



And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Be ye not unequally

yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

VOLUME 24

DECEMBER 1973

NUMBER 3

It is Christmas all the time in God's heart, and He desires to have all His children abide in Him . . . to keep them. He wants the wandering one to recover from the snare. Are we happy in yearning and giving, shining in His word?

EMMANUEL

Willis R. Ehnle

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

"Why do we worship Christ? why do we trust in Him?" I asked myself. Is it because he was a wonderful person?" Other human beings have lived noble lives. Others also have suffered and died when they might have escaped. We worship Him because He is the Son of God, and He died for us that we might be redeemed from our imperfect state.

Christ left many valuable teachings as to how to live in this life. Christ performed many miracles to help the suffering and despondent.

We worship Christ because He is the Son of God. It is through Christ that God came to be with us, for one of His names is "Emmanuel," meaning "God with us."

When God came to be with us in the person of Christ, it was necessary that a way be found which would permit God to be among us in our own human form, but without that certain undesirable something which we call sin. He would not be in any position to make an atonement for others if He, Himself, were in the same wretched condition. It was absolutely necessary. Christ was born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is the Son of God, altogether worthy of our praise and worship,

simply for His existence as the Son of God, regardless of any additional reason we might have for worshipping Him.

Wherein lies our proof that all this is true? In the resurrection! Death could not hold Him, for He is God. Without the resurrection, the Christmas story would be insignificant and forgotten. He appeared to many after His resurrection, that there might be an abundance of witnesses. He is the Son of God, and therefore we worship Him whether He be in the manger, in the carpenter shop, on the shores of Galilee, on the cross, on the road to Emmaus, or at the right hand of God the Father.

He is worthy of all honor.

BLESSED SEASON

The real Christmas is understood in the beauty of another Season also. Listen to Bro. Aaron Sauder of Mansfield:

As we draw near the Easter season, in which we are reminded of the suffering and death of Jesus, the Son of God, we are very glad and thankful that He did not remain in death and the tomb, but triumphantly arose, now sits at the right hand of God, as our high priest and mediator. Let us not only think of this at this season, but let us ever be mindful of this blessed event, which brought for us salvation, and strive daily to prove our love and appreciation to God by being obedient to our dear Lord and His holy word, and serve Him every day. Jesus said, not everyone who saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall inherit everlasting life, but he who doeth the will of my Heavenly Father.

May this be the lot of each, that not one may miss entering into that eternal rest and glory, for it is not the will of God that one soul should perish eternally, but that each one should turn to God and seek their soul's salvation, while Jesus is tenderly calling . . . and inviting all to come unto Him.

THIS MIND

Christmas should be at all seasons. In the loving warm house, it is Christmas continually. Listen to these words submitted by Jean Scheitlin, Elgin.

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"

This mind, full of mercy, love and patience . . . Never whines and moans, Never is discouraged . . . It does not gossip; It never voices angry, cutting words. It has words of courage for those who need such.

This mind recognizes no enemies, . . . It is not self seeking, knows no pride . . . It does not look for flaws and faults; It is not complaining. . . . It never hates nor seeks revenge; . . . With faith and resolution this mind resists temptations.

This mind never worries, frets and fumes; . . . It does not doubt the power of God. It believes in the promises of God; . . . It does not condemn or judge fellowmen . . . It denies no possibility to man . . . Let this mind be in you, which also was in Christ Jesus.

The Real, Real Christmas . . . all year long . . . tomorrow if we leave, and on and on forever, in the land of dream's delights.

Oh the real, real Christmas is

so bright and gay, It makes one feeling happy in a loving sort of way . . . That real, real Christmas in the old-fashioned day Goes on and on forever in heaven's glad way.

Now you don't have to wait a week, month or day, Nor think of Santa's coming in a fanciful way, For this real, real Christmas is wondrously bright and gay In the good old-fashioned joy of the heavenly ray.

Now the world holds to its way, blaring and trite, Its gaiety and laughter that is outward sight, Its

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor: Henry Souder Jr.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America

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

News Correspondent: Ed Souder

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

Second class postage paid at Grabill, Indiana 46741.

Amt. suggested for a year, \$2.00.

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

pleasure-filled love and its sin-thronged night, But for me it's only God's way, and its good and right.

Now the real, real Christmas has rapturous, real light, Familiar faces waiting in that land so rich and bright; Treasures there are smiling, and there is no night. The real, real Christmas is my heart's delight.

The editor.

Christmas . . . The saddest thing ever is one who dies in darkness . . . no real joy, bright merriment gone forever.

Congerville

The Spirit once came to a teenage youth
In a pleading and tender tone:
Dear little one, let me come into your heart
And make it forever my own.
Oh Spirit, he said, please go away,
For I am so young and so eager for play.
Some other day, some other day,
Then, oh Spirit, I'll ask you to stay.

The Spirit returned to the stalwart young man
With an earnest and a fervent plea:
The heart is just ready; there's work to be done.
Make haste; come follow me.
"Oh Spirit," he said, "please go away,
For the pleasures of earth hold me now in their sway.
Some other day, some other day,
Then I promise I'll ask you to stay."

The Spirit pleaded thus with the middle-aged man:
Make haste while God's grace shall last.
The years are adorning with silver thy brow;
There's danger, for much time is past.
"Oh Spirit," he said, "Please go away,
For I am so tired and too weary to pray.
Some other day, some other day,
Then, oh Spirit, I'll ask you to stay."

The aged man leaned on a trembling staff
With a weary burdened cry,
"I've wasted a lifetime in sin,"

He groaned, "and now I'm going to die."

The Spirit, long slighted, has gone away.

There's no time for parting; there's no time to pray.

Nothing can keep the child of God from rejoicing in the real Christmas, at any time. In the hospital, suffering, being shut-in, the glow and the light of the real Christmas is there. Look at the things that really count . . . And give yourself in prayer . . . that is wonderful, worthwhile giving.

Taylor

I needed the quiet, so He drew me aside,
Into the shadows where we could confide,
Away from the bustle, where all the day long
I hurried and worried when active and strong.

I needed the quiet, though at first I rebelled,
But gently, so gently, my cross He upheld,
And whispered so sweetly of spiritual things.
Then weakened in body, my spirit took wings
To heights never dreamed of when active and gay.
He loved me so greatly He drew me away.

I needed the quiet, no prison my bed,
But a beautiful valley of blessing instead,
A place to grow richer, in Jesus to hide.
I needed the quiet, so He drew me aside.

A beauty of enduring Christmas is being grateful.

Remington

Give Thanks

For all that God in mercy sends,
For health and children, home and friends,
For comfort in the time of need,
For every kindly word and deed,
For happy thoughts and holy talk.
For guidance in our daily walk,
For everything give thanks!

Each morning we should ask for the beautiful Christmas outlook . . . Each evening may be a Christmas eve . . . Life is beautiful . . . remember who gives all to richly enjoy. Let every day be thanksgiving.

Forrest

Oh, God of hope and harvest
Who gives our daily bread,
Again at this thanksgiving
We bow a grateful head.
Though corn and grain is gathered
In quite a different way,
We echo with our heartbeats
That first Thanksgiving Day.

We thank thee, God, for planting
That little pilgrim band,
And testing it with hardship
In this untested land;
For sowing with those seedlings
Ideals both strong and just,
That caused an infant nation
To breathe, In God we trust.

We thank thee, God, for giving
The fruits of faith again,
From fields of love and tillage,
From trust in Thee and men.
Oh God of hope and harvest,
Hear us who humbly pray
And thank Thee for thy blessing
On this Thanksgiving Day.

God's hands are busy hands. Every true task may be done for Jesus. We are working in a beautiful Workshop.

Union City

Happiness is possible only when one is busy. The body must toil, the mind must be occupied, and the heart must be satisfied. Those who do good as opportunity offers are sowing seed all the time, and they need not doubt the harvest.

How can we put infirmity of body, crippled hands or feet and other like things, in with Christmas joy? Knowing where are the wings. God knows. We can be happy, exceedingly joyful when we ride His way. His doings, the ones He has in mind for us, can be done. His whole program fits perfectly. Listen to how one person did.

Alto

Fanny Crosby, the author of this poem, would repeat it to herself

when she was troubled. It gave her much comfort; it, too, can help us. She was blind. But she was never sorry or discouraged. She said, "If at birth I had been able to make one petition to my Creator, it would have been that I could be born blind." Her reasoning was, "Because, when I go to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Saviour."

Some day the silver cord will break
And I no more as now shall sing,
But O the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—saved by grace.

Christmas Day must come to an end.
The Zion's Harp words go, **Night will find us sweetly resting.** When we come to the end of this life, our Christmas eve for eternity, evening is rich and beautiful in His blessings.

Princeville

When shadows grow long in the evening
When birds wing their way back home,
I get a heavenly feeling.
It's sunset, and I'm going home.

God paints the clouds in the evening sky
To show me the way to the palace on high,
And stars mark the pathway lest my feet should roam.
It's sunset, and I'm going home.

FRANCESVILLE

Mrs. Herman (Chris) Wuethrich
Mrs. Otto Wuethrich

Serve The Lord With Joy

Eighteen dear, precious, loving souls were baptized, and are now serving the Lord with joy. The much appreciated elders (and minister) who helped our dear elder, Wendell on these joyous days were Alfred Bahler, Sam and Walter Anliker, Ed Hohulin, Ed Ringger, Ed Frank and our long loved oldest elder brother, George Yergler.

Now we would like to give you the names of our new liebe (loving) sisters and brothers in faith. The oldest is 80-year-old Lizzie Wenger . . . then Charles and Margaret Anliker, Elaine Anliker, Jill and Jenna Getz, Bev Krulick, Kent Erb, Candice Wuethrich, Mary Bucher, Ar-

lene Leman, Dave Metzger. John Huber, Bobbie Wuethrich, Marsha Gutwein, Ken Wuethrich, Dale Gudeman, Jonie Gutwein. These have all prayed, cried and smiled with the elders and other loved ones.

The member parents of the converts are: Bro. Ben and Sara Anliker, Keith and Doris Getz, George and Elaine Erb, Richard and Nola Wuethrich, Elmer and Peg Bucher, Sidney and Ferne Leman, Eugene and Mildred Huber, Bob and Phyllis Wuethrich, Jim and Marion Gutwein, Chris Lee and Ruth Wuethrich, Willis and Margaret Gudeman and Harold and Maxine Gutwein. These dear fathers and mothers say it does something for their homes and brings the whole church closer together.

I would like to give the new converts and everybody words that were printed many years ago on a Christmas Greeting, by my dear departed father . . .

A Saviour Is Born

. . . Again we are impressed with the realization of how very much the whole world needs Christ today. How much we all need Him. His hands are full of blessings for those who will receive Him. In weakness He is our strength; in suffering He is our consolation. Yes, for each of us, He is the way of truth and of life. His teachings are the only solution to the world's problems. His way is the only guarantee of true peace, between nation and nation, and between man and man.

The New Year

I am the New Year. I am unused, unspotted, without blemish. I stretch before you . . . I will present each day in its turn, a new leaf . . . for you to place upon it your imprint. It remains for you to make of me what you will; if you can write good things done, my pages will be a joy to look upon when the next new year comes. I am the New Year, white and pure; it remains for you to fill them with love, hope, patience and faith in God.

Only one life, and will some day be past, only what we do for Christ will last.

In Christian love to everyone.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Kayleen Heiniger
Eunice Schupbach

May the blessing of God attend thee; may the sun of glory shine around thee; and may the gates of plenty, honor and happiness be ever open to thee! This is our prayer and wish for our Bro. Melvin Sorg and his new bride, formerly Sis. Lenora Stoller of Ft. Wayne, who were united in marriage on November 4.

Cara Nussbaum, daughter of the Eldon Nussbaums, had the opportunity to give testimony of her faith in Peoria on Nov. 24, and was baptized the following day.

Bro. Stan Vogel submitted to minor surgery, and we are happy to report that he is feeling much better again.

We all extend our sympathy to Sis. Margaret Maurer and her family in the loss of her father, Bro. Henry Dill of the Tremont congregation. Since her mother passed away so recently, we know she feels this loss very keenly, but can look forward with calm assurance that she will meet them again in heaven.

On Nov. 18 and 25, we held our Sunday services at the Stevenson School, since our regular meeting-place was not available on those dates. How thankful we will be when we will have a place of our own to assemble for worship. Our building is progressing ever so slowly it seems, but probably because we are all so eager to see the building in its final stages.

WEST BEND

Mrs. Melvin Fehr
Mrs. A. Banwart

With our cool, rainy weather comes a feeling of sadness which we share with the Alvia Meyer family, three of which are in our congregation.

Showers of Blessings are in order for the Arnold Metzger family, as their daughter, Ione, has announced her engagement to Linden Venhuizen.

Our only serviceman is David Schneider, son of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella. We are thankful that David is stationed in the States, which enables him to assemble with us frequently.

Seeds of goodness were sown plentifully by visiting elders, Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa, and

Bro Silas Leuthold of Princeville. May good fruits show forth from their labors.

May we pray for those less fortunate than us, as our Sis. Katie Dogotch remains in the hospital with slow improvement. We are happy to report, Bro. George Sauder's hospital stay was short, and he's able to be back to work.

ROCKVILLE Carlton J. Lanz

The Miracle of Christmas

It never, never grows old. Untold millions have had a chance to look into it and celebrate over the past nearly 2000 years. Then hope and love descended over the beautiful plains of Bethlehem. An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, bringing tidings of great joy: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." They followed the star to the lowly manger. The Child born therein would cast His Light across the world and across the centuries, even into our Western culture and lives, bringing the promise of eternal life to all who will keep the miracle of Christmas.

Each year, as the Christmas season approaches, we look forward to a renewing of this, with its softening and forgiving effect. We gather together with our families. Our hearts glow with joy and special warmth, as we remember our friends, and the blessings and privileges of life we have in a Christian nation.

Let us by our actions and deeds pray for our leaders, both at the nation's and church level. The struggle for peace and freedom cannot be won without prayer and sacrifice.

Let us not be hasty in our condemnations or unfounded charges. Christ was convicted of false charges. He was being murdered, yet cried, **Forgive.**

May the joyous spirit of Christmas remain with all our readers of the Silver Lining throughout the coming year.

ROANOKE

Doris Mangold — Erma Moser

As we approach the Christmas season, we think of the birth of Christ on that silent night. Some-

day this Babe of Bethlehem will come again in majesty, and those for whom the Saviour died will reign with Him eternally.

We were saddened and shocked by the sudden passing of our dear Sis. Anna Sauder (John). She will be missed by all, especially her family: Mrs. Edith Miller of Kansas; Merle, Sis. Mabel Getz of Eureka; Bros. Curt, Bill and John of Roanoke. Funeral services were held by local ministers. Burial was in the church cemetery.

We are happy to report that Sis. Bina Bertsch, Bro. Ben Fischer, Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Sis. Leah Moser are home, after a stay in the hospital. Those who have had surgery and returned home are: Sis. Emma Bowald, Sis. Malinda Gerber and Bro. Warren Hodel. Laurie Fischer, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Frances, has been confined to her home with mono, but is able to return to school.

Thanksgiving Day, we were blessed by the message brought to us by visiting ministers, Raymond Roth of Kiowa and Edwin Bahler of Remington.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehrs' daughter Carrie was married to Randy Ferrero, on Nov. 18 by Bro. Don Sauder, at the home of the bride. Glen and Carol Martin were married at the Apostolic Christian Fellowship Hall at Bluffton, Nov. 24. Glen is the son of Bro. Orval and Sis. Priscilla. Also on the 24th, Ed Blunier and Chris Wilson were united in marriage at the Fellowship Hall in Peoria by Bro. Gene Bertschi. Ed's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Annabelle.

Many young people from the Illinois churches spent the evening of the 18th in song service and fellowship here, as guests of the Roanoke Bible class.

It was a blessed privilege to witness the testimony and baptism of a dear soul, Sandy Barth, daughter of Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Linda Harris are the happy parents of a new baby girl, Dawn Kristy. Todd and Jana welcome baby sister, too.

TUCSON

Mrs. Donald Bauer
Mrs. Loren Knapp

Some light showers occurred, cleansing the valley of its smog and settling a lot of dust (which seems to contribute to many bronchial

illnesses and the flu). If we have patience, the Lord will provide our needs.

A post-wedding reception was held in our Fellowship Hall for Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk. Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Belsley of Eureka announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Betsy to Bro. Loren Schrenk, son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Ora Schrenk of Tucson.

The Bible Class and others from the church sang for the residents at the Medi-Center. It was greatly appreciated. All are looking forward to Christmas caroling there and for many other shut-ins who might enjoy it. As the Christmas season arrives and passes, we must stop and think of all the rich gifts and blessings we've received from our God. Although this seems to be the time of giving, why not try giving of ourselves every month in one way or another. I'm sure we can receive even richer blessings this way.

Our annual business meeting was held. The following brothers were elected to new duties: Bros. Rudi Bertschi, Trustee; Loren Schrenk Brotherhood Aid; Glen Funk, Missionary Fund. Also elected was Sis. Gloria Bauer to assist with the Silver Lining.

Visiting minister was Bro. John Klotzle of Altadena.

Friend Bill Griener, who recently returned from a trip to Germany, was seriously injured in an auto mishap. He is slowly on his way to recovery; he will be at St. Joseph Hospital for some time yet. Sis. Grace Haller has again been hospitalized. Her condition seems to be fairly satisfactory.

A tho't for the shut-ins:

Someday He'll make it plain to me,
Someday when I his face shall see.
Someday from tears I shall be free,
For someday I shall understand.

WOLCOTT

Marjean Lehman — Arles Kropf

Some Searching Year-End Questions

Have I grown in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ? . . . Do I know my Bible better now than I did last year? . . . Have I spent much time praying for others? . . . How many

orphans, widows, aged, bereaved, discouraged, afflicted and poor have I visited during the year? . . . How far and effectively have I helped spread the Gospel of Christ by giving away Bibles, Testaments, Gospels, etc.? . . . To what extent have I witnessed to others of the Lord's power . . . In what spirit have I received the destructive, as well as the constructive criticism? . . . Have I spoken or written words of comfort, help, and encouragement to others?

It has been shown to us here that truly the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away—blessed be the name of the Lord. On Nov. 18, twin girls, Kaylene Sue and Kristie Kay were born to Bro. Irvin and Sis. Shirley Furrer, but the Lord saw best to take little Kayleen Sue unto Himself at birth. Surviving besides her parents and twin sister are another sister, Melissa Jane, and grandparents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emily Anliker of Francesville and Sis. Emma Furrer of here.

A blessed day was enjoyed on Nov. 25 with visiting ministers, Merle Laukauf of Latty and Sam Schlatter of Junction bringing us the word and many timely admonitions.

Several from here attended the World Relief meeting at Francesville and appreciated hearing of the work being done to help others who are in need.

My mother, Sis. Emma Kropf, who now lives at Fairview Haven, Fairbury, wishes to express her thanks for cards, letters and visits she has received, and welcomes mail and visits anytime.

CONGERVILLE

Linda Knapp — Arlene Banwart

"We as ministers humbly beg your support, for where would we be without your prayers? Because the people in Jesus own country didn't believe in Him, He couldn't do many mighty works there." (This was mentioned by one of our visiting ministers.) Our prayers are with our new minister, Bro. Vernon Wettstein and his wife Sis. Judy. Our thanks to our visiting ministers: Josh Broquard (Fairbury), Leroy Huber (Eureka), Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) and Joe Braker (Morton) and Charles Sauder (Tremont.)

For God so loved the world is

the theme of the Sunday School Christmas Program on Dec. 19. Following is from a poem recited by one class:

Oh the love of God is stronger
Than the greatest rockets are!
It can take us all to heaven,
Far above the highest star.

Yes, the love of God is broader
Than the greatest plans of man,
For it reaches every person,
Lifting all as none else can.

Oh the love of God is sweeter
Than the sweetest song we know!
For it sets the joy bells ringing,
Makes the saddest face to glow.

Oh the love of God lasts always!
It shall never fade away.
Though the world shall fall to
pieces,
It will always, always stay.

We welcome Friends Bob and
LeAnn Siegle from Wenona.

Sandra, daughter of Bro. Jake
and Sis. Marion Miller, was married
to Herbie Chang. They are residing
in Normal.

Sis. Marion Miller was in the hospital for a few days. Sis. Tillie Sauder is still hospitalized, due to a fall. Bro. Lyle Steffen fell and was hospitalized for a short time. Bro. Roger Miller had the misfortune of accidentally being shot in the foot.

Sometimes older people wonder why they continue to live while bedfast. They are often living testimonies and an encouragement to us younger ones.

A brother once said, "I can forgive, but it's so hard to forget." This is human nature . . . But God says **Thy sins and iniquities will I remember no more.** We need to try more for God's image.

If you take the word love out of the Bible, you wouldn't have the word of God, for God is love. We have so much to be thankful for. May the love of God abide with everyone.

In memory of our mother, Sis. Elizabeth Hartter, who passed away a year ago:

There's a memory trail that winds
away
To a garden all in bloom;

Neath the starlit sky there's a dear
old home,
With a cheery-lighted room.
There's a face that's dearer than
all the world,
And a smile that ne'er will fail,
And a mother we love awaits for us
At the end of the memory trail.
Her children

EUREKA

Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher

A Blessed Christmas to all the readers of Silver Lining and Christian Greetings from your humble reporters.

Visitors were: Robert Beer—Mansfield, Don Sauder—Roanoke, Joshua Broquard—Fairbury, Edmond Kloter—Fairbury.

Engagement—Sis. Mary Beth Belsley (Betsy) and Bro. Loren Schrenk from Arizona. Her folks are Bro. and Sis. William and Helen Belsley.

Birth: A son, Kent Allen, born Nov 14 to Bro. and Sis. Ed and Donna Kupferschmid. Kent has a brother and sister.

Proving was Saturday evening Nov. 17 for George and Thelma Saathoff. They were baptized the next day. Bro. Joshua assisted Bro. Leroy Huber. We rejoice to have them as our brother and sister in faith. They moved to Eureka from Fairbury several months ago. Another couple is seeking the Lord in repentance. They are Charles and Mary Mangold. He is the son of the late Bro. David Mangold.

All of the following were hospital patients since the last writing: Sis. Marjorie Stoller (Bro. Melvin's wife), surgical, in Brokaw Hospital; Sis. Nima Zimmerman, surgical, in Methodist Hospital; Bro. Richard Frank, a hospital patient. Sis. Lavonne Wagonbach, (Bro. Simon Wagonbach Jr.'s wife) was in the hospital a few days.

Daryl Blunier, son of Bro. and Sis. Lewis and Clara, is a medical patient in Methodist Hospital.

Bro. Joe Klaus has returned to his home, after a long stay in the hospital following his accident.

In a very short time another year will be beginning and we never know what is before us. Only God knows.

Hold on to God's unchanging hand
No matter where you go;
Relinquish not your trust in Him,

Tho' weakened by the foe.
 May God's eternal leadership
 Our stronghold ever be,
 Oh strengthen, Lord, our faith and
 hope
 For what we cannot see.

In a sermon, we were reminded to ask the Lord to increase our faith, so that we may grow stronger in faith and believe in those things we do not now see, but hope to some day.

Hours for Apostolic Christians Publications now located at Eureka: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday Evening 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Other times by appointment. Phone 467-3611. If no answer, call Alvina V. Rocke, 467-2518.

FAIRBURY
Joyce Huber

. . . Faith, Hope, and Charity, but the greatest of these is charity. I Cor. 13 lists the attributes of charity. The Christmas season is here, when our hearts are turned more to charity . . . to the spirit of love and giving, the great attribute of God, who loved us and gave us His Son, Jesus, born centuries ago. Jesus is the same today, alive, going about doing miracles.

We are sorry Mrs. Joe (Thelma) Slagel is in the hospital in Bloomington, but rejoice for her faith in taking the Lord Jesus as her Saviour.

Bro. Fred Feldman has returned from a long hospital stay in Chicago, but has entered the Fairbury Hospital. Sis Martha Maier is out again, having been hospitalized from an accident.

We enjoyed visiting ministers: Bob Pohl, Robert Beer, Raymond Roth, and Andy Virkler.

There are many things being planned this month for remembering the less fortunate and the shut-ins, and in giving of ourselves for others.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS
Edna Somerhalder—Wilma Young

And 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.

As we observe the anniversary of our dear Saviour's birth, may we show our appreciation with re-

newed efforts to follow His footsteps more closely.

We welcome Sis. Caroline Lehman, formerly of Lamar, to our congregation. She came to live with Sis. Leona Kraft, her sister.

Brian Kraft, little son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine, shows improvement after taking cobalt treatments. He has taken 18 of the 25 prescribed treatments. All share the joy of his improvement. . . .

Thank you: We wish to express our thanks to everyone who sent cards, letters and gifts to Brian and us. We are especially grateful for the prayers, for they have truly been a comfort and help. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft.

The Lord willing, we plan extensive remodeling in our sanctuary, perhaps more. Bros. Eldon Metzger, Roy and Rudy Bahr have been appointed as a building committee. May the Lord add His blessing.

Visiting ministers: Samuel Anliker, Samuel Huber and Roy Wernli. We received many words of admonition concerning these latter days.

World Relief meetings began in November. We gather in the church basement, on the second Tuesday of the month . . . a place for fellowship with friends and brethren, while working for a worthy cause.

LATTY

LeAnn Laukhuf — Carol Sinn

We had a very nice surprise on Nov. 4, when Ministering Bro. Walter Anliker (Eureka) spent the afternoon with us. We enjoyed his message.

The Bible Class sang for the congregation at our monthly singing.

Our young group was host to several visitors from Elgin, Iowa, and Eureka, Ill., on the 24th and 25th. How fortunate we are to fellowship with those of like minds, even from such far distances.

Bro. William Eisenmann (Sis. Lillian) is in the hospital, suffering from a stroke.

As the Christmas season is here, may we all remember the true meaning and thank the Lord for His wonderful plan of salvation.

The Christmas stars are gleaming
 In distant skies tonight,
 But one alone is beaming
 With a distinctive light.

The star that led the Wise Men,
 That led and guided them
 Upon that midnight journey,
 The Star of Bethlehem . . .

And so we have our Christmas,
 A day of kindly thought,
 Of peace and lovingkindness,
 That Christ's sweet presence
 brought.

MINNEAPOLIS
Kathryn Olson

Several of our Minneapolis group visited the family of Alvia Meyers, to share with them some of the hours he spent in the burn center of the Ramsey Hospital, after his serious accident. His death was a shock to all his family; our deepest sympathy goes out to them.

Those that visited Sophie Sika-pharija brought good news, she was much improved compared to previous visits. Her patient, happy smiles welcomes anyone wishing to call on her.

PRINCEVILLE
Ruth Ricketts

Each day's sunset gives one less day to live, but one more day to remember.

A pleasant week-end was enjoyed by the young folks in the Bible Class. A nice group of young folks, teachers and parents from West Bend spent the week end with us on Nov. 10 and 11. This same Sunday, Bros. Vernon Schwab of Wolcott and Vernon Leman of Eureka were guest ministers. How wonderful to have the bond of love, in faith walk by the grace of God, and all hope to gain our reward.

Early on the morning of Nov. 16, Bro. Chris Martin quietly passed into eternity. He had been in failing health for several years, the past few months quite ill and unable to worship with us. He had been in the hospital for five weeks, before going to the AC Home in Peoria, where he spent only two weeks. Christian was born Jan. 6, 1900, in Morton, a son of Christian and Marie Rassi Martin. He married Sis. Bessie Streitmatter, who survives. Also surviving are four sons all of our congregation: Ervin, Bro. Nathan, Bro. Ellsworth and Gerald; five daughters, Alice Metzger of West Bend, Sis. Janet Schubert of Peoria, Doris Michel of Morton, and Sisters Arlys and Arlene at home; four sisters, Sisters Martha Hem-

mer. Mary Scholl, Louise and Hulda of Princeville.

Bro. Chris taught Sunday School for many years, and taught many children the Bible truths and respect for God's House. Bro. Joe Stoller, who was taught by Bro. Chris, and Bro. Leroy Ehnle of Bradford, who spent many pleasant hours in the Martin home, conducted services on Sunday, Nov. 18, with our other local ministers assisting. Bro. Joe read the song "The Holy Land", as Chris often selected that song in Sunday School. **There is a land exceeding fair Where joy and peace remain . . .**

For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Thanksgiving was a beautiful sunny day, just as it was four years ago when we assembled in our new house of worship for the first time. We were privileged to have Bro. LeRoy Huber from Eureka with us. An earnest meditation upon the Lord's Prayer was a fitting thought. We truly have so many things to be thankful for each day.

Bro. Emil Lauber is still very weak and ill, but has been moved from the hospital to the Apostolic Christian Church Home in Peoria. Our friend, Louis Baer has been at home the past few weeks, but is very sick. His condition is gradually weakening.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Alphy Meyer, who died as a result of severe burns. Sis. Doreen Meyer and Mary Lou Streitmatter and family worship with us, and their father has been in our midst several times.

We were all saddened to hear of the illness and passing of dear Frieda Kieser, on Nov. 29. She was the youngest daughter of Bro. George and Marie Kaeb Kieser, born Jan. 29, 1922. Being injured at birth, Frieda could never walk, and for a number of years wore a body cast, and then, finally, she was more comfortable in a wheel-chair. She had a winning smile. Even last Sunday some said they didn't think she felt so good, but she would say, "Oh I'm all right."

Frieda brought sunshine into many lives, when she worked in the activity workshop at the Peoria Association for Retarded Children. She received encouragement from others who were afflicted with various afflictions, some worse than hers. A number of these friends

were present for the funeral service, several being confined to wheel-chairs.

Surviving are four sisters: Esther, Sis. Dorothea and Paulina Little and Sis. Marie of Peoria. Bro. Arthur Baurer conducted services; other local ministers and Bro. LeRoy Ehnle assisted. She was laid to rest beside her dear brother, Bro. Ludwig, who so faithfully helped care for her before his passing. It seems only fitting that she should be laid beside him to await the coming of the Lord.

The Sunday School children are eagerly learning recitations and songs for the Christmas program. How thrilled they are to learn of the birth of the Christ Child and hear the beautiful Christmas story.

"We wish for you this Day a happy Christmas, and we would send you those gifts which are beyond price, outlast time, and bridge all space."

We wish you pure joy, a happy heart and a clear conscience, and love . . .

The Christ-hands are beckoning us to come within the circle of His faith and love, where are bright angels and everyday saints, and all goodness, truth, and beauty.

Come, let us adore Him.

May each one of you enjoy the blessings of Christmas, peace, love and joy, and may we all have a desire to walk closer to our precious Lord.

This is the wonder of Christmas, that its beauty never grows dim, And over the centuries souls are led by the light of the Star to Him.

REMINGTON Anna M. Waibel

Very few of our congregation were missing when we took Communion, on Sun. Dec. 2. Bros Theo. Beer, Milford; Loren Stoller, Latty; Alfred Bahler, Wolcott were with us, after which we had a pot-luck supper.

The Lord's Supper: It's an act of remembrance; an act of testimony, "ye do shew the Lord's death"; an act of thanksgiving, **He gave thanks;** an act of Communion, of the blood and body; an act of responsibility, "let a man examine himself"; an act of anticipation, "till he come ."

Dec. 1 was Sis Mary Schieler's 84th birthday. All seven of her sisters were here to spend the day with her. Sis Anna Stortz had her 80th birthday. A number of us went and spent the afternoon with her at her sisters, Nettie Wasner's home. Her sisters Sis. Margaret, Sis. Verna and Lydia were here for the occasion. Her sister, Caroline, out in Phoenix, called her by phone. She wishes to express her heartfelt thanks for all that was done for her. She appreciates it very much.

Thanksgiving services were well attended. A brother expressed at mealtime that day, **It does one's heart good to hear the songs of praise and thanks sung by the old, young and middle-aged.** May we ever be thankful for the privilege of assembling as often as we do.

Bro. Earl Kilgus was in the hospital over a week for test and observation . . . thankful he is much better and able to assemble with us. Eddie Bahler (Bro. Edwins' son) had his cast removed.

Phillip and Dian (Schieler) Isabel have a baby girl since Nov. 22. It was named Megan Danilile. Bro. Harold and Sis. Marie are the maternal grandparents.

Always thankful for all our visiting ministers, Harold Zeltwanger and Verdon Feldman, Bremen; Gene Lehman and Alfred Bahler, Wolcott.

A number from here attended the Relief meeting held at Francesville, interestingly conducted . . . sad to learn how some people must worship in secret, not free to assemble as we do.

A group of brothers met here at the Fellowship Hall Nov. 30, in regard to the Children's Home to be built.

AMES Sue Banwart

In speaking with a dear old sister-in-faith, she confided: "Satan still wages a daily battle, even after all these years." By putting on "the whole armour of God" spoken of in Ephesians 6:13, she has been able, by the grace of God, to withstand the tests and trials. Surely we, who are younger, can be thankful for faithful old soldiers of the cross who teach us how to keep our armour polished and ready for the battle.

We were privileged again to sit

under the sound of God's holy word, brought to us by Bro. Cleo Rinckenberger of Pulaski. In these troublesome times, it is indeed a comfort to rest on God's unchanging word.

Bro. Don and Sis. Carol (Wuthrich) Schmidgall are the happy parents of their first child, Benjamin Henry. Little Benjamin's grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich of Morton, and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Schmidgall of Oakville.

We wish to extend a hearty welcome to two new students at ISU. Coming to Ames for a winter quarter course are Bro. Curt Frank of Oakville and Bruce Wuethrich of Francesville.

May the blessings of the Lord rest on each one of you this blessed Christmas season.

BLUFFTON

Melanie Gerber — Donna Drayer

Several ministers found time to worship with us, for which we are most appreciative. We enjoyed Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Fred Knapp (Congerville), Everett Hari (Normal), Robert Beer (Mansfield), and Ben Manz (Junction).

We are glad to report that Sis. Gale Reinhard (Bro. Richard and Sis. Berthlean) is recuperating from an automobile accident, in which she received a broken jaw. Bro. Richard Yergler submitted to back surgery and is convalescing at home.

Carol Schwartz, daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice, was joined in marriage to Glen Martin on Nov. 24. Bro. Orville and Sis. Priscilla Martin of the Roanoke congregation are Glen's parents.

On the following day, Bro. William Gene and Sis. Edna Moser announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Robin, to Bro. Ernest Schwartz, son of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Schwartz.

The following families have been blest with a precious little one to love and enjoy. Kenneth and Debra Heyerly's second child has been named Amanda K. Bro. William and Sis. Carolyn Gerber are the parents of a son, Michael Gene. James and Marcia Kaehr named their first son Clint James. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Lucille Kaehr. John and Lois (Heyerly) Brown are the parents of their first child, Christopher Allen. Bro. Clifford and Sis. Helen Heyer-

ly are the grandparents.

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Ringger. Their son, Deryll, has been discharged from the Army. We wish that all servicemen could be home with their families during the Christmas season, but know it will be impossible for some this year:

God bless your Christmas wherever you are
And keep your courage bright,
For the spirit of man is the candle of God,
And it burns on the darkest night.

God bless your Christmas wherever you are
And keep you strong in faith,
For the Spirit of God is the refuge of man
And the light in his dwelling-place.

BREMEN

Pauline Laidig

It was our privilege to deliver some of the Christmas boxes our sewing group prepared for our ministers and their families, and our faithful custodian, Bro. John Schuch. At our first stop (they having known we were coming), two little faces peered out the window and door in eager anticipation. It was a joy to see the happiness on their faces as the little ones hovered around perhaps their first gift of the holiday season. However, the thing that impressed me most was the fact that the wise parents were just in the process of helping their children make some cookies and candy to share with someone too. They are learning young to lovingly give, as well as graciously receive. We found Bro. Henry and Sis. Leah Souder contentedly spending a quiet evening in their cozy apartment. Leah said she didn't feel deserving of a gift when she could no longer serve others, but really they are now reaping just a small portion of what they have sown. Together they have served the congregation, and many others, willing and with love, for many years.

Christmas is the time of remembering God's greatest gift to man, the Babe in the manger, who became our dear Lord and Saviour. As we approach the New Year, may the Spirit of Christmas continue to dwell in our hearts, making our joy shine forth, motivating us to serve whenever we have the opportunity.

Even though Sis. Helen Zimmer (George) was hospitalized with much discomfort, we're thankful that she has been relieved, and is able to be among us again. Eugene Zimmer Jr., Sis. Leah's son, is in the Robert Long Hospital in Indianapolis, undergoing treatments.

A Thank You note: I wish to thank everyone for their kindness and prayers offered for me while I was in the hospital, and for the cards, gifts and good food brought to our home. Hazel Claus.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

When our work here is done, and the life-crown is won,
And our troubles and trials are o'er,
All our sorrows will end, and our voices will blend
With the loved ones who've gone on before,
To the land where we'll never grow old.

Our aunt and sister, Sis. Rose Schmidgall, passed away at the age of 81 years, after a lingering illness. She is survived by her husband, Carl; two sons, Edward and Arnold Schroeder of Elgin, Ill.; and a daughter, Mrs. Howard (Miriam) Gaare of Great Falls, Montana.

The visiting brothers who shared God's word with us were Ben Fehr, Perry Zimmerman, Clarence Kachelmuss and Sam Anliker.

We welcome Sis. Lena Vege back into our midst, after having made her home in Phoenix for quite awhile.

The engagement of Sis. Ardean Schlipf, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Eileen Schlipf Greiner of 656 Park St., Elgin, Ill 60120, was announced to Bro. Robert Romensberger of Gridley, Ill.

Births: A son, Jason Arthur, to Bro. Arthur and Kristi Metzger, on Oct. 17. Their address is R. 1, Box No. 241A, Garden Prairie, Ill 61038 . . . A son, Jason Lane, to Tom and Connie Kellenberger Schambach. Tom is stationed at Ft. Leonard, Mo. They live at Bel Air Trailer Park, R. No. 20, Waynesville, Mo. 65583.

Sis. Rose Goll wishes to express her heartfelt thanks to all for the kindness shown to her in the loss of her son Henry, who passed away at Morris. Burial services were here.

In loving memory of Nettie Schurter, who passed away Nov. 4: In 1970.

Lord, our loving mother you have taken away.

It has been three lonely years ago today.

She was such a loving mother, Understanding, true and kind.

In her leaving she left us three lonely behind,

But, Lord, we know she was ready to enter that Golden Gate,

Someday, Lord, I pray we will all meet over on those Golden Streets.

FORREST

Juanita Schneider
Kathryn Steininger

Together Still

Let me hold your hand as we go downhill;

We've shared our strength and we share it still.

It hasn't been easy to make the climb,

But the way was eased by your hand in mine.

At the foot of the slope we will stop and rest,

Look back, if you wish; we've been truly blessed.

We've been spared the grief of being torn apart

By death or divorce of a broken heart.

The view ahead is of the best,

Just a little bit farther, and then we can rest.

We move more slowly, but together still,

Let me hold your hand as we go down hill.

Bro. Louis and Sis. Louise Zimmerman have shared many joys and sorrows since they were united in marriage 60 years ago. We are thankful that they can assemble with us, even though Louis has difficulty in getting around. They are the parents of 12 children: Sis. Josephine, Henry, Ernie, Bro. Perry, Bro. Glen, Sis. Jeanne Aberle, Sis. Marge Kaisner, Bro. Allen, Sis. Betty Hodel, and Bro. Bob; two deceased, Sis. Marian Nussbaum and Louis. Their grandson, Doug Aberle (Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean) and Connie Martin were

married recently. The engagement of another grandson, Curtis Zimmerman (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred) has been announced, to Cynthia Stuckey. A July wedding is planned.

The engagement of Bro. Jim Schlatter (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Kathy Rassi of Tremont was announced. Sis. Kathy is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Arnold Rassi.

On Nov. 24, at the home of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Doris Koehl, Bro. Perry Zimmerman united in marriage the Koehl's daughter, Marlene and Duane Walter (Edward and Helen). We wish these young folks God's blessings as they travel the path of life together.

Now it is accomplished, I'm no longer mine. Lord, I will forever and always be thine . . . On Nov. 18, five young men made their vows to love and serve their God, and were ready to bury their old sinful nature in the watery grave of baptism, to arise as a child of God. We welcome Marvin Bachtold (Bro. Alf and Sis. Dorothy), Ray Steidinger (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn), Wayne Zimmerman (Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy), Richard Wenger (Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia), and Jim Koehl (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Gladys) as brothers in the Lord, and wish them much grace as they begin their walk with God. Assisting our elder, Bro. Perry Zimmerman with this important work was Bro. Ed Frank and Bro. Herman Kellenberger. On Dec. 1, we enjoyed many blessings again, when Ann Wenger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Miriam), Joy Blunier (Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia), Trudy Zimmerman (Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred), Dana and Devon Nussbaum (Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola) told the story of redemption and salvation through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. The following day, many gathered to witness the baptism. Bros. Joe Waibel and Josh Broquard shared the duty with Bro. Perry. Other visiting ministers recently were Merle Kaisner, Bill Gudeman, Ron Heiniger, Bill Kupferschmid, Art Bahler, Everett Hari, Kenneth Knapp, Andy Virkler and Walter Anliker. God's word is truly the word of life, as a fountain flowing purely from the throne above. If we let the Bible fill our memory, rule our heart, and guide our feet, we cannot go astray.

We rejoice with Elaine Nuss-

baum (Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty) and Pauline Wiegand, as they have turned to the Lord in repentance.

On Nov. 20, Steve, Rita and Holly Kay Metz welcomed baby Heidi Jo in their family circle. Grandparents are Leonard and Mary Ann Reiger and Ivan and Juanita Metz. Bro. Homer & Sis. Virginia Blunier are first-time grandparents, since the arrival of Amy Renee Hodel to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Gail.

Bro. William Kupferschmid has returned home, after being a hospital patient for several days. Our friend Pauline Wiegand had surgery.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and their three children have moved from our community to Roanoke. We miss having them in our midst. Tom and Sis. Earlene Hamilton and their four children have returned, after living in Champaign for awhile. We welcome them, and enjoy having them worship with us again.

We are looking forward to our Sunday School Christmas program. The little ones are eagerly learning their little verses, reminding us of our Saviour's birth.

. . . And His star still shines
over city and mart,
And His voice still speaks
to the listening heart.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Libby Meyer

The scene was a happy one; a family was gathered around the dinner table in their warm kitchen. As they were finishing the good food, there was much chatter . . . Silently the youngest child slipped into her father's lap, rested a moment, and then said peacefully "Dad, I love you." A little surprised, her father paused a moment, then replied, "That's a good girl—I love you, too." The others, touched by such pureness, were suddenly quiet, and then heads bowed in prayer.

As Christmas is upon us and we turn our thoughts to the Babe of Bethlehem, can we also remember the joy and the need to be childlike in God's sight?

Two of our friends attending K.S.U. have turned to the Lord in repentance; they are Janet Plattner and Sharlyn Meyer, both from Sabetha. According to God's word, we know that the angels in heaven are

rejoicing for these souls, even as we are.

We extend a special thank you to Bro. Bob Meyer, Bluffton; Bro. Ron Nelson, Kiowa; and Bro. Al Langhofer, Wichita, for their efforts to be with us. We heard many wonderful teachings.

LAMAR

Mrs. Raymond Braker
Mrs. Art Banwart

As the Christmas season approaches, and we remember again the birth of our dear Saviour Jesus, let us not forget that He came on earth to die, that we might live eternally.

Our hearts were saddened when our dear Sis. Caroline Lehman moved to Gridley, Kansas, to make her home with Sis. Leona Kraft (Our loss is Gridley's gain). We will miss them both in our congregation, as Sis. Leona had been here several months, and together they had cared for their departed Sis. Lizzie Remm during her last illness.

A visiting minister was Bro. Al Schietlin. We received with gladness the messages he brought.

We welcome Sis. Linda Sinn Banwart into our church and family circle. She and Bro. Gene were united in marriage on Nov. 11, at the Ft. Scott church.

The first snow of this season is falling as I write, which reminds us that winter is here and our beautiful fall weather is past. How thankful we are that the harvest is finished, and the wheat is seeded and growing. God has been very good to us!

A dear sister in Christ, who with her husband was bearing heartache and sorrow, once made this remark: "The Lord must really love us, because we have been through so much already and the Bible tells us, Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." I couldn't help but admire her attitude, for how much better if we can accept the troubles of life as a gentle chastening, rather than complaining that our burdens are greater than we deserve. Each trial that we overcome can only bring us closer to the Lord and purify us for the day of our redemption.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Donna Metzger

God called home a beloved and sturdy pillar of the church. Bro.

Alvia Meyer was mortally burned in a corn-picker fire on Nov. 9. He was flown to the Ramsey Hospital Burn Center in St. Paul, where he lived until Nov. 26. Despite the intense suffering and pain he endured, his faith in God never wavered, and it was a comfort and inspiration to the dear ones who so faithfully remained at his bedside. He was born at Bern, on Oct. 22, 1907. He was married to Emma Metzger on Dec. 21, 1932, and after farming all his adult life, had retired to Lester in 1969. Survivors are his widow, Sis. Emma; sons, Bro. Raymond, Bro. George, and Earl; and daughters, Mary Lou (Mrs. Don Streitmatter), Sis. Doreen, Carolyn (Mrs. Robert Banwart), Margaret (Mrs. Eli Grimm Jr.), Irene, Sis. Paulette (Mrs. Norman Zaugg), and Sis. Lila.

He was a Sunday School teacher for over a quarter of a century, and remained intensely interested in the young people of the church. He will be missed. Bro. Art Gudeman of LaCrosse brought words of comfort to all at the funeral. Several ministers and others were here to share our sorrow . . . **Thank you:** Words fail us when we try to express our thankfulness for your prayers, deeds of kindness, gifts and expressions of sympathy in the loss of our dear husband, father and grandfather. The Alvia Meyer family.

Three-year-old Terry Meyer, son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla, was caught in the power take-off of a corn wagon and received a badly broken arm and other injuries, the same afternoon, on the same farm as his Grandpa Alvia received his burns. Terry was hospitalized for nearly two weeks and is now improving at home.

Elsie Leuthold (Andy) suffered painful injuries in a fall, while helping to fill a crib of corn. She is getting around on crutches, after hospitalization. Pam Knobloch was in a Houston, Texas hospital again for several weeks' treatment. She is showing improvement.

We are grateful to our visiting minister, Elder Bro. Silas Leuthold.

A dear young soul has turned to God in repentance. Marvella Knobloch, daughter of Sis. Iola, has found a loving Lord is so ready to forgive if we but ask.

Sis. Elizabeth Nester expresses her thanks for prayers and kind-

nesses in her behalf during her illness. She is feeling much better.

MORTON

Mrs. Keith Stevig
Mrs. Harry Kaiser

With the Christmas season drawing near, let us remember God's word in Acts 20:35: "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."

We were fed with the everlasting word from our visiting ministers: Dan Koch, Tremont; Walter Anliker, Eureka; Ray Roth, Kiowa; Harry Bucher, Valparaiso; David Wiegand, Champaign; and Don Sauder, Roanoke.

The second week of November, we were blessed to hear testimony of seven dear souls who have turned their lives over to the Lord: Krista Witzig, daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Aldine Witzig; Melinda Kranz, daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Ruth Kranz; Jill Waldbeser, daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Marian Waldbeser; Twyla Menold, daughter of Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold; David Egle, son of Mrs. Gail Egle of Gridley; Larry and Jean (Koehl) Dicks, both of Morton.

Funeral services for Daniel Huette (79) were held Nov. 12. He is survived by his wife, Catherine (Bess), and two daughters. Mrs. Norman (Maxine) Roth and Miss Catherine Huette, both of Rural East Peoria; three sisters, Sis. Marie and Miss Emma Huette, both of Morton, and Mrs. Esther Millam of Aurora.

Sis. Louise Ackerman (80) passed away Nov. 8. Surviving are two sons, Clyde of Morton and Raymond of Springfield; two daughters, Mrs. Harlan (Marie) Rathe of Madison, Wis., and Mrs. Iola Ackerman of Denver; two sisters, Sis. Lydia Belsley and Sis. Sara Streit, both of Morton.

Bro. Joseph (Pete) Belsley (89) passed away Nov. 10. He is survived by three sons: Raymond of Morton, William of Eureka, and Lloyd of East Peoria; two daughters, Mrs. Edward (Ruth) Martin of Morton and Mrs. Albert (Lillian) Fischer of Peoria.

Dec. 6 was the funeral services for Bro. Christian Kipfer (84). He is survived by three sisters: Sis.

Freda, Sis. Marie Kinfer and Mrs. Carolyn Kuck, all of Peoria.

Sis. Debbie Koehl became the bride of Bro. Steve Thannert on Nov. 18. Their parents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Mildred Koehl and Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Thannert, all of Morton.

Sis. Janie Witzig and Bro. Doug Zimmerman were married on Nov. 18. Their parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Aldine Witzig and Sis. Edith Zimmerman, all of Morton.

Thanksgiving Day, the engagement of Bro. Jeff Witzig and Sis. Teresa Rassi was announced. Their parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy Witzig and Bro. Soli and Sis. Bertie Rassi, all from the Morton congregation.

Those who are or have been in the hospital were, Geneva Sullivan, Sisters Laura Hauter, Ann Ackerman, Ann Witzig, Edith Getz, Rose Hauter and Henry Aberle. Sisters Lydia Pflederer, Mary (Emil) Roecker, Carrie Jacob, Kate Belsley, Bro. Joe and Sis. Nancy Heiniger are shut-ins, unable to assemble with us.

The Rest-Mor Nursing Home has a lot of shut-ins we might remember also in our thoughts and prayers: Sisters Marie Huetter, Nettie Kaiser, Kate Stieglitz, Sara Denne, Rose Musselman, Lydia Belsley, Sara Streit, Anna Kranz, Lucy Steiner, Emma Schutze, Anna Zimmerman, Nettie Pfau, Martha Rapp, Emma Frank, Ida Musselman, Mary Ann Winzeler, and Bro. John Frank.

A thank-you from Sis. Mary and Bro. Otto Berchtold, for the deeds of kindness and for the tapes that were brought to them when they could not assemble with us. Bro. Otto is in the Lexington Manor Nursing Home in Peoria.

May the peace and happiness of Christmas be yours today and every day throughout the New Year.

The God of love and peace shall be with you.

NEW MARTINSVILLE

Mrs. Gus Weltz

Miss Della Witschey

On Nov. 10, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Steffen, Ida Steffen, Lena Zehr and Mary Traub of Fairbury and Dorothy Martin from Dayton, O., visited here and attended services at the Sardis church on Sunday, Nov. 11.

Miss Margaret Durig has been

quite ill and was a hospital patient for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barth of Parkersburg visited with the Barth families on Nov. 11. They left on Nov. 15 for Zephyrhills, Florida, where they will spend the winter months.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade from here will leave Dec. 18 for Bradenton, Florida, for a few weeks' vacation. The first three days of December were very lovely winter days, and according to tradition they rule the winter months, so perhaps the winter will not be too rough in this area.

PURDUE

Linda Pflederer—Lynell Bahler

In St. Matthew we read, **Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.** It is uplifting to read a verse such as this one, but even more when we can witness the fulfillment of this promise in the lives of our older brothers and sisters. An older sister who had turned to the Lord at age 16 told how God had been faithful and provided for her through the past years of her life, and was still keeping her in His care. This can be a great encouragement to those who are just beginning their walk with the Lord.

On Nov. 14, Bro. Joe Schrock from Congerville spent the evening with us, and spoke about the world situations and signs of the times. On the 28th of November Bro. Gene Lehman from the Wolcott congregation ministered with us.

In this Yuletide season, we hear much about love, joy, and peace. This portrays how the blessings of Christmas can be ours all year round!

It is in loving, not in being loved, the heart is blessed; It is in giving, not in seeking gifts, we find our quest.

SHIODA

Willis R. Ehnle

David Peasley of our Garden Grove church, visited us from his Army station in Korea, from Nov. 19 until Dec. 1. We enjoyed having him with us and appreciated his interest in salvation. It is edifying to speak seriously of the most important thing in life.

We had received some literature about fires. I felt I should visit the fire department to sneak with them about it. As I walked in and stated to the man present that I was from the Shioda Church, he asked me to sit down, laid my literature about fires aside, and proceeded to talk about the Bible. He evidently knew it quite well. In the course of our conversation, I learned that he was born in California and lived there the first eight years of his life. When World War II broke out, he was living in Japan, so he gave up his U.S. citizenship and became a Japanese citizen.

Some of the things he said were disturbing. He claimed that most ministers become aggravated with him. He says that there is something wrong that Christianity, as he calls it, does not progress throughout Japan. I stated that the people are not receptive for the most part, but he said that when Christ was here, He made them so they wanted to listen and crowd to His meetings.

This gentleman went on and on, saying that he has read the Bible several times, but still cannot understand it. After listening to him for awhile, I suggested that he does what he does understand. He sat up erect, like someone who had just seen a light and said, "Now why didn't someone tell me that before. That makes it easier." When I said good-bye, this man asked me to stop by again when passing that way, and save his *kokoro* or heart. I told him I couldn't do that, but Christ could. How important it is that we don't get bogged down with what we don't understand. Certainly our faith in Christ is strengthened by doing what we do understand.

We have had some lovely weather, with the mountains clearly visible all around us. The snow-capped Southern Alps to the west are especially majestic and inspiring.

December is the month when we remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour. Christmas is as blessed as we make it. God is not slack concerning His promise.

TREMONT

Lydia Rassi

Mary Jane Leuthold

We thank the following ministers for visiting us: Ron Heiniger, Bill

Kupferschmid, Everett Hari, all of Normal, and Phil Sauder, Cissna Park.

Nov. 18, announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Kathy Rassi, daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia, to Bro. Jim Schlatter, son of Bro. Dan and the late Sis. Ruth Schlatter, Forrest.

The home of Bro. Alan and Sis. Sue Schweigert was blessed with a little boy; Jeremy Alan was born Nov. 18. Grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Knobloch, Bradford, and Bro. Les and Sis. Betty Schweigert.

Sis. Emma Yergler, 80, Gridley, was called home very suddenly. We will miss her loving smile. We sympathize with her family: her daughter, Sis. Eileen Roberts and family, and son, Gene and family.

John D. Koch, 84, Evanston, formerly of Tremont, passed out of this life Nov. 7. Our sympathy is with Sis. Hanna and Bro. Ed . . . William Woerner, 83, passed out of this life Nov. 19. Our sympathy to his wife and relatives.

Sis. Louise Aberle is still in the hospital, but is stronger and hopes to be coming home soon. She is so grateful for the prayers, gifts and the kindness and love everyone has expressed. She wishes to thank everyone.

Bro. Henry G. Dill Sr., 72, was relieved of the pain and sorrows of this life, Nov. 21, when God took him out of this life. We sorrow with his daughters, Sis. Margaret (Adam) Maurer, and Sis. Wilma (Floyd) Bliss, and sons Bro. Glenn, Bro. Kenneth and Henry Jr. . . . **Thank you:** We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our many friends and relatives for the kind deeds shown during the illness and passing of our loved one The family of Bro. Henry G. Dill Sr.

Many thanks to everyone for their prayers, visits, cards, flowers, gifts and acts of kindness during my stay in the hospital and since I'm home. Sis. Ida Schweigert.

VALPARAISO

Camille and Wm. Feller

God has bestowed upon us blessings of joy and happiness. On Nov. 18, we, in reverent fellowship, held our harvest dinner, to offer thanksgiving to our Lord God.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 21, we were pleased to have as our visiting minister Bro. Merle Buch-

er. The following Sunday, our dear elder, Bro. George Yergler, also of LaCrosse, ministered. Our beloved Bro. Harry Bucher was in Morton.

Our Bro. Ray and Sis. Marie Heinold are happy to announce that their daughter, Sis. Mary and son-in-law Bro. Bob Honegger are the joyous parents of a baby boy, Jonathan.

Suppose there were no gaily decorated trees . . . there would still be a Christmas . . . Suppose there were no colorful wreathes . . . there would still be a Christmas. Suppose there were no pretty presents . . . there would still be a Christmas. But suppose there had been no Christ-child lying in the manger at Bethlehem. Then there would be no Christmas, no holiday season, no joyful carols. Christ makes the difference; Christmas began with Him. ". . . God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

This is the only reason for Christmas, but what a wonderful reason.

WICHITA

Glennis Allenbach

The entrance to His place of birth
Was by a little Door,

So humble, all might find Him
there,

The wise, the rich, the poor.

Of all the earthly gifts, both great and small, offered at Christmas-time, I doubt that few if any are refused . . . But the greatest gift of all, the Saviour, has been refused by multitudes, for hundreds of years.

Our church is still quite a way from being finished . . . **The sanctuary is now being used.** Bro. Henry Beer gave us a wonderful explanation of this "pride" we feel, on his visit to our church. He reminded us that we can associate this, as not pride of the heart, but pride of doing something right, a job well done. One of the sisters used some good terminology, while we were visiting last Sunday. She said she felt the sanctuary was so functional, and came to think of it, wasn't that our aim from the beginning.

The Lord still continues to bless us. We are to have the testimony and baptism, the Lord willing, of

Laurie Holliday, on Dec. 16. Laurie was not raised in our church, but was brought to us by the living testimony and example of her cousins. Sister Cecily and Bro. John Holliday.

Sis. Dora Young has had hip surgery at Phoenix, and will be in the hospital for about a month. I'm sure she would love to hear from many of you. She has been a good example of patience and suffering to me. She has that special gift of kindness.

We were blessed to have Sam Huber. Bro. Sam brought us both messages. He is certainly an example of one who studies the word diligently, so that the Lord can use him to bring timely messages.

As we approach the new year, our outlook may or may not be gloomy. If we are conformed to this world, it will be, but the Bible says we are not to be conformed to this world, but are to keep our thoughts on heavenly things.

So we say to our brothers, sisters and friends concerning the new year:

To one and all we pray the gift of light, and wherever you travel,
May a star lead you, the wind be at your back, the road rise to meet you . . . and God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

TAYLOR

Marie Butikofer—Eleanor Yackley

Winter is upon us. The leaves are gone and trees are bare, waiting the time when God will again bring forth new leaves. So it is with man: We die and are laid in the grave, there awaiting a glorious resurrection. What a rejoicing for His people.

The teachers and Sunday School children are preparing for their Christmas program. We truly enjoy listening to their songs and verses.

We failed to mention in the last issue that our Sunday School Bible Class and teachers had spent an enjoyable Sunday with the Morton Sunday School. They wish to thank them for their hospitality.

Sis. Rosie Hoerr has recovered satisfactorily, after having surgery. She has returned to work. Rudie Haerr was hospitalized five days for tests and observation. Mr. Wenniker, Sis. Marge Sutter's father, was also in the hospital for tests.

We have been blessed with visiting ministers over the Thanksgiving week-end: Kenny Dietz and Bob Pohl. We were reminded of the importance of preparing ourselves for Christ's soon return, and those who are still without, to make haste to seek Him.

We had a blessed Lord's Day, as our Elder Bros. Noah Schrock and Harvey Heiniger spent the day with us and served Communion. They explained how we must examine ourselves and be worthy to partake of the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup. May God bless them for their patience, especially Bro. Noah, as he is not so young in years.

It would be interesting to read the texts that were read: Ezekiel 38 and Isaiah 14. How evident is the fulfilling of Christ's coming again. What manner of persons ought we to be when we see how the Scriptures are being fulfilled!

A Prayer

When my hair is thin and silvered
And my time of toil is through,
When I've many years behind me,
And ahead of me a few,
I shall want to sit, I reckon,
Sort of dreaming in the sun,
And recall the roads I've traveled,
And the many things I've done.
I hope there'll be no picture
That I'll hate to look upon
When the time to paint it better
Or to wipe it out is gone.

I hope there'll be no vision
Of a hastv word I've said
That has left a trail of sorrow
Like a whip-welt, sore and red . . .
And I hope my old age dreaming
Will bring back no bitter scene
Of a time when I was selfish,
Or a time when I was mean.
When I'm getting old and feeble,
And I'm far along life's way,
I don't want to sit regretting
Any bygone yesterday.

I am painting now the picture
That I want some day to see.
I am filling in a canvas
That will soon come back to me.
Though nothing great is on it,
And though nothing there is fine,
I shall want to look it over
When I'm old, and call it mine . . .
So I do not dare to leave it,
When the paint is warm and wet,
With a single thing upon it
That I later will regret.

ALTADENA Judy Cremer

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Just as the angels proclaimed the good news of Jesus, our Saviour, being born on earth, so we too can sing our praises to Him! We praise God that these glad tidings of great joy to all men can still be heard today. We who have been forgiven and cleansed by this Saviour can enjoy a rich and blessed Christmas season. Thank the Lord that this gracious invitation is still being spread.

Our dear friend, Laurie MacDonald, has surrendered her life to the Lord and is seeking the true peace the world can never offer. We rejoice with her.

Our congregation was blessed with the partaking of the Lord's Supper. Bro. Noah Schrock was with us, as we remembered Christ's suffering and death for us. Bro. Noah spent much time here.

While many joys were experienced, there was also a share of sorrow with the passing of Bro. Bill Schwarz. Bill fell asleep in Jesus on Nov. 29, after many months of illness and discomfort. We find comfort. He is released from his earthly burdens, and is now with the Lord eternally. May God bless and comfort his wife, Sis. Naomi, and the surviving family.

Wishing all a blessed holiday season, and a new year filled with new life in the Lord.

ALTO Joyleen Blough

If there had never been a Christ-
mas or the Holy Christ Child's
birth . . .

Just what would give us courage
to push on, when hope is dead,
Except the Christmas message
and the words OUR FATHER said
In love I send My only Son
to live and die for you,
And through His resurrection
you will gain a new life, too.

What a joy to meet people for the first time and feel as if we have known them all our lives! Bro. Ben Manz, Junction, and Bro. Ernest Graf, Akron, were with us.

Happiness came to two homes, as a baby was added to their homes. Kerry and Kathy Lanz had a baby

girl, Tracy Anne. She has one sister, Andrea. Also Tim and Monica Steffen (Sis. Helen Steffen) were blest with their first child, Paul Brandon.

Sis. Donna Steffen is home from the hospital, after having surgery on her foot.

BRADFORD Rebecca Endress

We said farewell to Bro. Fred and Sis. Joanni Endress, as they have moved to Morton where they are both employed. A singing was held in their honor at Bro. Nick Knobloch's. We wish them well in their new home.

Many of us enjoyed attending services at the Home for the Handicapped. The intermediate Sunday School class sang Christmas carols for the residents. A night of caroling is planned by the Bible Class, at a local nursing home and a children's home.

We enjoyed the day Bro. Earl Gerber, Forrest, spent with us, bringing God's word.

Thanksgiving day was the birth day for the new daughter born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle. Her name is Ann Marie, and she has a brother, Jim. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Donna Ehnle and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kelley.

Sis. Emma (Clarence) Knobloch is home again, after being hospitalized for a heart ailment. She is steadily gaining strength, but must take care and rest often. She wishes to sincerely thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts, visits, and deeds of kindness, while she was in the hospital and since her return home.

Pam Kieser had the cast removed from her right hand. She had fallen from a hayrack and broke a bone in her arm.

I will accept contributions for the Silver Lining from Bradford subscribers during the month of January.

CHICAGO Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

The birth of the Lord Jesus has left an impact on the world never to be forgotten. As the Christmas season unfolds each year, men everywhere are stirred with a fresh surge of joy and kindness toward their fellowman. Gifts are given in overwhelming abundance. Many of the poor and desolate are remem-

bered and provided for, whereas they were previously neglected and often ignored. Everyone seems to want to see others happy, and are moved to compassion to think of even one small child left cold and hungry on Christmas. We remember how the King of Kings and Lord of Lords was turned out of the Inn, and left with only a manger for a bed. Mankind seems to feel it, that in giving to others, they are giving to Him the warmth and comfort He was denied. Jesus has said, "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

We were glad to have Ministering Bro. Maurice Frank from Leo with us.

Sis. Minnie Lehman had surgery and is recovering.

We were pleased to hear two engagement announcements: Sis. Kathy Rassi, formerly of Tremont, to Bro. Jim Schlatter, formerly of Forest; and Sis. Kay Zeltwanger of Bremen to Bro. Dale Gramm of Gridley, Illinois. We rejoice with them, that God has provided them with a loving companion.

Another year has passed in which we enjoyed reading about our brethren in the Silver Lining. It has been encouraging to know that we are not alone in our blessed pilgrimage, but have dear and beloved fellow-pilgrims who also seek to follow in Christ's footsteps. As we begin the new year, let us seek to grow in love and esteem toward our brethren. **May all be childlike, loving, kind, That we the path to heaven find.**

CISSNA PARK

Margaret Rudin — Grace Bauer

God Grant These Gifts for You

A faith so high that you may link
The pilgrim star with a bed of
straw;

Belief so strong that you can draw
A soul's dream from a house of
clay;

Vision so clear that you can walk
A dark road with a shining trust;

Concern so deep that you can meet
The world's care with a shepherd
love;

Hope so triumphant that you can
face

The overwhelming fear with a
gentle calm.

Five dear souls came to the Crossroads of life and chose the narrow way. They were Craig Rudin, Gail Hari, Barbara Hoffman, Marla Bauer, and Bonita Stock. They gave their testimonies on Nov. 17, saying they were lost and without hope, but Jesus' blood made them free. Nov. 18 they were baptized and are now our brother and sisters in faith. May they ever be led by the Holy Spirit. Bro. Roy Sauder helped with this important work.

The Elgin Bible class spent the week-end of Nov. 11 with our Bible Class. They sang several songs for us, which we enjoyed. Bro. Marvin Schmidgall gave the inspirational message to the young folks.

Our friends, Henrietta and Ben Waldbuser are leaving our community and moving to Urbana.

Born to Sis. Joann and Bro. Fred Maul, a daughter, Andrea Jo on Nov. 14. She has a brother, David, to welcome her. Grandparents are Sis. Emily and Bro. Clarence Rudin and Sis. Violet and Bro. Clarence Maul. Born to our friends Rita and Dean Eisenmann a daughter, Elisa Renae on Nov. 24. She has a brother, Richard, at home to welcome her. Grandparents are Sis. Emily and Bro. Ray Eisenmann, and Evelyn and Wally Yergler.

Our sick: Sis. Kate Walder was a hospital medical patient. Sis. Clara Vogel and Sis. Betty Feller were hospital surgical patients. Sis. Priscilla Knapp was a hospital patient. She had a fractured knee cap, and has her leg in a cast.

Guest ministers were Bros. Arthur Baurer, Raymond Roth, and Bob Grimm.

Our young people spent a blessed week-end at Eureka.

**Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we Partook, that joined in
heart and hand. To Zion's realm
and holy land . . . We journey on.**
We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on Dec. 2. Bro. Wendell Gudeman assisted Bro. Ezra Feller with this important work.

We wish you Christmas blessings and a Happy New Year.

DETROIT Bonnie Popp

As the Thanksgiving and Christ-

mas holidays are upon us, it is good that men everywhere think upon God's blessings and gifts. It is the Christian who has shared in the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ, born in a humble abode, who lived a life of perfect example, and gave His life that all might be offered the gifts of salvation. Oh friend, come, taste and see, that you might share in the depth of God's love and grace.

A blessing to our Detroit family is welcoming Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan Schock, as well as Sis. Christine Schambach of Elgin.

What a joy to share in the word. We were thankful to have Bros. Gene Pamer and Ernest Graf minister unto us. **How precious is the Book divine, By inspiration given! Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine . . . To guide our souls to heav'n.**

Jeremy Jess Manz was born Nov. 11 to Bro. Ron and Sis. Artie.

**Up yonder in Heaven 'tis well
with the Soul . . . If this we con-
sider our courage will grow . . .**
Laszlo Vargo was very ill for some time. The Lord touched his heart, and he found the depth of God's love and peace and was baptized. He passed away on Nov. 19. He expressed a desire to meet the brethren, but sent us his greetings and love. We extend our sympathy to his parents, Louis and Ethel Varga.

We cannot see the star today,
But we can feel the love
Of the Child of Bethlehem
God sent us from above.

If we sincerely want to see
The Christ sent from on high
By seeking through obedience
We'll see Him by and by.

FORT SCOTT Ida Sinn

It is nearing the time when we will commemorate the birth of our dear Saviour, Jesus. Let us rededicate our lives unto him.

Bro. Fred Sinn has been back to the hospital for tests and further treatment, after his recent heart attack. Roger Kraft was in for a severe case of food poisoning. Bro. Emil Banwart is in the hospital now with internal bleeding. He is showing improvement.

Sis. Linda Sinn and Bro. Gene Banwart were united in marriage

on Nov. 11. They are living on the farm, Route 4, Lamar.

Our visiting ministers were Sam Anliker, Charles Marti. Al Langhofer, Sam Huber and Albert Scheitlin. Bro. Scheitlin and wife have spent some time here, visiting their daughter, Carol Sinn and family, but have gone on to Phoenix now.

GRIDLEY Dixie Ringger

We were privileged to witness the provings and baptisms of seven of our dear friends.

One week-end the following were taken up: Deanna Marti (Bro. Allen and Sis. Delores), Linda Meiss (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge), Keri Ringger (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Dorothy) and Lynn Stoller (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Lucile). Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Ringger. Another week-end, Viola McKinley and J. D. and Sandy Maurer were welcomed into the fold.

Bro. Mick and Sis. Colleen Culp are the parents of Benjamin Clark. Two brothers, Shawn and Eric, welcomed him home. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein were blessed with a third son, Jay William. His brothers are Craig and Chad.

Those who have been on the sick list: Sisters Ida Witzig, Pauline Witzig, Ida Rinckenberger, and Bernice Yergler.

Although Bro. George Finck and Sis. Emma Grusy have been absent from our midst for some time (convalescent homes), we think of them often and trust God will comfort them.

Our congregation was saddened by the death of a dear old sister, Emma Yergler. Death came quickly, but sweetly for her. She will be missed by all of us.

Let us, during this Christmas season, renew our faith in Him who can ease the stress of troubled times with His peace and quietness.

JUNCTION

Betty Manz — Henrietta Manz

Ministering Bros. Walter Anliker —Eureka, Walter Rager and Eugene Fetter—Toledo, and Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier—Rittman, John Bahler—Rockville, and Rudy Graf—Akron visited us in November. We really appreciate the visits. The Lord has been so good to us.

Bro. Bill Schlatter has been transferred by his company to the

Bay City area. He, Sis. Emily and little Warren are attending the Bay City church. Their new address is 4639 Bailey Bridge Rd., Route 1, Freeland, Mich 48623.

We are so happy to report the birth of twins, Elizabeth Ann and Wendell James, on Nov. 9. The joyful parents are Bro. James and Sis. Carolyn Spangler. Grandparents are Bro. Oliver and Sis. Elizabeth Spangler and Sis. Della Manz.

Note of thanks: Thanks to all of you who remembered me in any way during my illness and also my 80th birthday on Nov. 9. The prayers, visits, mail and help in any way is really appreciated. Bro. Henry Manz.

MANSFIELD Aaron A. Sauder

Two of our young couples have been entrusted with bundles from Heaven. Carl and Sharon Witschi are the parents of a girl, born Nov. 21, named Carla; she has a brother Teddy. Her paternal grandmother is Sis. Marie Witschi (Ted). Parents for the first time are Bill and Becky Sauder, whose daughter was born Dec. 1. Little Denise Lynn also made Bro. Kenny and Sis. Sue Sauder grandparents for the first time; her great-grandma is Sis. Mary Sauder (Wm.).

Two dear ones are missing when we assemble for services on Sunday mornings. On Nov. 20, Joe Dinger died after a brief illness; he was 68 years old. Our sympathy goes to his family, including his sister, Sis. Theresa Kissel (Andrew). After an extended illness, Isaac Riggenbach passed away on Nov. 25, at the age of 71. with services held on Nov. 28. We likewise extend love and sympathy to his wife, Della and brother, Bro. Alvin Riggenbach of our congregation, as well as to his entire family.

Bro. Martin Kleshinski has been a hospital patient, but has been released. Bros. John Oesch and Bob Sauder have both been admitted to hospitals in Columbus for tests.

Our visiting ministers have been Rudy Graf, LeRoy Huber, Joshua Broquard and Ben Hartzler.

Those of us who were privileged to be guests of the Peoria congregation, wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the love and hospitality the week end of Nov. 10 and 11. The Christian fellowship

we shared will always be remembered.

Various groups are preparing to carol the shut-ins. The Sunday School children are getting ready for the annual Christmas program, which is to be presented Sunday evening, Dec. 16. May the joy and anticipation they radiate at this season remain with them throughout the New Year.

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!

MILFORD

Sue Schieler — Sandee Price

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Surely this was the spirit of the Prairie Choristers and Bro. Gene Bertschi, as they visited us.

Thanksgiving was given closer meditation at our annual Thanksgiving program, and on Thanksgiving Day Bro. Bob Beer visited us.

Sis. Marguerite Hoerr (Robert) is home again, following surgery, for which we are thankful.

May we be led on in faith by the gleam of that bright beautiful star . . . journeying, rejoicing, may we follow the Messiah more closely, as we seek our destination of Heaven and Home.

PEORIA

Mrs. R. J. Miller

The joy which the Christmas Season brings began in a very wonderful way in Peoria Church Nov. 25. as four people were baptized. Before Jesus came, there wasn't such a thing as this baptism! Those baptized were Connie Robbins (sister of Sis. Sherri), Cara Nussbaum (daughter of Bro. Eldon Nussbaums of Bloomington), Lori (Hoerr) Kinnev (daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Wilma), and Conrad Kaufman (brother-in-law of Bro. Dave Meister Sr.).

Yes, the joyous Christmas Season is upon us. As we ponder the full meaning of the birth of the Son of God, may our hearts be filled with humility, adoration, and exaltation. Whatever customs we follow in the celebration of Christ's birth, let us remember why we do

them, lest we get too "wrapped up" in the customs themselves.

Dec. 2, our Sunday School Bible Class entertained PARC (Peoria Association for Retarded Children) with a dinner and program. Many more goodwill activities are planned during the holidays by various groups within our congregation, from caroling for invalids to collecting and distributing food for the needy.

Mary Meister, wife of Bro. David and mother of Bros. Skip and Mark, wishes to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and kindness, and especially for their prayers throughout her illness during the past year.

We have had quite a few who have been in the hospital: Our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder, Sis. Verna Schurter, Bro. Tom Rieker (son of Fred and Sis. Norma), Sis. Berniece Otto (sister of Sis. Velma Hoerr), Ruth Hofstetter (sister of Sis. Louise Mueller), Sis. Molly Perdelwitz (who broke her hip), Sis. Martha Langjahr, and David Lane, the grandson of Sis. Louise Schmied, who has leukemia.

Sis. Elizabeth Heiniger passed away Nov. 18. She had resided at our Apostolic Christian Home for ten years and was a lovely person. The family wishes to thank everyone who helped at her departure, and especially the people at the Home who took such good care of her.

Visitors during November included Ministering Bro. Al Aberle of Tremont.

Joy to her family is what baby Amy Dawn brought! Bro. Steve and Sis. Vickie Sauder are her parents; Jenny—3, and Barbie—2, are her sisters; Bro. Roy and Sis. Gertrude Sauder are paternal grandparents; and maternal grandparents are Bro. Orville and Sis. Doris Roche of Tremont. Amy was born Nov. 8.

More joy abounded for the Bro. Vernon Hohulin family as Sis. Marie gave birth Nov. 26 to Jill Marie. Jill's older sisters and brothers are Diane—15, Beth—13, Gary—11, and Mark—8. Grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Emma Staub, and Bro. Silas and Sis. Marie Hohulin.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Marie and Sis. Frieda Kipfer and Sis. Caroline Koch over the loss of their brother, Bro. Chris Kipfer, of

Morton. He passed away Monday, Dec. 3. . . **Note of thanks** . . . We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the friends, neighbors, and relatives for the thoughtful kindness and words of sympathy during the loss of our brother. The Chris Kipfer sisters.

PORTLAND

Arthur and Betty Metz

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together . . ." Believers by their faithfulness can unknowingly lead seeking souls to light. This was brought out in an incident that took place many years ago. Neighbors of one of our churches were impressed, that regardless of the rain, snow or mud, the brethren put forth the effort to assemble for worship services. These neighbors began to attend services, to see what caused the brethren to faithfully attend even when much effort was required. This spark of interest eventually led to their conversion.

We were blessed with a visit by our Elder Bros. Noah Schrock and Carl Kinsinger. We are grateful for servants who are willing to yield themselves as instruments in the Lord's hands.

Our friend, Edna Lincoln was hospitalized for brain surgery. We are thankful for her and her husband Ted, that the operation was successful. We trust that the Lord will provide as Edna receives further treatments.

RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

We received many rich blessings with visits from our ministering brethren. We count it a privilege to sit as in heavenly places, as we listen to them give us words of love, comfort, and warnings, and teachings from our Lord. We want to thank Bros. Sam Anliker, Josh Broquard, and Leroy Huber for these deeds of kindness.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Emma Riggenbach and family at the passing of son Isaac of Mansfield. Also surviving are four sisters from our congregation: Sisters Alma Curie, Tillie Saurers, Louise Spangler, Laura Oppliger; one sister in Michigan, Dora VanderVeen; two brothers, Roy of Orrville, and Bro. Alvin of Mansfield.

It is always good to hear the news that our sick folks are better

again. Sis. Melba Miller recovered nicely from surgery, and is able to attend church again. Her father, Bro. Noah Bauman, had to spend a few days in the hospital, and is now able to return home. Bro. Carl Ingold spent a few days in the hospital. Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger has her arm in a cast, due to a wrist fracture.

Bro. Joe Ramsier performed the wedding of Bill Maibach and Elizabeth Banks on Nov. 24. Bill's folks are Bro. Roy and Sis. Mabel Maibach.

Word came from North Carolina to Bro. Alvin and Sis. Eldora Steiner, that Sara Katharine had arrived at the home of son Mike and wife Kathy. Sis. Eldora went to spend a few days with the new parents and their first child.

Christmas! We remember the birth of Jesus. Let us not forget this true meaning as we go about our busy schedule during the Holiday season. Silent Night, Holy Night, all was calm . . . Away In A Manger, no crib for a bed, just a manger in a stable . . . Angels From The Realms Of Glory came to Shepherds While They Watched Their Flocks . . . Joy To The World, the Lord is Come . . . Oh Come All Ye Faithful . . . to the stable they went, leaving their flocks. **Angels we have Heard On High**, they told Mary and Joseph as they came to Worship the King. Three Kings came to worship, too, as they followed the star of Bethlehem. Alleluia! The King was born!

Let us remember, that it is not at the manger where we leave our Lord, but follow Him to Calvary where he gave His life for us. We are told to open wide the door of our hearts and let the Saviour in!

SARDIS

Karen Indermuhle

Christmas is LOVE. The only reason we have such a season is because God is love, and He sent Jesus here for you and me. May the Holy Spirit of love surround all of God's children as we seek to do only those things that are an honor and glory to Jesus' name. Truly guided by His Spirit, there are countless blessings we can enjoy today. Praise God!

Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle and their son Dana welcomed home their new baby, Carla Jane. She was born Nov. 13. Maternal

grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Liz Gasser (Rittman).

Bros. Joe Ramsier (Rittman), Leroy Huber (Eureka), and Josh Broquard (Fairbury) were with us one Wednesday evening, to bring us the message of faith.

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

Welcome to our new brothers and sisters in Christ: Dixie, Le Ann, and Tony Messner, and Mark and Linda Schmidt. Elder Bros. Herman Kellenberger and Leo Moser were here for the proving and baptism of these dear souls. Ministering Bros. Paul Banwart, Earl Banwart, and Noah Miller and other visitors shared this blessed week end.

We cannot help but mention that the waters are still troubled, and three more precious souls have answered the call to repentance. "And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Duane Messner was hospitalized about a week for observation and tests.

Slias Somerhalder, Kiowa, was here for evening services. He spoke of the uncertain times of the 70's compared to the depression years of the 30's. We were reminded to be honest in all things, to have faith, and the Lord will carry us through, just as the brethren were helped during the depression years.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor. The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The Christmas season approaches, and our thoughts move toward the birth of our Saviour. The Sunday School children are eagerly preparing for our annual Christmas program.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

God bless you all
This Christmas day;
May Bethlehem's star
Still light the way . . .
And guide you to
The perfect peace . . .

When every fear
And doubt shall cease . . .
And may your home
Such glory know,
As did the stable
Long ago.

On Nov. 17, Gordon Grimm and Sharon Mason were united in marriage at Fellowship Hall, Sabetha, by Bro. Lester Hartter. Parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Marie and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mason, Chicago. Gordon is farming with his father, and Sharon will continue her work as an R.N.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Robert Beer, Mansfield.

Sis. Lydia Marti is a new resident at the A.C. Home, after a lengthy hospital stay.

Sis. Lillian Edelman (Bro. Noah) was a surgical patient. Albert Plattner is on the critical list in the hospital. After 13 weeks, Bro. Lewis Meyer is now able to shed the cast on his injured arm. Sis. Sarah Meyer is making a fine recovery from her eye surgery. Sarah wishes to extend her heartfelt thanks for all gifts, prayers and cards.

As another year comes to a close your reporters, Esther and Stella wish our readers a blessed New Year.

BAY CITY

Carolyn Schamback

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul;
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole.
Thank you Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free .

Surely, this little song puts first things first, when we come to thank our Saviour. Though He gives us so many more blessings to be thankful for, the most important is His dying for us!

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schletter and little Warren from Junction. Bill used to assemble with us when he was going to school in Flint.

Bro. Ralph Ramsever has been hospitalized for a while, but is now home.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Ida Wieland wish to thank all who remembered them on their 50th anniversary with cards and gifts.

For the Christmas season . . .

we've heard so many say: "Christmas is for children; I don't feel the 'Christmas spirit' anymore." Wouldn't we have a lot more of this same spirit if we each tried a little harder to make the other person feel it? It's simply what Christ preached—this aura of love and joy rubs off on others! (And it works all year round too!)

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

ELGIN, IOWA

Eleanor 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."

We have some good news to impart. Three in our area are repenting: Lonnie Butikofer, son of Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah; Charles Schneider, son of LaVerne and Lavila (now passed away), and Tim, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred Butikofer. We are very happy for them. May God be praised for His wonderful plan of salvation.

Sis. Marie Butikofer spent a few days in the West Union Hospital but has now returned to her home, feeling much improved. We rejoice with her in that she received help.

Our Sunday School pupils are practicing for the Christmas program, which they plan to present on the 16th of December.

Christmas-Time

Bringing friends a little closer . . .
Drawing loved ones from afar . . .
Welding bonds of truest friendship . . .
May peace on earth, the new old story, Be upon your houses today . . .
And to those who cross your threshold, Enjoy a very blessed day.

FORT LAUDERALE

Kathy Sutter—Henry H. Schwartz

We never tire of the beautiful words contained in Luke, chapter 2. We heard the story again, and felt thrilled of joy at the age-old announcement by the angels, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

The plan of God called for this announcement to be made to shep-

herds, a rough and rugged class of men. Princes were in their places, kings were on their thrones, but the angels spoke on an open hillside to the lowliest of men. The Saviour born in Bethlehem had a mission, which included all people, those of humble origin as well as those of fortune. If you know that babe of Bethlehem as your Saviour, you know in full the good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. Elmer Hartter of Milford and Bros. Roy Luginbuhl, Al Schneider, and Ernest Luginbuhl of Rockville. We certainly felt a blessing from the meditations they shared with us.

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

What better can we resolve, than to dedicate this dawning year to praise, service, and love for the Master?

IOWA CITY

Twila Whipple — Joan Mogler

Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free. How blessed it is at this Christmas season to think of Christ's coming to earth. Even as we sing Christmas carols, let's not forget to go beyond His birth. Let's appreciate the great gift God gave us, when He led His Son to Calvary's brow to die and shed His blood for our redemption.

Our visiting ministers were Jesse Schrock (Congerville) and Harvey Heiniger (Oakville).

While visting with a bright, agile 96-year-old sister-in-faith, the comment was made, "you do well for your age." Her response: "Who do we give credit to for that; just who can we give the credit to!" So many of us take pride in our own accomplishments. Let us realize, as this sister has, that it is only by the grace of God that we are what we are. All the credit goes to Him, and none to ourselves.

LA CROSSE

Gwen Bucher — Lorene Moser

We are thankful especially for our material blessings, but even more so for the spiritual blessings we received from the words of visiting ministers, Jim Ramsier, Bay

City and Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, both here on Thanksgiving Day. Ed Alt, Cissna, and Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago, were here on Nov. 26, and Raymond Roth, Kiowa, on Dec. 2. Harry Bucher, Valpo came on Nov. 18 to share our Thanksgiving program with us.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger are thankful for their new son, Jonathan Robert, born on Nov. 16. Bro. Ray and Sis. Marie Heinold are the maternal grandparents, and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Alice Honegger, Bluffton, are paternal grandparents.

Bro. Sam Frank is again hospitalized, needing surgery but not quite up to it.

LAMONT Betty Wernli

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

And so Mary gave birth to the Saviour of the world, and made his cradle in the manger of the cattle, thus exhibiting his humiliation. Christ came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it, to submit himself to its commands. May we lay a fast hold upon this Saviour who has brought us such a sublime salvation.

Bro. George Lambert of Wichita was a Sunday visitor.

Sis. Susan Emch has had minor surgery.

As those of us can testify who have walked a little farther down the way, the clouds are never too dark to obscure the love and mercy of our God, and the sun always shines again if we but put our faith in Him.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

Memories live again . . . let your mind roam warm scenes of yesterday. Sainted loved ones never die, for the holy scriptures and the power of God prove so.

A Christmas eve can have white snow beautifully adorning. We can dream of white and loved ones, coming real scenes. . . Turn to the Bible of hope. Let those memories warm you, and raise your gladness with their real happiness.

There is a certain glow in giving —whether in labors of the church or material blessings. Bro. Rudolph Graf, guest at our home, had come

willingly on a mission of love. Rudolph cares and loves, as do the others who labor in the work of God. They find God hears graciously. Bro. Rudy told a beautiful instance of God's every-season providence. Ed Eglin was a brother from Illinois. He felt others were buying up the land. He let his feeling be known somewhat. Moving, he settled in the Red River area of northern Minnesota. Time went on. Prosperity had not come.

Company was coming, a group of brothers, including Bro. John Getz (J.A.'s father), wanted to look into the possibility of buying land. What could be offered for the meal? The larders were not stocked. He remembered his unkindly attitude. He didn't want to be ashamed, not give them a good meal. His wife went to dig some potatoes. He went fishing. He prayed, earnestly. One after another, the catches were pulled out. A delicious meal was prepared. Bro. Getz felt and told him so, how good the food was.

Our Thanksgiving program was at the church. The children gave the Christmas program at the Fellowship Center. A Christmas dinner was held and the program followed. We welcome all who want to come to our church and Sunday School, and we have plenty of room.

Sis. Pearl Winzeler had an accident while visiting her mother at the rest home. Someone had placed an object where it shouldn't have been. She fell, cutting an artery, and was confined to bed, but has been released. Sis. Leah Conrad was able to be moved to the home of her daughter, Dorthea Winzeler, from the hospital. However, she is still ill. Bro. David Bertsch had been confined to his home because of illness. He is improving.

Bro. Eugene Bertschi of Roanoke spent a Sunday with us, ministering to our need.

We visited the rest homes. One dear person who is past 90 said she was waiting for Jesus to call her.

A phone call: Bro. Henry and Sis. Leah Souder of Bremen extend a Season's Greeting to you. Henry and Leah have lived in the pleasant way of God's continual Christmas.

TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki

We had church cleaning here in Tokyo Church on last national holi-

day, Nov 23, which was Japanese thanksgiving day. This holiday comes from Shinto religion, and people put offerings, some rice and vegetables to Shinto shrines and give thanks to the gods of sun. We Japanese people like to have many kinds of vegetables so often. Anyway, we had much blessed by our living God for cleaning church.

One of the soldiers whose name is David Peasley from Iowa visited here in Japan and spent a few weeks here. We had real nice time with him. He is stationed in Korea. Hope our examples will attach to his heart and turn to repentance before the Lord some day.

Last Sunday we read and meditated on the sermon about prodigal son of St. Luke chapter 15. It really gave meaning to us. I believe we can compare about the world situations of today. Our Father gave us many blessings through this earth, but people do not appreciate and are using these sources for wicked things. We don't care about place, time or situation, just only have to have true repentance before it is too late, as same as prodigal son did. I felt we have big responsibility toward people. We need your loving prayer.

**MICHIGAN
STATE UNIVERSITY
Bev Maibach**

Oh let us spread the word, where'er
it may be heard,
Help groping souls the light to see.
That yonder none may say, you
showed me not the way;
You never mentioned Him to me.
A few sweet words may guide a
lost one to His side,
Or turn sad eyes on Calvary;
So work as days go by, that yonder
none may cry:
You never mentioned Him to me.

Amidst the crowds and chaos of campus life, how stirring it is when one encounters so many searching for spiritual peace and thirsting for knowledge of the holy word. As we daily strive to live lives of Christian edification, how important it is that when called upon, we prayerfully submit ourselves to share our faith, convictions, and the word of God.

Chapel services held Nov. 8 were hosted by our Bay City brethren. We rejoiced to see so many new

friends assemble with us. The singing truly was an inspiration. Services were held by Bro. Andy Virkler, who impressed upon our hearts that only in seeking first the kingdom of heaven can the blessings of God fill our daily walk of faith. Bro. Roy Wieland also shared with us the spiritual inspiration, that in spite of all the teachings throughout the years of education, unless we humbly seek the Lord in true repentance can we obtain the hope of eternal salvation.

After services it was refreshing to share precious moments of Christian fellowship with so many. As the year draws to an end and a new year dawns upon us, may we daily strive to draw our lives closer to God and continue to pray for each other in love and Christian unity.

MORRIS

Esther Schaefer — Ann Meiss

These souls betrothed before Thee
stand;
Thy blessings we implore.
Unite Thou them in heart and hand
And guide them evermore.

On Nov. 4, Sis. Lois Moser and Bro. Keith Schmidgall were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Paul Fehr. Lois is the daughter of our Ministering Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl, and Keith is the son of Sis. Mabel and the late Bro. Francis.

We felt blest to have (Bros.) Noah Gerber of West Bend, Harold Messner of Winthrop & Noah Miller of Minneapolis bring us the gospel message.

Randall Haas, son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Carol, has a three-year assignment with the 101st Airborne Division, and is at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

Grandparents, David and Neel Joos are wondering when they will get to see the little daughter born to Sgt. Dennis and Shirley Arsenault. She was born Nov. 10 and named Nicole Marie.

Bro. Alvin Nohl underwent hip surgery in a Minneapolis hospital and reports are that he is doing nicely. We are thankful that Sis. Corrine, wife of Bro. Richard Schmidgall, has recovered after surgery, and that Bro. Charlie Koehl is out again, after being hos-

We were happy to have Bro. Ken Lawson of Minneapolis with us for

Thanksgiving and the following Sunday.

On Saturday evening, Dec. 1, we assembled in our house of worship to hear the testimonies of five dear souls. (Elder Bros.) Leo Moser of Lester and Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa came to assist our Elder Bro. Paul Fehr in this inspiring work. Tears of joy flowed down many cheeks on Sunday afternoon, as we greeted our newborn brothers: Douglas and Davis Wulf, sons of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi; a dear couple, Bro. Gerald Fuechtenberger, son of (Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma) and his wife, Sis. Karen, and Joyce (daughter of Llovd and Dorothy (Moser) Durkee. Bro. Eugene Metzger of Lester and Bro. Eli Somerhalder, Burlington, Okla., were also present for this occasion, and assisted in the ministry on Sunday. Davis had attended church in Burlington, while employed in Kansas, which prompted Bro. Eli and Sis. Emma to come and partake of God's blessings with us.

Correction: The article in the November news should have read, On Oct. 14, Sis. Diane Fehr and Bro. Mike Schmidgall were united in marriage.

SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Likewise, ye sinners, come;
Be healed of your transgressions!
O come both great and small;
Here you will find remission,
Salvation, help and grace.
Here is the cleansing flood.
Each sinful stain efface,
Immersed in Jesus' blood.

Nine young friends have answered this call and started on their journey to Zion. May God grant them His grace and help along the way, so they will not falter or look back. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Visiting ministers have been Robert Meyer of Bluffton and Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa.

Hospitalized have been Sis. Cordelia Locher (surgical) and Sis. Elizabeth Marti.

Our first storm of the season has been a crippling one. We had freezing rain, ice, and then snow. Many of the power lines were downed by the weight of ice. Much of the community was left without heat,

lights, water and telephones. Part of this has been restored, but ours has all been off for the past 29 hours. We are fortunate in that we are keeping warm with the aid of our gas oven.

This reminds us that all the learning and achievements of man is as nothing to the power of God.

AKRON Katherine Ries

It was gratifying to many of us, as we noted the joy and happiness envelop two very young converts, between the time of announcement of their intentions and the giving of testimonies before baptism. To share in the joy of these two young souls, their parents and grandparents, many brethren and friends from Rittman joined our congregation Dec. 2 to witness the culmination of their repentance to become a child of God. We welcome into the fold Linda Pamer, daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor, and Janice Greenbank, daughter of Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily. Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier assisted Elder Bro. Rudy Graf with the baptism.

When we asked Bro. Duane Collins how Sis. Marjorie was, he announced the birth of their daughter, Cynthia Ann, Nov. 30. Marjorie is excellent, and their children, Doane Jr., Mark, and Christine are anxiously waiting the arrival home of their baby sister.

Bro. Noah Baumgartner is assembling again with us, after an absence of several weeks due to surgery. We miss him when he is not present and hope his recovery will be permanent.

Elder Bros. Josh Broquard, Fairbury, and Leroy Huber, Eureka, were welcome visitors, bringing us the inspired word of God as it comes to them. We are most grateful.

Our young folks of the Sunday School have announced that Sunday, Dec. 16, is to be Christmas-hymn night. We are looking forward to hear these youngsters sing praise and honor to God for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The sisters are preparing refreshments.

Bro. Randall and Sis. Caroline Miller have moved into their new home, 3322 Cherrywood Dr., Norton, O. 44203.

A London Fog all-weather man's coat, size 40 and 2 boys jackets

have been forgotten in the men's cloak room.

Address: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Greenbank, 5945 Kenneth Ave. Apt 14 Carmichael Ca 95608.

BURLINGTON, IOWA Edna Pohl — Elaine Eisenmann

Let us remember the true meaning of Christmas and what Christ did for us, that we may have eternal life.

Lynn Scheitlin and Danny Townsend were married Nov. 24. Parents of the couple are Bro. Ken and Sis. Charity Scheitlin. Burlington, and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Townsend, Bloomfield. They will reside near Bloomfield.

Our sister, Ann Massner has spent time in the Burlington Hospital, and has been ordered complete bed rest for several weeks. At present, she is at an Iowa City hospital. We greatly miss her attendance at church.

Two others have had hospital stays. They are Kirk Massner (son of Ken and Rose) and Michael Pohl (son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce). Both boys are assembling with us again.

Thank You: We want to say a special thank you, all who remembered us in prayers, and for cards and letters of encouragement. This has meant so very much in the days of Ernie's confinement. Ernie and Rekie Anliker.

New Address: Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Eisenmann, 2168 Auhuhu St., Pearl City, Hawaii 96782.

KIOWA, KANSAS Janice Frieden

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." Thus has it been over the past 50 years for Bro. Jeff and Sis. Frieda Frieden of Winfield, Kansas, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in the Lord on Nov. 4. All of Bro. and Sis. Jeff and Frieda's eight children were here, and attended both morning and afternoon church services with their parents and families. From 3 to 5 o'clock p.m., Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen Farney opened their home for any friends and relatives that wished to extend the best wishes. In this age when so many marriages fail, it is truly blessed to see one such as this, founded up-

on the Lord and entrusted to His care.

Nov. 4 was also our day to sing at the Kiowa Manor. It is a blessing to everyone who has a part in this service, because they seem to be very thankful to be able to sing along and to hear the word.

Nov. 11 was our last Sunday in the Burlington, Oklahoma church and it is was rather sad to say goodbye. During the many years that the word was proclaimed within its walls, many souls found repentance and the peace and love of knowing God. Therefore, it was like saying farewell to a very dear friend. When, on Nov. 18, we entered our new church in Kiowa, Kansas, to worship for the first time, it was like finding a new friend. There was such a feeling of love and humility, that we had to thank God over and over for His blessings in granting us this lovely structure, wherein His precious word could be proclaimed.

Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach opened their home on the evening of Nov. 11, for a blessed evening of singing hymns to the Lord and wonderful fellowship with those of like faith.

No God, no peace.
Know God, know peace.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Howie and Diane Leman

Why do we really celebrate Christmas? This is the question I asked my classroom of first graders. My heart was really saddened when only one child, after listening to many responses about Santa, tovs. and such, replied, "It is God's birthday." We must make sure our little ones are told and retold the real Christmas story. It is easy for them, and us, to get so wrapped up in the holiday affairs that we do not spend enough time reflecting on that glorious event, our Lord's birth.

Our little church is busy preparing for Christmas activities. Sunday, Dec. 16, we plan to have a pot-luck dinner at the church and then go caroling at various old folks homes and hospitals. Dec. 19, our Sunday School children and several singing groups will present our annual Christmas program.

We are sad to report that Norm and Sis. Terry Wettstein will be

leaving our community at the end of December. Norm will graduate from U. of Illinois and has taken a job with Morton Builders in Morton.

Visiting ministers have been Marvin Schmidgall, Jim Hoerr, Lennie Meyer, and Chuck Hemmer. It is so refreshing to hear the word from many different ministers.

May the peace of God and the joy of His salvation reign in each of our hearts.

CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler — Eleanor Herzig

He might have come from heaven
In splendor, crowned with light,
Spectacular and regal,
An awe-inspiring sight.
He might have come triumphant,
A leader or a king,
With armies and with banners
Mid throngs that homage bring.

But God who is our Father,
With His great Father-heart,
Sent Jesus as a baby,
That He might thus impart
His perfect, loving message,
Heard that first Christmas morn.
It holds all hope, all promise.
To you a Child is born.

How wonderful to be reminded at this season of the year that **To you a Child is born**, one who was to suffer and die for the sins of the world. How wonderful it was for us on Wednesday evening, Dec. 5, to hear the experience and witness a **child being born again**, when our friend, Lisa Grau could be taken into the family of believers, and we could meet and greet her as a new sister in faith. Her parents are Ray and Arlene Grau, and her grandparents are Bro. Ted Sr. and Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler. We thank our Elder Bros. John Bahler and Rudy Graf for being with us.

A little girl, Holly Lee, was born to Duane and Elsie McElheran on Nov. 6. Her grandparents are Alice and Norman Lehman and Mr. and Mrs. Walter McElheran, and her great-grandmother is Sis. Barbara Bachman. Holly is welcomed by her sister, Michelle.

Our hospital patients were (Sisters) Ivah Pohling, Barbara Virkler, and Lucy Hany. Noreen Farney, daughter of Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice had a tonsillectomy. Bro. Earl Rohr has been unable to

assemble with us because of a fall at home.

GOODFIELD

Elna Grimm

Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Mildred Bauman have had joy and sorrow intermittently this past month, and surely we have rejoiced and sorrowed with them. Their son, David, and his wife, Shirlev (Seidel) were gathered into the fold on the weekend of Nov. 17 and 18. Provings were held on Sat. evening, and baptism on Sunday. On Fri., Nov. 16, Sis. Mildred's Dad, Friend Ernest Moser from Danvers, Ill., passed away. His funeral was at our Goodfield church on Mon. Nov. 19.

On Dec. 5, a baby boy, Thomas Lester was born to Friends Lester and Helen Bauman, R. R. Eureka. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Mildred Bauman, R.R. Congerville, and Bro. and Sis. Simon Wagenbach, Tremont.

OAKVILLE

Martha Steiner

"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." And by the grace of God two people can be led together. Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Martha Steiner (daughter of Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner) to Bro. Albert Wiegand.

We have enjoyed the visits and willing labors of several ministering brothers in the past weeks: Ken Schneider (Remington), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Robert Beer (Mansfield), Duane Metzger (West Bend) and William Funk (Garden Grove).

"I would like to thank everyone who remembered me and my family with cards, flowers, and prayers in these past weeks following my car accident. Your kindness was much appreciated." Sis. Wilma (Bro. Vernon) Stoller.

PULASKI

Nancy Musselman
Ernestine Wuthrich

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." It was our great pleasure to have the Peoria chorus visit and sing to us. The Lord has given them a special talent, which they use to praise Him. It was a most blessed day.

We were blessed by the visit of Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington.

Sis. Mary Wiegand spent a few days in the hospital for surgery.

One of my favorite little poems at Christmas-time is this:

What Can I give Him
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him—
I can give Him my heart.

PHOENIX

Mrs. Allan Freed

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." As we again celebrate the birthday of our Saviour, we bring you all the best wishes of the Phoenix congregation. May you have: the gladness of Christmas—which is hope, the spirit of Christmas—which is peace, the heart of Christmas—which is love.

God has heard our prayers for our dear Elder Bro. Roy Farney. It is good to have him assembling with us again, after being absent for some time following a heart attack.

A large group did the annual fall church cleaning Nov. 3. Some of the men spent a Saturday painting on the outside of the building.

Sis. Dora Young of Wichita had surgery in Good Samaritan Hospital on Nov. 28. She is the mother of Sis. Vera Yackley. The doctors are hopeful that the surgery will enable her to walk better and help relieve some of her pain from arthritis. Some of her family came to be near her at this time. Among them was Bro. Loren Strahm of Gridley, Kansas, who ministered to us Sunday, the 2nd of December. Bro. Harold Emch of Girard was also a visiting minister that Sunday. We surely appreciated the messages they brought us.

Christmas will have a deeper meaning in the home of Wayne and Sis. Alana Schrenk this year. We rejoice that Wayne has given his heart to the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. and Sis. Henry Schrenk of Tucson.

God has worked another of His miracles of love in the hearts of two of His children. Sis. Betsey Belsley was announced to be mar-

ried to Bro. Loren Schrenk of Tucson. Parents are Bro. and Sis. Bill Belsley of Eureka and Bro. and Sis. Henry Schrenk of Tucson. They plan to be married Dec. 23 in Eureka.

Note of thanks: To my many Brothers, Sisters and friends, May I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for your many prayers, cards, and tokens of love. They were received with much appreciation. I remain your least Brother in Christ, Roy Farney.

SILVERTON Judith Knecht

I wish that Christmas lasted all year

With all its peace and love and cheer.

I'm going to try all next year through

To be more kind

And thoughtful; aren't you?

Christmas season is with us again, and it seems everyone is shopping for just the right gift. May we bear in mind that the most precious gift is the birth and death of our Lord and Saviour, and not that of material gifts of man. This is truly a season of joy and peace, no matter what the problems or burdens maybe. If only the men and women of this world could realize that there is joy and peace every day, all year, when we walk in the Lord.

During the month of November we were thankful to have with us elders, Noah Schrock and Carl Kinsinger. May we heed the teachings and admonitions of our elders, as they bring it forth in love and concern for our well-being.

GIRARD Kathryn Emch

I am writing this article from Phoenix, where we are enjoying the sunshine for a few days. Although we enjoy nature, the real joy comes from the warm welcome of the brethren in this congregation. Thanks be to God for Christians everywhere.

In the past weeks we have had Bro. Rudy (Graf) with us to serve Communion.

We had a wonderful evening when (Bros.) LeRoy Huber and Joshua Broquard visited us.

Our cup was filled to the brim

as a group of brethren from Bluffton came to spend a week-end with us. We give special thanks to Bro. Robert Meyer and Bro. Carl Kipper, who allowed themselves to be spent in our behalf. We really felt humbled that so many would put forth the effort to be with us. Praise the Lord!

FORT WAYNE Pam Steffen

There was a man playing a piccolo in an orchestra. He thought he wasn't needed, so he stopped playing. The conductor stopped the orchestra. Why had the piccolo player stopped playing? The piccolo player was needed. Have you been doing your part for the Lord?

Our hospital patients are Sis. Laura Gerber and Bros. Harry Stoller, Luther Steffen, and Jesse Stoller.

INDIANAPOLIS Eric and Ginny Zeller

Wouldn't it be wonderful to experience an old-fashioned Christmas, where a family's close ties and devotion to each other draws them together, to experience the greatest gift given to man—love of the Lord and of each other. It would be wonderful if this holiday season could be of those memorable ones. In our troubled times, let's try to be a little old-fashioned, humble ourselves a little more, and appreciate the love we have. This world will lose, but we who live in the Lord will be victors. Let us all remember of the greatest gift ever given to all of mankind—a Saviour, who will stand true and sure through all of our confrontations.

We love to see so many guests each Sunday. We do hope that many of our brethren will be able to visit our dedication and open house in January. We had many visiting ministers and their messages from the Lord strengthened us so: Theo. Beer from Milford, Irvin Stoller from Latty, Walter Steffen from Milford, Marvin Stieglitz from Leo, Wendell Gerber from Bluffton and Max Reimschisel from Wichita.

SARASOTA Philip Wingeier

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Sis. Lorene, and a part of their family spent sometime in their Sarasota home for the thanksgiving season.

Bro. Joe Schrock, Sis Esther, also Bro. Phil Sauder, Sis. Anna will be spending quite sometime here this winter. We appreciate all who come to worship with us.

We are planning, the good Lord willing, to have Christmas service in our new church . . . song service 10:30. This does not mean that the church is complete, only the assembly room will be, so that we can use it, if all goes well, we pray.

Again we wish all who travel this way to come and worship with us . . . a special invitation to all elders and ministers who might travel to the warm climate. The best way to come to the new church from highway 41 and Bahia Vista St., four miles east until you come to Honore Ave., turn north ½ mile, 333 North Honore Ave., Sarasota Florida 33580. For your convenience, you may call Philip Wingeier, 959-3244; Edward Getz, 756-4346; Robert Reiman, 355-6767, for time and place of service.

We of the Sarasota church sincerely wish you all the peace and joy for a blessed yuletide season. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Greetings to all of you who read "Silver Lining".

The purpose of this is to inform you of the beautiful area around Portland and Silverton, Oregon . . . Our churches being located one in Portland, and another 50 miles to the south at Silverton . . . Portland is a flourishing city, and affords employment for people who work in industry and trades.

In the Silverton area, there are small farms. Land is very fertile, and most anything grows. A family can make a comfortable living on a small acreage. The winters are mild, and climate healthful.

I have been involved for more than 20 years in church duties in this area, and I would like to encourage our people to consider making Oregon their home.

Noah Schrock

UNION CITY Karen Martin

What a blessed day we were privileged to share in. Bros. John Bahler from Rockville and Rudolph Graf from Akron ministered and

Mrs. W. H. Meyer,
Edelstein, Box 27
Illinois. 61526

served us Holy Communion, for which we are grateful.

It was with eager and thankful hearts that we listened to the testimony of Walter Rumpf, who was proved and baptized on Dec. 9. He testified, after years of leading what he thought of as a good and useful life, when he became ill and had to face surgery, he was suddenly afraid, aware that he was in need of something more. He came back to the church of his youth, and it was there he found the way

to his salvation. How good it was to sing: *My Lord, an off'ring do I bring; My heart I give to Thee. I gladly give this heart of mine, Which thou dost ask of me.*

Sis. Mary Diggelmann is confined to home with a broken collarbone, but we hope she will soon be back among us.

It has been decided that there will be services twice a month in the Philadelphia area, for those who have a distance to travel to get to Union City. Of course, we

will also continue to support the church in Union City.

Elgin II

Lord God, we honor Thee, and praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great. Thy mercies are untold.
Thou givest food and drink for spirit, flesh and soul.

EVEN CHRISTMAS ALWAYS

Henry Souder Jr.

Real Christmas. It's a gathering of kindred hearts. A joy in everlasting life, things dear to the heart of God. The cheer and chords of Christmas, the triumph of Easter, the gladness of Thanksgiving are all in one, a beautiful plan. Each day can have all the joyful notes.

"Charity never faileth:" . . . Sweetness, comfort, rejoicing always abiding. . . That's the way it'll be in real home.

Many of the things of charity (or love) is what it is not . . . jealousy, provoked, rejoicing with something not good. It is heartening to be happy about what love is free from. What must it be, when the righteous shine forth as the sun? Nothing to cloud, free, full, flawless outburst of continual radiance!

Preaching, teaching, urging, exhorting, admonishing have their place now. There is coming something that is different. Listen: "but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

Now we prepare and grow. The inner man is shaped for what we cannot yet fully grasp. God does the fitting. In that dream world, we will chord beautifully. When we are perplexed, when puzzles confront us, then hold firmly to Him, come

what may. "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part."

What does perfect hold? Seeing, knowing, understanding in the summited look . . . Deep depth, shining clearness, exact facts, unerring understanding. The joys of heavenly talking, rich, deep. Looking into the face of God, listening to His words of gracious power, seeing His expressions, that will be worth it all. It is together vacation and real-for-sure home. "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

The whispered secrets of God tell of a glorious morning. We fall asleep, knowing a dream world of unspeakable beauty awaits glistening eyes. Divine hand has prepared heavenly things. Though we picture only part, it is marvellous and wonderful. God chose the difference between a child and a man to explain the difference between now and then. "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

The glass, or mirror of Paul's day was metal. The outline was dim. A child comes into a dark, dimly lit room on early Christmas morning. He knows there are shapes that delight, toys and candy, joys for little hearts. Even so it is with us. We come to eternal

delights . . . Wondrous, adventurous, a morning of glorious happiness.

Darkly. An **enigma** . . . a riddle, a puzzle. We can understand a lot. Yet it is heart-warming, there are things we must wait for, be happy about. It all fits together perfectly.

Actually being there. Really seeing the features of His kindly face, with all in, that will be festive gladness. Actually being with the Father, looking into His glorious beauty, that is continual Christmas happiness. Our hearts will be warm.

We see our loved ones slipping into their places, one by one. That morn of reality, when we gather in the sky forever, what satisfied gladness . . . "but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

How are we known now? Perfectly, from Him who is from everlasting to everlasting. Even our very hairs numbered. He is perfect in judgment. His understanding is infinite. We shall fully know as we are known. Who can measure that beautiful, deep, clear view? Who knows all our hearts will see? Who knows the receiving gladnesses in full . . . and the beautiful interchange of love and friendship in all its glory?

Gladsome Christmas. Wait till you see!