



When the LORD turned
again the captivity of Zion,
we were like them that
dream.

Then was our mouth
filled with laughter, and our
tongue with singing: then
said they among the hea-
then, The LORD hath done
great things for them.

The LORD hath done great
things for us; whereof we

we are glad.

Turn again our captivity,
O LORD, as the streams in
the south.

They that sow in tears
shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and
weepeth, bearing precious
seed, shall doubtless come
again with rejoicing, bring-
ing his sheaves with him.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

Christmas! There are many and splendid joys in a happy holiday season. As a child, the toys and the surprises of early morning were delightful. The real spiritual things of Christmas are wonderful. Christmas that is real looks forward to a happy morning to come. The bells of sorrow cannot drown out the hope in shining, childlike eyes, looking beyond the for a season. The great gift-giving of promise! We'll be Home for Christmas. All our loved ones in Jesus will be with us. Child of His, see through! Like a child in the dim light of shadowy shapes that bring joy, we see wonderful, glorious things . . . shapes, surprises that bring true and everlasting delight. How joyful in the real Christmas!

I WILL LIFT UP MINE EYES

(The following was written by a daughter of Philip and Christine Gutwein and a sister-in-faith, Mrs. Hollis E. May of Remington. It is about ". . . a dear mother and a sister in the faith, Christine Gutwein . . .")

She was born in a small town in Europe in 1881. At the early age of 13, she expressed the desire to accept the Lord Jesus as her Saviour, and affiliate herself with the Apostolic Christian Church. Since she was so young, her father questioned her concerning her understanding of the significance and solemnity of the step she contemplated. She answered, "I know that my Redeemer lives, that He loves me and I love Him, and I want to serve Him all my lifelong, that someday I may be and live with Him forever." Now her journey is complete, her blessed Someday has come. We can believe according to the promises given in the word of God, she is now at home with her Lord.

In looking back, there is a special humble thanks to Almighty God that they were privileged to have had a saintly, God-fearing mother who taught them early, together with their dear father, the privilege and importance of prayer, all about the Old Rugged Cross and what it means, and how Jesus stands ready to help us carry our earthly burdens and prepare us an eternal home in the heavens. In this changing world of ours, so oppressive and so frightening, the wise counsel that she gave is still the same, the very same, springing as it did from the infallible word of God, from which both our parents read so often, and quoted so many passages to us.

Hers was a quiet unassuming life, spent largely in the service of others, her God, her church, her home, and her family. She was a dear, old-fashioned hard-working mother, with a heart full of com-

passion for her children, loving, tender and kind, generous and forgiving, the "hearth-fire" of our home. Her loveliness and grace lay in her simple, constant and living faith in the goodness, mercy and wise direction of her heavenly Father, no matter how dark and stormy the path, how steep and thorny the way, oftentimes deeply grieved and misunderstood, lonely and bereft . . . she experienced it all. When these times came, we could find her hidden away by herself somewhere, her head bowed and covered, the tears falling like the rain, kneeling in prayer.

Yes, dear Mamma, yours was a living faith. We saw it as you quietly followed the lead of our father, aiding wherever you could in all the small and comforting ways that makes home a blessed place, somewhere to come back to in moments of trouble and sorrow, for we knew it as a Christ-centered home, and we would always be welcomed with open arms.

Courage and faith in her was a divine spark, often tested, often ignited. It prompted her to leave her home and loved ones in the Old Country and come to a strange new land, America, knowing neither the country nor the language, to become the bride of Bro. Philip Gutwein, fully trusting that it was the Lord's leading. They spent 56 fruitful years together, with their full share of heartaches and joy. Seven children blessed their union, four of which have preceded her in death, as well as her beloved husband.

These God-given virtues of faith and courage were never more evident than in the face of adversity and sorrow. When one of her sons was lost to her suddenly and violently in an airplane crash, she moved among the mourners with such dignity and grace, that one dear brother was prompted to say,

"How can you be so calm, so at peace in the face of all that has happened so suddenly?" She replied, "Oh, it is not me, dear brother. My Lord is with me. And I feel about me His everlasting arms."

Another son, who counted himself as a most sinful prodigal, saved by grace at the eleventh hour shortly before his death, wrote: "I thank God for giving me God-fearing parents, for my father and mother who kept praying for me, who taught me early the way of salvation, and committed me again and again through all the long years to the mercy of Christ Jesus and His saving grace, until now near the end of my life, a repentant sinner, I can call upon Him and find peace and rest for my immortal soul."

When her husband departed this life in what seemed suddenly and unexpectedly, her simple, child-like faith bore her up in a truly inspiring and remarkable way. The morning after his death, we found her at the organ, softly singing and playing the old familiar hymns which they had both known and loved and sung down through the years. "He has gone on before me just a little while," she said, "but the Lord willing, I will join him soon."

"If we could see, if we could know, we often say;
But sometimes in love the Lord doth throw a veil across our way.
We cannot see what lies before.
And so we cling to Him the more" . . .

So goes that sweet old song. The Lord did drop a veil, and sometimes it was heartbreaking and hard to understand why we could no longer speak as of yore, but God will make it all so plain in His own good time. Meanwhile, it is enough to believe that the Lord doeth all things well and for His own good purpose.

Where she now is there is peace—
There is a calm beyond life's fitful
fever, a sweet repose and everlast-
ing rest.

She has gone to join her loved
ones who have gone on before.
When we shall join her, then to-
gether with our blessed Saviour

our family circle will once more be
complete. Praise His Holy Name!

Psalm 121 was one she dearly
loved: "I will lift up mine eyes unto
the hills, from whence cometh my
help. My help cometh from the
LORD, which made heaven and
earth. He will not suffer thy foot

to be moved: he that keepeth thee
will not slumber . . ."

We think of our loved one as
someone whose work is done, whose
troubles now are past, entering
gladly through that heavenly door
to Home at last.

Zion's Harp hymnals . . . The
price of the new, hard cover white
edge (available in December or
later) is \$2.25 postpaid. The gold
edge in the old soft cover is also
\$2.25 postpaid. To order write: Ray
Gerber, R. R. 4, Bluffton Ind 46714,
or Sam Aeschliman, R. R. 3, Bluff-
ton Ind. 46714.

IOWA CITY

Patty Stoller — Joan Mogler

Jesus is a compassionate Lord.
He cares about each one of us to
the extent that He was willing to
suffer and die in our stead.
Through his death and resurrec-
tion, we no longer need to fear
death, but can rest in the hope of
everlasting life.

Our November meetings left us
with many thoughts to contem-
plate, when Bro. Joe Schrock (Cong-
erville) and Bro. Harvey Heiniger
(Oakville) taught us from
God's word. We should be satisfied
with our station and lot in life and
shouldn't wish for more . . . God
has reasons for leading us along
different pathways. We should
follow the Lord and be content
where he leads us. Godliness with
contentment is great gain.

I cannot always understand
The way God leadeth me,
The why and when and wherefore
Is oft a mystery,
But I can trust His wisdom;
I know His way is best.
His heart knows no unkindness,
And on His love I rest.

As Christmas-time approaches,
let us keep the simplicity of Christ's
birth in mind. Let us rejoice in
Christ's birth, but remember, **"Tis
not the manger but the cross that
sets the spirit free."**

K. S. U.
Libby Meyer

Again the year has flown by, and
as Christmas comes upon us we re-
joice that our Saviour was born.

"I bring you good tidings of great
joy, which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord."

How often our joy is made full
during this season, when among
other things we hear little children
singing carols, see the appreciative
smiles of the elderly, and gather to-
gether in love to worship our king.

We thank Visiting Bro. Ben
Maibach for being with us. Togeth-
er, we marveled at many teachings,
one being that through all the ages
of time, knowledge and theories
have been revised and re-revised,
but God's word has never been
changed. We also are assured that
it never will be changed, because
the word is TRUTH.

LA CROSSE

Pearl Nuest — Gwen Bucher

We Thank Thee, Lord

For all Thy love and tender care,
For all Thy bounty ev'rywhere,
For all the blessings that we share,
We thank Thee, Lord.

For peace that spreads its pinions
white
From shore to shore by day and
night,
For words of life to guide us right,
We thank Thee, Lord.

Above, beyond, and more than
these,
For Thou, Thyself, Thou Prince of
Peace,
Whose glorious reign shall never
cease—
We thank Thee, Lord.

Due to the adverse weather con-
ditions, the fall harvest isn't as
bountiful as usual, but trust all
found reasons to be thankful.

We must be thankful that we
have brothers that will serve us
Sunday after Sunday. We were
happy to have Bro. Everett Hari
(Normal) with us Sun. Nov. 12.

Prayers have been answered.
Alice Heinold is home again show-
ing improvement, after having had
surgery.

Friend Curt Frank has repented
and found peace with God and is
now awaiting proving and baptism.

Our sympathy is extended to
Sisters Lorene and Erma Moser &
Wayne and Marvin in the loss of
their brother, Henry. May they
find their refuge in our Heavenly
Father.

SHIODA, JAPAN

Willis R. Ehnlé

On Friday evening, Nov. 3, an
old lady passed away in our
"Kumi", which is composed of
eleven homes. In this social unit,
everyone is to help each other and
work together, so I was asked to
go to this particular home, along
with the others living in our
"Kumi", to help make arrange-
ments for the funeral.

Our Buddhist priest neighbor,
Mr. Hayashi, as he drank tea and
visited said, "Villages other than
Shioda don't follow the old prac-
tices anymore." Another man, Mr.
Mizukami, said, "Some even refuse
to offer incense. They could at least
do that much." My impression was
that the culture of rural Japan is
developing some cracks, and the
day may come when one is not so

THE SILVER LINING

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severely ostracized for being different.

That same day, Saturday evening, I called on the home of the deceased lady out of courtesy. A Buddhist priest was kneeling in front of the Buddhist altar erected in the home and was chanting Buddhist sentences. I stood afar off from the house under the grape arbor with several of the neighbors, and asked if they understood what the priest was saying. They replied that they would understand if they could see the characters in writing instead of just hearing the sound. The meaning is known to them through the strokes and shapes of the characters.

These neighbors asked me what kind of a ceremony Christianity has in case of a funeral. I told them that we gather together, sing hymns, kneel and pray to the living God, and read and speak from the Bible. . . . that our speaking is for the comfort and good of those left behind, that we do not pray to the departed one, or try to comfort his or her spirit. That person's life is finished and is in God's hands.

I was questioned as to whether the God I speak of is the departed one or his spirit, so I explained that He is the living God and Creator God. I held up my hands, and told them that no human being could make such an instrument as my hands. Further, Christ is the Son of God and He died for our sins, so that if we will repent and follow Him, we can go to Heaven instead of Hell . . . that is really a wonderful thing.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, as Bro. Uchida and I came down from the pulpit, a Mr. Suzuki in the audience stood and said: "I want to ask what Jesus meant in Luke when He said that the dead should bury the dead." I told Mr. Suzuki we would answer his question in private and that the others were excused. I explained to Mr. Suzuki that Jesus emphasized that our concern should be for the living . . . Bro. Uchida spent some time visiting with him, and explaining the Gospel and how it differs from Buddhism.

The next Sunday this Mr. Suzuki was killed in a traffic accident by a truck, while riding his bicycle home from visiting his daughter in the hospital. I would have spent more time and effort with Mr. Suzuki had I known that it would be the last time we would meet on

earth. If I had only known are weighty words.

TOLEDO Lydia Meister

Greetings of the Christmas Season to all.

The blessed story of the Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem, is worthy of our songs of praise, and stirs the hearts of men.

The fullness of God's love divine surrounds the Christ so mild.

Alas how many only know, the Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain, if here our love should cease,

For in the Man of Galilee, we find the Gift of Peace.

We hear much of peace, and the heart hopes it will be accomplished soon, God willing. Our Lord has given us a blessed Gift, that in all of life's trials we have His Peace of heart to quiet and sustain us.

Some years ago, I saw the Atlantic in violent storm, great high waves of sea-green water edged in curling white foam came crashing in onto rocks and sand with a deafening roar. After the storm . . . the calm, a gentle murmuring sound against the rocky coast. How like our lives is nature's storm and calm, with the same Creator ruling both.

Chad David, son of Connie and David Sancraint, was born Nov. 22. His sister, Kelly and grandparents, Sis. Frances and Bro. George Laidig have a warm welcome for little Chad. Connie is the Laidig's daughter.

Our sick folk are all progressing toward health.

Our friends, the B. J. Zieglers, are in Florida for the winter. We miss them in our gatherings.

We thought the Junction W.R.M. very successful. We received lessons of benefit for our work and knowledge of how best to help others in need. Thank you, Junction folks, for having us.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS Edna Somerhalder — Wilma Young

The fullness of God's love divine surrounds the Christ so mild;

Alas how many only know . . . The Saviour as a child.

In approaching another Christ-

mas season, we are reminded of God's great love for the human race, so much that He sent His only Son to this sinful world, to die in our stead.

Angela Jo is the first baby born to Steven and Kerry Beyer. Sis. Mary Louise Isch is the paternal grandmother. Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm are the maternal grandparents. Sis. Dora Young and Sis. Esther Knapp are the great-grandmothers.

Matthew Kraft, five-year-old son of Sam and Carol, was hospitalized a week with pneumonia . . . was happy to see him back in Sunday School. Bro. Sam and Sis. Esther Kraft are the great-grandparents.

Barry Metzger, son of Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene, has been hospitalized twice this month with pneumonia. During his second stay, he celebrated his second birthday. He's still hospitalized, but shows improvement. Glen Young, son of Bro. Andy and Sis. Lydia Young, is recuperating from major surgery.

. . . Wish to thank Bro. Roy Wernli for his message Thanksgiving evening. Visiting ministers are always welcome.

Having beautiful balmy weather, after two weeks of snow and cold. The snow provided many beautiful scenes, covered trees, bushes and fences.

Late hospital news: Norma (Jim) Hildebrand, daughter of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer is home, recuperating from major surgery.

LATTY Connie Stoller — LeAnn Laukhuf

As Christmas will soon be here, let's all remember the real meaning.

On Nov. 12, Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman from Bluffton assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in serving Holy Communion. This reminds us all of the seriousness of life.

Bro. Dwain Laukhuf and Sis. Wanita Frauhiger were united in holy matrimony at Bluffton on Nov. 19 by Bro. Sam Aeschliman. Dwain is the son of Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera, and Wanita is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Ann. May God's blessings be with them as they make their new home here in Latty.

Henry and Sis. Katie Breitwieser have announced the engagement of their daughter, Mary Ann, to Gene

Baughman, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Baughman of Paulding. A Dec. 23 wedding is planned. We wish them God's blessings in their life together.

Hospitalized were Bro. Dan Sinn, Sis. Peg Rager, LaNae Laukhuf, and Eric Rager. They are home again, doing well.

ELGIN IOWA

Mrs. George Butikofer

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. . . . And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

What an experience this must have been for the shepherds. As we read the account of Christ's birth, one can feel the awe-inspiring picture it represents. May we ever praise God for this great gift of love to mankind, this giving of His Son so that through his suffering He could atone for our sins.

Many of our feathered friends are returning to the feeding stations where we have placed morsels of suet and seeds. We have spied three different varieties of woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees and jays. The reason for so many birds arriving is because during the night a measurable amount of snow fell. It lends a beautiful cover for the otherwise rather bare landscape. It seems that after our snow is here, the stars seem to shine more brightly up in the heavens.

Let's keep that one star shining bright as it did long ago!
By keeping love within our hearts
we keep the light aglow.

Bro. Uriel Gehring, his wife—Sis. Judy, and children spent Thanksgiving week-end with his parents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Bertha Gehring. Uriel presented our Thanksgiving services, and also expounded the scriptures for us on the following Sunday. We want to thank him very kindly.

Mother is getting along quite well. Her address is Mrs. Elizabeth Schneider, Methodist Hospital, c/o Extended Care section, Rochester, Minnesota. The doctor informed her that if she stayed a few weeks longer, she would be well enough to go about without the use of a walker.

We send as a congregation special holiday greetings to all of the Silver Lining readers.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred Butikofer and Sis. Karla Moore, while enroute to attend the Schupbach reunion in Oklahoma, met with a two-car accident, so were not able to attend. The three however were not hurt seriously. The two cars involved were both damaged beyond repair.

REMINGTON Anna M. Waibel

Thanksgiving Day's blessings are with us always. We could make more of them, experience more of life's richness, and use our days more effectively if we counted them each day of our lives. Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving.

We as a congregation are all very thankful for many things, and are especially rejoicing with our converts: Lillie Bahler (Edwin's daughter); Lanelle Bahler (Elmers'); Mary Lou Clauss (Roberts'); Alberta Schini (Alberts'); Dianne Schieler (Harolds'); Sharon Leman (Richards'). May God with His love and mercy reveal Himself to many more in our midst.

Bro. Ken and Loretta Schneider have a baby boy, born Nov. 13. Six brothers and sisters welcome him . . . and now, Dec. 3, this little one has chicken pox. Doctors say it's very rare. Several of the other children have it too.

Sunday School boys and girls from Roanoke spent the day here. Al Fisher from Chicago was our guest minister.

Art Gudeman from LaCrosse was with us on a very snowy day. A group went to Fowler Ind. to sing at the nursing home, where my sister-in-law, Ann (Andy's) Waibel works, and then she had them all come to her house for ice cream and cake.

. . . very cloudy, rainy weather for weeks now. Harvesting of crops has been laborious and tiring, but very thankful we have been spared the flooding and storms others have had.

Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Bro. Herman Kellenberger were here Nov. 26 for the proving and baptism of Mark (Elmer) Bah-

ler. We are looking forward to the near future, when we hope our new converts will be taken into the fold.

Herman Bahler passed away Dec. 1 at Peoria, after a prolonged illness. Bro. Jake Bahler of Wolcott is the only brother left in that family, as Bro. Erwin of here passed away June 1 of this year. The following are sisters of the deceased, all sisters in faith: Mary Schieler and Eliza Getz of here, Leona Gerber and Tillie Bahler of Bluffton, Martha and Nina Steffen of Fairbury, Lydia Kilgus of Forrest. Their sister, Gert-rude, and Bro. Emil preceded him in death. Our sympathy goes to all concerned.

. . . Are happy to report that Emma (Hageman) (Mrs. Paul) Pelsy at Rensselaer, Ind. 47978, 733 E. Thompson St. was announced to be proved. Her health is very poor and needs prayer to bear her lot as we all do. Her husband, Paul is at the nursing home nearby, and he was to come see her that afternoon. We also went to the home to see Sis. Lydia Pelsy, Sis. Ella Yaggie, Sis. Martha Pelsy.

As the bells of Christmas summon us to worship and to pray,
With thankful hearts we share
the joys of this most holy day.
May you find new hope and
happiness, new faith in God
alone,
As the season's brightest blessings
come to you and those you love.

TREMONT Lydia Rassi

Mary Jane Leuthold

Shirley K. Sauder became the bride of Kerry R. Lusher on Nov. 11, at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall. Parents of the couple are Bro. Robert and Sis. Elizabeth Sauder and Raymond and Clista Lusher, all of rural Tremont.

On Nov. 18, Bonita Hohulin became the bride of Keith Beutel. Their parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohulin and Don and Elda Beutel, all of Tremont.

Our sympathy to Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuercher on the passing of his dear mother, Mrs. Amelia (Joe) Zuercher of Washington.

Many dear elders and brothers visited us, and our blessings are so

precious. Bros. Fredrick Knapp, Phil Sauder, Everett Hari, Henry Beer, Gene Bertschi, David Bertsch, John Steiner, Vernon Lemon and Noah Herman fed us with the everlasting word.

We were privileged to listen to the memorandum notes explained to us by Bro. Ed Hohulin and our Bro. Dan . . . never can we thank Him enough for His precious word given to us, His gentle love and care upon each one of us.

William Carius is a resident at the Queenwood East Sheltered Care Home at Morton.

Kenneth Rocke is slowly improving from an injured foot. He had just removed the cast and was able to attend his grandmother's funeral. He and his wife, Carol live at Hills of Argyle, south of Tremont.

Bro. John Greiner was confined to his home with a severe back and sciatic problem. He has had some relief.

We are glad to report, Bro. Elmer Kaeb will have his last skin grafting next week. He is coming along nicely (hoping to be home for Christmas), yet has many patient hours ahead of him.

We are in sympathy with Orval and Doris Rocke, as they have said their last earthly farewell to her dear mother, Sis. Martha Streitmatter . . . also, sympathy to Sis. Elizabeth Moser, sister of Sis. Martha.

We are sorry our Sis. Doris has so many trying hours and has not been able to enjoy good health. May we all remember our sick and sorrowing in our daily prayers.

Thank You note: A special thank you for the good deeds and acts of love during the passing of my dear mother. Being confined, your visits and prayers were so uplifting. May God bless you. Sis. Doris Rocke.

WOLCOTT

Marjean Lehman — Arles Kropf

A blessed evening was enjoyed when Bro. Elmer Bucher was with us for mid-week services. During this evening, four precious souls were given grace unto repentance. Since that time, more have also surrendered, and we are truly thankful that eight from our little church are now beginning their walk with the Lord. Our prayers are for them, that they might lay a firm foundation and can find

that peace for which they are striving.

A nice little group gathered on Thanksgiving morning as we assembled for worship.

Our friend, Jeff Blume has been assigned to overseas duty with the marines, and his new address is: Pvt. Jeff A. Blume 307624246, BLT 3/2 (DETK), Co I 3rd Bn. 2nd Marine, FPO New York 09502.

Our Christmas program is planned for Dec. 20. This is always a blessing when our little ones and those in their teen years bring praise and worship in verse and song.

We rejoice with Friend Emma Pelsy, who often has assembled with us, that she has found peace with her Maker, and that even though the afflictions of the flesh have come upon her, she has a joy within and a hope of that life eternal.

Sis. Priscilla Anker has been admitted to the hospital for observation.

Happiness

Some may think good health is an absolute necessity for happiness.

Some may think a measure of wealth is a prerequisite.

Some may think reverses cannot be included in happiness.

But life seems to teach us that none of these guarantee, nor do they rule out happiness.

There is a prerequisite to happiness and that is the only guarantee, because it rests, not upon circumstances around us, but circumstances within us. Consider words from the Bible.

Delight yourselves in the Lord; yes, find your joy in Him at all times. Have a reputation for gentleness, and never forget the nearness of your Lord.

Don't worry over anything whatever; tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer and the peace of God, which transcends human understanding, will keep constant guard over your hearts and minds as they rest in Christ Jesus.

AKRON

Katherine Ries

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory". It

is not for us to know all the answers, but to have faith, and faith is believing. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." . . . Which things are spoken, "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth". Visiting ministers Bros. Roy Luginbuhl of Rockville and Gary Maibach of Rittman, and our elder and ministers brought thoughts for meditation from the word of God, for which we are grateful and thank them for their help in our understanding. We pray for the blessings of the Lord upon them.

Sis. Mary Stanoyevic has been unable to attend our assembly for the past several weeks due to illness. Her home address: 836 No. Main St. Akron O. 44310. Bro. Noah "Ned" Baumgartner was hospitalized again because of the recurrence of the ailment that has bothered him for several years. We are happy to report that surgery was not necessary this time, and that Bro. "Ned" is home recuperating. Sis. Anna Hanla is at Akron General Medical Center awaiting surgery, after entering there for tests. Surgery is to take place Dec. 6.

After reporting last month that Bro. Fred Burr was returning home Nov. 8, we now must report that Fred was home for three days, when he had to be returned to St. Thomas Hospital for further treatment. He sends greetings and is most grateful for all visitors. His wife, Helen has repented and has found peace. We are happy for Bro. Fred and Helen in that they have found peace in the Lord, and that the invitation, "Come unto me, all ye that . . . are heavy laden, and I will give you rest", has again brought rejoicing, as the angels in heaven rejoice, when one turns from the way of the world to become a child of God.

ALTADENA

Judy Hackenjoes

Early on the morning of Nov. 11, more than a dozen brothers and friends gathered at our church to put a new roof on, over the assembly room. All was successful, and by afternoon the job was completed.

We were truly inspired by the presence of Ministering Bro. Al Langhofer of Wichita, on Nov. 12.

All who assembled that day were surely filled by the word he shared with us.

We want to welcome everyone to visit us in California during the winter months. We are enjoying beautiful, sunny weather.

Pardon freely offered all who will believe,
Whosoever cometh, Jesus will receive;
Jesus, loving Saviour, died to set me free;
Hallelujah! Whosoever — that means me!"

Our dear friend, Suzie Witzig, has turned her life over to Jesus Christ and found His forgiveness and peace. We rejoice with her and anticipate her baptism in the near future.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

In living by faith in God the Father, He has revealed His will to Bro. Don Cremer and Sis. Judy Hackenjos. Announcement was made of their engagement on Nov. 26. Praise the Lord!

We share with Sis. Rhoda and Bro. Emery Minger their joy over the birth of a son. Sprague William was born on Nov. 28 and is welcomed home by his sister, Lita, 3. Again we see a miracle performed by the mighty hand of God, our Creator.

Let us all strive to live according to the fruit of the Spirit, as we find in Galatians 5 . . . love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

The Way

WAR . . . Vietnam . . . man's inhumanity to man . . . I ask, "Why?"

THE PRINCE OF PEACE says, "I am the way".

POVERTY . . . millions starve daily . . . while we have plenty . . . The BREAD OF LIFE says, "I am the way".

DARKNESS . . . surrounds this earth . . . the blind are leading the blind.

The LIGHT OF THE WORLD says,
"I am the way".

QUESTIONS . . . searching for real answers in an unreal world . . . Who will answer?
The ANSWER comes,
"I am the way".

Valparaiso

I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy voice
And it told Thy love to me,
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.

Attachment to Christ is the real secret of detachment from the world.

ELGIN ILL.

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

Know ye the Son, who came of royal birth?
A star foretells His coming to this earth!

Know ye this Son? Yea He is known,
The most exalted God's own Son.

And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Bro. Larry Metzger has been hospitalized for surgery; his address is 389 Prairie St., Elgin Ill. 60120; also, Sis. Cora (Wm.) Schambach, 875 W. Chicago St., Elgin Ill. 60120. We are glad to report that they both have returned to their homes and loved ones and were able to assemble with us again.

A birth: A son born Dec. 1 to Bro. Thomas and Sis. Kathleen (Kellenberger) Schifferer. They have named him Andrew Nathan. Their address is 365 So. Elgin Blvd., South Elgin Ill. 60120. This is their third son.

We welcome back into our midst Sis. Elizabeth (Beth) Anliker, who came back to us from the Silverton congregation. At present she is staying with her three sisters at 363 Hamilton Ave., Elgin Ill. 60120.

At a Wednesday evening meeting, our elder and deacon shared the conclusions of the last Conference with us.

Address:
Pvt Thomas L Moser 328-42-

4978, P O Bx 1225, Letterman General Hosp, San Francisco Calif 94129.

BURLINGTON IOWA

Edna Pohl — Elaine Eisenmann

Greetings, one and all.

From Isaiah 42:

"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street . . . He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth . . . Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein . . ."

Such was the message our Bro. Noah Schrock read unto us the past Wednesday evening. A stirring message he again brought to us, ever reminding the flock of God's love and severe judgment to those who heed it not. The full chapter was read and worth rereading.

Bro. Noah also announced his trip to Canada for Dec. 1, to serve the small flock there Holy Communion, and the conference report.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenmann are parents of another son, Michael Paul. His young brother Mark welcomes a future playmate.

Dues for the Silver Lining will be taken the month of January.

EUREKA

Cathryn Wettstein

Salome Schumacher

We were blessed with many visitors. They were as follows—Bros. Joe Braker—Morton, Harvey Heiniger—Oakville, James Hoerr, Peoria, Albert Wuthrich—Pulaski, Charles Sauder—Tremont, Eli Sommerhalder—Burlington Oklahoma.

Those who are ill:

Bro. Jesse and his wife, Sis. Laura, were both hospital patients in Methodist Hospital. Both are home and doing well. Sis. Sara Tanner, Bro. Paul's wife, is a surgical patient in Eureka Hospital. William Sinn is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital.

Engagement—Sis. Marjorie Fehr was announced to be married to

Bro. Tom Clauss from Remington. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. Ralph and Lula.

Nov. 19, in the evening, Bro. Joshua Broquard assisted Bro. Leroy Huber in reading the notes from the Brother's conference. The things that were explained to us are for our good if each will now be obedient to the same.

Nov. 17, Mollie Jakle, age 89, passed away at Eureka Hospital. Her funeral was held on Nov. 22 at the Otto-Argo Funeral Home, with Bro. Leroy Huber in charge. She is survived by one son, Roy. Her burial was in Eureka Cemetery.

Nov. 19, the Sunday School classes delivered Thanksgiving baskets to some of our needy families here in town.

Sharon Belsley and Norman Littlejohn were married Oct. 18. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. William and Helen Belsley. They are living in Santa Barbara, California.

Dec. 2, Saturday evening, three of our converts were given their chance to explain to the congregation their experiences. They were Luann Rocke, Bro. and Sis. Harry and Lydia Rockes' daughter; Linda Rocke, Bro. Norman's daughter; Robert Stoller, son of Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara (Stoller) Huber. The next day they were baptized and are now brother and sisters in our precious faith. May God be ever by their sides as He has been thus far. This day were more visitors with us, Bro. Jesse Schrock from Congerville, Bro. Joe Stoller from Princeville and some others. Our visitors are always welcome to come and visit us again.

New converts are: Valerie Martin, daughter of Melvin and Bonieta Martin; Charlotte Mangold, daughter of Charles and Mary Mangold; Christine and Pat Rocke, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Marjorie Rocke. While the waters are being stirred, we hope more souls will seek their soul's salvation.

Note of Thanks: I wish to thank everyone for their cards, visits, gifts, and also the prayers which were very much appreciated, while I was in the Methodist Hospital. May God bless you. Bro. Dan Wiegand Sr.

As the Blessed Christmas season is approaching—May all be blessed with the joy and peace of Christmas, and may we all appreciate the true meaning of Christmas Day.

FRANCESVILLE

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

As Christmas-time is one of the happiest times of the year . . . Will first give you a "Thank You" from our dear Sis. Helen Huber. "I wish to express my deep sincere appreciation for the many many cards of encouragement, prayers, visits, beautiful flowers, and gifts in so many ways. May God reward each one of you."

Now Sis. Lydia Pelsy gives you the same thanks, and she says she is so thankful for the J.O.Y. ladies who so lovingly remember her each month.

Sis. Tillie Geyer's daughter, Sis. Helen wants me to tell the many loved ones a real **Thank You** for all the real "love things" her mother appreciated getting also. She is improving.

Bro. James Gutwein has such a happy family, that God still permitted him to be with them, having a heart pacemaker implant, and their thanks go to everyone for prayers, etc.

Now we go from the **cradle** to the **grave**.

Our dear minister, Karl Westphall's son Greg can now call him Grandpa and of course Grandma also, with their newborn granddaughter. We extend our sympathy to the Anlikers here, whose brother, Joe passed away . . . also to his wife and family.

Another experience of Bro. Karl Westphall was at the services he had at Indianapolis, when he so lovingly stressed the picture, hanging behind the pulpit, where Jesus was holding a child and also children sitting around him. This is what they want their "Dream Church" to be for, the dear loving younger, older and married children.

Bro. Tom Clauss assembles a lot with us, so we want to share our happiness with him, in his engagement to Sis. Marjorie Fehr.

This next happening we want to call Five early Christmas Gifts from our Heavenly Father, as He gave us a sister and four brothers in faith. You'll know what great happiness gifts are, so these are them. Sis. Donna Gutwein, who lived in Florida with her husband Eric, and she said when she went to church there, she saw something in the members there that she did not have & wanted. The four broth-

ers are Danny Overmyer (Lee), Carlie and Elden Gutwein (Carl), and Otto Wuethrich. Humbly I would like to say Otto is our only son, and his wife is our **Silver Lining** helper.

In closing—In answer to Grandpa Otto Norr's prayer, "Oh Saviour tell my Grandpa I'll be there, in answer to his prayer."

Can this also be our Christmas Greeting to everyone in this world. Father printed these words the day before God called him to his reward.

A Wish For You

What greeting shall I send you
As I think of you today?
Your name shall be remembered
In a loving Father's care.

GARDEN GROVE IA

Willa Funk

"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

We find the pure, warm light that is Jesus Christ. Yet, far too many people this season are not filled with rejoicing that Christ was born of Mary to save us from the power of Satan, but it is a season of gathering together for feasting and merrymaking. As children of God, we must be very careful to keep the time of Christ's birth a holy day, not just another holiday.

We are thankful for every visitor we have had throughout this past year. We pray that God will bless you all throughout the new year as He has so bountifully blessed us this year.

PEORIA

Emily Tanner

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth

We were so happy to welcome our new sisters and brother in faith, Kathy Hoerr, Beth Unsicker and Joe Herman. They were baptized Nov. 5. Their testimonies were so inspiring. Parents are Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Eldora Hoerr, Bro. Les and Sis. Eunice Unsicker, Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille Herman.

We also welcome as a dear brother and sisters in our precious faith, Rich and Millie Dreeste and Rebecca Sue Bossart. The Dreeste family are from St. Louis and Becky is from New Jersey.

Two more dear friends were announced for the opportunity to give their testimonies of their faith and conversion. They are Mrs. Erma

See and Herb Schwenk. We are especially thankful for these two friends; they both have children who are already in the household of faith.

In one of our Zion's Harp hymns we are reminded, "Joy here alternates with woe". Just as happy as we are to gain new brothers and sisters in our assembly, it causes us to weep to lose dear ones in faith, when they close their eyes and go to their eternal rest—but still we take comfort that when the Lord says **Come unto me**, we too can go to be with them, forever with the Lord . . . And this is really what we're striving for! In one week, four dear souls were laid to rest, and the following week two more. The body of Sis. Rose Knapp, 94, who died in Oregon, a former resident of this area, was brought to Peoria for funeral services, which were held Nov. 15. Burial was in Princeville. Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. William (Sis. Frieda) Streitmatter of Eureka and Mrs. William (Sis. Pauline) Knobloch of Peoria.

Sis. Amelia Zuercher, 80, died Nov. 11 at her home. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Joe; three sons, Milton and Loren, both of Pekin and Bro. Curtis Zuercher of Tremont; four sisters, Mrs. John (Sis. Minnie) Hodel and Sis. Viola Gudeman both of Roanoke, Mrs. Charles E. (Sis. Bena) Steffen of Goodfield, and Mrs. Dave (Sis. Cordelia) Zimmerman of Hudson.

Bro. Chris Sauder, 88, former owner-operator of the Sauder Rug Co. before retiring, died Nov. 13 at St. Francis Hospital, where he had been a patient two days. In 1907 he married Barbara Zimmerman. Sis. Barbara died in 1946. In 1947 he married Sis. Lena Sauder, who survives along with one daughter, Sis. Vera Irons of Peoria . . . four sons, our elder, Bro. Roy, Willis, and Ralph, all of Peoria, and Robert of Claremore, Oklahoma.

Bro. Fritz Pfaffmann, 67, a retired furniture upholsterer, died Nov. 13. He was born in Germany and has lived in the United States 50 years. He married Katherine Kaupp in 1936. Sis. Katy died in 1964. He married Sis. Norma Hinrichsen in 1966. Surviving are his widow; two brothers, Karl and Ernst Pfaffmann, both of Peoria; and one sister, Mrs. Liesel Kubler in Germany.

Sis. Edith Benz, 66, died at her

home Nov. 21, after a lengthy illness. She was born in Germany, a daughter of our dear departed Elder Bro. Emil and Sis. Anna Schubert. She married Charles Benz in 1924. Bro. Charles died in 1969. Surviving are two sons, Charles Jr. of Baltimore, Md., and Edward Benz of Grand Rapids, Mich.; two daughters, Miss Patricia, who lived at home with her mother, and Mrs. George Beale of Elmhurst. Also surviving are two brothers, John Schubert of Creve Coeur and Bro. Emil Schubert of Peoria; three sisters, Sisters Clara Speck of Washington, Louise Koehl and Sophie Clauss, both of Peoria.

Sis. Alice Gray, 67, died Nov. 21 in St. Francis Hospital, where she had been admitted twelve days before. She was born at Harper, Kansas, a daughter of Joshua and Leah Herman. She married Nelson Gray in 1927. He died in 1970. Surviving are one daughter, Sis. Irene Gray, who lived at home with her mother, and one son, Bro. Herbert Gray of Wilmette; one sister, Mrs. Harry (Sis. Florence) Sutter of Ft. Lauderdale; five brothers, Bro. Noah Herman of Tucson, Bro. Joe of Washington, Bro. Clarence of Morton, Raymond of Brimfield, and Kenneth of Chillicothe.

The engagement of Sis. Rebecca Bossart, daughter of Peter and Virginia Bossart of New Jersey, and Bro. Mark Meister, son of Bro. David and Mary Meister, was announced to our congregation.

Bro. Ernest and Sis. Dorothy Haefli announced the engagement of their daughter, Cynthia, to Rick Hodel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hodel of Metamora.

Karen Joos and Roger Weiss were united in marriage Oct. 28 at the Fellowship Hall. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joos and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weiss of Elgin.

Sis. Barbara Haefli and Bro. Dale Geyer were united in marriage Dec. 3. Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Gladys Haefli and Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel Geyer.

A daughter, Faith Helen, was born Nov. 4; her happy parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ardith Herrmann. This is their third child . . . Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Vicki Hartman Knobloch are the parents of Christopher William, born Nov. 9. This is their first child.

We thank our dear visiting ministering brothers who brought God's holy word to our congrega-

tion in accents clear and plain: Elmer Hartter of Milford, Albert Aberle of Tremont, Clarence Kachelmuss and Earl Gerber of Forrest, Harry Sutter of Ft. Lauderdale, and Ed Lanz of Oakville.

Thank you note: Anna and I wish to express our thanks for the many prayers offered for me during my stay in the hospital for surgery, also for the many cards, gifts and thoughts of kindness from our many friends. In Christian love, Alfred and Anna Thomas . . . Bro. Al is getting along fine, but is still home recuperating.

PHOENIX

Mrs. Allan Freed

And lo, the star which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Isn't it wonderful that God placed the star

As a guide for the wise men who traveled afar . . .

This same baby Jesus, who lay there that night

Fulfilled that promise—He is the Light.

Just as the star was a light and a guide

And brought the three Kings to our dear Saviour's side.

So is the light still shining today
To lighten our paths and show us the way.

As we again celebrate this season of the Christ Child's birth, we of the Phoenix congregation wish all of you a blessed Christmas.

Our aged Bro. Sam Farney, who has been in a nursing home for several years, was in serious condition for a couple of days, but seems to have recovered in spite of his advanced years. If the Lord grants him another birthday, he will be 93 on Dec. 28.

Sis. Ione Rokey was hospitalized for tests and treatment of a liver condition, but is recuperating at home now.

Sis. Louise Roth was also ill with pleurisy and other respiratory infections. We hope it won't be long until our shut-ins will be back in our assembly.

We had a good turn-out for our annual church cleaning on Nov. 11. Several of the men of our congregation gave the walls of the as-

sembly room a fresh coat of paint.

Susan and Jack Hill became first-time parents by the arrival of a little son, Gabriel V., on Nov. 11. He was a special present for his Mommy, as he was born on her birthday. Maternal grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ted Knochel.

Robert William is the new little bundle who arrived on Nov. 15 for Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer. He has a 2-year-old sister, Nancy, who also welcomed him. Bro. and Sis. Joe Dotterer are paternal grandparents, and Bro. and Sis. Howard Stettner of Bluffton are maternal grandparents. It is a big event to our small congregation when we have new babies in our baby room. Adding to the activity are the infants that George and Christine Schuster have become foster parents to. They are caring for two little ones in their home at this time. May the Lord bless all homes into which the sacred responsibility of child-rearing has come.

Bro. Pete Fankhouser has come to spend another winter with his daughter and her husband, Bro. and Sis. Clarence Beyer. We are happy to have him in our midst.

TAMAHATA

Akito and Marie Inoue

Last Sunday afternoon, several of us visited our friend, Fujimakis, in the hospital. Her arm was severely injured, as it got caught in their small threshing machine during rice harvest. Since she is older, it seems to weaken her general body condition and requires more time than usual for healing. We noticed an open Bible at her bedside, and she mentioned she has much time for reading. We miss her in our small church circle and hope her health can be restored again. May we always take time to read and meditate in God's word, not just when we seem to have plenty of time, as it is our spiritual oil and we need it daily to follow in the Lord's ways.

We enjoyed a blessed singing and fellowship last month at the home of our sister from the Shioda church, Eiko Nozawa. Her parents are farmers, raising peaches, some grapes, and some vegetables too. They live at the foot of a mountain which was beautiful with autumn colors. We pray the Lord will give her much strength to follow Him.

Soon we will be celebrating the memorial of our Saviour's birth. May we realize the true value of this precious gift as we share this story with others. May it cause us to live more obedient lives unto our Master and His holy word.

TUCSON

Mrs. Loren Knapp

As in the past, the Lord is again blessing us with beautiful sunny days.

The annual business meeting was held, and those chosen for duties in the church were, kitchen chairmen, Sis. LuAnn and Bro. Jim Funk . . . Sunday School teachers, Bro. Jim Funk and Sis. Evelyn Knapp . . . and trustee replacement for the coming year, Bro. Loren Knapp. Brethren who will remain in office are as follows: Sunday School teacher and superintendent, Bro. Donald Bauer, and trustees, Bro. Bauer and Bro. Henry Schrenk.

Sis. Dorothy Bertsch, age 56, passed away at St. Joseph Hospital on Nov. 21. She is survived by husband, Bro. Jay; daughter, Mrs. Ruth Griffith; son, Wendell, all of Tucson; and a brother, Donald Lane of Bluffton. Services were held in Palms Mortuary Chapel, with Bro. Roy Farney officiating. Her final resting place was in Tucson Memorial Park.

The Lord giveth and taketh away, and as the touching hymn states, "Someday, Someday we'll understand."

Note of Thanks: We want to thank all for the many cards, gifts and prayers extended to us during the loss of our loved one. We truly felt the hand of the Lord and His boundless mercy. The family of Sis. Dorothy Bertsch.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Roy Farney and Bros. Clarence Yackley and Richard Schupbach.

VALPARAISO

Irene Nuest

We will long remember Nov. 19, for we had with us Bro. Elmer Bucher from Francesville and many more brothers, sisters, friends and children to fill our small church. The day was spent worshipping and praising the Lord.

Oh how lovely 'tis to be,
With our Lord in unity;

And united voices raise,
Him to bring our songs of praise.

Bro. Elmer in his sermon said, Let us make the choice, and that we must make the move, then God will act accordingly.

It really is not difficult,
A blessed man to be;
We trust the Lord with good result,
And live in Him so free.

Our Thanksgiving worship was on Nov. 23; a nice size group came to thank and praise the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord! Praise ye the Lord;
He who saved thy life and all,
From destruction and from fall.
Blessings great on thee bestowing,
on thy path His grace o'erflowing.
Hallelujah!

In loving memory of Sandra Sue DeHaven who suddenly went away one year ago Nov. 13:

She wished no one a last farewell,
nor even said goodbye.
She was gone before we knew it,
and only God knows why . . .
God gave us strength to face it,
and courage to bear the blow . . .
But what it meant to lose her, no one will ever know.
Our hearts oft ache with loneliness,
our eyes shed many a tear,
Only God knows how much we miss her,
And in prayer she is always near.

Sadly missed by all who loved her so much.

ALTO Joyleen Blough

It is not far to Bethlehem.
The shortest cut I know
Is that directly through the heart,
The way the children go.

It is not far to Bethlehem;
It cannot take you long.
It is no farther than a prayer,
The distance of a song.

We enjoyed having Bro. Edward Alt of Cissna Park with us Nov. 19. He reminded us of how great a privilege it is to be known as a brother or sister in Christ, and how much higher this title is than sergeant, captain, or even president.

Sis. Donna Steffen is still on the sick list.

AMES

Carol Schmidgall

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above . . ." This is the time of year when we give gifts to those we love. Let us not be envious of those who have more, but be willing to give to those who have none. The Bible says, "... having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

For our November meeting, we had Bro. John Steiner from Oakville and Bro. Bill Funk from Garden Grove for our ministers. We are thankful for their service.

On Dec. 3, the engagement was told of Sis. Lavilla Zaug of West Bend to Bro. Martin Langhofer of Wichita. Lavilla attends nursing school in Marshaltown. May God lead them as they prepare for their life together.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices
Who wonderful things has done,
In whom the world rejoices.

It was with thankful hearts we assembled on Thanksgiving morning along with Sabetha. Bro. Sam Huber gave the message. Our house was full; how nice it would be to have a full house every Sunday as well.

With the many good gifts to be thankful for, a bountiful crop, our new church home, there was still concern in our hearts for the sick and hospitalized among us. My brother, Edward, had extensive major surgery, likewise Albert Plattner, who was hospitalized for more tests. Sis. Sarah Meyer had eye surgery. Bros. Edward Lehman and Glenn Luthi were in for tests . . . Sis. Leah Bauman, medical . . . Rodney Strahm (Bro. Alphie-Sis. Mamie) for knee surgery.

Sis. Marlene Esslinger visited her parents and family (Bro. Martin-Sis. Arlene) for two weeks over the Thanksgiving holiday. Marlene likes it at the Home for the Handicapped. Godliness with contentment is great gain.

Sis. Amanda Meyer is able to be in church again. Amanda wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, cards,

gifts and kind deeds during her hospital stay and since returning home . . . a special thank you to the ones who daily took her to the city for treatment. May God bless all.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Noah Gerber, West Bend; Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott; Lloyd Kraft, Gridley.

As another year comes to a close your reporters wish to extend Seasons Greetings with a blessed New Year.

The old year ends, a new begins

With pages white and new,
And what is written on each page
Will now depend on you.

But don't give up in dark despair,
If you have failed some test;
Seek God's forgiveness and resolve
Henceforth to do your best.

Resolve each precious day to do
Things good and kind and pure;
Though days and year may pass
away,
These things shall still endure.

CHICAGO

Bros. Harold Emch, Girard, and Jim Hoerr, Peoria, were our visiting ministers during the month of November.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Herb and Sis. Lois Gray because of the death of Herb's mother, who resided in Peoria. Sis. Alice Gray lived with her daughter, Sis. Irene Gray.

Bro. Paul Butash has again entered the hospital for surgery.

CISSNA PARK

Mary Young — Margaret Rudin

Christmas comes but once each year,
And voices ring the message of
good cheer.

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

Let your star shine to light the
way

For others to come and kneel and
pray,

That they, too, may seek to know
The gifts He brought so long ago.
A Glorious Gift is yours to receive,
If only you have the faith to
believe,

And may the message of peace and
good cheer

Remain with us all throughout the
New Year.

We appreciated Bro. Dale Eisenman visiting our congregation.

Bro. Fred Maul, Bro. Walter Hari and Sis. Sylvia Knapp were hospitalized, & are all home again, recuperating nicely. Sis. Emma Reutter is in the hospital.

Farewell, my morning dawns;
Farewell, my rest I see.
The strife is o'er; my morning
dawns.
The Master calleth me.

So it was Nov. 26, when my mother, Sis. Anna Rudin, age 86, passed away so peacefully at her home. Those busy hands are still, and her battle is over. Surviving are six sons: Bros. Clarence, Willard, Harlan, Ben and Lester and Alvin; four daughters: Sisters Margaret, Lucille Wagner, Anna Marie Reutter, Marv Jane Egolf; three sisters. Nettie Martin, Emma Flanigan, Jennie Weller. We shall miss our mother in the home, also in the church. She said she attended when she could and served her God in humility.

Note of Thanks: The family of Sis. Anna Rudin wish to express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the sympathy and the many deeds of kindness rendered unto us.

January is the Silver Lining combined collection time for the Cissna Park congregation.

CONGERVILLE

Norma Stahl — Linda Knapp

We are so glad another soul has been added to the fold. Ed Miller, son of Bro. Jake and Sis. Marion, has found peace with God and was baptized Nov. 26. We wish him all of God's grace. May many more come unto Him while the day of grace is still with us.

Those who brought the good word were Bros. Joshua Broquard, Fairbury; LeRoy Huber, Eureka; Perry Zimmerman, Forrest; Everett Hari, Normal; Willis Wiegand and Ed. Hohulin, both of Goodfield. May God bless them for lending themselves so freely . . . and may we heed the good teachings we have heard.

Vern Williamson, son of Bob and Sis. Doris, and Kent Steffen, son of Bro. Ed. and Sis. Mary, both had the misfortune of falling and breaking a wrist.

Sis. Marge Knapp, daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Elsie, has moved

to Georgia to a new job. Her new address is 443 Burlington Rd. North East, Atlanta, Georgia 30307. Bro. Jack and Sis. Jean Miller have moved to Colorado in connection with his job. Their new address is 4998 Moorhead Ave. Apt. 307, Boulder, Colorado 80302. All three will be greatly missed in our congregation, and we wish them God's blessings in their new undertakings.

May we remember the true meaning of the coming holidays, and always keep Christ in Christmas.

CROGHAN—NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler — Eleanor Herzig

What is the meaning of Christmas to you?

Do you know it only in part?
Was the Christ merely born in the manger,
Or has He been born in your heart?

What is the meaning of Christmas to you

When the wise men's gifts you recall?

Does it also mean you have brought to Him

Your talent, your substance, your all?

Our Sunday School children are busy preparing their songs and recitations for the Christmas programs. How eagerly they look forward to telling the congregation about this wonderful birth. As we are renewed of His birth at this season of the year, have we given our talent, our substance, our all?

Sis. Iva Poling and Bro. Earl Rohr have been able to return to their homes, after having undergone surgery. Sis. Deborah Hoppel has been ill at her home and has been unable to attend church.

Sis. Minnie Rauhe is a patient at the Greenbriar Nursing Home in Carthage.

DETROIT Bonnie Popp

God put a gladness in my heart,
A radiant joy within my soul.
He heard my cry when in distress;
He set me free and made me whole.

I come now, God, to worship Thee.
Hear Thou my prayer and song of praise.

Be Thou my sword and shield . . .

In Thee,
I put my trust through all my days.

I feel that this is the prayer and these are the thoughts upon the heart and mind of six precious souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. There are no words to express the joy in our hearts as we see the joy of the Lord in the lives of these young, tender souls: Jackie Barton, Dale Belsley, Cindy and Sheryl Maibach, Wendy Marsh and Julie Polk. May the Lord always bless and provide for them as they would sing:

There is sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright
Than glows in any earthly sky,
For JESUS is my LIGHT.

May His light ever illuminate the path on which they have chosen, and let us never dim the light in our lives, for it is this light that will show others the beauty in the life of a Christian.

We are glad to know that Donna (Maibach) Weber is home from the hospital, following surgery.

Lord, let my feeble offering
Cause heart to sing
And eyes to brighten. Let Thy word
That he has heard

Be passed along to other ears.
Bless each that hears.

FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

Chris Steffen, son of Bro. and Sis. Alpha Steffen, was married to Kay Honegger, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Wayne Honegger, Nov. 18, by Bro. Josh Broquard. Chris is employed at Rieger Motors, and the newlyweds are residing at rural Fairbury.

We are sorry that Perry and Carol Virkler are leaving this area, as Perry's company is transferring him to Wisconsin. Carol is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Joe Zehr, and she and her family will be missed here.

Several have been hospitalized recently: Paul Kilgus, son of Bro. and Sis. Duane Kilgus, got a broken leg and has to have it in a cast a long time; George Hibsich fell, breaking his hip; Bro. Ezra Steffen had a pacemaker inserted; and Bro. John Wiedman, Bro. Silas Clauss, Bro. Josh Broquard, Kenneth Bazzell had surgery, Sisters

Donna Hartman and Sandra Zimmerman were hospitalized, and Sis. Anna Hertlein has been ill, confined to her home.

All those that desired to go Christmas caroling met and caroled in an effort to bring some cheer to the shut-ins and sick.

Bro. and Sis. Phil Thames wish to express their thanks to all that remembered them during the time that Carol was in the hospital and during her recovery.

FORREST Juanita Schneider Eleanor Honegger

Let me be quiet a while upon this holy day,

To walk amidst the scene of Thy nativity;

As around me roars the tumult of our complex age,

Refresh my soul in yon divine simplicity . . .

The trusting heart of Mary waiting patiently,

The tender deep concern that Joseph showed,

Their gratitude for just a stable's open door;

Their firstborn child God's gift on man bestowed.

Let me be quiet a while upon this holy day

To walk amidst the scene of Thy divinity!

Many witnessed the provings and baptism of LaBeth Metz and Ed Stoller. Elder Bros. Al Fisher, Ezra Feller, Ed Frank assisted Bro. Perry Zimmerman in this sacred occasion. May God bless these lambs as they grow in faith . . . thankful to God when He calls them in their youth and in their latter years.

The Fairbury congregation assembled with us when the memorandum was read and meditated on by Elder Bros. Joshua Broquard, Fairbury; Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa; and Perry Zimmerman of our congregation. May we as God's followers be willing to do as we are warned and taught of God's will and great love for us, as one day we shall be thankful we obeyed. May God give our elders courage and faith to do God's will in caring for His sheep.

Bro. Dave Kieser assisted Bro. Perry Zimmerman with the marriage of Sis. Marjorie Leman and Bro. Robert Rumbold. They will

make their home in Peoria.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Dale Eisenmann, Bill Gudeman, Dave Wiegand, Lenny Meyer, Carl Kipfer, Walter Anliker, Kenneth Dietz, Chuck Hemmer, Joe Stoller, Bert Butikofer, Dale Moore, Merle Kaisner, Edmond Kloter, Art Bahler and Walter Koehl.

The engagement of James Kachelmuss and Ann Hartman was announced. James is the son of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura; Ann is the daughter of Bro. Warren and Sis. Louise of Fairbury.

United in marriage by Bro. Joshua Broquard were Kay Honegger and J. Chris Steffen, at the home of the bride's parents, Bro. Wavne and Sis. Eleanor. Bro. Alfred Bahler of Wolcott united in marriage Rosemary Lehmann and Barry Koehl at the home of the bride's parents. Bro. George and Sis. Alice. "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Jennifer Ebach, daughter of Bro. Lyle and Gloria Ebach, had a tonsillectomy. Sis. Emma Ifft was a medical patient at Fairbury Hospital. Sis. Lizzie Geyer had a cataract removed at the Carle Clinic, Urbana. Sis. Betty Bauman was a surgical patient at at Bloomington Hospital. Sis. Irene Traub has a broken wrist, due to a fall. Paul Alan Honegger, son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor, again broke his right arm at school. All are home again.

A son, Douglas Lee, was born to Dennis and Cheryl (Schlatter) Mangers of Princeton. Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Schlatter are the grandparents.

Adam James was born to James and Sis. Janice Freehill. Michael and Cara welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Wilma Bachtold. Great grandfather is William Kupferschmid of Peoria.

Our dear friend, Mary Ann Le-man, daughter-in-law of Bro. Sidney and Sis. Helen, has also found the need for repentance. Mary Ann is the wife of Dale, who is also seeking the Lord. We wish her much grace.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Are you changing your address? Send in ahead, letting know when to change. Send zip number.

FT. LAUDERDALE

Henry H. Schwartz

We assembled to hear the testimony of Sally Klopfenstein, daughter of Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie, on Nov. 4, and welcomed her as a sister-in-faith after her baptism on Sunday. In explanation of her conduct and beliefs, Sally often answered, "The Bible says this is so." Bro. John Bahler encouraged her and every child of God to continue to look to God's word for guidance and instruction. We enjoyed many blessings with the visit of Bro. John, and thank them for coming.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Fred and Sis. Marie Meyer over the news that their daughter, Patty, has answered the call of her Lord. We wish Patty much grace as she begins her Christian walk and finds joy in the possession of a true peace.

We welcome Sis. Emily Aberle from the Rockville congregation into our fellowship. We are glad for every child of God who assembles with us and adds to our strength in number and faith. We hope Sis. Emily will feel at home with us and make her stay a long one.

We greeted Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Hulda Luginbuhl with glad hearts. We always enjoy their visits, and are thankful for the good words they bring to us. We are looking forward to a few weeks of Christian fellowship with them.

Sis. Florence Sutter received word that her sister, Sis. Alice Gray of Peoria, was called to her eternal rest. We extend our sympathy to her, knowing that the parting with this loved one has caused her sorrow.

FT. SCOTT

Ida Sinn

The week-end of Nov. 12 was a very blessed one. We were privileged to have four elder brothers in our midst, namely, Bros. Sam Anliker, Ben Maibach, Lester Hartter and Gene Marti. Bro. Raymond Banwart was ordained to the eldership. We are so thankful that the Lord yet provides shepherds for his flock in these perilous times. May God bless and direct Bro. Raymond as he begins his duties in this weighty work.

Lester Sinn is recovering satisfactorily, after having surgery on his cheek.

Bro. and Sis. Ephraim and Eun-

ice Koehl had an extended stay here, when they stopped to visit relatives on their way to Tucson. They had the misfortune of having an auto mishap and were detained for repairs.

GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

Sis. Caroline Emch offered this poem in remembrance of Bro. Lorentz Emch.

There is no time that we could set
For parting.
We who must remain,
Are never ready for such pain.

Even a prayer would be: "Not yet,
Not yet, Dear Lord—Another day
With us let our beloved stay."

We must believe When falls the
blow,
That wisely God has willed it so.
Surely we feel that God knows best;
therefore we say, "Praise the
Lord."

Now for the grand finale of the
year. The tempo increases with:
Christmas is joy pervading the air
. . . The spirit of friendliness every-
where . . . A hope for more wisdom,
humility mild . . . And the simple
faith of a little child.

We wish to express our thanks to the brethren who visited us and shared in the ministry of God's word: Bro. Gary Maibach and Bro. Henry Dotterer from Rittman and Bro. Verdon Feldman from Bremen. Your messages were enjoyed by all.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Donna Metzger

The miracle of Christmas never grows old as the years go by. Tiny tots, as well as the aged, love the Christmas story. It seems a miracle anew each year as families draw closer, voices are softer, people are kinder, and mankind longs for peace on earth.

Thanks be to God, grace is still extended to souls who call on Him with repentant hearts. We have eight converts who have turned their backs on worldly pleasures. They are Beth Metzger, daughter of Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty; Joyce and Janice Mogler, daughters of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia; Dale Wulf, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona; Colleen Wulf, daughter of Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice; Gail

Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Mart and Sis. Zelma; Patsy Metzger, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn; and Shirley DeHaan, daughter of John and Sis. Ione. They have found it is a pleasure rather than a duty to follow in His ways.

Two lucky little boys have been born into homes where God is the head of the house. Darin Douglas was born on Thanksgiving Day to Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch, and Mitchell Leigh was born Nov. 24 to Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Knobloch. Both babies have a sister and brother to welcome them home.

Bro. Dale Metzger has been hospitalized with back trouble and must undergo surgery. Other hospital patients are little Blake Wy-song, little Cindy Metzger, Sis. Martha Feucht (Ernie), and Sis. Rose Moser.

It was a blessing to have Bros. Silas Leuthold and Earl Banwart as visiting ministers on a recent Sunday.

Grandpa Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger feel that God has truly blessed them, as they observed their 65th anniversary with sound minds and fair health. Thank you to all for your thoughtfulness on our anniversary. It will give us many happy memories. May God reward you. Fred and Carrie Metzger.

Judy Moser, daughter of Friends Lou and Tina, was married to Leo Weber. They will make their home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Ray Metzger received his discharge, after six years service in the Air National Guard.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Carol Ringger

During this Thanksgiving season, we here at ISU have found many things to be thankful for. Blessings have been richly and abundantly bestowed on us in this year. Our church service on Thursday nights is like an oasis in a desert after a week of the toils of student life. It is a time to hear the word so kindly brought to us by the ministering brothers, a time to sing praises unto our Lord, and to meet and greet our friends and fellow laborers. We are thankful for all who come and worship with us, especially the friends. Our greatest joy is to see the friends who come so faithfully, repent and become brethren. It is our prayer that perhaps in some way we can

be helpful in carrying out God's plan of salvation.

LAMAR Mrs. Charles Marti Mrs. Arthur Banwart

To break Thy bread we now have gathered,

In covenant to drink Thy wine;
As brethren we unite together
That unto death we might be Thine.

This beautiful hymn was chosen by our elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont), as we were assembled in remembrance of our Lord's death and suffering, and to partake of Holy Communion. Bro. Raymond Banwart (Ft. Scott) assisted in sharing with us this blessed sacrament. We thank these dear brothers for their labors of love, and feel we were richly fed and nourished in the spirit by the words of life which flowed so freely during their visit to our church. We met on Saturday evening for the reading and deliberation of the report from the last conference. It moves our hearts when we see the concern and love that our elders have for the church and our most precious faith. If we are obedient and heed the timely warnings, then surely we will find joy in living for our Lord, and will also help to lighten the load of our elder brethren.

A hospital patient is Bro. Virgil Frieden. We were happy that Sam Baker could assemble with us again, following a serious illness. Sam and Sis. Betty wish to thank everyone for the prayers, get-well cards and love shown to them during his illness. Each little deed of kindness helped to make their lot more bearable.

An unusually wet and cold fall here in the Midwest has hindered the completion of harvest, and we see many fields of grain still standing. This has caused much concern among the farmers, but we are comforted when we read these words of Jesus: "And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind . . . your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things."

With the approaching Christmas season, we are reminded of the lowly birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus. How often can we visualize the tiny baby in a man-

ger bed or think of those shepherds who received the message of good will and peace to men. A calm settles over us as we join in singing the precious and well-known hymns, and we can forget the rush and glitter of the Christmas that we see in the world today.

Our song of praise to God ascend,
And there with angel voices blend.
The day of gladness now is here;
Sing Hallelujah with good cheer.

INDIANAPOLIS Tom and Carolyn Frank

We congratulate Bro. Wayne Steffen and Sis. Judy Kanitz on their marriage of Nov. 19 at Champaign. We look forward to their fellowship as they will be residing in Indianapolis for Sis. Beckv Mayer.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Detroit, performed the marriage ceremony in Indianapolis for Sis. Becky Mayer and Bro. David Pearson, on Dec. 3. Parents of the couple are Bro. John and Edith Mayer and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pearson of Nathrop Colorado. We are thankful to have these young couples in our congregation and wish the presence of God in their homes.

We welcome Bro. Richard and Sis. L'Nae Aberle and their three children, Becky, Debbie, and Benjamin, formerly of Rockville, to our congregation. They are making their home at the following address in Cincinnati, Ohio, 9719 Bunker Hill.

The following ministers have our thanks for bringing God's word to us: Bros. Carl Westfall, Vernon Schwab, Ben Maibach, Wendell Gerber, Carl Kipfer, Bob Meyer, Ken Honegger, and Verdon Feldman.

May the spirit of Christmas, love, hope, joy and peace, remain within us as we begin the new year.

MINNEAPOLIS Karen Metzger — Kathrvn Olson

Bro. Gus and Sis. Alma Baum are grandparents of a darling baby girl, Rachel Johanna, born Nov. 8 to the parents, John and Nancy Baum. Sis. Alma returned home after spending several weeks in California with them.

Friend Everett Olson has returned home, after being hospitalized for three weeks with a coronary heart attack. Bro. Fred Messner has been hospitalized in St. Paul with a heart condition.

Randell Schmidt (son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Vera Schmidt) and Debra Wilmar were united in marriage Nov. 4. We wish them God's blessings.

The Christmas season is here, and we should remember the true meaning of Christmas.

MORRIS

Ann Meiss — Esther Schaefer

In the Father's image pure
He came earth's trials to endure.
He leads us with a gentle hand
To that long cherished happy land.

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Edwin Ringger, and were richly blest by the inspiring message. We are thankful that our elder, Bro. Paul Fehr, is recovering from back surgery and is able to assemble with us again.

Bro. Francis Schmidgall again had to submit to surgery. We wish Bro. Francis a special measure of grace to bear his suffering, and also to his wife, Sis. Mabel, and family, who anxiously stand by awaiting God's will. Also hospitalized is Kathryn Stettner, who had the misfortune of falling and breaking her leg. Bro. Ferd Tohn and Nancy Dogotch were hospitalized as the result of automobile accidents. Bro. Ferd at Morris and Nancy at Ortonville. Little Jerry Dean Nohl, 11-month-old son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie, was in the hospital at Willmar for several days. Jerry has a skin disease, but is responding well to treatment. Connie Zeltwanger is at home again, after undergoing surgery for appendicitis.

Charles and Elizabeth Spohr are the parents of a baby girl, Mary Alice. Esther Spohr is the grandmother. Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joos are the grandparents of a baby girl, Tania, born to Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan Schrock, on Nov. 26 at Guadalajara Mexico.

George Sauder has finished his basic training at Ft. Sam and is spending several weeks at the home of his parents, Virgil and Mildred Sauder. George will report to Ft. Dix, and from there will be sent to Germany.

We have resumed our World Relief sewing meeting once a week in the church basement. We enjoy working together on this project, and are glad we have this way of helping those who are less fortunate.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz
Miss Della Witschey

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Emch of Madison, Kansas, attended the funeral services of Mr. Lorentz Emch in Girard, on Nov. 1. Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Minkler of Girard, they visited with Mrs. J. C. Froelich and the Emch families here on Nov. 4, and attended services at the Sardis Church on Nov. 5. Mrs. J. C. Froelich and daughter, Mrs. Eph Wells and Mrs. Grace Calvert, attended services at the Sardis church on Nov. 5. Miss Della Witschey, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Durig visited with relatives in Washington, Pa., on Nov. 12. Mr. and Mrs. Elza Ritz, Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock Sr. spent Thanksgiving with Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock Jr in Huntington, W. Va. Miss Margaret Witschey and Mrs. Elizabeth Hawkins spent the Thanksgiving holiday with relatives in Charleston, W. Va.

Miss Kathy Mullett, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mullett, has been a medical patient at the University Hospital in Morgantown. Edward Berger has been a medical patient in the local hospital, and is to have further medical care at the Ohio Valley Hospital in Wheeling. Mrs. Raymond Barth, who is a rheumatoid arthritis sufferer, is a patient in the Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburg for medical care.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron visited here with the Barth families on December 3 and 4.

Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood has been under a doctor's care for some time; she will celebrate her 90th birthday on December 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth of Parkersburg left on Nov. 24 for Zephyrhills, Fla., where they will spend the winter months. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Barth of Sistersville have gone to their winter home in Eustis, Florida to spend the next few months.

May we at this time wish for everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and glad New Year.

OAKVILLE

Martha Steiner

We enjoyed the visits of Ministering Bros. David Wiegand, Champaign; Willis Wiegand, Goodfield; Duane Metzger, West Bend; and Robert Pohl, Burlington.

Kimberly Ann is the name chosen for the new daughter of James and Denise Whipple, born Nov. 23. Paternal grandparents are Lawrence and Sis. Lorraine Whipple.

Debra Schrock and Orval Frazer were married Nov. 12 by the bride's grandfather, Elder Bro. Noah Schrock. Debbie is the daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Edith (Hodel) Schrock. We wish them many blessings in their life together.

We will miss Bro. Arthur and Sis. Audrey Foster, as they are spending the winter in Texas.

David Wegman feels that he has now found peace with God and man, and has been announced for proving in the near future. Dave's parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Rosemary (Jacob) Wegman.

PORTLAND

Art and Betty Metz

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

More than 700 years later, this prophecy was fulfilled at Bethlehem. How different was this first Christmas than that celebrated by many in the world today. May God grant us grace that we not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, nor of the peace . . .

Bro. Keith Schmidgall, who has assembled with us for the last two years, has returned to the home of his parents in Hancock.

Contributed by a sister:

Our dear aged Sis. Rose Knapp, age 94, passed away Nov. 10. She was a member for 78 years. How much she appreciated being a child of God, and would often comment how much the Zion Harps' songs meant to her, as she was well-acquainted with all of them, retaining most of them upon her heart by memory. She would long for her Heavenly Home in the latter years of her life, but yet she would say, "Not my will, but Thine be done." Her nephew, Sam Feucht, was of much help to her these past 8½ years, while living here in Portland.

A memorial service was held at the Jacobson-Cascade Funeral Home. Bro. Robert Miller officiated, assisted by Bro. Clarence Dietrich of Silverton. The body was sent to Princeville for burial, where most of her close relatives live.

PRINCEVILLE**Ruth Ricketts**

If you want to help somebody to climb a hill, you do not stand below and push him, you go first and stretch out a helping hand.

After many days of dark and cloudy weather, we had a few days of sunshine. The farmers benefited by gathering more of their harvest, and ploughing. One of our ministers recently said that although the clouds obscure the sun, we know it is still there shining. We cannot see God, but we know He is still there, ready to help all those who call upon His name. We can observe His handiwork. Recently a snow fell in the night, covering everything with a mantle of white, transforming all into a winter wonderland, a most beautiful sight to the eye.

Thankful were we for the surprise visit of Bro. Bob Walder of the Congerville congregation on Thanksgiving Day. We have so much to be thankful for, and thank Bro. Bob for his inspired words of God.

There were many empty benches on the Sunday of Nov. 26. Many had gone to Forrest to witness the wedding of Bro. Robert Rumbold and Sis. Marjory Leman. May the Lord bless this union as they establish their home in Peoria.

How thankful are we that dear souls are still surrendering unto the Lord. We could feel how He worked in the heart of Helen Schick, wife of Herbert, and that she could find peace in her heart and brought a most humble, sincere testimony before the congregation. How it warms our hearts to see her face radiate the happiness she has. Helen is now one of our dear sisters in faith, having been baptized Dec. 3 and taken into the fold. Bro. Ed Hohulin of Goodfield spent the day with us and assisted Bros. Silas Leuthold and Dave Kieser with the baptismal services. Bro. Ed was inspired to bring out many precious teachings during the day and all were greatly benefited. He mentioned that once he assisted in searching for a lost sheep. As they found it, he had never heard such a pitiful bleating. How will it be someday when the Lord comes to claim His own? Do we not shudder to think of the terrible weeping and crying of those who are not ready to meet their Lord? We rejoice as five young souls have surrendered their hearts

unto the Lord in true repentance.

On the evening of Dec. 3, the Bradford congregation assembled with us and Elder Bros. Ed Hohulin, Roy Sauder assisted Bro. Silas and Dave in reading the memorandum, and in sincere love brought out the dangers we are confronted with in these trying times. An earnest plea was sent out that each one of us do his part to keep our church according to the word of God.

We are so happy and thankful to have Sis. Martha Hemmer able to worship with us again, after several weeks treatment in the hospital. We are glad, too, that Bros. Dan Siebenthal and Sam Grimm have been released from the hospital and are convalescing at home. Chad, infant son of Bro. James and Sis. Marlene Plattner, spent a few days in the hospital with pneumonia, but he has recovered and is coming to church with his parents again. Whether young or old, we are always sorry when one is ill and always thankful when they are able to worship with us again.

Address: Pvt Fred C Schafer 327441984, MBT HQ TUSA Med TC Class 60 Ft Sam Houston Texas 78234.

As the Christmas season is nearing, we hear many of the Christmas songs being sung in the various Sunday School rooms. Eager little minds absorb the Christmas stories that we all enjoy to hear. It makes us wonder, Do we really stop to consider what a wonderful night that was when the angels told the shepherds of the birth of this precious Little One? Would we be willing to travel the many miles without map, compass or marked highways, as the wisemen who came in search for the King? He is near at all times and is ever ready to accept all who call upon His name in earnest repentance. What joy it would be in our hearts to have the assurance that each one of us would be able to join in the New Song that will be sung by the redeemed, when the Lord comes to claim His own.

PULASKI**Nancy Musselman
Ernestine Wuthrich**

Funeral services were held for Sis. Myrtle Kinsinger Nov. 2. She was 85 years old, and had been ill for several years and unable to attend church. She was preceded in

death by her husband, Bro. Charles. Those left to revere her memory are her daughter, Marjorie—Mrs. James Burns of Bloomfield, Iowa; four sons, Donald of Silver Springs, Maryland, Dale of Tracy, California, Keith and Kenneth of Elgin Illinois; and one sister, Mrs. Ruth Graves of Whittier California.

What Is Christmas?

Is it just a day at the end of the year?

A season of joy, merrymaking and cheer?

Is it people and presents and glittering trees?

Ah no, it is more than any of these
For under the tinsel and hidden
from sight

Is the promise and meaning of that
first Christmas night.

When shepherds stood in wondrous
awe

And felt transformed by what they
saw . . .

So let us not, in our search for
pleasure,

Forego our right to this **priceless
treasure . . .**

For Christmas is still a God-Given
Day,

And let us remember to keep it
that way.

UNION CITY**Gail Gasser**

We were sorry to hear of the passing of our friend, Charles Kroszner. Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 27. May the Lord comfort his wife, Elizabeth.

WEST BEND**Mrs. Melvin Fehr Mrs. A. Banwart**

May we spend a few moments evaluating our progress the past year of our spiritual life, as much time is spent evaluating our material progress at this time of year. Help to improve is but a prayer away, and may all take advantage of this great and wonderful gift.

Our visiting minister in November was Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa. We thank him for his efforts and the teachings of God's word that he brought to us.

Through the pain and suffering of our present hospital patients, Sis. Amy (Ervin) Banwart and Bro. Levi Banwart, we are all brought a step nearer to our Creator. Sincere prayer for grace to endure whate'er may be the Lord's will provides us a way to help them

bear their cross. We rejoice that Mona Bruellman is improved and again able to be among us, after her hospital stay.

We are happy to announce the engagements of three from our congregation: Sis. Lavilla Zaugg (daughter of Bro. Oscar and Sis. Francis) to Bro. Martin Langhofer (son of Bro. Al and Sis. Judy) of Wichita; Kim Oberman (daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Rosie) to La Vern Salek of Muscatine, Ia.; and Ellen Metzger (daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice) to Ken Dahlhauser. May the Lord guide each of these couples as they begin to plan their lives together, so all things may be done pleasing in His sight.

Only those experiencing the "Helping Hand" in time of need can realize the gratitude felt in the hearts of the receivers. May God bless each one for deeds, great or small, harvesting, plowing, and so many ways, since Leland's misfortune. Thank You.

Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger, Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger.

RITTMAN Florence Hartzler

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Orville Ringger and Wendell Gerber from Bluffton. We wish to thank them for their words of inspiration and love, and for the blessing we received through God's laborers.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Lorentz Emch, who passed away at Girard. We especially want to mention Bro. Dave Emch, and Mary Jane and Betty Winkler, and his dear wife, Sis. Caroline.

Funeral services for Sis. Rosa Ingold were held Friday, Nov. 17. Sis. Rosa and her husband, Bro. Herman, had lived at the Mennonite Home near Rittman for the past few years and had been married nearly 60 years ago in Monroe County. Survivors are her husband; one son, Bro. Carl; two daughters, Sis. Nina Gasser and Mabel Reuser.

Our dear friend, Grace Van Hueizen, passed away following a heart attack. She will surely be missed by her many friends and other relatives. She was born in Girard and was taken back to rest there in the Girard cemetery.

A son was born to Bro. Fred and

Sis. Joyce Stoller and has been named Marty Jerome. One sister, Lois welcomes her new little brother. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary Stoller, Bro. Raymond and Sis. Grace Marty. A daughter was born to Jeff and Elsie Maibach and named Cherie Lynn. The little girl's grandparents are Jack and Clara Maibach, Bro. Robert and Sis. Neva Gasser.

In our last issue, it was reported Bro. Noah Bauman returned home from the hospital; after being home for a few days, he was returned there, where he spent the next four weeks. He has now been able to go home again, for which we are thankful. David Ramsier and Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle needed hospital care, but are both home again.

Jim Laukhuf, son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Catherine, has been inducted into the service. Leon Rufener was home for a few weeks, but now has been sent to Germany to fulfill his service duty. We pray for each one of our boys who must leave their home and families for a time.

Oh beautiful Star of Bethlehem,
shining afar thru shadows dim,
Giving a light for those who long
have gone,

And guiding the wise men on their
way unto the place where Jesus
lay . . .

O beautiful Star, the hope of
light, guiding the pilgrim thru
the night

Over the mountain till the break of
dawn.

And into the light of perfect day,
it will give out a lovely ray.

Oh beautiful Star, the hope of rest
for the redeemed, the good and
blest,

Yonder in glory when the crown is
won,

For Jesus is now that Star divine:
brighter and brighter He will
shine.

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine
upon us until the glory dawn.

Oh give us thy light, to light the
way into the land of perfect day.

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, shine
on!

A Thank You Note: Beloved brethren and friends, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all who took any part in remembering me in prayer, in sending gifts and cards. I hope the Lord will reward you for the love which has been

shown. Your least brother in faith,
Noah Bauman.

LEO Mrs. Elias Souder

Christmas eve, 1875 . . . One was traveling by steamboat on the Delaware. It was a calm, star-lit evening, and there were many passengers gathered on deck. This man was asked to sing. He stood. His eyes were raised in quiet prayer. It was his intention to sing a Christmas song, but he was diverted almost against his will to sing "Saviour like a Shepherd Lead Us." Deep stillness. Words and melody floated over deck and the quiet river. Every heart was touched. After the song a man, rough and weatherbeaten, came and said, "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?" "Yes . . ." "Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright moonlight night in 1862?" "Yes," said the man who had been singing, very much surprised. "So did I, but I was serving in the Confederate Army. When I saw you standing at your post, I said to myself, That fellow will never get away from here alive. I raised my musket and took aim. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling on you. At that instant, as just a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and I took my finger off the trigger. Let him sing his song to the end, I said to myself. I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him. But the song you sang there was the song you sang just now, I heard the words perfectly: **We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the guardian of our way.** When you finished your song, it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought, the Lord who is able to save that man from certain death, must surely be great and mighty, and my arm dropped of its own accord.

Winter has come to Indiana, snow-covered ground and trees glistening in the sunshine. We also have cold weather.

We hear many worrying about the gathering in of the harvest, but if we trust in the Lord, He always provided and we have so many benefits as our visiting minister

said in his church service, Bro. Henry Manz from the Junction congregation. We should be thankful and contented with the things we have.

We had our Thanksgiving church service on Thanksgiving forenoon. It is always nice to see our dear young people who are away at school at home. Gary and Christy Bollier, Lynn Klopfenstein, Mark and Nancy Souder were among those home.

We are happy to report, Dorothy Norr has made such a nice comeback from her illness and is able to be with her loved ones again.

The Junior Sunday School class was entertained at the home of the Dwight Souders for the month of November. The Sunday School classes are working on their program for Christmas.

We miss Marjorie and Albert Frautschi, who are spending the winter months in the sunny Western States.

BLUFFTON

Imogene Steffen — Pat Isch

Gifts That are Mine

Place these gifts on my altar this Christmas,

Gifts that are mine, as the years are mine:

The quiet hopes that flood the earnest cargo of my dreams,
The best of all good things for those I love,

A fresh new trust for all whose faith is dim.

The love of life, God's precious gift in reach of all . . .

Seeing in each day the seeds of the morrow,

Finding in each struggle the strength of renewal,

Seeking in each person the face of my brother.

I place these gifts on my altar this Christmas,

Gifts that are mine, as the years are mine.

Our assembly was grateful for a memorable visit of three ministering brothers on Nov. 12, Bro. Ed Alt of Cissna Park, Elder Bro. Ed Frank of La Crosse, and Bro. Elmer Bucher from Francesville. The power that is bestowed on our humble brethren is indeed recognized as the Holy Spirit. May they be blessed, and with faith continue to look to Him to supply their needs.

Bro. Merrill Laukhuf from Latty was with us on Sun. Nov. 19, being here on the wedding day of Sis. Wanita Frauhiger and Bro. Dwain Laukhuf of Latty. We delighted in the timely warnings and how we should live, and are sure it will also benefit the wedded couple as they begin their new life together. Bro. Sam Aeschliman received their nuptial ties. Their parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera Laukhuf. May this tie of love bind them closely each day they live.

Recently being hospital patients, Sis. Mary (John) Moser, Sis. Mary (John) Baumgartner, and Burt Iseh, son of Bro. Al and Sis. Carole, have thankfully returned to their homes. Remaining for care and treatment are Sis. Edith Stultz, Sis. Alice (Kenneth) Schaefer, Bro. Levi Schwartz, and Bro. Joel Fiechter. Perhaps some of these will be permitted to return home for the holidays. We don't know.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann (Moser) Gerber have welcomed their fourth child and third daughter, Karen Louise, into their home. We wish them a blessed family circle.

Bro. John Schaefer, 85 years old, was taken from this life on Dec. 5. We know now that his suffering days are o'er and his joys are awaiting him. He so faithfully served our church for sixteen years as custodian and yard-keeper. His untiring service did not always receive the thanks that was deserved, but we know the Lord will now reward him in time without end. His survivors include one brother, Bro. Joel; two sisters, Mary Dubach and Elizabeth Schaefer; three sons, Norman, Bro. Oscar and Bro. Kenneth; one daughter, Mrs. Charles (Alice) Bercot. The funeral was held on Thursday, Dec. 7, with Bros. Sam Aeschliman and Orville Ringger in charge.

Three of our friends were united in marriage at our fellowship hall: Arlene Aeschliman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida) to Steve Stump; Bill Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Flossie) to Kathy Arnold; and Kedric Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge) to Shelley Everett. Many good wishes were extended to all of these couples, and we certainly hope they will come true for each one.

With attentive hearts, we heard the seriousness of the Conference report, which was read by our elder brethren on Nov. 26. We hope we

were all hearers, and then the blessings of obedience will come when we are also doers.

Address: Mr. and Mrs. John Reimschisel, Sup Dist Rheinland Pfalz, APO New York 09227.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Jan Blunier

Are you willing . . . to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children; to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old;

. . . to stop asking how much your friends love you, and to ask yourself whether you love them enough; to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts;

to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front, so that your shadow will fall behind you; to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open?

Are you willing to do these things for a day? Then you are ready to keep Christmas!

Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy . . .

He has come! God incarnate! God manifested in the flesh . . . our salvation . . . And just as He came into the world, He must come into my heart, I must become as "Bethlehem" for Jesus . . . to be born again.

Visiting ministers during the month of November were Bros. Charles Sauder of Tremont, Jim Leman of Roanoke, Lennie Mever of Chicago, Fred Knapp of Congerville, Edwin Bahler of Remington, Bob Grimm of Goodfield, Walt Steffen of Milford, Ed Hohulin of Goodfield, and Joe Zimmerman of Morton.

On Nov. 19, Sis. Judy Kanitz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Loyd Kanitz of Tuscola, and Bro. Wayne Steffen, son of Bro. Ray Steffen of Remington, were united as husband and wife in the Lord by Bro. Ed Hohulin. Wayne is presently employed in Indianapolis.

Sis. Verna Roth was hospitalized, in need of surgery. In answer to prayers, she is recovering well.

GOODFIELD

Elna Grimm

Bro. and Sis. Dan and Verla

Wiegand of R. R. Deer Creek announced the engagement of their son, Ron, to Barbara Unzicker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Unzicker of Allentown. The couple is planning a June wedding.

Larry Wiegand, also son of Bro. and Sis. Dan and Verla, gave his testimony to the church on Wednesday evening, Nov. 8, and was baptized Sunday, Nov. 12.

Jeff Grimm, son of Bro. and Sis. Bob and Elna, was hospitalized for surgery on his thumb, after being injured in P.E. class. He is looking forward to getting rid of the cast which he has worn for over a month.

Bros. George Wagenbach — Princeville, George Lambert — Wichita, and Harvey Grimm — Bern were visiting ministers in our congregation.

A baby girl was born to Bro. and Sis. Mike and Luann Knapp, R. R. Eureka, on Dec. 5. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. John and Dorothy Bittner, Eureka, and Mike Knapp Sr., Goodfield.

Bro. and Sis. Stan and Jeane Hohulin of Eureka had a baby boy, Ross Andrew, on Nov. 29. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. George and Rachel Hodel, Eureka, and Bro. and Sis. Chris and Vi Hohulin, Goodfield.

So Little Time

I have so very little time
Along life's road it seems
To do the little things I'd like
To dream my cherished dreams

So little time to speak kind words
That often cross my mind
So little time to help the poor
The lonely, sick and blind

So little time to meditate
So little time for prayer
So little time to read the word

So little time, ah yes tis true
Eternity is near
I know that I must hurry now
To spread a bit of cheer.

I know that I cannot neglect
The poor men's cup to fill;
So little time, a poor excuse
Not to do His will.

LAMONT
Betty Wernli

Love of Jesus, love of brethren,
Heal our souls from ev'ry smart!

Grant to us Thy purest motives
And a pure, unspotted heart.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach of Detroit & Bro. Vernon Schwab of Wollcott have been our recent visiting ministers. Thru these ministering brethren does the Lord make clear and plain that He wants us to trust in Him, be faithful in all things, and obedient to His will and word.

Sis. Eva Emch has been a hospital patient, having submitted to major surgery. She is improving quite well, and is now at her home.

As we greet one another in the blessed Lord's name, did you ever think, that brother or sister is having as hard a battle as you?

MANSFIELD

Aaron A. Sauder

The children are rehearsing, and plans are being made to present the annual Christmas program by the Sunday School on Dec. 17. Various groups are preparing to carol the shut-ins, as we joyously remember the birthday of our Saviour and King. Our hearts join in the words of the poet:

O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray; . . .
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Congratulations to the new parents, Larry and Nancy Banks, whose little daughter, Jennifer Elizabeth, was born on Nov. 23. Bro. Dick and Sis. Mabel Fuhrer Banks are the paternal grandparents.

We extend loving sympathy to Sis. Katie Blumenschein on the death of her sister, Sue Cline, and to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Theresa Kissel on the death of their son.

Bro. Dave Beer continues to be a hospital patient, having undergone gallbladder surgery. Sis. Wilma Sauder (Robert) also had surgery, but has been released. Clarence Sauder is a patient in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Thank you, Bro. Aaron Steffen, for visiting our congregation on Sunday Nov. 26, and exhorting the word of God to us anew.

MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Bro. Ted Baumgartner submitted to major surgery, has returned

to his home, and is recuperating nicely. Sis. Mary Armbruster is recovering from eye surgery, and is staying with her daughter, Barbara, in South Bend, during this time.

Bro. Tom Speicher's army assignment has taken him to Augsburg, in Bavaria. Sis. Tammy left this week to join him. We wish them good health and happiness as they spend the next eighteen months away from their families.

Those of us in the congregation at Milford send our warmest Christmas wishes, to all of our members and friends of the Apostolic Christian churches, wherever they may be meeting together. May the peace of God be with us all throughout the coming year, and may we keep His love shining bright in our lives for all to see and feel.

MORTON

Mrs. Keith Stevig
Mrs. Harry Kaiser

Each year as Christmas draws near and the hustle and bustle of all the shoppers going to and fro . . . trying to spread good cheer . . . God seems so very near. May His blessed presence mean still more to you this year. There is no traffic jam, to go the straight and narrow way to the Lord.

The labor of love was extended unto us by the following visiting ministers: Eli Somerhalder, Burlington, Oklahoma; Ezra Feller, Cissna Park; Elmer Witzig, Gridley; Ben Maibach, Detroit.

Frederick and Joann Roecker are the parents of a baby girl, Lisa Ann, born Oct. 28. She has one brother, Jim, at home. Grandparents are Sis. Mary Roecker of Morton and Mr. and Mrs. William Shelton of Peoria Heights, Illinois.

A baby girl, Donna Marie, was born Nov. 19 to Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annete Tanner. A brother, Brian, welcomes her home. Grandparents are Gotthold and Anna Tanner and Joe and Lena Stieglitz, all of Morton.

Mrs. Silas (Hannah) Hofmann (66) passed away Nov. 7 at the hospital at Flanagan. She was formerly of the Morton area. Surviving are her husband, Silas; a son, Silas Jr. of Humeston, Iowa; a daughter, Mrs. Herbert (Lorraine) Weier, Ft. Wayne. Bros. Edwin Ringger and Harold Schmidgall

from the Gridley congregation had the services.

Bro. Jake Getz (74) passed away Nov. 3 at his home. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Edith, and three sisters, Sisters Mary, Bena and Louise, all of Morton.

Bro. Frank Dufelmeier (67) passed away Nov. 10. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Edna; two sons, Gerald of R R 1 Pekin Ill., and Dale, at home; a daughter, Mrs. Allan (Evelyn) Gebhard of Minneapolis.

Sis. Emma Rapp, 81, passed away Dec. 2. She is survived by three sisters, Sisters Lydia Pflederer, Kathryn Pflederer, Salome Rapp, all of Morton; and three brothers, Bro. Sam Rapp Jr. of Morton, Daniel of LaPorte, Ind.; and Andrew Rapp of Tucson.

Engagement was announced Nov. 26 of Bro. Dan Heinold of Goodfield and Sis. Carol Yentes of Morton. Parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mary Helen Heinold of Goodfield, and Sis. Esther and the late Howard Yentes of Morton.

We witnessed the wedding ceremony of Bro. Jon Zeller and Sis. Christine Mevering on Nov. 26. The parents are Sis. Norma and Henry Zeller and Ralph and the late Verelda Rocke Meyering, all of Morton.

Those sick or convalescing have been Sis. Rose Musselman, Bro. Frank Hofmann, and Sis. Francis Sauder.

We welcome Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Violette Funk and family to our congregation. They have moved here from Gridley Illinois.

Addresses: Pfc Roder Roeschley 342-40-4459, Imperial Colonnades, 8219 Perrin Beitel Rd Apt 307, San Antonio Texas 78218 . . . Pfc David L Frank 323 506 456, BKS 15 MATSG 90, NAS Memphis, Millington Tenn 38054.

PURDUE

Kris Leman

Bro. Vernon Schwab from Wolcott was our host for our Wednesday evening service Nov. 15. His inspiring message gave us much **food for thought**. We should always try to keep this in our thoughts: Run not before the Lord, but wait upon Him, and He shall direct your paths.

As Thanksgiving has come and gone, we find we have much to be thankful for every day that is granted us. We are especially

thankful for our new converts who are working or studying in our area—Alberta Schini, Lynell Bahler, Connie & Diane Schieler. We hope that you can experience **Thanksgiving** in your hearts all year long.

Leo, our regularly scheduled host for our Nov. 29 meeting was unable to come, so Bro. Earl Kilgus shared with us. We truly received a blessing from the word read to us from Matthew 25. It was brought very clearly to our attention the fact that we must gather the opportune oil of salvation today, for tomorrow is not promised. By putting forth an individual effort, God will grant us the essential fuel, grace, to keep our lamps burning until He comes.

ROANOKE

Doris Mangold — Erma Moser

In this joyous Christmas Season . . . remembering our dear Lord's birth, as He teaches us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The more you do unselfishly,
The more you live abundantly.
The more of everything your share.
The more you'll always have to spare;
The more you love, the more you'll find,
That life is good and friends are kind,
For only what we give away
Enriches us, from day to day.

Nov. 12 our Bible Class with their teachers spent a very enjoyable day in Remington.

The angels came and took little Matthew Sauder to his Heavenly Home. He was the 2-month-old son of Leslie and Pamela Rocke Sauder. He had one little sister, Michelle and grandparents are Mrs. Lawrence Rocke and Bro. Curtis and Sis. Edna Sauder.

Sis. Minnie Leman met with an accident and is hospitalized, hoping to return to her home soon.

Sis. Faye Fischer (Marvins) was a surgical patient in the hospital, but is home again with her family, after spending ten days there.

Nov. 19, after much prayerful thought by our congregation, we installed Bro. Kenny Knepp as our new minister. His wife is the former Judy Rokey, and his parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp. Also on this day we enjoyed many young brothers and sisters from the Milford and Francesville con-

gregation.

Nov. 22, Charles and Ella Beer Blunier celebrated 50 years of wedded life with an open house, which was attended by many friends and relatives.

Nov. 25, we spent a blessed evening hearing the testimonies of four young converts: Jan Hodel (Bro. Ben and Sis. Ruth Ann), Marg and Bill Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen), and Becky Hodel (Bro. Stan and Sis. Verna). . . Then another wonderful day on Sunday, with Bro. Elmer Bucher from Francesville serving us so faithfully. There were many young folks from neighboring churches worshipping and witnessing the baptismal services with us. Our Bro. Dan Fehr was home from service on a week-end pass.

Sisters Leah Moser and Jean Luginbuhl have been in the hospital, and we are happy to report they were able to return to their homes. Our elderly Bro. Andy Schumacher is in the Eureka Hospital for observation.

Guest ministers on Dec. 3 were Bro. Ed Frank from La Crosse and Bro. Nathan Stoller from Bradford. We thank them for their visit and hope they will come again. Announcement was made for these six dear souls to give their testimony of faith in the near future. Gary Blunier (Bro. Walt and Sis. Marion), Judy and Kathy Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Dorothy), John Huschen (Brach and June), Beverly Leman (Bro. Sam and Sis. Ann), Eileen Hohulin (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie). May God be with them in this most important step.

Sis. Ann Farny and Bro. Dick Hoffman were united in marriage by our Elder Bro. Gene Bertschi. May God bless them as they walk life's pathway together. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Marie Farney, and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Mary Hoffman are their parents.

Bro. Dan Fehr's new address: Pvt. Daniel C. Fehr, Galaxy Apartments Apt. 103, 103 Andrew St., San Antonio Texas 78209.

ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

How often have we complained that Christmas is too commercial? Is there one of us who has not bemoaned the holiday season as too hectic, too expensive . . .

And yet, as Christmas draws near, there comes with it a feeling,

a feeling that is not apparent at any time of the year. Although this feeling is itself a gift, it can't be wrapped nor traded for something else on Dec. 26. It's a gift meant especially for the heart.

This feeling is certain to start as you listen to the lovely words and melody to **Silent Night** and the familiar **Peace on earth, good will toward men**, and remember that Christ was born in a humble manger in the town of Bethlehem. The angels said that His salvation gave glory to God in the Highest—**THAT** salvation is God's highest glory. That true feeling of love, that's the magic of Christmas.

The love of God moved the two dear converts, Nancy Mangold and Karen Bahler, that they could give a good testimony in the presence of the member body and could be baptized. Their parents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold, and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Arline Bahler.

Bro. Richard and Sis. LeNae Aberle and family have moved to Cincinnati, where he will be engaged in his new undertaking of business. There were many expressions of regrets for them leaving here. May we still be bound in the love we enjoyed together.

Engagements were announced here of Bro. Sherman Lanz to Sis. Joan Ballasy, and Bro. Dennis Kurferschmid to Sis. Terry Kloter.

A little boy, Scott Edward, was born to Bro. Edward and Sis. Terry (Gottier) Mangold Nov. 20, their first child. Grandparents of the infant are Warren and Sis. Carol (Lanz) Gottier, and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha (Schneider) Mangold.

SABETHA
Mrs. Joe Steiner

We understand much of the nation had unusually wet weather this Fall. Very little harvesting was done here in November until the end of the month, due to the rain and snow. Since then, farmers have been busy, but were somewhat hindered by mud. Now with the current cold wave, they are working very hard to garner in all they can before it should snow again. There are a few snowflakes in the air at this writing. . .

We are reminded to work diligently to nourish that seed that has been planted in our hearts, that it may flourish and grow strong. . .

And we should feed on the word of our Lord and Saviour, that we may stand and be ready and waiting for the day when our Reaper shall come.

Bro. Leo Moser, Lester, and Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern, were here to assist Bro. Gene Marti in the provings and baptisms of Eric Huber, John and Cornelia Aberle. We welcome the three as our new brothers and sister in the Lord. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Charles Sauder—Tremont, Bro. Noah Gerber—West Bend, and Bro. Lloyd Kraft—Gridley, Kansas.

We are happy that two more souls have made a beginning on their journey to Zion. They are Judy and Jerome Hartter, daughter and son of Bros. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter.

Bro. Dan Steiner observed his 100th birthday on Nov. 18. His sons, Ray and family of Billings Montana, and Leon and family of Albert Lea, Minnesota, came to be with him on that day. They held an Open House at the Apostolic Christian Home so that his friends and relatives could come to meet him. Bro. Dan wishes to thank all the brethren and friends for their birthday greetings and well wishes.

TAYLOR
Mrs. Eli Sutter

We are fortunate to have the privilege of sitting under the sound of the gospel whenever we come to the house of worship, and then often neglect to tell our ministers and the visiting ministers how much we appreciate the effort they must put forth to proclaim the word to the needy, to bring comfort and admonition, and sow the seed that it may bring forth fruit.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Kenny Dietz, Bradford; Bro. Arnold Gerst and Bro. Lenny Meyer, Chicago.

Shon Haerr, 7-year-old son of Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally Haerr, fractured his elbow while playing. It is in a cast, and getting along nicely. Sis. Judy (Don) Feller submitted to major surgery and was quite ill for some time. She is now at home, slowly recuperating.

Sis. Emma Dee (Robert) Hoerr received an injury to her left hand, when it was caught in the auger as she was unloading corn from the truck. Her middle finger was amputated below the first joint, and the hand was badly bruised. It is

slowly healing, but still quite painful. Bonnie Plank also got her hand in an auger, which required some stitches to close the wound. Bonnie's mother was the former Barbara Hoerr.

Your reporter has also been a hospital patient for minor surgery. I am glad to be at home again and am feeling quite well.

The Sunday School pupils are practicing for the Christmas program to be given on Dec. 17.

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

Elder Bros. Paul Fehr and Leo Moser were with us this week-end, Saturday evening. We gathered together to hear the findings of the brotherhood conference. Words of advice, comfort, and warning were given to be accented where needed. It was especially laid upon our hearts the duty of bringing up our children. The members were admonished, encouraged, & hopefully appreciative, depending on individuals. Thank you dear brothers for sharing your time & efforts. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Sis. Emma Schmidt enjoys being able to assemble with her dear ones, after being absent for a time due to illness. Bro. Fred Messner is hospitalized in St. Paul, due to a heart condition.

Did we ever stop and realize at Christmas-time Santa Claus takes the attention away from the dear babe lying in manger and the reason He came to earth.

- God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;
- The warmth of Christmas, which is love;
- The radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
- The righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
- The belief in Christmas, which is truth;
- The ALL of Christmas, which is Christ!

BRADFORD
Rebecca Endress

Hearing the report of the 1972

Brotherhood Conference Sunday night at Princeville, I had a fervent prayer to go home and work harder on overcoming the faults I found. I am sure that all who are honest with themselves found something among the many subjects discussed that they needed to work on, as our elder brothers warned and encouraged us to better lives. How thankful we are that they remind us!

Bro. Henry Beer of Milford ministered to us one night during the week. On a Sunday, Bros. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna) and Everett Hari (Bloomington) brought us God's word. We thank all of you for spending time with us.

A fourth son was born to Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle Nov. 15. His name is Darrel Lyn (They also have two daughters). Sis. Mary Baurer (Tremont) and Sis. Julia Ehnle (Eureka Home) are Darrel's grandparents.

We were happy to see Dennis and Cheryl (Schlatter) Mangers Sunday, with their sweet little Douglas Lee, 5-weeks-old. They work and live near enough that they assemble with us whenever they can.

Bro. Herman Dietz is hospitalized as I write this. His diabetes has been causing trouble, and the doctors are trying to stabilize his condition again. Bro. Herman and Sis. Hilda and their daughter, Sis. Charlene, just recently moved into a home in Wyoming. Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz and family then moved from their rural Sparland home to the family homeplace at R. R. 3, Wyoming.

Bro. Sam Kieser underwent surgery at Mayo Clinic. He thanks everyone for remembering him during his surgery and recovery at Rochester.

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

SARASOTA Philip Wingeier

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We of the Sarasota Church want to thank Bro. Harry Sutter for coming to Sarasota and for his inspiring message. May God ever bless him for it all.

We were blest also with some much needed rain here in Sarasota. Now the sun is bright again, which

makes the fruit to ripen, also makes it golden-like, all by the hand of Almighty God. When we travel, we ever can see how the Lord blesses the earth with fruits and grain, which indeed gives us reasons always to be thankful . . . also for a Thanksgiving Day.

We now are approaching the Christmas season, wherein we are reminded anew of the birth of our Saviour, whom God Himself sent, to bring salvation to all mankind. It also is a very joyous time for all the children, who love to hear the way Jesus came and was born into this world.

We again extend our invitation to all who travel this way to come and worship with us. Place of worship. The Women's Club Building, located on the corner of Palm Ave. and Coconut St., one block off U.S. Highway 41 . . . time of service, 1:00 E.S.T.

SILVERTON Judith Knecht

Sis. Beth Anliker and granddaughter, Rubin, have left to make their home in Elgin, Illinois. It was so sad to see them leave, as we will miss them so very much. They leave behind many precious memories. May the Lord be ever with them.

WESTERN ILL. UNIVERSITY Mary Lynn Unsicker

On Dec. 6, Bro. Frances Rother, Morton, ministered to us from Genesis (chapters 6 and 9). He drew a comparison of the world today with the world at the time of the flood. As children of God we have a never-ending concern for the unbeliever—those who do not yet know Thee. We are many times discouraged, seeing how few truly serve Thee.

WICHITA Glennis Allenbach

Our Wichita church has voted to take on the responsibility of working out plans, both structurally and financially, toward the possibility of a new addition and remodeling of our existing church. Pray for us in this endeavor.

The Lord willing, Gail Grimm will give her testimony Dec. 17. Gail is the mother of Debbie Grimm, whom I wrote about in last month's **Silver Lining**. Gail had started repenting before Debbie's death and has had much consolation in this.

We have a new arrival in our congregation. Received with much love by his parents is Chad Steven Langhofer, son of Jeanne and Steve Langhofer.

BAY CITY Carolyn Schamback

Our congregation was blessed with messages from visiting ministers, Bro. Ernest Graf of Akron and Bro. Gary Maibach of Rittman.

Dave and Connie Sancraint are the parents of a new baby boy; Chad David is welcomed home by his sister, Kelly.

On Nov. 19, my marriage took place to Bro. Lee Schamback. My parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marian Knochel; Lee's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois of Croghan. We thank our loved ones for their many prayers and wishes for us.

Bro. Jerry Wieland was hospitalized for surgery; he is now home and doing fairly well.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Virgil and Shirley Funk

Communion was held on Nov. 8, with Elder Bro. David Kieser of Princeville assisting our elder, Dan Koch.

The engagement of Bro. Ralph Endress and Sis. Elza Stoller was announced on Thanksgiving morning. We wish them the Lord's blessing and guidance on this serious undertaking.

BREMEN Karen Feldman

We wish to thank all our visitors this past month, especially Ministering Bro. Ken Honegger and Elder Bro. Al Fisher. Bro. Al helped with the baptism and testimonies of our three dear friends: Richard Grew, Martha Kaehr and Cindy Suttor.

We were glad to welcome back Sis. Lydia Heuberger and Sis. Leah Souder (Henry), who has been ill such a long time.

An engagement was announced of Bro. Don Creamer to Sis. Judy Hackenjos of Altadena. God bless your forthcoming marriage.

A Blessed Christmas

The blessedness of Christmas is all wrapped up in the person of Jesus. Our relationship to Him determines the measure of our blessing. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

BURLINGTON, OKLAHOMA
Janice Frieden — Janice Springer

Elder Bro. Roy Farney was with us on Nov. 5, and it was a very blessed day. In the evening there was a supper and a singing held at the church. Although few were present, God was present and He's all we need.

We all were saddened by the passing of Bro. Eli Frieden of Kiowa on Nov. 13. He was always such a light to everyone and although his wish to go home to His Master has been granted, we will miss him very much. May God grant His comfort to Bro. Eli's family and friends.

Sis. Anna Miller was admitted to the hospital Thanksgiving Day.

Sam Ott, son of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Nelda Ott, was hospitalized for both mononucleosis and hepatitis, but he is now recuperating. Ministering Bro. Raymond Roth is now able to assemble with us again. We are thankful that God stood by him and brought him through these past few weeks. He has written this "thank you" note: "I would like to thank each one for their prayers, cards, letters, gifts, and visits and all the acts of kindness shown to me and my wife, Laverne, during my stay in a Wichita hospital and since I'm home. May God richly bless all of you here upon earth and in the kingdom to come."

GRIDLEY, ILL.
Dixie Ringger

We are rejoicing with our friend Jeanette Zimmermann (Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen) who has found the need for repentance. . . . And we are sorrowing with our friends Ken and Diane Kuerth, who lost their infant son, Jeffrey Alan, one-half hour following his birth.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria Wettstein welcomed little Rebecca Sue into their home and hearts on Oct. 28. Doug and Mark are Rebecca's brothers.

Bro. Don and Sis. Rozella Gramm were blessed with little Jill Louise, born Nov. 1. Sandy, Judy, Terri, Pam, and George are enjoying their new sister.

The Mortonaires sang several beautiful hymns for us at our monthly singing. We appreciate their efforts.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Gene Bertschi, Harold Gramm, Al Fisher and Maurice Frank.

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
(Muncie, Ind.)

Lynn M. Klopfenstein

We were grateful to have Bros. John Bollier (Leo) and Elmer Bucher (Francesville) here to minister unto us the month of October, Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) on Nov. 1; Bro. Ken Honegger (Fort Wayne) on Dec. 6. God has surely blessed and uplifted our hearts through such inspiring messages.

The Holy Spirit has truly been a guide, teacher and helper to each student, and may we ever be thankful unto the Lord. Tho' we are small in number, we really appreciate the time and effort our visitors have put forth to come and visit with us.

If you need directions or a schedule of our church meetings held at the Baptist House, 2117 Petty Rd. on the campus, please write Lynn Klopfenstein, Box 8, Leo Ind 46765.

Schedule: Jan. 17 Francesville, Jan. 31 Bluffton, Feb. 14 Ft. Wayne, Mar. 7 Leo, Mar. 21 Bluffton, April 4 Ft. Wayne, May 2 Francesville, May 16 Leo. Time: Wednesday nights 7:30.

FT. WAYNE

Mary Eisenmann — Marge Gerber

In a message by Bro. Merrill Laukuff of Latty we were reminded that salvation means making something from almost nothing. Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman, the morning service thus: "Just as the Lord wept over Jerusalem for the hardness of their hearts, so could we weep for our loved ones who have not committed themselves to the Lord". In our Thanksgiving service, Bro. Verlin spoke of the many dangers around us.

Our monthly singing in November was held at Bremen in conjunction with the Bremen congregation in a Thanksgiving program. The Ft. Wayne choir enjoyed an evening of song and fellowship with the Milford brethren at their Fellowship Center. We truly thank these brethren and friends for their love and hospitality which we know are blessings sent from God. We would also thank Bro. Jack Bollier of Leo for his visit and message.

Roger Stoller, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Minerva, completed his service with the Marines in October

and is living in 29 Palm, California.

We were happy to have two of our service boys with us while home on leave: Don Steffen, son of Bro. Luther and Sis. Helen, has a 4-week leave and reports back to San Diego to his ship, the USS Constellation, several days before Christmas. Wade Stoller, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Minerva, accompanied by his father, spent several days with his brother, Roger, before returning home last Saturday after completing his boot training at San Diego. He reports Dec. 15 for Aeronautic Mechanical School at Memphis, Tennessee.

Our Christmas program is being planned for Sunday evening, Dec. 17.

Morton

A Tribute To Sue, Our Angel
On Earth

Written by a roommate
of Sue Jacob

It makes me sad that someone so good should leave. . .
She leaves this sad world and makes it a little darker.
I can still see her smiling and I feel like I may see her coming down the hall any minute. . . .
Perhaps all the good she did made her deserving earlier than the rest of us.
She was better than the world
Her love for mankind was overflowing
And her mind and heart were pure.
To be as good as she is a high goal for us all.
To learn what she knew well—that life is to be lived to the fullest, And the fullest is to be full of love. Love for everyone and peace in your heart.
I thank the Lord for letting her be a friend of mine,
And I pray that I can learn her ways.
Life is bound to have its ups and downs
But what about death?
For some, it's all down —straight down,
But for others like Sue, it's all up,
Up, up, up to the very highest height
Right up to the feet of Jesus Himself.
She always said, "Won't it be great to see Him."

Dale Wiegand
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Her smile was her year long dress.
Never have I seen her mad or sad. .
I've never heard anyone who could
say anything against her.
No matter who, she was their
friend.

The vilest person always found a
smile on her face and in her
ways.

Her death is not death,

Oh, no, far from it!

Her life is now begun

Her smiling face is still smiling

And her sunshine is still beaming,
warming her corner of heaven.
May we all shine brighter to fill the
void left here so heaven can be
that much brighter.

Let us all learn that life is short,
And let us know what the impor-
tant things are.

For there is only a little time to ac-
complish much.

The Lord giveth and the Lord tak-
eth away,

Blessed be the name of the Lord!
There is a purpose and we will one
day see clearly,

The sorrow is for us because of our
loss, not hers.

Farewell, my sister,

Your Master calls,

I will meet you on the shore at the
setting of my sun.

Moving? Drop a card, Tell both old
and new address.

LIFE IN THE SPACIOUS MANSION

Henry Souder Jr.

The most beautiful emotions
enrapture the heart in heaven.

Well should we expect it, for
there is none other than God Him-
self and our Lord. We should re-
member that to us belong the short-
comings and ups and downs. God is
perfect all the time in love, in joy,
in meaning what He says.

There is a place for His throne
. . . a temple, a house of vast dimen-
sions. Look in His word. Jesus said,
"In my Father's house are many
mansions". In that house there are
many places to live. Don't it make
you feel good? In another chapter,
Jesus said, "If any man serve me,
let him follow me; and where I am,
there shall also my servant be . . ."

What is life? On the visual hori-
zon, life is what breathes. In and
out. It takes part in what men call
living. Action, thinking. It has its
prizes, success and comforts.

What really is life? The one God
talks about? When the body ceases
to breathe, it dies. That's the way
with the spirit. To be raised to life
is real. God breathes His Spirit in
us. We live the way He does, now.
We think His thoughts, dream His
dreams, love in His love. Better yet
is coming: "and to die is gain."
". . . to be with Christ; which is
far better".

God is love. We know the beauti-
ful treasures here that belong to
His perfect love. There, where we
come face to face with the God who

is perfect in love, what must it be?
Everything we do not do, or fall
short of doing, in verses such as
I Corinthians 13, brings a cloud.
Perfect love, after the last heart
beat, expressed in His face to face
smile is going to be wonderful.

His total compassion radiates
and glows unimpeded in the pres-
ence of our loved ones. It expresses
itself in love's perfect freedom. No
fear, none of any kind, small or big.
The last misgiving, the last care,
the last worry, gone. This love,
warm, comfortable, ever-after, has
magnetic power. We know its vic-
tories now, but then it is final:
"There is no fear in love; but per-
fect love casteth out fear . . ."

There is joy from the heart of
the Father. It must roll and ring
like a mighty anthem. We gain en-
trance into those beautiful feelings
in such verses as Luke 15, and in
the Spirit. "I say unto you, that
likewise joy shall be in heaven over
one sinner that repenteth . . ."
"Likewise, I say unto you, there is
joy in the presence of the angels of
God over one sinner that repen-
teth." When the prodigal son came
home, the whole house reverberated
in God's happiness.

Such is the heart of the Father,
a beautiful heart. He is of perfect
joy, not just marshalling up the
thoughts or words. Nor half-
hearted. His face beams with glori-
ous joy for His lost son coming

home. The saints are there. Jesus
is at His right hand, and they are
with Jesus. That joy they feel and
rejoice in.

There is singing there, singing
like in a dream. There's service in
praise. Our hearts will well up in
undreamed delight.

There's Rest. "There remaineth
therefore a rest to the people of
God." Rest is a complete ceasing
from what has been work before.
Living don't cease, but it blos-
soms into the real reaches of ever-
lasting happiness. We settle down.
dwell in God's Rest.

In Galations 6 is another won-
derful promise: "he that soweth to
the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap
life everlasting." We're not going
to be alone in those everlasting
days . . . God is going to be ever
supplying His ceaseless supply.
How much does that hold! Reaping
of the Spirit, and without end.

There's glorious things we can-
not yet know. How about this
verse? "How that he was caught
up into paradise, & heard unspeak-
able words, which it is not lawful
for a man to utter." What are
those words about? What great
things await? What awaits will
reach our fondest imaginations,
and go far beyond.

Be willing to take up His cross
this day. Our present light tribu-
lation works a far more and eter-
nal weight of glory!