



They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are

choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

VOLUME 22

JANUARY 1972

NUMBER 4

The brothers go assuredly, confidently in the steps of faith . . . no sounding of a trumpet . . . but the path shone in holy scripture . . . This is true spreading of the gospel.

REPORT OF A TRIP TO REGINA, CANADA

Leaving our home at Elgin, Fri. a.m., my wife, Mildred and myself arrived at Bro. Paul Fehr's home at Morris that evening, and spent the night with them. Bro. Richard Schmidgall offered to drive, so accompanied by Bro. Anton Schafer, the six of us left at six a.m., Saturday. After a very pleasant and leisurely trip . . . arrived at the Westward Motel Inn in Regina, approximately 6 p.m., a distance of 625 miles from Morris.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Myrna Shipley came in for the evening, and we had a nice visit. They have three little children, ages one to three, and live in their own apartments. Bro. Keith is an interior decorator and also works for the Salvation

Army as repair man. We set Sunday morning services for 11:00 o'clock.

So after a very restful night, we all gathered in Bro. Fehr's room. They were all prompt, and although only a handful, we enjoyed the blessings of God's word. Phoebe Miller (who is Bro. Keith's sister) comes with her two children, along with her mother. Bro. George and Sis. Mary Nesbitt with their son, Robin attend from Holfast, Saskatchewan which is approximately 60 mile north of Regina. They are rather large wheat farmers, and therefore are plagued with the sad condition of Canada's agricultural economy. Saskatchewan is an agricultural province, so when the farmers suffer, everyone suffers. In spite of their trials, this little band

of believers rejoice in their salvation and remain steadfast. They crave fellowship, and we would encourage faithful brethren to visit them.

After the afternoon service, we observed Communion, by the breaking of bread and drinking of the cup, thereby remembering the Lord's death. We were instructed to forget what is behind, pressing forth toward the prize of our high calling in Christ.

Our brothers and sisters, as your servants we surely covet and appreciate your prayerful support, as we travel to and fro, carrying out our various duties.

We arrived home safely Tuesday evening, very thankful for a safe return. Humbly submitted, Bro. Paul Butikofer.

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

John & Ann Wagler

From a form letter

2402 Freeman Road, Huntsville, Alabama 35805.

Dec. 5 . . . Dear Ones . . . we moved to Huntsville, and opened a small place for worship which we called Newby Road Chapel. It came to our attention that a church in the Triana Village area of Huntsville was for sale. The man who built it had moved to Mississippi, when his wife became critically ill. On May 5 the partially completed building was purchased . . . Since that time, John has been working daily, getting it finished so we could use it for services. Through the cooperative labor of brethren and friends from our other Alabama churches and various churches from all parts of the country, the building has been completed.

Money has been given from many churches and individuals toward finishing the building and promoting the work here. We are truly grateful for each one that has helped bring the church into being.

Our first service in the Triana Village Church was held on Oct. 17,

with a nice attendance. A few weeks ago, we had a short impressive ceremony when we laid the cornerstone. On Nov. 28, dedication of the church was held, and Bros. David Bertsch and Wendell Gude-man came down to take part in the service.

Marlise and Linda Miller from Portland have come to live in Huntsville, and they are kept busy teaching Sunday School, visitation, and just doing the many things in general that have to be done in starting a church. We are thankful for their help and dedication to the work here. We simply have to trust the Lord each step of the way, as we work together to see lives changed through true repentance and conversion by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is an arm that never tires when human strength gives way;
There is a love that never fails, when earthly loves decay.

But there's a power which can wield when mortal aid is vain;
That eye, that arm, that love to reach, that listening ear to gain.

That power is prayer, which soars on high through Jesus to the throne,
And moves the Hand which moves the world, to bring salvation down.

And this is our prayer, that you will remember the work here before the Lord.

Even though the miles may separate us, we trust the love of Christ will flow between us as we each strive to faithfully serve Him.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor: Henry Souder Jr.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America

Counselors: Theo. Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

News Correspondent: Ed Souder

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, Ind. 46741.

Second class postage paid at Grabill, Indiana 46741.

Amt. suggested for a year, \$2.00.

Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address.

BE CAREFUL . . . , BE PRAYERFUL . . . , BE WATCHFUL

Sat. Jan. 1, 1972 . . . church services. We sang Zion's Harp 109: "If God within these evil days His mercy were not sharing" . . . "For unbelief with many woes has thus increased, and overflows . . ." The ministering brother told of a father who prayed for his children, who were somewhat scattered. As he prayed, his mind travelled from place to place, to where each was.

Tidal floods roar down valleys of sin. They sweep anyone who dwells too low. In the last decade, a certain writing said that the disc jockeys, music makers, film writers, TV commercials are the big educators . . . the estimate was 90% of the education was outside the classroom. Teenagers spent around \$250,000,000 a year on records. There were 251 million radios in America. The disc jockey was no longer just the man who spins records, no, a personal friend. Great danger there is in the way radio is used; the audience is very impressionable. Youth, it was pointed out, was more influenced by the tube than the classroom. Classroom hours clocked before high school graduation was 10,800 . . . TV viewing, 15,000.

In one year of the decade of the 60's an estimate was, 75% of the boys owned records, 90% of the girls. About 75% had transistor radios. What are the stormy waters they get into?

Nothing but Rock and Roll was on around 6,000 radio stations in

the United States. It was printed, "Most kids that I've talked to know the pop lyrics by memory. They meditate on them. There is fantastic involvement. A big key in rock and roll is total (falsely-called) personal freedom: From the older generation, in the love life . . ." sin . . . lawlessness! Dark waters are deadly, and there is the mysticism of sorcery, witchcraft and the like. A beautiful young girl at the beginning of life tragically ends her life. Drugs clutched their death hold. Many of the once very popular and still going teenage records are concerned with secret messages to teenagers—drop out, turn on, and groove with chemicals.

Are some of the things in newspapers any better? Is it more than a coincidence that during a newspaper strike in a large American city, suicides dropped 20%? Investigators at a School of Medicine believe that news of violence, sex, power and the like may influence people to take their lives.

When the reporter from Leo was a young girl, a newspaper called *The Ledger* came into their home. This was over 50 years ago. She was attracted to the love fiction stories, and would eagerly look forward to their coming. Her heart began to be heavy. It grew heavier and heavier. She put away the attraction, and found blessed light-heartedness again.

Dark waters exact their tragic toll. 75% of the school teachers in East St. Louis are armed. In 100 years the population in America in-

creased 671%, institutionalized mental cases 23,328%.

A task force of the President's Commission on violence reports that the US is moving toward the modern counterpart of a medieval fortified city. A Chief of Police in Ontario says that the whole communications media: radio, television, newspapers and magazines seem, witting or unwittingly, to be aligned against law enforcement officers. In one American city, it was claimed TV stations showed 7,887 acts of violence in one week. An English educator said, of much modern writing, one would think that those who produced much of it were living in a sewer. Young minds are especially impressionable.

Crime has gone up in the US 119% during the last decade, increasing 9 times faster than the population. In 1971 there was still another jump, an estimated 6% over 1970. A former president sees "a nation of captives, imprisoned nightly behind chained doors, double locks and barred windows." A senator said, "Our society is going crazy." Our society is sick.

Cry out in the night for the life of the young children and others. Have tears in your heart, and seek might through your prayer for beloved America. These things affect our young people, hurt our dear ones. Are you shut-in or are you working? Plead to our God, who answers prayer.

If dark waters are swirling about our feet, then let us run to this Rock, where there is safety.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Mary Woerner

Our thanks go to Bros. Harvey Heiniger. Oakville; Joe Schrock, Congerville; and Dave Kieser, Princeville for bringing God's word to us. We were reminded that our being a good light will speak the loudest sermon to those around us. A songwriter once wrote: "Your life's the only Bible that some people read; that's why we must be careful of things that we do. So take a look at your life, the life you are living; you're the only Bible some people read."

Despite rainy weather, a number of the ISU group gathered on Dec. 14 and enjoyed a blessed evening,

singing Christmas carols to Bloomington and Congerville residents.

We were happy to have the Peoria Choir with us at our Dec. 16 meeting. Their voices blended in bringing many old favorites and new selections that were an inspiration to all.

TUCSON Mrs. Loren Knapp

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." We were reminded of our dear Saviour's birth, as the Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Dec. 15.

Our congregation all pray for our Ministering Bro. Noah Herman. Bro. Herman is now convalescing in Peoria, following surgery.

Some of the children of Tucson got their first chance to play in the snow, as 6.5 inches fell in the valley. It was quite a change for everyone. The Lord certainly presented us with a beautiful sight on that particular morning.

We are sorry to hear Sis. Millie Stickling and Bro. Jack Suttor have not been feeling well the last few weeks. We miss them in our congregation.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Carl Hartman of Sabetha and Clarence Yackley of Phoenix.

LATTY

Connie Stoller — LeAnn Laukhuf

May we rejoice always in the birth of Christ. We should remember that it is not the manger, but the cross that makes possible our wonderful salvation.

To bring the Christmas spirit closer to all, several groups went caroling. Not only the receivers, but the givers as well greatly enjoyed it.

On Dec. 22 the congregation was privileged to hear the Christmas singing of the Sunday School classes. The praises to God were beautiful, from the youngest to the Bible Class.

On Dec. 19, Bro. Phil Grant and Sis. Gloria Fiechter were united in holy matrimony at Bluffton. Phil is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores, and Gloria is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris. We wish them God's richest blessings in a happy and full life together. We certainly welcome Sis. Gloria into the Latty congregation.

We were happy to have with us Ministering Bros. Walter Rager and Walter Rehklau from Toledo for a blessed Christmas Day service.

Barry and Kay Stoller are happy parents of their first child, Melonie Sue.

PRINCEVILLE
Ruth Ricketts

Good are the things we cannot buy;
Eyes that may see a bright blue
sky,
Ears that may catch the voice of
spring,
Strength for the tasks each day will
bring . . .

December has been busy for many people and very enjoyable, many family gatherings, with loved ones coming home for the holidays. We are always happy to meet those of other places who once attended our church. We heartily welcome them.

The weather has been rather mild, with much foggy, rainy weather, and there is much sickness in our congregation. Many have been absent from our assembly due to sickness. Our aged Bro. George Miller spent a few days in the hospital early in December, and then went to the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria. After only a few days he became very ill and had to be taken back to the hospital, where he is receiving treatment. Bro. Ray

Martin spent a few days in the hospital and had his cast changed. It was found necessary to have another body cast, which he will wear for two more months. In September he had hip surgery and has been in a cast since that time. Phillip El-sasser, who has been residing at the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria, suffered another stroke and is confined to the hospital, where his condition improves very slowly.

On the afternoon of Dec. 10, Bro. Dave Kieser called on Sis. Marie Endress in the hospital. As he was leaving, she asked to extend Greetings to his wife, Ruth. In a very short time, she closed her eyes to this weary world, free from the pain and heartache she so often had. . . . She was a most humble, childlike, Christian woman, and will be greatly missed by all that knew her, truly an example for all. Services were conducted by our ministers on Monday the 13th. She was laid to rest beside her husband, Bro. Henry, in the church cemetery. She was born in Spiegelberg, Germany, Jan. 17, 1888, a daughter of Adam and Caroline Marie Schieber Schmidgall, and was married in Tremont March 9, 1913 to Henry Endress, who died in 1967. Surviving are three sons: Ernest of Detroit, Samuel of Colona and Arthur of Princeville; seven daughters, Sis. Esther Sutter of Tucson, Martha Nononman of Detroit, Sis. Emma Herman of Morton, Lucy Endress at home, Caroline Liescke and Sis. Miriam Messerli of Peoria, and Helen Heilman of Bellflower, California; a brother, Gottlobe Schmidgall in Germany; and a sister, Sis. Martha Kaeb of Tremont. Since her mother's death, Lucy Endress has gone to make her home with her sister, Caroline Liescke in Peoria.

As our faithful Sis. Marie Endress lay still in death, another Mary was taken into the fold. Many relatives and friends gathered Saturday evening, Dec. 12 to hear the testimony of new-found faith of Sis. Mary Martin, daughter of Sis. Louise Martin. Her baptism was witnessed by many the following day. We pray she can always stay close to the Lord, and may she, too, by her walk of life be an inspiration to those around her.

A daughter, Janel Lynn, was born Dec. 8 to Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Blunier. A little brother, Darin welcomed her home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Vernon and

Sis. Verda Blunier of Eureka, John and Sis. Edith Stahl of Princeville; and great-grandparents, Bro. Silas and Sis. Carrie Hodel of Roanoke and Sis. Helen Knapp of Cissna Park.

Graveside services for the infant daughter of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach were held in the church cemetery. The infant died shortly after birth, Dec. 27. Survivors include three sisters and two brothers; grandparents, Bro. George and Sis. Elizabeth Wagenbach and Bro. Lou and Sis. Norma Bauman of Goodfield.

Services were held Christmas morning. The next day, Sunday, we were happy to have Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend and Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein of Alabama as our guest ministers. We were pleased at the nice attendance for New Year's Eve services. Where could we spend a more enjoyable evening than in the house of worship?

Another year is passed and we step into a new year wondering what is in store for us. We had many joys in the past year, and sorrow, yet an abundance of material and spiritual blessings. . . . Three of our young sisters were united in marriage to brothers of other congregations; ten babies were born, eight girls and two boys; seventeen souls were added to the fold, ten sisters and seven brothers in faith; two aged, a friend and a dear sister were laid to rest, and a tiny infant near the end of the year was called to be added as a bud to God's bouquet. "There is a reaper called Death; and with his sickle keen He cuts down the bearded grain And the flowers that grow between."

We can look forward to the New Year trusting in God completely, believing that He who has brought us so far will see us through. . . . Let our watchwords be COURAGE, FAITH, AND DUTY.

TOLEDO
Lydia Meister

As the rising sun in all its beauty brings light to a new day, so our Lord's grace and mercy has brought us to the threshold of a new year.

Thy Spirit's seal, O Lord we pray,
Renew and strengthen in each day.
And through Thy love so pure and
kind,
Draw up to Heaven heart and mind.

Joyce Rehkla and Roy Kaepplar have received peace. We are looking forward to their baptism, in God's time.

Our annual meeting was held Dec. 19. Bro. Al. Weigle will succeed as superintendent of the Sunday School classes. Bro. Homer Reineck will be our new trustee. May each be guided to fill their places pleasing to the Lord.

The evening of Dec. 19, the Sunday School refreshed our hearts with their recitations. The young people's singing was exceptionally precious. It is a blessed gift to be able to teach the children to think and do something to honor our Lord.

The carolers came singing the dear Christmas carols the evening of the 20th. It is one of the bright spots of the Christmas season.

The word of life helps us to live and prepare for eternity.

WICHITA George Lambert

Like a shepherd, gently lead me
To that home beyond the blue;
Like a shepherd gently lead me
Until I'm safe at home with You.

Lead me thro' the deep dark valley;
Lead me over the rocky heights . .
Lead me when night falls 'round
me,
Like a shepherd's guiding light.

I am safe within thy keeping;
I am safe from care and fear.
I am safe whate'er befalls me,
For like a shepherd Thou art
near.

Like a shepherd, always lead me
Until I'm safe within the fold;
Like a shepherd always keep me
"Til face to face I Thee behold.

This being another new year, the words of Paul in Acts 20:22 comes to mind: "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there . . ." His only tho't was to finish my course with joy . . ."

We also do not know the things that shall befall us, and neither should we let fear come upon us, but rather be concerned that we finish our course (in Jesus) with joy. Yes, the one that said **Lo I am with you to the end** will see to it, if

we will let him, that the new year will be filled with joy, even though heartaches be present. We certainly do not know what will befall us.

Our beloved Sis. Mae Aeschleman has finally been carried away by the angels into the very bosom of the one she loved the most. The aches and pains that were her lot for so long are now gone forever. We praise the dear Lord for His comforting words left for all his children in 1 Thess. 4:13—" . . . That ye sorrow not, even as others who have no hope." We will all miss her very much, but God's will has been done and we rejoice.

We are so glad that two more souls have chosen the Lord Jesus as their life-long companion. John and Cecily Holliday are rejoicing in their new-found friend. We all pray that they will never lose their faith nor their love for Him, as He will never forsake them either. May the hearts of many others come to know Him and be prepared for His soon return.

Our beloved Elder Bro. Sam Anliker was with us Dec. 12, and with the aid of Bro. Eli Somerhalder baptized Oliver and Glenis Allenbaugh into the body of Christ, so now they are our beloved brother and sister in the Lord. O how we all rejoiced that day. It took us back years ago, when we too were baptized into Christ's body and into the fellowship of like-minded brethren. What a precious heritage is ours.

REMINGTON

Anna M. Waibel and Sisters

The week-end of Sat. Dec. 11 and Sunday the 12th, we had Bros. Herman Kellenberger, George Yergler and Edward Frank with us for beautiful inspiring services, the proving and baptisms of Harlan and Martha Braker (Ben and Clara's son), the reading of the conference letter, and Holy Communion. It is well to be reminded from time to time of each of these occasions. lest we forget our holy calling and duty to stay true, and be reminded of the sufferings and death of our Saviour and the resurrection of Him who loves us.

Jackie and Darlene Nussbaum have a baby boy, Andrew Nicholas. A sister welcomes him to their home. Jackie was born and reared here. His parents were the late Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Nussbaum. May they look to the Lord for guidance with their family. They live

near Frankfort, Indiana.

Nora Knochel, daughter of Bro. Alpha and Sis. Evelyn, was married to John Orrison Dec. 18, and will continue to live at Lafayette.

The Christmas program was given Dec. 19 by the Sunday School children.

Bro. Kurt Bahler (Bro. Edwin's son) was here on furlough over the holidays and will be out of service in a few weeks. He is fortunate to have his term shortened as a lot of the boys have now.

Bro. Charles Marti of Lamar was here for services Christmas Day (a bro.-in-law of Bro. Ben Braker). Bro. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop was here New Year's Day. He is the father of Sis. Beverly Miller. We thank all the brothers who take time to serve us.

To leave the old with a burst of
song,
To recall the right and forgive the
wrong;
To forget the thing that binds you
fast
To the vain regrets of the year
that's past;
To have the strength to let go your
hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days
grown old,
To dare go forth with a purpose
true,
To the unknown task of the year
that's new;
To help your brother along the
road
To do his work and lift his load;
To add your gift to the world's
good cheer
Is to have and to give a Happy New
Year.

AMES, IOWA Charlen Banwart

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Harvey Heiniger of Oakville, who ministered to us in December. It is encouraging to see so many students, parents, and other guests at our monthly meetings.

After the Dec. 12 service, a group of 15 members and friends went to a rest home and a retirement community to sing Christmas carols. It humbles us to see the cheerfulness of the elderly, and causes us to hope that we, too, may always accept our lot in life.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Don Schmidgall (Oakville) and Sis. Carol Wuthrich (Morton) upon their engagement. Don attends

school here at Iowa State, and Carol attends Mennonite School of Nursing in Bloomington. May they walk hand in hand with our Lord down the pathway of life.

Every Wed. evening at 8 o'clock during the school term we have a singing or listen to a taped sermon in one of our homes. Anyone passing through during the week is most welcome to stop and join us.

We are including the 1972 schedule of Sunday services: Services are held at the First Christian Church, Sixth and Clark Streets, at 1 p.m.—(First the date, then the church sending minister): Jan. 9, West Bend; Feb. 13, Pulaski; March 12, Oakville; April 9, West Bend; May 14, Pulaski; No services are planned for June, July and Aug.; Sept. 10, Oakville; Oct. 8, West Bend; Nov. 12, Pulaski; Dec. 10 Oakville; Jan. 14, 1973, West Bend.

GRIDLEY, ILL.

Ruth Gramm

It's the time of year when many of us are spending some time with record books, to see how we stand financially and how much taxes we must pay . . . It's a good time to look at our spiritual record book and be ever thankful for the One who pays our debt of sin.

There is a record book, I'm told,

With every deed and word;

It even keeps the record of

Our thoughts that can't be heard,

The good the bad and every sin,

For nothing has been missed.

It really makes me feel ashamed

To think what's on my list. . .

And yet, the pages of my past

Shall never bother me,

For Jesus nailed them to His cross

One day at Calvary . . .

And now I stand in Him complete,

Redeemed from sin and strife,

For with His blood He wrote my name

Down in the Book of Life.

Elder Bro. Gene Bertschi assisted Bro. George Gramm in the proving and baptism of Jim Gramm, son of Bro. and Sis. Herb Gramm. Jim and his wife were home for Christmas vacation. Jim is going to school in Phoenix. We wish Jim much grace and joy in the Lord.

Bro. Bill Funk of Garden Grove, Iowa was guest on Dec. 6. We are thankful for each visiting minister

that proclaims God's word.

We are happy to report Bro. Bob Meiss is home from Thailand, discharged from service. He and his wife, Sis. Doris (Stoller) Meiss have made no definite plans.

Friend Elmer Rich chose the 11th hour to make preparations for eternity. On Dec. 19 Elmer made confession and found peace with God. He was in the hospital at the time. God has already called Elmer home. His funeral was Jan. 4. We rejoice for him . . .

Sis. Virginia Witzig (daughter of Bro. Elmer Witzig) has announced her engagement to Bro. Eric Zeller, son of Henry Zellers of Morton.

FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

Paula Kaeb, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb, was married to Charles Knapp, son of the Norval Knapps. The newlyweds will reside in Normal, as Charles works with the Heart of Illinois Builders and Paula is attending college at ISU.

Bro. Silas and Sis. Lena (Peters) Clauss were blessed with being able to have their 50th wedding anniversary in December.

Ira Kilgus, who confessed his faith in Jesus and peace with God, passed away. Surviving are his wife, Hazel, and a son David; three brothers. Bro. Herman, Albert, William; and one sister, Sis. Ella Von Bergen.

We are sorry for those who have been hospitalized: Bro. Henry Maurer for surgery at Champaign, Fred Feldman at Michigan, Sam Walter at Fairbury, Lydia Nussbaum (for acute glaucoma), and her husband, Ben Nussbaum (improved following a virus infection). Sis. Alene Troehler fell, fracturing her back, is in the Fairbury Hospital, and may be there for sometime.

We extend sympathy to the Bittner family, Sis. Lydia (Zimmerman) Bittner passed away. Her husband, Sam, preceded her in death. Surviving are five daughters: Sisters Jean, Sis. Betty, Sis. Darlene; Cynthia, Emma Schaffer; two sons, Wayne and Merle.

NEUHUTTEN GERMANY

Jon Zeller

We embark upon a new year, another year in waiting upon our Lord's coming . . . And indeed thankful are we for the blessings that have been upon us . . . to hear

the word, true and pure, sincere—the word of God, our Father . . . To walk in His light . . . we might notice our faults, but in faith soon to be lifted up again, with peace in our hearts and praise upon our lips . . . For the endurance of our souls, for the persistent faith of our elders, for the edification of our church. May we praise the Lord every day, every moment for His grace, that through His death and suffering we have obtained.

Robert and Jeannie Schambach of Elgin are now the parents of a baby boy, Eric Stephan. Dennis Knapp of Congerville and Phil Baumgartner of Bluffton have completed their tours here and have left. Our prayers go out to them and all for God's blessing's.

PEORIA

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The Sunday School Christmas program was held Sunday evening, Dec. 19. Our prayer for the youth is that someday they too can experience the hope of everlasting life in heaven.

We rejoice with our four new brothers and sisters in the Lord, Bro. Maurice and Sis. Carol Leman and Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Fehr. Maurice is the son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Aldine Leman of Eureka, Carol is the daughter of Art and Cora Leman of Peoria, Bud is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fehr and Sharon is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hyler of Peoria. Both couples have young children, so we are especially happy for them, and hope they can bring up their children in the fear and nurture of the Lord.

Bros. Noah Herman and Dan Koch were guest ministers. Bro. Dan helped our Bros. Roy Sauder and Chuck Hemmer bring us the conclusions of the conference.

Bro. Noah Herman was a hospital patient here, but is now released and recuperating nicely. Bro. Jonathan Schumacher is still a hospital patient, but is doing as well as can be expected.

A son, Cory Stephen, was born Dec. 3 to Robert and Sandra Singer. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Oscar and Sis. Mildred Hoerr.

Bro. Alpheus W. Altorfer Sr., 85, died Dec. 4 after a long illness. It

is a great comfort to his wife, Sis. Martha, that he could be baptized in this past year. Surviving besides his wife are two sons, A. William and Henry D. Altorfer, both of Peoria; a brother, Henry W. Altorfer; three sisters, Mrs. Henry (Sis. Emma) Leman, Mrs. Joseph (Sis. Anna) Zimmerman and Mrs. Ben (Sis. Rose) Getz. There was such an interesting article in our newspaper about Bro. Alph and how he got started in his business, that I'd like to share part of it with those who are interested; perhaps I'm a bit nostalgic—but the only washing machine I remember my parents using at home was an ABC Spinner.

Alph was one of the founders of the old Altorfer Bros. Co. and a pioneer in the power washing machine industry. He was born in Roanoke, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Altorfer. He and his brother, S. H. Altorfer, joined their father in his hardware store after attending Roanoke schools. They built an extensive business in repairing farm machinery in the area. On one call, Alph was sent to repair a gasoline engine, which, it turned out, was being used by a farm wife to run a washing machine. The contraption had been rigged up by the farmer, but it gave young Altorfer an idea; he made his first power washing machine out of odds and ends in the hardware store. After showing the machine to interested and enthusiastic farmers, the two brothers started to manufacture washers in 1909, being careful to obtain patents. One of those first-year machines, which a farmer bought for \$35, was bought back by the company for \$25, after it had been running for 12 years. From the back room of the hardware store the new enterprise grew into an organized business corporation, with a factory built in East Peoria. A. W. Altorfer remained the inventor, adapter and head of the manufacturing forces. He retired as president of the firm in 1953. In 1959 the East Peoria plant closed and moved to Grand Rapids, Mich.

Sis. Martha Altorfer wishes to express her thanks for all the love and kindness and prayers offered during the time of her husband's illness and death.

Sis. Emma Siebenthal, 75, died Dec. 15. She had been a resident of the A. C. Home on Skyline Dr. since 1960, and in the Peoria area

for 65 years. She was born in Sabetha, a daughter of Emil and Hannah Vielieber Siebenthal. Surviving are one sister, Sis. Lydia Siebenthal, and one brother, Herman Siebenthal, both of Peoria.

Sis. Eugenie Schlipf, 89, died Dec. 20. She had been a resident at the A. C. Home since Feb. 6. She was born Dec. 25, 1881 in Heilbron, Germany, the daughter of Jacob and Katherine Neuffer, and was married to William O. Schlipf June 7, 1914. He died in Peoria July 1, 1966. Surviving are three daughters, Sis. Elizabeth Hartman, Sis. Emma Rocke, and Sis. Elsa Hartman, all of Peoria; one son, William R. Schlipf of Morton; and three sisters, all living in Germany.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ella VonBergen; her brother, Ira Kilgus of Fairbury died Dec. 18.

Sis. Pauline Farney wishes to express her thanks for all the kind deeds and expressions of sympathy and prayers during the time of her brother, Fred Aupperle's illness and death.

PORTLAND Judith Knecht

The ground lies covered with snow, as the old year ends and a new year begins. As the new year begins, let us always remember, only what we do for the Lord will last. May we all strive each day to do our best and to take one day at a time . . . and may the Lord ever be by our side, and grant us the grace to endure and to be content in whatever state we are. May the Lord grant everyone a blessed new year.

The Silverton church has been assembling for 16 years, and this Christmas season they were blessed with their first Christmas Sunday School program. It deeply touched our hearts as the children recited and sang the loved Christmas carols of old. Our children showed much love, willingness and patience to memorize, and may these virtues remain with them as they grow to years of accountability.

A son, Joel Arthur, was born Dec. 26 to Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz. Two sisters, Lisa and Amy, welcome him home. May we as parents ever look to our Lord for guidance as we rear our children, realizing the responsibility is greater than ever before. Sis. Florence Martin and Sis. Persida Metz are the grandmothers of Joel Arthur.

Sis. Irene Baer left for Germany Dec. 30.

Our friend, David Rumbold, was discharged from the Army, and was able to arrive home a few days before Christmas . . . what a blessed and happy Christmas for his parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann Rumbold.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Norma Schini — Lois Kipfer

We stand once more on the threshold of a shining and unblemished year

How will we use the days of this year and the time God has placed in our hands . . .

Will we waste the minutes and squander the hours, leaving no prints behind in time's sands?

Will we vainly complain that life is so swift, that we haven't the time to do good?

Our days are too crowded, our hours are too short to do all the good things we should

We say we would pray if we just had the time, and be kind to all those in need

But we live in a world of **Planned Progress** and our national password is **Speed**

God grant us the grace as another year starts to use all the hours of our days

Not for our own selfish interests and our own willful, often-wrong ways,

But teach us to take time for praying and to find time for listening to You

So each day is spent well and wisely doing what You most want us to do.

On Dec. 1 Bro. Vernon Schwab from the Wolcott congregation was with us for mid-week services. We were reminded to be good lights on campus or at our jobs.

On Dec. 15, many people gathered with us for our Christmas Program. The songs and the readings brought us the true meaning of Christmas. Francesville was our host church for the evening, and Bro. Elmer Bucher had an inspiring message for all.

Christmas vacation for the Purdue students began on Dec. 22 and ended on Jan. 5.

Moving? Send former address and new address. Send zip number.

WOLCOTT
Arles Kropf
Marjean Lehman

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Our dear friend, Lowell Bahler, has been called to repentance . . . and the Lord has given His peace. With our friend, we rejoice and are thankful.

Bro. Pete Luthi has returned to his home from the hospital. He has received a reasonable measure of health and is very glad to be back in his home.

On Dec. 5, our congregation enjoyed the blessed visit of Ministering Bro. Henry Manz, Junction. On Dec. 12, visiting ministers with us for the day were Bro. Joe Wai-bel—Bay City, Bro. Sam Aeschli-man—Bluffton, and Bro. Wendell Gudeman—Francesville. On this memorable day, the Lord chose for us Bro. Gene Lehman to be added to the ministry, to help tell the story. Thankfulness fills our hearts for the blessing of the Lord upon this important step.

Our Christmas Program was held on Dec. 19 in the evening. We who sat and listened appreciated hearing the messages brought to us. We hope these teachings will go with us as we begin the new year.

A group of Christmas carolers visited shut-ins with songs of the birth of our Lord Jesus. They also delivered fruit baskets made by our sewing circle.

On Jan. 4, our annual meeting was held in the new Sunday School addition of the church. Newly-elected Sunday School teachers are Bro. Lloyd Kyburz, 3rd and 4th grades; Bro. Vernon Furrer, to help with either 3 and 4, 5 and 6 or 7 and 8 grades, wherever the need is greatest. Also elected were Sis. Viola Stoller, 2nd grade, and Sis. Shirley Furrer, 1st grade and kindergarten. New Bible Class teachers were Superintendent, Bro. Bob Schieler, and Bro. Nathan Lehman. Newly-elected trustee was Bro. Richard Stoller, and Bro. Irvin Furrer is to aid Bro. Glenn Furrer with World Relief.

At the meeting, it was decided to hold Sunday School in the morning for all classes.

The Lord willing, dedication serv-

ices will be held on Jan. 23 for our new Sunday School addition. All are welcome to come!

Silver Lining contributions are due in January at Wolcott. Your co-operation is appreciated.

SHIODA, JAPAN
Willis R. Ehnle

There are four holidays which have special significance to those who honor the living God. They are Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter. We have just experienced New Years and now look forward to Easter, the resurrection day of our Lord and Saviour, and the most important of all for the believer in Christ Jesus.

At Thanksgiving we give thanks to the living God for another harvest and many other blessings; at Christmas we worship Him and marvel at His marvelous plan to come to earth in human form to redeem us; at New Years we reminisce about the year gone by, the blessings and the testings, the joys and the sorrows, the failures and the successes; at Easter, we join in the song of victory over death and grave.

In western countries as well as Asian, Christmas is given more significance than Easter, but this is not justifiable from the spiritual viewpoint. Easter is at least equally significant. In Asian countries, New Years receives the most attention by far. In Japan, all companies take off three or four days for New Year. Debts are paid up at the end of the year, and a great deal of cleaning and tidying up is done in preparation for the first day of the new year.

It is interesting to note that for those of us who love the Lord Jesus Christ, there are also four major events in human life, birth, conversion and baptism, wedding (if we marry), and death.

Our Christmas meetings at Shioda were the English School program the evening of the 23rd, our Christmas Eve worship service, and our Sunday School program on the afternoon of the 25th. We had visited the homes in our neighborhood to invite them to our Christmas Eve service, but except for one young lady who had come previously, there were no visible results. To say and to sing, that there are millions who are waiting for the gospel light, should be qualified with the additional statement that

among those millions there are very few who are really desirous of the light and are willing to walk in it. It is those very few for whom we are searching, as we attempt to have a part in building a fellowship in a foreign land.

Our small American elementary school and our kindergarten for Japanese children continue. Sis. Judy Bauer and Sis. Sue Schrock are our teachers. They are having new experiences, and count those experiences as spiritual assets rather than liabilities, at least for the most part. Bro. Ben Maibach, secretary and treasurer of the Missionary Committee, and I are looking for sisters who might consider coming to Japan in the future for a one or two-year period. If we get word of any sister who might be willing to make the sacrifice and who has the approval of her local elder, we would like to write and give her all the related information.

TAMAHATA, JAPAN
Akito and Marie Inoue

God has guided us, so that we could all safely walk through the distance coverage allocated to the year of 1971 and new portion as 1972 is to be given.

We at Tamahata are all thankful for God's love and goodness to His children, especially for sending His only begotten Son as our Saviour. We gathered on Dec. 25 at Tamahata church to offer our heartfelt thanksgiving to God and Christ . . . To God for His love and generosity to give His own Son to us, and to Christ for the deed of salvation for all of us, that was made through his obedience to Heavenly Father.

At the gathering, the congregation was reminded that, although we were small in number at Tamahata, hundreds and thousands of people are gathering in the U.S. who are our spiritual brothers and sisters. Everybody's eyes twinkled with the mixture of surprise and joy to think of this fact once again.

How wonderful it is that we, once strangers and sinners in the darkness, are made children of God and are bound together as brethren in Christ. With this joy and faith, we extend from Tamahata our love and greetings to all Apostolic Christian churches in America and Japan.

The weather here is getting colder, and in late January we will have famous "Karakkaze" (dry cold

north wind), which to anyone who once spent a winter in our area will be a big memory. So, this paragraph may be a treat to those who visited us. Please come back and visit us again.

VALPARAISO

Irene Nuest

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." We were very happy to have Bro. Elmer Bucher and a group from Francesville visit us Jan. 2. His inspiring message left a deep impression of God's commandment that we love one another and bear fruit, that our Heavenly Father might be glorified.

True love doth fellowship desire;
It seeks a faithful brother heart.
True solace here we can acquire,
Where hand in hand and heart in heart
In mutual harmony are bound,
And Christ's love has a dwelling found.

On Dec. 26, we had a very short but impressive program of "The Christmas Story".

We were pleased to have with us Mr. and Mrs. Phil Ellian from Fredonia, N.Y. Mrs. Ellian is the former Jeannie Morris, who was one of our Sunday School teachers's.

In the evening, our annual Christmas worship hour, conducted by Bro. Harry Bucher, was held at the Porter County Home for those less fortunate one's, who must call this dwelling place their home.

AKRON

Katherine Ries

We rejoice with our brethren and are grateful and thankful to the Lord for all our blessings for having had children, relatives, and friends come from afar to be Home For Christmas.

Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Gasser announce the arrival of Melanie at their home, Dec. 9. On Jan. 2 Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lynell Palitto welcomed Victoria Lynn. Congratulations to the happy parents, and the Lord's blessings upon the newcomers.

Bro. Paul Pamer, who underwent surgery in November, is able to assemble with us again and wishes to thank all for the prayers, gift, cards, and visits during his convalescence. Bro. Stanley and Ann Francis want to "thank all for their

kind thoughts, deeds, beautiful cards, gifts, and prayers during the holy season". Friend Fred Burr is still incapacitated as he recuperates at his home.

Upon the return of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise Graf from abroad, they tell us — "Our visit in Europe left us with many and various impressions. We went primarily to visit our son, David and other brothers and friends stationed in Germany, and while there, were able to visit Switzerland, where our ancestors lived, and several other countries.

"We were thankful to see how our boys have such a welcome and open way to gather at the home of the Maurer family, near Neuhuetten, Germany. We spent several week-ends there and could feel the Christian love & hospitality, which is such a distinction among the true believers. We also were impressed by the care and concern which our brothers and friends in the service have for each other, seeking to be helpful where possible.

We wish to urge the brethren everywhere who read **The Silver Lining** to continue in prayerful support of these who are daily much exposed to the influence of the ungodly, for the works of the power of darkness are rampant among the soldiers who do not serve God.

"We at home have a duty to keep to godly ways, not only for ourselves but so, that when our soldiers return, they may find the faith and the church intact and can be thankful to return to their civilian occupations."

These remarks of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Louise Graf were made in Christian love for all.

Sis. Katherine Tooker was hospitalized (Akron General Medical Center) Dec. 30, where her condition is reported improving.

We thank Visiting Ministers Henry Dotterer and Gary Maibach of Rittman for their inspiring messages which they brought to us.

We wish to congratulate the Sunday School children and their teachers for the very fine program of Christmas carols which they presented to the congregation Dec. 19.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

Lila Jeanette arrived Dec. 29 to make her home with Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Plattner, little brothers Andy and Dallas. Grandparents are

Bert and Sis. Julia, Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ruth Metzger, Elgin (Iowa).

Bro. Henry and Sis. Lillie Froelich, Switzerland announce the birth of Roger Andre on Nov. 24. He has a sister, Claudia.

Two engagements were made known to us: Dec. 19, Bro. Neil Hartter (Bro. Lester-Sis. Ella) to Sis. Evelyn Miller. Dec. 26, Bro. John Lehman (Bro. Edw-Sis. Leola) to Sis. Connie Miller. Evelyn and Connie are daughters of Bro. and Sis. Wayne Miller, Ft Scott.

Bro. Edw. Lehman was elected our new trustee. He will serve with Bros. Harlan Stoller and Morris Edelman.

Midweek services begin now (the first one, Bern, a closed meeting, as the memorandum will be brought to us). We alternate with Sabetha. Everyone welcome.

We are having much flu and sickness. Hospital patients were Sis. Lydia Hanhart and Bro. Harvey Grimm, both medical.

The grim reaper twice swung his sickle in our midst during the holidays. On Dec. 23, it was our 23-year-old nephew, Clinton Moser who had sustained severe head injuries in a car accident last July 9. His condition has been a great concern these many months.

Dec. 26, Sis. Lorene Strahm, age 55, passed away after a long battle with cancer. She was born at Lamar to Bro. George and Sis. Elizabeth Banwart Marti. Apr. 20, 1939 she was married to Bro. Ephraim Strahm. Among the survivors are Bro. Ephraim; her mother, Sis. Elizabeth; one daughter, Shirley; three sons, Bros. Wayne, Dale and Richard. One daughter, Sis. Janette met death in a car accident last Sept. 9. Also surviving are four sisters, Sis. Lucy (Roy) Rokey, Sis. Mamie (Alphia) Strahm, Sis. Frances (Oscar) Zaugg, Sis. Evelyn (Joe) Benninger, both West Bend; one brother Bro. Eugene. Lorene was a patient sufferer, never complained or murmured during all her pain and sorrow, or lost her friendly smile. Our ministers held services Dec. 29, with burial in the church cemetery.

BLUFFTON

Imogene Steffen — Pat Isch

Bro. John Yergler conducted services for the funeral of Bro. Reuben Reinhart on Dec. 6. His wife, Addie, survives. David Schwartz of our community also re-

cently died. Those survivors of our congregation are his two sisters, Sis. Elizabeth (Wm.) Neuen-schwander and Sis. Mary (Lewis) Gerber.

We were privileged to hear the conference report. Being warned of our responsibilities as a child of God, may we always strive to be a good light to our many friends so they, too, may seek to find this pearl.

Our Sis. Gloria Fiechter was married on Dec. 19 to Bro. Phil Grant from Latty and will now make her home in the Latty area. We pray the Lord will always direct them, that they may always find Him near in time of need.

Our many children and friends of the truth brought a stirring message in song with our annual Christmas program. It is always inspiring to see so many shining faces telling us the true seasonal message. May they in due time not forget the great event which took place on the cross.

Shut-ins hospitalized because of surgery include Sis. Elizabeth Pfister, Bro. Richard Reinhard, and Alan Gerber (son of Bro. Don and Sis. Mary). We pray that health may be restored to the fullest measure, according to His will.

Bro. Linus and Sis. Nancy Gerber have a newborn son, Jarrod Linn. Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo (Troxel) Gerber welcomed little Kimberli Jo. Heidi Jo is the second daughter of Tom and Sis. Janet (Rehklau) Kipfer. God's blessings to these happy families.

Visiting ministers to our congregation have been Bro. Walter Rehklau of Toledo and Bro. Bob Beer of Mansfield. We are thankful for their visits and words of truth and encouragement.

Bro. Harry and Sis. Lula Baumgartner were pleasantly surprised when their son, Phil, returned home the day before Christmas from his duties in the Army. We are always thankful for the Lord's protection and safe-keeping.

The first betrothal of the new year was announced on Jan. 2. Sis. Conni Isch, daughter of Bro. Harry and Sis. Clarice, is engaged to Bro. William Witzig of Gridley, who is the son of Bro. Edward and Sis. Dorothy. May their joys be many as they plan their lives together and live for Him.

The Christmas rush is a memory now, and 1971 is past history. We

have a fresh new year ahead. It is not known what lies ahead, but God has arranged it so that the road of life can only be revealed as it is traveled. Therefore, may we walk confidently through the unknown future with God, praying for grace each day, keeping the Christmas cheer glowing in our hearts, thanking Him for our bounteous blessings, and trusting our lives completely to our all-wise Heavenly Father.

BRADFORD

Rebecca Endress

The old year has been ushered out, and a new one is begun . . . so life was taken from a dear one who often worshipped with us, and a new little life has bloomed. Sis. Sophie Hunziker passed away at the age of 90 years, after being hospitalized with a stroke. She is survived by her son, Fritz Jr., and a half sister, Emma Hansen; nephews Bro. Elmer, Bro. Lou, and Bro. Ervin Bauman. Her husband Fritz died in 1969. Many of us enjoyed singing for her, because she loved to sing and always joined in with her clear soprano and Swiss accent.

Keri Lou is the new little miss who has moved into the home of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Verla Hausmann, since her birth Dec. 24. She is welcomed by her sister, Heidi, and brothers Freddie and Stevie. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Will and Sis. Marie Stahl (Princeville).

Ministering Brothers Josh Broquard (Fairbury), Joe Kaisner and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), and Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit) have visited us. We thank all for your service to us.

"... how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" This duty has been placed upon Bro. Kenny Dietz, to preach the word for our congregation. Our prayers and support are with him and his wife, Sis. Mardell.

Bro. Verle Kieser was chosen as the new Sunday School teacher, to complete the term vacated by Bro. Charles Kieser. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marie and family have moved to Bloomington. Bro. Dan and Sis. Anna Siebenthal and family moved to their new home at Princeville. We are sorry to lose both of these families and wish them the best.

Dennis and Cheryl (Schlatter) Mangers have moved to Princeton

and assemble with us. We welcome them.

Bro. Carl Hancher underwent surgery at Rochester, Minn. He is convalescing at home and is doing well.

Karen Ehnle, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna, became the bride of Bill Ringger, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola, on Dec. 30. We wish them a lifetime of happiness together.

Bro. Sam Plattner spent several days here, before leaving for Viet Nam. His wife, Sis. Pat, and daughter Heidi will be living with Pat's parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle and assembling with us while he is overseas.

Note to Bradford subscribers: I will collect dues for the **Silver Lining** during the month of January.

BREMEN

Mrs. Aldean Feldman

The Christmas program, given by the Sunday School, was inspiring. The children with happy faces told the Christmas story in song and readings. May the spirit of love we all find so easy to express at the Christmas season prevail throughout the year.

Dec. 26, Bro. Walt Rager lovingly brought us a timely message. He reminded us the importance of Christ's birth, but not to stop there but go on in the word and heed the importance of Christ's teaching in the Sermon on the Mount.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe were blessed with a baby boy. They named him Matthew. He has a brother, Michael to welcome him too.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Hazel Clauss will observe their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, Feb. 20, if the Lord is willing. May the Lord bless them with peace and joy of the Lord and reasonable health together with their family.

The new year lies before you
Like a spotless track of snow.
Be careful how you tread it,
For every mark will show.

Note of thanks: Bro. Henry and Sis. Leah Souder wish to thank their many relatives and friends who so lovingly remembered them with greetings this Christmas season and extend their love to you.

Two dollars is suggested to be given per year, for **The Silver Lining**.

CHICAGO

Little Lance Pfeifer was born to Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy on Nov. 22.

Sis. Jackie Koehl has completed her education and returned to Peoria. We enjoyed her presence among us and wish her God's blessings in her endeavors.

The Sunday School children presented an inspiring program, telling the beautiful story of the birth of the Christ Child.

We are very grateful that our old church building has been sold. Arrangements have been made with the purchasers to share the use of the building until our new edifice is completed. We will hold our full Sunday worship services as in the past.

CISSNA PARK

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

The Sunday School presented a program, which was enjoyed. It was nice to hear the little children bring their message in song.

The Christmas season has come and gone; we are starting a New Year. Let us take inventory of ourselves and as we start the new year, let us try to walk closer to the Lord. **Recipe for Contentment in the New Year:** Health enough to make work a pleasure, Wealth enough to support your needs. Strength enough to battle with difficulties; Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others. Faith enough to make real the things of God, and Hope enough to remove anxious fears concerning the future.

Born to Sis. Janet and Bro. Daryl Hari, Dec. 14, a daughter, Daria Christine. Bro. Ray and Sis. Emma Hari and Bro. Ray and Sis. Marie Heinold are the grandparents.

The engagement of Sis. Diana Feller to Bro. Kenny Virkler was announced. Diana is a daughter of Bro. and Sis. Junior Feller, and Kenny is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Virkler.

Marlene Baumgartner, daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner, and Art Mueller of Strawn were united in Holy Matrimony Dec. 18, at the home of the bride's parents by Bro. Ezra Feller. The couple is residing in Urbana, R.R. 1. Both are attending college. Our best wishes are extended to them for a contented married life.

We seem to always have sick ones and shut-ins among us. The young folks brought much joy by

going caroling at Christmas-time.

Bro. Joe Hofbauer, Friend Jim Bauer, Sis. Emma Wahl were hospital medical patients, also, Sis. Carrie Waldbeser requests your prayers.

The young folks from Purdue and Urbana spent a Thurs. evening with us for worship and singing; and a fellowship hour was enjoyed.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Edwin Bahler, Dave Wiegand, Everett Hari and Dale Eisenman. We thank them for coming and bringing us the message.

Sis. Amy Hari, age 81, passed away Dec. 16 at Iroquois Hospital, after a short illness. She leaves to mourn her husband, Bro. Joe: two sons, Bro. Marvin and Gerald; one daughter, Anna Mae Frank. Bro. Ed Alt conducted the services on Dec. 19. We certainly miss Sis. Amy, as she was a faithful pillar in our church and a wonderful example.

If it be the Lord's will, our Sis. Anna Baumgartner will reach her 97th birthday, month of January. She attends church every Sunday. I am sure she will be glad to hear from you. Her address is Cissna Park.

Dec. 15 our community had a severe windstorm, with gusts of wind up to 80 miles per hour. It did much damage around, tearing off shingles, breaking trees etc. The large dairy barn on the Harlan Rudin farm, tenanted by Gary Rudin, was completely destroyed by fire in the height of the windstorm. Lost in the blaze was 20 head of dairy cattle, a large quantity of hay, and all the dairy equipment. We are thankful the other buildings were saved and no one was injured.

CONGERVILLE

Phyllis Knapp — Norma Stahl

There is a story of an old man who carried a little can of oil. If he passed through a door that squeaked, he poured a little oil on the hinges. If a gate was hard to open, he oiled the latch. He passed through life making it easier for those who came after him. People called him eccentric, queer, but the old man went steadily on, refilling his can of oil.

There are many lives that creak and grate harshly. They need lubricating with gladness, gentleness, thoughtfulness. Have you oil with you? Be ready with helpfulness in

the early morning to the one nearest you. It may lubricate the whole day. Good Cheer to the downhearted one, how much it may mean! Courage to the despairing, speak it. Our lives touch others but once perhaps on the road of life; then our ways diverge, never to meet again. The oil of kindness has worn the sharp, hard edges off many a sin-hardened life and left it soft and pliable, ready for the redeeming grace of the Saviour.

We were given the privilege to listen to the testimony and witness the baptism of Mardell Grusy. May the Lord be with her and grant her much grace, wisdom, and knowledge to ward off Satan.

Visiting ministers: Bro. Art Gudeman, Bro. Josh Broquard, Bro. Ezra Feller.

We were reminded of the birth of the Lord, through the innocence of our little children at the Sunday School Christmas program.

Bro. Jerry Knapp was in a truck accident, hospitalized, and had to have surgery. May the Lord be with him. Bro. Jake Miller was hospitalized and had surgery. Our prayers are with him and may the Lord be with him.

We are happy to announce that we have two new converts. They are Marilyn and Marjorie Steffen, daughters of Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen. We wish them much of the Lord's grace; our prayers are with them.

Tim Zimmerman, son of Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula, has gone for his tour of duty with the government. May he lean upon the Lord for guidance.

ELGIN ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

Having crossed the threshold of another year, not knowing what it holds in store, we do know that if we have faith in God and strive to live for Him and do His will, He will help us carry whatever befalls us . . . this promise assures us, **The Lord will provide.**

We have had ministering brothers from far and near visiting, Bros. Noah Schrock of Oakville, Joseph Waibel of Bay City, Ben Maibach of Detroit, Walter Steffen of Milford, David Wiegand of Champaign, and Albert Fisher of Chicago.

Thine is the strength; True
 teachers for Thy fold
 Thou dost provide, O Lord. Thou
 dost impart
 Salvation's strength and power
 To him who speaks Thy word.
 He plants and waters, light
 bestowing;
 Thy blessings thereupon are
 flowing. Thine is the strength.

Births: A son, Gary Lynn, was
 born Dec. 4, to Bro. Keith and Sis.
 Sharon Blunier Kellenberger, 444
 South St., Elgin Ill 60120. A son,
 Eric Stephan, was born Dec. 30 to
 Robert and Jean Schock Scham-
 bach; their address is Wackern-
 heim, P6501—Bornstrass 27, West
 Germany. Robert is in the service.

We miss Sis. Sue Schock in our
 Church Circle. She is presently
 teaching in Japan. Her address is
 692 Shioda Ichimiya—CHO, Hi-
 gashi Yatsushiro—Gun, Yananashi-
 Ken, 409-14 Japan.

Alfred Hugh, husband of Sis.
 Martha, has been hospitalized for
 observation. They live at 516 Villa
 St., Elgin Ill 60120. May God be
 with all the sick and aged, and give
 strength and courage to those who
 care for them.

We enjoyed a blessed Christmas
 Season, little ones speaking about
 the birth of Christ, the choirs sing-
 ing, and the carolers bringing the
 message of good cheer to the shut-
 ins.

EUREKA

Cathryn Wettstein
 Salome Schumacher

Our visitors were Bro. Perry
 Zimmerman—Forrest, Bro. Ed-
 mund Kloter—Fairbury.

Dec. 5, Bro. Leroy Huber was as-
 sisted by Bro. Perry Zimmerman
 in reviewing the memorandum.
 Things were explained so thorough-
 ly that one feels as though we all
 have a duty to try with God's help
 and grace to be more obedient.

The annual Christmas program
 was Dec. 19, in the evening, with
 all classes taking part. It is a most
 happy time of year, when we are re-
 minded in word and song of the
 birth of Baby Jesus, God's own be-
 loved Son. Regular Christmas Day
 services were held, and a large
 crowd gathered to hear the beauti-
 ful Christmas story, which never
 grows old. New Year's Eve services
 were held. Bro. Leroy Huber gave
 so many good thoughts and teach-
 ings for us to ponder over. May we

begin the new year trusting, pray-
 ing, believing and serving, that He
 will bless us.

This is the summary of happen-
 ings from 1971: 10 babies were
 born, 2 weddings in church, 2 fun-
 erals, 7 baptisms.

What shall I wish thee? Treasures
 of earth?

Songs in the springtime, pleasures
 and mirth?

Flowers in thy pathway, skies ever
 clear?

Would this insure thee a happy
 New Year?

Peace in the Saviour, rest at his
 feet,

Smile of His countenance, radiant
 and sweet.

Joy in His presence, Christ, ever
 near—

This will insure thee a happy New
 Year.

FRANCESVILLE

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
 Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

From This Day Forward, a con-
 venant was made between Sis.
 Rhonda Pelsy and Bro. Craig
 Brown. We will miss cheerful Rhon-
 da, but will always look forward to
 her and Craig visiting. Bro. Wen-
 dell Gudeman spoke to them of
 their loving responsibilities to each
 other, assisted by Bro. Ed Hohulin.

Bro. Willis Wiegand of their
 Champaign church gave us such
 great Christian words in the morn-
 ing services. The same day, the
 Sunday School gave their Christ-
 mas program. At the closing, Bro.
 Hohulin said, "If this is a foretaste
 of Heaven, I sure want to be there."
 So his remark is the wish of us all,
 not so?

Bros. Joe Waibel and Ed Frank
 came as good fathers to us, telling
 us what we should do and should
 not do, if we want to walk the path
 way of life in happiness and to love
 everyone. Another joy was Bro.
 Charles Marti's blessed visit.

It makes us sad to say that dear
 Sis. Martha Pelsy has not been able
 to attend church services as often
 as she would like. So we pray for
 her . . . as she puts her trust in the
 one above.

Sis. Kathryn Gudeman has writ-
 ten this poem, in memory of Sam,
 who passed away a year ago:

I see you at the shop no more

Nor on the pathway to the door.
 It seems like only yesterday
 You were so well and strong.
 Then so sudden you were gone—
 Oh, what sweet memories I recall.
 I pray that some day we will meet
 Upon that Golden Shore
 Where parting shall be never more.

Sadly missed by Mom, her sons
 and families.

When our 4-year-old grandson
 Chris was asked if he wanted a
 baby brother or sister, he would
 answer. "What ever God gives us".
 So Dr. Charles and Betty Lyons
 were blessed with a darling daugh-
 ter, Angela Marie. We are now
 thankful for the ten granddaugh-
 ters and ten grandsons.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Edna Somerhalder—Wilma Young

Another year is dawning; Dear
 Master let it be, In working or in
 waiting, Another year with Thee.
 Amen.

The dear Lord has called three
 more young souls to repentance.
 We now have eight converts. How
 uplifting to see their joy in the new
 walk of life. May they ever look to
 Jesus, from whence all help cometh.

Our congregation was invited to
 assemble with the Lamont congrega-
 tion to hear the deliberations of
 the memorandum. Elder Bro. Les-
 ter Harter assisted our Elder Bro.
 Samuel Anliker. We wish them
 God's richest blessings for their
 time and efforts. Now we intercede
 for grace to accept all admonitions,
 that it may serve the intended pur-
 pose.

Marilyn Owens, daughter of Sis.
 Wilma Young, spent four days in
 the hospital for X-rays and obser-
 vation.

James Morrison spent 19 days in
 Arvada Co. Hospital, recuperating
 from a severe heart attack. He is
 home, apparently doing fine. He's
 the son-in-law of Bro. Sam and Sis.
 Esther Kraft, who left to stay with
 their daughter Virginia, James'
 wife, during his hospitalization.

We extend sympathy to Bro.
 Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft, in the
 passing of her grandfather, James
 Dalby, 95 years. His wife passed on
 three years ago. He spent the past
 18 months in the Golden Age
 Lodge.

It was heart-touching to hear and
 observe our youth present the
 Christmas program.

Our visiting ministers were: Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker, Bro. Roy Wernli, and Bro. Samuel Huber. We thank each for their meditations.

The past year, we've enjoyed a nice summer, with good crops. There were many reasons to be thankful. Christmas was a beautiful springlike day, with a temperature of 65 degrees. How soon the picture changes. We now have snow, ice and temperature of seven degrees.

This poem was given to me by a sister who wrote the first verses during her father's illness, following a stroke that left him speechless . . . the latter verses after his passing.

How O Lord can this be
That such a one as he
Whose voice was oft lifted
In a way we thought gifted
To praise and honor Thee?

Now O Lord he cannot speak,
But may he Thy help ever seek
And trust that now and ever
Nothing Thy love can sever
Though now his body is so weak.

Now O Lord may he know
Thy love and comfort here below,
As we watch him silent now.
Surely, O dear Lord, somehow
It must help our faith to grow.

Now O Lord we do pray
For strength to never say
That we on earth know best,
But help us through this test
And guide us through each day.

I wonder if now in part I see
Why his life was full of trouble
Why he had few comforts here.
His toil and pain seemed double.

I now recall with shame how oft
I prayed, "God don't let him cry."
When concern for his flock
Choked him and his tears were
nigh.

What right have I to complain
Thou art the Potter, I only clay.
In memory I hear his voice
"Not my will but Thine." he'd pray.

Here on earth I've found
Time heals the broken heart,
If we allow God's grace to work,
Sorrow teaches us to do our part.

This is the answer then.
His reward wasn't here;

His treasure not on earth.
His Comforter was always near.

INDIANAPOLIS Tom and Carolyn Frank

We appreciate the edifying messages brought by the following brothers: Wendell Gerber, Bluffton; David Bertsch, Leo; Loren Stoller, Latty; Art Gudeman, La Crosse. We thank the ministers for their continued efforts in bringing us God's word.

Sis. Diane Zimmer is continuing her training in occupational therapy at hospitals in Buffalo, New York and Milwaukee, Wisconsin this semester. We wish her many rewarding experiences.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Eric Zeller, Morton, and Sis. Virginia Witzig, Gridley, on their engagement, announced Christmas Day. The engagement of Sis. Connie Isch, Bluffton, and Bro. Bill Witzig, Gridley was announced Sunday, Jan. 2. We wish these couples much happiness in their forthcoming marriages.

We congratulate Sis. Connie Isch on completing work for her Bachelor's degree in Special Education at Indiana University.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Heiniger are moving to Bloomington, Illinois, where Ron has accepted work in the math department at ISU. May God bless their endeavors.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Libby Meyer

The snowflakes drift gracefully to the ground, until a wind current sends them swirling wildly into circles. Finally the wind wisks the snow down and the sun comes out, melting it away forever.

A baby comes into the world, pure and free from sin as the white snow. He is innocent in his Creator's eyes, and a beautiful, priceless gift to those who love him . . . But the child must grow up and eventually discover a world of hate, lust, crime, murder, war, lies, and all the other forces of the devil. Sadly, if he hardens his heart to the Saviour, he is blown away and will be lost forever.

Bro. George Lambert from Wichita spoke of the false prophets which are prevalent in our world, and related their deceitfulness through the scriptures. He reminded us to "Watch and pray", remembering that we are not infallible nor free from the influence

of the world . . . But with the help of God, we can remain "dead" unto sin.

Our one-month vacation ends the 17th of January, when classes are scheduled to resume.

PHOENIX Mrs. Allan Freed

Another year is dawning. Dear Master, let it be, In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee. This is our prayer as we wish you all a Blessed New Year.

The annual business meeting was held Dec. 1. Those elected to offices are: Treasurer—Bro. Bill Dotterer; Ass't. S. S. Superintendent—Bro. Ted Knochel; Usher—Bro. Tom Freed.

We had a good turnout for our once-a-year cleaning day at church, which was held the first Saturday in December.

We enjoyed each other's fellowship at a covered-dish dinner Sun. Dec. 5, after which evening services were held, Bro. Joe Waibel of Bay City being our visiting minister. Bro. Walter Rehklau of Toledo and Bro. Glenn Hackenjos of Altadena also were visiting ministers this month. We wish to thank them for the many precious teachings they brought to us. We've enjoyed many visitors this month and look forward to the fellowship of those of you who will be spending a winter vacation in the Southwest.

The week-end of Dec. 11 and 12, the Bible classes and several of the members of the Altadena congregation and the Tucson Bible Class came to Phoenix. We all enjoyed the fellowship and thank their teachers for making this occasion possible.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was the evening of Dec. 19. The children expressed in verse and song the wonderful love of God as found in St. John 3:16, which was the theme of the program.

Sis. Kate Blumenschein was hospitalized for several days for tests and treatment. We are happy that she is able to assemble with us again. Rachael Roth, wife of Bro. Harry, has been bedfast for 3 weeks due to a spinal injury. She is showing some improvement, but expects to be confined to bed rest for a couple of weeks more. May the Lord be near each shut-in.

Elder Bro. Roy Farney announced to the congregation that Alana Schrenk of Tucson, wife of Wayne

and also our daughter, has found peace with God and man and looks forward to giving testimony of her new-found faith and being baptized. We rejoice with her and pray that many will cast their lot with Jesus while he is still calling souls to repentance.

We welcome Jim Gramm as a new brother-in-faith, and pray God will give him much grace in his new walk of life. He was taken into the fold in Gridley on Dec. 26, while on vacation from classes which he attends here.

Note of Thanks: May we take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has bestowed their tokens of love in prayers, visits, cards, gifts and many efforts to our dear father and grandfather during the whole past year, and especially at Christmas time and his 92nd birthday. We realize there are many deeds of love done that we never know about, so we cannot express our appreciation, but do know the Lord does see and can bless above our feeble thanks. Gratefully, the family of Bro. Sam Farney.

PULASKI

Mary Wiegand—Nancy Musselman

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas Program after church one Sunday. It was truly heartwarming to see their happy faces, as they eagerly told of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem.

That same evening we enjoyed Christmas caroling. We went to the nursing home in our county and then to several homes. It gives us so much satisfaction to see how the people appreciate this, especially the shut-ins. After caroling, we went to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Charity Scheitlin's home for a chili supper. It was truly a blessed day enjoyed by all.

Several have been sick, mostly with colds and flu. Bro. Richard Teubel spent a few days in the hospital, but is up and around again.

It isn't the load that weights us down; it's the way we carry it.

ROANOKE

Marilyn Weyeneth—Norene Herbst

On Dec. 5 we witnessed the baptisms of Jerry and Bonnie (Turner) Getz, Ben Sauder and Roland and Carol (Rocke) Rumbold, who gave their testimonies on Sat. evening.

Bro. Ed Hohulin assisted with this work.

Bro. Roy Sauder was with us Sun., Dec. 12, to assist with the memorandum, followed by a supper for the congregation and their families, the friends and their families being present for the supper. After the supper we assembled again for Christmas singing. We enjoyed the Lord's blessings throughout the day.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Arlette Fehr had a pleasant surprise Dec. 4 when their son Tom returned home from Viet Nam, having completed his tour of duty in the military service.

Our friend, Richard Beer (son of Roy and Sis. Rose Beer) is stationed at Guam, serving in the Navy. It is hoped his wife, Lynn will soon be able to join him.

Larry Yordy (son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yordy) and Edith Hodel (daughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Hodel) were united in marriage Dec. 11 at the Fellowship Hall in Peoria, Bro. Eugene Bertschi officiating. The couple is living in Roanoke.

The engagement of Marilyn Blunier and Robert Ott has been announced by her parents, Bro. Harold and Sis. Emma Blunier. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ott, Roanoke.

Another of our congregation reached the age of 94 years. Sis. Hulda (Steffen) Beer attained this age Dec. 26. She is enjoying reasonable health and is able to attend church regularly.

A baby boy was born to Harley and Sis. Gerry Moser Jan. 4.

We enjoyed the annual Christmas program on Sun., Dec. 19, with all classes taking part, from the 4 and 5-year-olds through the Bible Classes.

Bro. Ralph Hodel is still hospitalized, but improving. Others who are in the hospital are Sis. Viola Belsley, Sis. Ollie Leman and Bro. John E. Hodel. Otto Scherer and Bill Hangartner were hospitalized, but have returned home. We wish them all the help, strength and blessings from above.

In addition to Bros. Hohulin and Sauder, we enjoyed having Bros. Francis Rother, Everett Hari, James Ringger, David Bertsch, Art Baurer and Ed Aeschleman as visiting ministers.

Two dollars is suggested to be given per year, for **The Silver Lining**.

UNION CITY

Gail Gasser

On Dec. 19 our Sunday School presented their Christmas program to our congregation. Nine young people took part; the younger children recited poems, and the older ones read portions of scripture. Everyone joined in singing the beautiful carols which tell of our Saviour's birth.

TAYLOR

Elizabeth Sutter — Naomi Heimer

The Sunday School presented the Christmas program on Dec. 19. It is so heartwarming to hear of the birth of the baby Jesus and to hear the scripture readings. We hope the message they bring to us will remain with them, as they grow to the age of accountability and will realize that, as they sang, "Tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free".

Christmas is such a blessed time, when families gather together from far and near. We were happy to have ministering brothers here for both Christmas and New Year's services. They brought us in spirit from the birth of John the Baptist, through the conception and birth of our Lord Jesus. We assembled again on New Year's morning, knowing there was no better way to start the new year than in prayer and supplication, for grace and strength in the days that lie before us. We were reminded that the Lord will provide, if we put our trust in Him.

It may be interesting to you to know that the wives of our visiting ministers were from our congregation before their marriages. Our Christmas visitors were Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah (Favrhov) Butikof, Elgin; Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce (Sutter) Pohl, Burlington; and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marjorie (Arrow-smith) Gerst, Chicago.

Our New Year's visitors were Bro. Lenny Meyer and Sis. Charlotte (Haerr) Meyer, Chicago; and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell (Grimm) Dietz, Bradford. It was Bro. Lenny's first visit here since he is in the ministry.

Several of our young people that are away at school were home for the holidays. They are Becky Hodel from SIU, Carbondale, Ill.; Tom Cottrell from Blackhawk College at Moline, Ill.; Cindy Hoerr and Sandi Cottrell from Methodist Hospital in Peoria; Kent Heimer from

M.S.C. at Kirksville, Mo.; and Sis. Marcia Sutter from Blessing Hospital School of Nursing.

Connie Plank, daughter of Buddy and Barbara (Hoerr) Plank, graduated from Blessing Hospital School as a Lab Technician and is working in that capacity.

URBANA
Teresa Hufford

Today

With every rising of the sun,
Think of your life as just begun;
Concern yourself with just today;
Grasp it, and teach it to obey
Your will and plan. Since time began

Today has been the friend of man.
Today and you! Your soul sublime
And this great heritage of time
With God Himself to bind the two.
Go forth, brave heart; today's for you!

We think of past events and what would have been the outcome if some factor was changed. Dwelling on the thought will not change all that has happened. We wonder about the future as we did the past. Sometimes we let ourselves get caught up in the worries of tomorrow. We are not promised tomorrow, so why let the unknown ponder in our minds? If we can live each day trusting in God and believing, we are guided according to His will; then we will have lived that day to the fullest.

Many witnessed the solemnizing of wedding vows between Bro. Craig Brown of Champaign and Sis. Rhonda Pelsy of Francesville. Bro. Craig and Sis. Rhonda are residing in Champaign. May God bless them in their life together.

Curt Rassi (Tremont) was welcomed into the fold as a brother-in-faith on Dec. 12. Curt attends the University of Illinois. May the grace of God be with him always.

Bro. Vernon Leman was with us on Wed., Jan. 5, to deliver the message. We thank him for his efforts.

ALTADENA
Marilyn Graf

Our congratulations and very best wishes go to Laurie and Douglas Kinsinger, who were married Dec. 18. Parents of the couple are Bro. Carl and Sis. Margaret Kinsinger and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Topits.

We are happy to welcome Bro.

Ron Erisman into our membership, after his baptism in Bay City. Ron has departed for a seven months' tour of duty to Japan with the Navy. We wish him God's protection and blessings during his absence from us, and will look forward to his return in August.

Jerald and Jeri Kaufman are the parents of a daughter, Stephanie Mara, born Dec. 28. Bro. Bill and Sis. Freda Minger are the maternal grandparents.

Bro. Clarence Graf underwent surgery for the removal of a cataract. He has returned home and is progressing satisfactorily.

Several carloads of our Sunday School students and members traveled to Phoenix for the week-end of Dec. 11 and 12. A most enjoyable time was had by all. They particularly want to thank the Phoenix congregation for the love and hospitality shown to them.

WESTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Mary Lynn Unsicker

As we look back over the past quarter, we must certainly testify that the Lord has been a great help and comfort to us in times of need. We feel so secure and so abundantly blessed in our walk of life with Him. The Lord has a very significant meaning in all our lives.

What think Ye of Christ?

To the architect, He is the chief cornerstone; To the baker, He is the bread of life; To the farmer, He is the sower and the Lord of harvest; To the geologist, He is the Rock of Ages; To the student He is the incarnate truth; To the sinner, He is the Lamb of God who taketh sin away; To the Christian He is the Son of the living God, the Saviour, the Redeemer, and our loving Lord.

The Lord has provided, and we at Western are certainly thankful for his precious word and worship together. We invite everyone to come and worship with us. **Our meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, in the New Salem Room of the Union at eight o'clock.** (We plan to meet again on the second of February.)

FT SAM HOUSTON
Kurt Bahler

We wish to extend our thanks

and appreciation to Bro. Joe Zimmerman of Morton and Bro. Ed Hohulin of Goodfield, who visited and brought us words of encouragement and truth. We need only to look into the word of God to find the answers to our questions. Man continues to live daily in indifference and pretends to not hear the question gnawing in his mind.

If I should die before I wake . . .
Have I a soul that can escape?

Must I Be "Born Again"?

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." . . . "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again" . . . "... if a man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" . . . "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" . . .

We welcome to our fellowship Roger Roeschley (Morton) and Tim Zimmerman (Congerville), as they begin their tour of duty at Ft. Sam. Our good friend, Gary Brown, who spent six-months here in training has been reassigned to Virginia.

The joy, of being separated from the service, and reunited with loved ones is yet to be realized by many, but we can rejoice in the blessings we share together. The brothers and friends here wish to thank our visitors for the love and concern shown us and for each gift of love received.

BAY CITY
Carolyn Knochel

A new year . . . ! A year in which to grow, to draw nearer to God, to put away more and more of this world's enticements, and to follow more closely in our Saviour's footsteps; to remember the vows we made to our Lord, and make them stronger on our part.

A new life . . . after a short but joyous week-end, our new brother, Ron Erisman, left for California, where he is stationed in the U.S. Navy. Ron began repenting while in California, and found peace there; though we haven't had a lot of time to get to know the "new" Ron, we could feel in his testimony that God has truly worked in his heart, and that he has made a true conversion. We pray for the Lord to watch over him, as he soon will leave for Japan.

With the ill: Friends Clinton

Wackerle and Ron Wackerle have both been hospitalized for surgery; we thank the Lord that they have recovered and are at home again.

Thank-you note: Sis. Nettie (Bro. Fred) Krochel wishes to express her thanks for the many cards and well-wishes she received during her illness.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in Heaven,
Another year for thee.

BURLINGTON
Edna Pohl

There is no greater quest today
Than that involving peace;
For hearts are yearning for the
time
When war and strife shall cease.

But there is no real mystery;
It's quite a personal thing.
Salvation and its perfect peace
Will come to those who bring

Their burdened anxious hearts to
One
Who comforts, saves, forgives,
For He's the way, the truth, the
life,
Who died, yet ever lives!

Another year begins, but only
God knows what is in store for all
people. Watch! And pray!

The Lord granted a few of us to
assemble with students and mem-
bers at Western Illinois Univ. at
McComb Jan. 6. (Wed. evening).
We read St. Luke, Chap. 21.

"And there shall be signs in the
sun, and in the moon, and in the
stars: and upon the earth distress
of nations, with perplexity; the sea
and the waves roaring; Mens hearts
failing them for fear, and for look-
ing after those things which are
coming on the earth: for the
powers of heaven shall be shaken.
And then shall they see the Son of
man coming in a cloud with power
and great glory."

Sis. Joyce Pohl (Robert) has re-
turned from the Mayo Clinic where
she underwent extensive tests. We
are thankful that no surgery was
required.

Our friend John Kuntz passed
away. He and his wife, Sis. Lydia
retired from the farm many years
ago and moved to Burlington. Serv-
ices were held, with burial in the
church cemetery at Oakville, near

his former home. We remember
Christmas caroling at their home
for several years. Both John and
Sis. Lydia seemed to enjoy having
us, and always insisted that we
come in to a warm house.

FORREST
Juanita Schneider
Eleanor Honegger

And whatever the year brings to
me and mine,
I'll meet it with a heart so true . . .
I know that, Lord, whate'er it may
be
You'll be there to carry me
through.

Brent Alan was born to Bro. and
Sis. Larry Ifft; this is their first
child. Grandparents are Bro. and
Sis. Elmer Ifft of our congregation
and Bro. and Sis. Noah Gerber of
West Bend. A daughter, Shay
Marie Nicole, was born to our
friends, Jerry and Beverly Bach-
told. Shay has three brothers; her
grandparents are Bro. and Sis. El-
mer Bachtold of Forrest. A son,
Daton Scott, was born to Bro. and
Sis. Gary Kupferschmid. Bro. and
Sis. Merle Kaisner of Fairbury and
Bro. and Sis. William Kupferschmid
of Forrest are the grandparents.
Daton has two brothers to welcome
him.

Douglas and Bethany, children of
Bro. Richard and Sis. Lou Ida Stef-
fen; Stanley, son of Bro. Elmer and
Sis. Rosetta Stoller; Paul Koehl;
Sis. Mary Yergler; Bro. William
Honegger; and Alan and Amy, chil-
dren of Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean
Ricketts, have all been medical
patients at the Fairbury Hospital.
Sis. Neola Nussbaum is a surgical
patient at Fairbury Hospital; Bro.
William Kupferschmid is a medical
patient at Gibson City. Truly there
is much sickness around us.

Our two dear friends, Linda
Kinder and Janice Freehill gave
their testimonies and were baptized
and taken into the fold. May God
richly bless them on their spiritual
pathway. It is so wonderful when
God takes the fear of death from us
and plants His precious pearl of
peace in our hearts. Bro. Josh Bro-
quard assisted Bro. Perry Zimmer-
man.

Our Sunday School program was
held on Wed. evening Dec. 15. The
old, old story of our precious Jesus'
birth was brought forth in verse
and song. Bro. Paul Butikofer was

with us and expressed, 'Tis not the
manager but the cross that sets us
free. Bro. Merrill Laukhuf of Latty
and Bro. Dave Wiegand of Cham-
paign spent Christmas Day with us,
expounding God's word. Bro. Hart-
zell Kaisner of Detroit and Bro.
Merle Kaisner of Fairbury spent
New Year's Day in our midst.

We experienced high winds in
our vicinity, when Bro. and Sis.
Kenneth Steffens' mobile home was
blown over on its top. Sis. Janice
and little Marie had only left it
awhile before. May we be thankful
to God for His great protection.

Our congregation gathered with
Fairbury on Jan. 5 to hear the
memorandum read and meditated
on by Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna
Park, Bro. Josh Broquard and Bro.
Perry Zimmerman. The dear elder
body, through the inspiration of
God and the Book of Life, bring
forth the spiritual life signs for us
to obey. Dear Ones, let us obey
these teachings, so we do not drift
from that beautiful shore where
God's hand cannot reach us.

We experienced 5 deaths in 1971,
compared to 2 in 1970; 3 baptisms
in 1971, with 10 in 1970; 16 births
in 1971 as 10 in 1970.

Thank you note: My sincere
thanks to all who remembered me
with cards, gifts, and prayers dur-
ing my stay at the hospital and
since returning home. Sis. Mary
Metz.

GOODFIELD
Elna Grimm

Have you ever wondered why you
had to carry such a load,
Or why you had to walk along this
rough and bumpy road?
Have you felt persecuted and a
little bit mis-used . . .
When answers to your selfish
prayers have been, somehow
refused?
And have you ever wondered why
the other man so gay
Goes tripping on with sunshine to
brighten up his way?

Oh could it be, my brother, that
this lad so free from care
Has learned to take his burdens to
the Lord and leave them there?
For why should we be sorrowful, if
God we really trust . . .
And when we pray, oh do we say
Thy will be done . . . we must!
Then though the road is rugged,
and the days grow bleak and long,

Do not despair, but carry on, and lift your voice in song.

Our dear old retired elder, Bro. Frank Woertz has returned to the hospital section of the Maple Lawn Nursing Home in Eureka, after having fallen and broken his hip. He had to be transferred to a Peoria Hospital for surgery and further treatment.

Loren Joos, son of Bro. and Sis. Bill and Clem Joos of R.R. Deer Creek, has been in New York City for several weeks. He underwent surgery for an eye transplant, and consequently was an out-patient part of the time. His wife accompanied him on the trip . . . they hope to return to their home in a few weeks, if all goes well.

Prayer is a good old weapon . . . let's not forget to use it.

Bro. Gene Bertschi from Roanoke assisted Bro. Ed Hohulin in the reading of the memorandum. Bro. Harvey Grimm from Bern was our visiting minister.

LAMAR

Evelyn Marti — Alice Marti

On a Sunday evening during the Christmas season, five car-loads of young folks gathered at the home of Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti, and from there went to several homes of shut-ins, etc., singing Christmas carols.

We enjoyed visits from many during the holidays. We especially appreciated having Bro. Raymond Banwart minister unto us on Christmas eve.

Bro. Fred Lanz has been in and out of the hospital. We are thankful he is again able to assemble with us. Sis. Marie Stewart has not been well, and confined to her home the past few weeks. Sis. Maggie Kempf, who has been an invalid for many years and living with her neices in Joplin, is hospitalized, suffering from a broken leg. May God be with our shut-ins everywhere!

After feeling His nearness and rich blessings this past year, may we all strive to be a little more worthy in this year we are just beginning.

MANSFIELD

Aaron A. Sauder

After Christmas . . .
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Dec. 18 was the wedding day of Jerald William Pfister and Carole Jean Krebs. Jerry is the son of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Ruth (Maliz) Pfister. We pray God's blessings on this young couple as they share their future together.

Carl and Sis. Ruth (Sauder) Weiss have again become grandparents, with the birth of a daughter to Jim and Sue Weiss. Little Carla has three brothers and one sister to love her, too.

Our visiting brothers were Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka on Dec. 5, and on Dec. 12, Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Noah Bauman read the letter from the conference.

The year 1971 is gone and 1972 has begun; as one year passes and another is here, we are reminded of our Hymn 188:

The time flies on and death draws nigh;

Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

MAYWOOD

Submitted by Bro. John Dapper

WE NOW WRITE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1972! We close the volume of the old year and look forward to the new . . . as we do, let us forget the failures and sins which God in His grace has forgiven, and reach out for those spiritual attainments which will make us more fruitful Christians.

As long as we have the breath of life, may we ever hold fast the events of the times past. They are over and gone never to return. May the memory of our past reflect in our minds as to what achievements have we made or what gain, both for soul and body. What a great reason we have to be appreciative and thankful for all we have endured or gained, for we know it all came to us from our great God and heavenly Father. Mainly, may we have gained in soul and spirit. As we have labored in the vineyard of the Lord, can we say we have made

spiritual gain, have kept the faith, have fought the good fight of faith, or have we fallen short? . . . it leaves open the way for improvement, does it not? May we push on toward a better goal this year, as the time is fast pressing the imminent return of the Lord to gather the very elect.

We can review many events, some more impressive than others, where we were spared from danger or mishap . . . and again where the hand of God has shown us something. There was perhaps a loved one who left us, or an accident happened and His mercy was shown, as we can feel it could have been worse. Some tragedy has happened where the hand of God was stretched out over us to protect us.

I have to think of the earthquake in the area of Southern California. What great damages were done, and even lives were lost; yet the almighty arm of God was there to protect and shield. If one never experienced a heavy quake, we who did can say it is a very impressive feeling. One always seemingly feels safe on the ground (so often called mother earth), but when it seems to move and sway and almost knocks one to the knees, which it did in the harder quakes, we just get the real impression of God's almighty power. It made me think of the passage of scripture that every knee shall bend and bow before God. How quickly it can happen in this manner, and yet it should come from a contrite spirit and humbleness of heart.

We have had a very blessed year, with many visitors. We do share a most precious fellowship, one the world does not know. We meet and greet each other in faith, and at once we are as ONE in the spirit. Oh what a treasure God has given to man. If only more would come, taste and see. So with this, may we all have a very blessed year for soul and body.

MINNEAPOLIS

Alma and Gus Baum

Today a crisp 28 degrees below zero welcomed the sunshine, as it rose and spilled its rays upon our snow-covered surroundings. This did not discourage the birds, who daily share many hours with us; they were here at their scheduled time, to get the seeds to sustain them after the bitter cold night. One often marvels how God pro-

vides for the wildlife during the frigid days, and realize food doesn't always come by easy. They are often compelled to search, just as we find it needful for spiritual food to carry us through another day.

Many good teachings were shared with us. Bros. Harold Gramm, Morris; John Steiner, Oakville; and Earl Banwart, West Bend were guest ministers. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the willingness we continually find existing amongst the brothers God has chosen to bring His word and feed His people. This was expressed in double measure on New Year's day, when Elder Bros. Paul Fehr and Leo Moser gave their efforts in reading the Memorandum. The day ended, after we were asked to cast votes for another brother to serve as minister to assist our Bro. Noah Miller.

On Sunday, we were privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper, going to Calvary's Hill in remembrance of His suffering, that we might inherit life eternal.

Bro. Paul shared with us the chosen brother being Ken Lawson. These were precious moments in our little circle, as we lingered, sharing our feeling of love, hardly finding words to express what we so deeply felt for Bro. Ken, and his helpmate, Sis. Sharon, in this important step. This becomes a real responsibility for each of us, to support and pray for an extra measure of grace in this sacred undertaking.

John, Barbara and little Kristine Olson welcomed a new son, and brother, into their home. The newcomer has been named Daniel John. Everett and Sis. Kathryn Olson are the happy grandparents.

MORTON

Mrs. John Oberlander
Mrs. Ken Getz

Visiting ministers were Bros. William Funk, Don Sauder, Ben Maibach and Edward Alt.

Our new brother and sister in faith are Ervin Kahler and Bernice Rinkenberger Rapp. We wish them the grace of God.

The announcement of forthcoming marriages are: Bro. Eric Zeller, son of Henry and Sis. Norma Grimm Zeller, and Sis. Virginia Witzig, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Gramm Witzig of Gridley, Illinois; Bro. Don Schmidgell, son of Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Moser Schmidgall of Oak-

ville, and Sis. Carol Wuthrich, daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wiegand Wuthrich; Roger Roeschley, son of Sis. Mabel Bauman Roeschley, and Becky Hermann, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Schrock Hermann; and Charles Nebes Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nebes of Homewood, Ill., and Becky Stetzler, daughter of William and Lois Stetzler.

Virginia George and Timothy Rassi exchanged their wedding vows Nov. 27, and Vickie Kaiser and Gary Greene were united in marriage Nov. 28.

Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marjorie Huette Schaefer are the parents of a son, Kevin Dale. He was welcomed home by a sister.

Those sick or convalescing are: Bros. Henry Rapp Sr., John C. Hermann, Otto Baum; Ralph Meyering, Roger Stetzler, son of Arthur & Sis. Addie Stetzler, and Matthew Moser, son of Bro. Robert & Sis. Barbara Rowell Moser; Sisters Verna Birkey Rapp, Oleta Honnegger Menold, Elizabeth Leuthold Schick, Lola Hirstein Strunk, Naoma Domnick Witzig and Emma Bernhardt.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Belsley of Restmor and their son, Willis of Queenswood East wish to thank everyone who so kindly remembered them at Christmas. May God bless you.

Thank you Note: I sincerely thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, letters, cards and gifts while I was a patient in the hospital and since returning home. They were very much appreciated. May God bless you. Sis. Naoma Witzig.

Sis. Louisa Belsley, 85, died at her home Jan. 4. She is survived by one brother, Bro. Joe P. Belsley, and one sister, Sis. Bena Belsley.

Sis. Nettie Gerber Frank, 71, passed away Jan. 5. She is survived by her husband, Bro. John Frank; four stepchildren. Chris, John, Richard and Irene (Mrs. Louis) Kadesky; four brothers, Oscar, Emil, Ernest and Bro. Walter, and four sisters, Emily Mills, Sis. Louise (Mrs. Edward) Wittmer, Jeanne and Ethel Gerber.

RITTMAN

Janette Blough—Florence Hartzler

We are always so happy to report when one of those we love turns to the Lord in repentance. Becky daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis.

Mary Maletich, has made the decision to live for our Lord. We wish her much grace and many blessings.

Funeral services were held for Sis. Lena Blatter, who passed away at the age of 103 years. She is survived by a daughter, Sis. Dena Rock, and a son, Wilford Blatter.

Barry and Sharon Romig are the parents of a new little girl, their first child, named Jennifer Lynn. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner.

We were blessed by having with us as visiting ministers, Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield and Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka.

Those of our loved ones who were hospitalized were Sister Louise Rigggenbach; Greg Bachman son of Brother Eugene and Sister Katherine Bachman; Sis. Helen Hartzler; and Wanda Winkler. Sis. Doris Gasser remains hospitalized in traction, after having surgery on her hip.

The engagement of Annabel Hartzler, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Hartzler, to Elmer Zieker has been announced. May our Lord guide them as they plan their life together.

Elections were held at the beginning of the year. Those who were elected were; Bro. Herbert Hilty, trustee; Bro. Larry Miller, usher; Sis. Yvonne Beery, kitchen committee.

Thank you note: I want to thank everyone for your kindness and thoughtfulness shown me during my stay in the hospital . . . for gifts, money, flowers, cards, visits, and prayers . . . the Junction Sisters for the scrapbook. They were all really appreciated. May the Lord richly bless you. Sis. Carol Kiser.

SARDIS

Doris Miller

After caroling in the afternoon, we gathered at the church for our annual Christmas get-together. A covered-dish dinner was enjoyed by all.

We were happy to have home for the holidays Diane and Delmos Figel. They are the children of John and Sis. Roselle Figel. Diane and Delmos have both spent the last several months in the European area. Diane was student teaching, and Delmos is in the Navy. Delmos has since returned to his post in Virginia, and Diane to her studies at Kent State University.

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers, the most recent being Bro. Robert Stoll, Bro. Harold Emch, Girard; and Bro. Fred Marty, Rittman.

Bro. John Figel Jr. has been elected Sun. School Superintendent, & new classes & teachers are being selected. We have ordered a new selection of books, after some of our brothers attended the Sunday School meeting at Rittman.

WEST BEND

Mrs. Melvin Fehr
Mrs. A. Banwart

Christmas Day and the following Sunday, we appreciated the exhortations of Bro. Dale Moore from Elgin, Ia. Since there were three of our local ministers visiting parents over this week-end, his visit lessened the load for Bro. Noah Gerber. This being his first ministering visit, we are looking forward to hearing Bro. Dale oftener, as he comes to visit his family here.

As the new year begins, may we put more effort into brightening the shut-in days of loved ones. Among the sick, our hospital patients for December were: medical, Sis. Emma Luthi, Frank Dogotch, and Chris Schmidt; surgical, Sis. Anna Schmidt, Sis. Lucille Schmidt, Jerry Traub (son of Fred and Joann), Dennis Schmidt (son of Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Lucille). These are all home and feeling better. Sis. Kathy Fehr (Wayne) has been admitted for major surgery.

Among those having new duties in the church, placed upon them at our annual meeting were: trustee, Bro. Verner Wirtz; and Sunday School teachers, Bro. Larry Fehr and Sis. Becky Banwart. Let us be mindful of all those who labor for the church in any manner, that it can be pleasing to the Lord and preserved for us and the future.

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

The new year like a book lies before me;

On its cover two words "My Life" I see.

I open the covers and look between Each page is empty, no words can be seen,

For I am a writer, I hold the pen That'll fill these pages to be read by men.

Each day a page is written, one by one.

Will it be worthwhile when finished and done?

Lord, help me keep these pages clean and fair

By living the life I'd have written there.

Sis. Geraldine Messner, wife of Ministering Bro. Harold, suffered a severe concussion in a fall on the ice shortly before Christmas. It is a slow recovery. She is now able to assemble with us again.

What a joy to attend the Christmas program and hear the little ones give their pieces praising Jesus' birth. How beautiful our youth blend their voices singing of Jesus, reminding us of Jesus the man.

A group of us went Christmas caroling to three old folks homes, the hospital, and to several older people. Lunch was served at the home of Bro. Gene and Sis. Ella Mae Schmidt. New Year's Eve was spent caroling, ending with a Bible reading and prayer at the Henry Schmidt home. We brought our lunch along. Henry and Sis. Celina were pleasantly surprised.

In the past year, one little girl and two little boys were born to families in our congregation. Three new souls were added to the fold. There were no weddings or funerals.

You shall love your neighbors as yourself. The New Year begins . . . we count our blessings and find that we are better off than we thought we were. There is always someone we can help to a happier life, even though all we may give is a friendly smile, a cheerful greeting, or a kind act. Any good we can give to others comes back to us, but it is up to us to start with love and kindness.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

This year, instead of a White Christmas we had a green one. Church service for Christmas was on Christmas morning. The Sunday School children gave their Christmas program at the Fellowship Center. New Year's services were on Sat., New Years Day. We did have some snow after Christmas.

Linn, daughter of Nancy and Bill Klopfenstein was baptized and received into the church. It was nice her sister Janet and her husband, Bill Hartman and their baby could be here at that time, and it also

was nice her grandmother, Jennie—who has been ill was able to be present. Two more have been announced, Christy Surface and Gary Bollier.

Edward Bertsch was visited at the rest home and he joined in singing old familiar hymns.

Jan. 2 was the first Sunday of the month. We visited the rest homes in Butler. The patients seem so appreciative to have some one visit them.

There has been much flu around here. Little Kalisa Souder is quite ill at the Lutheran Hospital.

ALTO

Loretta Steffen

What is it about baby's first steps that thrill me so? He holds his little hands high and walks stiff-legged, chasing his brothers everywhere. Oh it's the miracle of life itself that is so thrilling. Each human being is a marvelous personal creation—the handiwork of God. "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?"

Our sick list included Ricky Erlanger and Bro. Chris Weigele for surgery, and Fred Feldman for respiratory problems. Many others in our congregation were also attacked by the flu.

BURLINGTON

Janice Springer—Janice Frieden

Burdened with cares of this world, oftentimes it is hard to feel the true joy of knowing our Lord. However, if we just let everything to Him. He is able to lift our load. Through the singing of praises to His name, He is able to lift our burdened hearts to a feeling of peace and contentment. Such was the case at the First-Sunday-of-the-Month singing, which was held at the church on Dec. 5.

God sent a new blessing to the home of Keith and Marlene Kisling. His name is Brent Justin. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Irma Ott, and the paternal grandparents are Bro. Frank and Annabelle Kisling. Our prayer is that God may guide him throughout his lifetime.

We are thankful that Bro. John Schupbach, although hospitalized for a time, is now home. This is just one more sign of God's healing power.

On Dec. 19 the Sunday School held their annual Christmas Program. Through the story told by

children, we could partially grasp how wonderful that day was.

On Dec. 23, young and old joined together in the singing of carols for many in Burlington and Kiowa. Afterward, Bro. Ronald and Sis. Shirley Nelson opened their home for refreshments. It was a truly wonderful evening.

Christmas services were held on Saturday morning, Dec. 25. There could be no better way to celebrate Christ's birth. On Dec. 26, Ministering Bro. Raymond Banwart was our guest. We are always thankful for those who bring us God's teachings. Services were held on New Year's Eve, to give us the perfect beginning for the New Year. As you begin your new year, remember this thought which was brought by one of our visiting ministers: "Today is the first day of the rest of your life."

FT. LAUDERDALE

Henry H. Schwartz

The Ft. Lauderdale Sunday School students gave us their Christmas program on Wednesday evening on Dec. 22, which was well attended. Our Christmas Day and Sunday, following Christmas, was well attended by northern visitors. The church served the attendants a Christmas dinner (which numbered about 200).

Our visiting ministers in December were Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville; Bro. Roy Wieland, Bay City; and Bro. Lenard Meyer, Chicago.

DETROIT

Donna Hartzler — Judith Aberle

The Christmas season has come and gone again so quickly, and we are now beginning a new year, a time when we reflect on things passed, and resolve, by the grace of God, to fit our lives more to His likeness.

We were humbled by the words of appreciation from the nursing homes we visited on Sunday afternoon and evening, Dec. 12. There were approximately 40 young people and adults who sang carols at the homes. It certainly warms ones heart to be able to bring a little happiness to those who are unable to go in and out as we.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 19, the Sunday School participated in a Christmas program. It was inspiring to see the zeal and interest shown by even the smallest chil-

dren, in helping to portray the true meaning of Christmas.

Sis. Linda Shaw underwent minor surgery. We are happy that her recovery was a speedy one and she has been able to return to work.

Two young couples have announced their engagement: Alan Maibach is engaged to Sharon Zummach and Bonnie Wieland to Bill Stewart. Alan is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene. Bonnie's parents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Perseida. We extend our best wishes to the couples as they make plans for the future.

LAMONT

Betty Wernli

"One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." With this faith could the desire of Kathleen Gallatin be granted, that she could become a dear sister-in-faith united with the body of Christ.

It gladdens ones heart to hear the little children tell of the birth of our Saviour. May they keep these sayings in their hearts until such time that they may, too, bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.

The first Sunday of the year, our congregation holds its annual meeting. Bro. Bill Emch was elected to teach the Intermediate Class for a three year term, and Sis. Susan Emch is to fill an unexpired term in the primary class for one year. May they find the Spirit's guidance in their new duties.

Elder Bro. Lester Hartter of Bern traveled to our community to help our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker expound the memorandum. May we as believers become more closely united together, that one day we can be found worthy as overcomers.

FT. WAYNE

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

What shall it profiteth a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul? What would you give in exchange for your soul? Why not let His peace be real for you, for peace passeth all understanding.

How we rejoice when we hear of loved ones who turn their backs to sin and darkness and look to our Lord, the Light of the World! We here in Ft Wayne are rejoicing over the "good news" of seven dear ones who have surrendered to the call of the Loving Saviour. May the door of grace remain yet open, that

many others who are standing just outside the door may find their way to salvation.

Duane Miller (Kent and Gloria) fell in his home, receiving a fractured left wrist. His hopes are that soon the cast can be taken off (for we know it is quite a handicap for an active young boy!)

Many of us were able to travel far to loved ones for Christmas and the holidays, while others in our congregation were blessed in having their children home with them. These precious family gatherings will remain memories for us in the years to come. May we never forget the true meaning of Christmas.

As I look out this morning over a beautiful snow-covered ground with the sun shining so brightly, and can hear the voices of our children playing, one can more fully comprehend the many daily beauties that surround us . . . surely gifts from God!

May there be enough **mountains and valleys** strewn in our pathways to keep us walking hand in hand with God, for it is so easy to forget when the path is straight and even. May this new year be one of many blessings for each of our **Silver Lining** readers.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Paulette Meyer

One of the blessings of the Christmas season is seeing friends and brethren who come 'home' to visit their families. A special blessing was meeting Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol (Wulf) Knapp of Roanoke as brother and sister-in-faith, as they have been taken into the fold since their last visit. As we look back upon the year that has passed so swiftly, we find our church has experienced 7 baptisms, 17 new babies and 1 death. Only God knows what the year ahead holds for us.

Bro. John and Sis. Rose Moser observed their 55th anniversary with their children and families, who all live in this community.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice Wulf and family in the death of her mother, Sis. Clara Moser of Morris.

A precious baby boy, Carter Paul, was born to Larry and Mardi Leuthold. It is the first grandchild for Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean (Moser) Leuthold.

Several of our congregation have had to spend some time in the hospital. Among them are Friend Bill

Moser, Bro. Ed Gerber, and Sis. Lena Kellenberger and Sis. Ella Metzger. Bro. Emil Metzger is home, after a four-week stay following surgery. For many days he was very sick and had to endure setbacks and disappointments, before he could get on the road to recovery. He is feeling fairly well.

Thank you: My sincere thanks to all for the prayers, cards, gifts, and letters. It is deeply appreciated. May God bless everyone. Bro. Emil Metzger

MORRIS

Ann Meiss — Helen Joos

The future lies before you like a path upon the snow.
Be careful how you tread it;
every step will show.

We have been showered with countless blessings and wonderful messages and admonitions. Our New Year messages were concluded with . . . May it be the earnest prayer of each true child of God to try to walk carefully as we are hourly in danger of losing our blessed heritage.

Many relatives and friends were here on Sun., Dec. 12 to attend the funeral services for our dear departed Sis. Clara Moser. Dear Clara had been a widow since April of 1933, when her husband Bro. Ben was killed in a farm accident. She was left with 2 invalid sons, who preceded her in death. Surviving are 3 daughters: Dorothy (Mrs. Lloyd Durkee), Hancock; Sis. Alice (Mrs. Jacob Wulf), Lester; Sis. Corrine (Mrs. Richard Schmidgall), Hancock; and one son, Bro. Carl of Morris; 2 brothers, Bro. Al Scheitlin, Elgin, Bro. Gus Scheitlin of Burlington; and one sister, Sis. Emma Rapp of Peoria.

On Dec. 18 Bro. Ben Maibach was met at the airport by Bro. Sid Messner, who brought him here to assist Bro. Paul Fehr in reading the Memorandum. We were enlightened in many ways and are so thankful to God that He does care for us so lovingly. Later in the evening we were privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper. How thankful we felt as we lingered at the cross on Calvary's Hill and pondered all that He has done for us. "We drink one cup, we break one bread; our Saviour suffered in our stead."

We thank Bro. Ben for spending the week-end with us and minister-

ing from God's word on Sunday. Sunday evening our hearts rejoiced as our Sunday School children presented the Christmas story in word and song. How innocently the little ones rejoice in His birth. Oh, that we as parents and teachers can walk before them and live the faith . . .

Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Meiss and son, Troy were privileged to spend 10 days here. They spent the past year in Seoul, Korea and are now stationed in Maryland. Bro. Beirne Messner came home from Germany to spend the holidays here and has now returned, and Bro. Dale Koehl of Oklahoma spent Christmas here. George Luthi is in the hospital.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz

Miss Della Witschey

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Church Cemetery Association was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Weltz on Jan. 3, with a good attendance. The usual order of business was cared for, and plans made for the annual service at the country church on June 25.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Riggensch of Paden City celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on Dec. 19 in their home. Both are in fairly good health.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Giles and children of Alfred, N. Y., were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Howard Riggensch during the holidays.

Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood celebrated her 89th birthday on Dec. 24 with members of her family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorentz Emch of Girard visited with relatives here during the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Verda Fankhouser of Easton, Md., spent the holidays with the D. S. Witschey family. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nieratko of Lansing, Mich., visited the last of December with relatives in Moundsville and New Martinsville.

Mrs. W. J. Emch was a patient in the local hospital, but has been able to return home.

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

Moving? Send former address and new address. Send zip number.

SARASOTA

Phil Wingeier

The most precious wisdom that has been given to us is our Bible, and brave men have willingly given their lives, that the Bible might be written in language that everyone understands. There was a time when a copy of the Bible was so rare and precious that not even every village could own one, and if a church had the Book, it was kept chained. People would walk miles to have the privilege of reading for a short time from the Book of books.

Before the days of printing with type, the Bible had to be written by hand. It took the copyists of Wycliffe's Bible ten months to make one copy. Now hundreds of copies can be printed in a day . . .

Fortunate are we of today, richer and wiser than kings and emperors of old.

1971 one has passed and seventy-two has made its beginning. We truly have been Blessed through the month of December and the beginning of the new year with sunshine and rain, also spiritually by traveling brethren and ministers, namely Bro. Henry Kilgus, Forrest; Bro. Bob Grimm, Bro. Earl Kilgus, Bro. Roy Sauder. We received many blessings from the precious teachings.

Bro. Joe Schrock arrived for the holidays; hopefully they will remain for some time. Our place of worship has been well attended.

Sis. Ferne Wingeier has not been as well as usual, has not been at church for two Sundays, hopefully she will soon gain some strength and be able to go in-out again.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Alice G. Virkler

We enjoyed the programs presented by our Sunday School children. How wonderful to listen to what these little ones have learned about the love of our Saviour.

Sis. Elvira Martin, wife of Bro. Bernard, was hospitalized for surgery and has been able to return to her home. Terri Steiner, daughter of Bro. Norbert and Sis. Doris, was hospitalized several days with the flu. Many in our area have been having this type illness the past few weeks.

Bro. John Widrick held funeral services at the funeral home on Dec. 24 for Sis. Rose Ebersol of Massachusetts, formerly of Crog-

han. Rose's husband, Bro. Ezra, passed away in August. She is survived by two daughters, Thelma and Jacqueline of Massachusetts.

On Jan. 6, funeral services were held for Michael Virkler by Robert Beyer at the funeral home. He is survived by one sister, Sis. Cora (Philip) Beyer; one brother, Bro. Leon Virkler, Croghan and Sarasota; a son, Philip of Castorland; two daughters, Mrs. Marie Corrigan of Castorland and Mrs. Helen King of Syracuse, and grandchildren. Our deepest sympathy is extended to these families.

Note of Thanks: I wish to thank the many loved ones who so kindly remembered me with prayers, cards, gifts and flowers during my hospital stay and convalescence from my car accident. Sincerely, Paul Schamback.

FORT SCOTT

Ida Sinn

As we have entered this new year, may we strive to live a better life for the Lord, that he may in turn bless us according to all our needs.

Our friend, Albert Hawkins passed away on Dec. 8, after a lingering illness. He leaves his widow, Lydia (Zaugg) Hawkins of the home at 518 Burke St., and one son, Richard. We were glad to hear that Albert turned to his Saviour in his last days and died with a hope.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Evelyn Miller to Bro. Neil Harter one Sunday, and the announcement of her sister, Sis. Connie followed on the next, to Bro. John Lehman. Evelyn and Connie are the daughters of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller from here. We wish them God's blessings.

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker was with us for services on Dec. 17. Bro. Earl Banwart was with us over Christmas.

JUNCTION

Henrietta Manz — Betty Manz

The Sunday School children, their teachers and several others went Christmas caroling one Sunday afternoon. It was a blessed time. A delicious lunch was enjoyed afterwards at the home of Sis. Esther Schlatter.

We enjoyed services on Christmas Day. One of our own ministers opened the Bible, right to the chapter about the birth of Christ. Doesn't this strengthen us and

make us feel the presence of God? It is so comforting to **know** and feel He is among us.

Benita Schlatter (Sis. Esther) was home from nurses' training during the holidays. Bro. Kenneth Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) was home from college.

Bro. Ben Manz received a knee injury when he was attacked by a ram. He had been to a meeting, and it was late at night when he was finishing his chores. He did not see the animal in the dark and was approached unawares.

Several of our brothers and sisters were very uplifted when they spent some time at the Dessie Scott Children's Home in Kentucky.

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us for our annual business meeting on New Year's Day.

Bro. Don Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) has completed his college and is doing elementary substitute teaching. May God direct him and provide for him in his new work.

On Dec. 26 the engagement of Bro. James Spangler and Sis. Carolyn Manz, both of our congregation, was announced. We wish them God's rich blessings.

We rejoice that four young souls from our congregation have turned to the Lord and have been announced for proving and baptism. These dear ones are Tim Schlatter (Sis. Juliet); Ralph and Benita Schlatter (Sis. Esther); and Paul Manz (Bro. Emmanuel). What a great joy it is when sinners turn to the Lord in true repentance.

LA CROSSE

Mary Ann Feller — Pearl Nuest

Looking with fond memories over the past month and the joys of Christmastime, along with visits by loved ones and precious children reciting their Christmas poems, we look forward to this new year. May God be with each one of us and guide us along His paths. Our prayer is that many souls might turn to our Lord. We are thankful for the blessed teachings of our ministering brothers. We were privileged to have Bro. Ezra Feller of Cissna Park and Bro. Roy Grimm of Taylor serve us. On a Wed. evening we gathered to hear the deliberations of the Conference, and were thankful to have Bro. John Bahler of Rockville, Bro. Rudy Graf of Akron, and Bro. Noah Bauman of Rittman to assist Brother George and Brother Ed. May we ever

strive to walk the narrow path of life.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry Fritz are the happy parents of a baby boy, born on Jan. 4. They have named him Craig Victor. . . a truly blessed way to begin a new year with a dear baby in your home.

Bro. Sam Frank has left the nursing home, is again staying in his own home, and gathering with us on Sunday. We are so thankful for his improvement. He would like to thank everyone who remembered him with cards, prayers, and visits during his illness.

MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Blessings arrived at the Glen Price Jr. home in double measure on Dec. 9. Born to Bro. Junior and Sis. Sandee were identical twin girls, Krista Marie and Kristine Lynn. Both are healthy, doing fine. We rejoice with the whole family.

Causing more reason for rejoicing among us was the decision of our friends, Jerry and Ruth Hostetler to turn their lives over to the Lord.

Special congratulations were offered to a dear couple in our church, Bro. George and Sis. Tina Lehman, as they observed the golden anniversary of their wedding day on Dec. 24. They are the parents of five children, and have eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. We ask God to especially bless them and their fine family.

Several of our young people were involved in auto accidents: Jan, Peg and Christy Beer, daughters of Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie, and in another accident, Dick and Tim Steffen, sons of Bro. Walt and Sis. Dot. In both cases their cars were totally wrecked, but all escaped with only small cuts and bruises. We join with their parents in being very grateful.

The engagement of Sis. Tammy Sheets and Bro. Tom Speicher has been announced. Tammy's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sheets, who live west of Milford, and Tom's parents are Bro. Lew and Sis. Mim of our congregation.

Congratulations are given to our good friends, Pat Beer and Russ Mikel, who have announced their plans for a summer wedding. Pat is the daughter of Bro. Cap and Sis. Mary Ann, and Russ, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mikel of

nearby Syracuse. This is a happy period in these young couples lives, and we ask that continued happiness be given to all of them as they plan their lives together.

Bro. Dick Kaiser was elected as church trustee at our yearly business meeting.

OAKVILLE
Martha Steiner

Ministering Bro. Edward and Sis. Joan (Wiegand) Lanz Jr. are the parents of a son, Ronald Wayne, born Jan. 7. He is welcomed by Karen and Kathy, Kenny, Keith, Joni, and Tommy. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anna Lanz Sr., and Sis. Edna Wiegand.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Donald Schmidgall (Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Moser Schmidgall) from here to Sis. Carol Ann Wuthrich of Morton. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings.

We enjoyed, as always, the messages brought to us by Elder Bro. Roy Farney (Phoenix), and Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Arnold Gerst (Chicago). May their efforts bring forth good fruit.

Friend Bradley and Sis. Joyce (Frank) Eland and son Chris are now in Denver, where Brad is stationed at Fitzsimons General Hospital. We look forward to their return at the end of Brad's tour of duty.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. David and Sis. Kay Eisenmann and their family upon the death of her father, Joseph Malloy. He had been confined to his bed for some time, but is always a sorrow to give up a loved one.

GIRARD
Monell Stoll

On Dec. 11, Sis. Marie Lewis was taken suddenly from this life. She was visiting at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Monell and Bro. Don Stoll, when stricken with a heart attack. Bro. Robert Stoll has composed the following poem about her death:

**In Memory of Marie
by Someone She Loved**

Oh Lord, if only
You had told me
That she was soon to die,
I'd have clasped her hand
Much tighter
As we said that last good-bye.

I'd have held it
Longer, warmer,
For there'd be a reason why,
Too late, I know
To change it now;
There'll be no second try. . .
But Lord your comfort
Comes to me
As I bow my head and cry.
You gave your life
That someday I
In heaven by and by
May clasp eternally
Her hand.
Praise God, Praise God, I sigh.

ELGIN, IOWA
Mrs. George Butikofer

The snow cover which came in November had disappeared shortly before Christmas Day, but now we have a fresh supply of about six inches, which lends a delightful aspect to our landscape . . . spied an entirely new bird for this area. Studying one of our bird books, it was decided this was a pine grosbeak, a bird which frequents Canada and northern New England.

Our Sunday School children presented a timely Christmas program, one which emphasized the coming of our Saviour. We appreciate their efforts. In the evening of the same day, they went caroling to the aged and ailing folks, after which a lunch was enjoyed in the dining area of our church kitchen.

One of our ministers told us last Sunday to press forward to the goal of our high calling, as one of the writers exhorted the people in their time to do. May this new year bring blessings of many kinds to all of you readers.

TREMONT
Lydia Rassi
Mary Jane Leuthold

"I now have found the firm foundation, where evermore my anchor grounds. . . O depth of love, in which past finding my sins through Christ's blood disappear." These beautiful words must ring in the hearts of our new-found brother, Curt and sister, Kathy Rassi (the family of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia). We welcome them into our midst as children of God walking toward that heavenly goal.

We listened earnestly to many good teachings by Bros. Leroy Huber and John Steiner. May we put to work these teachings in our everyday walk of life and not just be Sunday Christians.

Bro. Henry Dill was hospitalized for a few days, as was his wife and our dear sister Lizzie. Bro. Ed Sauder has had surgery and is confined in the hospital. John Moser has returned from Mayo's, but will be returning for further surgery. Bro. Weldon Staker is again assembling with us. Let us all have a prayer on our hearts, everyday, for the sick and suffering.

Friend Richard Woerner, son of Bro. Chris and Sis. Wilmina, has returned from his tour of service in Germany and will be returning to school.

Friend Ernest Schaefer took Miss Sharon Lee Rockwell to be his wife the 18th of December. They will be making their home in Xenia, Ohio.

Friends Shirley Sauder, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Elizabeth, and Kerry Ray Lusher, son of the Raymond Lushers of Tremont, have announced their engagement. We hope their future with one another will be a happy one.

Friends Rick and Becky Roots (she is Bro. Gene and Sis. Anna Koch's daughter) received little Patricia-Marie to dwell in their home. She was born Dec. 29.

We were privileged to hear our Sunday School relate the Christmas story in their program. It is always brought forth in a new way, yet is always the same story of old. The facts are always, God sent His only son into the world for US.

Thank you notes: We wish to press our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the prayers, visits, cards, gifts and many other acts of kindness shared unto us during our stays in the hospital. Henry and Lizzie Dill. We wish to express our appreciation for the prayers, cards, and good deeds bestowed upon us during my hospital stay and convalescence. Robert Wagenbach.

SERVICE ADDRESSES:

- SP4 Mark B Aberle 354-46-5958
9th Trans Co [Car] [Abn Corps]
APO San Francisco 96266 **Forrest**
Long Binh
- Steven D Aupperle 320402143
805th Trans Co **Morton**
APO San Francisco 96308
- YN-SN Richard D Beer B-690407
Naval Comm Station
Guam **Roanoke**
FPO San Francisco 96630

Dale Wiegand
RR 2 Box 132
Eureka Ill 61530

Mr and Mrs William Brake
9136 Hope Ave
Ft Bliss Texas 79906

Sp4 Wm J Kaiser 322387854
I AD PIO
APO New York 09068

Morton

Sp4 Douglas G Zimmerman 355420721
46th Engr Bn [Const] Box 18619
Ft Rucker Alabama 36360 Morton

ATR3 Delmos M Figel B438079
VF 101 AT Shop Nas Oceania
Virginia Beach Virginia 23460

Sardis

Sp5 Ron Meiss
1827 E Meade Heights
Annapolis Rd
Ft Meade Maryland 20755

Pfc Thomas C Zimmerman 320448578
416th Trans Co
Ft Rucker Alabama 36360 Congerville

Pvt Jack Knochel 381-54-9479
CA 4th BN 3rd Bct Bde
Platoon No 3
Ft Dix New Jersey 08640

Bay City

Sp4 Sam Plattner 318421356
24 Evac Hosp
APO San Francisco 96491

Goodfield

Pvt Timothy D Zimmerman
320-44-8589
TUSAMEDTC MBT Class 5B
Ft Sam Houston Texas 78234 Congerville

THE GREAT BETRAYAL

Henry Souder Jr.

What is so sad, as what could have been, and is not? The point of no return has been passed. Like a suction in dark waters, the soul is brought closer and closer. Then disappears in dark depths! Who can measure the depths? Cloudy days affect. But what of that compounding, ceaseless night?

The seed roots of sin must be killed to win. Man is meant for far greater things than the miserly and amusing. Man was meant for the sunshine and blue skies of a spiritual life. He was meant to soar, till earth was far below, and heaven stretched in reaching promise. So, with Judas. His name means praise, and what joy and love could have been kindled. Jesus knew, and our lovely, glorious Lord was not happy: "When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."

Judas was, a heart departing, a heart holding off, resisting the healing and peace of His blessed word. Crafty are the ways of evil; others had not seen. A heart cannot stand on the fence. It is meant for Light, for Reality . . . for the face of God, and the unspeakable joy that brings. Yet, some drift. Evil erects its little stage of amusement (and the devices are many). Can it be that Satan steals with his show,

and murders the soul? God knows what's going on, and all will know in due order. "Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake."

Supper time provides us with a beautiful scene. We may reminiscence our memories in beautiful hope of what's coming. It is restful, kind and full of love. In this gathering in Jesus' time on earth, reclining (it is said) was with one hand on the table, resting on this, and the feet stretched out behind the seat. Resting. It's a picture that looks to a wonderful Rest, prettier than we can think. There, up there is holiday festivity, filled with glorious joy, complete, His eternal table. What a privilege to be next to Jesus. What gifts of joy that holds. "Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved."

Who is the one who is betraying, handing over the Lord to the evil forces? They didn't know of the secret talk he had with the world, the religious leaders of that day. They didn't know of the contract, 30 pieces of silver. What a horrible, ugly act. Standing by itself? Out of nowhere? No, little not-listenings, little acts, but the curtain was ringing down.

Peter wanted to know who it was. He had honesty enough to realize

the war in the little failings, and humbleness to face the facts. "Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it should be of whom he spake."

John is in a good place, close to the Saviour. He is close, and gets a little closer. It is in a quiet manner he asks. "He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?"

The time comes when the Lord gives His last love for one falling into the dark trap-door of eternity. No one can help one who does not want help. Evil set of the heart is harder than concrete. The love of Jesus shines and sparkles with such magnificence. The darkened, wretched, doublecrossing person is met with a beautiful, kind act. "Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it."

Let's get rid of every thought that might cause us to stumble. Let's gladly take up the feel of the cross. Let all the little stages die. Put the distance between any possible final kind act that Jesus would have to do. "And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon."

It must come in more than a thousand echos in that miserable, tortured heart. Can there be a worse tragedy?