Julia Wackerle of Bay City. Her parents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Fay. We wish them God's guidance and His richest blessings.

The Christmas program was given . . . trust we all remember the true meaning of His birth.

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

Let us contemplate, if but a fleeting moment, the true purpose for which each of us has been created.

Let us, in deepest sincerity, reaffirm our unshakable 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 as nothing; but that, with Him, all things are possible.

WICHITA

Dave and Barbara Hangartner

The beautiful story of Christmas Again has been retold upon earth, A story of peace and goodwill to men

Through the wonderful gift of Christ's birth.

Trouble and cares are forgotten Just now, in this moment of time; God's grace and the care of his children

Are a part of that gift, most divine.

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.

Our Christmas Sunday School program was held on the 20th. Most of the Sunday School children participated. Jesus loved little children. He said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

On the 13th of Dec., our elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Bro. Josh Broquard of Fairbury read the minutes of the Brother meeting to us. We received many timely admonishments and reminders of how we should live and uphold our precious faith.

We enjoyed a visit and sermon from Bro. Al Fisher of the Chicago congregation.

Our dear Sis. Lydia Bahr, who comes to visit and stay with her daughters often, told me she repented when she was 16 years old, and she will be 80 in March. In all those years she said, Life was short, but God was good to me, and that if you trust in Him in everything, He will be with you. Then she recited this to me:

"For every hill I've had to climb,
For all the toil and sweat and grime,

I thank the Lord for now I know,
This is the way I've had to go.

Beatitudes for Friends of the Aged
Blessed are they who understand
my faltering steps and
shaking hands.

Blessed are they who know that
my ears today must strain to
catch the words they say. . . .

Blessed are they with a cheery
smile who stop to chat
away. . . .

Blessed are they who know the
ways to bring back lovely
yesterdays.

Blessed are they who make it
known that I am loved, not
left alone. . . .

Blessed are they who ease the
days, on my journey home, in
so many loving ways.

I was always impressed with the faith of my second mother, Minnie Steidinger. She was married to my Dad, Bro. Albert Flickiger, who was left widowed with nine children. She married him on faith. "My duty in this life I see." She repented when she was 18 and now is 78 years old.

After I repented, I could tell her all my trials and problems of the young in faith, and she would always listen, and then say, All we can do is pray for help and believe we will get it from the Lord.

In all her trials with us children, she was a light, because her faith was a living, everyday one. May the Lord keep this faith going until He calls her to her reward.

WOLCOTT Arles Kropf

A large group gathered at the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 11 for a farewell supper and singing for Sis. Louise Furrer. Julie and Sammy,

who are moving to Fairbury. We wish them the Lord's blessing in their new home.

The Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Dec. 20.

Caroling groups were out on two different evenings, bringing Christmas joy to the aged and shut-ins. This is not only a blessing to those we sing for, but those who go out also enjoy a blessing.

Our aged Bro. John Schmidt has suffered the loss of his second leg now, but is in good spirits and is to be released from the hospital soon. We pray the Lord might remain with him and be his comfort . . . also have had two of our little Sunday School girls hospitalized—Jennifer Hopkins had a tonsillectomy and Eugenia Kyburz an appendectomy. Eugenia suffered complications after returning home, but is showing improvement, and we trust she can again be released to her home.

It gives us much encouragement in our little congregation in that we have three souls who have made a beginning in a new life in the Lord. May it be that soon they will find that precious peace and can become sisters in faith.

Our sincere sympathy goes to our elder, Bro. Wendell Gudeman, to the rest of his family in the loss of his father, Bro. Sam at Francesville.

New Year's Day services were held, with the Remington congregation assembling with us. Bro. Earl Kilgus brought it to our attention, what a blessing it is to begin the new year in the house of God.

Farwell, Old Year!
With goodness crowned
A Hand Divine hath set thy bound.
Welcome, New Year,
Which shall bring
Fresh blessings from my God and King!

The old we leave without a tear;
The new we hail without a fear.
Because,
I know that o'er it all
Rules He, who notes the sparrow's fall.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Jerry Meiss

Greetings to all. The arrival of Dec. 10 brought us Bro. Ed Alt of the Cissna Park assemblage. He

refreshed our minds as to how God's plan for our lives functions. He said that the number one prerequisite is faith, although Satan is crafty, cunning and subtle and seeks to destroy our faith instead of stockpiling it. We must realize that patience is the continuation of our faith. He reaffirmed that our hearts are evil by nature, and that confession is good for our souls. He pointed out that there is brightness to be found in Jesus and not in the darkened world. He said that we, however, are not the light or flame, but merely the candle holder and bearer. We can truly rejoice in the chastening of the Lord as was mentioned by Edward.

With the radiance of sunshine and yet the subdued hue of serenity, Bro. Ed Ringger of Gridley enthusiastically brought us this year's Christmas message on Dec. 17. He told us how it is a message of love and that it should be out of love that we serve the Lord. He told us how Christ paid the enormous debt which we all owed. Some still owe the debt and the interest is surely mounting. Others have accepted the fact that the debt was paid in full by Jesus Christ, and are now borrowing of His infinite grace. We can be thankful, as Deacon Ringger mentioned, that we need not pay for this, as we realize that it is a free gift. We have the power of choice concerning Christ, and we either choose or refuse.

The message was carried on through song by the Peoria Choir. They harmonized very effectively for the Christmas crowd of 250. Later on, the whole auditorium was vibrant as the throng sang Christmas songs together. On Dec. 14, we went caroling to various places around the Bloomington-Normal area. It was a perfect evening for such. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch at the home of Bro. Ray Hoerrs.

Two brothers were once discussing their spiritual lives. Their conversation went something like this: Said one, "You know, many long years had passed away until I finally started thinking about the judgment day." "Yes", said the other, "my foolish sins were black as coal, but now they're washed as white as snow and now I believe." "It's amazing", said the first, "but you know when I was pardoned for my sin the love of Jesus shown

right in." "This is true", said the other, "and many a time I'd been told that it's a blessing to be in Jesus' fold and now, after a long wait, I believe."

"I have to truly marvel", remarked the other, "at how it cost me nothing—just think—it was free, but yet it's worth more than all the world to me and now I believe." They were both very inspired, and then both replied in unison, "I believe, I believe, that—Jesus Christ died for me. He redeemed and made me whole—the blood of Jesus saved my soul." They both went on their way rejoicing after this.

There was a fellow once who was afflicted with an annoying pain in his leg. Yet, in the midst of his ailment, he wrote the following words: Sometimes I feel so weak inside and my road seems rough and long . . . But when I kneel in prayer and talk to Jesus there, He gives me strength to carry on. Then he said, "Lord, how well you know, I often fail to show that I believe Thy holy word. So Lord, I pray forgive, and help me, Lord, to live by Thy teachings I have heard." He went on to say, "Lord, can it be that I refuse to see the secret sins I cannot hide? So help me, Lord, to see my need for thee and keep me ever by thy side." He concluded his conversation with his Lord by saying, "Oh Jesus gave and my soul He saved, and He gives me love to give. Lord, let it show, let it overflow—it is in Thy love that I live." We can truly see from this example that there is always a reason for the happenings that take place in the life of a Christian and, though afflictions be severe, there is always a reason for us to give thanks to our God of love.

Here is a quote: "In the light of simplicity, man is blinded by complexity."

MAYWOOD

Elizabeth Kaisner

We note the passing of another year; we cannot turn back for any changes. With trust in GOD we want to face the new year, asking His grace and mercy to sustain us all.

The Sunday School children have again presented with interest their Christmas program; may God's blessing rest upon them and the teachers.

Bro. Homer Reineck from Ohio visited us, and Homer ministered

unto us the last day of the year, with the theme of the old year going out, and facing the new year with God's help, with the reading in the word of God of the beginning of time and creation. May God protect and bless them for their visit and as they travel on their way.

The Bible

Some chapters comfort me;
Some chapters chastise me;
In the end it is all a blessing.

PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

Bro. William and Sis. Marie Eberle were grandparents twice. On Nov. 29 a little girl, Lorinda Leann was born to Larry and Marjory Eberle; she has a little brother Jeffrey. Dec. 7, Marvin and Sharon Eberle had their first child, a little girl—Lisa Marie. It pleases us when these young couples bring their children to the house of worship.

The Christmas season brings many joys, yet there are always some shadows. Our hearts were saddened when we heard of the death of our dear Sis. Mary Bahr Aberle. She made her home in Peoria before her marriage, but Princeville was where she worshipped. All who knew her loved her, for she displayed a true Christian life. Our thoughts were with the Sabetha congregation as services were held for her. As a tribute to her the congregation sang No. 247: "I wish to die in my dear Jesus; In peace and with great joy consoled, And through His wounds I shall inherit the robe of white He will unfold. In Jesus I will trust always; In Him I live and pass away." May the bereft family find their comfort in this same Jesus whose sympathetic arm is around all.

Several groups of carolers brought joy to the aged and shut-ins. We trust their joy is found in the pleasure they bring to those they visit.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Betty Herrmann were happy to bring their little son, Brad, home from the hospital, and he seems to be getting along nicely. Sis. Clara Marie Gerber has her leg in a cast again. She had the plate removed, and she felt it snap and found she had a hair line fracture, necessitating another cast. We are thankful she

is able to be about. Bro. Chris Martin was permitted to leave the hospital and is making satisfactory progress at home.

Several of our sisters have been unable to worship with us for some time and were glad to have callers during the Christmas Season. Sis. Lena Stichling and Sis. Josephine Endress are in fairly good health. Sis. Marie Endress is still confined to her home and is able to do little chores about the home. Sis. Ida Huber is confined to her bed.

We were glad to have Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein with us and thank Lynn for the message he shared with us. We were happy so many of our friends came to worship with us on this beautiful Christmas Day.

Thankful too were we when many gathered for New Year's Eve services. A goodly number of young members were present, and I am sure it must have pleased the Lord to see so many young souls spend the last evening of the old year in the house of worship. A most appropriate chapter, Romans 12, was read and reviewed by Bro. Joe Stoller, with some timely remarks by Bro. Art Baurer. Something to remember were the teachings not to be conformed to the world, but be transformed, and be not overcome by evil but overcome evil with good. It was a truly blessed evening. At the close of worship we sang, "Another year is Dawning"—precious words to think about.

The past year has quickly passed and we find ourselves on the threshold of a new. What does it hold in store for us? . . . if we take one day at a time and ask the Lord's help, it matters not what is ahead, for we will be able to face anything. His grace is sufficient for each of us.

During the past year the Death Angel called four dear brothers and a dear sister out of this life. Six little girls and three little boys were born, bringing joy to their parents and grandparents. Seven young people, all dear friends, were united in marriage. Four souls were baptized and taken into the fold, and four other young souls have surrendered their lives into the Lord's and are awaiting proving and baptism. We look forward to new blessings in the coming year and ask that the dear Lord be with us and guide us on the ways

He would have us take.

A number of college students spent the holidays with parents and family. Two of our young men serving in the armed service were also privileged to be home and have returned to their posts of duty, Bro. Steven Elsasser at Ft. Sam and Howard Rumbold at Honolulu. Ralph Endress, son of Sister Mildred, has arrived safely in Korea.

The first Sunday in Jan. found us in the midst of our first winter snowstorm. It being so bad we had only short services in the afternoon, so all could get home before dark. Inside, the church was warm and all felt secure, not realizing how bad the storm was. Is it not so when we place our trust in the Lord? We can find shelter from the storms in His love and care.

"I would like to thank everyone who so kindly remembered me with cards, gifts, and visits during the Christmas Season and for my birthday. May God bless all of you." Sis. Frieda Streitmatter.

SHIODA, JAPAN

Willis R. Ehnlé

The dawn, on this the last day of 1970, greeted us with a steady flurry of snowflakes and the landscape of a winter wonderland. Our spinach, and our chinese cabbage which we have enjoyed eating in place of lettuce, are now covered with snow, but we feel sure they will again be edible after the snow melts, as these vegetables, as well as certain varieties of peas, are very hardy toward cold weather. Our peas are now several inches high and covered with snow, ready to pop up again in the spring for May harvest.

To make this analogous or comparative to the spiritual life, one needs only to think of the words of the Apostle Paul, **Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.** The Lord Jesus Christ needs a variety or type of Christian who is hardy toward the coldness of this world, who may go through periods of testing, but have the warmth of heart and soul to bounce back with the determination to live, grow and be useful; who believes in the slogan, "Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church."

At our Christmas eve service at Shioda, there were 36 adults and 4 children present. Prior to our

church service our English students presented a program Christmas poetry and carols English in our kindergarten room. Bro. Uchida and I both spoke at the church service. We felt well blessed as we remembered the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

On Christmas evening, a group of us sang Christmas carols for Saegusa San, an elderly farmer living near our church, who loves the Christmas carols and hymns which honor the living God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are looking forward to the coming of Sis. Judy Bauer in February. Judy originates in our Cissna Park church, but presently is employed as a teacher of deaf children in Elgin Illinois. She will be our kindergarten teacher at Shioda, relieving my wife, who has been substitute teacher since last September. Our present elementary teacher, Sis. Carol Schrenk of Chicago, formerly shared an apartment with Judy and they have a very close relationship.

Let us remember each other in prayer, and serve the Lord with spirituality, obedience, love and joy.

Shioda, Toshio Uchida

To all of our close loved ones in Christ Jesus in the American churches, we are thankful that again this year we could all celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus. At Shioda many people gathered for our Christmas eve service. However, while we prayerfully and quietly remembered the birth of our Lord, the people of this world in large numbers spent the time in drinking liquor and in singing loud and boisterously.

We can certainly feel that there are many in this world who need salvation for their souls. God sent Christ, His only begotten Son, to save all people from their sins. In spite of this, people do not believe or follow Him. Very few recognize their own sin and seek salvation from God. Even though it is written very plainly in the Bible that those who grieve the Heavenly Father will be judged without fail when Christ comes again, those hearts do not become broken. He will come as a thief in the night and no one knows when. It is very dangerous for us, too, if we are not prepared in our hearts at all times. We must always be ready to appear before God without anxiety.

In Japan, too, we entered our new year on Jan. 1. It is for us brothers and sisters to put our strength together to work for the church. The church is work, God's temple, and the place of salvation for all people. Everyone in the American churches, please pray for the churches in Japan. Especially encourage Bro. Ehnle San. Also please write to Sis. Lois and Sis. Carol. May the grace of our Lord be upon all in the churches in America.

AKRON, OHIO

Katherine Ries

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you. With these words from Christ's sermon on the mount, we humbly submit the following written testimonial and advice for "The Golden Years Give Counsel".

"I was baptized in 1927 at the age of 23 years, after seeking God's help in repentance, confession and restitution. As a babe in Christ my beginning was much like a car trip after dark, when the headlights show the road but a short distance ahead. My spiritual path likewise was illuminated as I traveled along.

Our human nature being sinful makes us prone to overlook our own faults and so easy to see those of others . . . Much like the small child with a bloody nose who said, "It all started when Johnny hit me back" . . . or better to say, like the Pharisee who contrasted his goodness with the faults of the Publican. We have but one standard, and a perfect one, Jesus Christ, to measure ourselves by.

It was a sinless, merciful, loving Saviour who suffered crucifixion, with the resultant resurrection, that we might be saved, if we so choose, by being born again of the Holy Spirit and receiving a new nature. We cannot earn salvation; it is an undeserved gift. Our ability, to use the world term, is "nil". But it does require our response to God's ability and full awareness of and faith in His power to grant what we do not possess, overcoming grace for our failures and sins. It has been one of my life's harder lessons, since we feel a need sometimes to differ, how to disagree without being disagreeable.

All life has both sunshine and storm. For the believer, the storms

of life do not drive him upon the rocks, but into the desired haven. There have been times, rather than a cross to carry, that it has seemed the cross-bearer was then carrying me. The believer has an anchor, and one that will hold, no matter what life may bring.

There are no appropriate words to describe this walk with God. It cannot be fully explained, only experienced. We have God's favors and blessings and His promise for this life that He will not withhold any needful thing from us if we walk uprightly. It also includes that bright hope that when life is over and our work is done, we shall then share in the glory of His resurrection.

Much grace and watchfulness however are necessary, that we daily prove the spirits, and turn away from anything that dims our vision of Christ, or lessens our hunger for God's word, makes prayer less fervent or less frequent, or disturbs our love for one another. We are much benefited by regular church attendance if able, where our faithful ministers stand ready to advise us in teaching, to warn us of pitfalls, lifting the load, pointing the way.

In declining years, heaven seems nearer and dearer, with departed loved ones there. For our dear friends, it is still invitation time. To them I would repeat the song-writers words, 'Swing the heart's door widely open; bid Him enter while you may.' Surely the writer, our dear Sis Grace Wormald Schuckert, while being an example to the flock as she fulfills her duty to God, is laying up treasures in heaven.

On Dec. 20 we enjoyed the singing of Christmas songs by the kindergarten, to and including the fourth grade children of the Sunday school, followed by our annual singing of Christmas hymns. Refreshments were then served to all. Bro. David Graf spent Christmas at home, before being reassigned to Germany. Susan Ritzman (Jerry) was released Jan. 1, after being hospitalized since Oct. and is recuperating at their home, 1219 Barcelona Dr. Akron O. 44313. John Graf (Janice), son of Elder Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Betti, is home after surgery at 3678 Minor Rd. Akron O., 44321. Fred Burr (Helen) had surgery Dec. 21 and again Dec. 29, is now out of in-

tensive care at St. Thomas Hospital. Howard Dockus (Alice), also at St. Thomas Hospital, 444 N. Main St. Akron O., 44310, is reported satisfactory, with a heart ailment. Mary Stanoyevic was able to assemble with us Jan. 1, after illness kept her home about 2 months. May God bless them all with a speedy recovery and good health.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

Sis. Emma Leuthold is a new resident at the A. C. Home. Emma lived in this community up until 10 years ago, when she moved to Lester to be near her children.

Dec. 19, Mary Meyer and Ada Strahm gave their testimonies and were baptized. We wish them much grace and the Lord's blessing as they go back to school, Sis. Mary to K-State, Manhattan, Sis. Ada to St. Joseph, Mo., where she is a student nurse in the Missouri Methodist Hospital. May they be a shining light to their fellow students. Some time ago one of our ministers had in the message how very few hear a sermon in church, but how many sermons we could each live every day of the week by our very conduct.

Hospitalized and now home again: Sis. Louise Esslinger (surgery); Marcia Strahm, year-old daughter of Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona (pneumonia). Sis. Tillie Stoller is still house-bound, with a walking cast on her broken leg.

Bern and Sabetha had several opportunities to worship and fellowship together of late. On Christmas morning we assembled in Sabetha, then in turn Sabetha assembled with us on New Year's morning. Bros. Joe Aberle and Carl Hartman were our ministers. Carl spoke a few words on "Time". Is there any other word that can be used in its place? He left us this question and thought: What will you do with your allotted span of time?

Jan. 2, proving for a dear friend was announced in Sabetha, to be followed by the reading of the Memorandum. On going home, a few gentle snowflakes were falling. Sunday morning, a full-sized Kansas blizzard was going with high winds and drifting snow. The word was soon passed around there would be no services in the Bern Church. Many of us who lived in

and near Sabetha managed to assemble with the Sabetha congregation. It seems when you put forth a little extra effort for the Lord, blessings are multiplied. Baptistal services were held for the convert. We could again say, Jesus of Nazareth passed this way.

CONGERVILLE

Phyllia Knapp — Norma Stahl

Sis. Ida Nussbaum had major surgery Dec. 14, has gotten along real fine, and is now at the home of her daughter, Sis. Pauline Roth.

Bro. Dan Sauder was hospitalized for a week or more, but is now home and able to assemble with us again in church.

Sis. Mary Sides is hospitalized as a medical patient. We truly miss our older brothers and sisters when they are not able to assemble with us at church. We pray for everyone that is not able to assemble at church for health reasons or otherwise . . . especially the older ones, as at times time moves so slowly for them. May the Lord bless them.

Dennis Knapp (son of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Jeanette) left Dec. 14 for Germany. Our prayers are with him. May the Lord guide and protect him.

Sis. Nancy Schrock has accepted a teaching position in Elgin Ill. at one of the schools. May God be ever near and helpful in her teaching.

Dennis Miller (son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Betty) and Kathy Sparks (daughter of Glenn and Rose) were united in marriage Dec. 20. We wish them much happiness in their new life together. May they be richly guided through the Lord.

Summary of 1970—8 births, 1 death, 3 new converts, 6 marriages, one 59th anniversary and 4 golden anniversaries.

Notes of Thanks

Bro. John and Sis. Ida Rocke wish to thank their many friends and relatives who took part in making their 50th wedding anniversary such a pleasant occasion, also for the many cards and good wishes.

May God richly bless each of you who remembered me with cards, gifts, flowers, visits, prayers and those who carolled for me during my recent hospitalization and since returning home. These acts of love and kindness meant more than mere words can express. Ida Nussbaum.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS
Louise Steffen Katie Kachelmuss

'O that I were with Jesus!
O that I could take wings.

Where we with joy and wonder
Thy countenance behold;
Fain would I be up yonder,
Forever in Thy fold.

In tones of heavenly sweetness,
Transfigured with delight,
Forever we'll sing Thy praises,
Creator of our life.

This song from "Song of Praise and Worship," the book we sang from in Sunday School long ago, came to the mind of one of our aged sisters while visiting with her, and she knew quite a bit of it from memory.

We miss Sis. Sylvia Meyer in our church circle. She has gone back to Bluffton, where she lived before coming to Elgin to make her home.

Robert Schambach and Bro. Douglas Kellenberger enjoyed a leave at the homes of their loved ones, but as usual the time of parting came so soon. Douglas returned to his post at Ft. Sam Houston. While here, Robert was married to Jean, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Lyla Schock. He will be sent to Germany, and she will follow him there in February. May God be with them in their future life together. Robert is the son of Bro. Wm. and Sis. Cora Schambach.

Sis. Marlene (Tom) Leman was hospitalized for surgery and is now back home with her loved ones. They live at 212 Gordon Ct., Elgin, Ill. 60120.

Births: A son, Wayne Lewis, born Dec. 7 to Bro. Roer and Sis. Gertrude Schambach Sauder, who live at 1151 Demmond, Elgin, Ill. 60120. A daughter, Kimberly Sue, born Dec. 22 to Bro. Ronald and Sis. Nancy Schranck Schambach, who live at R.R. 2, Box 282, Elgin Ill. 60120.

BRADFORD

Delores Duckworth
Martha Kieser

This is a beautiful crisp January morning, still 2 degrees below zero. As we begin this new year, may we each resolve to be more faithful to our God and to be more of a shining witness for Him.

The visits of Bros. Eugene Bertschi and Don Sauder, Roanoke, and

Joe Stoller, Princeville, were very much appreciated. We were reminded by Bro. Bertschi that must go into the sheepfold at the door. If we don't go in at the door, we will be left standing outside in eternity. Bro. Sauder brought out that the fruit of our own self-righteousness is pride.

We had two hospital patients. Michael Kuntz, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doris, had pneumonia, and Bro. Herman Dietz is still at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester for hip surgery, but is getting along okay now. Our prayer is that this surgery will be successful, and that God will help Bro. Herman to patiently endure.

Dec. 8 was the birth date of little Jill Lee, new daughter of Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen (Zimmerman) Elsasser. Jill has three brothers and four sisters to welcome her home.

Brian Anthony, born Dec. 28, is the first child of Chuck and Vicki Leuthold (who are in the service in Oklahoma). Vicki is the daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller.

Seven-year-old Jesse Hobbs has come to make his home with Bro. Wm. (Nick) and Sis. Gladys Knobloch. He is from the Dessie-Scott Children's Home in Kentucky. Bro. Nick and Sis. Gladys were pleasantly surprised at 6:00 a.m. on Dec. 26 when their son, Bro. Dave turned the light on in their room. Dave had just returned from Viet Nam. We enjoyed having him with us for ten days; he has now returned to Viet Nam.

We enjoyed hearing our Sunday School children recite their verses and sing their jovous songs, telling about the birth of our dear Saviour at our annual Christmas program. They each tried so hard to do their very best for Jesus.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Donna Ehnle, wife of Bro. Roy, whose father, Dale Price from Kewanee, passed away. We also deeply sympathize with Bro. Steve Aberle and the families of Sis. Mary from Sabetha. We enjoyed her smiling face and loving disposition many times while she lived in Peoria.

FORREST

Carolyn Zimmerman
Juanita Schneider

God's most precious gift to all mankind was our Lord. This Gift

is given to all who will acknowledge their need. Three dear souls have accepted this gift and were taken into God's fold. Bro. Josh Broquard of Fairbury assisted our ministers with the proving and baptisms of Jill Nussbaum, daughter of Bro. Willis and Sis. Elna; Doris Bachtold, daughter of Bro. Alf and Sis. Dorothy; and Lou Ann Nussbaum, daughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty. Ministering Bro. Earl Kilgus of Remington assembled with us for the provings Sat. evening.

A union of hearts not lightly rent apart is a union that is God-made, a threefold union, a precious undertaking. Sis. Jean Ricketts, daughter of Bro. Merideth and Sis. Leona was united in marriage to Bro. Steve Langhofer, son of Ministering Bro. Al and Sis. Judy of Wichita. Ministers Bro. Loren Strahm, Gridley Kans., and Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, also attended the ceremony and were willing to assemble for evening services. Rhoda Lehmann, daughter of Bro. and Sis. George Lehmann was married to Jeffrey Gaines, Dec. 26. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Leona are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Diana to William Ducett of Peoria; Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladis Koehl are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Marsha to Charles Albritton, Peoria. We wish them all the blessing of their Creator.

Bro. and Sis. William Kupferschmid are the grandparents to two new baby boys. Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid have their first son, Bradley Allen, born Nov. 24; maternal grandmother is Sis. Clara Ebach, and great-grandmother is Sis. Mary Ebach, both of our congregation. Bro. Gary and Sis. Becky Kupferschmid have a second son, Corban, born Nov. 27; maternal grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Merle Kaisner, Fairbury. Great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Joe Kaisner and Bro. and Sis. Louis Zimmerman, both of our congregation. Paternal great-grandfather to both babies is Bro. William Kupferschmid Sr. of Peoria. Baby Corban has a brother, Chad at home.

Our friends, Steve and Rita Metz are parents of a little girl, born Dec. 18, named Holly Kaye. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rieger and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Metz; maternal great-grandparents

are Mr. and Mrs. Manny Rieger, all of Forrest. Our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Koehl are the parents of a little girl named Jill Elizabeth. Grandparents are Sis. Martha Koehl and the late Bro. Andrew Koehl of our congregation. We want to welcome all these wee ones and sincerely appreciate their parent's desire to worship with us.

The Fairbury congregation joined us to hear the memorandum. Ministering Bros. Leroy Huber, Eureka, Noah Schrock, Oakville; Bill Gudeman, Elgin; Josh Broquard, Merle Kaisner, Edmond Kloter, Walter Koehl, all of Fairbury, were present. The same evening we witnessed the ordination into eldership of our Bro. Perry Zimmerman. The blessings of the evening were many and left a sincere desire to be more obedient to the teachings and warnings we heard, believing they are God-sent for our soul's eternal welfare. Ministering Bro. Dave Weigand, Champaign spent Christmas Day here.

Word has been received that our aged Bro. John Koehl, staying in Phoenix for the winter months, has been stricken with a paralyzing stroke. He has left the hospital and is improving; we are all praying for John. Bros. Byron Nussbaum and William Masters have submitted to surgery and are home again. Sis's. Earlene Hamilton and Virginia Hilti were hospital patients and have returned home. Sis. Tillie Rieger is a patient at Fairbury Hospital, as is Sis. Dorothy Rieger. Our friend, Fred Rieger, has suffered a fall and has been taken to the hospital. Sis. Tillie has enclosed a **Thank You**: "I want to thank all who have remembered me during my illness for the many gifts, birthday, get-well, and Christmas cards, also for the many visits and prayers. God bless you all." Sis. Tillie Rieger

We have enclosed the data gathered from our congregation over 1970. There were three deaths, ten baptisms, eight births. This shows an increase of one birth and one baptism over the 1969 period. Let us each sincerely pray for an increase in God's fold for the oncoming year.

FORT SCOTT

Ida Sinn

Christmas has come and gone. Many of us have happy memories.

On Christmas eve, the Sunday School presented their program. The children seemed so enthused to speak of the birth of Christ and sing praises to His name. Love always seems to abide at Christmas-time and especially among the dear children.

Janet Sinn and Lydia Hawkins have been hospital patients, Janet for minor surgery and Lydia for tests.

We are on the threshold of a new year. May the experiences of the past year make us better prepared to go forward in the new.

A Happy and Blessed 1971 to all.

FORT WAYNE

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

A poem called "Sunset" states: "May I so live each day That I will be ready, waiting When Christ calls me away."

And may we all strive anew for this calling as we enter this new year, 1971.

We rejoice that many of our "oft-times absent" loved ones could assemble with us over the holidays: Service boys: John Lieberenz (Floren), Dan Pulver (Les), and Roger Stoller (Gene); and those in schools of higher learning: Bro. Stan Clauss, Warren and Kay Rauhe (Sy Fulkerson), Steve Stoller (Norman), and Terry Stoller (Harry).

The annual church election was held Jan. 3. May each one feel the Lord's guidance in their new duty.

Address change for Wm. H. and Sis. Freida Stavenik and Michael is as follows: 5132 Nassau Drive, Ft. Wayne, Ind. 46805.

GIRARD

Caroline Emch

We have had a mild winter this far . . . had snow on Christmas Day. The beautiful Christmas season has come and gone for another year. May we rejoice in its true meaning. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Christmas singing was held prior to the church service Christmas eve. Bro. Jesse Emch is home convalescing, after having (cataract) eye surgery.

Visiting Ministers: our elder Bro. Rudy Graf, and Bro. Delbert Indermuhle. We want to thank them for their wonderful messages,

also want to thank all who visited us this past year, hoping we will be remembered in this new year. Wishing everyone a blessed new year.

GOODFIELD Elna Grimm

Another new day! Another new year! . . . Oh do we stop to appreciate our great inheritance. . . . Do we stop to say "Thanks" to our great Creator as new days come and go? He who lives without prayer . . . he who seldom reads the word . . . he who seldom looks up to heaven for a fresh influence from on high . . . he will be the man whose heart will become dry and barren . . . but he who calls in secret on his God . . . who spends much time in holy retirement . . . who delights to meditate on the words of the Most High . . . whose soul is given up to Christ . . . such a man **must** have an overflowing heart; and as his heart is, such will his life be.

Our friend, Hulda Helderle, died on Dec. 31 at the Eureka Hospital, where she was a patient about two months. Bro. Joe Zimmerman of Roanoke had the funeral services in Goodfield, on Sat. Jan. 2.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Walter Anliker, Marvin Schmidgal, and Leroy Huber from Eureka; Harold Schmidgal from Gridley; Bro. Ezra Feller from Cissna Park; Bro. Roy Grimm from Taylor; Bro. Eli Somerhalder from Burlington; Bro. Henry Manz from Paulding; and Bro. Jesse Schrock from Congerville. Bro. Russel Rapp was here from Morton one Wed. evening to assist Bro. Ed Hohulin with the reading of the Memorandum. We sincerely thank each one for his time and service.

Capt. James Hinrichsen, son of Bro. and Sis. Hans and Arlene, was home from Viet Nam from Dec. 5 thru Dec. 14. He was one of about 200 officers who were granted this leave to the States. During his time at home, he announced his engagement to Laurie Fehr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Fehr of Eureka. They are planning an April wedding.

Our annual Sunday School program was held on Sun. evening, Dec. 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Jan Hinrichsen of Goodfield had a new baby girl on Nov. 7; they have

named her Nancy Jean. Bro. and Sis. Hans and Arlene Hinrichsen of Goodfield, and Mr. and Mrs. Winkler of Larose, Ill. are the grandparents. A baby boy, Ray, was born to Bro. and Sis. Jerry and Allene Steffen of Goodfield on Dec. 7. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ed and Bena Steffen of Goodfield, and Sis. Anna Marti of Lamar.

A baby boy, Richard Lee, was born to friends Lester and Helen Bauman of R. R. Eureka on Dec. 7. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Mildred Bauman of R. R. Congerville, and Bro. and Sis. Simon and Louise Wagenbach of Tremont. Bro. & Sis. Tom and Carol Hohulin of Pekin have adopted a bay girl. Her name is Andree Lyn, and she was born on Dec. 19. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ed and Elsie Hohulin of Goodfield, and Elmer and Sis. Verna Roth of Champaign. Mrs. Dan Roth of Fairbury is the great-grandmother.

IOWA CITY Beverly Mogler

You give but little when you give of your possessions;
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

On Dec. 26, Ed Stoller and Patty Kelly were united in marriage by Bro. Harvey Heiniger of Oakville. Ed is a student here, and we welcome Patty into our midst. May God's blessings rest upon them as they walk through life together.

Our guest ministers for December were Bro. Noah Gerber and Bro. Earl Banwart of West Bend. The message we heard reminded us how great God's love was for us and how important it is for us to stay true. We appreciated their efforts.

JUNCTION

Henrietta Manz — Betty Manz

We have been richly blessed with visiting ministers, for which we are really thankful. The following brothers were here for services: Bro. Loren Stoller and Bro. Irvin Stoller, both of Latty; Bro. Eugene Fetter, Toledo; and Bro. Ernest Graf, Akron. We thank the brothers for their efforts and hope they can visit us again soon. We were taught much about thankfulness. How often do we get up

in the morning and really feel thankful. We take so many of our everyday blessings for granted but let them be taken away from us, then how different we feel.

Our Elder Bro. George Sinn and Bro. Loren Stoller spent New Year's evening with us for services and our annual business meeting. Bro. Don Manz and Sis. Janet Schlatter have been elected as the new Sunday School teachers for a four-year term. Bro. Eli Manz was re-elected as trustee for a six-year term. After our business meeting, the brothers shared the conference letter with us. We have much to do, but yet the Lord doesn't require such big things of us, if we are just obedient.

Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Juliet) was home from Massachusetts from college for over a week, over the holidays. Our other college students mostly commute, and we are thankful they can be with us most every Sunday.

A number of us went carolling with our Sunday School the Sunday afternoon before Christmas. Young and old together joined in singing for shut-ins, and it was a real blessing. Afterwards we gathered at the home of Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz for lunch and distribution of the Sunday School treats. We hope our young folks will have many fond memories and that they can continue the old traditions, so our faith will not be lost in this modern age. As we get older, we can realize how much these old "pillars" meant to us as children. We might have thought some were "old-fashioned" at the time, but we really didn't want that faith changed, did we? It was something to cling to, and if our parents wouldn't have stood up for what was right, we would have felt like the "bottom was falling out."

A frost scene on my office window reminds me of the power of God. One day a beautiful scene of frost was on the window, a beautiful hill, trees and what looked like a little house. It was such a peaceful scene and lasted a couple of days. I often looked up at it during the day and thought how pretty it was. The great power of God reminds me of when a number of us attended a funeral, and before we got home, the weather turned very bad. Not so far from home a car passed us, lost control right in front of us, and turned crosswise

in the road. To avoid hitting the car broadside our driver applied the brakes, and of course because of the condition of the road we started to slide. Both cars slid, and we both came to a stop crosswise, but never touched each other. How suddenly we could be in eternity! How risky it is not to be ready! And yet if it is not our time, how the Lord can protect us without even getting a scratch! It certainly gives one food for thought.

LAMONT

Mrs. Stephen G. Schraeder

What a beautiful sight to awaken to ice-coated trees, fences, bushes and other objects glistening in the early morning sunshine! There can be no doubt that winter is here!

Our annual church business meeting was held the first Sunday in January. Among those elected were Bro. Ron Isch as a Sunday School teacher and Sis. Betty Wernli as Silver Lining correspondent.

Sis. Leah Fechter continues to be a shut-in; she is able to use a walker. Our friend, Sam Enz, is a patient in Newman Hospital, Emporia.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean Anliker are parents of a son, Samuel Ernest; he arrived Jan. 3. At home to welcome him are Ricky, Timmy, Marvin, Wayne and Julia. We wish them God's blessings with the new soul entrusted unto them.

LANDERSVILLE

Billie Jo Harville

It was a pleasure to listen to our Sunday School children sing and tell of the Christ Child's birth. It's a story that never grows old. Even though we joyfully celebrate our Saviour's birth and seek to make others happy with the giving of gifts at Christmas time, God's great gift of redemption was given to mankind at the cross of Calvary.

A group of over 50 people gathered on Monday before Christmas for caroling. The hymns of Christmas were sung on behalf of the elderly at the Rest Home and Housing Project in Moulton.

We also visited several homes where there were sick and shut-in. We gave them fruit-boxes. It's always a joy to see smiling faces when you visit others that are less fortunate than some and not able to go to the house of God.

We ended the year 1970 with three nights of gospel meeting. We had a large number, and was greatly blessed. It certainly is wonderful to be taught the true gospel and the plan of salvation. On the third night, which was New Year's Eve, we had our regular service, then we had supper in the church basement. We gathered back upstairs and continued our service, Bro. Junior Hale led us in prayer, praying the old year out and the new year in.

We welcomed Bro. John, Sis. Ann and Susan Wagler. We hope they can come and be with us again. Hospitalized are: Bobby Rainey, Bro. James Simmons, Sis. Mauvlyn Harville.

We are sorry to report that Sis. Clara Heiniger is not feeling well. Everyone remember her in prayer.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz

Miss Della Witschey

The annual stockholders meeting of the Apostolic Christian Cemetery Association was held on Monday evening, Jan. 4 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade. Regular business was cared for, plans made for the annual all-day meeting at the country church on June 27, with a speaker from Indiana to be with us on that date. Officers were held over as follows: Pres., J. H. Riggenbach; Vice Pres., J. C. Froelich; Treasurer, Paul Berger; Secretary, Minnie Weltz; trustees, Carl Berger, W. E. Durig and Ed Berger.

Miss Charlotte Emch of Girard visited with relatives here the last of December and early January. Mr. and Mrs. Verda Fankhouser of Easton, Md.; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Witschey of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mrs. L. W. Witschey and son Paul and daughter Thelma of Moundsville were guests of relatives during the holidays.

Mrs. Frank Berger is recovering nicely in her home, after being a patient in the Moundsville Hospital in December. Mr. Harold Witschey is confined to his home by illness. Mrs. Bonnie Hawkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riggenbach, underwent surgery in the local hospital on Jan. 6. Mrs. J. C. Froelich continues to improve, following a fall in her home in which she received painful injuries.

Jimmy Wade, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade arrived in Viet Nam a few days before Christ-

mas and seems to be doing nicely, has had one small promotion, and was changed from the infantry to training for MP duty.

Guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Weltz during the holidays were: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wright and son Richard of Shadyside, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brothers of Mt. Vernon, O.; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Weltz and son Brad, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley McGuire of McMechen, W. Va.

RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler—Janette Blough

1971! A new year has dawned. The old year is past. Words spoken, deeds done, both good and bad, cannot be undone. Will we do better in the new year? With the help and grace from God, we will!

Bro. Aaron Steffen gave us much to think about as he spoke to us on New Year's Day. We thank him for his words of love, and for the blessings from God we received through His word.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Eva VanNostren at the passing of her husband, Roy. Also surviving are two daughters, Eleanor Winkler and Lillian Greer, his father and one brother.

Two weddings have taken place; one wedding has united John Beery and Anne Stefanski. John's parents are Ted and Sis. Rhea Beery. The other marriage was Doug Howell and Thena Perry. Doug's parents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Rowene Howell. May the Lord bless these new couples as they start their life together.

A little girl, Sherri Suzanne, was born to Paul and Jenny Reusser. This being their first child makes Paul and Jenny a happy mommy and daddy; Sis. Mildred Reusser is the grandmother of this precious bundle from heaven.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Emma Riggenbach and her family at the sudden passing of her son, Ray. He was severely burned in an explosion and passed away a week later. We know the Lord hears the prayers of his children and will strengthen and uplift a grieving soul.

Bro. Rudy Graf assisted our Bro. Noah Bauman when we selected new ministers. We pray the Lord will give much needed grace to those who are called upon to preach the word to His people. Our prayers are with these two who have been

chosen, Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Henry Dotterer.

At our general election, selected for Assistant Sunday School Superintendent is Bro. Robert Ramsier; Bro. Alpha Maibach, trustee; Bros. Dean Hartzler and Bill Patterson, ushers; Bro. Bill Gasser, treasurer. We wish to thank those whose term for these offices have expired, for their love shown to us. May God bless you all!

Bro. Elmer Zollinger wishes to extend a truly heartfelt thanks to the many brethren and friends who remembered him at the hospital and at home with gifts, prayers, visits, and greeting cards. "It is my profound faith that God did recognize this kindness, for I truly felt **man liveth not by bread alone.** May He be your rewarder." Bro. Elmer Zollinger.

"God gave us this blessing, and we wish to express our sincere thanks for the many well-wishes and gifts for our 50th Wedding Anniversary. May God bless you all." Bro. Noah and Sis. Bertha Bauman.

Sis. Ola Froelich, a resident of a nursing home near here, wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with gifts and cards at Christmas. This kindness to her was very much appreciated.

We wish to welcome Sis. Karen Baltic to our congregation. She is the former Karen Ramsier, daughter of Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen of Mansfield, and now the wife of our Bro. Pete Baltic.

UNION CITY

Gail Gasser

Paul and Philip, sons of Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman, are at home now, after being hospitalized for tonsillectomies.

We enjoyed being with Richard Diggelman, son of Bro. John and Sis. Mary, who was visiting for the holidays from Rochester, New York. The Sunday School children had their Christmas program Dec. 20. They reminded us that we indeed have much to be thankful for, at this season and all through the year.

URBANA

Teresa Hufford
Susan Zimmerman

We are thankful for the precious word brought to us by our visiting ministers, Bros. Earl Gerber, Bill Gudeman, and Joe Zimmerman.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This past week-end, many witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of Diane Whited and Rick Zimmerman of Roanoke. At such a time we remember our own baptisms and share in the happiness these two dear ones must have felt. Rick attends the University of Illinois and assembles with us often. Diane is a student at Illinois State University. May God bless them.

"If peace be in the heart.
The wildest winter storm is full
of solemn beauty,
The midnight flash but shows the
path of duty,
Each living creature tells some new
and joyous story,
The very trees and stones all catch
a ray of glory,
If peace be in the heart."

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

God bless thy year,
Thy coming in, thy going out,
Thy rest, thy traveling about.
The rough, the smooth,
The bright, the drear,
God bless thy year.

Elder Brothers Herman Kellenberger, Paul Fehr, and Leo Moser shared a week-end with us. We give them our humble "Thank You", for their time and effort toward the future of our church. The memorandum was presented and expounded on. We were reminded that there will come a day when the preaching of the word will be done to the itching of man's ear. How thankful we are the Lord is with these, our beloved brethren. Sunday a church supper was served to all.

Bro. Mike Messner and Bro. James Messner were hospitalized for observation. Becky, daughter of Bro. James and Sis. Julia Messner, underwent surgery on her leg. We are happy to have her back in Sunday School.

The Bible Class wants to extend a warm thank you to the West Bend Bible Class, teachers and congregation for their kind deeds of hospitality and love shown them. An enjoyable time was had by all.

Sam Miller, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Sophie, was home on leave over the holidays. He returned to Camp

at Ft. Lee, Virginia for his last two months of service.

The children (11) of Henry and Sis. Celina Wirtz Schmidt will host Open House in honor of their 50th Anniversary, Sunday, Jan. 24 at the Brownston Hall from 2:30 to 5:00.

HONOLULU

Bill and Sharon Dotterer

The Lord, after being crucified talked with His disciples when they didn't realize He was Christ. After He had vanished from their sight, they remarked how their hearts had burned within them while He had talked with them. Often we make this same experience. After fellowshiping with our brethren who are of the same mind and faith, we realize we have had such a wonderful time because the Lord had been in our midst.

We felt privileged to have ministering Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschev from New York with us. We enjoyed Bro. John Dotterer's visit very much. He came from Phoenix to spend the holiday season with us.

If you are planning a vacation or R.R. here in 1971, we would enjoy getting together with you. Our address is 1235 Ala Kapuna, Apt. 201, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819; phone 839-0965.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY MANHATTAN

Mrs. Daryl Meyer

Wed. Dec. 10, a Bible Study was held, with guest ministers, Bro. Al Langhofer, Wichita, and Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha. The Book of Ephesians was discussed.

The members and friends met at the apartment of Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Heiniger for a Christmas gathering before vacation. The singing of Christmas carols was enjoyed by everyone. Classes resume again Monday, Jan. 18.

Two students here at K. State gave their testimonies and were baptized into the fold in their respective churches: Sis. Mary Meyer, daughter of Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer, Bern, is a Junior at K. State; Bro. Ron Menold, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Tillie Menold, Sabetha, is a sophomore. We wish them the Lord's richest blessing in their new walk of life.

We are sorry to see Bro. Terry Farney leave K. State. He will continue his education in Wichita. We

will miss his presence among us.

As we enter the new year, let us each strive to serve the Lord and walk closer with Him. May His richest blessings be upon one and all.

LATTY

Delores Grant — Iva Stoller

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Stoller were indeed blessed with a new arrival, Stacie Marie, who was the first baby born at the Paulding hospital this year and recipient of many lovely gifts offered by local merchants. She was born Jan. 5 and is the granddaughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Stoller. On the same day, a son was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger at the Van Wert Hospital.

Madie Laukhuf, who was hospitalized for two surgeries, is now dismissed and staying at the home of her son in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Mary Ann Breitwieser was admitted to the hospital for a tonsillectomy during the holidays. She is a student at Defiance College. Sis. Alice Stoller was admitted to the Lutheran Hospital, Ft. Wayne, for major surgery. She got to be home for Christmas, however, and is doing well. Bro. Jesse Kupfer-smith was hospitalized and very seriously ill. May God be near each one in their afflictions.

Sis. Dora Sinn, who was hospitalized in Toledo, was transferred to a rest home at Van Wert, Ohio. Our aged Sister is 92 years old.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Stoller and daughter Janette spent the Christmas holidays with their son, Stanley, who is stationed at Hawaii.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Virgil and Shirley Funk

Visiting ministers for the month of December include: Michael Weyeneth and James Hoerr, Peoria; Nathan Steffen, Elgin; and our elder, Joshua Broquard from Fairbury. May God be the rich rewarder of each.

Our Christmas program was held on Dec. 20.

One of our ministers recently related his experience on a battleship during his tour of duty in the service. It seems that he observed much ungodliness, until the guns started firing at which time many of the men prayed, which was appropriate under the circumstances. However, when the guns became silent again,

they practically all returned to their sinful pleasures. Let us remember that the Lord has a right to expect our faithfulness in both the good and evil day.

BLUFFTON

Imogene Steffen — Pat Isch

Herbert and Gwendolyn Baumgartner became the parents of a new son, Timothy Lee; Brent Allen was born to Bro. Charles and Linda (Decker) Isch. May the new arrivals bring much joy and happiness to their families.

Our Fellowship Hall was the scene of three of our friends weddings during the month of December. Diane Bertsch, daughter of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Wava, was united in marriage to Gary Green; his parents are Mr. and Mrs. George Green. Daniel Lantz Jr. received Charlene Harrison as his bride; parents of this couple are Bro. Dan and Sis. Gladys Lantz and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Harrison. Friends Katherine Kaehr and Thomas Gerber exchanged vows on Dec. 26; Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr and Bro. Clifford and Sis. Marie Gerber are their parents. Recent matrimonial services were held for Annette Aschliman, daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Justine Aschliman, and David Terhune, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Terhune.

Dec. 27 was the wedding date chosen by Bro. Art Ringger and Sis. Susie Bucher, who were married in the La Crosse church by Bro. Ed Frank. Their parents are Bro. LaVerne and Sis. Rosella Ringger and Bro. Art and Sis. Esther Bucher.

Sis. Wanda Fiechter became the bride of Bro. Mark Moser on Jan. 3. Their vows were received by Bro. Sam Aeschliman. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris are her parents, and Mark is the son of Bro. Russell and Sis. Dorothy. We are thankful that Mark could return home safely after a year's duty in Viet Nam. He and his wife are now stationed in Vine Grove, Ky., near Ft. Knox, to complete his duty in the army.

Bro. Joel Kehrn, age 86, was called to his eternal home. He had been a patient at the Swiss Village Nursing Center, and his death was attributed to a stroke. Survivors include three brothers, Bro. Homer, Can, and John; and four sisters, Sis. Golda Kehrn, Mrs. Della Fisher, Mrs. Margaret Confer, and Mrs.

Ida Shaffer. We are truly thankful Bro. Joel could be relieved of his earthly burdens and enter into heavenly rest, where there will be no more pain, sorrow and care.

Sis. Mary Krummen and Sis. Golda Kehrn are now residing at the Swiss Village Nursing Home. Others of our congregation who are staying there are Sis. Emma Isch, Sis. Mary Ann Reinhard, and Harry Dubach.

Recent shut-ins submitting to surgery were Sis. Ada (Harry) Gerber, Bro. Jay Rauch, Bro. Samuel Gerber, and Jeffrey Gerber (son of Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary K.). Sis. Mabel Kipfer, Mary Lantz, Sis. Mildred (Wm.) Neuen-schwander, and Vivian Steffen, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Carol were hospitalized for observations and treatment. Bro. Andrew Hackenjos has been dismissed to his home after a lengthy hospital stay, but is still bedfast.

The conference report was read and discussed by our Elder Bros. Sam and John. We are certainly thankful for the advice and admonitions presented to us, and may we all strive for the virtue of obedience.

Results of the election of the 1971 officers were announced on New Year's Day. They are as follows: Trustee, Bro. John Frank; Sec-Treas., Bro. Truman Baumgartner; Building Aid, Bro. Aden Strahm; Personal Property, Bro. Bob Maller; World Relief, Bro. Glen Moser; Fellowship Hall Co-director, Bro. Curtis Tonner. Sunday School teachers elected were Bros. Dale Meyer, Richard Kaehr, Keith Honegger, Jay Kipfer, Philip Moser, Gary Ringger, Charles Shively, Stanley Isch, Dwight Moser, and Bill Longenberger. Bros. Jay Kipfer and Wallace Le-man were selected to help with song leading. May the Lord lead, guide, and direct them in their duties, and may He reward them for their diligent services.

Today we stand upon the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the new year, and we are going forth to possess it. All our supply is to come from the Lord. Here are springs that shall never run dry. The land is of hills and valleys, not all smooth nor all downhill. It is the hill-difficulty that drives us to the throne of grace and brings down the shower of blessing. How many have perished in the wilder-

ness, buried under its sands, who would have lived and thriven in the hill-country. God's hills are a gracious protection for His people against their foes. We were reminded so richly on New Year's Day that we all have at least one talent, and it is our duty to put it to use, whether it be helping the needy . . . visiting the sick, we all have many opportunities daily. May we not pass any by, and it shall be a good and blessed new year.

CHICAGO

We were privileged to have four visiting ministers, Bros. Ben Fehr and Gene Bertschi from Roanoke, Roy Wieland from Bay City, and Robert Pohl from Burlington, Iowa. May all our ministers be given the extra grace necessary to continue their duties.

The Sunday School presented the congregation with a wonderful Christmas program of songs and recitation on Dec. 16.

Elder Bro. Gene Bertschi aided Elder Bro. Al Fisher in the presentation of the memorandum on Dec. 20.

We are unhappy that Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Sauder have moved from our midst to Washington, Ill., but wish them God's blessing on their future home.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diana Bucher and children have moved from Valparaiso, where they assembled at the La Crosse church, to Woodridge, Ill. They will now assemble with us. We welcome them into our area.

It was good to see Bro. and Sis. Richard Sutter and baby girl, from Ft. Lauderdale, on a short visit over the holidays. Rich and Kathy lived for some time in Chicago before moving to Ft. Lauderdale.

EUREKA

**Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher**

The evening of Dec. 13 with the help of Bro. Ed Hohulin, Bro. Leroy Huber read the notes from the conference. It is always interesting to hear what was decided in the ways to try to help keep our churches in godly order. Now it is up to everyone to do their best to please our Heavenly Father and to be a good light in this wicked world.

Sunday morn. Dec. 13, the Sun. School children along with their

teachers delivered boxes of groceries to some needy and deserving families in our town. It was also a gift of love at this Christmas-time. Our annual Christmas program was held on Tuesday evening, Dec. 22, with the children taking part. Church services were held on Christmas Day, and again on New Year's Eve, with a large crowd in attendance both times. If all people would assemble as they do on special occasions, each Sunday we would have a full house.

Birth: A son to Richard and Janet Knecht, born Dec. 17. He is their fifth son and has been named James Frederick.

In the hospital: Sis. Minnie Leman is a medical patient in the Eureka Hospital. Sis. Pauline Miller is a patient in the same hospital; she resides at the "Home".

The three last people who have come to the home are: Sis. Lena Minger from Roanoke, Bro. Ben Zimmerman from Congerville, Sis. Julia Leman from Goodfield.

Bro. Eli Somerhalder from Burlington was a visitor.

A brief summary of the past year is as follows: five funerals were held at the church, four weddings; two new babies were born; five souls were baptized, seven more have repented and are waiting to be taken in.

Ann Getz and Robert Knepp were married Dec. 27 by Bro. Eugene Bertschi, at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Emery and Mabel Getz. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Ralph and Ruth Knepp from Roanoke.

Bible Reading

Feb. 1, Leviticus, chapters 1-4; Feb. 2, 5-6; Feb. 3, 7-8; Feb. 4, 9-11; Feb. 5, 12-13; Feb. 6, 14-15; Feb. 7, 16-18; Feb. 8, 19-21; Feb. 9, 22-23; Feb. 10, 24-25; Feb. 11, 26-27; Feb. 12, Numbers, chapters 1-2; Feb. 13, 3-4; Feb. 14, 5-6; Feb. 15, 7-8; Feb. 16, 9-10; Feb. 17, 11-12; Feb. 18, 13-14; Feb. 19, 15-16; Feb. 20, 17-19; Feb. 21, 20-21; Feb. 22, 22-23; Feb. 23, 24-26; Feb. 24, 27-28; Feb. 25, 29-30; Feb. 26, 31-32; Feb. 27, 33-34; Feb. 28, 35-36.

FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

Have we ever made a New Year's resolution, and later realized the strong power of the enemy kept us

from carrying out our intentions? Samson "took hold of the two middle pillars" and carried out his intentions to overcome his enemies to the glory of God. The two pillars in Solomon's temple were named Jacin and Boaz, meaning: "He will affirm and in Him strength". God affirms through His word, and His strength is manifested in the Holy Spirit. These 2 pillars, which hold up God's house, God's people, or God's work, are the word and the Spirit. When we **take hold** of these 2 pillars, we, too, can carry out our intentions to glorify God.

Ned Owen is the new Dec. 12 arrival for Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler. Other children are Roy, Marie, Sara, and Neil. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. George Broquard and Sis. Ida Bahler.

We welcome Sis. Louise (Steffen) Furrer and children, Julie and Sammy, who moved to Fairbury. We are happy to have them with us in our congregation.

Bro. Everett Hari was a guest minister here.

Sis. Amelia Zimmerman underwent cataract surgery on her left eye. Mrs. Lyle Honegger underwent surgery at Bloomington. Little Tricia, daughter of Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen, is ill in the hospital. We pray the Lord Jesus will grant a speedy recovery to each.

GRIDLEY

Edna Somerhalder — Wilma Young

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine." We wish to thank Elder Bros. Joshua Broquard and Samuel Anliker for the deliberation of the church conference so aptly presented. The concern our shepherds have for the flock should impel all to strive for a closer walk with our dear Lord.

Friend Douglas Kraft has peace with God and man. The Lord willing, he will give testimony of faith, followed by baptism, Jan. 24.

The Sunday School presented a Christmas program. It is heart-stirring to observe our youth praising the Lord in reading scriptures and singing hymns. May the teachers be rewarded for their time and efforts.

We extend sympathy to the Beyer and Knapp families in the tragedy that claimed Betty (Beyer) Osborn's life. Besides her husband,

three daughters in grade school survive.

Kerry Jo Strahm was hospitalized five days, following surgery. She has made a full recovery. Sis. Esther Kraft spent 8 days in the hospital, following a collision with a propane truck on Dec. 14. Her husband, Bro. Sam, suffered a badly bruised arm. Both are home, slowly recuperating. We commit them to the Lord, trusting it is His will to grant them a complete recovery in the near future. Last months hospital patients have recuperated and are assembling in church.

Kerry Jo Strahm, daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis. Lisiten, and Steven Beyer (son of Sis. Mary Isch) were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker in the bride's home. Immediately following, a reception was held. They have our congratulations and best wishes for their spiritual needs. They will live in Emporia, where Kerry is a LPN at St. Marys. Steven attends college and is an assistant gas station operator.

We welcome Clarence and Rosemary Young, formerly from Arizona, into our midst. They are in the process of buying a farm. Clarence is a brother to Sis. Lisiten Strahm.

It has been our privilege to have Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker, Bro. Roy Wernli, and Bro. Samuel Huber as our visiting ministers. May they be rewarded for sharing the gospel with us. Please visit us again.

After a beautiful Christmas and New Year's Day, we are experiencing winter weather. We're thankful we do not have snow and ice as many do nearby.

INDIANAPOLIS

Charles and Doris Neuenschwander

Bro. Henry Beer was the last minister to have services with us for the year of 1970. He spent Dec. 13 with us. Henry has a great gift from God in being able to remember so many Bible quotations, poems and songs. On Dec. 20 we had no minister. We sang, then a brother led us in prayer. After this Bro. Howard Rapp led in a Bible discussion. We finished our services with a song and a prayer. Dec. 27 we had no services.

We opened the new year by having Bro. Ed Frank from La Crosse rendering his services. The crowd

was rather small, but we felt God was in our midst.

After spending about a year and a half at Indianapolis, Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp and family are planning to move back to Morton. They will be greatly missed. They were so good to help in the church and Sunday School, but since this is their choice, we wish them God's grace in their decision.

On Dec. 15 our son-in-law and daughter, Tom and Cynthia Cox became parents for the first time. We welcome little Tobi Michelle into our family.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bob and Donna Perdelwitz have a new son, Tod Jeffrey, born Dec. 7. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Viola Perdelwitz of Oakville and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gustafson of Mediapolis, Iowa.

We welcome two new sisters-in-the-faith, Sis. Lavilla Zaugg and Sis. Eileen Fisher, of West Bend. They were taken into the fold on Dec. 6.

We enjoyed hearing the word spoken by Bro. Harve Heiniger of Oakville at our December meeting.

MINNEAPOLIS

Alma Baum — Gus Baum

Bro. Carl Feucht, Lester; Elder Bros. Paul Fehr, Morris; and Paul Butikofer, West Bend brought God's word into our midst during December. The elder brothers shared the reading of the memorandum. Our thanks to them.

Our friends, Mark and Diane Kellenberger have turned their life over to our Lord, in search for their soul's salvation. We rejoice and pray for them in this most important decision.

A son, Timothy Jon, was born to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson, Rachele Lyn is his sister. God's blessings to your family circle, Ken and Sharon. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ervin Moser and Laurence and Helen Lawson of Morris.

We have singing worship on the second Sunday, also the last Wed. of the month, 7:30 p.m., in our little church on 43rd St. and Wentworth.

PEORIA

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

Our congregation was most richly blest the last Sunday of 1970 to

have one more dear soul added to the flock. We welcome Irene Gray, daughter of Sis. Alice Gray, as our dear sister in faith. It is our sincere wish that many more dear friends can recognize their lost condition and come to Jesus in true repentance, and be saved from everlasting damnation and have the glorious hope of a heavenly home, in eternity, forever with the Lord. Bros. Noah Herman from Tucson and Lynn Klopfenstein were our visiting ministers that Sunday. It was so nice that Noah could be here for Irene's testimony, as she is his niece.

We are happy to see dear brothers who come in the spirit of love and minister to us. Bro. Eugene Bertschi helped our dear Bros. Roy Sauder and Charles Hemmer convey the deliberations from the Brotherhood conference. Bros. Elias Somerhalder and Robert Grimm also visited our congregation. We thank them all for their labors of love.

Our friend, Jim Irions was discharged from the Air Force just before Christmas.

We have many of our dear ones in the hospitals: Sisters Martha Altorfer, Emma Eberhardt, Emma Binkele, Eugenia Schlipf, and Bro. Theodore Schlatter. Bros. Frank Lambert and Chris Schafer are home now, recuperating after having been in the hospital. May they all feel God's nearness and love, and may we remember them in our prayers.

Sis. Barbara Merkel, 87, died Dec. 28 in a hospital in Arlington Heights. She had lived in Peoria 64 years, before moving to Barrington 3 years ago to live with her niece, Katherine Baer. Surviving besides her niece are two sisters, Sis. Julia Ehnle and Mrs. George (Marie) Ziegele. Bro. Albert Fisher of Chicago officiated at the funeral services.

Sis. Rose Langahr, 84, a resident of Peoria 64 years, died Jan. 2, at Proctor Hospital, where she was a patient for a week. Surviving are one sister, Sis. Martha Langjahr; one brother, Carl, both of Peoria; and several nieces and nephews. Both dear sisters, Barbara and Rose were born in Germany and were very devout in their faith.

A group of Bluffton brethren visited our area the first week-end in December. We enjoyed their fel-

lowship and especially thank the "Zionaires", who sang a number of selections for us at our Hymn-Sing, which we enjoyed at the Fellowship Hall. The night of the January Hymn Sing was rather cold and snowy outside, but the adult choir from Morton joined us, and certainly a blessing was again derived from fellowship and song. We thank both Bluffton and Morton for participating, and truly we can say these are joys of a foretaste of what is in store for the believers.

Note of thanks: We would like to express our sincere thanks to relatives and friends for the cards, gifts and prayers, while we were in the hospital and since returning home. They were all greatly appreciated. David and Barbara Hoerr.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Emily Heinold — Linda Laidig

To celebrate the Christmas season, the Purdue young group went caroling to a hospital and several old people's homes on Dec. 15. We enjoyed spreading the Christmas message in this way.

On the following evening, Dec. 16, we had our annual Christmas program. One of the highlights of the program was the Zionaires Quartet from Bluffton. Their beautiful singing was a wonderful addition to our program. Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville completed the evening with a very inspirational Christmas message.

Much happiness is wished to Sis. Suzanne (Bucher) and Bro. Arthur Ringger, who were married on Dec. 27. They are planning to live in West Lafayette until June.

As we enter the new year, may we always look to Christ as our Guide and Counsellor. This thought is expressed in the following poem:

Just one thing, O Master, I ask
today,
Now that the old year has passed
away,
And a promising new year, through
grace of Thine,
With all the dreams of youth is
mine—
Just one thing I ask as I onward
go,
That I'll walk with Thee—not too
fast nor slow;
Just one thing I ask, and nothing
more,

Not to linger behind, nor run
before,

O Master! This is my only plea—
Take hold of my life and pilot me.

SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Sis. Mary Bahr Aberle, 23, passed away suddenly Dec. 17. She became ill Wednesday afternoon and was hospitalized at the Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka, where she died early Thursday morning. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon, Dec. 20. Bro. Dave Kieser, Princeville, and Bro. Eugene Marti officiated. Bro. Sam Huber had the prayer at the grave. Burial was in the Sabetha Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Stephen Aberle, who she married on Jan. 18, 1970. Also surviving are her parents, Bro. Willard and Sis. Eloise Bahr; one sister and two brothers: Sis. Martha, Bro. Mark and Bro. Phil. She also leaves many relatives and friends to mourn her passing and will be sadly missed by our community. There were many visitors from a distance who came to join us in our sorrow. Bro. John Steiner of Oakville held the morning services. We thank him for bringing us the words of life, and invite him to return.

Sis. Louise Hartman has been in the hospital for sometime, but hopes to be released soon. She would like to thank all for the many cards, gifts, prayers and deeds of kindness extended to her. Sis. Edna Steiner was hospitalized a few days and has been transferred to the Fountain Villa Rest Home in Sabetha.

Joyce Kellenberger and Kent D. Woodworth were united in marriage in Wichita on Dec. 21. A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 22. Joyce is the daughter of Sis. Marie Kellenberger and the granddaughter of Sis. Edna Steiner. The new couple will be at home in Denver, Colorado for the present, where he is serving in the US Air Force. She is employed at Mercy Hospital in Denver.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Liseten Aberle and Bro. Andy and Sis. Irene Lehman enjoyed a three-week trip to Europe last fall. Mr. and Mrs. Artur Wehner, cousins of Sis. Irene, met their plane in Frankfurt, Germany. They visited her uncle, aunt and some cousins near Stutt-

gart. They also went to Austria, Italy and Switzerland. They enjoyed a cruise on the Rhine River and saw many beautiful flowers, mountains and castles.

We met Saturday evening, Jan. 2, to hear the testimony of Ronnie Menold, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Tillie Menold. Following his testimony, we also heard the conference letter, which was brought to us by Bro. Eugene Marti and Bro. Lester Hartter of Bern. Baptismal services were held following the afternoon services on Sunday. We welcome Bro. Ronnie into the fold. May the Lord ever guide him in his daily walk of life. We were surprised during the night with our first severe winter snowstorm. Many of the roads were closed due to the drifted snow. The Bern church remained closed, and many of them joined our congregation for services and to witness the baptismal service.

This new year begins our mid-week services again, in place of our Sunday hymn sing. However, due to weather conditions, we are not meeting this week. We alternate each week with the Bern congregation. Services begin at 7:30. Every one is welcome to attend.

WEST BEND

Mrs. Melvin Fehr Mrs. A. Banwart

After many years of faithful service in the ministry and shepherding God's people, Bro. Paul Banwart retired from this important work on Dec. 6. It will be the prayerful wishes of the West Bend congregation that Bro. Banwart's remaining years will be filled with the blessings of God, and that a great blessing awaits him on the shores of eternity. Part of these duties laid down by Paul will be carried on by Bro. Noah Gerber and Bro. Earl Banwart.

Somehow we can't fully appreciate the blessing of health until it has been taken from us in part. Hospital patients were Craig, son of Bro. and Sis. Victor and Marilyn Banwart, and Sis. Verda (Mrs. Don) Bruellman. May the days ahead bring better health to them.

Our congregation has been blessed with three little babies. Mr. and Mrs. Randy Ludwig are the parents of a baby girl, Vicki Lynn, born Dec. 11. She has three brothers, Dean, Rod, and Scott to welcome her home. On Dec. 30, Bro.

Duane and Sis. Elizabeth Metzger gave birth to a baby boy, Brian Duane. He has a sister, Sara, and a brother Brent. A boy, Byron Wayne, arrived Jan. 1 to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr. Melissa and Tamara are Byron's sisters.

Our friends, Rodger and Judy Fehr and their three sons, Ronnie, Billy and Donnie have left to make their home in Hawaii. Rodger is the son of Sis. Jessie Fehr. We will miss them in our midst and pray the Lord will bless them in their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Banwart and children, Blair and Jenifer, returned from Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has been in the Air Force 3 years and 8 months. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Silas and Ida Banwart. He is the last of their six sons and one son-in-law to complete his service for the nation. They all were overseas, Les being in Korea just a short time. Bro. and Sis. Silas and Ida are very thankful to God for protecting them all.

Mrs. Miriam Frieden, daughter of Bro. Paul Banwart Sr., has completed her LPN training and is living in Humboldt, Ia., where she is employed at the hospital. May the Lord bless her and all who so faithfully devote their time in caring for the ill and aged.

The duty of reporter for the Silver Lining has been put on a rotation basis. Sis. Glenagene (Melvin) Fehr is the new reporter.

We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Leo Moser and Gene Metzger of Lester with us Dec. 26. Following afternoon services, Leo solemnized the marriage of Friends Joleen Wirtz and Marvin Metzger in the home of Joleen's parents, Bro. and Sis. Verner and Beverly Wirtz. Marvin, son of Bro. and Sis. Jake and Donnadelle Metzger, and his bride will make their home near Lester. May the Lord bless this union.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

As we start the new year, let us remember:

When the One Great Scorer comes
To write against your name,
He writes not that you won or
lost—

But how you played the game.

The Christmas program given at

the church by the children beautifully expressed the birth of Christ and honored His holy name.

Our Christmas services were held Christmas forenoon. Home for Christmas was Lillian Winzeler from Wheaton Ill.; Norma Frank from Wisconsin; Bill and Jan Hartman from Colorado.

We were refreshed with gems of gold spoken from our Bro. Floyd Wieland, from the Detroit church.

New year services were New Year's forenoon.

Our dear sister, Sarah Schwartz, wife of Aaron Schwartz, did not have to spend much time at the rest home; soon the Saviour called her to be with Him. Funeral services were held at the Leo church, and burial in the Leo Cemetery. She had been a faithful helper in mailing out the Silver Lining, also in helping care for the Fellowship Center.

Our friend, Lydia Conrad has been quite ill, but is much improved. Andrew Bertsch is spending some time at the Park View Hospital, after having surgery on his hip. His brother, Edward is getting along as usual in the National Rest Home, where he is staying.

ALTADENA

Freda and Rhoda Minger

We were richly blessed to have Bro. Homer Reineck of Toledo as our guest speaker Dec. 27. In the 4th chapter of Thessalonians, he pointed out the importance of each one doing his own business to work with your own hands and to study to be more quiet, and in so doing that we walk honestly toward them that are without. It keeps us on our guard, and we surely need to watch and pray so God will guide us daily.

Bro. Carl Kinsinger shared with us the summary of the Conference. Being refreshed anew, may we all strive harder and more earnestly to obey, thus preserving our humble way of life.

A wedding shower honoring Janet Graf was held Jan. 2. Janet and Tom Hayes will be married Jan. 24; they are both attending college.

There has been much sickness, mostly flu and colds in our area. Our temperature dropped as low as 23 degrees, and many citrus growers light the smudge-pots to help protect the oranges and lemons. We can feel thankful to God that

not too much damage was done, and again can see how He always provides for the needs of the human family.

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Janice Springer — Janice Frieden

The joy of the Christmas Season has again shown us how blessed we are that God loved us enough to send Jesus, the Baby of Bethlehem, the Man of Calvary.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. George Lambert, Wichita; and Bro. Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott. May God bless them for lending themselves.

Sis. Mary Kisling was a hospital patient, but we are happy she is now up and about.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. and Sis. Isaac Diel on the death of their son, Oliver; and to Sis. Sophia Kircher on the death of her son, Glen, of Wichita. "I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

On Dec. 21, the Sunday School brought us nigh to Bethlehem with their annual Christmas program. On the 23rd, many of us caroled around the Kiowa and Burlington areas. Bro. and Sis. Richard Guthrie opened their home for refreshments afterward. Special Services were held on Christmas Day, and on New Year's Day, to make our Christmas and New Year complete.

Bro. and Sis. Joe Frieden offered their home for our first-Sunday-of-the-month singing on Jan. 3.

New reporters to the Silver Lining were chosen Sunday, Jan. 3. They are Sis. Janice Springer and Sis. Janice Frieden.

Silver Lining dues are due during the month of February.

Let's not ever forget to thank God for our freedom of worship and fellowship. Many haven't that freedom.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Carol Virkler

Mrs. David Schamback

It is surely uplifting to our faith to see dear little ones telling with joy the real meaning of Christmas. Our Christmas program was enjoyed by all.

Funeral services were held Dec. 22 for Sis. Inez Snyder in the Naumburg church. She is survived by a brother, Carl, and sister, Sis. Rachel, Mrs. Francis (Irene) Schwendy, Mrs. Stanley (Beulah)

Clifford, Mrs. Raymond (Mary) Zecher, and Mrs. Clarence, (Gladys) Tiss.

Sis. Barbara Virkler was hospitalized, but has returned home feeling quite well. Sis. Cora Beyer is hospitalized. Bro. Asa Virkler is now a patient at the Bender Nursing Home. We wish them each a rich measure of God's comfort and grace to bear their lot.

MANSFIELD Aaron A. Sauder

Although the Christmas season is over for another year, the stanza of one of the familiar carols seems appropriate as we start a new year:

Holy Jesus every day
Keep us in the narrow way,
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransom'd souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Rudy Graf and Noah Bauman on Dec. 13, at which time the memorandum was read. Bro. Aaron Steffen of Alto ministered to us on Sunday Dec. 27, and also at our New Year's eve services.

Michael Bocka exchanged marriage vows with Karen Baker on Dec. 26. May the Lord bless and guide this young couple in their new life together. Mike is the son of Sis. Leora Gasser Bocka and the late Bro. Emil Bocka.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Ruth Weiss, who made a return visit for further tests, and Harold Went, who had surgery.

We would ask God's comfort to Bro. Alvin and Isaac Riggenbach, as we extend our sympathy in the death of their brother, who was critically injured in an explosion while working and passed away several days later.

NEUHUTTEN, GERMANY David Kaeb

The Christmas holidays have provided a wonderful opportunity for all of us to assemble with the Maurer family. Those spending their time in Neuhutten lately have been Bill Witzig, Bill Baumgartner, Ced Messner, David Kaeb, and Terry Nussbaum, Dale Young, Dennis Knapp, Ron Little, John Aberle, and Phil Baumgartner. We all wish to thank the Maurers for their

Christian love and hospitality. May God bless them.

Our newest troop is Dennis Knapp from Congerville. Dennis is stationed just twenty miles south of Frankfurt in Darmstadt. Bro. Bill Baumgartner leaves the middle of January for his home in Bluffton. He has enrolled at Purdue University. We shall all miss Bill's diplomatic advice and gentle ways. Another brother will assume the reporting, as Terry and I also leave early in February.

OAKVILLE Martha Steiner

Clark Alan, born Dec. 17, is a welcome addition to the family of Bro. John and Sis. Nelda (Kuntz) Rowell. He has two brothers, Lanny and Nathan.

We enjoyed the visit of Ministering Bro. Arnold Gerst from Chicago.

Friends Ed Stoller and Patty Kelly were married Dec. 26 and will live in Iowa City, where Ed attends school. Their parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Ione (Heiniger) Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly.

We spent a blessed eve, on Jan. 2, hearing the testimonies of four young men who found it worthwhile to seek their soul's salvation: Craig Wagenbach (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Marti Wagenbach), Walter and Joseph Gerst (Bro. Paul and Sis. Elva Butikofer Gerst), and Curtis Frank (Bro. Earnest and Sis. Bernice Moser Frank). We were thankful that Elder Bro. Leo Moser from Lester was with us to help our elder.

At the close of the evening, Bro. Schrock stated we would witness the baptisms of these four, God willing and we live. Little did we realize as we said our farewells that many would not be present for that very event! Sunday we awoke to a near blizzard which brought about 10 inches of snow. We slowly drove to church and arrived about the usual time, finding only two cars there ahead of us.

For the next hour, when the storm was at its worst, more people came from all directions, until 120 were there; we would have expected over 400 in normal weather. After the Elder Bros. arrived, we assembled for services at 11:00. We truly enjoyed Bro. Moser's inspiring sermon.

The brother bringing the food for lunch was unable to get to

church from Burlington, so the evening meal was served for lunch. To allow more time for preparing the food, it was decided to proceed with the baptisms, although many relatives were missing. As one of our new brothers in faith commented, it was like a miracle that all four of them and both elder brothers were able to get to church, especially as the elders had come from Burlington (about 20 miles).

Only one other minister, Bro. Harvey Heiniger, was able to come. Bro. Simon Wagenbach from Tremont and those with him were at the home of Bro. John Steiner. Bro. Ed Lanz Jr. and his family had to stay home, but they had company. Some families got to their home and were unable to go further, so spent the day with the Lanzas. Others had considerable trouble and still couldn't make it, but we are thankful that everyone eventually reached their homes safely by the end of the day. We will certainly appreciate more fully our normal freedom in assembling every Sunday and Wednesday evening.

PHOENIX Wilma Pulfer

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Jerry and Kathy (Everett) Emch, who were married on Dec. 12 in the home of Jerry's parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene Emch. We wish them many blessings in their new life together.

Hospitalized were Sis. Lois Elsasser and Christine Schuster, for surgeries. Our prayers are for their complete recoveries.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held on Dec. 20. There was a special little glow on the faces of our little ones, as they each stepped up to express in poem and song the birth of Baby Jesus.

ROANOKE Norene Herbst—Marilyn Weyeneth

A large attendance enjoyed the Sunday School Christmas program, which was held Sun., Dec. 20. They were commended for their efforts by our elder, Bro. Eugene Bertschi.

A baby girl, Barbara Jo, has come to live with Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Hodel and their three children, Brent, Brad and Boni.

Neal Hodel, Curt Knepp and Doug Fehr were home on furlough over the holidays. Neal has finished his tour of duty in Viet Nam and is expecting to be sent elsewhere

overseas. Curt was able to be home for the wedding of his brother, Kenneth, and Ann Getz. He expects to be sent to Viet Nam in the near future. Doug is still stationed at Ft. Sam Houston.

Sis. Nettie Pfau has been in the Eureka Hospital for physical therapy and is convalescing.

Announcements have been made of the engagements of our friends: Judie Blunier to Dan Magnuson of Peoria, and Joan Leman to Dave Lockwood of Washington. Joan is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Anne Leman of Eureka; Bro. Walter and Sis. Marian Blunier are Judie's parents.

Our friends, Rick Zimmerman and Diane Whited gave their testimonies of repentance and conversion on Sat., Jan. 2, and were then baptized on Sunday. Rick is the son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Helen Zimmerman. Diane's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Lester Whited of Benson.

Our visiting ministers serving us were Bros. Everett Hari (Normal), David Bertsch (Leo), Art Baurer (Princeville), George Wag-nbach (Princeville), Dave Wie-gand (Urbana) and Joe Zimmerman (Morton).

Sis. Hulda Beer reached her 93rd birthday Dec. 26. She has been able to attend church regularly.

ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

Funeral services of Bro. Arnold Hany, 68, were on Tuesday at the church. He died Saturday night, Dec. 17, at his home where he was stricken. Although having had several close brushes with death in the past, he did, however, recover sufficiently to enable him to yet be with his family for a spell. Arnold was a good father and husband. Besides his wife, Sis. Hilda (Aberle) Hany, he leaves three sons, Raymond, Bros. Peter C. and Richard Hany; eight brothers, four in this country: Otto, Bros. Werner, Walter and John, and four in Switzerland: Adolph, Hermann, Paul and Carl Hany; and a sister, Elizabeth Marte. Burial was in Ellington Center Cemetery.

Death came gently to Sis. Arline I. Schneider, early Sunday morning Dec. 20. Even though her illness was of a somewhat lengthy nature, she bore it in patience. She had no fear of death, but the sorrow to her family that surely would

come made her sad, she said. Family ties there were close. Besides her mother, Sis. Emily (Ludwig) Schneider, she leaves her four sisters, Sis. Leah, Sis. Bertha (Schneider) Trueb, Sis. Barbara and Sis. Ruth Schneider. Funeral services at the church were conducted by Elder John Bahler, Bros. Ernest Gerber and Corbin Bahler. Interment was in the Ellington Center Cemetery.

Bro. John Bahler read the Conference Memorandum and left with the congregation words of wisdom and warnings. It was as much as to say, experience should teach us to be most on our guard to preserve and to protect that which over the years has been preserved for the believer of today and those yet to follow. It was thought that the greatest dangers lurk in insidious encroachment by those of zeal, well meaning but without understanding. Deception is what is to be feared, he felt. Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl told the congregation "that Lot's wife was rescued but," he said, "she looked back!"

Bro. John Hoffman, whose name appeared in this column some issues back as having undergone major surgery here, wishes to offer his sincere thanks and gratefulness for the cards and other acts of kindness. He is at his home at present.

A son was born to Bro. Edwin and Sis. Beverly (Lanz) Gerber Jan. 5. The infant's grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Fannie (Zimmerman) Lanz and Bro. Walter and Sis. Leah (Bahler) Gerber. They have four other children, three girls and one boy.

TREMONT

Josephine Schaefer Mary Jane Leuthold

Sis. Emma Rowell passed away at her home, Dec. 9. Funeral services were held on Dec. 11. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Bro. Fred; three stepsons, and three stepdaughters.

Bro. Noah Herman visited our congregation this past Christmas season. We thank him for his message.

Our annual Christmas program was held Dec. 13. We heard of the humble coming of our blessed Lord and Saviour. It seems all the children put forth their best efforts to tell us the never-old Christmas story.

Friends Gale Rapp, daughter of Bro. Elton and Sis. Helen, and John Renner of Tremont were married Dec. 19. Bro. Russel Rapp performed the home ceremony. We wish them many years of happiness together.

Bro. Dale Sauder had an emergency appendectomy but is now recovered, and assembled with us again. Bro. Jim Pfleiderer had surgery, but is again on the mend.

Another year has dawned, and may this year bring forth from all of us new zeal, greater love, and more faith in our Lord, family, brethren, and friends.

NOTICE: Bro. John Zimmerman, Morton is missing his dark colored, with small unobtrusive checks, overcoat, with a zip in lining and a Sherman label—Peoria, taken last April at the funeral of Bill Hohulin. If those attending the funeral in Tremont would check their coats, it would be greatly appreciated. The coat left hanging in Tremont church **does not** have a lining in it, but has the zipper for one, and is identical to John's, except it is smaller.

BAY CITY

Carolyn Knochel—Marlene Mosher

A New Year! Let each look closely at his soul, and in this year grow in faith and humility, and in closeness to God.

The engagement was announced of Sis. Julee Wackerle, daughter of Bro. Frank and Sis. Faye, to Bro. Kurt Bahler, son of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois of Remington. Kurt is stationed with the Army at Ft. Sam. We pray for God's grace and blessings for them as they plan for their life together.

Another dear old soul has passed away, Sis. Rose Lambert, who has been ill for some time. She is survived by two sons, Wilbur and Nelson, and two daughters, Sis. Inez Grew, and Sis. Irma Braigel. Rose was a good light in our church; though we will miss her, we can be glad for her.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Rosella Obermann Verna Woodward

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Rekie Anliker observed their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 6. They were happy to have all of their family, except their youngest daughter, Elma Lou, with them for the oc-

casation. Many of their friends were on hand to wish them well.

We were so glad to see Sis. Janelle Scott and her husband Don in church, while Don was on leave from his Army duty.

Our annual Christmas program by the Sun. School classes was held following our afternoon service, Sunday, Dec. 20. We sincerely hope that the familiar stories of the Baby Jesus, and also the crucified Christ will become even more dear to them as they grow up to the eventual saving of their souls.

That evening a group of us went caroling to the homes of several shut-ins and elderly, and to the hospitals, where our songs brought many blessings to the carolers, as well as to those who listened.

Our first measurable snowfall of the season was a little later than usual this year. It was wet and heavy, and came so fast that it was impossible to clear the streets and roads in time for us to have services.

CISSNA PARK

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

What will the New Year bring me?

I may not, must not know.

Will it be love and rapture or
loneliness and woe?

Hush, hush . . . I hear His whisper,
I surely shall be blest:

My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest.

Christmas has come and gone. The Sunday School presented us with a Christmas program entitled **The Prince of Peace**. The young folks brought joy to many of the sick and shut-in by singing Christmas carols. We have several that have not been able to attend church for some time: Sis. Ida Eisenman, Sis. Lena Rocke, Sis. Mary Hari and her husband Bro. Sam who so loyally takes care of her. It has been five years since they have been able to attend church. When you go there, you feel uplifted how God in mercy gives Sam strength. Bro. Albert Martin is an invalid; Bro. Clarence Knapp is a hospital patient. Our friend, John Anderson, son of Sis. Mary and Loren Anderson, was hurt in school and was hospitalized a few days. He is fine again, and we are thankful he is able to assemble with us. Sis. Esther Siegle is home, recuperating from surgery. Sis. Laura (Henry) Hodel is a hospital patient, having

had surgery.

Bro. Joe Waibel spent a Sunday with us and assisted Bro. Ezra in reading the deliberations from the conference, for which we are very grateful. Bro. Everett Hari brought us the Christmas message so clear and plain. We were reminded not to linger at the manger. Bro. Dale Eisenman brought us many teachings, and we were reminded of faith. Bro. Morris Frank brought out the beautiful illustration that a child of God is like material in a show case. We thank them for coming, and hope they will come again soon.

Five precious souls have repented and have peace with God and man. They are Leon Rinkenberger, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Irene; Kenneth Rinkenberger, son of Bro. Wm. and Sis. Marjorie; Dean Kaufman, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Marie; Ardean Schhipf, daughter of Sis. Eileen; and Mardall Knapp, daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verna. They hope to bring their testimony before the congregation soon.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Esther Seigle, through the passing of her sister, Naomi Streitmatter, age 66, who has made her home with her in the last year. After several months' illness, she passed away at the Watseka Hospital. Funeral services were held Jan. 4 at Peoria. She was laid to rest besides her late husband.

Thank you Note: We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all our loved ones who remembered us with kind expressions of sympathy and for the many prayers uttered on our behalf. The family of Chris Eisenman.

Born to Sis. Jean and Bro. Larry Kaufman was a girl, Jill Corrine, Jan. 3. She has a sister to welcome her home. Bro. Robert Kaufman and Sis. Marie, Bro. and Sis. Wm. Belsey are grandparents.

I had a letter from my niece, Marlene Rudin in Milwaukee Wis., thanking me for putting her on the **Silver Lining** list; she enjoys it.

Our annual meeting was held on our midweek services.

Congratulations to Bro. and Sis. Sam Hari, as they are observing their 60th anniversary.

FORT LAUDERDALE

Howard and Joyce Baumgartner

On Sunday Dec. 20 our Sunday School presented their Christmas

program. The small children recited verses in their quiet, distinct voices. The entire group sang Christmas songs. It stirred our hearts to see and hear the children talking of "Baby Jesus." I am sure we all feel the exchanging of gifts is much overdone, although through this means, I am inclined to believe, more people have deeper thoughts about the Nativity.

On Sunday, Dec. 27, we had a church supper for many parents and children from out of state that came to visit us over the holidays. We always enjoy visitors, also friends for our Sunday School children.

God will not look you
over for medals,
degrees or diplomas,
but for scars.

MILFORD, INDIANA

Marguerite Hoerr

Congratulations to Sis. Susan Price and Bro. Robert Cockburn, whose engagement was announced. Susan's parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kate of our Milford congregation, and Bob is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cockburn of Altoona, Pa. May God bless this happy time of their lives as they make their wedding plans.

Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Haab have welcomed their second child, a dear little boy, into their family. He has been named Jeffrey Arnold.

Bro. Mike Zimmerman has returned home from a two-week stay at the Mayo Clinic, where he received medical treatment. He is able to meet with us in church again, and we thank God for making this possible.

Sadness has come to our congregation again as we received words of the death of Bro. George Graff. It seemed that he and Sis. Ida had just bid us all **goodbye** as they went to their winter home in Florida, when we received the news. We sincerely offer our sympathy to Ida and to their three sons, Bill, John and Doug, and to his many brothers and sisters in our community. Funeral services were conducted in Sarasota, before returning to Milford. Bro. Ben Maibach conducted the comforting service here. May God be with his family as they adjust to this loss.

Bro. Earl Zeltwanger and Bro. Theo. Beer shared the minutes of the annual Brotherhood Confer-

ence with us—each of them giving helpful advice to us.

On the same Sunday we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Philip Beer was elected trustee, and Bro. Bob Kaiser was given the responsibility of Brotherhood Aid (Building).

Bros. Steve Kaiser and Bill Troup, and Rodger Hunberger were thankful to escape serious injury as their car ran into a snow-plow during a heavy snow, on a return trip from Wisconsin.

Funeral services were conducted on Jan. 8 for Omar Weisser of Denver Colo., in Fairbury, by Bros. Theo. Beer and Josh Broquard. Members of his family in our community are Sisters Emma Krauter, Aline Hoerr and Betty Knochel, and Herman and Bro. Charles Weisser. We extend heartfelt sympathy to all of his family.

PORTLAND Connie Steffen

The New Year is well started. We still have over 300 days left. How are we going to spend them? The Lord said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." Let us all be more like our Lord and work where He would show us.

"I will make thy windows of agates . . . all thy borders of pleasant stones."

The Sunday School rock shop, which has been in the building stage for the past several months, is now completed. Many of the members helped in its construction, and special thanks go to Bro. Robert Miller, who devoted many an evening of work towards its finish.

The purpose of this hobby shop is to provide an interesting and beneficial pastime for our young people in fashioning cabachons, book ends, pen bases, agate coffee tables, serving trays, etc., out of petrified wood, agate, and jasper which are found over wide areas and in numerous deposits of the Pacific Northwest.

A spiritual lesson can readily be derived from the lapidary wheel. A semi-precious stone can lie lost to view beneath the ground, and when it is at last unearthed, the dirt and clay are washed away. It then undergoes the processes of reshaping, sanding and polishing, after which it receives a brilliant luster. The gem stone can then be

displayed in various ways and used for different purposes.

So, too, a poor lost sinner is hopelessly encrusted with the dirt of this world, until his life is rescued by the Saviour. He is then washed and remade into a saint of God, and his real worth and true beauty appear to all.

TOLEDO Diane Reineck

Our Sunday School group went caroling to spread their Christmas cheer to our older members and shut-ins. On the Sunday before Christmas, the children presented their program. What a joy it was to listen to their verses and songs, telling of the birth of Christ.

Bro. Al Weigele was elected as our new trustee at the annual meeting.

The engagement of Kenneth Newman, son of Warren and Sis. Lois, and Patricia Jacobs was made known over the holidays. We wish them much happiness.

Sis. Emily Frautschi and I were privileged to gather with the church folks in Ft. Lauderdale during our stay in Florida. It is truly a wonderful feeling to meet and greet those of like mind and spirit so far away from home.

SARASOTA Philip Wingeier

The name "Genesis" means beginning. This book tells the story of the beginning of the world and of the first man and the first woman. Their names were Adam and Eve. It tells of Noah, who built the great ark and lived in it during the flood. It tells of the rainbow of God's promise. It tells the story of Joseph and his brothers. It tells of Abraham, who trusted and obeyed God, and of Isaac and his sons, Jacob and Esau, and how Jacob's name was changed to Israel when he wrestled with an angel.

Again we begin a new year, trusting in Almighty God to direct us all on our various ways, thus bringing us all to a good and blessed end.

We have been richly blessed with God's word, with visiting ministers who have traveled this way and worshiped with us. Bro. Joe Schrock and Sis. Esther remain with us for some time; we are very thankful to the Lord to have them in our midst. Other ministers were Bro. Andrew Virkler, Bay City;

Bro. Willis Wiegand, Congerville; Bro. Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale, spent sometime here during the holidays. We truly enjoyed the interesting sermons that were spoken unto us here.

We also had a good number of others from many different churches through the North, who spent some time about Sarasota for the holidays, and we enjoyed them.

Bro. George Graff was taken sick here but for a short time, and so quickly passed away. Bro. George and Sis. Ida have been in the Sarasota area for some time, and have been very attentive at church. George was also a very good help in many ways at the Sarasota church. We extend our sincerest sympathy to all their family.

May God bless them all.

LA CROSSE Lucille Heiniger

Bro. Arthur Gudeman and Sis. Lucille Nuest submitted to surgery. Art is able to assemble with us again. Lucille is improving and hopes to leave the hospital soon. Sis. Lydia Moser has been able to assemble with us again for the past several Sundays. We are glad to see each one as they are able to worship with us again.

A group of about 80 went caroling to the sick, aged, widows and widowers. It gives one a feeling of joy when one can see how each one enjoys the beautiful Christmas carols.

The Christmas program was presented to the congregation by the Sunday School students. It is a joy to see even the little folks take their part in such sincerity in proclaiming the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sis. Suzanne Bucher of this congregation and Bro. Art Ringger of Bluffton were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Ed Frank. They are making their home at Lafayette. We wish for them God's blessings as they begin their Christian home together.

Joan and Jim Cambern are the parents of a daughter, Mary Beth, born Dec. 29. Bro. John and I are the maternal grandparents.

Visiting ministers: Bro. Orville Ringger and Bro. Carl Kipfer of Bluffton.

Note of Thanks: I wish to take this opportunity to thank each one

for their prayers, cards, gifts etc. sent to me while I was in the hospital and since returning home. May God truly bless each for their love and kindness. Bro. Arthur Gudeman.

DETROIT

Donna Hartzler

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Judith Aberle, whose sister-in-law, Sis. Mary (Bahr) Aberle of Sabbath passed away Dec. 17 after a brief illness. May those near and dear to Mary take courage that God knows best, and what He does is well done.

We got a glimpse of how people live in India, when Bro. Joe Waibel showed slides of the trip Bros. Waibel, Hoerr and Kinsinger made to Bombay to visit the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India, which is directed by Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Bhagwat. It was impressive to see that there are people in that part of the world who have so little materially, and yet try to live a true Christian life.

On Sunday, Jan. 10, Bro. Joe was with us for services and reading of the memorandum. Let us pray we take to heart the admonitions we received, and all try to do our part to hold fast to this precious faith. Thanks be to God that we still have leaders in our church who are willing to preach and instruct according to the teachings in the Holy Bible.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

The scene we view from our farm home is a typical winter landscape. Due to a major snowfall and blizzard, we have been isolated, inasmuch as we could not reach our mail box nor highway for a number of days. As we look across the fields, we behold a vast whiteness, broken only by silhouettes of bare trees and numerous homes with snow-clad roofs.

Our Sunday School pupils presented a very nice program, portraying the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour. During the evening after this presentation, the caroling took place. Quite a number of homes were reached. The two favorite Christmas songs at each place were "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." A lunch was served to the carolers in the dining area of our church.

Sis. Marie Schmid has not been

feeling well and is taking a series of treatments at the Schoitz Hospital at Waterloo, Iowa. May God bless the treatments.

George Schupbach, who spent some time in the hospital at La Crosse, Wisconsin, has returned home much improved, for which we are very thankful. He and his wife, Mildred are getting acquainted with two new grandchildren. They are Leo Gage Junior, son of the Leo Gages, and Trent Wayne Shaffer, son of the Stanley Shaffers. Bro. Ed Pulfer is in the hospital at West Union due to a chest cold. We hope that he will feel better quite presently.

As the old year has terminated and a new one has come into view, we want to try to keep in mind . . .

What to Bring to Church

- Bring a holy reverence for both God and His house;
- Bring an unselfish spirit and an abiding love for our fellow Christians;
- Bring our offerings;
- Bring a friendly smile and a hearty handshake for friends and strangers alike;
- Bring a kind word for our church and its ministers;
- Bring a willingness to join in the worship service by singing right out of our heart with the congregation;
- Bring our visiting friends and relatives;
- Bring a prayerful heart and open mind for the word of God;
- Bring an unsaved friend and pray for him during the service;
- Bring a willingness to accept places of responsibility where you can serve when asked.

GRIDLEY, ILLINOIS

Dixie Ringger

On Dec. 16 we were privileged to hear the testimony of our dear friend, Curt Fleming. Curt was baptized the following Sunday. On that same evening we heard the reading of the Conference. Bro. Eugene Bertschi assisted Bro. George Gramm.

We had several groups of Christmas carolers of all ages this year, and their efforts were greatly appreciated by the aged and the shut-ins.

Dec. 20, our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program. We appreciate the efforts of the students and teachers who

give of their time in telling of our Saviour's birth.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jesse Shrock of Congerville, Bro. Edmund Kloter of Fairbury and Bro. Harold Gramm of Morris.

Friends John and Sandy Kaupp are parents of their first child, a girl, born Monday, Jan. 4. They have named their little miss Kimberly Kaupp.

Our community was saddened by the death of Sis. Elizabeth (Kuerth) Stoller, age 84 years, who passed away Dec. 11. She was a lifelong resident of Gridley.

THE STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS GUEST

It happened one day at the year's white end . . . Two neighbors called on an old-time friend . . . And they found his shop so meager and mean . . . Made gay with a thousand boughs of green . . . And Conrad was sitting with face ashine . . . When he suddenly stopped as he stitched a twine . . . And said, Old friends, at dawn today . . . When the cock was crowing the night away . . . The Lord appeared in a dream to me . . . And said, I am coming your guest to be . . . So I've been busy with feet astrir . . . strewing my shop with branches of fir . . . The table is spread and the kettle is shined . . . And over the rafters the holly is twined . . . And now I will wait for my Lord to appear . . . And listen closely so I will hear . . . His step as He nears my humble place . . . And I open the door and look in His face . . . So his friends went home and left Conrad alone . . . For this was the happiest day he had known . . . For long since his family had passed away . . . And Conrad had spent a sad Christmas Day . . . But he knew, with the Lord as his Christmas guest . . . This Christmas would be the dearest and best . . . And he listened with only joy in his heart . . . And with every sound he would rise with a start . . . And look for the Lord to be standing there . . . In answer to his earnest prayer . . . So he ran to the window after hearing a sound . . . But all that he saw on the snow-covered ground . . . was a shabby beggar whose shoes were torn . . . And all of his clothes were ragged and worn . . . So Conrad was touched and went to the door . . . And he said, Your feet must be frozen and sore . . .

And I have some shoes in my shop for you . . . And a coat that will keep you warmer too . . . So with grateful heart the man went away . . . But as Conrad noticed the time of day . . . He wondered what made the dear Lord so late . . . And how much longer he'd have to wait . . . When he heard a knock and ran to the door . . . But it was only a stranger once more . . . A bent, old crone with a shawl of black . . . A bundle of faggots piled on her back . . . She asked for only a place to rest . . . But that was reserved for Conrad's Great Guest . . . But her voice seemed to plead, Don't send me away . . . Let me rest for awile on Christmas Day . . . So Conrad brewed her a steaming cup . . . And told her to sit at the table and sup . . . But after she left he was filled with dismay . . . For he saw that the hours were passing away . . . And the Lord had not come as He said He would . . . And Conrad felt sure he had misunderstood . . . When out of the stillness he heard a cry . . . Please help me and tell me where am I . . . So again he opened his friendly door . . . And stood disappointed as twice before . . . It was only a child who had wandered away . . . And was lost from her family on Christmas Day . . . Again Conrad's heart was heavy and sad . . . But he knew he should make this little girl glad . . . So he called her in and wiped her tears . . . And quieted all her childish fears . . . Then he led her back to her home once more . . . But as he entered his own darkened door . . . He knew that the Lord was not coming today . . . For the hours of Christmas had passed away . . . So he went to his room and knelt down to pray . . . And he said, Dear Lord, Why did you delay . . . What kept you from coming to call on me . . . For I wanted so much your face to see . . . When soft in the silence a voice he heard . . . Lift up your head, for I kept my word . . . Three times my shadow crossed your floor . . . Three times I came to your lonely door . . . For I was the beggar with bruised, cold feet . . . I was the woman you gave to eat . . . And I was the child on the homeless street.

LAMAR

Bonnie Braker — Evelyn Marti
Billie Dean Schlupp was in the

hospital for ear surgery. John Kibler had a heart attack and is in a Springfield hospital. Sis. Lizzie Remm has been dismissed from the hospital. Tim Braker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie) fell at school and broke an arm.

ALTO

Loretta Steffen

This morning we are receiving a beautiful gift from heaven. There is a blanket of snow covering everything, and a gentle snowfall continuing. Such a lovely morning reminds us of a special promise of God: Come now . . . let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

How marvelous that Christ has cleansed us from our wretched sinful state, and we can become as white as snow. Every minute of our lives we should be filled with gratitude and praise for such miracles of love.

Life at its best is short;

Time flies so very fast.

Lord, help me not to waste this day,

Lest it should be my last!

I counted dollars while God counted crosses;

I counted gains while He counted losses;

I counted my worth by the things gained in store,

But He sized me up by the scars that I bore.

I never knew till one day by a grave

How vain are the things that we spend life to save.

I did not know till a friend went above

That richest is he who is rich in God's love.

MORRIS, MINNESOTA

Ann Meiss — Helen Joos

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

As the wise men of old, we worshipped this King Jesus on the evening of Sunday, Dec. 20, when the

Sunday School teachers and children presented our annual Sunday School program. Through the efforts of the teachers and children, the **blessed story of the Christ** was brought to us in the form of songs, pieces, and selected scripture readings. May God bless each one who had a part in the program, and may He help each of us to prepare ourselves for the time when He will come again, this time as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Bro. Noah Gerber and family were among our Christmas Day visitors. We thank God for the wonderful message brought to us by Noah.

A son, Michael Lee, was born to Bro. and Sis. Lyle Zeltwanger on Dec. 9. Mike has a brother and three sisters to welcome him home.

Sis. Pearl Moser was a surgical patient at the hospital, but is now able to be among us again. She wishes to specially thank all who remembered her and family during her illness. May God reward each one for their love and kindness.

As we go onward in the new year, may the love, joy, and peace which comes only from the Lord Jesus Christ sustain us in our journey here below.

New Year Prayer

Lord, Thou hast given me a clean, new year.

Help me to keep its pages pure, unspoiled,

To write upon its scroll but kindly thoughts,

With no unsightly blots to have it soiled.

Lead me, dear Lord, in paths of peacefulness,

But if, perchance, Thy paths should ever lie

O'er mountain trails, though they be rough and bleak,

Then may I answer, **Master, here am I.**

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Joys of Christmas Endure

Henry Souder Jr.

The real Christmas happiness is day and evening, always, and glows sweetly at twilight . . .

The beauty of Christmas knows no season. The sweetness of fellowship radiates the day at hand. The service of love can sweeten all the tasks. The time for carolling all beautiful music is now, for heavenly song lifts us in the atmosphere of mansions to come.

Joy comes with believing. Believing is moved by love. There is a reason for happiness. Exultant joy should brighten the believer. At all seasons it comes from Jesus, who has such a wonderful personality . . . "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: . . ." How's that for Life at the Best!

The depths of sorrow are sweetened in soft, beautiful rays of hope. The Father is the exceeding great joy in His house. Where He is, every room is glorious with holy atmosphere, alive with life unending. Faith has a key place: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: . . ."

See the place of faith? Glowing, beautiful embers of love need stirring, so faith works . . .

We have a real God. Ask joy. Old Testament words reveal there

is strength from the joy of the Lord. It is true that we have times of testing and heaviness. There are other moments too. When we kindle the love in the believing, we can be ever so happy. The Father spoke His words to be used: "Rejoice evermore."

Christmas always! There is delightful joy, selecting something that will enrich. There is a fellowship in sharing, a placing of a present. "Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."

What the right word at the right time will do. No sick room nor advanced age can hold in the sweetness of a life glowing for another. We get sad or out-of-fix sometimes. The right prayer, the good smile, radiant kindness, that is good along the way, and means so much to another who needs.

Our daily hours spent in the workaday tasks can have the soft glow of the Father's giving. If we spend our life in the service of the Saviour, it is sweeter. The Scripture says, "Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." Fashioning the tasks to please Him can be rich with joy.

Those beautiful strains of music we picture now in faith carol the Father's everlasting home in endless happiness. With full enjoyment

and full satisfaction we shall hear notes and harmony we never heard here. Sweet, so sweet . . . a dream-land of everlasting happiness.

The carolling of God's church helps His child, "singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." He wants you to sing. If someone has told you not to or you can't, they are wrong. If you think you cannot sing much, sing a little, softly. Chime in with the choirs of His children.

Singing is restful and helpful. It helps conquer as the hours slip by toward morning. It drifts our thoughts into His rest.

Do you like to think about Christmas of yesteryear? Walk down the memory lane of sweet by-gone era? That is beautiful. In the walk of His believer, it provides a beautiful reminiscing. Much more. The chime of merry voices in the faith, the familiar face, the fellowship of heart to heart, endures. Walk down the Memory Lane Of Hope, real happy living that has no ending.

Read God's Book, page by page. It is a Living Book. Those dear ones live. You can see them in faith. They live in His house. Memory Lane is living in His book.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."