

Charity suffereth long,
and is kind; charity envieth
not; charity vaunteth not
itself, is not puffed up,

Doth not behave itself
unseemly, seeketh not her

own, is not easily provoked,
thinketh no evil;

Rejoiceth not in iniquity,
but rejoiceth in the truth;

Beareth all things, be-
lieveth all things, hopeth all
things, endureth all things.



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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

WHEN THE EYE BRIGHTENS . .

Someone has said of another,
When he comes into a room, it is
as though someone had lighted another
candle. Listening to love in
holy pages will cause the eye to
brighten when we come. We can
give, remembering others and trying
to make them happy.

For the memory of a kindly word
For long gone by, . . .
The warm pressure of the hand,
The tone of cheer,
The note that only bears a verse
From God's own word.
When the heart is overwrought
Oh who can tell

The power of such tiny things
To make it well.

And though one considers oneself
to be just the humblest
brother or sister, yet it just is, that
you have the very thing someone
needs.

THE MORE THE YEARS

There's golden hours to be used.
A smile at dawn . . . a kind letter
to a serviceman . . . prayer, remembering
others before the throne of
grace . . . footsteps to a hospital,
even in a strange city . . . the 8-
cent stamp, a letter bearing errands
of mercy to long lines of waiting
hungry children, or where a weary
mother watches a little one in its
last breaths . . . and more. There's
so much to do . . . It is an adventure,
if we ask God to arrange our
hours.

Don't Live In Leisure Now!

(The following gives us a look
into what really is right. While the
figures may not hold true in some
cases, yet the facts remain. Let
us live a rich life.)

Years ago, Wm. Robertson Nicol
showed in a remarkable article that
men died within eighteen months
of their retirement because, having
no hobby, they lost the zest of life
that had been borne up in their life
of labor. A famous insurance company
doctor explained that men who
retire don't live long, because they
are not prepared for leisure, and it
is a shock to them. Idleness is a
great enemy of the aged.

Our tasks may glow with jewels
or scintillate like gems,
But once their motive is withdrawn,
the deadly ebb begins;
Men will die of heartbreak when
they've nothing left to do.

Each stage of life has something

peculiar to itself in possibility and
achievement. To be victorious at
each stage, one must accept the
fact of change, and make out of
that particular period through
which he is passing something
beautiful and effective.

Take courage in the words of a
psychiatrist who wisely said, **I
have never seen a case of mental
disease in the aged where they have
a faith in God, are free from the
fear of death, and are active.**

The Aged Can Learn Too

Give to the aged the gifts of
something to do, and appreciation.

Don't let this thought get a hold
of you, older or younger: Because
of the decline of brain power, one
is ready for the rocking chair. It
has been written, that continued
use of the brain practically insures
90% of its efficiency. The intellect
after 50 depends upon the degree of
activity. To keep brains alert, they
must be used.

A group of men and women, 270
of them between the age of 45-70,
enrolled in a certain foreign language
course. What was the result
at the end of two months? The
group of older ones covered the
same material in two months that
college students take a semester to
do.

Retirement from life is always
for the worst if it is idle. Find new
things to occupy those golden moments.
No longer depressed is a
person who helps in a children's
hospital. There are gold mines of

service if you will ask help from
above, and look.

A new turn of the road, this is
age. It can be filled with gift-giving
at all seasons. Cheer is spread by
the gifts that are really worthwhile.

Time long ago, on an Indian summer
night,
When the harvest was put away,
And children were snuggled in
feather beds
At close of a busy day . . .

Then father would sit at the open
hearth
And fashion with knife and screw
A hobby horse, or a sturdy sled,
Or mother maneuvered the crochet
hook,
Or schemed with the calico . . .
Today, in age or youth
Lies the pleasure of making things

Peace-making, Joy giving, Burden
sharing . . .
Material things also, made in love . . .
Prayer for another . . .

The golden glow of a person who
lives that charity of I Corinthians
13 (part on the cover), gives the
greatest. . .

Tape recordings of the dedication
service for the **Home for the Hand-
icapped** are available by writing to
the Apostolic Christian Home for
the Handicapped, Box 292, Veterans
Road, Morton Ill. 61550, and
specifying the kind of speed tape
desired.

THE EQUALIZERS

(Received in Phoenix. Emma Barth
is now with the Lord.)

My friend Emma is 81. She has
been a widow since she was 29. Af-

ter her husband's funeral and doctor
bills were paid, she had \$50,
and seven small children.

She lives in a town located on the
banks of the Ohio, in the State of

West Virginia. For 52 years she
has taken in washings to make a
living . . . first to feed and clothe
her brood of seven, and in later
years her own livelihood.

Emma struggled through the years, washing and ironing for the mayor . . . the doctors . . . One of her good customers was a lady that lived in a big white house at the edge of town, near the river. The house was an old colonial style structure, with big pillars extending above the second floor windows. It had a beautiful setting and was well shrubbed. The old carriage barn sat back, beyond some big elms. On the mail box in black, block letters was printed **Linden Lodge**.

The years were catching up with my friend Emma. I decided that it was time she made application for social security. I tried explaining to her she was entitled to it, because she operated a home laundry business. My friend was not easily persuaded. To get something for nothing was not her way. She answered, "No man ever climbed the ladder of success with his hands in his pockets." However, I didn't give up and pressed the issue . . .

The morning I picked her up . . . her neat little black hat and red scarf peeked out from under the collar of her black coat . . . When we entered the Social Security office, it was evident immediately that her

radiant personality and her poise was noticed.

When we left, he handed us some papers to be signed by five of her customers as proof that she operated a home laundry business. When we returned to town, we immediately went to the mayor, the doctors, and last to **Linden Lodge** for signatures.

When we got out of the car, Emma turned to me and said, "We'll go in the front door. You know, years ago I always went in the back." When we stepped on the porch with its big pillars, the door opened, and a sweet little lady came to welcome us. She put her arms around Emma and kissed her. Then the two walked arm in arm into the house.

I followed them into a large living room, filled with the most exquisite antiques, and on into a smaller room. There was a huge fireplace at the end of the room. The embers were sputtering a little flame here and there, which cast beams of light over the faces of the two ladies seated on a divan . . .

I looked them both over side by side. My friend, Emma, with her hands that showed proof of her years of toil and labor. The other

lady with her hands, with big diamonds flickering from the rings on her fingers that were long, slender and graceful. . . Her hands were proof of a life of leisure.

When I handed the lady the paper to sign, below her name she wrote, **Linden Lodge**. The place she was proud of . . . The place that had become a part of her over the years.

When I turned the car onto the main road, I turned to my friend, ". . . that was a beautiful big home."

"Yes it is," Emma answered. "She had always lived in a big house. I have always lived in a small one, but when we go into our graves we will both have the same size casket. Hers might be more expensive than mine, but one thing sure, it will be the same size."

She added, "I have never coveted her home or position in life. That is why we are friends today. I like to work and I like the simple things of life. God gave me more happiness than He gave her . . .

I left Emma at her home. As I drove down the road I thought, "Time and the casket are certainly the equalizers."

VALPARAISO

Alma Morris

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee."

Our community was saddened with the sudden death of Sandra De Haven, killed in an auto accident Nov. 14. She was the daughter of James and Viola (Nuest) De Haven. She has one brother, James of Wanatah, Indiana; her grandmother, Lena Nuest of LaCrosse. Sandra was a school teacher and lived in Michigan City, Indiana. Services were held on Nov. 16 at 1 o'clock at the church, Harry Bucher officiating. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Jim and Vi and Jimmy.

Precious memories, unseen angels,
Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger ever near me,
And the sacred past unfold.
Precious memories, how they linger,
How they ever flood my soul;
In the stillness of the midnight,
Precious, sacred scenes unfold.

Merle Bucher gave us the message of Thanksgiving on Nov. 24.

GIRARD

Monell Stoll

Bro. Frank Emch of 4536 Simon Rd., Youngstown was taken from us Nov. 9. Many visitors came to express their sympathy to his wife, Sis. Minnie and her family. Our Girard congregation shares her loss.

Another brother, Paul Metzger of Youngstown was called home on Nov. 17. Paul had been in poor health for the past several years, and was ready to find rest in the Lord.

Friend Jim Emch of Hubbard, son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Katharine, is still recovering, following complications from an infected appendix.

Bro. Jesse Emch is recuperating at home, following his second cataract operation. He and Sis. Marie have been able to assemble with us for the past several weeks. We are grateful for each one God grants the health, to worship with us.

NEUHUTTEN GERMANY

Jon Zeller

The seasons change from cold to warmth, and to cold again, as each

year slips away as the years before. So has God's plan foretold how our lives are but as seasons. They wither and pass . . . but to the converted in Christ, that passing is but the beginning of endless bliss in eternity. For this we are blessed beyond measure and deeply grateful to God for such. Such is our prayer.

So many wishes have I
As mortal man I be
To live and die by the grace of God
A branch upon His tree.

THE SILVER LINING

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To leave this earth as others have
Free from burden of sin
To walk refreshed in fields of life
With no thought of what has been.

But as yet that I might give to God
Full trust and faith and love
For Him that has bled and died for
me
Who now resides above.

That I might fulfill the prayers
That others have uttered for me
That my faith might be more
fruitful
And steadfast upon life's tree.

WOLCOTT
Arles Kropf
Marjean Lehman

Lord Jesus, honor, thanks and
praise
Be to Thy goodness all our days.
Thy people in Thy grace rejoice,
In comfort they lift up their voice:
Thou shalt remain in all eternity!
Thus we repose in blest security.

Our congregation received many
blessed teachings from the precious
word on Nov. 14, when Bro. Bob
Meyer and Bro. Carl Kipfer (Bluff-
ton) let themselves be spent in the
service of the Lord. Those Purdue
students whose home is Bluffton
were with us, and many of their
parents, along with others from
Bluffton came to spend the day.

Bro. Pete Luthi is spending time
in the hospital, after suffering
from a stroke. He is in the St. Eliz-
abeth Hospital at Lafayette.

Sis. Pricella Anker spent some
time in the hospital with pneu-
monia, but is home now and able to
assemble with our congregation
again.

On Nov. 21, Bro. Wendell Gude-
man spent a portion of the day with
us. We're thankful for every effort
to bring forth the teachings of our
Lord.

WICHITA
George Lambert

Growing Older

You can't hold back the dawn
Or stop the tides from flowing,
Or keep a rose from withering
Or still a wind that's blowing.
And time cannot be halted
In its swift and endless flight,
For age is sure to follow youth
Like day comes after night . . .
For He who sets our span of years

And watches from above,
Replaces youth and beauty
With peace and truth and love . . .
And then our souls are privileged
To see a "hidden treasure"
That in our youth escaped our
eyes . . .
In pursuit of pleasure . . .
So birthdays are but blessings
That open up the way
To that everlasting beauty
Of God's eternal day.

We are indeed thrilled that two
dear friends in our congregation
have given their future life into the
Saviour's care. They are Oliver and
Glenis Allenbach. They have two
sons, Stan and Aaron. Oliver's
father, Paul Allenbach was minis-
ter in the Harper church, and his
grandfather, John Allenbach was
minister in the Burlington Okla.
church. They have found peace, and
Lord willing will be baptized Dec.
12.

Sis. Mae Aeschleman has been
confined in the hospital again for
several weeks. Her condition is not
the best and it hasn't been for
many years. It is wonderful to hear
from her own lips, that she is ready
to "go home" anytime the Lord
wants her. What a comfort for
those of us who have known her so
many years.

Sis. Lydia Bahr was in the hos-
pital for surgery, but is home again
with her daughter. We all join in
wishing her the very best.

The Wichita world relief group
spent a day in Newton on Oct. 12
with many of the other churches.
We enjoyed the fellowship and were
glad we could help in a small way
in providing clothing, bedding etc.
for the unfortunate in the world.

REMINGTON
Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

Greg Schneider, 4-year-old son of
Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta, was seri-
ously injured when he fell out of a
tractor cab. He was in hospital two
weeks. He is now doing well.

Sis. Eliza Getz and Bro. Ray and
Sis. Lucile Steffen and children
went to Kentucky for a week-end.
They stopped at the Open Door
Orphanage and then went on to
spend some time at Bro. Lester
Hubers. Lester's folks lived here
for many years.

Bro. Sam Kilgus is recuperating
nicely, after having a hernia oper-
ation.

Several from here went to Fair-
bury to the funeral of Ella Wenge-
Her folks, Bro. Charlie and Sis. Ri-
gina, lived here while raising their
family. Our folks knew them well.

Happy to report . . . Jean Leman
is repenting. Her twin sister, Jane
started last month. They are
daughters of Bro. Richard and Sis.
Edna.

Stephanie May (daughter of
Hollis and Sis. Angie) is a surgical
patient, due to a back injury.

Our visiting ministers were Bro.
Herman Kellenberger and Bro. Will
Gudeman (Elgin, Ill.) and Bro. Joe
Kaisner (Forrest).

As the bells of Christmas summon
us to worship and to pray,
With thankful hearts we share the
joys of this most holy day.
May you find new hope and
happiness, new faith in God
above

As the season's brightest blessings
come to you and those you love.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Norma Schini — Lois Kipfer

In this season of the year when
we all become so busy, do we take
time out to admire the beauty of
the earth, to grasp the real spirit of
giving and receiving, or to really
know all the blessings we can re-
ceive and be to others? We, each
one, should ask God to make this
season a blessed one. Maybe our
prayer should be as follows:

Please help me, Lord, to cherish
sacred things:
Help me to keep a child's deep trust
in me;
Teach me to listen when a robin
sings,
To watch a spider weave its
artistry.

Give me the keys that will unlock
the hearts
Of all I meet; please help me
understand
Ways not my own that fill their
daily charts.
Encourage me to offer them my
hand.

Show me the grace of sparrows in
the snow;
Help me to teach my children god-
is cold,
That what can be replaced has little
glow
And only gentle deeds wear well
when old.

Remind me, Peace will be a dream
come true,
When men follow the Star that
leads to You.

In these past few weeks we were richly blessed by messages from Bro. Joe Schrock; Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington; and Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott. We thank the Ill. State Univ. group for coming with Bro. Joe. We truly had a blessed fellowship.

As the angels rejoice in heaven, we rejoice on earth each time a dear soul sees his need for repentance and turns unto the Lord. We ask God now to be with our new convert, Jean Leman. She is from Remington, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Edna.

On Nov. 21, Bro. Bill Baumgartner and Sis. Janet Levy were united in marriage. We wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

PHOENIX Mrs. Allan Freed

We welcome Sis. Ann Mangold, who has moved here from Roanoke. She, along with Sis. Jane Greenbank and Lori Wirtz have moved into a home they are renting. Their new address is 6716 N. 12th Ave., Phoenix 85013.

Bro. Leland Hirschev of New York was our visiting minister Sunday, Nov. 21. We thank him for serving us from the word, and invite him back. We had morning services on Thanksgiving Day. After the service we all joined in singing the hymn, **Count Your Blessings**, and we should do just that more often.

We are happy to have Elder Bro. Joe Waibel of Bay City with us for two weeks, and we welcome him and those who are with him to come back. Sunday evening, Nov. 28, Bro. Waibel assisted our Elder Bro. Roy Farney in reading the memorandum. We are thankful for brothers who are willing to sound the trumpet in these latter times, and pray we will have willing hearts to heed the warnings.

Shirley Mohrman has entered the hospital and is to undergo major surgery. Our prayers are with her,

We rejoice that Jim Gramm has found the peace of God and that he desires to testify of his faith and be baptized. Jim will be taken up at his home church in Gridley, Illinois.

With the Christmas season so close, I thought this poem tells what really makes Christmas.

What is Christmas?

I asked my soul,
And this answer
Came back to me:
It is the
glory of heaven come down
In the hearts of humanity,
Come in the spirit and heart of a
child,
And it matters not what we share
At Christmas; it is not Christmas
at all
Unless the Christ Child be there.

PEORIA Emily Tanner Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

C Christ our Saviour was born
this day
H Hallelujah! the angels
sing
R Rejoice, the star in east does
shine
I Informing the world of peace
sublime
S Son of God was sent from
Heaven
T The Christ Child in the manger
lay
M Message of cheer the wise men
bring
A Announcing the birth of our
Saviour King—
S Silent Night,
Oh Holy Night!
D Day of Grace, oh Christians
we
A All hail Lord Jesus, our sins
made free!
Y Yield all to Him, then strive
aright—
Silent night, Oh Holy night.
By Sis. Louise Finck

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Dorothy Haefli announce the engagement of their daughter, Joan to Joe Stieglitz, son of Mrs. Melba Stieglitz of Metamora. The engagement of Sis. Dorothy Hodel, daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude Hodel of Cissna Park, and Bro. Mike Meister, son of Mrs. Jean Meister Lockhart was announced to our congregation.

Rita Jo Klein, daughter of Sis. Edna Klein, and Ronald Lee Sweetin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sweetin Sr. of Bartonville were married Oct. 17.

A daughter, Karin Sue, was born

Oct. 16 to Bro. Bill and Carol Schmidtgall. On Nov. 2, a daughter, Ralhel Jane, was born to Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister. Bro. John and Sis. Judy Woerner are the parents of Julie Ann, who was born Nov. 6.

The Ivan Thomas family have an exchange student living at their home. Paulo Jose' Roriz is a senior at Dunlap High School and comes from Goiania in the state of Goias, Brazil. He attends our Bible Class regularly and enjoys the fellowship with our young folks.

The Goodfield and Congerville Bible classes were guests of our Sunday School; in the morning they all attended church services. It was so nice to see so many assemble with us in the front pews. We were also delighted to have Bro. Bob Grimm as our guest minister that day. We thank Bro. Francis Rother for ministering to us one Sunday morning.

Sis. Elizabeth Broquard moved to Roanoke. She is living with her sister, Mrs. Fred Leman.

Bro. Jonathan Schumacher, Bro. Henry Leman and Sis. Verna Schurter are hospital patients. Bro. Conrad Woerner and Sis. Anna K. Baer were hospital patients and are home now, recuperating.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Margaret (Mrs. Jonathan) Schumacher; her son-in-law, Willard Klein of Washington, Ill. died Nov. 28.

Bro. Fred Aupperle, 84, a retired farmer, died Nov. 20 in the Apostolic Cristian Home on Skyline Drive, where he had lived since June 9. He was born in Germany and came to Peoria when he was 16. He farmed in Minnesota from 1913 to 1951. He married Lena Dallinger in 1915; she died in 1916. He then married Frieda Bodmer in 1919, and she died in 1957. Prior to entering the Home he lived with his sister, Sis. Pauline Farney. Surviving are one son, Moses, of California; his sister, Pauline Farney; one brother, Ernest Aupperle of Fairbury.

Note of thanks: I want to thank everyone who remembered me during my almost three weeks' stay in the hospital, for visits, cards, gifts, flowers, etc. Also many, many thanks to our dear ministers who came to the hospital and prayed with me. It was greatly appreciated. Molly Perdelwitz.

Note of thanks: I wish to thank all who remembered me while in the

hospital and since I am home, with prayers, cards, gifts and visits. It has been very much appreciated. May God reward each one, is my prayer. Humbly, Anna K. Baer.

FRANCESVILLE

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Entering our church this morning after the greeting, the first words from a smiling widower was, "You don't know how happy I was yesterday afternoon when a few cars of young folks came and sang a few songs for me." (Some of them were visitors from Missouri . . . thank you loved ones.) This brother said when they left, he had to shed tears of joy and got down on his knees and thanked God for sending them.

Another joyful day was had when the Christian Endeavor Youth Meeting was held here. Teenagers really give a person a happy feeling, they are so dear.

We are so thankful to say a Guardian Angel spared Bro. Sidney Leman, who has suffered injuries from a farm accident, and will be laid up for many weeks.

Now we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year . . . and am sending you a Christmas Greeting my father made and mailed to loved ones in the year 1938.

Beloved Ones in Faith and Friends:

Soon another year has passed, only to be remembered how we have lived, but only God knows what the coming year has in store for us. May we be willing to endure whatever be our lot. How often and many times have our thoughts been with the many dear brothers and sisters in faith and friends which are so dear to us . . . and is one's wish and desire if the dear Lord opens the way to meet you again and if not, may our faith and love be that we may all arise at the sound of the trump and meet in heaven.

In the past year twelve friends were baptized . . . are a few more repenting, and how one would wish it for many more. Since August we have had three funerals, Sis. Steiner, Sis. Greuter and Bro. Bahr . . . Have six sick members between the age of seventy and eighty-two, one cannot say which will be called first, and many younger ones may go first . . . is only in God's power to say.

We were blessed with good crops this year, had lots of rain through the spring and summer months . . . but dry all through the fall months . . . have had nice rains in the past weeks . . . had an exceptionally nice warm fall . . . Had snow and ice for Thanksgiving, and lasted about a week . . . Have a little snow at present, would enjoy more for Christmas.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas, and healthy prosperous New Year.

Your Bro. and Sis. in Faith . . .
Otto and Bertha Norr

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA

Janice Frieden — Janice Springer

What a joy to have a wonderful Lord to watch over us and truly bless us as He does. He sent to our congregation three ministering brothers, and we are always so thankful for those through whom the Lord brings us His word.

Bro. Mike Weyeneth of Peoria was here on Nov. 1, and after his joyous messages, we went to the rest home in Kiowa and sang for those who are shut-in and cannot get out to come to church and hear the word of God. Making the blessings of the day more manifold, we also enjoyed our First-Sunday-of-the-Month singing in the home of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Irma Ott.

Elder Bro. Roy Farney of Phoenix was with us on Nov. 14. He brought us two joyous events: He announced that Bro. Donald Banwart and Sis. Aleta Farney, through faith in God, have found that their paths are now to be one; Sis. Aleta is the daughter of Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen Farney of Kiowa, and Bro. Donald is the son of Ministering Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart of Ft. Scott. We also partook of the Lord's Supper, in remembrance of His suffering that we might have life eternal. A covered-dish supper and fellowship with those of like faith brought the day to a close.

Ministering Bro. Raymond Banwart of Fort Scott brought us God's message on Nov. 21. Again we could feel blessed and happy.

Thanksgiving services were held on Wednesday evening, Nov. 24. We have so much to be thankful to God for, that it would take much longer than one day to ever express it all.

Bro. John Schupbach is a patient in the Kiowa Hospital. May we all remember him in our prayers.

GARDEN GROVE, IOWA

William Funk

"Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful."

We are holding services in a small church in Garden Grove on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month. We assemble at 1:00 p.m. and have Sunday School, followed by church worship services at 2:00. Our little group is very small, so we're always happy to have visitors. We extend a most cordial invitation to anyone passing this way.

We are grateful to God that he is still calling souls to repentance. Nov. 20, the congregation at Pulaski heard the testimonies of our three dear friends, Don Clark, Anthony Funk and Willa Funk, who have experienced the love and mercy of a righteous God and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Sunday afternoon the Pulaski congregation, as well as many friends and relatives, assembled with us at Garden Grove to hear the vows and witness the baptisms. Elder Bros. Noah Schrock of Burlington and Lester Hartter of Bern ministered to us and carried out this important work. We are grateful to all who came to share with us this blessed occasion.

We solicit your prayer support, that God's will can be done here, that His name may be glorified and more souls can be enlightened to, in all humility, seek salvation through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

TUCSON

Mrs. Loren Knapp

We were so blessed with the precious words spoken by our visiting minister, Elder Bro. Roy Farney, and thankful to have all the visiting brethren from Phoenix on that day.

Sis. Millie Stickling was again in our midst, after a few weeks convalescing from surgery. It was so nice to have her with us once more.

Sis. Clara Lorenz moved here from California and is making her new home at 624 No. Benton, Tucson.

The Tucson Bible class met last Tuesday evening, to sing praises unto our dear Lord, at the home of Bro. and Sis. Don Bauer.

We are all happy for our friend Alana Schrenk, whom the Lord has called unto repentance.

Come souls that are longing for

pleasure,
Our Saviour has pleasures to give.
We find in his love the rare
treasure
That makes every true pleasure
live.

TOLEDO
Lydia Meister

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ our Saviour great!
By the power of Thy Spirit,
A new man Thou didst create.

We have again experienced this wonderful Miracle . . . a new man created, through the baptism of our friend, Howard Harmon. We welcome him as a brother in Christ, and wish him grace and joy in his walk with the Lord.

Thanksgiving . . . the day of thanks and praise! Though many traveled to be with their dear ones, we who remained at home received manifold blessings through the spoken word and songs, teaching us to ever be thankful to the Giver of all gifts.

Thank God for all the good things
that fill our life each day.
Thank God for His great mercy,
For hearing when we pray.

There is always beauty around us no matter what the season. We traveled through the hills and mountains of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Tho' the autumn colors were faded, it was lovely to view the grandeur of God's creations in their somber dress, with here and there patches of pure white snow. The tho't so often in my mind as we traveled were the words of the Psalmist: "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

AKRON
Katherine Ries

Bro. Rudy Graf, who accompanied Bro. Ben Maibach to Japan during October is home, after a safe and eventful journey. He reports:

"We are thankful for the Lord's guidance and for His blessing to carry out our duties among the loved ones in the orient. Many la-
s awaited us there. A hearty welcome and a uplifting fellowship was enjoyed throughout our visit among brethren and friends. We experienced God's blessing and

power of the Holy Spirit in the labors performed among them. We are convinced that good local leadership is very essential to the promotion of the faith at these distance outposts, so the word of God can as the good seed be planted in the hearts which have been prepared as good soil. From such planting and good seed we hope for a bountiful harvest. God, being no respecter of persons, can gather souls in the Orient as well as the western world. We found a number of souls who through the goodness of God have been led to repentance. They have found grace and mercy through faith in Jesus Christ and have found peace in heart, just as we who have been exposed to gospel truths from youth on. Our entire journey was made very pleasant, for we felt that we were being carried on the wings of the prayers offered by many loved ones near and far. The happy reunion and welcome by loved ones back home brought tears of joy. We humbly bring praise and thanks to our benevolent Father in heaven for His great and merciful providence."

With such an intimate account as this from Bro. Rudy, and a report of trip to Japan by Bro. Ben in last month's **Silver Lining**, we feel we have come into closer communication with our brethren in the Orient, and fully realize we are kindred souls, though thousands of miles apart. May the Lord's blessing be upon us all.

We are happy to report new arrivals in the homes of our friends: Becky (Graf) and Steve Del Propost, a girl, Angela Maria, Oct. 21, and Pamela (Riley) and Paul Ritzman, a boy, Micheal Forrest, Nov. 13.

It was necessary for Bro. Paul Pamer to undergo surgery Nov. 23. He is recuperating at home, 33 Clouse St., Akron Ohio 44313. Friend Fred Burr is improving, while still confined in the hospital.

On Nov. 28, Elder Bro. Noah Bauman joined with Elder Bro. Rudy Graf to serve the blessed holy sacrament of Communion to our congregation. If it were possible, the receiving of this sacrament at this time of the year, Thanksgiving and Christmas, takes on an added impact, which causes one to be doubly grateful and thankful to God for his many gifts and blessings.

We are grateful to the Lord for the safe return, and welcome Bro.

Ernest and Sis. Louise Graf home from their trip abroad to visit their son, Bro. David.

ATHENS
Zelma Young

My mother, as the winter nights would come, would tuck us in bed, kiss us good-night, and say a prayer for us, that we would be kept through the night . . . as the cold weather came, we would sit by the cheerful fires of fellowship. Snow is beautiful, which makes us think about the white garments of Jesus. As we are about to celebrate the birth of Jesus, when we should go caroling, give time to the aged and sick . . . give some kind of good deed. It always fills my heart with joy to do a good deed for such are less fortunate than I am . . . sorry to report the passing of Bro. Oscar Carroll; he passed away Nov. 10. We all sympathize with the family, for I have been all along that . . . but the ones that died in Christ are better off than we are . . . We are still having nice crowds at church.

BERN
Esther and Stella Moser

Ted William was born Nov. 7 to Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona Strahm. Two little sisters, Sara Jean and Marci welcome their brother into the home. Grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter, Sabetha, and Bro. Emil and Sis. Grace Strahm.

Galen Rokey brought his testimony before the congregation Nov. 13, and was baptized the following day. We had many visitors present, among them Ministering Bro. John Rokey, Goodfield. May the Lord ever be near Bro. Galen with His love and grace.

Bro. Henry Ruegger brought us greetings from Bern, Switzerland. He was a visitor of his uncle, Ernest Gerber. Ernest has sold his home in Oneida and is now a resident at the A.C. Home. Sis. Emily Lortscher is also at the home for the winter months.

Bro. Alpha Strahm Sr. is a hospital patient (surgical). Sis. Marie Strahm (Bro. John), Sis. Lorene Strahm (Bro. Ephraim) were both medical patients, and are now able to be at home.

Funeral services were held for Bro. Matthias Strahm, 83, who passed away Nov. 15. Matthias was born and grew up in this community. For the past 20 years he made

his home at Yates Center. In 1918 he was married to Sis. Lena Furrer, who survives. Also surviving are a son—Matthias, Prairie Village Kansas, and a daughter—Ungela, Wichita.

We assembled with Sabetha for several Sundays, also Thanksgiving as neither our old or new church buildings had seating facility. The fairly new walnut pews in our present building are being rebuilt and refinished for us in the new church. Most of the carpeting is down, and hopefully we will be able to assemble there in the near future.

As another year's reporting comes to a close, we wish to extend Season's Greetings, along with our best wishes to all **Silver Lining** readers. May the Lord add His richest blessings for the New Year.

And on the little Judean town
A window opened, and God came
down;
And a star shown brightly in the
sky,
And the wind was cool that fluttered
by.

BLUFFTON

Imogene Steffen — Pat Isch

Friends who were united in marriage are: Rita Kaehr (daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Lucille) to Richard Everett; Cindy Reinhard (daughter of Glenn and Sis. Leota) to Steve Kline; Cathy Fiechter (daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Gladys) to Dave Bussell . . . wishing each of these couples much happiness as they walk their future days together.

Many from Bluffton were privileged to be present at the wedding of Bro. Bill Baumgartner and Sis. Janet Levy, who were married in her church at LaCrosse by Bro. Ed Frank. May this union of hearts be richly blessed. Bill's parents are Bro. Chester and Sis. Betty.

Sis. Ida Winzler has moved to a mobile trailer home near the residence of her daughter, Sis. Dorothy (Charles) Kaehr. We welcome her to our fellowship and community.

The first son, Byrl J., was born to Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie (Kaehr) Frauhiger. Three little sisters welcomed him home. Little Rachel Kay was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Nancy (Gerber) Honegger. Much happiness and blessings are wished upon these homes.

Several have been shut-in. We

are thankful that all are on the road to recovery. Those included are Sis. Roselena Steffen, Sis. Goldie Steffen, Bro. Joel Schaefer, Sis. Cheryl (Mike) Gerber, and Lynn Kipfer.

Derryl Ringger, son of Bro. Wm. and Sis. Marjorie Ringger, was inducted into the army. We certainly wish him the Lord's protection of soul and body throughout his service.

There is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing—to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you; to see that your fellow men are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy; to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old; to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough; to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front, so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your good thoughts, with the gate open—

Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world—stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death—and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the eternal love?

Then you can keep Christmas, And if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone.

EUREKA

Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

Visiting Ministers were: Bros. Charles Hemmer—Peoria, Roy Ehnle, James Ringger, Bradford; Eli Somerhalder, Burlington. These brothers all gave us good teachings and instructions; now it is up to us to obey the same.

On Thanksgiving day, church services were held, with a large crowd in attendance. In the sermon we were reminded to "Count our many blessings and name them one by one." We would all be surprised

what the Lord has done. We were reminded to help others who are in need of food, help or clothing, as in this part of the country live in what we might call the **Bread Basket of the World**, in that we always have plenty to eat, and even more than is good for our health some times. It was mentioned that we not eat too much, as this can be sin. So we should all be careful of these things and thank God every day for all things He gives us.

The Sunday School classes are getting ready to present their Christmas program soon, as the time is fast approaching that we all are reminded of the birth of our Saviour, Jesus.

May each one have a Blessed Christmas Day and a bright New Year ahead.

FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

We praise the Lord that Sandy Zimmerman has repented and desires to live by faith in Jesus. Sandy is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Lloyd Zimmerman.

"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us . . . "Those words are precious; today we have a "better thing" mentioned in Heb. 11:40, because II Cor. states "Jesus Christ is in you", and that's better than "among us". We're so thankful that Word was made flesh, that Jesus Christ was born, and with grateful hearts groups are planning Christmas festivities, including caroling and other remembrances. The Sunday School will present a Christmas program.

Bro. Roger and Shirlene Bachtold were blessed with a new baby boy, named Matthew Aaron. Other children are Dorothy, Roger, Jonathan, Loraine, and Joseph. Grandparents are Carl and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Kay Thames, as her only brother, Capt. Hershel Gale Rogers was killed in Viet Nam. He was piloting a helicopter which was shot down by ground fire. He leaves to mourn his wife, Darlene; a son, Shannon; his parents Mr. and Mrs. Hershel W. Rogers, Mackinaw, Ill.; and his only sister, Sis. Kay, who along with her husband, Bro. Philip wish to extend their thanks for the many expressions of sympathy they received and they know there were many prayers in their behalf, for which they are grateful.

Bro. David Hartman passed

away, after a period of illness. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Ada (Miller), and children, Bro. Melvin, Harvey, Sis. Mabel Springer, Sis. Lucille Schurter, Sis. Ruth, Evelyn Malaimary, and 3 stepchildren.

In memory of Omar E. Weisser—we, his wife and daughters have spent many hours together in the past year, and in our conversations we have expressed our gratitude for the love and sincere kindness that was given to us by the Fairbury, Forrest, Milford, congregations. Love, Laura Weisser, Evangeline and Bill Crawford, Laura Lee and Jim Woodson.

FORREST

**Juanita Schneider
Eleanor Honegger**

The Christmas spirit in the heart
Crowds out all selfishness;
It reaches out both far and wide,
To help and cheer and bless.
It overflows in loving thought
For those who pass our way,
And helps us all to share our joy
This day and every day.

Bro. and Sis. Richard Kupferschmid are the parents of a new baby boy, Rodney Dean. Rodney has one brother, Brad at home. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. William Kupferschmid and Bro. & Sis. Ed Bach, all of Forrest. Our friends, the Maurice Koehls have a new son, Andrew James. He has a sister at home and is the grandson of the late Bro. Andrew Koehl and Sis. Martha.

Our shut-ins are Sis. Mary Metz and Marge Waibel, who had surgery at the Fairbury Hospital. They are both home again.

Kirk Farney, son of Bro. and Sis. Roger Farney had surgery and is home again; also, Leland Kuntz submitted to surgery for kidney stone. It makes us rejoice to report that Leland and his wife, Marge have expressed their need to repent and serve the Lord.

We have certainly been blessed with many visiting ministers. Many good teachings have been brought forth. Let us continue to accept these words as brought forth by the Spirit of God, whether chastisement or encouragement. Bros. Ed Lanz, Oakville; Harold Schmidgall, Gridley; Bob Pohl, Burlington; Dale Eisenmann, Chicago; and Dave Wiegand, Champaign faithfully served us.

Would anyone have a copy of a poem, originally spoken in the German language that lists all the books of the Bible in their order. If you know this poem please give a copy to your **Silver Lining** reporter.

Thank you: We wish to say "Thank You" for the many cards, gifts and prayers extended to us during the loss of our husband and father. Your understanding sympathy was greatly appreciated. Sis. Luella Sohn and family.

FT SAM HOUSTON

Kurt Bahler

As the day draws nearer when Christ will return, and the world seems to drift further and further from the truth, we must anticipate His coming and rejoice when we can experience our blessed fellowship as believers. We enjoyed a richly rewarding week-end on the 26th of November with visitors and Ministering Bro. Edwin Bahler from Remington. As we gather together to worship and hear the word, we can feel the bond of love that gives us strength and unity.

HIS RETURN

He is coming! He is coming!
We can almost hear the sound
Of His footsteps at the threshold,
And our hearts with gladness
bound.

All around us men are seeking,
Turning blind eyes to the light,
Longing, fearing, not yet daring
To escape from sin's dark night.

Yet the message is so simple,

I will surely come again.

'Tis the glad news of the Gospel,
Ringing sweetly through earth's
pain.

When He comes may I be ready,
Watching, praying, working still,
Though He tarry, may I daily
Learn more perfectly His will.

We welcome Deryll Ringger from Bluffton, who is a basic trainee, to our congregation. After sharing many precious times with Bro. Sam and Sis. Pat Plattner and their daughter, Heidi, we must say goodbye. Sam will be leaving for Viet Nam, after a leave at home on the 29th of December. We trust that God will bless them and be near during their separation.

GOODFIELD

Elna Grimm

There is love at Christmas, because Christmas was born of love.

Let us, each one, keep this spirit of love and glorify God. Yes, the Christmas heart is a beautiful heart, for it is full of love and thoughtfulness for others. . .

A baby boy, Andrew Lawrence, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Roger Rokey of R.R. Eureka, on Nov. 14. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. John and Ruth Rokey of Goodfield and Mr. and Mrs. Al Goeken of Delavan.

A son, Kevin Michael, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Fritz of R. R. 2 Morton on Nov. 18. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ben and Esther Hohulin of Goodfield and Sis. Martha Fritz of Morton.

Mr. and Mrs. Gail Wiegand of R.R. Carlock are the parents of a baby girl, Lauri Ann was born on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 25). The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Henry and Perceda Wiegand of Goodfield and Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Waldbeser of Morton.

We are happy to report that our friend, George C. Knapp has returned to his home, after a rather lengthy stay at the Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. He must still be very careful not to overdo.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Edna Somerhalder—Wilma Young

"For unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." As we're commemorating the birth of our dear Saviour, may it cause renewed appreciation for the great sacrifice God made, in sending His only Son, who willingly gave His life as an atonement for our sins. Let us not leave Christ out of Christmas.

Ministers and Sunday School teachers from Sabetha, Bern, Wichita, Burlington, Lamar, Ft. Scott and Lamont assembled at Gridley to hear Bro. Charles and Bro. Don Sauder present a discussion on Sunday School and Bible School materials prepared by the Apostolic Christian Church committee. Our thanks to them for their time and efforts, also thanks to all who attended.

We welcome Bro. Feldor Young (formerly of the Lamont congregation) into our assembly. May the Lord bless him in his new home.

"As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more." Bro. Mathias Strahm was

feeling fine on Sunday; he and his wife, Sis. Lena spent the day with their daughter, Ungela and the Wichita congregation. Early Monday morning he suffered a heart attack in his home, which proved fatal shortly after arriving at the hospital. Mathias and Lena spent fifty-three years together. They seldom failed to attend church or church activities, although their home is twenty-five miles away. He is also survived by a son, Mathias of Kansas City. Our sympathy is extended to the family.

Donna Lee Somerhalder, daughter of Bro. Joseph and Sis. Edna, was hospitalized two days for surgery. Tammy Isch, five-month-old daughter of Dale & Janiece, granddaughter of Sis. Wilma Young, was hospitalized a week, due to double pneumonia. Tina Strahm is wearing a cast, due to a broken bone in her foot. . . happy to report, all have recuperated and are able to assemble with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Roy and Doris Bahr in the passing of her stepfather, Bro. Dave Hartman.

Midweek services (Wed. 7:30 p.m.) have begun, alternating each week with the Lamont congregation . . . an opportunity to hear the gospel proclaimed, also fellowship with our brethren.

A shower was held for Rose Ann Strahm, daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten, and Terry Shieser. On Dec. 4 they are to be united in marriage, performed by Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker. We wish them God's blessings as they journey this life together. Roseann recently completed her LPN training in Emporia. Terry is in the airforce, stationed at Shreveport, Louisiana, where they expect to live this coming year.

Our first snow was a beautiful sight . . . how clean! And what a lovely scene, all trees, fences and bushes covered.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Libby Meyer

As the semester draws to a close and pressures mount, it always helps to go to the Lord from time to time.

There is a mystery in human hearts,
And though we be encircled by a host
Of those who love us well, and are beloved,

To everyone of us, from time to time,
There comes a sense of utter loneliness;
Our dearest friend is "stranger" to our joy,
And cannot realize our bitterness.
"There is not one who really understands,
Not one to enter into all I feel;"
Such is the cry of each of us in turn.
We wander in a "solitary way",
No matter what or where our lot may be;
Each heart, mysterious even to itself,
Must live its inner life in solitude.

And would you know the reason why this is?
It is because the Lord desires our love.
In every heart He wishes to be first;
He therefore keeps the secret key Himself,
To open all the chambers, and to bless,
With perfect sympathy and holy peace
Each solitary soul which comes to Him . . .
So when we feel this loneliness, it is
The voice of Jesus saying, Come to me;
And every time we are **not understood**,
It is a call to come again,
For Christ alone can satisfy the longing soul,
And those who walk with Him from day to day
Can never have a Solitary Way.

The Lord has provided for us through the inspiration of His word, and we joyously look forward to celebrating our Redeemer's birth.

LAMONT Betty Wernli

After a lovely, early autumn, filled with many days of sunshine, we seem to be having a seige of winter, with many cloudy, damp days, even complete with an unexpected snowfall. The morning after the snow was beautiful to behold, as it was truly God's handiwork.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch are the parents of their first child, Jody Lynn, born Nov. 18. Jody's parents are anxiously waiting to welcome her home, as she must spend the first weeks of her life in an incubator. Bro. Floyd Isch of

this congregation and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter of Sabetha are the grandparents.

Bro. Pete Fankhauser has went to Phoenix to spend the winter months. We shall surely miss his presence in our assembly, as Bro. Pete's willingness to lead in child-like and humble prayer was a blessing to us all.

Bro. Sam Huber of Sabetha was a visiting minister for our Thanksgiving service. We thank him for these efforts. The Gridley ministers and congregation assembled with us. This is the beginning of our mid-week services, to be held each Wed. evening at 7:30 through the winter months, as we alternate with Gridley. We welcome those traveling through this way to stop and worship with us.

Our convert, Kathleen Gallatin, has found peace in our Lord and is awaiting baptism. She is the daughter of Sis. Carrie and Bro. Charlie Gleichman of this congregation.

A Card of Thanks: I wish to thank my beloved brothers and sisters in faith, and my friends and relatives, for the pretty get-well cards, prayers and flowers, while in the hospital and since my return home. They were greatly appreciated. May God bless you. Kathryn Anliker.

LATTY

Connie Stoller — LeAnn Laukhuf
Thanksgiving Day is again in the past—
It brought precious memories which surely will last,
But thanks and praise be to God each day
For His marvelous grace which has shown us the way.

We are thankful that Bill Stoller, son of Bro. William and Sis. Florence, has turned to God in repentance. May his joy be full in serving the Lord. Our Latty congregation has much to be thankful for, as we have had a harvest of souls.

The Latty Sunday School visited Bremen on Nov. 7. Everyone had an enjoyable time. The Latty Young Group was invited to Francesville this same week-end, and those who were able to go had a blessed week-end.

Latty was privileged to have group from the Peoria Choir visit us on Nov. 27-28. We certainly enjoyed their beautiful singing and the fellowshiping together.

On Nov. 14, Sis. Shirley Stoller from here and Bro. Harlan Metzger of West Bend were united in Holy matrimony by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller. We were privileged to have so many visitors with us, including Ministering Bros. Walter Anliker (Roanoke), Art Gudeman (La-Crosse), and Duane Metzger (West Bend). We could feel God's presence throughout the day. May His blessings rest upon this new couple as they make their new home at West Bend.

Hospital patients were: Sisters Marie Stoller, Bertha Stoller, Elizabeth Wieland, and Bro. George Sinn. Bertha was able to return to the nursing home where she is staying.

MANSFIELD

Aaron A. Sauder

Congratulations to Mike and Karen Bocka, who are the parents of their first child, a son Michael Robert, born Nov. 12. Sis. Leora Gasser Bocka (Emil) is the paternal grandmother; great-grandmother is Sis. Katie Bocka (Martin); and the great-grandfather is Bro. Albert Gasser Sr.

Thank you, Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Aaron Steffen for visiting and ministering to us.

Those who have been in the hospital for tests are Sis. Barbara Gross Bricker (Carl), Sis. Anna Sauder Hoffman (Earl), and Beverly Zimmer.

After being confined to a hospital for many years, Sis. Elizabeth Steir was at last relieved of her illness, when the Lord called her Home on Nov. 6, just 14 days before she would have attained the age of 90 years. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her sister, Sis. Theresa Stier of our congregation, and her brother, Bro. Philip Steir of California; she is also survived by two other sisters. Sis. Theresa Steir is now residing at the Woodlawn Nursing Home, 535 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield Ohio 44907.

The joy and excitement of the Christmas season is upon us, and the children are busily preparing for programs, as older groups make plans to carol for the aged and shut-ins, in memory of the birth of our Saviour.

How long ago, how far away, the Son of God was born,
And yet how bright the miracle
with each new Christmas morn.

We share a joy that brighter grows,
though years may pass away,
Each time we share the blessing of
another Christmas Day!

"This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

PORTLAND Judith Knecht

The Christmas Season draws near, and everyone is busy and occupied trying to pick out the right gift. There is much merry wishing and also merry spirits . . . But let us never forget the precious gift our Father in heaven sent to earth many years ago . . . all places were crowded that night (as they are today); our Saviour was born in a stable in a quiet, humble way . . . and yet today, money cannot buy the gift that we can have if we are a true child of God. Isn't it truly much more precious than anything we can purchase in any store?

PULASKI

Florence Hartzler—Janette Blough

We welcome into our fellowship Bros. Tony Funk and Don Clark, and Sis. Willa Funk. We were so happy to hear their testimonies and witness their baptism. We were especially grateful to Elder Bro. Lester Hartter, who was so willing to come and help our elder brother, Noah Schrock in this important work.

Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich spent a few days in the hospital, after she fell and injured her knee.

RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler—Janette Blough

A very enjoyable week-end was experienced by all, when three dear souls were taken into the fold. Bro. Noah Schrock assisted Bro. Noah Bauman and Bro. Rudolph Graf, giving good words of advice to these friends. They are now sons and daughter of God, brothers and sister of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We rejoice with the families of these Our Bros. Richard Hartzler and Joe Stoller, and Sis. Karen Miller. Bro. Noah, even though up in years, had many other good teachings for all of us. We thank him for his inspiring messages . . . Bro. Eugene Fetter was with us for services recently, and we enjoyed his words of love and encouragement.

We are sorry to report, Sis. Doris Gasser is hospitalized again, as

surgery is required; an injury from an auto accident has not healed properly. We are glad to report Sis. Pearl Brece and Sis. Ella (Fred) Widmer and Bernie Hilty are home again. Our dear old Sis. Lena Blatter had the misfortune of breaking her hip. She is 102 years old and has been confined to a nursing home for a number of years.

It was 50 years ago when Bro. Ray and Sis. Elizabeth Musser were married.

James and Mary Ann Marty are first-time parents, with the arrival of little Tonya Renee. Blessings from God to you and the little bundle of joy.

It was good to see Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake. They spent some time at home with Miriam's parents, Bro. Herb and Sis. Ruth Hilty, before returning to El Paso, Texas, where Bill is stationed at Ft. Bliss.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel . . . God with us . . . And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

A thought for Christmas: As we walk along the street, we see colored lights sparkling in the snow, and we wonder: Do the lives of those who follow God radiate light, too? As we passed a window, piled high with gaily wrapped packages, we say to ourselves: At Christmas we give each other presents. In this way we bring happiness and show our love for our fellowmen. The question seems to us: What about God's children who have no food, no homes . . . Do our gifts go to them? We have to reply: We usually give just to each other. The light of long ago when Christ was born was the bright star that shown over the stable where Jesus lay in a manger. The gift was Christ Himself, given to us by His Father, because of His love for us. What can our gift to Him be? By giving ourselves to Him, and follow after Him. Let's not forget the true meaning of Christmas!

SHIODA, JAPAN

Willis R. Ehnle

" . . . by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having

obtained eternal redemption for us." We read this verse this morning at the breakfast table, and I'm wondering about, when it was Christ entered into the holy place and where was the holy place located. Hebrews 9:24 tells us that Christ entered "into heaven itself" and Revelation 15:5 speaks of "the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven", which John saw. We conclude then, that Christ entered into the holy place in heaven, which is, after all, the logical place for a permanent place of atonement to be located. When did Christ do this for us? It was after His death and resurrection, for Hebrews 9:12 uses the past tense in stating, having **obtained** eternal redemption for us.

Christ's statement to Mary in John 20:17, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God," indicates that it was soon after He met Mary in the garden that He ascended to Heaven and entered into the holy place to perform the work of our eternal High Priest.

Why should we be interested in these things? Because they are spiritual, and "to be spiritually minded is life and peace." In regard to understanding, God desires that "thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures".

On the evening of Nov. 13 at our Shioda Church, Sis. Junko Hatsuumi returned to our fellowship and was received with great joy by all of us. She stated that she had thought our way was too hard, and that we should be more like other churches, but that she has come to see and understand by observing actual examples why we are opposed to such things as a child of God marrying an unbeliever. She had a very favorable impression of our fellowship while in the States, and this was a factor in favor of her returning, although she had thought of doing so even before she went to the States.

Bros. Rudy Graf and Ben Maibach were very influential in opening the way for Junko to return and to be accepted. It had long been thought here in Japan, that once you leave or have been put under discipline, whichever the case may be, there is no possibility of return-

ing, apparently the matter of loss of face being involved. However, one thing we must remember about repentance and following Jesus Christ, we must be willing to lose face constantly, so Christ can be lifted up.

Nov. 23 was Labor Thanksgiving Day in Japan, a national holiday. I learned that it is a time to give thanks to people who work. I was disappointed to learn of this. On that particular day, a Tuesday, we had a special day of fellowship and thanksgiving to the living God here at our Shioda Church. Bro. Akito Inoue had the morning sermon, and Bro. Uchida had the afternoon sermon. Then some of us took a donation of over \$20.00 to a home for unwanted children, about one hour's drive from here by auto. Eighty children live in that home called **Kazuha Gakuen**. This home has no affiliation with temples or shrines, so we can be helpful without promoting the wrong cause. With the \$20.00, we went with a person from the home to buy school supplies, crackers, and candy for the children, after having sung "Jesus Loves Me" and "What a Friend" for them in a large room where they all assembled in an orderly seating arrangement. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

We are looking for an elementary school teacher to replace Sis. Judy Bauer for the school year beginning next September. Please contact Bro. Ben Maibach through your local elder.

WEST BEND

Mrs. Melvin Fehr

Mrs. A. Banwart

One soul was welcomed into the Fold. One soul is worth more in the sight of the Lord than the whole world. These words were brought to our attention several times during the visit of Elder Bros. Leo Moser of Lester and Paul Fehr of Morris, for the proving and baptismal services of Sue, daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart. Considering the time and effort we put forth for the tiny portion of the world that is given us to use while journeying here below, do we put forth enough of our time and effort for that one soul, which is worth more than the whole world? While

here, these visiting elders read the report of the conference and explained it. Surely anyone present who had an open heart was filled to overflowing, leaving no room for the undesirable traits.

A wedding reception was held on Nov. 27 for Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley (Stoller) Metzger. We welcome Sis. Shirley into our congregation, knowing many miles separate her from her family, Bro. Glen and Sis. Edith of Latty. May the Lord bless them as they walk hand in hand in His love.

A baby boy, Jeffery Allen, was born Nov. 19 to Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman. Baby Jeffery has one brother and two sisters to welcome him home.

Our November hospital patients have been: Bro. Levi Banwart, Sis. Jessie Fehr, Sis. Delores Gerber, Sis. Kathy (Wayne) Fehr, Chris Schmidt, Ronnie Fehr (son of Rodger and Judy), and Joyce Fehr (daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte).

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

Blest be your Christmas, wherever you are,

For a blessing knows neither near nor far.

Wherever you go, whatever you do, May an inward stillness go with you.

May your body have strength and your heart a lift.

May Christ Himself be your Christmas gift.

How happy and joyful are our children when practicing for the Christmas program. May we also look forward with this same joyful anticipation to Christ's return as we do toward Christmas. "Tis not the babe, but Christ the man who walked in Galilee; Tis not the manger but the cross That sets the spirit free."

Many blessings were received with visits from our precious brothers in faith. Bro. Joe Schrock and his wife showed their slides of the Holy Land to the Minneapolis and Winthrop congregations Saturday night. On Sunday, Bro. Schrock explained many Bible prophecies, and we pray many will take heed, that we may escape the wrath of God during the great tribulation that will be placed upon mankind left on earth.

The following Saturday, a Sunday School conference was held here, with Morris, Lester, West Bend, Minneapolis, and Winthrop teachers participating. Bro. Walter Anliker and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss came to inform them of what our brethren are doing. Many good teachings were given to us and our youth, at the Saturday and Sunday services. Our lives consist of faith, and must believe in the way the Lord answers our prayers: right away, waiting awhile, and maybe not at all because we asked amiss. We as Christians must try and be the shining light on a hill. Lights give off a bright light and illuminate a great area. We want to be a silent light to all and especially to our children so that they may follow the Lord. The thought was left with our youth: Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth before the evil days draw nigh. "O Father, prolong the time so that not one would have to perish." We thank these brethren for their time and messages.

Hospital patients were: Darren, son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Louise Schmidt, and Mary, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner. Both are home, getting along fine.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz
Miss Della Witschey

We are having real winter weather, cold that is, but no snow so far, temperature dropping as low as 16 on Dec. 3.

Kenneth Witschey had a very unusual experience one day, in driving to work that morning a 10 point deer came pounding off the hill and into the side of his car, damaging the car very badly and of course breaking three of its legs. Kenneth was not injured. Game officials destroyed the deer.

In thinking of time, effort and comfort given to the sick and aged, my sister, Elda Ritz does a real job in this way; last year and again this year she makes warm lap robes and takes them to the nursing home here, for those able to sit in chairs or for coverlets. She uses warm materials, cuts them into squares, and in using all colors sews them in a pattern very pleasing to the eye. Using a heavy warm lining and backing, and knots them with colored yarn. Older folk are very happy with this gift.

Word has just reached us that

Lynn Reithmiller, grandson of Mrs. Lewis Hafely, was badly injured while attending Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, in early September, and has been placed in a body cast for six weeks, suffering from a broken leg and body injuries. He has been brought to the home of his parents near Hannibal, O., to convalesce.

Miss Christina Jean Barth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Barth and a great granddaughter of the late Mrs. Emma Barth was married on Nov. 27 to Mr. Alfred Anthony Fiore. After a honeymoon in Puerto Rico, they will reside in Miami, Florida.

Seven new homes are being built in the Limestone Ridge and Doolin Run areas; those building are: Larry Pegg, Raymond Young, David Riggenbach, Glen Jr. and Michael Mullett, Gary Durig and Leroy Cecil.

The annual Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association meeting will be held on Jan. 3, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Berger.

Mrs. R. D. Williams and daughter, Mrs. Don Brandle of Akron visited with the Barth families here on Nov. 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth of Parkersburg, W. Va., have gone to Florida to spend the winter at their home in Zephyrhills, Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Riggenbach and daughter, Bonnie Hawkins, spend the Thanksgiving holidays with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Giles and family in Alfred, N. Y.

Mrs. L. W. Witschey of Moundsville, who has been doing so well after having a broken hip several months ago, is not too well at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Durig (Mary Witschey) have returned from a three-weeks' honeymoon vacation, with her sister and family in San Leandro, California.

Our wish for all is a very Happy Holiday Season.

CONGERVILLE

Phyllis Knapp — Norma Stahl

The tests of life are to make, not break us. Trouble may demolish a man's business, but build up his character. The blow at the outward man may be the greatest blessing to the inner man. If God then puts or permits anything hard in our lives, be sure that the real peril, the

real trouble, is what we shall lose if we flinch or rebel.

God gets His best soldiers out of the highlands of affliction.

Bro. Wm. Dietrich Sr. had major surgery at Mayo's and is now home. May the Lord be with him.

May the Lord be with Sis. Emma Reeser. Due to a fall at home, she is in the hospital with a broken leg. Our prayers are with her. May she be comforted by them.

On Thanksgiving Day, we had with us Bro. Eli Somerhalder. We received many blessings from his sermon.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

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

We had a Thanksgiving dinner for everyone at our fellowship center, the Sunday before Thanksgiving. One of our guests was a former patient at one of the rest homes, and with her came our Bro. Wigg's mother, altho Bro. Wiggs has gone to be with the Lord. After dinner, there was singing of hymns. Now our children are preparing a Christmas program, to be held on Sunday evening, Dec. 19.

Bro. Joe Waibel from Bay City, Bro. Sam Aeschliman from Bluffton, and Bro. Ben Stavenik from Mansfield were here one Sunday. Bros. Waibel and Aeschliman assisted Bro. David Bertsch in serving Communion.

We are expecting Bro. and Sis. Wm. Hartman and baby home for a few weeks, from Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Steiglitz are the parents of a little girl. Oliver and Emma Jean Steiglitz are the grandparents.

We regret having Sis. Ida Winzler moving to Bluffton, but we are looking forward for her to visit us often.

Sis. Mary Troxel is doing well at the rest Home. Sis. Jennie Klopfenstein is home from the hospital, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Helen and Pete Maxfield. Bro. Edw. Bertsch also seems to be doing well at the rest home.

We visited the three rest homes in Butler.

Our dear Sis. Elizabeth Steiglitz

went to be with the Lord. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. John Yergler, and burial was in the Leo Cemetery. **Note of Appreciation:** To our many relatives, brethren and friends. Your kindnesses and expression of sympathy are more deeply appreciated than words can express. We want to thank you for the many cards, gifts and kind deeds shared with our mother and us during her illness and passing. May God richly reward you now and eternally. The family of Sis. Elizabeth Stieglitz.

CISSNA PARK

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

At this Christmas season, and at all times, we cannot but be filled with gratitude, for the complete plan of salvation we have. Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world, stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death; and the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of eternal love. Then you can keep Christmas.

The engagement of Sis. Dorothy Hodel to Bro. Michael Meister has been announced. Dorothy is the daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude Hodel. Michael is the son of Mrs. Leola Lockhart and the late Lloyd Meister of Peoria. Our best wishes are extended to them as they make their plans.

Bros. Maurice Frank, Verlin Stoller, Roy Grimm and Bob Grimm were our guest ministers and brought us many good teachings. We thank them for coming. May we not only be hearers, but doers of the same.

God called Bro. Clarence Knapp, age 71, Home Nov. 21. He passed away at Iroquois Hospital, Watseka, after a long illness. Survivors are his wife, Sis. Nami, who so patiently cared for him; daughters, Sis's. Arlene, Lucile, Marilyn, Sylvia Knapp and Marguerite Mott of California; sons Wesley, Norman and Aaron; Bros. Henry, Adam, Fred; sisters, Sis's. Carie Hari, Reka Hoerr, Verna Hoerr & Mrs. Lydia Ogren. Our ministers officiated. Our sympathy is extended to the family. . . **Thank you:** The family of Clarence Knapp wish to express to their many friends and relatives heartfelt thanks for love, sympathy and prayers offered during the long illness and death of their loved hus-

band, father and grandfather.

There are always sick ones among us. Sisters Bertha Meiss and Mary Schupbach are confined to their homes. Sisters Helen Lackey, Emma Wahl, and Anna Kaufman have been missing for some time. . . hope they will soon be able to assemble with us again. Our Friend, Ben Walbeser, had surgery and is improving nicely.

Dec. 6, our Bible class was host to Wolcott, Remington, Francesville, Princeville and Bradford Bible classes. We enjoyed a blessed day, and certainly thank their leaders and Sunday School teachers, the ministering Bros. Art Baurer, Nathan Stoller, and Earl Kilgus, who brought the message for the youth and aged. Supper was served at the church. We hope every one received a blessing, and welcome them back.

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

Notice: The telephone numbers on the Cissna Park telephone exchange are being changed, so we are enclosing them so our church books can be brought up to date: Apostolic Christian Church, 815-457-2937; Ezra Feller, 815-457-2130; Phil Sauder, 815-457-2246; Ed Alt, 815-457-2770.

In memory of my beloved husband, Bro. Phil Aeschliman, who passed away Jan. 17, 1969. God and time heals all sorrow and helps to forget. . . But time so far has only proved how much I miss him. Yet God gave me strength and courage to bear it, but what it meant to lose, no one will ever know. My heart oft aches with loneliness; my eyes shed many a tear, but in prayer, God and Phil are always near. His wife, Leah.

A Thank You

I want to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts, letters, and especially prayers, while in the hospital and since returning home. A special thanks to those of the Chicago congregation. May God bless everyone. Bro. Fred Waldbeser.

GRIDLEY, ILL.

Dixie Ringger

On Nov. 3, the wedding vows of Bro. Fred Kellerhaus of Cissna Park and Sis. Sophie Hofer were

solemnized by Elder Bro. George Gramm. May their life together be blessed.

Nov. 20, Elder Bro. George Gramm and his wife, Louise (Grusy) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Visiting ministers with us that day were Bro. Harold Gramm—Morris and Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Chicago.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, and Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin. We appreciate the efforts of our ministering brothers.

We have several from our congregation who have been absent from our midst on account of sickness: Bro. Elmer Meiss, Sisters Emma Grusy, Katie Moser and Minnie Stortz, and our dear friend, Carl Schlipf.

Sis. Setta Klopfenstein had the misfortune of breaking her arm, but is making a satisfactory recovery.

Our friend, Christine Meiss, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hulda, has found the grace to turn to God in repentance. May the Lord guide her in her new life.

Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary (Mendold) Witzig are the happy parents of a girl, Molly Sue. Molly has a sister, Amy.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Paulette Meyer

It was snowing as the Sunday School children sang "Whiter Than Snow" last Sunday morning. The fresh snow is so very clean and pure. . . and all who are washed in the blood of the Lamb can be clean and pure. What a privilege and opportunity for mankind!

May the love of God be present in the homes of our newlyweds. Linda, daughter of Bro. Jacob Metzger, was married to Jim Moser Nov. 6. Arlene, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ernst Metzger was married to Rodney, son of Bro. and Sis. Nathan Grimm of Sabetha on Nov. 27. Both marriages were solemnized by Elder Bro. Leo Moser. Arlene and Linda are granddaughters of Grandpa Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger, who observed their 64th anniversary Nov. 17. They received many good wishes, and went out for supper with children and grandchildren.

Sis. Martha Feucht (August) was our hospital patient, and is home again after surgery.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leu-

thold are the parents of a precious daughter, Melissa Rose. She is already an aunt, as there are 3 nieces and 1 nephew, as well as 7 brothers and sisters in the family. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rose Moser and Sis. Emma Leuthold.

Rollyn Knobloch, son of Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Joan, was home on furlough. After spending some time with his wife's family in Denver, he returned to his base at Ft. Hood.

The children are preparing their songs for the Christmas program. How they love the story of Baby Jesus! How curious they are about the manger and the animals! How humble we feel to answer their innocent questions!

To our Lester readers . . . January is collection month for the **Silver Lining**. Also, if there are any of our loved ones who do not get it, now would be a good time to put their name on the mailing list.

TAMAHATA, JAPAN

Akito and Marie Inoue

"All thanks and praise to God" was our prayer, especially during this past Thanksgiving season. Even though 100 million people live on these 5 islands, He still provides us daily with the fruits of the earth. As we drive to the country each week-end for church, and observe the sun going down behind the mountains, we notice the farmers as they are finishing the harvest. The last bundles of rice are put into the small threshing machine which separates the grain from the chaff. Long white radishes (15 inch) and Chinese cabbage are being dried and later preserved for winter food. There is a spiritual lesson we can learn from this as recorded in Jeremiah 8:20, that the harvest is past and the summer is ended and many have not sought their salvation.

Sis. Junko Saegusa was re-elected as Sunday School teacher at our business meeting. Sis. Tamino Inoue was also asked to continue her work as treasurer.

Several of us enjoyed a blessing at our fellowship meeting for all 3 churches, held at Shioda church on Nov. 23, which is Labor Thanksgiving Day here in Japan. We were reminded that one way we show our appreciation and thanks to the Lord is by giving our time for Him.

Our thoughts are now turning to the Christmas season and how we can best honor our Saviour, and

that others might learn the true meaning of this holy season. May the peace, joy and light of the first Christmas be in your home and plans for this Christmas.

ROANOKE

Marilyn Weyeneth—Norene Herbst

Sis. Linda Leman and Bro. Jerel Schmidgall were united in marriage Nov. 28. Their parents are Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Lavina Leman and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall of Morris. They will be making their home in Morris. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Harold Zeltwanger (Bremen) and Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka).

Sis. Elizabeth Broquard (Peoria) is making her home with her sisters, Sis. Anna Leman and Sis. Esther Weyeneth.

Bro. Russell and Sis. Marjorie Plattner are the parents of a daughter, Jennifer Kay, born Dec. 1. Their other children are Sis. Pat, Rusty, Jane and Danny.

Bro. Ralph Hodel is a patient in the Methodist Hospital, Peoria, where he is being treated for a leg injury. Bro. Bill Sauder has been released from the hospital. We are thankful that he is able to assemble with us again.

The engagement of Betty Rassi to Ronald Lindwall, of DeKalb, has been announced. Betty's parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Angela Rassi. The Henry Lindwalls of Harlington, Texas, are Ronald's parents.

Cathy Kirby and Lewis Martin Jr. were married Dec. 4. Their parents are Lewis and Ruth Martin and the Darrell Kirbys of Benson. The couple will be living in Roanoke.

Thank-you note: My sincere thanks to all who remembered me with cards, gifts, visits, and prayers during my stay in the hospital and since returning home. Everyone's thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated. Bro. Bill Sauder.

Look back and give thanks.
Look forward and take courage.
Look around and serve.
Look up and ask God's help.

TOKYO (Tsutsujiga-Oka)

Yoshio Yamazaki

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full

of grace and truth."

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you today and through the New Year in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

It is surely wonderful that our Father in heaven gave us great blessings here in Tokyo church on Nov. 28. We had real blessed baptismal service, and also had Holy Communion, and pretty many members came from Shioda and Tamahata.

Our new members are Sis. Takako Horiuch (49) and Bro. Nobutaka Enda (26). Bro. Enda is coming to our Tokyo church since nine years ago, when Bro. John Klaus started English class here. He loves to read the word and sings the hymn very much. I think he will be a very helpful brother of our faith and also will be a good labourer in His vineyard.

I'm teaching English to the children here in our Tokyo church, just like Bro. Willis Ehnle and Sisters Sue Schrock and Judy Bauer in Shioda church, and the children really enjoy it very much. There are 14 children attending my class, and a third of them are coming to the Sunday School. I wish and pray more of them will attend to our Sunday School in future. I am taking 800 yen a month from each child for tuition, and put it into our church funds for painting the church building. My purpose isn't for the money, as you know. I am trying for them to hear the word of God from the time of a little child, and also I'm telling to their mothers once a month from the Bible. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days came not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them".

We surely thank Him for your great love and prayer and your kind encouragement. Please continue to pray for us as such small congregations here in Japan, the same as we pray for you all in the States.

BREMEN

Mrs. Aldean Feldman

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

May we all utter the many thanks we feel in our heart, but fail to express, as in our Thanksgiving program, our Sunday School children showed with their expressions on their faces and told with their lips. Let's always remember like the grateful leper, only one of ten, remembered to give thanks for his healing.

The Latty Sunday School visited us on Nov. 7. A good day of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We praise God for sending a guardian angel to watch over Richard Germann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Germann. On Nov. 13, his clothing was caught in a tractor power take-off. The tractor motor had stopped in time. He was found by his father in time to restore breathing. He was hospitalized a few days, then recuperated at home. We're thankful to report he is able to be back in school.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Mary Sinn and John and George Sinn of our locality, in the passing of their aged father, Bro. Chris Sinn of Morton, on Nov. 7 . . . also to Sis. Katie and Christine, who so tenderly watched over him in his last years.

Ed Germann is in the hospital, following surgery for gallstones . . . at this time is still very sick.

As we approach the Christmas season, may the blessed story of the Christ Child stir our hearts to greater love for the Saviour and all mankind.

CHICAGO

Bro. Harold Emch from Girard ministered to us, during his visit to see his daughter, Sis. Diane, who is teaching in this area. We thank him for his good words.

The new church building is now quickly taking shape. Most of the brick and stone work is complete, and approximately half of the roof is on. It should be enclosed shortly, so that the interior can be completed during the winter.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Alice G. Virkler

No one could love us like Jesus!
From His beautiful home He came
down.

He was born where they sheltered
the cattle;
No room for the Christ in the town!

No one could love us like Jesus!
He came from the mansions above.

He lived with the poor and the
lowly,
And the reason? That reason was
love!

As the Christmas season is upon us, we turn our hearts and minds to the love of Jesus—the love He has shown to us in past times and the love he showers upon us in our daily walk of life. May each of us carry this wonderful love of Jesus in our hearts throughout the coming new year, and show it to those about us each day.

We have had a beautiful snowfall this week, which has left the ground and trees covered with a clean white blanket. We cannot help but remember the love of God, when He sent His Son to be the clean white blanket for our many sins.

We are thankful and feel that God has shown his great love and answered our many prayers, when we learn that Paul Schamback, son of Bro. David and Sis. Lois, is slowly recovering from serious injuries he received in an automobile accident. He is still hospitalized, but hopes to return home soon.

Others who have been hospitalized and been able to return to their homes are Sis. Clara Virkler, Sis. Irene Farney, and Jack Virkler. May God be the constant strength and comfort to each of those in sickness.

We have been blessed with the fellowship of visitors from Rockville.

Lee Schamback, son of Bro. David and Sis. Lois, has turned his heart to the Lord and is awaiting baptism. Lee is working and living in Bay City. How thankful we are that God is still calling dear ones into His service. It is our prayer that many more will yield unto His call in this latter time.

INDIANAPOLIS

Tom and Carolyn Frank

The lovely hours of Christmas Day
Spread joy across a reaching world;
Through prayer and hymn, and
candlelight

We feel the wonder of that
night . . .

The hours of Christmas bring to
view

The sight of shepherds on a hill,
Of wise men journeying from afar,
Of glowing beauty of a star,

And blessed tidings of good will . . .
And love that came for me . . . for
you.

Another year has passed and we would like to express our gratitude for the churches which have supported our services at Indianapolis. We extend our thanks to those members including ministers, who sacrificed their time and effort in bringing fellowship to our small gatherings. We believe this work has been blessed, for we are experiencing growth in our fellowship with members and friends.

Those bringing messages of truth in recent weeks were Bros. Jack Bollier, David Bertsch, Leo; George Yergler, La Crosse; Carl Westfall, Francesville.

Kerry and Kathy Lanz and their daughter, Andi, have moved from Louisville, Ky. to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where Kerry has found new employment. We wish them God's nearness and blessings in their new home. Their present address is: 1828 Pinebluff S.E., Grand Rapids Mich 49508.

May the beautiful spirit of Christmas bring peace to your heart all year long.

FT. WAYNE

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

The Lord called home another of His children, as Sis. Elizabeth Stieglitz was taken from the family circle on Nov. 7. We extend our sympathy to her family, and especially to those of our congregation: Sisters Lenora Stoller and Eleanor Stieglitz and Russell and Harold.

Our hospital patients have included Bro. Kent Miller, medical; Bro. Sy Fulkerson, surgical; and Sis. Eleanor Stieglitz, medical. May the Heavenly Father ever be with those who suffer bodily afflictions.

We enjoyed having Bro. Earl Zeltwanger of Bremen with us on Nov. 14 for the day and in the evening for the song service, with the Bremen brothers in charge . . . and we again thank the Lord that the way was open for Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington to be with us for Thanksgiving services. We truly count it a blessing for the fellowship of all our visitors.

Roger Stoller spent a 4-day pa-
over Thanksgiving with his family
and relatives; we rejoice when our
soldier boys can fellowship with us,
for we miss them when absent from

our church assembly (as well as those who are away attending schools of higher learning).

Becky Pulfer, daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Mary, was united in marriage with Michael Andrews, son of Mrs. Clara Andrews, Bluffton, on Saturday, Nov. 28. We wish them the Lord's blessings!

Our annual Christmas program is being planned for Wednesday evening, Dec. 22. May we all gather to hear anew the "Story Of Christmas" as told in the precious "Word Of God".

A Glorious Gift

Christmas comes but once each year,

And voices ring the message of good cheer.

We love to hear the story of old,
And it gladdens our hearts, each time it is told.

Let your "star" shine to the light way,

For others to come and kneel and pray.

That they, too, may seek to know
The gifts He brought so long ago.

A "Glorious Gift" is yours to receive,

If only you have the faith to believe. . .

And may the message of peace and good cheer

Remain with us all, throughout the New Year.

MLE

MAYWOOD

Julie Dapper

. . . In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain In Jesus the Merciful Saviour. These words came to mind as we laid our Bro. Vern Huette to rest on Nov. 24. The short time of his conversion was spent in the throes of these words, as much pain and suffering was his lot . . . Yet, we have confidence that he endured it all willingly, and as we were told, with patience and gratitude that he had found His peace with God. It gives us all comfort, along with his dear wife, children, brothers and sisters, who spent many hours with Bro. Vern in his last days. His testimony of faith, and the love that God filled his heart with, is a testimony for each of us, that we can hold fast and keep this wonderful faith that we have become a part of.

How marvelous are the ways of our Heavenly Father. On Tuesday, Nov. 30, the Lord bestowed unto

us a wonderful blessing with the visit of Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City). His message was one that was filled with love, when he read and meditated on the great love that Jacob had for Rachel, and that he was willing to work more than the seven years that he and his uncle, Laban, agreed upon, but Jacob found he was deceived, just as he had deceived his father in receiving the blessing. With the great love he had in his heart, he was then willing to work another seven years. This message should remind us that we have promised to serve the Lord, not just seven years, but all the years of our life—for God's love for us was so great that He sent His only begotten Son into this world, to die upon the cross, so that each of us have the same opportunity to live a life for Him and gain that eternal reward. We thank Bro. Ramseyer for taking time to worship with us.

Sis. Elizabeth Kaisner has been shut in with a blood clot in her leg. We pray that God will grant unto her the patience to endure.

During this Holiday Season, may each of us remember its purpose, and not become engrossed in the hustle of the world, but that we can always remember to keep Christ in CHRISTmas.

MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

We're getting ready, in Sunday School, for our annual Christmas program.

Long ago, long ago
On a bright starlit morn
Jesus came, from heaven above . . .
In a manger was born . . .

If just hearing them wasn't enough, one look into their upturned, eager faces as they tried so hard to learn the words, this was true bounty. Another year, I thought, another opportunity to celebrate His coming . . . one more time given us to hear the beautiful sound of children's voices singing Christmas carols.

Nov. 27 was the wedding day of Dan Beer and Deborah Shearer. Debbie's parents are the Carl Shearers of Milford. Dan is the oldest son of Bro. Cap and Sis. Mary Ann Beer of our congregation. They will make their home southeast of Milford, where Dan is engaged in dairy farming. We wish joy and

contentment, with God's presence part of their home.

Special wishes for happiness are extended to Vicki Price, whose engagement to Steven Greer of Goshen has been announced by her parents, Everett and Sis. Leona Price. A summer wedding is planned.

Friends, relatives, brothers and sisters of our faith witnessed the baptism and prayer of consecration for three dear young people today. Tom Speicher, David Baumgartner and Tammy Sheets all were accepted into the fold. When a church can congregate for this kind of an occasion, such a glow of thankfulness and happiness prevails. It was a wonderful experience.

Bro. Wendell Gudeman assisted our Elder Bro. Theo. Beer in this work, and we are so grateful for his contribution to this truly blessed week-end.

MORRIS

Ann Meiss — Helen Joos

Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today;

Lift up little hands now and praise Him as they.

Rejoice that a Saviour is living today,

And join in the praise, in the heavenly ray.

With a heavy blanket of snow upon the ground, it is easy for us to get into the Christmas spirit. Let us remember the true meaning of Christmas, as did a four-year-old boy when asked if he received everything that he wanted for Christmas. "No," he replied, "but it's O.K. It's not my birthday."

We all join Bro. Jerel Schmidgall in thanking the Lord for his safe return from Viet Nam. Quite a number from this congregation witnessed his marriage on Nov. 28 to Sis. Linda Leman at Roanoke.

Announcement was made of the approaching marriage of Bro. Dale Zeltwanger to Sis. Rachel Rinkenberger of La Crosse.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Wilda Koehl are the parents of a daughter, Donna Mae, born Nov. 23.

We were thankful to have Bro. Gene Metzger, Lester, bring us the word on Nov. 21.

OAKVILLE Martha Steiner

We rejoice with our new brothers

and sisters in faith, Ed and Patty Stoller, Robert Kuntz, and Wayne and Joleen Gerst. Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman from Forrest assisted our Elder Bro. Noah Schrock with the provings and baptisms of these dear souls.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop), Edwin Bahler (Remington), Elder Paul Butikofer (Elgin), Joe Stoller and Art Baurer (Princeville), and Arnold Gerst (Chicago). We have been richly blessed by these visits from our ministering brothers.

Friends Betty Walker from Moberly, Missouri, and Richard (Rick) Vierling were married Nov. 12 and are now living in this area. Rick is the son of Bro. Emil and Sis. Pearl (Heiniger) Wierling. We wish the new couple many years of blessing and happiness.

After spending more than ninety years on this earth, John Kuntz was summoned out of this life. We sympathize with Bro. George Kuntz of our congregation in the loss of his father.

Our sympathy also goes out to Bro. Glen and Sis. Josephine (Reiman) Martin in the death of her uncle, Ben Reiman.

PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

Let yesterday be a lesson, today an action, tomorrow a hope.

When Bro. Ben Maibach of Detroit spent a Sunday morning with us, he shared some of his experiences of the Orient. It is hard for us, who live in the land of plenty, to realize the great poverty and need of people in other parts of the world.

The following Sunday, Bro. Alphi Moser of Morris was our guest minister. How precious is the bond of love found in our churches across the land and how good if we let our inner feeling radiate so all should know we possess something within. All comes from God, and how thankful we are for this precious gift. How thankful we are for young brothers who stand up for righteousness and preach the truth in all its fulness. We are truly thankful for the messages of God's love given through brethren willing to be used for His service.

It seems as if an answer to prayer for help (in the ministry), when several of our brothers were

gone, Bro. Eli Somerhalder of Burlington was led to visit us. Many timely teachings were brought out. Several times we were reminded to let our lights shine, and we can do so by letting our lights shine within us. We are thankful when we have surprise visits from ministers who give of themselves for our benefit.

Helen Mueller submitted to surgery and is recovering nicely. We are thankful she is able to worship with us again. We need faithful friends to worship with us and miss them when they are not present.

Julie Ann, baby daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna Gehrig was hospitalized for a few days, suffering from pneumonia. She has recovered from that, for which we are thankful, and glad she can be home again.

Sis. Marie Endress became very ill and had to be taken to the hospital. Even though she has been in failing health for the past year and half, she was able to be up most of the time and spent much time reading her Bible. The daily newspaper had no interest for her, she said, as it didn't contain the comforting words she needed and found in the Bible. We are hopeful she can find relief, and trust that she will be comforted knowing her many friends are praying for her comfort.

Bro. Ray Martin is scheduled to go into the hospital again the 19th, to have his body cast changed. He underwent hip surgery in September, and after a few weeks in the hospital was able to go home, where he spends his time living in bed. Both he and his wife, Sis. Edna, as well as their little flock are an inspiration to all, as they accent their cross so cheerfully. We know these past few weeks have not been easy ones, but we believe they can feel that their many dear ones are praying for them. **A word of thanks from Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna:** "Words fail to express our thankfulness for the many prayers, visits, cards, gifts, etc. extended to us while Ray was in the hospital and since convalescing at home. May God richly bless each one for their many deeds of kindness and thoughtfulness."

Howard, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Pearl Rumbold, is convalescing at home, after being hospitalized four weeks, following an auto accident. He received a dislocated and bruised hip, which is slowly healing,

and he is able to get about with the aid of crutches. We are thankful he is recovering.

Dolores, sister of Bros. Robert and John Wieland, is now making her home in the new Home for the Handicapped at Morton. We hope she will find happiness and be content. Since the death of her parents, she had been at different places; most recently she found love in the home of her aunt. How thankful we are for a home for these precious souls.

There is joy in two homes, as precious babies were born. On Nov. 20 a daughter, Sara Ann, was born to Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht. Danny, Mark and Rachel welcomed their new sister, as did grandparents, Bro. Daniel and Sis. Nathalia Feucht, and Bro. Joshua and Sis. Marie Broquard of Fairbury. Sis. Lydia Feucht is the great grandmother.

A little boy, Blake David, was born Nov. 28 to Bro. Richard and Sis. Jeanette Graham. Bruce, Doreen, Darlene, Deann and Brian welcomed their little brother. Bro. Ezra and Sis. Lucille Rumbold are happy grandparents.

As we look out into a world of confusion, selfishness, hatred, wars and such, we wonder how many will honestly worship the Holy Child, who came to give His life as a ransom for our sins. How many will have the real peace in their hearts and the sincere love for all mankind?

Our wish for all the readers of this **Silver Lining** is, that peace and joy may fill your hearts during this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

TAYLOR

Elizabeth Sutter — Naomi Heimer

The Christmas season is here, a time of rejoicing for the Babe born in Bethlehem so many years ago, but even more, that He became our Saviour and Redeemer, our hope for eternal life. It is also a time of sadness, remembering the loved ones gone before. With the new year almost here, we need not be afraid if we can say that we do not have to tread the path of life alone, but have One by our side to help and guide our steps.

Bro. Bob Pohl and family were with us the Sunday of our open house. We were so glad to have him

proclaim God's word the next Sunday, when Bro. Noah Gerber, West Bend and Bro. Dale Moore, Elgin were here.

Kent Heimer, son of Sis. Naomi Heimer, was injured in a sleighing accident, requiring stitches on his upper lip to close the wound.

A daughter, Lisa Elaine, was born to Bro. Don and Sis. Elaine Hoerr on Nov. 28. They have two other children, Lori and Stacey. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rose Hoerr and Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel.

The Sunday School teachers and pupils are practicing for the Christmas program, to be given Dec. 19.

Bro. Elwood Yackley is taking a short course in agriculture at Iowa State University.

TREMONT

Lydia Rassi
Mary Jane Leuthold

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus . . . To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace. In all the earth there is no higher standing than this—to follow in the Saviour's ways." We again rejoice as Kathy Sinn, daughter of Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Elsie, has answered the calling to turn to God in repentance. Though the battles will come, we still find wonderful peace and happiness in following "in the Saviour's ways."

We have had some "in and out" of the hospital. Sis. Su Aberle was hospitalized after a one-car accident. She is home and improving. Bro. Robert Wagenbach is home again and improving. Sis. Lena Woerner is improving, after being in the hospital a few weeks. Kenneth Rowell had the misfortune to cut off two finger tips; they have healed nicely. Wm. Schurter was hospitalized and is home again. John Moser is at Mayo's seeking relief for his hip. Bro. Weldon Staker is in the hospital and must remain several weeks. Pray the Lord will comfort and bless each of our dear ones.

A little son, David William, came to live with Bro. Richard and Sis. Anne Rinkenberger Steiner on Nov. 24. He has a brother, Jeff and sister, Anne. Grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Marjorie Rinkenberger and Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophia Steiner.

On Sat. evening Nov. 20, our hearts were happy to hear the test-

imonies of Vicki and Alan Moser, Jerry and Byron Zurcher and Janice Beutel. Baptismal services were held Sun. Nov. 21. Bros. Roy Sauder and Russell Rapp assisted Bro. Dan Koch. May God grant grace to His lambs, that they may hold fast to the solid rock and drink of the living waters of life.

Kathy and Curt Rassi have been announced to give their testimonies Dec. 11 and baptismal services Dec. 12, the Lord willing. The Lord has been so good to them and to all of us; never can we be thankful enough for His great love for us.

Bro. Jeff Springer Sr., 90, passed away at Rest-Mor on Nov. 7. Funeral services were held Nov. 10 by Bro. Don Koch. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Emma and his sons and daughters.

We were thankful for the food given us by our visiting ministers: Bro. Alphai Moser, Bro. Roy Sauder, Bro. Russell Rapp, Bro. John Steiner and Bro. Phillip Sauder.

Sis. Ida Mae Sauder is moving to Morton. We wish her the Lord's blessings. We will miss her, after assembling with us so many years.

The engagement of Sis. Dorothy Hodel, daughter Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude of Cissna Park, to Bro. Mike Meister, son of Mrs. Ray Meister of Peoria has been announced. May God, who has led their lives together, be near them always.

The engagement of Sis. Mary Woerner, daughter of Bro. Chris and Sis. Wilmina, to Bro. Steve Sauder, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna, has been announced. May God bless them in their future life together.

Our hearts were deeply saddened by the passing away of Sis. Lydia Kaeb, 51. Funeral services were held Nov. 14 by Bro. Albert Aberle . . . our deepest sympathy to Sis. Martha and Bro. Elmer and family.

Thank you notes:

The love, cards, flowers, food and kindness shown us during the illness and death of our beloved Lydia has been overwhelming. We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all. May God reward each one. Martha, Elmer and Darlene Kaeb.

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone for the prayers, flowers, cards, gifts, and many other acts of kindness during the illness and death of our loved one. The family of Jeff Springer.

URBANA

Teresa Hufford

Faith is a gift of God. It is not a material that can be seen, heard, smelled, tasted, or touched; but is as real as anything that can be perceived with these senses. One can be aware of faith as easily as one can be aware of earth. Faith is as certain as is the existence of water. Faith is as sure as the taste of an apple, the fragrance of a rose, the sound of thunder, the sight of the sun, the feel of a loving touch. Hope is a wish, a longing for something not now possessed, but with the expectation of getting it. Faith adds sweetly to the expectation of hope.

Our blessings go to Bro. Steve Sauder and Sis. Mary Woerner upon their engagement. Steve attends school here and Mary attends Ill. State University.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy (Blunier) Knepp received a precious gift from heaven, when they were blessed with the birth of their first child, Keith Eugene.

Many thanks go to our visiting ministers. Bro. Fred Knapp, Bro. Leonard Meyers, Bro. Ed Alt, Bro. Vernon Leman, Bro. Alfred Bahler, and Bro. Joe Stoller. We extend our greetings to their home churches.

Church services will not be held in Urbana on Dec. 19, 26 and Jan. 2, because of semester break. We hope everyone enjoys the holiday season . . . But may we not let the glittering lights, tinsel, and gifts disguise the real purpose for celebrating Christmas; "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

ALTO

Loretta Steffen

"For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

Oh, there is such beauty in Mary's simple, humble, obedient answer. May our answers coincide with Mary's.

The annual World Relief meeting of the Indiana, Ohio and Michigan churches was held in Alto Nov. 6. We enjoyed the opportunity to be host to the group that gathered to discuss projects for helping the needy everywhere. May all that we do be to God's praise and glory.

Little Debbie, daughter of Gay and Rich Erhanger, had ear surg-

ery, and already her parents are pleased to report improvement with her hearing.

We feel the angels must be rejoicing as much as we are, to have Joylene Blough become our new sister in faith. She was baptized Nov. 14.

Thro' the ages we observe the endless cycle of people being born, and people dying. This is all part of God's master plan . . . and must try to say at all times, Thy will be done.

Our hearts of sympathy go out to the bereft family of Eli Steffen, who died Nov. 17 after a lingering illness. His dear wife, Mary (who resides at R. 1, Spring Lake, Mi. 49456) mourns his loss. Also surviving are sons: Allen and Robert; daughter, Mrs. Marvin (Ruth) Buckner; brothers: Tobias, Bro. Herman; sisters, Sis. Leah Rauch, Sis. Mary and Sis. Hulda.

Born, but snatched to heaven was the precious infant, Joseph, first son of Fred and Donna Oesch. We extend our sympathy, and trust the Lord will comfort them. We should not sorrow hopelessly, for the Lord promises if we live according to His will we will meet again.

Born to Bro. Ott and Sis. Pat Schlatter is a precious baby boy, Joseph. Carol and John are thrilled to welcome him home, too.

Sis. Susan Root has graduated from college, and we extend congratulations. Much effort and work is put forth for these achievements which others cannot see.

My grandmother, Sis. Kathrine Bocka, spent 3 weeks with us, helping move to Byron Center, Michigan. We truly appreciate all her efforts and deeds of love. She has now returned to her home at Mansfield.

Fred and Sis. Kathryn Grawburg are now living on Cross St. Clarksville, Michigan.

Have you heard the story of the king who placed a heavy stone in the middle of the road? Everyone who passed by grumbled and walked around it; no one moved it. Finally a man came along and moved the stone. Underneath he found a purse which contained money and this note: "Any man who makes the way of others easier discovers a better road himself." To this we can apply the scripture, **Love thy neighbor as thyself.**

These are Jesus words, and let us

keep them in mind as we wish each other a joyous Christmas and Blessed New Year.

BRADFORD

Rebecca Endress

Our congregation enjoyed the Sunday visit of Bro. Chuck Hemmer of Peoria. Bros. Silas Leuthold and Dave Kieser (Princeville) were also with us for the day. We thank Bro. George Wagenbach of Princeville for spending a Sunday with us.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Velma Hancher are in Rochester at the Mayo Clinic as I write this, where Carl will submit to surgery. Our prayers and good wishes are with them.

We have resumed midweek services for the winter months. Our meetings are on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 7:30. We appreciated being able to assemble with Princeville during the summer.

Many of us attended a farewell singing at Bro. Sam Kieser's, in honor of Bro. Dan and Sis. Anna Siebenthal and their children, Bro. Lavern and Sisters Marilyn and Martha Jane. They will soon be moving to a new home in Princeville and will attend that church. We will be losing another family soon to the Bloomington-Normal community, and a farewell singing was held for them at the Bro. Verle Kieser home: Bro. Charles and Sis. Marie Kieser and their children, Dwight and Lanae.

ELGIN ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

We had a blessed day when Bros. Joshua Broquard of Fairbury and Perry Zimmerman of Forrest visited us and assisted in serving Holy Communion.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we

Partook, that joined in heart and hand

To Zion's realm and holy land we journey on.

Sis. Rose Kaptain is hospitalized. May God be ever near her. She lives at 520 N. Liberty St., Elgin Ill. 60120. Bro. Otto Stettner, R. 1, Box 63, Elgin Ill. 60120 has not been able to assemble with us for a time, but seems to be improving, and we hope to see him in our Church Circle soon.

We wish all a Blessed Christmas,

and especially all our brothers and friends in the Service, wherever they are scattered over all the world. May God bless and keep them all.

We had a blessed day when Bro. Verdon Feldman and others was with us, and brought timely messages to us.

This is a day of blessing and rejoicing;

On gospel pastures Thou Thy flock art leading;

From fountains clear and living waters flowing

Good fruits are growing.

FORT SCOTT

Ida Sinn

Several carloads drove to Lamar this eve., to join in singing hymns to the praise and honor of God at the church. Many of the selections were Christmas carols. Lamar has singing on the first Sunday of every month, and we have it on the third Sunday.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Donnie Banwart and Sis. Aleta Farney of Kiowa, Kansas. Don is the son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart. May the Lord's blessings go with them in this venture.

Shirley Sinn, wife of Lester Sinn, had a very serious fall. She was hospitalized a week, and is now recovering at home from a broken arm and a large cut on the forehead and top of her head.

Inspiring messages were brought to us by these visiting ministers: Bro. George Lambert, Bro. Lester Braker and Bro. Sam Huber.

Bro. Gus Sinn and Sis. Ruth are now living at 1020½ South Crawford Street. They have moved to town, and Leon and family have moved on the farm.

LA CROSSE

Mary Ann Feller — Pearl Nuestr

The month of November has been full of many busy hours and countless blessings. On the 14th, the Sunday School Bible Classes from Bremen, Fort Wayne, and Leo met with us for the day, and then in the evening, along with our Bible Class went to Francesville for the evening program of Christian Endeavor. It was truly an inspiration to have so many young people in our midst, realizing they represent our hopes for our future church. On the 21st, the wedding of Sis.

Janet Levy, daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Carolyn, to Bro. Bill Baumgartner, son of Bro. Chester and Sis. Betty of Bluffton was solemnized. We were privileged to have Bros. Sam Aeschliman and Carl Kipfer with us that Sunday and were truly blessed with their teachings. We enjoyed a Thanksgiving program, with young and older participating, and we look forward to the Christmas program with all the Sunday School children. With Christmas drawing so near, the air is filled with the carols of Christmas, and our hearts are filled with joy and love of the great gift of our Saviour's birth. **Christmas is a quest. May each of us follow His star of faith and find the heart's own Bethlehem.**

Our very best wishes are extended to Bro. Ed Wittmer and his dear wife, Louise, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary they were privileged to enjoy on the 30th of November. Bro. Sam Frank is improving, and we look forward to the day when he can assemble with us once more. We are happy to report the engagement of Sis. Rachael Rinkenberger, daughter of Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha, to Bro. Dale Zeltwanger, son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Edna, from Morris. We wish them many blessings from the Lord.

IOWA CITY

Diane Stoller — Beverly Mogler

His yoke is easy. His burden is light—we ourselves are the ones who make it heavy. This was one of the thoughts Bro. Uriel Gehring extended to our gathering here. We also appreciate the efforts of Bro. Joe Schrock, who was able to be with us in November, and to explain to us what is in store for all—believers and non-believers in these latter days.

MORTON

**Mrs. John Oberlander
Mrs. Kenneth Getz**

Visiting ministers for the month of November were Bros. Philip Sauder and Ed Hohulin. Bro. Ed was here for the testimonies of two dear souls, William and Kay Birkey Gudeman.

Those in the hospital or convalescing are: Sisters Sherrill Jones, Rose Musselman, Elaine Schmidgall and Bernice Rapp; Gail Taufer, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Marie Grimm Taufer and Jean Kaiser, daughter of Harold and Ila

Stieglitz Kaiser; Bros. Harry Wick, Bruce Landis, William J. Roecker and David Rapp, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Beyer Rapp.

Ed and Sis. Sally Witzig Fritz are the parents of a second child, Denise Kay.

Announcement has been made of the forthcoming marriage of Bro. Douglas Kruse, son of Mrs. Jean Kruse McConkey, and Sis. Gerry Domnick, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Grimm Domnick.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Olive Fehr Rein celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May God be with them.

Bro. Orman and Sis. Kathryn Hauter Kaiser spent some time in Germany with their son, William, who is stationed there in the service of his country.

Sis. Dorothy Hari wishes to thank all who remembered her with prayers and cards during her illness.

Mary Seidel Gunther, 77, passed away Nov. 4 at her home. She is survived by three brothers, Bro. Joe, George, and William, and two sisters, Sis. Margaret and Esther Seidel.

Bro. Christian Sinn, 95, passed away in his home Nov. 7. He is survived by three daughters, Sis. Katie, May and Christine, and two sons, George and John.

Nov. 25, Lydia Bauman, 85, died at her home. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Lucy Bauman Bruell. The death angel has spoken to our congregation again. Even death has a wonderful message in hope.

SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

The Christmas season is fast approaching. There are many thoughts of shopping, baking, children's programs, caroling, family dinners . . . In the hustle and bustle of all this, let us not lose sight of the true meaning of the day.

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Charles Sauder, Tremont; Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke; and Bro. Ben Stavenik, Mansfield. We thank them for their visits and timely warnings, and invite them to return.

A son was born to Sis. Barbara and Clifford Edelman on Nov. 7. He has been named Terry Lynn.

Arlene Metzger, daughter of Sis. Ella and Bro. Ernest of Lester, and Rodney Grimm, son of Sis. Lois and

Bro. Nathan of Sabetha, were united in marriage at Lester on Nov. 27. We wish them much happiness as they start their new home together.

Funeral services were held in Sabetha for Bro. Matthias Strahm on Nov. 18, with burial in the Bern cemetery. We offer the family our sincere sympathy.

Thanksgiving Day services were held in Sabetha for the Sabetha and Bern congregations combined. We were also privileged to share our facilities with the Bern congregation a couple of Sundays.

We wish you all a Happy Holiday season.

ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

In this month of December, the eyes of the Christian world will be focused on the Middle East, the little town of Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, to celebrate the birthday of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we celebrate here on Dec. 25.

Although the country is in the midst of turmoil, war and strife, the celebration will be held there . . . and rightly so, for it is an important place. It is reported to be the most important country on earth. Here is where Christ the Saviour was born, began His divine mission, completed it, and where His ascension, the bodily passing of Christ from earth to heaven took place.

It is the richest in natural resources of any area on earth. It holds more than two-thirds of the world's known oil resources. The best oranges, bananas, olives and fruits grow in the Middle East, so reported. It has a variety of climate, a land of beauty, snow-covered mountain peaks, desert land, beautiful coastal land on the lovely Mediterranean Sea.

In Exodus 3:8, God calls this land of Canaan "a good land . . . a large . . . a land flowing with milk and honey . . ." There have been many kings and rulers of long ago who coveted this land because of its great wealth, and with strife going on today in that area, we believe that God sees the plight of His people and will intervene again as He has done before.

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sis. Terry Gottier to Bro. Edward Mangold. A spring wedding is planned. Terry's parents are Warren and Sis. Carol Gottier, and Eddy's are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold. Also engaged is Sis. Kay Kloter to Bro. Kenneth Luginbuhl. Parents are Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter, and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Florine Luginbuhl. Both couples have our best wishes. May God bless their unions.

We gladly welcome back Bros. Ernest Luginbuhl and Albert Schneider, who have been absent from our pulpit for the past three weeks. They brought greetings from the church at Fort Lauderdale, where they, with their wives spent some time.

Bro. Charles Lanz, who had suffered a broken pelvis when thrown from a tractor which he was driving, has recovered sufficiently to enjoy moderate health again. Sis. Dorothy Schneider, who had submitted to surgery, is again at her desk where she is employed. We are always glad to be able to report the better things.

Since we have readers of the **Silver Lining** in many parts of the world, we say to our brethren and dear friends . . . The joy of Christmas came from heaven! It is not an earthly joy. It is the joy that comes to those who receive the greatest gift of all, the Gift of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. May this heavenly joy fill your heart and your home this blessed season. We would especially remember those of our friends in Switzerland and our soldier brethren and friends.

SARASOTA Phil Wingeier

The Christmas Star of Bethlehem
That shone like some bright,
precious gem

To guide the wise men on their way
Still shines on all of us today . . .
For centuries God has left it there
To signify that all may share
The love and peace He brought to
earth

The night of His most holy
birth . . .

So, search and find the Star
Beamed to the wise men from
afar . . .

A light, a hope . . . A beacon still
For those who seek God's holy will.

Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and children worshipped with us on Nov. 21, and spent Thanksgiving season in their Sarasota home. We were grateful to hear of many of Bro. Ben's experiences on his long trip to the Orient.

Our services have been very well attended, being so early in the season . . . and do extend a hearty invitation to all who travel this way to come and worship with us. There will be services both on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Place of Services: The Women's Club Building, Palm Ave and Coconut Street: Phone at Women's Club 955-2637. Time of Services: 12:45 and 2:00 EST. We all of the Sarasota area extend the Season's Greetings, with God's richest blessing.

ALTADENA Marilyn Graf

Even as the angels in heaven rejoice over every sinner that repenteth, so do we rejoice with Friend Ron Erismann. Ron, who is stationed in Long Beach in the Navy, was announced to have peace with God and man. The Lord willing, he plans to return to his home in Bay City to give his testimony and be baptized.

We were privileged to receive visits from several visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Ben Maibach were with us one week-end, upon their return from Japan. Bro. Joe Aberle, from Sabetha, and Bro. Jim Ramseyer were also with us during the past month and ministered unto us. We thank them for their visit and invite all to visit us.

Emil Minger, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Freda Minger, was inducted into the Army. He is receiving his Basic Training at Ft. Ord, California, and will soon receive an advanced training assignment.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Freda Minger have announced the engagement of their daughter, Emily, to Bill Kessler. Emily graduated from the California Nursing School on Dec. 4 as a Licensed Vocational Nurse. The couple is planning a February wedding.

Sis. Clara Lorenz has sold her home in California and has moved

to Tucson. We wish Clara God's richest blessings in her new home and miss her smiling, cheerful face in our congregation. Her new address is 624 N. Benton Blvd., Tucson Ariz 85711.

Bro. Dick Stoller was elected to serve as trustee for three years.

Dick and Lucy (Graf) Griffith and Sis. Doris Graf have moved to Simi. Their new address is 1546 Deodora, Simi Ca. 93065.

BAY CITY Carolyn Knochel

There were shepherds abiding . . . how the anticipation must have mounted in their hearts as they drew near the manger, where lay their Lord and Saviour! As we anticipate the celebration of His coming with the singing of carols, giving of gifts, and so forth, let us remember why He came: to show us the way of truth, and then to give Himself a ransom for our sins! Surely, **this** is love!

And His love was felt among us as another soul was added to the fold; Shirley (Meylan) Wright gave a testimony of true faith and was baptized, to become a child of God. We welcome Sis. Shirley, and pray for God's grace to help her be true always.

Sis. Doris Knochel was ill for a time, after surgery; we thank God that she is able to assemble with us again.

We were present at a baptism in another congregation, where the little children were encouraged to go forward; what joy shone on their faces for the new convert! This is the way we all should be; full of unstinting love for one another, rejoicing in each other's happiness, as a child is—as our Lord loves us.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Virgil and Shirley Funk

Perhaps most of us have some pleasant memories of Thanksgiving dinner with our families or friends. Let us remember the hardship and suffering endured by the Pilgrims who came to this land for the sake of religious freedom. Let us be thankful for this precious freedom, instead of taking it for granted. The Lord's grace be upon us, so we will never forsake the assembling of ourselves together to hear the word. Someday we too may have to meet in secret.

Visiting ministering brother's

include: Edmond Kloter, Fairbury; Edward Alt, Cissna Park; Francis Rother, Morton; and Floyd Schmidgall, Morris — on Thanksgiving Day. We sincerely appreciate the gifts of these brethren and the contribution it makes toward our spiritual welfare.

DETROIT

Donna Hartzler — Judith Aberle

We become more aware of how quickly time flies when we lay to rest those who have gone from this life, such as our dear Sis. Mary Kovach, who passed away on Nov. 24. She reached the age of 81, had been staying in a nursing home for the last couple of years, and longed for the time when her life on earth would end and she could meet her God. Funeral services were also conducted for Sam Traub, who passed away Nov. 21. He is survived by his wife and one daughter, and was a brother to Bro. Joe of California and Mary Smith of Elgin.

Sis. Marie Reardon has been hospitalized for treatment of her back. Sis. Lydia Voina also was hospitalized and had surgery. We hope that they will soon be fully recovered and well again.

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Visiting labourers in the ministry were: Bro. Joe Kaisner on Nov. 7, and Bro. Art Gudeman on Nov. 28. Bro. Merrill Laukhuf ministered to us on Sunday, Dec. 5. On that blessed day, Debra Knochel, daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth, was baptized and accepted into our precious fellowship as a sister in Christ.

ELGIN, IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

December, with its ice and snow, is even yet a month of warmth. As we view the outdoors, we find everything is decked out in white, the fields, woods, fence rows, house and barn roofs . . . and certainly presenting a lovely scene. December is a joyful month, for near its end we celebrate Christmas, with its carols, recalling the birth of our dear Saviour and Lord.

Our Sunday School pupils are practicing their parts for our annual Christmas program. It is heartwarming to behold the glow in their eyes, as they become interested in

learning the story of the shepherds, announcing the great event of the Saviour's coming.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Schrock from Congerville came to show us pictures they had taken of the Holy Land, while touring that area. We did enjoy them very much. One which impressed me very much was the one of the Mount of Olives, being this actually was where Jesus was standing when he ascended to heaven. We thank these folks again for coming; we feel that we received many real blessings.

Bro. Uriel Gehring spent the Thanksgiving week-end at Elgin. We thank Bro. Uriel for his expounding of the Scriptures to us.

FT. LAUDERDALE

Henry H. Schwartz

The congregation here enjoyed very much the inspirational messages received in the last several Sundays, delivered by the Visiting Bros. Ernest Luginbuhl and Albert J. Schneider from Rockville, also Bro. Eugene Marti from Sabetha.

We wish them a safe return to their homes and loved ones.

JUNCTION

Henrietta Manz — Betty Manz

We enjoyed the visits of Bros. Wendell Gerber and Robert Meyer from Bluffton and many other brethren with them, on Nov. 7. Bro. Wendell also stayed for evening services, when Bros. Loren Stoller, Merrill Laukhuf and Irvin Stoller, Latty, also gathered with us. Bro. George Sinn spent that Sunday with us too. We can surely feel his love and concern for us. He has not been well lately, and we wish God's blessings for him.

Ministering Bro. Roy Wieland, Bay City, spent Sunday, Nov. 28, with us. It is so uplifting when brothers lend themselves to minister the word to us. We thank each one for their love and service, and hope they can all come back.

Some from our congregation attended the World Relief meeting at Alto. It is always good to hear how people are living in other parts of the world. It makes us more thankful for the blessings we have, and may it always make us more willing to share with those less fortunate.

We wish you all a blessed Christmas!

AMES, IOWA

Charlen Banwart

Bro. Cleo Rinckenberger of Pulaske left us many inspiring thoughts at our November meeting. We know it takes effort for those who travel many miles to faithfully lend us their services and support. We only trust that God will bless them above what thanks we can express in this life. Our prayer is that the seed sown will strengthen the children of God and bring forth life in dormant hearts, that not one should be lost.

Congratulations and a prayer for God's richest blessings to Bro. Galen and Sis. Mary Jo Metzger, on the birth of their daughter, Gayla Jo, on Nov. 12. Her sister, Janelle also welcomes her home. Grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger of West Bend and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois Wiegand of Oakville.

We are happy to have with us Bro. Elwood Yackley from the Taylor congregation, who is attending the winter quarter farm operations program at Iowa State.

Sis. Eileen Fisher and Sis. Lavilla Zaugg are spending two months in Independence Iowa as part of their nurse's training. While there, they are attending the Elgin, Iowa church. We look forward to their return in January.

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“ . . . my Father's house . . . ”

Henry Souder Jr.

There is just nothing like it. In old times, palaces of kings stretched out. There was fabulous rooms of splendor. Today, houses are sometimes designed to take in a dramatic view of sea or mountain. Comfort and convenience chime in with decorating in wise taste.

This house of the Father, it is designed beautifully. Our dear ones are always present. It has that winning welcome that settles you down as home. Its places are wonderfully lighted, being at home with the Father. "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

Oh happy place with deep restfulness. We want this place. How great and how wonderful will this dwelling be. . . Near to the Father and the Son. In this time we have tasted. . . There will be the sight of this glorious and beautiful personality. . . Here, a good word makes a merry heart. There. . . if things here can give us a lift, what must it be with Him! "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." There, those places will be filled with loving people. . . and how wonderfully will He make us merry.

There are wonderful descriptions of this beautiful place. Home is where you turn, where the deepest desires draw you. . . this is your place. Our deepest desires call us. Home is around the bend. Then our residences on earth will be remote, strange, faraway. Home, where mother can press to her cheek the darling with curls. . . where dear

dad waits in beautiful smile. Home, where every moment is enduring. . . nothing no longer flees away. . . and one is a part of everything.

His home has a wonderful view. . . built on a mountain, Zion, and taking in more beautifully than the picture-window way that heavenly sea, sparkling, with lovely moods. Home is a city. . . one that wonderfully lives. . . every moment caught up in His beautiful Way of life. . . where white, more beautiful than the snowlands here, engage our delighted sight. What stores of adventure, when we walk up its street, know His address as our doorstep. ". . . ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. . ."

How happy we can be, thinking of being face to face with Jesus. Hearing Him will be wonderful. Our hearts will be sweet, warm and glad. Children's voices will chorus in happy, boundless happiness. Nowhere else would we rather be. This is the Father's house. . . designed for comfort and joy, beautiful in holiness. Yes, our hearts will sing for joy. We are really going to love it when we hear the One the two in Emmaus heard: "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?"

Life is always full in the Father's house. Its halls, meeting-places, its joy-filled festivity will be the familiar, the loved, and where we really rest in peace. The chorus of loved ones will be in full color in

that golden morn. Hearts that have a place in our heart will be with us all the time, never to part. Time will no more rumble its limit (what deep breaths of joy here alone, thinking what endless will mean). Listen to the fullness of beauty, filled with scenes more rich than our fondest surprises: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

The saints fall asleep in death. Even the term **death** is sweet "sleep". What did Jesus answer Peter, when he asked where He was going? "Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards." The body is in the grave, but not the spirit. We return unto God. Oh wonderful **afterwards**, when we follow Him. Where is He? In the Father's house, on His right hand.

Home for Christmas. Always and always! The children of happiness glow more beautifully than any lighting down here. And that clothing. . . gorgeous white, winter wonderlands nicest places in the world do not equal. The empty places become full. No loneliness. It's a place of perfect love. . . never a cross word never a disagreement. . . no cycles of feeling, no blue times. Forever and forever, our home will be with the Lord.

"Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh."

And His children will all be in.