



And they gathered themselves against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

The Greek word rendered "falling away is apostasia, and brings to mind the English word apostasy, which usually denotes departure from the faith. In classical Greek it was used to describe a military or political revolt, and in the Septuagint it denoted rebellion against God.

HOW ARE YOU GROUNDED?

Roger W. Sauder, Elgin, Illinois

There are times when something strikes a note within us. We just sit back and do some thinking.

My thoughts were struck some-time ago by a conversation with a brother-in-Christ, while visiting one of our churches. This brother was talking to me about the condition of a relative of his, who was a member of the church for a long time, when he and his family went seeking "greener" pastures with a group who left the church.

Have you ever looked at someone and thought, or even asked, "What did he do that for?", or "Everyone knows better than that!", or "This is an easier way"? It all boils down to one thing, picking at someone. Isn't that an easy thing to do, find someone's faults? Have you ever seen a carpenter who couldn't go into someone's house and find the mistakes? Or a farmer who couldn't tell another farmer how he could have done better? Yes, have you ever seen a minister or elder that people couldn't criticize for one reason or another? All of this is possible because none of us are perfect.

We are all just a little different, and do things just a little differently than someone else. I don't look at things exactly the same way you do, and I am sure there is no one who always agrees with me . . . But to continually pick at someone or something is a disease.

It is a contagious disease. Disease is something we must all battle all the time. The disease I am leading up to is evil; it is brought to us by the devil himself.

Why is it there are those who do repent and follow the ways of the Lord for a time and then leave? We all know people who have done this.

For a moment, let's look at some of our likes. Would you go to work for a company you thought was bad? Or a person you couldn't trust? Or hire a carpenter you knew did sloppy work? We all want to be associated with good people and good organizations.

Now, let's go back, pick up the pieces, and put the puzzle together. We repented because we knew that was the right thing to do, that it was necessary if we hoped to enter the gates of Heaven. We must remain true and faithful all the remaining days of our lives . . . But the question which keeps coming up is, Why do some people leave the church? Why do they look for "greener" pastures? Is this because of a disease pertaining to their relationship with the church?

The fact remains that we want to be associated, first of all with God, but also with a good church and good people. We don't always think the same, but the Bible tells us we should bear each other and pray for one another. We also read, we should forgive each other.

These things are not always easy to do. Therefore, if we stop doing our duty in these things, then we open the door for the disease. Soon we are picking at the church, the elders, and most of the others. We no longer forgive, bear, or pray for them. These people become conceited in their own ways and thoughts. The longer this goes on, the more certain they "think" they are associated with a bad church, with bad people run by bad leaders. Therefore, at this point in time they go looking for "greener" pastures.

Experience tells us these people probably never settle down anywhere very long after this. They become church hoppers.

It would be easy to stop here, but I feel it is necessary to add another point. Even though perhaps none of us agree 100% with everything, yet we are a long way from being perfect ourselves.

Let's remember we have a fine church, filled with fine people, led by the servants of God. I am convinced they do what they think is right. However, I have yet to talk to an elder who wouldn't admit they make mistakes too. Let's ask ourselves, "Could we do better?" Perhaps we should remember, the devil would like to wash everyone of us to sea, but he will not succeed if we are grounded upon that solid rock, Jesus Christ.

WATCH OUT FOR LOST LOVE!

Speculation can tempt a man into trackless waters, to lose himself in immensity.

A superficial glance often seems to justify a course a little patience would have revealed.

What is lost love? A heap of ashes on a deserted hearth . . . light extinguished . . . smiles stilled . . . sun hidden . . . flowers frozen . . . sounds, grating sounds,

through withered leaves . . . it is not just the separation from brethren, but also love waxed cold that is great tragedy.

A tragedy occurred in England. After the man had shown his complete mastery over lions, tigers, leopards, and hyenas, he concluded his act by introducing an enormous boa constrictor. Nearly 30 feet long. He had bought the reptile when it was only 2 or 3 days old.

For 25 years he had handled it daily, so that he considered it perfectly harmless and completely under his control. As the huge serpent slithered along, its head erect, its bright eyes sparkling, the entertainer gave a prearranged signal to the powerful creature. As it had done before, it began to coil its heavy folds around him. Higher and higher it rose until the man and the serpent seemed blended in-

to one, and the hideous head of the snake was raised above his own. Suddenly, the trainer gave a muffled cry. The audience burst into applause. Their cheers froze on their lips. The man's scream was a death wail of agony. Without warning, the boa constrictor's serpent nature had returned. The crowd heard bone after bone crack, as the killer tightened its hold. The man's plaything had become his master and destroyer.

We value the soul of the one who leaves. The Scripture makes it very plain, that there is great risk. In the truth, facts proven over and over, many have taken the gamble and lost. We in meekness instruct, hoping some will recover themselves from the snare of the devil . . . some will be wise and avert great peril . . . and some will cry and call on the Lord of great mercies.

But those who end in Satan's camp, how tragic the loss!

Time is money, currency for eternity. Use the moments when shut-in, the spare seconds, the silent moments in the night hours . . . pack them with pleas . . . they come up before the Father who hears . . .

Was It You?

Did you think of us this morning
As you breathed a word of
prayer?
Did you ask for strength to help us
All our many burdens bear?
Someone prayed, and strength was
given
For the long and weary road,
Someone prayed and faith grew
stronger
As we bent beneath our load.
Someone prayed, the way grew
brighter,
And we walked all unafraid,
In our hearts a song of gladness.
Tell me, was it YOU who
prayed?

LATTY

LeAnn Laukhuf — Carol Sinn

Sis. Nancy and Bro. Gary Stoller are the happy parents of a baby daughter, Virginia Rose, born Dec. 6. Sherry, Tommy, and Tammy welcome her home.

Ministering Bros. with us were Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Noah Schrock (Oakville),

Walter Rehklau (Toledo), and Walter Steffen (Milford). We always appreciate the efforts of visiting ministers and want to thank them.

We are glad to report that Bro. William Eisenman is at home, recuperating from his hospitalization.

Amy Stoller (Bro. Millard and Sis. Irma) had her tonsils removed and is now home.

This year Latty had 8 births, 6 weddings, 13 baptisms, and 1 death.

TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki

Marie Inoue

It's lovely shiny day these several months, but we don't have any rain lately, so pretty bad flu spread around here and there in Japan. Some of Japanese schools were closed because flu.

When we go to downtown in Tokyo, many neons and illuminations were twinkling, especially Christmas season. However, its not so many this year because fuel crisis. There isn't as much air pollution this Christmas season as before. This probably the Lord's will to make people think more carefully.

We had blessed Christmas Eve Service here on Dec. 24, and quite few people attended. Bro. Akito Inoue could not make it to come back on time, because he was snowbound where he went up the northern Japan for his business trip. We had a quite nice Christmas supper in Tokyo Church before Christmas Service, and we each brought some food and shared. One of our Sunday School children's mother brought Osushi, which is rice, meat and some kind of vegetables mixed together. It was very delicious. We enjoyed it very much. Sis. Marie Inoue's English students and my friends also attended. We hope they understand real meanings of Christmas and will be repent their sins before God someday.

Several of us enjoyed our regular English service at Shioda last Saturday evening. We were blessed by the Christmas message spoken in Genesis 3:1-16. Verse 16 is the first prophecy recorded of the coming of our Saviour. "And I will put enmity between . . . thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." It was explained that her seed is our Saviour, which will bruise the head

of thy seed, which is Satan. These two shall be in continuous conflict with each other until the end, when Satan will be finally put down by our victor, the Lord Jesus Christ. Bible prophecy certainly applies to our daily lives, that we have a continuous battle with our foe. May we abide in Christ daily and be among the overcomers.

Our Tokyo Sunday School had big children . . . did Christmas story, and little children had Christmas carols. We had about 30 children and one mother came. Sisters Hiroko Utsuki, Junke Hatsumi and myself help them.

We want to thank the Francesville single sisters, the Mary and Marthas, for making Christmas handwork patterns for the 3 Sunday Schools.

We also want to express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Carl Gutwein Sr. of the Francesville assembly, on account of his death. This past fall he wrote an article soon to be translated for our church newspaper, "Voice of the Vineyard". Those of us who knew him will enjoy this memory of him.

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

From a Form Letter
John and Ann Wagler

The city granted us permission to enlarge our pre-school enrollment. We will probably be needing more teachers. If any of our teachers in our churches are interested, they should contact us. This is a real opportunity for Christian service.

The many letters of encouragement and gifts are appreciated. God is blessing, and some have been baptized since our last letter. There

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is a big field here, and we hope that you will continue to pray for this work. The church is gradually getting paid for. It has been over two years now since the first service was held. Last Sunday there was 80-90 in services.

SHIODA
Willis R. Ehnlé

A Japanese farmer, 92 years of age who lives about ten miles from here, still works regularly out-of-doors. When asked by a friend of mine how he managed to stay healthy to such a ripe old age, he replied, "I eat moderately, never more than one bowl of rice at a sitting." This we can accept, for we must not be slaves of our appetites but masters. The Lord Jesus stated in Luke 16:8, "...the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." The unbelievers are sometimes an example to us in applying themselves to what they believe in.

It has been published here, that in 1972 there were on the average 2.1 robberies a day in Tokyo, compared with 203 in New York, 9.5 in Hong Kong and 6.5 in London. Every child of God who is a citizen of the United States should pray fervently for our country. Our own group of believers, our brotherhood, should be a wonderful example of honesty, self-denial, hard work, love and service for our fellow man.

On the morning of December 18, I was on my way to Tokyo and transferred trains at a station called Otsuki. I went over to call, when I met an old acquaintance from Canada. He and I both taught English conversation at the same university several years ago for a short period, at which time we had conversation on spiritual things. He has a French name, Mr. Vilineuve.

My friend proceeded to tell me he had something really good for me, and asked if I hadn't heard of the charismatic movement. I told him I had heard of it. He invited me to a meeting in Tokyo, where they gather from all denominations and practice speaking in unknown tongues, sometimes referred to as gibberish when it is only emotional sounds. No real language is used or has been used.

I replied that I stay pretty close to my own church. He was quick to

say that they don't try to persuade you to leave your own church. I then asked if this is helpful in living a holy life. He hesitated as if he hadn't thought of that, but then answered. . . As we said goodbye to each other. I became even more concerned than before about the confusion that would develop with something like this, if even the unconverted, as well as the converted, can be carried away in their emotions and spirit, and then take that experience as a sign that it is well with their soul. **By their fruits ye shall know them** is still the safest yardstick.

In Japan, Christmas is no holiday. We had service Christmas Eve. About 30 persons came; a few of them were children. We learned that we should follow the light we are given, follow it with all our heart, soul and mind. The shepherds saw a light when the angels came. The wise men saw a smaller light when the star came. Each followed the light they had, and arrived at the place of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone should be there, because there is forgiveness and safety.

Unity in the church is not a luxury; it is a necessity for the kind of testimony God would have us to be, which is in itself, evangelism. "...do the work of an evangelist". People are drawn to a godly and unified group.

TUCSON

Mrs. Donald Bauer
Mrs. Loren Knapp

God knew that everybody needs
Companionship and cheer;
He knew that people need someone
Whose thoughts are always near.
He knew they needed someone kind
To lend a helping hand,
Someone to gladly take the time
To care and understand.
That's why God gave us friends.

He knew that we all need someone
To share each happy day,
To be a source of courage
When troubles come our way,
Someone to be true to us
Whether near or far apart,
Someone whose love we'll always
hold

And treasure in our hearts.
That's why God gave us friends.

We all treasure our loved ones, as

they again begin to come to our city for the winter, to share our great climate and to worship with us.

It was a busy month as we all joined in Christmas caroling, giving of ourselves to others and celebrating the birth of Jesus, Son of God. Old and young alike shared in praises to the Lord.

A supper and wedding shower was held at the fellowship Hall in honor of Bro. Loren Schrenk, son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Ora of Tucson, and Sis. Betsy Belsley, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen of Eureka. They were married Dec. 23 at Eureka. Some from Tucson were able to attend the wedding, but due to distance, many of us regret we were not able to make it. May their union of hearts cause them to be even stronger in the spirit of the Lord.

Our dear friend, William Greiner, age 71, passed away Dec. 18. He is survived by a son, Lloyd, of Billings, Montana. He was preceded by his wife, Kathryn. Memorial services were held on Dec. 20 in the Apostolic Christian Church in Tucson. Burial services were in his hometown of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Our prayers again go out for Sis. Grace Haller, who was hospitalized and reported in critical condition.

As we enter the new year, we must all thank the Lord for the prosperous year which we have all had, and praise Him for the many blessings we receive in the future.

LAMAR

Mrs. Raymond Braker
Mrs. Art Banwart

To me is given boundless mercy, a gift that I did not deserve. This was the refrain sung as we witnessed the baptism of our five converts Dec. 9. Taken into the fold were: Carol Braker, daughter of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker; Sandra Marti, daughter of Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti; Vera and Rex Frieden, daughter and son of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice Frieden; and Roy Braker, son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker. With us for this blessed week-end to assist our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker of Lamont were Bros. Raymond Banwart of Ft. Scott and Eugene Marti of Sabetha. May the Lord bless and keep them in this

new life they are now dedicating to Him.

Our friend, Barbara Stefan has turned to the Lord in repentance, and we rejoice with her and her husband, Willie Stefan Jr., for we know that even the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents.

On Dec. 11 our friends, Linda Braker and Rick Barton were united in marriage by Bro. Sam Anliker, at Linda's home. She is the daughter of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker. Rick is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Barton. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Wayne and Becky Marti are the parents of a girl, Shannon Michelle. She has one brother to welcome her home. Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti are the grandparents, and Sis. Marie Stewart is the great-grandmother.

Bro. Fred Lanz spent some time in the hospital, but was able to return to his home before Christmas. Sam and Sis. Betty Baker and his mother have been unable to assemble with us for some time because of his health.

The engagement of Sis. Janice Springer of Ft. Scott and Bro. Dan Braker of Lamar was announced. The parents are Sis. Mabel Springer of Ft. Scott and Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker of Lamar.

In this new year, may we strive to be more worthy of His many blessings.

PRINCEVILLE Ruth Ricketts

The air is very crisp. A mantle of white covers the bare cold earth. What a beautiful sight to see the snow glisten from the rays of the winter sun. Inside our homes we have warmth and comfort. As we look forward to a new year, we wonder what is in store for us. We look forward with faith that God will provide. It is up to each one of us to do our part to bring happiness and joy to those around us. If we have the peace of God in our hearts, it will be pure joy to do so.

One ship drives east and another west

With the selfsame winds that blow;

'Tis the set of the sails

And not the gales
Which decides the way to go.

There have been a number of changes the past year, some joyful and some sorrowful, yet we all have the love for each other, and with faith in God can look forward . . . Five brothers, one sister, and four friends were laid to rest during the past year. God has stood by the bereaved families, which is indeed a comfort. We were thankful to have nine new members added during the year, four sisters and five brothers, with three young souls awaiting baptism. Three of our young folks were united in marriage, with one couple making Princeville their home church. We have twelve new babies, four little girls, and eight little boys.

We were privileged to have Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Hartzler of Rittman, spend some time with their son, Alpha, in our midst the first part of December. We were especially thankful for the messages Ben shared with us on Wednesday evening and again on Sunday. His humble, sincere teachings go right to the heart.

The Sunday of Dec. 16, Bro. Charles Hemmer of Peoria occupied the pulpit, bringing heart-warming messages. Outside was a crisp, winter day, with snow covering everything; inside, a deep warmth radiated among the members and friends who heard the stirring message.

We gathered the evening of Dec. 16. The children of the Sunday School told the story of Jesus' birth in word and song. How much we can learn from these innocent little ones. One could feel the love in their hearts for the Saviour.

Many of the shut-ins and older folks were warmed when several groups went caroling. What a blessed way to spend an evening, spreading cheer and good-will among men!

On Sunday, Dec. 23, our hearts were warmed with the sincere teaching of Bro. Robert Meyer of Bluffton. We were thankful to have Bro. Robert, Sis. Lela, and their daughter Sis. Vicki visit us, and have confidence we will have them in our midst more often in the future. Recently, the engagement was made known of Bro. James Elsasser of our congrega-

tion to Sis. Vicki. Bro. John and Sis. Lillian (Knobloch) Elsasser are Jim's parents.

Funeral services for Bro. Emil Lauber were held the afternoon of Dec. 23, with our local ministers sharing the service. It had been some time since Emil was able to worship with us, due to infirmities of old age. After some time in the hospital, he spent the past five weeks in the Apostolic Christian Church Home in Peoria. He was born in Basel, Switzerland, March 21, 1891, a son of Paul and Josephine Walisser Lauber. He came to the United States March 21, 1912, and farmed in the Princeville area the last 35 years.

He was united in marriage to Louise Mees March 27, 1915. They were blessed with eight children. They felt the call of the Lord, and both surrendered their hearts to Him and have had comforting years with Him as their guide.

Surviving are his widow, Louise; four sons, Edmund, Walter, Julius, and Fritz; three daughters, Helen Fessenden, Verna Stoecker and Sis. Lucille Unsicker.

His family often came to be with him and helped care for him. Whenever one visited, we heard what one of the children or grandchildren had done for them. Emil's work was done and God called him to be relieved of his struggle. The family wish to thank all who lovingly did acts of love during the illness and at the time of passing of their loved one.

The family of Frieda Kieser wish to express their heartfelt thanks for the kindness shown during the illness and at the passing of their dear sister, aunt, niece and cousin.

What a joy it was when we gathered for Christmas morning, to have Bro. Silas deliver the Christmas message. It has been some time since he occupied the pulpit. The shepherds went with haste to find the King. How long do we tarry to find Him? We have a well-marked path to follow, and can look up to Him every day. He is there to guide us if we but ask. Let us go with more love for one another, and let our lights shine in this dark and very sinful world.

Four homes were brightened with new babies. On Dec. 13 a daughter, Krista Sue was welcomed into the home of Bro. Robert

and Sis. Arlene Scholl. Kyle, Kevin, and especially Karen welcomed their new sister, as did grandparents, Sis. Mary Scholl, Bro. Harold and Sis. Anna Streitmatter, and great-grandmother, Sis. Frieda Streitmatter.

On Dec. 24 a son, Troy David, was born to Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach. He was welcomed by Cheryl, Pamela, Kevin, Gale and Tim, and grandparents: Bro. George Wagenbach, Bro. Lou and Sis. Norma Bauman, and great-grandmother, Sis. Carrie Hodel.

On Dec. 28 a son, Scott David was born to Bro. James and Sis. Jean Metzger. A brother, Trent welcomed him, as did grandparents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Marie Seidel, Bro. Phil and Sis. Bertha Metzger, and great-grandmother, George Seidel.

On Dec. 31, a son was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Sharon Menold. A little sister, Kara welcomes, as do grandparents, Bro. Leonard, Sis. Marie Menold and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, and great-grandparents, Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary Leuthold.

The old year was fittingly brought to an end, with church services being attended by a goodly number. It was a cold night, but our hearts were warmed by the true message of God's word, when we could all take an inventory of our lives and resolve to do better.

Faith in God answers the questions and longings of the soul.

REMINGTON

Anna M. Waibel

Dec. 18, it started to snow . . . It snowed most of two nights and one day . . . had around 20 inches . . . roads and schools closed . . . no mail in or out . . . many travelers stranded . . . really beautiful out. The church program was postponed from Wed. night to Sun. afternoon . . . Sunday morning had to call for the road men to open the road to church, as they drifted shut again during the night.

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

Brent Waibel, son of Bro. Harold, had an operation for ruptured appendix. Sis. Emma Bechley is in the hospital for tests and observation.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marilyn Bahler drove Sis. Eliza Getz's car to Phoenix, where she plans staying for the winter. They arrived home the night before our big snowstorm, for which we all were very thankful. Eliza will be busy, helping to take care of her new grandson, born to Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Getz.

Gary and Lois Phipps have moved from Lamar. He will be employed here. Lois is the daughter of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Braker. We welcome them.

The Nussbaum Hatchery suffered a loss, due to a roof caving in on one of their buildings, due to the snow.

Ginger Marie was born Dec. 31 to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schneider. The maternal grandmother is Sis. Anna Schneider.

But I have heard God whisper;
I know I shall be blest;
My presence shall go with thee
And I will give thee rest.

PURDUE

Linda Pfladderer—Lynell Bahler

I wish I were:
big enough to honestly admit all my shortcomings,
brilliant enough to accept flattery without it making me arrogant,
tall enough to tower above deceit,
strong enough to treasure love,
brave enough to welcome criticism,
compassionate enough to understand human frailties,
wise enough to recognize my mistakes,
humble enough to be thoughtful of my neighbor
and righteous enough to be devoted to the love of God.

We should all strive to keep these values in our hearts and minds, which will help make us a better person and insure a happier new year.

On Dec. 12, we held our Purdue Christmas program, with Francesville as our host. God's presence was felt through the songs and

the poems. Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville shared thoughts of Christmas with us. The evening of service and fellowship was enjoyed by our Purdue group and the many visitors.

VALPARAISO

Camille and Wm. Feller

The month of December was of much trial for the Dillar Ames family of our congregation. On the 5th, our dear young friend, Todd Ames escaped death's grip, when his auto crashed into a tree southwest of Valparaiso. Through the grace and mercy of the Lord, Todd has recovered and is with us again. Todd and his family's faith in the Lord during this tribulation was likened that of David when he wrote: "O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust".

Though saddened by the news of Todd, the ladies fellowship held their annual Christmas dinner on Dec. 6. We enjoyed a blessed fellowship, although the Ames family was deeply missed.

On Dec. 16, we journeyed to various homes and the hospital around the Valpo area, singing carols by the bedsides of many. It was rewarding to the soul to share the joy that God bestowed upon the world through Jesus Christ. An elderly brother once said, "That which comes from the heart, that which helps your fellowmen, pleases God."

Our Sunday School held their annual Christmas program Sunday afternoon Dec. 23. The enthusiasm, hard work, and efforts of the children was enlightening to all. Bro. Harry Bucher closed with a few kind thoughts and then a Christmas prayer.

WOLCOTT

Marjean Lehman — Arles Kropf

Announcement was made on Dec. 9 of the engagement of Sis. Yvonne Schwab, daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene, to Bro. Nathan Lehman. A February wedding is being planned. We are happy that Bro. Nathan has again found employment in our area, and that they will be making their home here.

It also brings us joy that the Lord has given grace unto repentance to another loved one in our congregation. Our dear friend, Pat Kyburz, wife of Bro. Lloyd, has

begun her new life with the Lord. Our prayers are surely with her.

Our area received the heaviest snowfall recorded in 50 years the week before Christmas, when approximately 19 inches blanketed the ground. Due to the snow, our Sunday School Christmas program had to be postponed, and was then given on Sunday afternoon.

A large group spread Christmas joy to many homes the evening of Dec. 17, when they sang carols and distributed fruit baskets. Following caroling, a delicious lunch was served to us at the home of Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller.

Jeff Blume, son of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Norma, is enjoying a few days' leave from his military duties in North Carolina, visiting his family here.

We of the Wolcott assembly wish to all of our brethren and friends across this nation and Japan the blessings and joys of a new year in the Lord.

BRADFORD

Rebecca Endress

Holding a tiny newborn child in your arms . . . his pure and innocent face gazing up into yours . . . They are "angels" of God in disguise; His sunlight still gleams in their tresses; His glory still gleams in their eyes. Dick and Marilyn Tanner have one of these precious new bundles; Craig Wesley was born Dec. 10. He has a brother, Wayne. Bro. Simon and Sis. Maryellen Wiegand (Goodfield) and Bro. John and Sis. Margaret Tanner are his grandparents.

We enjoyed several visiting ministers. Bro. and Sis. Al Aberle (Tremont) spent a Sunday here when their niece and family served lunch. Bros. Lenny Meyer and Dale Eisenmann were here as weekend guests, along with several other Chicago families. Bro. Ben Hartzler (Rittman) surprised us with a Wednesday evening visit. He and Sis. Clara were spending sometime near Princeville working with their son, Al, in the house where he will live. We were happy to have all these brothers visit us.

Bros. George Kieser and Nate Stoller were both hospitalized for tests. Bro. Nate is still under a doctor's care and not able to minister, although he is back in our assembly again. Sis. Eunice (Ray) Klumpp is in Methodist Hospital,

Peoria, having submitted to major surgery. Sis. Bonnie Kieser was also a surgical patient, and is back at work. Bro. Louie and Sis. Ann Rumbold both had surgery on their left hands, to correct a tendon that was causing their fingers to cripple. Sis. Ann's hand is healing well; Bro. Louie's is making somewhat slower progress. Joe Kieser, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma, is recovering at home after a tonsillectomy. Sis. Donna (Roy) Ehnle is confined to her home, because of a blood clot on her leg.

Bro. Leroy and Sis. Esther Streitmatter met with an accident, and Esther's wrist was broken. The car was badly damaged, but we're thankful they escaped more serious injury.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

What glorious state, to be a lamb
of Jesus,
To feel the faithful Shepherd's
loving grace.

This feeling Bradley, son of Bro. William and Sis. Evelyn Wewetzer Gudeman, experienced when he was added to the fold and became a lamb of Jesus. Bros. Perry Zimmerman and Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest were with us for this happy occasion, and also ministered the word of God in rich measure. May God add His blessings and give the increase to all the good teachings we receive for time to time.

Bro. Samuel and Sis. Bertha Clauss have left our church circle and are now living in LaCrosse. May God bless them in their new place of abode.

A birth: Kay Lyn, born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon Kellenberger, on Dec. 19. They live at 444 South St., Elgin Ill. 60120.

After a lingering illness, Sis. Luise Messerschmidt passed away. She is survived by her sister, Karoline Kuehner; her niece and her husband, Robert and Louise Gebhard (who looked after her needs during the long illness), and a nephew, Robert Messerschmidt of California.

On Dec. 11, our Elder Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger were privileged to observe their 50th wedding anniversary. On Dec. 9, together with their chil-

dren, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, they were at the home of their son, Lloyd, and many relatives, friends and brothers and sisters in faith came there and extended their best wishes. They also received many cards from far and near, with lovely verses, one which reads as follows and is so fitting:

Of course you haven't always
lived
Untouched by care or stormy weather,
But through these fifty golden
years
You've shared what life has
brought, together,
And through the passing years
you've found
A happiness that's deep and true,
For love has marked each golden
page
Of memory with joy for you.

All this was deeply appreciated by Bro. Herman and Sis. Della, and they wish to say thank you all.

GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

Our special thanks to Bros. Elmer Zollinger, Fred Marti, Eugene Pamer, and Henry Dotterer for serving in our pulpit during our absence. It is always a blessing for the congregation to have other brothers proclaim the living word of God.

Glen and Sis. Anna Enveart celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary Dec. 23. Their family honored them with an open house, and all attended Christmas Eve service with them.

We had the pleasure of sharing our Christmas Eve with two foreign students visiting in the area. Dang Dac Thieu from Viet Nam and Girma Zwedie from Ethiopia were at Youngstown University, attending a Leadership Training Seminar. We gain a better understanding of our fellowmen by learning to know people from other lands.

FRANCESVILLE

Elmer Bucher

The birth of our Lord and Saviour is much more meaningful when we take time to consider what His birth really means to us. In Matthew 1:21 we read, "And she shall bring forth a son,

and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." How sad it is when God's children write Xmas, instead of Christmas. In math, x is unknown. In grading papers in school, x meant wrong, and in the catalogue x means no longer available. Our Lord is neither unknown, wrong, nor not available.

A son, Philip John II, was born to Philip and Julie Gutwein.

On Dec. 15, Brad Wuethrich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb) and Nancy Wheeldon were united in marriage at Rensselaer.

On Dec. 22, Mike Gutwein (Bro. Carl L. and Sis. Yvonne) and Melody Wuethrich (Willis and Marjean) exchanged their vows at the home of the brides parents.

The closing days of December brought much sadness to our Francesville congregation. Bro. Henry Leman, age 94, was hospitalized on Dec. 5, passed away on the 15, and was buried on the 18. The following day, Bro. Carl Gutwein Sr. was hospitalized with a heart attack. He passed away on the 21st and was laid to rest on the 24th. We are thankful for the comfort God's word affords the bereft families in their time of sorrow, knowing that their loved ones are asleep in Jesus.

GRIDLEY

Edna Somerhalder Wilma Young

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

As the new Year came in, it was greeted with sub-zero temperatures, accompanied with snow and ice, weather and roads making headlines.

It's a pleasure to assemble with the Lamont congregation, as our sanctuary is undergoing some remodeling and redecorating. We are looking forward to the new look.

Little Brian Kraft, son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine, has been home the past three weeks, much improved. He will return to K.U. Med. Center soon, for five days of observation and treatment. On February 13 he will be 3 years old. Some birthday letters would be appreciated.

HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED NEWS

Elmer Bucher

One of our ministering brothers commented, that the world is a better place in which to live because of handicapped people. Could it be that God has sent them to provide us an opportunity to be kind and compassionate, and to share our material blessings by helping other people? The Apostle Paul reminded the Philippians that he desired fruit that would abound to their account (Philippians 4: 17).

Our family at the home now numbers 40. Eddie Getz, Morton, and Sherry Roth, Fairbury, are our latest residents.

The wonderful attendance and support at our luncheon and bake sale was overwhelming. What a blessing it is to see so many people take time and put forth the effort to come and share. We were very grateful to see the chartered bus come, bringing a group from the Leo-Fort Wayne-Bluffton area.

Also thanks to our many church groups from the area that helped to make the Christmas season meaningful to the residents at the Home. "Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Walk beside me, and just be my friend." This, I believe, is the desire of the handicapped. Is it asking too much?

A special thanks from the staff and the board to the many wonderful people who have stood by and supported the home with their prayers, gifts and time in 1973.

ROANOKE

Doris Mangold — Erma Moser

Standing at the portal of the opening year, Words of comfort meet us, hushing every fear: I, the Lord, am with thee; be thou not afraid! I will keep and strengthen, be thou not dismayed.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers: (Bros.) Walt Anliker of Eureka, Elmer Bucher of Francesville, and on Christmas day, Art Baurer of Princeville told us the story of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Three families welcomed little bundles of joy: Arnold and Connie Aeschleman are the parents of a baby boy, Jeremiah Alan, their first child. Grandparents are Mr.

and Mrs. Victor Whitler and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Mildred. Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl were blessed with a baby girl, Cynthia Leigh. Welcoming her home is Jill, Scott and Kathy. The grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp and Bro. Herman Luginbuhl. Aaron Dale was born Dec. 27 to Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Hoffman. He has a little sister, Jill, and his grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Ruth Hodel and Bro. Rudie and Sis. Mary Hoffman. Little babies are truly a blessing from God.

Sis. Minnie Hodel (John) celebrated her 80th birthday Dec. 7, with a family dinner. She enjoyed the many cards she received.

We were all saddened by the tragic death of Carrie Ferrero, who lost her life when their home burned. Her husband, Randy, survives; also her parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr, four sisters and five brothers, and her grandmother, Sis. Alice Funk. Our local ministers officiated; burial was in church cemetery.

Hospital patients were Sis. Mary Ann Fischer and John Fehr (Ben). We are thankful they are home again.

Sunday evening, Dec. 23, the Sunday School had the Christmas program. From the four-year-olds through the Bible class, we heard the Christmas story in song and verse. We heard special songs from a group of young adults which we enjoyed, also the inspiring message by Bro. Gene Bertsehi. We always appreciate the efforts put forth by the students and their teachers.

AKRON

Katherine Ries

A Life in Retrospect

Presented to your reporter for our edification by one of our brethren who has served the Lord many years. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth!

Unconverted, I had lived under the law of God, suffering despair and defeat under this severe taskmaster, but through repentance for sin, and with faith in Jesus' atonement for sinners, I soon escaped

the demands of the law. Through grace from God, I found the blessedness of a salvation, with a hope to eternal life.—With my old sinful nature now dead and buried into the death of Jesus, my soul was renewed with strength and zeal. I had then become a believer, also a partaker of the promises in God's word, a member of the body of Christ, He being the head. Now redeemed, I have come into the light wherein dwells God, and walk at His side. I have joy in doing His will. I serve Him gladly out of love and devotion, rather than in fear of Him. My desire is to be acceptable to Him in all things, not only walking at His side, but I feel and know I have Him within, since I feel the presence of His Holy Spirit. Thus I feel a protective strength against sin and evil. If I as one of His think only of repulsing sin, then I am only a defensive follower. . . . But with Christ's presence in me, I carry on an offensive battle against sin. Then in the power granted me by Jesus' shed blood. I may overcome the onslaughts of Satan and gain victory over evil.

I now sail on life's sea in the ship of faith. Jesus is the pilot. A living hope is the anchor for the safety of this ship against shipwreck, when storms assail. I have found that there is plenty of room in this ship for a cargo of good works, for the word of God tells me that what I do in faith to God and with love to my fellowman, I do as unto my Lord and meets with his approval and blessing. I believe that the more abundant one sows, the more abundantly we shall reap. So I can fulfill my calling, and the Lord is glorified, because once I had gone ways of my own, now I wish only to serve Him. I have found this to be a beautiful life and a rewarding experience.

The foregoing was submitted to your reporter for your edification by one of our members who has served the Lord close to 50 years. What a wonderful outlook for the future, as we turn to the memories of the past.

We were truly blessed by the wonderful words of life brought us by visiting Elder Bro. Noah Shrock and Ministering Bros. Merrill Laukauf and Gary Maibach. We sincerely thank them for their visits.

We are glad to report, Sis. Katherine Tooker has returned to the

Winchester Nursing Home in Mansfield, after being hospitalized for tests.

Thank you note: Words cannot express the feelings we have for loved ones who extended kindness, prayers, baskets of food, gifts, and cards in '73 and the Yule season. Bro. Stanley and Ann Francis. . . . Their new address is 3394 Hillcrest Ave., Norton, Ohio 44203.

ALTADENA Judy Cremer

A husky baby boy was born on Nov. 15 to Dick and Lucy (Graf) Griffith. His name is Jared Christian. My husband and I are the thankful new parents of a precious baby girl, born on Dec. 19. We named her Bethany Sarah.

We are more aware than ever of time. Yet I can't help but think of our baby and her relationship with time. She started out not arriving on time, being **nearly premature**. Her days go by with only thoughts of getting enough to eat and ample sleep. To the adult world, time is a factor of great importance. Rather than just living our time from day to day, the Lord wants more from His children. The Bible advises us to walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **redeeming the time**, because the days are evil. In redeeming our coupons and trading stamps, we get the full value from them. Time passes quickly and precious hours slip by. We must strive for the full value of the time the Lord gives us.

Our congregation was richly blessed from the inspired ministering of Bros. Ed Alt of Cissna Park and Henry Dotterer of Rittman. We appreciate their visits and thank them for sharing with us.

Christmas brought many joys for us. The Sunday School presented their program. A large group, including many visitors, enjoyed an evening of Christmas caroling.

Note: We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many prayers, cards and gifts while Bro. Bill was in the hospital and at the time of his death. . . . Sis. Naomi Schwarz and family, wishing you a blessed and Spirit-filled new year.

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

ALTO Joyleen Blough

God sent a Christmas bundle to the home of Bro. Curtis and Sis. Luanne Kaeb. A baby girl, Melanie Joy, was born Dec. 25. She is their first child. Melanie is also the first grandchild for both grandparents, Bro. Alf and Sis. Hermine Kaeb (Bay City) and Bro. Noah and Sis. Marguerite Blough.

On Dec. 16, the Sunday School classes warmed our hearts as we listened to them recite poems and sing praises to the Lord during their Christmas program. We thank them for a blessed evening.

We had the opportunity to bring a little cheer to the hearts of many at the Veteran's Hospital in Grand Rapids. Sis. Sue Root, who is employed there, invited the congregation to sing carols on Dec. 23. The Sunday School classes donated fruit baskets, cookies, and a typewriter to them.

Sis. Helen Steffen was hospitalized, but is home again and doing well.

AMES Sue Banwart

We enjoyed hearing Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend at our monthly service, Dec. 9. Following services, a group of visitors accompanied our small flock Christmas caroling to a local retirement home. We can receive such a blessing from remembering the aged, and they appreciate it so. . . .

Wrinkles are only the bypaths of many smiles, and some tears; . . . Gray hair is the silver-dust of the stars; . . . And growing gracefully slower of step is only walking nearer to God.

Kathy Banwart, daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis, and Timothy Butikofer, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred, were united in holy matrimony at the home of the bride's parents in West Bend on Dec. 30. They are living in Marshalltown, Iowa.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Eunice Schupbach Kayleen Heiniger

One afternoon when I babysat three-year-old Cari Herman, she exclaimed to my husband, praying at the dinner table, "My Daddy says God, the Father!" Even at this

tender age, she was listening and watching, perhaps when we least expect. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Several, having reached the age of accountability, have answered the Lord's calling. They are Kirk and Tianne Nussbaum (Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie), Debbie Zimmerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy), Christine Fehr (Walton and Mida), and Heidi Haerr (Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie).

The Virgil Funk family have relocated in Carlock, and Bertie Farney moved to Peoria; she accepted a position of home economist for Peoria County. We continue to fellowship with the Funks most Sundays, but assuredly miss Sis. Bertie's warm personality. Settling in our area from Altadena are Sisters Lydia and Clara Stoller, now at Farmhouse Apts. No. 4, 103 Regency Dr., Bloomington. We trust you will always feel a blessing as part of our church.

On Dec. 8. Leslie Woodcock, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Woodcock, and Connie Nussbaum, daughter of Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie, were married.

Cheryl Nussbaum, a recent convert, was involved in an auto accident, and has a facial laceration and a slight wrist sprain. She is thankful this was a minor mishap, but knows she would have had the hope of salvation had it been more serious.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Ed. and Sis. Eunice Schupbach in the sudden loss of her niece, Carolyn Fehr Ferrero of Eureka. Happening just a few days before Christmas, we are reminded that all is not joy in this season.

In innocence, the Sunday School children told us the Christmas story during our annual Christmas program. A reminder from Heather Haerr in the farewell message cautioned us to keep Christmas in our hearts every day, not just once a year.

Bro. Everett Hari enlarged on the subject of children in his message on Christmas Day. As he spoke of the tremendous love and duty we have towards our children, we could sense how extra special the Christ child must have been.

As we worshipped together on New Year's Eve, the thought

struck me that many take God's love for granted and think . . .

But there is always one more year
To choose the right from wrong . . .
If God will keep the earth intact,
And let us live that long.

Statistics for 1973 include: births, 8; converts, 13; marriages, 3; and members and converts, 81.

BLUFFTON

Melanie Gerber — Donna Drayer

The engagement of Bro. James Elsasser of Princeville to Sis. Vicki Meyer was made known. May their home that they are planning to have overflow with love and peace. The parents are Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Elsasser and Bro. Robert and Sis. Lela Meyer.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Janice (Gerber) Ringger received little Kurt Andrew into their family circle on Dec. 13. Jill and Chad are just as happy with the coming of their new brother. Bro. Ronald and Sis. Fern Kaehr were blessed with their third son. Little Aaron Scott was born on Dec. 31.

On the evening of Dec. 16, God spoke to us through the carols that were sung by our Sunday School children. Each hymn, whether sung by the youngest or oldest, certainly had to touch the hearts of all those who were present.

Several of our brothers and sisters have spent some time in the hospital: Sisters Ann (Joseph) Steffen, Minnie (Joe) Isch, Hulda Steffen, Mary (Sam) Baumgartner, Kay (Tom) Fairchild and Bro. Bill Longenberger.

Many friends and relatives gathered at our Fellowship Hall on the Sunday afternoon of Dec. 16, to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. William and Sis. Mary Steffen. The union has been blest with three children, Mrs. Marjorie (Warren) Schladenhaufen, Sis. Leota (Glen) Reinhard, and Bro. Russell Steffen.

On Christmas morning, we were pleasantly surprised to enter into God's house and find that Bro. Elmer Hartter (Milford) had traveled to our community. It was truly refreshing to sit and listen to God's account of that most holy birth.

With the coming of the new year, we again elected several new officers and Sunday School teachers. May each of these feel the

Lord's guidance as they strive to serve Him within the church.

The beautiful hymn tells us. "I can not tell how precious the Saviour is to me; I only can entreat you to come, and taste and see." We who have knelt at the foot of the cross know how true these words are. As one by one our beloved friends come and taste and see, it just floods our hearts with joy to know that they too will now understand.

BREMEN

Pauline Laidig

During this holiday season, it seems that we were especially blessed and stirred in the spirit by the messages of Bro. Walter Rager of Toledo and our own ministering brothers. These important words of advice that would surely help us walk safely through the coming year were: we would give a total commitment of our lives to the Lord. This is really something serious to think about, and prayerfully to act upon. We are prone to lean on our own understanding and go our own ways, perhaps more often than we realize. May we all experience spiritual growth in 1974.

We rejoice with Sis. Kay Zeltwanger and Bro. Dale Gramm. They have felt the Lord has led their lives together, and they are anticipating a late spring marriage. Kay's parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Marge Zeltwanger, and Dale is the son of Bro. Ed and the late Sis. Loretta Gramm of Gridley, Ill.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger, who assemble with us frequently, are the loving parents of a little son whom they have named Jonathon Robert.

Having been the recipients of many Christmas greetings, messages and gifts, our dear elderly Bro. Henry and Sis. Leah Souder wish to convey their thanks and love to everyone. All of these thoughtful gestures mean much to them, and especially so as they are not able to go away from home much during the cold weather.

Sis. Pauline Clauss still lingers on, with better and worse days, just waiting for the Lord to take her to her Heavenly Home.

A year has slipped by since the departure of Sis. Lydia Heuberger, who has left precious memories with many of us. One of her sis-

ters. Sis. Viola Schini, has expressed the feelings of her family in the following lines:

One year ago, on New Year's Day,
Farewell, to you, we did say.
We loved you so, and miss you still;
But it was our dear Lord's will,
From suffering, to make you free.
In Heaven, you again we will see.

Mother, sisters, brother.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Edna Pohl — Elaine Eisenmann

All things work together for good for them who love the Lord. . . . Some time we'll understand. . . . Even though the usual preparations of the holiday season was upon us, the death angel was busily taking loved ones from our midst. . . . Unusual in that three souls were taken in a 12-hour period.

Our dear sister in faith, Ann Massner, 39-years-old, died Dec. 20 . . . we knew was gradually leaving this world. Her husband, Bro. Allen and three small children survive. Her five brothers (friends) and Bro. Harold Massner carried her to the grave. The Lord gave her a vision of that heavenly mansion. She said it was beautiful there. May the redeemed obediently seek that reward, and be a light to our loved ones, and all around us, that they too may seek Him, and find the forgiveness we need to enter that heavenly home.

Our friend, Robert Rauhaus, 39 years, died Dec. 19 . . . the son of Sis. Matilda Reiman Rauhaus. He passed out of this life suddenly, in what we thought was a minor illness. His wife and also three small children survive.

And four hours after Sis. Ann slipped away, we hear of the third death visit, also unexpected and sudden. Friend Earl Swanson, 61 years, died Dec. 20. His wife is Sis. Ruth Nicholas Swanson. She survives, with two sons, Michael and Gary.

Our thoughts are with all these loved ones in their sorrow and loneliness. God wipes away all tears . . . not now, but in the coming years we'll understand.

Yes, God is our Creator, our beginning and the end. Creator of beauty even in the cold of winter now upon us. We praise Him for His wonderful works.

We visited our sister, Tillie R. Rauhaus, the other day. In her 30 years of widowhood she saw her youngest go first and would gladly have taken Bob's place. May we all look to Him above in this year 1974 . . . What is coming to pass and to watch!

We enjoyed our visiting ministers and the loving fellowship that followed. Elder Bro. David Kieser brought a timely message in the morning, and Bro. Roy Ehle also fed our souls through God's holy word.

We served a supper in the church kitchen. We all enjoyed being together. Before long we sang a farewell song, and all parted to our homes . . . renewed again in the tie that binds.

CHICAGO

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

All that glitters is not gold. I was beholding the beautiful winter landscape outside our window. . . . A brilliant blue sky overhead and soft, billowing snow on the ground shimmered in the afternoon sunlight. From the warm indoors it almost looked pleasant and inviting out there, but in reality it was bitterly cold, with a penetrating near-zero temperature.

Isn't this so much like the way life is for those yet in the darkness of sin? The world appeals to them, with all its glittering entertainment and indulgence, but in reality it is bitterly cold and desolate. Worldly pleasure is but fool's gold, and offers only disappointment for those who are enslaved by it. Our only worthwhile life's aim is to be made partakers of the heavenly calling in Christ. The hymn writer so aptly expressed: "To win this precious treasure and matchless pearl I would give honor, wealth and pleasure, Yea every earthly good."

This last month was a busy time for many of us, preparing for Christmas and the family gatherings which seem to be so much a part of the season. Our Sunday School was also busy preparing for their program, which they presented just prior to Christmas. We appreciate their efforts and are glad to see young hearts guided in those things that are good.

Changing address? Tell your reporter. Remember to send zip number!

DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Rejoice was the message brought forth by the Sunday School in our Christmas program. As the star shone to our hearts in that night, may the words and songs of the little ones remain with us in the coming year.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Sis. Lucile Maibach will be spending the winter months in Sarasota. We welcome home Sis. Wendy Marsh, who was attending classes in Paris for several months.

The engagement of Sis. Beverly Maibach and Bro. Mark Bahr of Sabetha was announced. As it was made clear that this was God's will for them, may they always be each for the other and both for the Lord.

There is beauty all around when there's love at home. We gathered in love in God's home and were fed with words of truth and righteousness. We are thus thankful to the Lord and to Elder Bro. Noah Schrock and Bro. Art Gudeman for their visit and words of life and truth. It was such a joy to welcome these brothers into our midst. How blessed we are to have an opportunity to be nourished with the manna that will sustain us to life's end.

As we approach a new year, let us pray to put the Master's will first in our lives . . . always.

So shall the days and weeks and years

Be threaded on a golden cord,
And all draw on with sweet accord
Unto Thy fullness, Lord,
That so, when time is past,
By grace I may at last
Be with Thee, Lord.

CISSNA PARK

Margaret Rudin — Grace Bauer

One of our ministers told us, "When we align our will with God's will, the cross seems lighter."

Dec. 16 was the Christmas program. The children lifted their voices in voice and song to tell the wondrous story. It is not the manger, but the Cross that makes man free. Bro. Ezra Feller gave the inspirational message, and thanked

the children for bringing us the message.

Bros. Carl Kipfer, Orville Ringger, Maurice Frank, and Everett Hari were our guest ministers. We thank them for sharing the word with us. We were reminded, we must put on the whole armor of God, and use our shield. We were also reminded, we better have fruit when Jesus comes.

Many of our brethren and friends went Christmas caroling to various nursing homes, sick and shut-ins. This is one way to share Christ's love. Bro. William Rentsch remains a patient at Hoopston Nursing Home. Sis. Lena Rentsch and Hulda Rentsch are at Fairhaven Resident Home, Fairbury. Sis. Minnie Farney is at Gilman Nursing Home, Gilman, Illinois. Sis. Sarah Maul is at the Americana Health Center, 801 Logan St., Danville, Ill. Sis. Marie (Mrs. Ben) was a hospital surgical patient.

If God is willing, Sis. Anna Baumgartner will have her 99th birthday on Jan. 14. We are thankful she is still very alert and able to assemble with us most every Sunday. She is an example for us, very patient and cheerful.

Loren Anderson, 62, of R.R. 2, Hoopston, passed away Dec. 19, near his home. He is survived by his widow, Sis. Mary (Scharlach); a son, Jon; a step-daughter, Mrs. James (Marylyn) German; two sisters and two brothers. **In appreciation:** We gratefully acknowledge the many acts of love and kindness shown us at the time of our recent loss. Mary and Jon Anderson, James and Marylyn German.

February is the month to collect for the Silver Lining. Please contact your reporters, Grace Bauer or Margaret Rudin. Thank you.

Sis. Margaret Rudin was in an automobile accident on Jan. 5 and suffered a broken leg. She is in Burnham Hospital, Champaign, Ill. (61820)

WHEREFORE I WILL NOT BE NEGLIGENT TO PUT YOU ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE OF THESE THINGS. II Peter 1:12

Ezra J. Feller

This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. The word of God admonishes us to redeem the time because the days are evil. Wherefore come out from

among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord almighty.

In these perilous times of many doctrines and trends towards the ecumenical movement, we need very much to cling to the words of the Lord. The Lord warned many times while here on earth concerning the many false christs.

And then if any man shall say, Lo, here is Christ! or Lo he is there: believe him not. . . For false Christs and false prophets, shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober. . ." I Peter 1:13. . .14: "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in your ignorance".

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light". I Pet. 2:9.

James gives us encouraging words: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath. . .given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work." II Thess.2:16-17.

We will not have a surplus of oil. Neither did the wise virgins have any oil to spare. . . And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of person ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.

The Lord Jesus reprimanded the people and said. "Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?" Luke 12:56.

It is no doubt later than we

think. How many of the scriptures have gone into fulfillment in our time? Space would hardly allow to refer to many of them.

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21:34. . . "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Luke 21:36.

Paul mentions in II Timothy that he had fought a good fight and henceforth there is laid up for him a crown of righteousness. . . And not to him only but unto all them also that love his appearing.

In Revelation, to the seven churches were many warnings sent, to be watchful and strengthen the things that remain, etc.

Rev. 3:18 "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy wickedness do not appear; and anoint thy eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

To him that overcometh shall be given

The fruit from trees of life in paradise!

He who has served the Lord and well has striven

Shall rest from toil and take from him the prize!

God will refresh him with heavenly blessings!

Eternal rapture shall be his part!

Grant me, Lord Jesus, strength for overcoming

Sin, world and Satan and his gloomy host!

O make me faithful, let me be victorious,

Thy face to see on yonder blessed coast!

There wilt thou bless me, with joy refresh me;

There I'll discover eternal rest.

CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart — Mary Schrock

Because of a heavy snowstorm, the Sunday School Christmas program was postponed from Wednesday till Sunday. Even though most people could not go to work and school was cancelled for three days, we enjoyed being home with our families. It was a time to bring families closer together, slow us down in the midst of a rushing season, and help us appreciate the real meaning of Christmas.

Many blessings were enjoyed by the Christmas carolers, and we trust those caroled too enjoyed it as much.

Our sympathy is extended to Millie Dietrich Honeg, in the death of her husband, Richard J., age 32. He died as a result of a hunting accident Dec. 16. Surviving are his wife; daughter Cinda, age 9; and his parents, William and Dorothy Haecker Honeg of Eureka. Bro. Fredrick Knapp conducted the funeral service. Our sympathy also goes to the family of Sis. Verna Schurter.

We're happy to report, Sis. Tillie Sauder is back in church; Bro. Duane Steffen had back surgery and is assembling with us again.

The visiting brothers who shared God's word with us were Simon Wagenbach (Tremont) and John Steiner (Oakville).

Christmas Day, we were encouraged to give more of ourselves if we want our prayers answered. A farmer had a large barn, overflowing with grain. The son often heard his dad pray that God would bless and provide for the poor and widows. One day the son asked if he could have half of his dad's grain. The dad asked why. The son said, so your prayers would be answered, I'd give it to the poor and widows.

Announced Christmas Day was the engagement of Jim Steffen, son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois, to Valarie Koehl, daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Ellen of Morton. We wish them God's blessings.

Summary for 1973: 7 births, 4 converts, 3 marriages, 2 deaths.

ELGIN, IOWA

Eleanor Butikofer

The landscape presents a lovely view. All the fields and byways are a vast whiteness, interspersed with bare trees and shrubbery, la-

den at various times with mounds of ice and snow. The sky is blue, and we have a zero temperature, which is a nice contrast from our 20 below of a few days ago. Due to winter conditions, we find countless numbers of wild birds feeding. Among the most colorful are the cardinals and purple finches, along with the jays. The chickadees, titmice, nuthatches and juncos along with four varieties of woodpeckers comprise the main flocks.

Our Sunday School pupils presented a nice program in keeping with the account of our dear Saviour's birth. The usual caroling and presenting of paper bags, containing fruit etc. was carried out in the evening, after which a lunch was served in the dining area of our church basement.

We are happy to report that Mary Pulfer, after spending about two weeks in the West Union Hospital due to a bad cold is home now and feeling much better. She and her sister, Sis. Lena, and brother, Bro. Ed live together in a mobile home located in Elgin, and are comfortable situated.

The wedding of Tim Butikofer and Kathy Banwart of West Bend was solemnized by Bro. Noah Gerber. We extend to them our best wishes for God's richest blessings and a hearty welcome to Kathy into our midst.

Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington, along with his wife, Sis. Judy and children, spent last week end here, visiting his parents and relatives. We want to thank him for his reading and expounding of the scriptures to us on Sunday.

Lonnie Butikofer, son of Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah, had the misfortune of burning part of a hand while cooking some candy. He was hospitalized for a few days, but is now home and quite all right, for which we are thankful.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Howie & Dianne Leman

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow:"

This verse really makes us sit back and think about our busy lives—being in college and preparing for the future or even working each day in hopes of a brighter future. We are so often wrapped up in our thoughts of the "morrow" that we fail to let Christ truly lead and provide for us according to His

will. He promises us that if we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteous, all these things shall be added unto us.

Things have been quiet in Urbana lately, since the students departed for a lengthy break. However, we always manage to have a small crowd on Sundays, and all of us appreciate the warm, Christian fellowship. Bro. Dave Weigand, our minister, has been alone for several Sundays, as it has been difficult for visitors to come over the holidays. He is always so willing to preach the word, and his messages are always inspiring.

As the new year begins, it is a good time to make some resolutions for bettering our spiritual lives. Hopefully, we can all grow stronger as dedicated believers in Christ.

EUREKA

**Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher**

As this is the beginning of another year, we have in mind what will be in store. If we have the peace of God in our hearts, we need not fear, because He has promised to be with us if we stay close to Him. Let us all be more watchful, more prayerful, and more careful, that we be more pleasing to our great God.

Our visitors were as follows: Bros. Eli Somerhalder, Kiowa; Richard Schunbach, Tucson; Alfred Bahler, Wolcott; John Wagler, Huntsville.

Birth: Bro. & Sis. Merle & Beverly Rocke are the parents of a baby girl, Cherry Lynn, born Dec. 5. She has a little brother, Matthew.

Those in the hospital are: Sis. Edna Martin fell in her home, and broke her hip. She is a patient in the Eureka Hospital. Sisters Rose Schurch and Martha Grusy are medical patients in the same hospital.

Sis. Katherine Goetzinger was a medical patient, but has returned to the "Home."

Dec. 23 was the day of Sis. Betsy Belsley and Bro. Loren Schrenks' wedding. They are living in Arizona, where he is attending medical school. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. William and Helen Belsley. Bro. Leroy married them.

Engagement: Sis. Kari Schmid-

gall and Bro. Mike Schmidgall. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. Marvin and Dorothy Schmidgall. He is the son of the Fred Schmidgalls of Deer Creek, Ill.

Dec. 30 in the evening, we had church services to hear the reading of memorandum. Bro. Alfred Bahler from Wolcott assisted Bro. Leroy Huber. They both pleaded with the church to keep the faith, and to be more obedient in all things. We have an obligation to try with God's help to do just that. May God be with us all on this pilgrim journey, which will bring us all to Heaven if we stay true and faithful to Him.

New Year's Eve, we again assembled in God's house to hear the last sermon of 1973 preached. It was a very cold evening, but a goodly number was in attendance to listen.

This is a summary of last year: 7 funerals, 14 babies, 17 baptisms, 2 church weddings, 2 more converts, not yet announced.

Friends Jim and Janet Stoller have repented and are attending church in Champaign, but they are planning to be baptized in Eureka. They were announced last Sunday.

The week before Christmas, we nearly were snowed in. God gave us a blanket of the beautiful white flakes in the amount of 13 inches. The schools all closed for the rest of the year. The snow reminds us of the robe of righteousness so pure and white, which we should all be wearing when Jesus comes again to claim His own.

What shall I wish thee, what can
be found
Bringing the sunshine all the year
round?
Faith that increaseth, walking in
light;
Hope that aboundeth, happy and
bright.
Love that is perfect, casting out
fear.
These shall insure thee a happy
New Year.

FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

With praise to the Lord, we rejoiced to hear the testimonies of the changed hearts of three girls. Those confessing their newly-found love for their Saviour were Beverly Kaeb, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Mary; Connie Bah-

ler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin; and Mrs. Robert (Elaine Fehr) Herrli. After baptism was the laying on of hands for the receiving of the Holy Spirit within their hearts, which is the greatest treasure we can possess. Among the many advantages, He guides us for each motive and decision we make.

We enjoyed visiting ministers, (Bros.) Harvey Grimm, Bill Kupferschmid, and Alfred Bahler.

We are sorry that the following have been hospitalized: (Bros.) Eli Moser at Urbana, Fred Feldman, (Sisters) Katie Steiner and Louise Sohn. Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Chet Maier have returned home from the hospital.

Bro. Chet and Sis. Lydia Maier have moved into their newly-finished home. We wish them joyous years in their new home.

Mrs. Lillian Clark, 92, passed away at Fairview Haven. Funeral services were held at church, the day before her 93rd birthday. She was a daughter of Joseph and Lena Sydler Virkler and married Charles Clark. Surviving are two stepsons, Hamilton and David.

FORREST

Juanita Schneider
Kathryn Steidinger

A new year is a magic chest;
The gift of time is in it,
So guard it well, and do not lose
One precious, golden minute!

Our community has received a deep blanket of snow. While it can cause inconveniences, who else could form such a beautiful creation. But our heavenly Father. The Christmas program was scheduled for Dec. 19, but because of the snowstorm was postponed until Sunday, Dec. 23.

Bro. Earl Kilgus spent Christmas Day in our midst, expounding the wonderful story.

Bros. Ken Schneider and Dave Wiegand shared in the services with Bro. Perry Zimmerman on Dec. 9, when Sis. Mary Schneider and Bro. Virgil Metzger were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Oscar and Sis. Kathryn Schneider, and Bro. Ernst and Sis. Ella Metzger of Lester. Bro. Virgil and Sis. Mary will make their home in Urbana, attending

the Champaign-Urbana church. Kathy Schladenhauffen, daughter of Gene and Sis. Velma, was united in marriage to Garry Knauer of Strawn on Dec. 8.

The engagement of Sis. Nancy Ifft was announced, on Dec. 23, to Bro. Marvin Dotterer of the Rittman congregation. Their parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean and Bro. and Sis. John Dotterer. They plan a June wedding.

Bro. William and Sis. Mary Masters became the parents of a new little son, Jeremy Dee, on Dec. 17. Other children to welcome him home are Ronnie, Lisa, Aaron, Cory and Ricky.

Sis. Luella Sohn spent some time in the Fairbury Hospital; Sis. Nathalia Wenger was in the Gibson City Hospital. Both have returned home. Little Sally Broquard, daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Roberta, was hospitalized a few days from the flu, which many of the families have had here. Bro. Wm. Kupferschmid has been a patient at Carle Clinic in Champaign.

Sis. Bertha Maurer is now a resident at Fairview Haven. We always enjoy meeting Sis. Bertha and wish her much contentment in her new home.

ALL THE DARKNESS OF THE
WORLD CANNOT PUT OUT THE
LIGHT OF THE SMALL CAN-
DLE.

Yearly report: 23 baptisms, 6
deaths, 10 new babies.

FORT SCOTT

Ida Sinn

As we praise God for his goodness during the past year, let us face 1974 with confidence, remembering that He is "the same yesterday, and to day and for ever."

The last week-end wasn't so pleasant weatherwise. We had a near-blizzard snow, and we are still covered with a blanket of white. Inside, we had a very blessed occasion. We rejoiced with Dennis Miller, as he gave his testimony and was baptized into the fold as our brother in Christ. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker was here to assist our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart. Dennis is the son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carrie Massner and Sis. Mary Reber, in the loss of their brother, William, in Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Sinn are the parents of a baby girl, born Dec. 31. Julie Ann has a sister, Staci, to welcome her. Bro. and Sis. Gus and Ruth Sinn and Bro. and Sis. Al and Ann Scheitlin of Elgin, Ill., are the grandparents.

Bro. Fred Sinn has had another trip to the hospital for observation. Bro. Emil Banwart is hospitalized for a blood transfusion and medication.

The engagement and upcoming marriage of Becky Sinn and Don Marti has been announced. Becky is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn, and Don is the son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Arline Marti of Lamar.

FORT WAYNE Pam Steffen

A new year, 1974, is here. Have you made any new year resolutions? One good resolution is honesty. If you have borrowed a book from someone, it should be returned. If a cashier overpays you, return the extra money. Honesty really is the best policy!

Our Christmas program was titled, "Jesus, the Savior of the World." The children portrayed many different countries.

The engagement of Dan Pfister (son of Bro. Levi and Sis. Lillian) and Karen Bunch was announced. Wedding bells rang for Barb Pulver (daughter of Bro. Lester and Sis. Florence) and Russ Hutson. We wish both couples lasting happiness and love.

Teresa Lynn was born to Phil (son of Bro. Lester and Sis. Florence) and Mary Pulver. Debby lovingly welcomed her new sister.

INDIANAPOLIS Eric and Ginny Zeller

A new year has been placed in our hands. It is like a book whose pages are fresh and unspotted. Nothing is recorded in it. Yet as soon as we receive it, the clock begins to tick off its minutes, and the recording has begun. Success may come this year. The deepest desires of our hearts may be realized. Heartaches and problems may fill some of the pages. This can be a year of defeat, or a year of triumph, depending on the focus of our eyes. We can either look at the circumstances surrounding us, or we can see Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

What a day it will be when we see Him face to face, the One who loved us and gave Himself. Until then, may we see Him with eyes of faith. May we search each page of God's word for a fresh revelation of Himself. May we see Him in prayer. Then others will see Him in our lives. Let our motto this year be: **We see Jesus.**

We rejoice in the Lord that our friend, Ted Perry has found his salvation. We pray that God will fill his heart with the love and strength we find so needful to live in this world.

Hearty congratulations and our blessings go to Allen and Susan Stoller, who were wed Dec. 30. This wedding was the first in our Indianapolis church.

With so many events filling the month of December, we were visited by many brethren. We felt blessed to hear the word of God from Merle Bucher from LaCrosse, Edwin Bahler from Remington, Theo. Beer from Milford, Ed Hohulin from Goodfield, Wendell Gudeman from Francesville, Bob Meyer from Bluffton.

IOWA CITY Twila Whipple — Joan Mogler

I often think, while passing
through
This life of toil and care
And with adversity oppressed,
What shall it be up there?

With His peace within my heart
I will my burdens bear
Until my Lord permits to see
What glories are up there.

Are you ready to meet your Maker and Creator, or is there some work to do before you would be ready for the Master to come? Bros. Ed Lanz and Harvey Heiniger (Oakville) reminded us that we should not put off until tomorrow, but make ourselves ready, should the Master return today.

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. John Ebinger and their daughter, Nancy, into our area. They have moved from New Jersey. We are thankful for all who gather with us.

JUNCTION

Betty Manz — Henrietta Manz
We were pleased to welcome visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Noah

Schrock of Oakville, and (Bros.) Eugene Fetter of Toledo, Gary Maibach of Rittman. We surely do appreciate their loving service to us.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Dorothy, children of Sis. Juliet Schlatter, were hospitalized for surgery. Both are home recuperating nicely. Bro. Henry Manz is about the same. Sis. Mary Manz has been ill at home, but is some better.

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us for our business meeting Jan. 1. Those elected were: (Bros.) Ralph Schlatter, Trustee; David Manz, Sec.-Treas.; and Kenneth Manz to keep the cemetery records. James Spangler was appointed Appraiser for the Building Aid.

A group of Sunday School children and young folks went Christmas caroling to the ill and shut-in folks.

LAMONT Betty Wernli

Is this not a pleasure, Christian,
here to be?
Seek ye all this treasure Jesus offers free!
If man knew the blessing We enjoy in Thee,
Far more would be willing Now to follow Thee.

But with all their pleasure, Christians have their grief:
Still in every failure They shall find relief.
From His home in heaven, God looks down on them;
When His peace is given, They press on again.

Sis. Hulda Jacobs was a hospital surgical patient, and is able to assemble with us again. Sis. Susan Emch has been a medical patient for a week's hospital stay, but is now at home and making some progress each day. She'll be quite thankful to be able to assemble in God's house again, and we'll be rejoicing too, as we need each one.

Bro. Pete Fankhauser is again in our midst. He is making his home at the Madison Manor. Bro. Pete called the other evening to visit and tell us he has a telephone in his room. Let us as able ones in the Lord call these dear souls, pay them a visit in their afflictions. Where would our faith be today if not for these true older brethren

who have borne the heat of the day?

The Gridley congregation is assembling with us for several Sundays as they remodel their church. Seems so good to have the church filled to overflowing, but God has promised His blessing where there be only two or three gathered in His name.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Donna Metzger

If you want to have the kind of a church

Like the kind of a church you like,

You needn't slip your clothes in a grip

And start on a long, long hike. You'll only find what you left behind,

For there's nothing really new. It's a knock at yourself when you knock your church;

It isn't the church—it's you.

Wouldn't it be a good resolution to do what we can to upbuild and support, rather than to knock those things that are not to our liking or desire? It takes grace and effort to do, no effort at all to find fault.

Our church has received the blessing of God in the year just past. Eight blessings in the births of new babies were experienced. Twelve souls were baptized and taken into the fold, a real nice blessing for us. We had one death, and though we grieve for this one, what a blessing to know he was prepared to meet his God.

Hospital patients were Bros. John Moser, Howard Mogler, and Jake Knobloch, also Barbara Metzger and Allen Leuthold. We are happy to report, they are getting along all right.

Bro. Emil and Sis. Flora Metzger have a new granddaughter, Jamie Lynn, born to Charles and Linda Metzger on Dec. 24.

We have had no visiting ministers, but many timely and inspiring messages have been brought forth by our own beloved brothers who so untiringly serve us.

The Lester congregation may pay their Silver Lining dues to their reporters this month.

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

MANSFIELD

Aaron A. Sauder

The Christmas season is past, 1973 has become history, and we have started a new year. How wonderful to know the many promises in God's word remain. "... thou shalt endure . . . they shall be changed, But thou art the same.."

Years recede, but Christ abideth; Time and change may do their worst.

All is ours, for Thou remainest; Thou art Last as well as First.

Beginning a new life together are Mr. and Mrs. Monte Clair Keever, who exchanged wedding vows on Dec. 21. Bro. Joe Ramsier officiated for the service, in which Mr. Keever took as his bride the former Beverly Jean Zimmer, daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Sabo Zimmer. We ask the Lord's blessings on the home of this young couple.

We are thankful those who spent time in the hospital have been dismissed: Bro. Gaylord Dotterer. Sis. Tillie Oesch (Karl) and Sis. Katharine Tooker.

At home 'tis well expresses the departure of our dear Sis. Elizabeth Grossenbacher, who had made her home on this earth for well over 98 years (she was born March 28, 1875). She quietly passed from this life to her Heavenly home on Dec. 10. Lizzie was the oldest member of our congregation, and was dearly loved by us all. We give our love and sympathy to her sister, Sis. Clara Grossenbacher, who gently and untiringly cared for Sis. Lizzie during the long years of her illness, and we also extend our sympathy to her brother, George. We also remember with sympathy our dear Ruth Fuhrer Young, whose husband John passed away on Dec. 18.

MILFORD

Sandee Price — Sue Schieler

The Christmas season affords many blessings to all, one of the many being caroling for many of our congregation. The Sunday School children met at the Fellowship Hall and divided into three groups. They took fruit plates, which they had prepared the evening before, and departed to carol for our many loved ones. One third grader asked her Sunday School

teacher for a list of all the places they had gone, "so I can tell my Mom and Dad." Such zeal!

Dec. 8 and 9 was a blessed week end for our congregation, as Tom Price, son of Everett and Sis. Leona, and Kathy Price, daughter of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn, gave their testimonies and were baptized. We wish them much grace as they walk the path of life.

We welcome Bro. Clint and Sis. Gail Bucher and their little daughter to our congregation.

Worshipping with us again after being hospitalized are Bro. Mike Zimmerman and Sis. Betty Beer.

Note: I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, gifts and especially your prayers during my recent surgery and convalescence. Marguerite Hoerr.

MINNEAPOLIS

Kathryn Olson

Bro. Herman Kellenberger ministered to us on Sunday, Dec. 2. We enjoyed his messages very much. We always welcome ministers.

The annual Christmas program by the Sunday School was held on Dec. 16. The congregation appreciates the efforts put forth by the teachers and students to retell the Christmas story and remind us of the true spirit of Christmas.

The words of the Lord endure forever . . . they will never die . . . thank God our Bible does not change . . . for on it we rely . . . Flesh is as grass; it withers . . . the flowers fall away . . . but what the Good Book teaches . . . lives on, yes come what may . . .

PORTLAND

Arthur and Betty Metz

It is the time when men look back at the old year and consider its events, and look to the new year with concern with what shall come to pass. It seems this past year was marked by many shortages, and many are fearful of what lies ahead. Yet there are no shortages of the true essentials, God's power, or of His love, mercy, patience, grace, or forgiveness. Jesus' words "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" assure us that we need not trouble ourselves about our material needs.

Our Sunday School children presented a Christmas program on Dec. 23, after morning services. We believe both those who participated and those who listened could receive a blessing.

PULASKI

Nancy Musselman
Ernestine Wuthrich

We are thankful Bro. and Sis. Kris Joos have moved to Bloomfield and will become a part of our small congregation. They attended church here, while they were in college in Kirksville, Mo.

On Dec. 16, the Sunday School presented a very enjoyable program. They gave us many thoughts to ponder.

People are always making resolutions for the New Year, but making and keeping resolutions every day would be better than just once a year, as we can always improve ourselves.

There's no problem too big, and no question too small;

Just ask God in faith and He'll answer them all.

Not always at once, so be patient and wait,

For God never comes too soon or too late,

So trust in His wisdom and believe in His word,

For no prayers unanswered and no prayer unheard.

RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

1974! We cannot redo anything we have said, any actions we have done; it is all past. May we strive in this new year to do better, so that at the end we may say, we have used this year to the glory of God! In 1973, we were thankful for each soul who found it worthy to turn to the Lord in repentance, and for these 23 dear souls we are grateful. Six dear souls were laid to rest: **Tis but a step to glory and a mansion in the sky.** Twenty babies were born.

Our annual voting was done, with the following to take on new responsibilities: (Bros.) Lloyd Indermuhle, Sunday School Superintendent; John Zollinger, trustee; Jerry Bauman, usher; Ed Beery, Fellowship Hall director; Sis. Jane Klotzle, kitchen help.

To those in the hospital, we give them a word of cheer: **There's not**

a problem, not a care that life presents to you that won't be easier to bear with faith to see you through! Surgical patient was Bro. Nelson Ramsier. Max Miller, son of Richard and Sis. Melba, had the misfortune of breaking his ankle, and is a patient at Children's Hospital in Akron. Sis. Barbara Mathys is hospitalized. Also in the hospital at Akron is little Daniel Walter Baltic, infant son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, who was taken there for special treatment, but is getting along just fine.

Engagements: Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Marvin Dotterer and Sis. Nancy Ifft of Forrest; Marvin's folks are Bro. John and Sis. Betty. Also made known to us is the engagement of Bro. Larry Miller and Sis. Edith Gasser. Larry's folks are Glenn and Sis. Ella, and Edith's folks are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha. Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach's daughter, Valerie has become engaged to Tom Thompson.

Address: Pfc James A. Laukhuf 276501944, D-Battery, 1st Bn C/V Sp 62nd ADA, 25th Inf. Div., APO San Francisco 96225.

Births: Bro. Don and Sis. Louise Spangler received good news from California, that son Larry and wife Carol are parents of a little girl, born to them after 13 years of marriage. They are so happy for Michelle Lynn, their first child. Gary and Terry Zollinger are parents of a little girl, Bridgett Darlene. Bro. Charles and Sis. Lillian Zollinger are grandparents. Jan Marie was the name given to the baby born to Jim and Joyce Thompson. Bro. Art and Sis. Janet Maibach are grandparents. Bryan Lee Pelfry was born to Mike and Vicki Pelfry. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Norma Saylor, and great-grandmother is Sis. Liz Ramsier. ". . . he took them up in his arms . . . and blessed them."

Our Sunday School has recessed for awhile, and we want to thank everyone, teachers and students for a very good season. We hope to see all of you back when we reopen in the spring. **Oh may the gates of heaven shut about us, with all the children in!**

SARDIS

Karen Indermuhle

A new year—Praise the Lord!
May we all use these days wisely,

praying the Lord will bless us in His service.

Elder Bros. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) and Rudolph Graf (Akron) served us the Lord's Supper. This was a wonderful opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the Lord's work. We can ask guidance from our Saviour, who suffered so much that we might have life. There is truly power in the blood of Jesus.

My husband, Bob and I and our two boys, Eric and Trent were sent a special Christmas gift. Our daughter, Carol Marlene, was born on December 12. May God grant all parents guidance to take care of these precious souls.

The Lord continues to touch and heal. My mother, Arlene Stoll, is home now, after having major surgery for a malignant tumor. We can see the work of her faith in God. Thanks to all of you who sent cards, notes, and especially those much-needed prayers.

TAYLOR

Marie Butikofer—Eleanor Yackley

We are having a heavy blanket of snow, which brings many birds to our feeders. It is interesting to watch them from my dining room window, some with beautiful colors against the white snow. We also had a white Christmas for the first time in several years.

As we observed our Lord's coming into this world and many loved ones came to be with home folks, it was indeed a blessed time. We wonder if we truly appreciate it as we should. (There are also many sad hearts at this time, because they have lost loved ones. May we remember them in our prayers, as it could have been our lot.)

Our Sunday School children so plainly told of the birth of our Lord and the love of the Father who sent Him. May we all resolve to love and appreciate Him more. At the end of the program, one of the Bible Class students recited this poem which was so fitting.

Our songs are ended;
We'll bid you adieu.
May the God of blessings
Share them with you.

As we journey onward
To heaven above,
May we help each other
In Christian love.

If you are in trials,
Old age or distress,
Look heavenward often;
He will thee bless.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Bob Pohl (Burlington). Arnold Gerst (Chicago) on Christmas morning, Kenny Dietz (Bradford).

Bro. Kent Heimer and Sherry Grimm were both in the hospital for a short time for the extraction of wisdom teeth. Both are feeling better.

The year 1973 is over. not soon to be forgotten. It is with a deep sense of gratefulness that we look back and marvel at the miracle God wrought among us. The frustration we felt when the flood waters covered our homes and lands was soon removed. and in its place came a feeling of contentment and joy. We were aware that God was still among us. How lovingly did our brethren stand beside us in our hour of need. With humbled hearts. we say once more. Thank you. The Lord has said. What you have done to the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.

We were happy to have Bob and Marilyn Frieden and family with us during the holidays. They returned to France, where Bob works. They plan on moving to California this summer.

The engagements of two of our friends have been announced: Tom Cottrell, son of Bro. William and Sis Ruth, and Theresa Page, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Page of Palmyra; and Bob Heimer. son of Sis. Naomi Heimer, and Paula Whiston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whiston of Palmyra.

GOD'S WILL

I asked the New Year for some motto sweet,
Some rule of life by which to guide my feet.
I asked and paused; it answered soft, low,
God's will to know.

Will knowledge then suffice? New Year, I cried,
But ere the question into silence died
The answer came, No, this remember too,
God's will to do.

Once more I asked, is there still more to tell,
And once again the answer sweetly fell.

Yes, this one thing all other things above,
God's will to love.

TOLEDO

Lydia Meister

The old year has been folded away! We look forward with hope. What a deep blessing is ours that we can face it in the grace of our most merciful God.

Let us be Thy sanctuary!

Let Thy Holy presence,
Fill us with Thy glory.

Love and praise shall tell the story!

May our hearts ne'er depart

From a true devotion,
For Thou art our portion.

And to all our dear brethren and friends, a blessed new year!

Our Christmas program was very precious! May the many thoughts of the Spirit spoken by the children and sung so beautifully by the choir stay with us. The message to the children was lovely. May the seed sown grow in each heart.

The Carolers came singing the dear hymns of our Saviour's birth and praises to God. I am one of the "old folks", and appreciate so much these young people bringing the sweet savor of love in the hymns they sing.

Bro. Howard Harmon was elected to be our new trustee at the annual meeting.

The marriage of our Bro. Rolf Kaeppler to Sis. Verena Schneider was solemnized December 23 at Peoria. It will be nice to have Sis. Verena one of us. May the Lord's grace and rich blessings be with them always.

TREMONT

Lydia Rassi

Mary Jane Leuthold

Bro. Chris Frank passed away. We sympathize with Sis. Margaret; sons, Bro. Marvin and Mahlon; and daughters, Sis. Joann (Bill) Scholl of the Princeville congregation and Carol (David) Barnard of Pekin. May the vacant place be filled with our Saviour's boundless mercy.

We welcomed visiting ministers, Bros. Steve Rinckenberger, Cissna

Park; John Steiner, Oakville; and Harold Zeltwanger, Bremen. How heartwarming to hear God's true word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, spoken in such a bewildering time in the world. May we grasp and heed to every word, for only true obedience will guide us through.

Our Bro. Ken Dill had a narrow escape when a beam fell on his throat, cutting off his air supply. God saw fit to spare him awhile longer, and he was freed. He, his wife and family thank our Heavenly Father for his graciousness.

The church enjoyed our youth telling us the Christmas story in word and song. We find it a great inspiration to the heart and mind.

Our Sis. Rose Schurter is in the hospital, having filled up with fluid. Sis. Louise Aberle is again hospitalized.

WEST BEND

Mrs. Melvin Fehr

Mrs. Raymond Anliker

What God hath joined together let not man put asunder was brought to mind, as we witnessed the joy over the union of Mona Bruellman (daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Verda) and Donald Haverman. This was repeated when Kathy Banwart (daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis) and Tim Butikofer (son of Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildred of Elgin, Ia.) repeated their wedding vows in the presence of many guests, including Elder Bro. Paul and Bro. Bert Butikofer and Bro. Dale Moore of the Elgin congregation. We enjoyed the teachings brought forth by these visiting ministers. Receptions were held for each couple, and well attended.

May the Lord's blessings abide in these near-newly established homes, as the engagement plans of Louis Schneider (son of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella) and Joni Mauck of Washington state; and Aaron Wirtz (son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Hulda) and Peggy Perkins have been announced.

Babies have come to bless three homes in our congregation. Lowell and Sis. Janet Fehr are enjoying their daughter, Lorelei Jean, born Dec. 7. Shane's baby brother, Tracy Lee, was born Dec. 17 to Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger. Darin Orttie came into Bro. Duane and Sis. Elizabeth's home on January 1.

Holiday Greetings held a special warmth and spiritual encouragement for Sis. Katie Dogotch. A serious heart attack hospitalized her for four weeks. Although being home for some time now, her activity is very limited. It appears she will be confined to her home for a while yet. Many thanks for the Christmas mail. Being unable to write to all of you, may I take this means to thank each one for prayers, gifts, cards, letters and kindness shown us during my illness and since my return home. Sis. Katie Dogotch.

Thanks be to God, all of our other hospital patients have returned home and are able to assemble with us again. These include Dick Schmidt (shoulder injury); Art Banwart and Bro. Noah Anliker (tests); Sis. Mabel (Walter) Zaugg (tests and nose surgery), and Sis. Edna (Earl) Banwart, major surgery.

During our yearly election in December, Bro. Elmer Fehr was put in for treasurer and Bro. Alvin Banwart as trustee. Sunday school teachers elected were Sis. Karen Metzger and Bro. Art Mogler.

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, gifts and visits during my hospital stay and since my return home. Sis. Edna (Earl) Banwart. . . All of your prayers, visits, gifts and cards were greatly appreciated during my illness, hospital stay and recovery. Sis. Mabel (Walter) Zaugg.

WICHITA

Glennis Allenbach

I wonder if this year will bring changes in our church and congregation such as 1973 did, and we feel all for the better.

The Lord blessed us with another testimony and baptism, that of Laurie Holliday on Dec. 15 and 16. Laurie's parents and brother from Oklahoma City spent the day of her baptism with us. She was not raised in our faith, but testified that seven years ago she had visited our church, and ever since had longed to be one of us.

I truly feel, as I'm sure you brothers and sisters do, that our faith has special love and fellowship that few churches today have, and this is evident to our visitors.

May I share an incident of Christmas just past with you. I am very attached to my neice's little

3-year-old girl, whom I am with quite a lot. They were the last to arrive at our family dinner Christmas Day. As I picked her up, she was thinking of the presents, etc., and said excitedly, "This is like a Christmas birthday." How right she was! She is one taught about Jesus and taken to Sunday school, while so many little ones have this omitted from their lives, while they are at such a receptive age.

Before I was converted, I used to look for the most beautiful and unusual Christmas card to be the favorite of the ones received. I no longer do this. I find I now search for the beautiful words of the true meaning of Christmas.

It is a gift of self, in memory of a little child born long ago in Bethlehem, to be The Light of Life for you and me.

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner

A large group of us went Christmas caroling on Dec. 16, after church services and into the evening. Bro. Leo Messner and Sis. Georgia had the group for supper. We ended the caroling at Henry and Celina Schmidts, where lunch was served. Many blessings were felt by all who caroled.

Two little girls were hospitalized for surgery. Mona Bruns, daughter of Marvin and Verna, had her tonsils removed, and Bonnie Messner, daughter of Bro. Le Roy and Sis. Joanne, had an appendectomy. Hospitalized for surgery was Duane Messner.

Our annual Christmas program was held Dec. 23. How beautiful is the love of the children shown on their faces for our Lord Jesus. If only all could remember this love in their hearts for Jesus when they reach man and womanhood. **O Holy Child, so small, so sweet, In Thee salvation is complete.**

A group gathered at the home of Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt, to sing in the New Year.

Blessings in abundance,
Strength for every way,
Courage for each trial,
Gladness for each day.
Faith in heaven's guidance,
Hope that's firm and true.
May the Lord the Savior
Give these gifts to you.

January is collection time for

the Silver Lining at Winthrop.

Address: AIC Robert Messner
476662524 Box 5781 307 FMS,
APO San Francisco 96330.

BAY CITY

Carolyn Schamback

A new year. . .! May we each try, each in our own way to draw nearer to God, and make an effort to enrich the lives of others. To be as Jesus was!

Our spiritual bodies were fed as Bro. Sam Schiatter (Junction) visited and ministered the word of God unto us; many good teachings were given about the straight and narrow way!

Christmas Day was extra special for Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb; early in the morning, their little daughter, Melanie Jay, was born. Grandparents are Bro. Alf and Sis. Herman Kaeb and Bro. Noah and Sis. Margurite Blough, of Alto. God bless them with their new little baby!

Bro. Ralph Ramseyer wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with cards and in prayer during his hospitalization and convalescence.

A reminder to Bay City readers: February is the month for our collection for the Silver Lining.

CROGHAN — NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler — Eleanor Herzig

How beautiful, white and clean our new covering of snow is as we begin the new year. May it be so with each of us as we enter 1974, that our hearts and souls remain as each of these tiny particles—**CLEAN AND WHITE.**

We enjoyed hearing the Christmas programs presented by our Sunday School classes.

Lisa, Christopher and Ryan Hirschey have welcomed a new sister, Deanna Marie, born Dec. 18. Their parents are Ronald and Beth Hirschey, and grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschey and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Plana of Wisconsin. Their great-grandmother is Sis. Rose Hirschey.

Bro. Lawrence Farney is a hospital patient. Sis. Sue Hirschey and Sis. Barbara Virkler were hospital patients a few days, and Sis. Lucille Farney has been unable to assemble with us for some time.

We enjoyed fellowship with loved ones from Akron.

GOODFIELD**Elna Grimm**

Sis. Rosa Wiegand has been a patient at the Eureka Hospital since the first part of December, when she fell and broke her leg. We are happy to see Sis. Gerry Plattner back in church, after having been confined to bed for several weeks.

Bro. and Sis. Simon and Mary Ellen Wiegand announced the engagement of their daughter, Cheryl, to Bro. Syd Massner, son of Bro. and Sis. Frank and Gladys of Morris.

Clarence Zobrist, son of Bro. and Sis. Howard and Phyllis, has confessed peace with God and man, and now awaits the time when he can give his testimony, then, the Lord willing, be baptized and gathered into the fold.

Our visiting ministers have been (Bros.) Edmond Kloter, Fairbury; Vernon Leman, Eureka; Ezra Feller, Cissna Park; and Roy Grimm, Taylor. We were very forcefully reminded that time is surely running out. In fact, we may not ever be permitted to see another new year.

Linda (Heinold) Melton would like to express her sincere thanks and appreciation to all her relatives and friends for the cards, gifts, prayers, and love shown to her during her hospitalization and convalescence. . . Sis. Gerry Plattner wishes to thank everyone for the cards, gifts, prayers and visits during her past illness.

KIOWA**Janice Frieden**

Isaac lay wrapped on the altar ready to be slaughtered.

Jesus lay wrapped in the manger ready to be offered.

For Isaac they found a substitute,
for Jesus, a cross.

And Jesus accepted His cross with no complaints against, or bitterness for, those who crucified Him, because He knew that only through his cruel death and the shedding of his life-blood could the world be freed from sin, and have hope of life eternal. Christ gave His all for us! Do we give our all for Him?

Bro. Richard and Sis. Florence Guthrie opened their home for our

monthly singing on Dec. 2, and we enjoyed a lovely evening of Christian fellowship with one another.

On Dec. 21, we were reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, when the Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program, to celebrate the beauty and joy of the Christ-child's birth.

We had another blessed evening on Dec. 23, when about 49 of us joined together for caroling. Afterwards, we returned to the Church Fellowship Hall for refreshments and Christian fellowship.

On Tuesday morning, Dec. 25, Christmas services were held, to further give God thanks for sending the Christ-Child on that first Christmas long ago.

Bro. Elmer Kisling was hospitalized at Anthony, Kansas, with a blood clot beneath his heart. We do miss Bro. Elmer. Alan Ott, son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Irma, was also a hospital patient, but we are thankful he is now able to be in our midst again.

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" We learned the truth of this verse again, when Bro. Ronald Allenbach reconsidered and accepted the ministry of God. We wish to extend our sincere love and support to Bro. Ronald in this new step he is taking.

Silver Lining dues will be due in February.

LA CROSSE**Gwen Bucher — Lorene Moser**

We have enjoyed a blessed Christmas season: our Christmas program on Dec. 16, with the children telling the marvelous story, and then the joy of sharing the story through Christmas caroling. The carolers surely receive as much of a blessing as the people for whom they carol.

We welcome to our community Bro. Sam and Sis. Bertha Clauss from the Elgin congregation.

Bro. Sam Frank underwent surgery, and is recovering as well as can be expected. Sis. Bertha (Bro. Henry) Heiniger spent a short time in the hospital and is again assembling with us.

Bro. Gene Lehman spent New Year's Day with us. We appreciate his ministry.

Steve Nuest (Bro. Jack & Sis. Vera) has started the new year the best way possible, by giving his heart to the Lord in repentance.

MORRIS**Ann Meiss — Esther Schaefer**

Several have had to spend time in hospitals. Bro. Dale Koehl and Sis. Lois Koehl were surgical patients at the Morris Hospital, and Gary Moser (Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl) spent several days there as the result of a farm accident. Bro. Reuben Luthi and Bennie Moser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Norene) were hospitalized in the Cities, Reuben for tests and observation, and Bennie for eye surgery.

The Sunday School presented their Christmas program the evening of Dec. 19. It is so heartwarming to hear the little ones so eagerly speak, and the older ones blend their voices in songs of praise. May the thoughts that they express remain with them and take on deeper meaning as they grow older.

Congratulations and best wishes go to Paul Jr. and Marie Fehr, who were united in marriage on Dec. 8. Paul is the youngest son of our Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr, and Marie is the daughter of the Howard Staples.

Pvt. Randy Haas came from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky to spend Christmas at the home of his parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole and family. Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole and their family will be leaving us this month, moving to their new home near TUCSON.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson and family spent Christmas at the homes of their parents here. We thank Bro. Ken for ministering to us on Christmas day.

Bro. Carl Joos was elected to serve on World Relief.

The engagement of Bro. Sidney Messner and Sis. Cheryl Weigand was announced. Sid is the son of Bro. and Sis. Frank Messner.

In 1973 in our congregation, we had 13 baptisms, one funeral, one graveside service, eleven births, and seven weddings. One family moved away, and four families came to live among us.

Note: I would like to thank each one who remembered me on my 88th birthday and at Christmas-time with the many cards, letters, money, gifts, flowers, food, calls

and visits, which made both occasions very happy for me. Sis. Rosina Moser.

Service address: Pvt. Randall C. Haas, 470-64-6126, Co. C. 1/501st, Inf. 101st Airborne Div. (Air-mobile), Ft. Campbell, Kentucky 42223.

PHOENIX

Mrs. Allan Freed

Thou my everlasting portion,
More than friend or life to me,
All along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with thee.

This was the song we ended our New Year's service with, and it seems a most fitting way to begin the new year. The Phoenix congregation wishes all a Blessed 1974.

Our annual business meeting was Dec. 5. Those chosen for office were Bro. Ervan Rokey, board chairman, and Bro. John Pulver, usher.

Caroling for shut-ins and the aged was on the 21st. Afterward, the group returned to the church dining room for a lunch.

The Sunday School presented a very nice Christmas program on Dec. 23. The theme of the program was the 13th chapter of I Corinthians. After the verses and songs, all the children recited this chapter from memory.

(Bros.) Henry Dotterer—Rittman, Edwin Bahler—Remington, and Al Scheitlin—Elgin, as our visiting ministers, brought us many good teachings. We also had many other visitors, especially over the holidays. On the 30th we all enjoyed a pot-luck dinner at church, after which we had evening services. Thanks to one and all for your visits, and we invite you to come back.

Bro. Allan Freed was called to Gridley, Ill. by the death of his father, George Freed.

We will miss Sis. Betsey Belsley, who was married to Bro. Loren Schrenk of Tucson on Dec. 23 at Eureka. They will live in Tucson, so we hope to see them often.

Ron and Jean Getz received a special Christmas gift this year. Their baby boy, Daniel Shaun, was born Dec. 23. Grandmother Eliza Getz of Remington came to spend some time here.

Sis. Dora Young is doing a little better, but since her surgery, which was reported last month,

she has gone through quite a lot of suffering and backsets.

Our aged Bro. Sam Farney had his 94th birthday on Dec. 28. He hasn't been able to hear or see for some time, so doesn't have too many pleasures here anymore. We trust the Lord will provide.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

The Sabetha congregation joined us to worship on Christmas morning. Bros. Carl Hartman and Gene Marti gave the message. The question was raised: Do we on the 26th December pack away the true meaning of Christmas, along with the decorations, carols, etc? Then forget all about it until next December. . . Also with the much celebrating of Christ's birth, this thought was shared with us: **Tis not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free.**

At our annual election, Bro. Harlan Stoller was re-elected trustee. Harlan serves along with Bros. Edw. Lehman and Leonard Baumgartner.

Our community was hit by a very destructive ice storm Dec. 4. Power and telephone lines were torn, poles downed. Many homes were without light and heat for days. Power to our all-electric church building was restored on Saturday evening, so we were able to have services next day. Damage to the trees was terrific. We can plant and water, but only God can grow a tree. On the other hand, God's might and power is shown to us, in how quickly the elements can reduce those beautiful trees into shambles.

Jan. 6 dawned, snowing lightly. Later the sun shown and created a beautiful wedding day for Sis. Ada Strahm and Bro. Don Plattner. They were united in marriage by Ada's uncle, Bro. Gene Marti. We wish them much happiness, and may their Christian home be based on charity. They will make their home in Sabetha. We had many visitors on this blessed day, among them, Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, who brought the morning message.

Sis. Ella Hartter (Bro. Lester) had a short hospital stay, due to a foot injury.

If your son is entering the US Service, or if he moves, give your reporter the address.

GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

The angels in heaven are rejoicing, and we too, for God has called, and a soul has answered that call. Our dear friend Dave Peasley has turned to the Lord in repentance, and found the true Savior. Dave is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Peasley, and is stationed in Korea. His address is: Pfc. David T. Peasley, 482-70-5483, B Btry. 3-81st FA. APO San Francisco 96301.

We were blessed to hear God's word as shared by Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington, Ia.

As we look through the pages of 1974, God has planned that we can't see what the year may hold, so that we begin every day with trust in Him, with a prayer for guidance, and with a firm resolution to do our best for God.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

We were happy to have such a nice church attendance New Year's morning.

Christmas has come and gone. It has left us with many pleasant memories of hearing from loved ones far and near, and seeing loved ones home for Christmas, especially the sweet young faces with their beautiful caroling. It was a white Christmas. Some of those home were Mark and Nancy Souder, Lynn and Loren Kloppenstein and Ron Bollier.

Dean Stoller from the Home for the Handicapped was also home for Christmas. We miss him when he is not here.

Bros. David Bertsch and John Bollier are back at church services after being ill.

Communion services have been announced.

SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Jesus, hear our humble prayer;
Tender Shepherd of Thy sheep.
Let Thy mercy and Thy care
All our souls in safety keep.

This may well be our prayer as we begin this new year in these troublesome times. We do, indeed, need His mercy and care, to keep us safe until we can reach our heavenly home.

Our Sunday School youth presented a short program of verse

and song during the noon hour on Dec. 23.

We assembled with the Bern congregation on Christmas Day. On New Year's day they assembled with us. We will begin our mid-week services again, with services at the Bern church this coming Wednesday evening at 7:30. Then we will alternate weeks with them. Everyone is welcome.

The engagement was made known of Bro. Mark Bahr and Sis. Beverly Maibach of Detroit. May they receive the blessings of God.

A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall on Dec. 30 for Sis. Hulda and Bro. Aaron Moser. They were married on Dec. 27, 1923, so have had 50 years of married life together. They have 3 daughters, 2 sons, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

SILVERTON Judith Knecht

On Christmas day we gathered from far and near.

The Sunday before Christmas, the Sunday School had their Christmas Program. The children recited and sang songs of praise to our great God. In this day and time we must try to impress upon our children the true meaning of Christmas. We wish to thank teachers, children and parents for all their efforts and labors.

As our churches out here are small and members few, and due to fuel shortage, we have been gathering in the homes for midweek services on Wed. evening. . . And every other Wed. evening we assemble with the Portland congregation.

MORTON

Mrs. Keith Stevig
Mrs. Harry Kaiser

The first week in December we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of 8 dear souls: Dennis Mott, Douglas Getz (Ken & Ann), Sarah Hermann (Don & Eileen), Heidi Frank (Robert & Dorothy), Sandy Schick (John & Dolly), Carol Neukomm (Al & Gerry), and Peggy & Robert Joos.

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Ezra Feller, Harold Schmidtgall, Bob Grimm, Richard Schupach and Kenneth Knepp. We thank each one for his visit.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Dave Egle to

Sis. Linda Warren of Peoria.

Bro. John & Sis. Anna May Getz have announced the engagement of their daughter, Karen Ann, to C. Paul Sinkhorn of Champaign. They are planning an Aug. 17 wedding.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Ellen Koehl have announced the engagement of their daughter, Valerie, to James Steffen, son of Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois Steffen of Congerville.

Sis. Joan and Fred Roecker are the parents of a son, Frederick John II, born Dec. 27. Sis. Mary (Mrs. August) Roecker is the paternal grandmother.

A baby boy, Sean Christopher, was born to Teresa and Bill South on Jan. 4. Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp are the maternal grandparents.

Bro. Eric Koehl had open heart surgery at Mayo Clinic, is home again and recovering nicely. Others hospitalized or convalescing are Janet Simpson, Sis. Emma Rocke, David Rapp, Henry Aberle, Bro. Harvey Zimmerman, Bros. Henry Binkele and Harry Wick.

Funeral services were held Dec. 11 for Sis. Rose Hauter. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Joe; one son, Ralph; one daughter, Sis. Kathryn (Mrs. Orman) Kaiser; four sisters, Sisters Mary, Ida, Anna, and Katherine (Mrs. George) Belsley, all of Morton.

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 Rose Hauter.

Funeral services were held Dec. 15 for Sis. Lydia Belsley. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Sara Streit of Morton.

Sis. Carrie Jacob passed away on Christmas Day, and funeral services were held on Dec. 28. She is survived by one brother, Bro. Emanuel.

PEORIA

Mrs. R. J. Miller

January is a cold, cold month, but we can feel warm inside if we think warm and pleasant thoughts.

The 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Chris and Sis. Sophia Leuthold was celebrated by over 200 people at our A. C. Fellowship Hall Dec. 16. They were married in

Kansas, Christmas Day 1923, and now reside at 1016 W. Brons in Peoria. Of their eight children, one son, LeRoy, attends Peoria church, and another son and his wife, Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane, go to Tremont. There are 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. . . Note of thanks: Bro. Chris and Sis. Sophia Leuthold wish to express their sincere thanks for all cards, gifts, and good wishes.

Just beginning married life together are Bro. Rolf and Sis. Verena (Schneider) Kaeppler. At their beautiful wedding Sunday, Dec. 23, Sis. Marjorie Hoerr was maid-of-honor. "Best man" was Bro. Peter Weber. After a wedding trip to Jamaica, they are residing at 5030 Selma St. in Toledo. The daughter of Bro. Ernest and Sis. Anna Schneider and a Peoria girl all her life, Verena will be missed by our congregation, and will always be welcomed back with her new husband and stepdaughter.

Nancy Hoerr and Brian Harvey were married at Fellowship Hall Sunday, Jan. 6. Matron-of-honor was the bride's sister, Diane Leman, and "best man" was the groom's brother, Keith. Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia Hoerr are parents of the bride. Bro. Charles Hemmer conducted both of the weddings.

The following engagements were announced: Sis. Lynn Warren and Bro. Dave Eggli of Morton, and Sis. Rhoda Haefli and Bro. Paul Meister Jr. (Sparky). Rhonda's parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys, and Sparky's parents are Bro. Paul Sr. and Sis. Rhoda.

The following babies were born: Becky Lynn, to Bill and Ruth (Tanner) Hoerr and Brett; Ryan Whitney, to Bro. Dale and Sis. Cindy (Jackson) Endress and Brandon; George David, to Bro. David and Sis. Alice (Hohulin) Koehl and Derek; and Scott Robert, to Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris (Stoller) Meiss. Peoria grandparents include Sis. Frieda Hoerr, Bro. George and Sis. Joanne Koehl, and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Mary Hohulin.

Sis. Verna (Mrs. Bro. Clarence) Schurter died of cancer Dec. 17, and was buried on the 20th. just after we received about thirteen inches of snow and some fiercely cold weather.

Our deep sympathy goes to Sis.

Lois Leman, her sister, Elsie Eilers, and her brothers, Art and Harold, over the death of their father, Bro. Henry Leman of Indiana. He passed away Dec. 15 at the age of 90, just six months after his wife. . . Our sincere sympathy also to Sis. Lucille (Mrs. Bro. Wayne) Unsicker and her family over the death of her father, Bro. Emil Lauber of Princeville.

Sis. Margaret Simon, 73, died quite suddenly Friday, Jan. 4. Surviving are her brothers and sisters, Jacob, Bro. Henry, Sis. Emily, Sis. Martha, and Edna, all of whom have our sympathy. Her funeral was Jan. 7.

Vera Hayes, 87, who attended our church and had some of her closest friends here, passed away Jan. 5. Our ministers officiated at her funeral.

There have been a number of illnesses and accidents. Requiring hospitalization: Lena Sauder, Sis.'s Priscilla Bittner, Molly Perdelwitz, Ruth Hofstetter, Dean Kellenberger (son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Velma), and Sis. Constance (Mrs. Bro. Wilbur) Triplett. Connie is my sister, and since I know more about her, I'll write more. She fell on the ice the Saturday before Christmas and broke her hip. She has two daughters; Nancy, who was 11 Dec. 24, and Margaret, 7. Connie's hip was operated on Dec. 26. She suffered pain in the days preceding the operation and following the operation. Connie wishes to thank everyone who has been so kind, helpful, thoughtful, and sympathetic.

We are sorry to have Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger and family move away, but happy for them that they can now embark on this new experience in their lives, as Randy attends chiropractic school in Elgin.

Now I shall try to finish this report with some more good news, to strengthen and give us hope! Our church kitchen is being remodeled! . . . We voted to go ahead with planning duplex cottages on land adjacent to our Home. These cottages will be built for people who want them. There are many benefits to living in them. Any services desired, from cleaning to laundry to lawn-care, will be provided. Meals may either be fixed in the cottage or eaten in the dining room of the home.

At the election Dec. 30, Bro.

Ken Hoerr was elected trustee, and Bros. Joe Herman of Washington, Rich Herman, Marv Hodel, Herb Stoller, Sisters Ruth Huthman, and Gloria Hunziker Sunday School teachers.

Visiting ministers were here for the wedding: (Bros.) Kenneth Schneider from Remington, Hartzell Kaisner of Detroit, and Elmer Witzig of Gridley, Illinois. Also we are happy to have Bro. Roy Sauder ministering to us again after his illness. We thank God for his recovery and for the wonderful way He brings the word to us so willingly and faithfully.

Outside it is cold and windy. A fresh snow is falling. . . Inside the furnace keeps us warm, but a fire in the fireplace makes us feel even cozier. So also, it is sometimes cold and windy outside our spiritual selves, but the Holy Spirit is the furnace that keeps us warm inside. Good ministers add fuel to the fire. . . And things such as smiles and friends add that fire in the fireplace that makes us feel cozy and warmer.

UNION CITY

Karen Martin

It was such a wonderful Christmas. We were so glad to rejoice in the remembrance of the birth of Christ, and to listen to the children, as they recited their verses during the Christmas program. Their voices rang so clearly, and I'm sure each parent's heart was bursting with joy as they listened.

Our church has two teenage girls of whom we have become very fond. One of them lives in the apartment immediately next door to the church, and often on a Sunday, she and her friend would be sitting on the steps of their building as we came in and out. Since the buildings are quite close together, and since she was only the width of a narrow driveway away, she became quite friendly with various people going in and out, but especially with Sis. Mary, who would go in and out during the week to do one chore or another at church.

One day, the girl asked Sis. Mary if she could help her with her work, and a short time after that, Sis. Mary invited her to visit church. That was about a year ago, and we are so happy that both of these girls are regular visitors. attend Sunday School, and most Sun-

days are generously helping in the kitchen.

If you would know the greatest sum in addition, count your blessings.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Bev Maibach

Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life,
Hand in Hand, O may love bind us,
for each others welfare strive
With the love of God inspired,
there is joy for us on earth;
May the Spirit we've acquired
grant us blessings, peace and mirth.

The poet knew well how spiritually vitalizing and essential it is to seek and share the inspiration of His holy word and the fellowship of Christian brethren. Truly we cannot be thankful enough for those within His faith who are ever ready and willing to share their spiritual fruits with those of less spiritual stature and fortitude.

OAKVILLE

Martha Steiner

We have been blessed by the visits of several ministering brothers: Elder Bro. David Kieser (Princeville), Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Arnold Gerst (Chicago).

Our thoughts of sympathy are with the family of Robert Rauhaus, who passed out of this life very suddenly at the age of 39. He is survived by his wife Jeanne; three children; his aged mother, Sis. Mathilda Rauhaus, and two brothers, Raymond of Burlington and Bro. Roy of Oakville. May God comfort them as only He can.

SARASOTA

Philip Wingeier

May the year 1974 bring us all an abundance of joy and peace, both for soul and body.

We in Sarasota are now enjoying to worship in our new church; it is not all complete, but the assembly room is, so we can have one service. We feel, the Lord willing, it will be completed by Feb. 1. We are planning open house for Feb. 10, and Dedication Feb. 24. We want to sincerely welcome any who might be traveling this way or vacationing in this area, to come and worship with us.

Mr & Mrs Andy Mogler

Lester Iowa 51242

The time of our services will be as follows: song service, 10:30 A.M. and 12:45 P.M.

We are very happy to feel the Lord is still calling souls into repentance. We have a dear friend seeking the Lord, namely June Eisenman, daughter of David and Kay Eisenman (who now live in Sarasota). May the grace and mercy of God be her helper.

Visiting ministers: (Bros.) Elmer Hartter, Milford; Kenneth Dietz, Bradford; Joseph Stoller,

Princeville; James Leman, Roanoke. We do appreciate their coming and want to thank them for every inspiring word spoken, which gives us all a blessing.

Sis. Fern Wingeier wants to take this opportunity to express her thanks and appreciation for the Christmas cards, greetings and gifts they contained.

The best way to come to the new church: highway 41 and Bahia Vista intersection, turn east on Bahia Vista four miles, until you

come to Honore Ave; turn north 1/2 mile, 333 North Honore Ave. Sarasota.

Church phone, 955-9517; Philip Wingeier phone, 959-3244; Edward Getz, 756-4346; Robert Reiman, 355-6767; David Eisenman, 955-0767.

All things work together for those who love the Lord.

Changing address? Tell your reporter. Remember to send zip number!

CHEERS FOR THE COACH

Henry Souder Jr.

Where does your wildest applause go? What arouses you to cheering?

Success is measured in where you put your heart. We who are active in scoring the points, how do we do? Paul puts it pretty plain. If we are honest, we will want to know and do. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."

You see, we have to grow if we want to become stars. Carnal is flesh. Many emotions are not spiritual. What we love to read and who we love to communicate with determines what we become. Warm-ups determine sharp-shooting. Spiritual muscles become expert only in following directions. "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."

God describes in detail what holds down, and what hurts. The decision is ours, even to whose side we will be on. Analyze it in God's word. Whose emotions are they like? Carnal can crop up in many places. The world is a vast cheering section of carnal. It even can creep into church sessions. In all such case, the finger points: "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" Like whom do you

walk?

It is carnal to love to be on the bleachers, and it is carnal to take sides in church. Beyond fair and loving search. . . , beyond letting the truth be known, that is controversy. Hair pulling of the mind. That's the way the carnal act. Though some may be set in their way and be wrong, yet acting as we should, let it rest in God's hands. "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?"

The "beautiful" plays of the world, set up and executed with finesse, are for a season. There is a far more exciting, truly dramatic movement. Points are scored on the scoreboard for keeps. Grace envelops, flows around and through. It is in the beautiful light of eternity. The ingenious moves always prove whose wisdom it is. The players move with truly an artist's touch. There is just nothing like what the Lord does. "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?"

Can we say: who are we, except as the Lord gave? Oneness has tremendous value. Teamwork is smooth and polished of God. His success is a linked success. One's own work is helped in another's. It is likened unto a garden or farm. The real energizing, the actual springing forth is something that

happens in the seed itself. The winners know whom to cheer. "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."

In His glory shall we find joy. There is real uplifting. Happy joy is in Him who so magnificently performs. Never has there been anyone like Him. Think of the power of the resurrection, actually becoming alive from the dead. See His power in changing hearts. The Master gathers a beautiful bouquet. The world itself could not contain everything written that He did. Beside what He is doing. That is real reason to cheer. "So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

That enthusiasm does not die away. Those happy cheers go on and on. That crowd's gaiety not only lingers after the bleachers are empty. You can hear the sounds in scripture. . . coming from eternal reaches. . . the victory glowing, the music playing. All is glorious happiness.

"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor."

That trophy is truly worth striving for. Will you be a winner in that glorious victory? Look at the victors' faces! The glorious Jesus is holding all in his wonderful love and victory smile!