



The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willing-

ly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

THE BASQUE SHEPHERDER AND THE SHEPHERD PSALM

Submitted by Carlton J. Lanz

David and his ancestors knew sheep and their ways. David has translated a sheep's musing into simple words. The daily repetition of this psalm fills the shepherd with reverence for his calling. We take this poem as a compass to guide us. It is our bulwark when the days are hot or stormy, when the nights are dark, when wild animals surround us. Many of these lines are statements of simple requirements and actual duties of a Holy Land shepherd, whether he lives today or followed the same calling years ago. It has a well-understood meaning for us.

A Basque Herder

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." Sheep know that before they have been folded for the night, the shepherd has planned their grazing for the morrow. It may be that he will take them over the same range; it may be he will go to a new ground. They do not worry. His guidance has been good in the past; they have faith in the future, because they know he has their well-being in view.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures . . ." Sheep graze from around 3:30 in the morning until about 10. They then lie down for 3 or 4 hours and rest. When they are contentedly chewing their cud, the shepherd knows that they are putting on fat. Consequently, the good shepherd starts his flock in the early hours on the rougher herbage, moving on through the morning to the richer, sweeter grass, finally coming to a shady place for the forenoon rest, in fine green pastures, best grazing of the day. Sheep resting in such happy surroundings feel contentment.

". . . he leadeth me beside the still waters." There are many small springs high in the hills of the Holy Land, whose waters run down the valleys, only to evaporate in the desert sun. Although the sheep need water, they will not drink from fast-flowing streams. The shepherd must find a place where rocks or erosion have made a little pool, or else he fashions a pocket sufficient to hold at least a bucketful.

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." In the Holy Land, each sheep takes his place in the morning, and keeps the same position throughout the day. Once during the day, each sheep leaves its place and goes to the shepherd. The shepherd stretches out his hand and rubs the animal's nose and ears, scratching its chin, whispers affectionately into its ear. The sheep meanwhile rubs against his leg, or if the shepherd is sitting down, nibbles at his ear and rubs its cheek against his face. After a few minutes with the master, the sheep returns to its place in the feeding line.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." There is an actual Valley of the Shadow of Death. It is south of the Jericho Road (leading from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea), a narrow defile through a mountain range. Climatic and grazing conditions make it necessary for the sheep to be moved through this valley for seasonal feeding each year. The valley is 4½ miles long. Its side walls are over 1500 feet high in places, and it is only 10 or 12 feet wide at the bottom. Travel is dangerous. Its floor has gullies 7 or 8 feet deep. Actual footing on solid rock is so narrow in many places that sheep cannot turn around. It is an unwritten law of shepherds that flocks must go up the valley in the morning hours, down toward eventide, lest flocks meet in the defile. About half-way, the walk crosses from one side to the other at a place where the path is cut in two by an 8-foot gully. One side of the gully is about 18 inches higher than the other; the sheep must jump across. The shepherd stands at this break, and coaxes or forces the sheep to make the leap. If a sheep slips and lands in the gully, the shepherd's rod is brought into play. The old-style crook circles a large sheep's neck or a small sheep's chest, and the animal is lifted to safety. If a more modern narrow crook is used, the sheep is caught about the hoofs

and lifted up to the walk. Many wild dogs lurk in the shadows of the walls, looking for prey. The shepherd, skilled in throwing his staff, uses it as a weapon. Thus, the sheep have learned to fear no evil in the Valley of the Shadow of Death, for their master is there to protect them from harm.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies . . ." Poisonous plants which are fatal to grazing animals abound. Each spring the shepherd must be constantly alert. He takes his mattock and goes on ahead, grubbing out every stock and root he can see. He lays them upon little stone pyres, some of which were built by shepherds in Old Testament days. By the morrow they are dry enough to burn. When the pasture is free from poisonous plants, the sheep are led into it, and in the presence of their plant enemies, they eat in peace.

". . . thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over." At every sheepfold there is a big earthen bowl of olive oil and a large jar of water. As the sheep come in for the night, they are led to a gate. The shepherd lays his rod across the top of the gateway, just above the backs of his sheep. As each sheep passes, he quickly examines it for briars in the ears, snags in the cheek, weeping eyes from dust and scratches. When such conditions are found, he drops the rod across the back, and it steps out of line. Each sheep's wounds are carefully cleaned. Then the shepherd dips his hand into the

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olive oil and anoints the injury. A large cup is dipped into the jar of water, kept cool by evaporation in the unglazed pottery, brought out, never half-full but always overflowing. The sheep will sink its nose into the water clear to the eyes, if fevered, and drink until fully refreshed. When all the sheep are at rest, the shepherd places his staff within reach. He wraps himself in his woolen robe and lies down across the gateway, facing the sheep, for his night's repose. So, after all the care and protection the shepherd has given, a sheep may well soliloquize in the twilight.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

ATHENS

Hazel Vibbert

Charles Vibbert was a patient in Huntsville Hospital, has been home a few days. He is in a body cast and is to go back for major surgery the 22nd of January.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Anis Perry have been sick at their home.

Sis. Irene Spratt has moved back to Athens, after living in Mississippi for a few years. Her husband, Prater Spratt, died the 15th of December . . . survived by Irene and six children. Wanda Brooks of Athens, Gayle Holliman of Mississippi; Pamela, Rickey, Wayne and Richard of Athens.

ZAPATA, TEXAS

Esther Wagler — Dolly Stoller

We know not what 1974 may bring, but we do know only what we do for the Lord will last.

We have had some unusual weather, much fog and cloudy weather.

When we can look out of our window and see the beautiful cardinal, green jay, mocking birds, and quail sing and flying around, we thank the Lord for gifts of living in a land of beauty and warmth.

We are fortunate to have a new meeting-place in Siesta Shore's, The Community Building, at 10:00. For more information call: 512-765-4987, Ben Wagler, 512-765-54486, Walter Stoller.

Visiting were Brother Cornelius and Sis. Deloris Messerli and their daughter, Kathy of Winthrop, who have been visiting their daughter and husband at Houston.

To date there are ten couples here.

Later News

"I was glad when they said unto me. Let us go into the house of the LORD."

We have been blessed the past two Sundays with ministers from other congregations. Bro. Harry Sutter from Ft. Lauderdale has been with us the past two Sundays, and Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger from Elgin Ill. this past Sunday, and intends to remain in our midst for several weeks.

Our attendance is increasing. There were 30 this past Lord's day. We had pot-luck supper for all visitors, and enjoyed evening services.

The weather has been quite changeable, but the past two weeks has been beautiful, and the spring flowers are beginning to bloom.

We welcome anyone who is in our area to come and worship with us.

RURAL GOSPEL & MEDICAL MISSIONS OF INDIA

(I'm enclosing a letter from Mr. Bhagwat regarding Dr. Shantwan's "thank you" which Bro. Noah sent to me for my consideration . . . Ben Maibach.)

How wonderful and nice was the fellowship with the God's chosen people. Really it was a blessing for us and blessed time for me and fine opportunity for me.

I am feeling, really it was call from our dear Lord who poured His precious blood on the Calvary cross and washed away all our sins and gave us the eternal gift of salvation.

I am very much impressed by the simplicity of serving the Lord.

I am very much thankful to elders body, missionary committee, and World Relief Committee, who call me from India, and gave me chance to visit most of the churches and observe the church activities, like servicing, praying baptizing, provings, solemnizing marriages, and Lord's Supper.

I am very much thankful to all the people who loved me, took every care of me by giving me good beds, comfortable shelter and delicious dinners, and granted me good health through the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . My field of work is in India, and now I am

safely back to India and serving Lord.

It only the way left before to visit every day to all of you through the prayers offered to our Father.

. . . hoping to meet you, if not here, there in the heaven at the feet of our Lord. Thanking you. Yours Ever, Dr. Shantwan.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Kayleen Heiniger

Eunice Schupbach

"Ye shall henceforth return no more that way." These words are part of the instructions given by Moses to the children of Israel, after they had been delivered from the land of bondage. We can take a spiritual application from this. The things which lie behind have become a matter of record. We can return no more that way. We cannot rewrite the pages of the past year. How wonderful, though, that we can confess our sins and failures to a merciful God, and can experience His cleansing forgiveness through Jesus Christ. With His help and guidance, we can strive to live a more abundant life! Let us remember, as we live each new day granted to us, that we shall not pass this way again.

We are pleased with the progress of the new church building, and Lord willing, we hope to be in the sanctuary at least, within the next few weeks. There are so many details that need to be worked out, but little by little with the help of willing hands the work is being accomplished. We wish to express a word of thanks to the brothers from the surrounding communities that have so generously donated their help.

Cheryl Nussbaum, daughter of the Eldon Nussbaums, has begun a new life of service for the Lord, and in the near future will be given the privilege of giving her testimony.

Little Matt Kupferschmid had the misfortune of breaking his toe, but is getting along very nicely.

Visitors during January were: (Bros.) Dan Koch and August Bolliger from Tremont and Kenny Knepp from the Roanoke congregation. We appreciate their labor of love in proclaiming the gospel to us.

TOLEDO

Lydia Meister

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Today was one of those rare days of the winter season. Instead of storm and snow, the sky was tranquil and a wonderful blue, the sunshine so brilliant, in it a hint that lovely spring was not too distant. The birds seemed to sense it, for I heard the soft cooing of the mourning dove. It made me think of our pilgrim way. How wonderful it is, after the worry and fears we sometimes are subject to, comes the quiet time when God again smooths the path, and peace reigns in our heart.

Sunday, Jan. 13. we were grateful to have our Elder (Bros.) Ben Maibach and Joe Ramsier to share the conference notes. It was most beneficial for all. Their sermons gave us refreshing food for our souls. We are ever thankful that God has ordained these loving brothers to be our shepherds and teach us more fully the way to serve our Lord.

Sis. Susie Rehklau has been elected to teach the intermediate class of the Sunday School.

Our dear friend, Mary Croy, has given her heart to the Lord and has received the blessed gift of peace. May our Lord walk with her, giving her grace and patience . . .

Sis. Benita Schlatter is at Children's Hospital in Cincinnati for classes in nurse's training. We miss her and will be happy when she comes back to us.

An evening of fellowship was held at the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Lydia Schlatter, in honor of Sis. Verena and Bro. Rolf Kaeppler. It was a precious way for us to get acquainted with Verena. We enjoyed the singing of a number of hymns before parting.

A thought from a sermon: "The Lord's footprints are erased from the sands of Galilee, but His words are reserved for us until this day."

IOWA CITY

Twila Whipple — Joan Mogler

We thank Bros. Dave Kieser, Harvey Heiniger and Uriel Gehring for bringing us God's holy word. We continually thank our Lord that He so often leads us to the green pastures of life, where we can be abundantly filled with His riches and love.

Have you a mountain in your path? Do doubts and fears assail? Do you have a problem that seems insurmountable? Let God lead you in His ways, and the mountain shall be removed and the task seem suddenly lightened. Bro. Dave mentioned several repenting souls who felt it impossible to make right for wrong-doing. In every case, the repentant soul asked for help, and forgiveness was given freely. One soul took stolen materials back to their original owner, fearing a very stern punishment. What was the response? "Make out a check for the amount of the stolen goods and give it to the church you are becoming a part of." Another repentant soul went to a large company to make a confession, knowing his foreman would be furious. Again God had His hand in the picture. The foreman was gone, but the manager willingly forgave, admitting the other person may have been very harsh with him. We cannot walk on our own, but must rely constantly on God's help. By ourselves we are weak; with God's help we can be strong.

Lord, clasp my faltering hand in Thine;

Too weak I am to walk alone.

My path, dear Lord, I would not choose,

But ever say, Thy will be done.

At times when we experience hard trials and tearful struggles, we tend to question the Lord's will. How beneficial it would be if we could have the understanding one brother expressed, "Even our tears are for a purpose—they wash our eyes clean so we can see more clearly."

PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

He who brings sunshine into the life of another has sunshine in his own.

The first three weeks of this new year were quite cold. We had lots of snow. However, this past week has been much warmer and much of the snow has melted. We like to believe that perhaps the hearts of some of our friends are beginning to warm and be drawn closer to the Lord. It seems our ministers have been so inspired, and we thrill at the pure, humble teachings brought forth. How won-

derful it is to have this precious faith, and to have young brothers who are inspired with the same teachings as our ministers of years ago who are now asleep in Jesus. May this true faith be preserved.

Early in January, the annual business meeting was held, on a Wednesday evening. Despite the severe cold, a goodly number gathered. Various reports were read, and new appointments for trustee, usher, and other committees were made. This was done in godly order, and all felt it a blessed evening.

Another most solemn evening was shared by our congregation and Bradford, when Bro. LeRoy Huber came to assist Bros. Dave Kieser and Silas Leuthold in reading and deliberating on the conference report. How strengthening for each one's faith to have so many of like mind sit so quietly and attentively. It was a very impressive evening, and we could feel the presence of God. May we each one strive to do a little better every day, so that those who are on the outside may see that we have a faith worthwhile possessing. We thank our dear elder brothers for their patience in sharing with us these important teachings.

A son, Trent Warren, was born to our friends, Wayne and Linda Scholl on Jan. 5. He was welcomed home by a four-year-old brother, Troy; Sis. Mary Scholl and Bill and Geneva Warren are grandparents.

On Jan. 23 a friend, Veda Streitmatter was buried in our church cemetery, graveside services being conducted by Bro. Joe Stoller. She is survived by her husband, Louie; a daughter, Arlys Conrad of Chicago; and a brother, George Grove of East Peoria.

There is much sickness in our area the past few weeks, with a number of younger children suffering from chicken pox, measles, and even a few cases of scarlet fever. Older folks have had the flu and other ailments. Sis. Lena Stichling has been confined to her bed, as she has an infected blood clot in her leg. It has been several years since Lena has been able to worship with us. She appreciates the calls, cards and other acts of love shown her. She said she is looking forward to a better home.

Sis. Emily Stoller was unable to worship with us a short time, while

recovering from foot surgery. Sis. Ruth Streitmatter spent several days in the hospital, undergoing tests. Sis. Martha Hemmer is receiving treatments at the hospital. Russell Rumbold spent two weeks in the hospital, part of the time in traction, because of his back. He is somewhat improved, and hopes to come home in the near future.

We know we have a loving Lord, and at times seems miracles are still being performed. Our friend, Louie Baer, who had surgery a few weeks ago, was sent home and told to put his house in order as his days were numbered, has had a new spurt of strength given him. He has been able to drive his car about again.

To help another on life's way;
To smile and chase a frown away;
To hide a fault—reveal the good,
To love my neighbor as I should;
To bring some cheer to one who's sad;
To make some lonely person glad;
To share my joys and blessings too—
This will I try each day to do.

ALTO Sue Root

Elder Bros. Joe Waibel and Ben Maibach were with us to read the memorandum. We were reminded of the importance of being a light in a dark world, and of not conforming to it.

The annual meeting was held at this time. Elections include: (Bros.) Ernest Oesch, treasurer; Carl Steffen, Sunday School Superintendent; Bill Gerst, secretary; Dick Gerst, trustee; and Sis. Joyleen Blough, Sunday School teacher.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McCall announced the engagement of their daughter, Julie, to James Blough, son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lyman and Sis. Vivian Feldman and their children, in the loss of their father and grandfather, Fred Feldman of Fairbury. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Marian, and trust the Lord will be with her in the lonely days ahead.

Little Kathie Byam, twin sister of Kristie, has been hospitalized with bronchitis. Her parents are Doug and Marilyn (Oesch) Byam. Sis. Delilah Schrenk (Bro. El-

mer) fell while working in the barn, and broke her wrist. Our friend, John Krebs has been hospitalized.

This poem is submitted in memory of my father, Bro. Derry Schutte, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly a year ago this January, at 50 years of age:

When loved ones go ahead of us,
It's hard to say goodbye,
And in our grief and sorrow,
We are tempted to ask why.

But he has found peace and joy
This world can never give,
And in God's heavenly home,
He truly lives.

His wife, Sis. Virginia, and children.

CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart — Mary Schrock

“. . . behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." Our friends, Bob and LeAnn Siegle (formerly of Oakville) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with them and wish them God's grace.

On Jan. 6, Julia Marie was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock. Welcoming her home were her brothers and sisters, Joan Jeff, Jill, Jenni, Johnny and Jimmy; also grandparents, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Irene Schrock and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schierer. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart are happy in the birth of a little daughter, Amy Sue, born Jan. 10. She has two sisters, Peggy and Denise. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sylvia Banwart and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sara Tanner. While holding our new baby one day, I thought how wonderful God was to think of people coming into the world as tiny babies. If he had created them already grown, think how much joy we as parents would miss.

Samson had a gift from God, but used it foolishly. We all are given gifts of God. All of us have the gift of time; let's not use it foolishly. This was brought out in a sermon, when Ministering Bros. Kenny Dietz and Charles Sauder were in our midst.

Sue Schieber, daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma, is working in New York.

Jan. 30, Bro. Harvey and Sis.

Fannie Schieber celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's blessings.

Our Sis. Emma Reeser had the misfortune of falling from her wheelchair and is confined to her home. Mary Wettstein broke her hip and is hospitalized.

A reminder to Congerville readers. March is the month for our collection for the Silver Lining.

One Sunday while in the hospital, I received such a blessing by reading a printed sermon by one of our ministering brothers. These sermons, taken from tapes, are sent to servicemen and those who can not attend church. They are available by writing to: Apostolic Christian Church, c/o Sidney Le-man, Forrest, Ill 61741.

Following are some of the thoughts from the last sermon:

"I read one time that there are rivers that flow through rivers, but are never contaminated by them; and so a believer should go through this world and not be contaminated by the ungodly men . . .

"I read a little story of a small child that had gone to bed, there only for a short time, and fell out of bed and began crying. The mother said, "Why did you fall out?" the child said, "I must have fell out because I stayed too close to the place where I got in." Beloved, this can happen to a believer. We can stay too close to the place where we got in. Once we become a child of God, we should grow in grace. Grow every day. A man once said, "I count that day lost in which I did not learn something."

EUREKA Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

On Jan. 20, Sis. Debra Rocke and Bro. Harvey Joos were united in marriage by Bro. Leroy Huber. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. Harry and Lydia Rocke. His folks are Bro. and Sis. Gottlieb Joos' from Morris. They will live on a farm near Morris.

Jan. 26, our friends, Janet and Jim Stoller were given their opportunity to tell of their conversion. They were baptized the next day. Bro. Edwin Ringger from Gridley assisted Bro. Leroy Huber. Janet's folks are Bro. and Sis. Loren and Mildred Schlipf from Gridley; his parents are Bro. and Sis. Leroy and Ruth Stoller. May

God bless them now and stay by their sides as they are starting on this journey to heaven.

Jan. 13, a baby boy was born to Bro. and Sis. Dale and Friedora Wiegand. He is named Norman Eugene. He has one sister and three brothers to help care for him. A **note of thanks**, to all who sent cards, gifts and food. We really appreciated it. Bro. and Sis. Dale and Friedora Wiegand.

(Bros.) Edwin Ringger and Elmer Witzig from Gridley were our only visitors.

In the hospital are: Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall, surgical, Methodist Hospital, Peoria—Bro. Marvin is her husband. Sis. Mary Bauer is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital. She has been a resident at the "Home."

The annual Business meeting was held one Wednesday evening, after brief services . . . Trustee for the church, Bro. Harold Hodel; trustee for the Home, Bro. Sam Leman; two new Sunday School teachers, (Bros.) Gene Zobrist, Roger Bradle.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wind and daughters, Kristine and Julie, moved to Monticello, Wisconsin. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Theo. and Amy Stoller.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all for their cards, gifts and visits while in the hospital. The many prayers and kind words of the ministers and all were deeply appreciated. A special Thank You to the folks from the Roanoke congregation. Sis. Edna Martin.

GRIDLEY, KANSAS

Edna Somerhalder—Wilma Young

O word of joy, eternity,
Which holds such charms and joy
for me,

O life without cessation.
Eternity, from sorrows free,
Such thoughts bring peace that I
can be

Relieved from earth's vexation.
They fill my heart with sweetest
cheer
When trials and grief assail me
here.

We're enjoying springlike
weather, after several weeks of
snow and ice.

Our church remodeling is pro-
gressing nicely. It is hoped to be
completed soon. In the meantime,

we appreciate the fellowship and hospitality shown by the Lamont congregation.

Little Brian Kraft, son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine, has just returned from another two weeks at K.U. Med. Center, has had his first 5 days of chem-o-therapy treatment. The treatments are to be given in succession, every 6 weeks for a period of a year. He has been responding to the medication.

Sis. Marilyn (Steven) Owens of Lincoln, Nebraska, has been hospitalized 5 days for treatment and observation. She is now home recuperating. Marilyn is the daughter of Sis. Wilma and Andy Jr. Young. Sis. Janiece and Dale Isch were in Lincoln to care for her sister's children, while she was in the hospital.

INDIANAPOLIS

Wayne and Judy Steffen

January was a busy month. The first two Sundays we had open house in our new church. On Jan. 6, Bro. Ed Frank from La Crosse was with us, and Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville was here January 13. We are thankful for their willingness to come and serve.

On Jan. 20, we had the dedication of our church. We were happy to have so many ministers and visitors with us. Among those ministering were: Bros.: Theo. Beer, Milford; David Bertsch, Leo; Sam Aeschliman, Bluffton; Edwin Hohulin, Goodfield; Ben Maibach, Detroit; Loren Stoller, Latty; Carl Kipfer, Bluffton; John Bollier, Leo; and Alfred Bahler, Wolcott. We are so very grateful for those who have helped us build our church. It has taken the donations of money and labor from many people to create this structure, and we certainly appreciate all the generosity that has been shown us. It is wonderful when Christians work together.

On Jan. 20, it was announced that our friend, Ted Perry from Anderson will be proved, and Lord willing baptized Feb. 24. We are happy for him and wish him God's many blessings.

We will be electing a minister soon, and our thoughts and prayers are centered on this. It is an important decision to be made, and we trust we will be guided accordingly.

On Jan. 27 Bro. Wendell Gerber from Bluffton was here.

A baby girl, Allison Beth was born to Art and Suz Ringger Jan. 29. The grandparents are Art and Esther Bucher from La Crosse and La Verne and Rose Ringger from Bluffton. Congratulations to all of them.

We welcome all visitors to worship with us in Indianapolis.

LA CROSSE

Lorene Moser—Mary E. Gudeman

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

We rejoice that dear friends have answered the call of our Lord, Mary Lynn Feller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann) and Denise Feller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen). May the blessing of grace, love and peace be with them. It was the love of Jesus that we have this free way to come to Him.

Bro. Sam Frank is able to assemble with us again. It is a blessing and joy to see our elderly brothers, sisters and friends able to come to the house of God. While visiting with a sister, she remarked that she looks forward to Sunday, to come to church, hear the precious word, and have fellowship.

Sis. Melba Bucher (Bro. Vernon) was a hospital patient for X-rays and tests. She is dismissed and home again. Bro. Phil Troxel suffered a stroke on Jan. 22. He is somewhat improved. Sis. Louise and Bro. Ed Wittmer have been unable to assemble with us the last few Sundays.

Prayers for big and little things,
Fly heavenward . . .
And when you need Him, He'll be
there.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 14. Brothers and sisters were elected. May we help those who have the responsibility to care for the house of worship.

In the sight of God, marriage is honorable. Friends Robert Bucher, Kouts, and Carol Jungles, Medaryville, were united in marriage January 25. Parents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jungles.

As we have passed another year, we look ahead to a new one. We know God holds the key to the

future. We thank Him for His bounteous blessing of the past, and pray that the new year be of more love, unity and peace in this troubled world.

LATTY

LeAnn Laukhuf — Carol Sinn

We are happy to report that Bros. Jacob Stoller, Mike Stoller, and Sis's Josephine Stoller and Ann Plummer have returned safely from a trip to the West Coast. It is wonderful we can travel to distant churches, but we joy to see the return of loved ones.

Ministering Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction) visited our congregation on the 20th of January, and Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf (Akron) on the 27th. We always enjoy listening to the word of God from our visiting ministers. Bro. Rudolph also assisted our elder, Bro. Loren, in reading the memorandum. May we be attentive and supportive of our elder and ministering brothers, as they have such a responsibility and love for us.

Jeanette and Tony Wobler are the happy parents of a firstborn baby boy, Brandon Anthony. Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Stoller are the grandparents. Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn are parents of a little girl, Sandra Marie. Five brothers and sisters welcome her home.

Sis. Vera Laukhuf (Bro. Lester) is home from the hospital, recuperating from major surgery. She is doing well.

ROANOKE

Doris Mangold — Erma Moser

There is no other road to God,
No pathway to His love
Than Jesus Christ the Living Way,
To lead our souls above.

Sis. Anna Hernfeldt slipped and fell on the ice. She was taken to the hospital for surgery, but has been released and is staying with a friend, Sis. Freida Schambach of Morton. We miss seeing her in church, and hope she will soon be able to worship with us again.

One of our older brothers in faith, Fred Siebenthal, was hospitalized for several weeks, but is home again and being cared for by his faithful wife, Sis. Ellen.

A new arrival in the family of Gail and Larry Blunier is baby Colleen Dawn. She has a sister,

Christy, who is almost 3 years old. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Harlow Blunier.

We are thankful to have more souls turning to the Lord. On Saturday, the 12th, we heard the testimony of Bro. Jim Mueller. On Sunday, we witnessed his baptism. It was a blessed day, and we thank God for every soul who finds it worthy to turn to the Lord.

The annual business meeting was held on a Wednesday evening; a new trustee, Bro. Alvin Farney was elected.

Sis. Alice Funk celebrated her 91st birthday with her family, at the home of her granddaughter, Sis. Lyn Blunier (Bro. Bob).

Little Phillip Neukomm spent a few days in the hospital, but is home again with his parents, Larry and Sharon. After a stay in the hospital, Sis. Rose Funk is staying with her daughter and family, Bro. John Diggles.

Our best wishes and God's blessings to Joe and Nila Hangartner, who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 3.

We welcome to our Roanoke congregation Sis. Valerie, bride of Bro. Bill Wuthrich.

Also a welcome to Cynthia Hoerr of Taylor, who became the bride of Bob DeSigne of Roanoke. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. John Hoerr. His parents are Ray and Margaret (Hangartner) DeSigne.

TUCSON

Mrs. Donald Bauer

Mrs. Loren Knapp

A post-wedding reception for Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk was held on Sunday, immediately following services. Our monthly fellowship dinner was served after the reception, in our Fellowship Hall. We had many visitors, and all enjoyed a blessed day.

Sleep on beloved, sleep and take thy rest;

Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast.

We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best.

Goodnight, Goodnight, Goodnight!

These were the words sung, as our small church said Goodbye to our dear Sis. Grace Haller. She is survived by her husband, Ford. She was a wonderful testimony to

all who visited with her during her long illness.

We were thankful for Bro. Clarence Dietrich from Silverton. We thank him for his labors of love.

We wish to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Bob and Sis. Carole Haas and their children. They have moved to Willcox, Arizona . . . look forward to having them worship with us.

BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

We had a most blessed week-end Jan. 12-13, when six dear souls were baptized and are now our brothers and sisters, namely: Robert and Janet Meyer, Leroy and Helen Meyer, James and Jeannie Meyer (Leroy and James are Sis. Pearl's sons.) Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer, Elgin Ia, and Gene Marti helped with this work. While these young couples all have established homes, they will now have Christian homes. May the Lord ever add His blessing. We are rejoicing over five more young boys turning toward Zion.

Sis. Marietta Rokey (Bro. Roy-Sis. Lucy) is now a resident in the Home for the Handicapped. May she find much contentment and happiness there.

A wee bundle of joy arrived to make her home with Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman. Natalie Ann was born Jan. 21, and is the first grandchild for Bro. Edw. and Sis. Leola. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller, Ft. Scott.

Bro. Harlan Stoller was hospitalized with an injured hand, due to a combine mishap. Sis. Katie Grimm (Bro. Paul) was a medical patient.

Bro. Carl Feucht—Lester, Bro. Jim Ramsier—Bay City were our visiting ministers, both at a mid-week service. Good advice was given to us; we should travel the center of the road, and not try and see how close to the edge we can walk, or we are apt to slip and fall into disaster.

Truly, God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. Our dear friend Albert Plattner, whose terminal illness has been of much concern for quite some time, has now found his way to a merciful God, received peace and was able to be baptized at mid-week services, Jan. 23. We rejoice with Bro. Albert in his new-found joy and hap-

piness. May the Lord bless and make his lot bearable in the days to come.

BRADFORD

Rebecca Endress

We thank Bros. Dave Kieser and Walt Herrmann (Princeville) for ministering to us. Bro. Walt's visit was especially appreciated, as he came to our aid when Bro. Roy Ehnle was down with flu one Sunday morning.

Bro. Dave conducted our annual business meeting, where the following were given new duties: trustee, Bro. Ben Ehnle; usher, Bros. Marvin Leman and Gary Endress. Bro. David Kieser is our head songleader, and Sis. Delores Duckworth in Sunday School.

Sis. Lois Endress was hospitalized for major surgery and is now convalescing at home. Sis. Barbara Ringger is also at home, following surgery on her feet.

Kevin and Kreig Eberle have a new little brother named Kurt William. He was born Jan. 28 to Ronnie and Sue Eberle. His paternal grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Marie Eberle of the Princeville congregation.

Thank you: We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our children, relatives and friends for gifts, flowers, cards, visits, prayers and food while we were in the hospital and since we are home. Your deeds of kindness shall never be forgotten. Bro. Louie and Sis. Anna Rumbold . . . We are happy to see Bro. Louie and Sis. Anna in church again.

BREMEN

Pauline Laidig

When one of our youth joined a group in singing, "I'm so glad I belong to the Family of God", his heart was pricked, as he knew he didn't belong to God's family as yet. After this experience, Steve Johnson repented of his sins and yielded his life to the Lord. Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Connie are his parents. We are happy that Bruce Zimmer, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Ann, has also turned to the Lord in his youth.

Last Saturday evening, Elder Bros. Joe Waibel and Wendell Gudeman and Bro. Earl Zeltwanger gave these new converts and Marian Germann, whose conversion we previously mentioned, the

privilege of giving their testimonies, and lovingly counselled with them concerning their Christian walk, especially in their respective schools. As Bro. Wendell said, there is a mission field all around us. We all have the opportunity of letting our lives be a testimony of our faith.

Sunday was a blessed day as we listened to many good teachings, and then witnessed the baptisms of these three happy souls. We wish them much grace as they travel the Highway of Life.

In love, the memorandum was read and commented upon by the elder brothers, who seek to guide us on the path of righteousness. Bro. Joe has travelled many miles, from time to time, to visit us. We have appreciated not only having him come to serve us as our Elder, but also the loving manner in which he did so. Since travelling is becoming more difficult for him, we are grateful Bro. Wendell has consented to relieve him somewhat in the leadership of our flock.

We were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Diane Zimmer and Bro. Mark Souder. We wish them God's blessings as they make their future plans. Bro. George and Sis. Helen are Diane's parents, and Mark is the son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Irma of Grabill.

Two precious little bundles brought happiness into their respective homes. Bro. Robert, Sis. Sue, Michael and Mathew Beebe welcome little Mark Randall into their family circle. Bro. John and Sis. Jayne Conrads' home seems more complete since little Rachel Ann has arrived. Her paternal grandparents are Bro. Freeman and Sis. Mary.

Our annual business meeting was held in January, resulting in a number of brothers and sisters assuming new duties. May we all be inspired to do what we can for the welfare of our church, whether we hold an office or not.

CHICAGO

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

God is a God of all comfort and has sent a Comforter to us that He may abide with us forever . . . But even as they that are whole have no need of a physician but they that are sick, how can they that are without troubles and sorrows have need of a Comforter? It is when

some trial or suffering overtakes us that we are able to look to our heavenly Father and experience His wonderful comfort. Perhaps this is one reason why God allows His children to sometimes endure hardship and sickness. After we have been comforted and perhaps restored, our appreciation of our blessed calling is greatly enhanced.

Jesus has said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." If we abide in Him, we too can overcome. How comforting it is for the weary souls to know that a day is coming when God will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: For the former things shall be passed away.

We were sorry to hear that Bro. Ernest Knecht is in the hospital, after suffering a mild stroke.

Luke Allen Rinkenberger was born Jan. 15. His parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeanne and his brother Linc welcome him into the family. In the last eight months our small congregation has been blessed with seven new babies: Elizabeth Klopfenstein, Dawn Elsasser, Rachel Rassi, Theresa Meyer, Bart Pfeifer, Esther Bozzay and Luke Rinkenberger. Their fresh and precious innocence thrills the hearts of young and old alike.

We were glad to have Ministering Bros. Joe Braker from Morton and Bob Pohl from Burlington, Iowa with us. Their messages were a blessing to us.

FORT LAUDERALE

Kathy Sutter

There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life . . . These are the months when dear friends come to enjoy the warm sunshiny days with us; how heartwarming it is to assemble and find our benches so well filled. We can count untold blessing from the hours of fellowship with our visitors. These friendships, bound by Christian love, are ones truly to be cherished.

We are always uplifted and encouraged by the hearing of the word, and are grateful to those who brought it. Our visiting ministers were (Bros.) Art Gudeman, Roy Luginbuhl, Roy Wieland and Al Fisher. We welcome Bro. Al. who

is here for an extended visit.

Bro. Henry H. Schwartz is recovering. We are glad he is again able to assemble with us.

We are happy to have Bev Kaeb as a sister in faith. Over the Christmas holidays, Bev gave her testimony in her home church of Fairbury. A few from our congregation were able to attend and hear her tell the story of the miracle that we saw, the miracle of a changed life. We are glad for her expression of faith, and wish her much grace in her Christian life.

FORT SCOTT

Ida Sinn

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Sis. Janice Springer, daughter of Sis. Mabel, and Bro. Dan Braker, son of Bro. and Sis. Raymond and Luetta of Lamar.

Becky Sinn and Kenneth Marti were united in marriage at the home of Becky's parents, Bro. and Sis. Wayne and Juanita, on Jan. 20. Our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart performed the ceremony. The newlyweds will live on a farm near Lamar.

Sis. Mabel Springer has been hospitalized for gall bladder surgery. Lydia Hawkins is in the hospital.

We held our annual election and business meeting, after postponing it for several weeks on account of the weather. Bros. James Bahr and Harold Kraft were re-elected as trustee and treasurer, and Bro. Harvey Smith as usher. Sis. Mabel Springer was added to the food committee. Bro. Lyle Fisher, Sisters Wanda Kraft, Ethel Smith and Aleta Banwart were chosen to fill the vacancies in Sunday School.

Thank You for the many prayers, letters, cards, gifts and visits during my hospital stay and since my return home. Bro. Emil Banwart.

FRANCESVILLE

Sharon Neihouser — Helen Huber

"When God shall come and say to you, Here is the thing that you must do, Be Listening." Three dear souls in our congregation were listening when God called them, and He granted sufficient grace to make a complete surrender. They are Wayne Putt (husband of Sis. Paulette and son of Bro. Keith and Sis. Lorna), Steve and Mike Gutwein, sons of Bro. Carl and Sis.

Yvonne. We are rejoicing with them and their families. May their lives radiate love, joy, and happiness to those they meet each day.

Pat White was announced on New Year's Eve, of her peace with the Lord, and is looking forward to her baptism in the near future, with Larry and Pam Leman, who have also been announced. Our friend Pat was not of our faith. She was taken into the home of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber. She said that it was the LOVE and the surroundings in the Christian Home that has brought her to know the Lord. May this same love glow within her heart and be a living testimony unto her family.

We have started a new addition to our church. It will include a kitchen, dining room, and fellowship area. Many brothers and sisters are giving much of their time and talents in this work. It can be a rich blessing when we can work together in love and unity. We were sorry to hear that Wayne Putt was injured while working, but after a short stay in the hospital is able to assemble with us again, for which we are all very thankful to our Lord.

Wed. evening, Jan. 16, we had visiting elders, Bros. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest and Alfred Bahler of Wolcott, to help our Elder Bro. Wendell with the memorandum. Indeed they are as shepherds of each flock, and realize out of love and concern to care for their sheep and lambs. Only by disobedience one may be misled and go astray from the fold.

Sunday Jan. 20, many friends and relatives came to share the wedding day of Bro. Bill Wuthrich of Roanoke and Sis. Valerie Bucher. He is the son of Bro. Willis and Sis. Florence, and she is the daughter of Bro. Wally and Sis. Rosella. We will miss Valerie's bubbly personality in our congregation, and we do wish them God's richest blessings as they walk hand in hand and heart in heart through life together. Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton) visited us on that day, and in his morning sermon, reminded us not to forget the question, "What about God?" Bro. Harry Bucher (Valparaiso), grandfather of Sis. Valerie, assisted Bro. Wendell in the marriage ceremony.

Hospitalized: Sis. Louise Anliker, Marian Gutwein, Mary Huber,

Margaret Anliker, Luella Pelsy, Wayne Putt. We praise the Lord for His miraculous power to restore each one their good health.

Wed. evening Jan. 30 was our annual business meeting. The following responsibilities were given: Sunday School teachers, Vicky Anliker, Suzanne Cook, Madeline Gutwein, Dennis Leman and Wendell Anliker; S. S. Superintendent, Richard Wuethrich; Ushers: Jerry Gutwein and Chris Lee Gutwein; New Missionary Committee, Elmer Anliker; World Relief: Harry Yaggie and Harold Gutwein, Trustee. Bro. Wendell reminded us that evening, "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels." We as children of God have a great responsibility as we labor together in the field. We must ever be watchful, for the devil is ever out to rob what we have and sow tares among us, for soon our harvest will come. What then?

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Libby Meyer

Be true; be true! The Lord is by thee standing;
Joyful with Him at last will be the ending!
Tho' hard the strife and long the conflict be,
Through faithfulness the Lord will honored be!
Be true; be true! Those who in all temptation
Have proven true, deserve our commendation.
Were there no test, how should it proven be,
Who weak, who strong, who true or untrue be?

This message is ringing in our hearts and minds after Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bay City, has spent several days here. Other visiting ministers were (Bros.) Sam Anliker, Roy Wernli (Lamont), and Lester Hartter (Bern). Truly our riches exceed that of the entire world, when in harmony we can be together in fellowship, singing, and worshipping our Almighty God.

Again God has blessed our fellowship with more converts: they

are Steve Gutwein, Dean Strahm, and Nancy Meyer, who is starting her first semester at KSU this month. We pray that God will bless and strengthen them, and that they might be a light for others.

LESTER

Alice Metzger — Donna Metzger

Now it is accomplished; I'm no longer mine . . . Five young converts were proved on Jan. 12 and baptized the following day. Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest, and Paul Fehr, Morris assisted Elder Bro. Leo Moser in this precious work of the Lord. Having now dedicated their lives to Him are Debbie and Judy Metzger, daughters of Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn; Clara and Janell Wulf, daughters of Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice; and Pam Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy. Bro. Noah Gerber, West Bend, was also with us.

We could feel His presence in our midst as Elder Bro. Gene Marti, Sabetha, was here to assist in the reading of the memorandum. We cannot be thankful enough for our precious faith and those who strive so diligently to preserve it. Bro. Simon Wagenbach was here for a mid-week service. We thank our visiting ministers for their love to God and to us.

God has directed the lives of Sis. Joan Feucht and Bro. Jim Dietrich, Silverton, to be spent together, and they are planning a March wedding.

Lonn Jay is the name chosen by Verlyn and Linda Kellenberger for their first baby, born Jan. 15. Grandparents are Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd and Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger. Great-grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Lena Kellenberger and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena Grimm, West Bend. Babies are really a gift from heaven and are special to someone. Very special is the first grandchild to your reporter, Sis. Alice and Bro. Eli Metzger. Mark Robert was born Jan. 13 to Bob and Cindy Leuthold. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold. Great-grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rose Moser, Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger and Bro. Paul Banwart, West Bend.

We pray that God will comfort those who are ill and in hospital beds. This has been the lot of Bros.

Chris Kellenberger, Henry Kellenberger and Lawrence Wulf, Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd and Elizabeth Metzger and Sid Meyer, son of Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn.

Mike Knobloch, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen, was married to Bonnie DeHaan on Jan. 17.

O do not say, In greater trial
Will I to Jesus faithful be!
That is what Peter also promised,
And yet thou dost him weeping see.
So learn true faithfulness in small things:

In little conflicts faithful be,
Or else thou shalt perhaps like
Peter

For faithlessness weep bitterly.

MINNEAPOLIS

Kathryn Olson

"And Jesus called a little child unto him . . ."

Jan. 28, graveside services were held for the infant son of Bro. Donald and Sis. Bernadine Miller. Bros. LeRoy Messner and Noah Miller officiated.

Oh What Is Mortal?

A masterpiece of God's creation.
In strength so frail, in wisdom
blind, so give to God your heart
and mind.

PORTLAND

Pearl Miller

What a privilege to enter the house of the Lord, where His word is taught! We are brought together with Him and the fellowship of His children. We can say, it is here where we behold the beauties of His grace, peace and comfort.

We were reminded by one of our ministering brothers that we need not wear an outward badge to implicate we are God's children, but the inward badge of love and peace.

The Christian's robe and badge of love

It is the cross of Christ.

And he who knows the worth thereof

Will bear it without sighs.

We take it meekly, bear it true,

And know it is our gain.

We bear it not upon our breast,

Oh no, it is within.

Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and family are greatly missed in the Portland congregation; they are

now attending Silverton, due to distance.

A new trustee was elected, Bro. Ray Cooper. Sis. Linda Miller teaches the Primary Sunday School class.

Our friend, Anna Miller has been in the hospital for several days under observation. We're happy to report she is home again.

Friend Edna (Klopfenstein) Lincoln is in the hospital with massive cancer, and stated to us when visiting her, she entertains the Lord's nearness and the blessed hope to be with Him some day.

The boys from the Sunday School classes, accompanied by three of the brothers, ventured to the coast to agate hunt. These agates are used at the Rock Shop to make various items, pen holders, table tops and other useful items. Bro. Garth Steffen instructs these boys.

The Sewing Circle meet every two weeks, making quilts and other items for the less fortunate.

PULASKI

Ernestine Wuthrich

Nancy Musselman

We were truly blessed by the visit of Bro. Harvey Heiniger, who so willingly ministered to us, and then read and expounded on the memorandum. We received many good teachings to begin our new year, renewed in faith and love for Jesus Christ and fellowman.

Gene Smith was announced as having peace with God and man. Having the desire to be baptized, he will have the opportunity to give his testimony in the near future. We are so thankful that Gene could answer God's call and give his life to God.

Our dear sisters in faith, Minnie Getz and Lydia Wuthrich observed their 88th and 98th birthdays, respectively, in January. It brings joy to our hearts to see Minnie in church every Sunday,—so many years faithful to God. Although Lydia is confined to the rest home and unable to talk, she is still mindful of suiritual things, enjoying company and hearing God's word read to her. **Note of thanks:** We wish to thank each one in the Peoria area who were so kind to Aunt Vera, sending cards, flowers, and fruit boxes at Christmas and visiting her . . . also anyone from other areas. Wish to thank Peter

and Mabel and children, Sophie and Jonas Ball, the Kathryn Schafer and Mildred Endress families. We also want to thank the ministering brothers for visiting and giving her words of comfort. The Bernard Schaer Family.

PURDUE

Linda Pfladderer — Lynell Bahler

Take time to be holy; the world rushes on.

Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.

Abiding in Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;

Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

At some provings, an older minister told of the impression this verse made on him. It reminds us that we should conduct our selves in a way that is pleasing to Him, so that others may see Christ living in us.

Along with a new semester we have a few new faces in our group. We welcome (Sisters) Doris Bach-told from Forrest, Marjean Lehman from Wolcott, and Gale Rhinehard from Bluffton. Sis. Jean Le-man from Remington has left and is now teaching near Bluffton. We wish her God's nearness and direc-tion. A new little son, Ryan Ernest, was born to Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon Meister.

On Jan. 9, Bro. Carl Kilgus min-istered with us, as Remington was our host. Bros. Ben Manz and Sam Schlatter from Junction were our guest ministers on Jan. 23. We ap-preciate their efforts to come and be with us.

SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

We welcome Sis. Ada (Strahm) Plattner into our congregation. She and Bro. Don were married in Bern on Jan. 6, and are now at home in Sabetha.

Sis. Arlene and Bro. Rodney Grimm are the parents of a baby girl, born Jan. 20. She is their first child, and has been named Wanda Lyn. Grandparents are Sis. Ella and Bro. Ernest Metzger of Lester and Sis. Lois and Bro. Nathan Grimm of Sabetha.

Our visiting ministers were (Bros.) Noah Gerber, West Bend and James Ramseyer, Bay City. Bro. James told us to read our

newspapers and the Bible. We can see how the Bible prophecies are being fulfilled right along. It all is working toward that day when Christ shall return to earth. He warned us that we should gather that extra oil, so our lamps will be burning brightly when Christ re- turns and we will not be found wanting, as were the five foolish virgins.

We had our annual business meeting. Bro. Paul Strahm was selected for a 3-year term as a church trustee. He will serve with (Bros.) Alpha Aberle and John Plattner. Bro. Ben Wysong was re-elected for a 2-year term as a trustee on the Fellowship Hall, to serve with (Bros.) Ben Aberle and Velmer Meyer. Bro. Jay Kellenber-ger was re-elected for a 4-year term to serve with Bro. Joe Menold.

SHIODA

Willis R. Ehnle

On Sunday evening, Jan. 27, some of us visited in the home of a friend in Tokyo. The older widow lady living there, who lost her hus- band about one year ago, is still from the old school and tradition. One of our sisters who was with us remarked that the widow's de- ceased husband was rather hum- orous. The lady of the house re- sponded, "But sometimes the lightning came down."

I at first wondered why she abruptly changed the subject, and then realized that she was com- menting that her husband may have been humorous, but that he also became angry or upset at times.

Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven". There is a parallel between what the widow lady said and what Jesus said. The wording is very similar. Although anger itself is not always evil "And when he had looked round about on them with anger," uncontrolled anger is something of which we should repent. ". . . let not the sun go down upon your wrath".

On Tuesday, Jan. 15, we had a Conference at our Tokyo Church. Sisters also attended. God blessed our meeting. Topics were, "Keep- ing the Faith", "Sowing the Seed", and "General Exhortations." In re- gard to sowing the Seed, it was suggested that Scripture pamphlets from the Japan Bible Society be

carried by each believer to give to someone whom they happen to meet or with whom they converse. Our Brotherhood helps the Bible Societies print God's word, and the Societies are happy to have us use the plain word of God as they print it. The two samples which we had at our meeting were "The Prodigal Son", and "The Sower Sows the Seed," two of Christ's parables. The art work was proper and at- tractive.

The energy crisis is very prom- inent in Japan, and no doubt a great blessing to us believers. The Lord Jesus said, ". . . a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." He also said, ". . . the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head," indicating that, while He certainly believed in hard work, acquiring affluency was not a concern. Simple food, protection from the elements, and basically necessary clothing should bring contentment. ". . . for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Everyone should repent, believe and obey the Gospel.

SILVERTON

Judith Knecht

We welcome Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and family to our con- gregation. They have moved from the Portland area to the country near Woodburn.

On Jan. 13, the announcement of engagement was made known of Bro. Jim Dietrich to Sis. Joan Feucht (Lester). Bro. Clarence and Sis. Mildred are Bro. Jim's parents, and Bro. August and Sis. Martha are Sis. Joan's parents. May the Lord continue to further lead, guide and direct these dear ones.

TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki

We had Brother meeting on Jan. 15, here in Tokyo Church and real blessed time. Bro. Uchida spoke about sowing the seed, Bro. Willis R. Ehnle explains about American church's Brother meeting, which you, the Elder Brothers decided important matter for Christian life, and encouraged us to do as same as in the States. I spoke on what we should do for our Chris- tian growth.

I am teaching the Bible story and English to the orphan children in the children's orphanage which

is near our Tokyo church once a week, since last Christmas season. They were very wild children, because no one helped them spiritually, because the orphanage Mama-san is very old and not active anymore. However, I really thank to God that He helps me a lot, and most of children are changing little by little. They are waiting for me to come every Thursday afternoon.

UNION CITY Karen Martin

We were saddened by the death of our dear sister-in-faith Lucy Wartman. She had been ill for quite some time, and passed away at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City on Jan. 9. She was laid to rest on Jan. 12, with her relatives and friends present. Lucy was 79 years old, and for many years had given much of her time for volunteer work at a nursing home. She is survived by two sisters: Sis. Freda Wartman, Bergenfield, New Jersey, and Sis. Emily Schoenleber of North Arlington, New Jersey; one brother, Henry Wartman of Union City, and a nephew, Robert Krosner of River Vale, New Jersey. We will all miss her.

Bro. Ed Aeschleemann had the services of Sis. Lucy. Afterwards the representative from the funeral home came to him, and told him that he had felt privileged to sit in during the services. He said there was such a basic message of faith and belief in God in the service that it really touched him. He also said that it isn't often that he hears such a message in the services there at the funeral home. My immediate reaction to his words was one of joy, to think that this message is our heritage, given to us by our faithful parents and very often taken for granted; and my next reaction was the very opposite, sadness when I thought of all those people who are not so fortunate, and who don't even realize what they are missing.

To will what God wills brings peace.

WINTHROP

Delores Messerli — Carol Messner
We desperately need the Spirit of Christ and His cross to guide and inspire us in the perilous and dangerous days in which we live.

Our annual business meeting was held in January.

Several from here have been seeking the warmth of the South. We especially want to welcome home our oldest sister, Emma Schmidt. She has been visiting her son and family in Tuscon.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full into His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of His glory and grace.

Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there.

BLUFFTON

Melanie Gerber — Donna Drayer

When the last day shall come
and the Roll shall be called,
When the saints meet their
Saviour in the air,
When the pilgrim and stranger
at last reach their home,
We'll be there, praise the Lord,
we'll all be there.

We shall ne'er say Good-bye
in that home of the soul;
There we'll not have a burden
or a care,
And when Jesus shall say, Enter
in with thy Lord,
We'll be there, praise the Lord,
we'll all be there.

These words are from a hymn that was very special to Sis. Dorothy Gerber, and they proved to be just as comforting to those who loved her and saw her frail earthly body laid in its resting-place on Jan. 15. At the end of her 46 years on earth, God saw that she had run the race and that it was time to pluck up his ripened fruit. Surviving Sis. Dorothy is her husband, Bro. Vernon; a married daughter, Mrs. Rebecca (A1) Pfister, Leo area; two children at home, Rachel and Vincent; her parents, Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mary (Moser) Gerber; and her parents-in-law, Bro. Eli and Sis. Rose Gerber. Also remaining are two sisters, Sis. Joyce (Kenneth) Troxel of Ft. Lauderdale and Sis. Wanda (Wendell) Gerber, and one brother, Bro. Russell Moser.

We wish to thank (Bros.) Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), who journeyed to our congregation and were willing to speak of God's word.

One who have spent some time in the hospital are Jo Ann McKee, Kimberly Mulkey (daughter of

Bro. Russell and Sis. Bonnie), Sis. Marilyn (Tom) Baumgartner and Sis. Mary (Louis) Baumgartner, and Bros. Nelson Moser, Sam Hirschy and Ed Baumgartner.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner welcomed little Nicholas Keith into their family circle on Jan. 12. He has an older sister, Tricia. On Jan. 12, Phil and Pat Baumgartner received their first child, Angela. Grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Lula Baumgartner. Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene (Kaehr) Frauhiger were blest with their first child; Jeremy was born on Jan. 13. Grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Naomi Kaehr and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Frauhiger. Rodney and Rosemary Mounsey received a bundle of joy; Russell (Rusty) Wayne came to their home on Jan. 22. Bro. Ben and Sis. Ilene Habegger are Rusty's grandparents. Nathan Barry entered into the hearts of Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene (Steffen) Isch on Feb. 2. Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Ida Steffen and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Anna Isch are the grandparents.

Thank you: We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all who offered comforting words of sympathy and help in our recent sorrow. The kindness will never be forgotten. Bro. Vernon Gerber and Family.

FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

In reviewing the year of 1973 for Fairbury, we find joys and sorrows. We rejoice for the 7 baptisms; there were 10 births, 3 weddings, and 12 funerals. As we praise Jesus Christ that He is our compassionate Lord, He will bring us into more joys in 1974.

Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman were blessed with a baby boy, born Jan. 14, whom they named Ryan John. Welcoming the baby also is sister Carmen, 3, and brother Mark, 2. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Eli Meiss and Bro. and Sis. Vernon Hartman. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. E. Bell Caudell of California and Sis. Ida Meiss, with whom he shares a birth date.

Chris and Kay Steffen became a father and mother, as a precious baby boy, Bryan Chris, was born to them. Grandparents are Bro. Alf and Fannie Steffen and Bro. and Sis. Wayne Honegger. Great-

grandparents are Sam and Sis. Ruth Walter and Bro. and Sis. Paul Honegger.

Bro. John and Sis. Katharine Fehr observed their Silver Anniversary Feb. 6. Sis. Anna Roth observed her 86th birthday with relatives in Morton. Bro. Eli and Sis. Della Meiss observed their 40th wedding anniversary.

Bro. George and Sis. Clara Broquard met with mishap as they were driving out of Fairbury and encountered a patch of ice on the pavement, causing their car to skid. Clara was taken to the Brokaw Hospital in Normal, and George has been released from the hospital. We are sorry for others hospitalized: (Sisters) Betty Steffen, Donna Huber, Marguerite Lorch . . . Vi Leman, Andy Steffen, Ben Huette.

Visiting ministers were (Bros.) Earl Banwart, Ed Ringger, Perry Zimmerman, and Joe Kaisner.

Funeral services, by Bro. Wendell Gudeman of Francesville, were held for Fred Feldman, 66. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Miriam (Hirstein); 2 sons, Bro. Lyman of Alto, Fred of Chicago; a brother, Bro. John of Rockville; 2 half-brothers, Bros. Alph and David Kaeb; a sister, Elizabeth Sanville. His family wishes to express their appreciation and thanks for all the kindness, gifts and expressions of love and sympathy extended during the illness and death of their loved one, Fred Feldman.

Note: Sis. Miriam Feldman stated, her black cashmere coat with a fur collar was erroneously taken from the funeral and a similar, but nicer, black cashmere coat with a fur collar was left at church. If someone notices they have mistakenly taken the black cashmere coat, contact Miriam at the Weber Apts., Fairbury, Ill.

FORREST

Juanita Schneider
Kathryn Steidinger

When God is our companion, As we walk the road of life,
There is help for every problem, And grace for care and strife!
And we'll find that we've been happy All along the path we've tread,
When in faith we've made the journey, Hand in Hand along with God.

In the new year of 1974, some of our congregation have met with joys, sorrows, sickness and accident.

We are happy to have Terry and Sis. Sharon (Zimmerman) Adams in our community again, since Terry has completed his time in serving our country.

Dawn Fellers (Glenn) and Stanley Metz (Ivan) have announced their engagement and are planning a summer wedding.

Sis. Rosa Tyler was at home several weeks, because of a fall and injury to her shoulder. We are thankful to have her worship with us again. Bro. Louis and Sis. Louise Zimmerman have been shut in for some time again. Bro. David Metz has had muscular dystrophy for many years and great difficulty in getting around. Several weeks ago he had a fall while at work and fractured a bone in his leg, so he is confined to a wheel-chair now. Rod Anliker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy) injured his knee in a fall and must now wear a cast. Sis. Helen Leman had foot surgery at the Hopedale Hospital, but is improving nicely. Cal Zimmerman, son of Bro. Les and Sis. Edith, was injured when he slipped into some silo-unloading equipment. He is recovering well at the hospital, after having surgery and skin grafting. Sis. Nettie Kupferschmid remains a hospital patient, after submitting to surgery. Bro. Alf Bachtold had a tumor removed from his head at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria on Jan. 28. Is thy lot to suffer in sickness and pain? Let nothing deceive you to murmur in pain. Endure and be still. Believing it is thy dear Saviour's good will.

Sis. Anna Honegger, 82, passed from this life on Jan. 14, after being seriously ill for 6 days. Seven sisters and three brothers mourn her passing. Sisters Ella, Nathalia and Kathryn, with whom she shared her home, Addie, Julia, and Persida of Peoria and Lena Kvburz of East Peoria, Bros. Sam, Frank and Paul of Forrest. We miss Sis. Anna, but feel that she has won the precious prize that a Christian receives when they die. There is a vacant spot in our church kitchen, where she so faithfully helped each Sunday. Bros. Josh Broquard and Silas Leuthold were with us on the day of her funeral. We wish to ex-

press 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 Anna Honegger.

We enjoyed having Bro. Elmer Witzig of the Gridley congregation with us for a Sunday, and appreciated having him share God's word with us.

Doug and Connie Aberle are parents of their first child, Jeffrey Alan. He was taken to Peoria Premature Center until he had gained enough to take him home. Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean Aberle are the grandparents. Chris and Kay Steffen are also first-time parents with the birth of their son, Bryan Chris. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Eleanor Honegger are his grandparents.

On Jan. 23, we assembled with the Fairbury congregation to hear the reading of the memorandum. Bro. Edwin Ringger helped Bros. Josh Broquard and Perry Zimmerman bring us many timely warnings. We were reminded of so many dangers and how we should always be on guard. It brings to mind a story of a little banyon seed and a lofty palm. The little seed asked the palm for shelter under its great leaves. The palm tree agreed and soon forgot about it, but the little seed was not idle. It sent out roots and fibers which crept around the mighty trunk and under the bark, until the tree cried out in alarm, "What is this?" The banyon replied, "It is only the little seed you allowed to rest among your leaves." "But now you must leave me," said the palm tree. "You are growing to large and strong for me. You sap my strength." The banyon replied, "I can't leave you now, for we have grown together and if I tore myself away I would kill you." The palm tree rustled its leaves and tried to throw off the banyon, but it could not. Gradually the palm leaves withered, and the great trunk shrank until at last only the banyon tree could be found. So it is with little sins that come creeping into the life of a person; they at last smother all the good which is in the heart and destroy its true growth.

Note: We would like to express our sincere Thanks for all the kindnesses extended to us during this past year. We thank all who remembered Jon with cards, gifts, visits and prayers during his many

months in a cast. Also a special **Thank You** to those who helped in his care. Bro. Meredith, Sis. Leona and Jon Ricketts.

GOODFIELD
Elna Grimm

I met God in the morning . . .
When my day was at its best.
And His presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.

Clarence Zobrist, son of Bro. and Sis. Howard and Phyllis, has learned to seek Him in the morning, and in fact give his life to Him. Clarence was proved and baptized on the week-end of Jan. 12 and 13. With great joy we welcome him into the brotherhood.

Sis. Peg (Don) Heinold, R. R. Eureka, submitted to major surgery. She is now at home, and improving. Sis. Bertha (Sam) Heiniger underwent major surgery, and is now recuperating at the home of one of her daughters in Washington. Pam Hinrichsen, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Hans and Arlene, R. R. Congerville, suffered a fractured wrist when she fell on the ice. Lyle Hunzicker, Washington, was hospitalized when he received an eye injury at work. At this time, they do not know whether or not they will save the eye.

Mark and Virginia Wiegand, R. R. Deer Creek, are the parents of a baby girl, Sonya Marie, born on Jan. 14. Bro. and Sis. Simon and Mary Ellen Wiegand, R. R. Deer Creek, and Mr. Vance Moore, also of Deer Creek, are the grandparents.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Walt Anliker, Eureka, and Jesse Schrock, Congerville. Bros. Gene Bertschi, Roanoke, and Dan Koch, Tremont, were here on Tues. evening, Jan. 15, to assist Bro. Ed Hohulin with the reading of the memorandum.

**HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED NEWS**
Elmer Bucher

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." If we allow God to search our hearts and then examine ourselves, the end result can only bring glory to God and be to the welfare of our undying soul.

The balance we are to use in entreating others is found in Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Dwight Schmeckpeper and Charlene Hirstein are our two latest residents. Dwight is eleven years old.

The total hours of the volunteers during 1973 was the equivalent of two people working 8 hours a day for the entire year. The day of the bake sale and luncheon there were 100 volunteers present to assist in whatever area they could be used. As we balanced our books at the close of the year, our faith in God and confidence in our brotherhood is strengthened. Nothing but the love of God could make a venture so fruitful and gratifying. We hear the expression repeatedly from parents of normal children, "The least we can do when we are blest with normal children is to help those who have a handicapped child." With this attitude in the hearts of God's children, God can only bless.

If any Sunday School class is looking for a project, why not contact Bro. Bob Knobloch, to see if there might be something you could do for the home or the residents?

The schedule for services for March at the home: March 1—Bradford; March 8—Peoria; March 15—Gridley; March 22—Fairbury; March 29—Open.

LAMAR

Mrs. Raymond Braker
Mrs. Art Banwart

How wonderful it is to meet brethren from distant places whom we have never met before, and to feel this common bond of love which we enjoy in our precious faith.

It was this God-given love that brought to our assembly Bros. Ed Alt, Cissna Park; Vernon Leman, Eureka; and Willis Weigand, Goodfield. We appreciate the efforts in bringing to us the inspired word of God, and feel we have been richly blessed.

Many prayers have been uttered for our sick ones. Sam Baker, husband of Sis. Betty, has been quite ill in the hospital at Bentonville, Arkansas. Stan Marti, 17-year-old son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene,

was hospitalized for tests and surgery, and now is receiving treatments to control Hodgkins Disease. Sis. Pearl Banwart was in the hospital for tests. She has returned home, but is still unable to attend church services. Keith Simons, son-in-law of Bro. Fred and Sis. Emma Lanz, has spent several weeks in the hospital, after suffering a fractured vertebrae when he fell on the ice. Bro. Fred Lanz is unable to attend church services and has been confined to his home for some time.

Ken Marti (son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene) and Becky Sinn, (daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita, Ft. Scott) were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, at the Sinn home on Jan. 20. Several from Lamar attended the reception, which followed the ceremony.

The engagement of Bro. Fred Marti (son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine) to Sis. Carol Braker (daughter of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie) was announced Jan. 13.

Bro. was the fourth young brother in Lamar to become engaged within the past year. Two are already married. We welcome these young couples in our small church group. May the Lord bless each one as they establish their Christian homes. During the past year, six souls were added to the fold, and one new family has moved here.

On Sat. p.m., Jan. 26, our congregation met at the church to hear the conference report which was read and explained by our Elder Bros. Sam Anliker and Raymond Banwart. We appreciate their timely warnings and can feel the deep love and concern they have for the church.

During our annual business meeting, Bro. Leonard Braker was chosen for the board of trustees. New Sunday School teachers are Bro. Martin Hohulin, Bro. Alfred and Sis. Charlotte Banwart. We wish them grace as they assume these duties.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

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

REMINGTON

Anna M. Waibel

Yielding to Thy wise hand,
Safe in Thy will,
Not asking why or how,
Let me be still!

The church and community were shocked at the sudden departure of our sister-in-faith, Esther Siebenthal, 70. She was at hospital for tests on Tuesday and had a bad heart attack on Friday, Jan. 12, Saturday passed away. She was married to Robert Siebenthal in 1929 at Bay City and has lived here since. He passed away in 1972. Surviving are two sons, Orlan of West Lafayette; Wayne of here; one daughter, Mrs. (James) Sharon Justice of West Lafayette; two sisters, Sis. Nettie (Fred) Knochel of Kawkawlin and Mrs. George Thomas of Bay City. We all miss her.

. . . Are thankful Lois Phipps was not hurt worse when she fell. She is up and about, even tho' she has a sprained ankle. They just moved here recently.

Though sown in tears through weary years, The seed will surely live, Though great the cost it is not lost, For God will fruitage give! Tears of compassion mixed with the seed of the word are the divine prescription for bountiful reaping and a joyous harvest!

. . . So we feel when souls come to repentance . . . were very thankful to hear the provings and witness the baptism on Jan. 12 and 13 of Libby Bahler (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois) and Roger Knochel. (Bro. Al and Sis. Evelyn) . . . were thankful to have Bros. Herman Kellenberger—Elgin and Ed Ringger—Gridley, Il. here to help Bro. Alfred Bahler—Wolcott, on this day.

We have had extremely cold weather for a time . . . 18 below zero was our lowest and then had very severe fog for 3 or 4 days. We have had most every kind of weather the past months . . . The flu has also been very bad around here. Some schools were closed.

The annual church meeting was held, well attended and well conducted . . . trust all who were chosen to new duties will be blessed with the Lord's guidance.

Bros. Wendell Gudeman—Francesville, Ezra Feller—Cissna were

here to help Bro. Alfred Bahler with the memorandum, interestingly conducted and well attended.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Marie Schieler had a farm sale and moved into their newly-built home on the east edge of town.

WICHITA

Glennis Allenbach

In thumbing through an old book published in 1883, "Sunshine at Home", I came across some things I would share with you . . .

Our lives are songs. God writes the words,
And we set them to music at pleasure
And the song grows glad or sweet or sad
As we chance to fashion the measure.
We must write the music, whatever the song,
And if it is sad, we can make it glad—
And if sweet, we can make it sweeter.

Early impressions mark the course to be taken through life. Take a fresh molded brick, and impress a leaf upon it, subject the brick to the kiln, and it will come back with the impression ineffaceable; build it in a house and you may see it across the street. The child's mind is the moist brick; delay not the truth of God in contact with it; the impression may be lasting.

No words can express how much the world owes to sorrow. The greatest thoughts of the greatest thinkers have all passed through fire. Take comfort, afflicted Christian! When God is about to make pre-eminent use of man, he puts him in the fire.

Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

We are still in the process of finishing our church. We have yet to finish the partitioning and remodeling of the Sunday School rooms, build a new kitchen, remodel the serving area, and brick the old part to match the new. Our new part still has a few things to be taken care of. We are ever thankful to our brothers and sis-

ters from the other churches for helping make this possible.

Our Sis. Dora Young has returned home after her surgery in Phoenix.

If winter comes can spring be far behind! I found something in Genesis the other day I didn't remember reading before . . . Another of God's wonderful promises—"While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

WOLCOTT

Marjean Lehman — Arles Kropf

We welcome Sis. Doris Bachtold from Forrest, who has found employment in Lafayette and intends to assemble with us.

Jan. 6 brought Elder Bros. Perry Zimmerman and Wendel Gudeman into our midst, to bring us the word and share with Bro. Alfred in bringing to us the conclusions of the conference. A carry-in fellowship supper was enjoyed at the church, ending a day rich in the blessings from Above.

Our annual meeting was conducted on Jan. 7, with three new Sunday School teachers being elected: Bros. Don and Irvin Furrer and Sis. Marjean Lehman. Bro. Lowell Bahler is our new trustee.

Sis. Josephine Farney had surgery, but is recuperating nicely and hopes to be home soon.

Feb. 3 brought many visitors to witness the marriage vows of Sis. Yvonne Schwab, daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene, and Bro. Nathan Lehman, whose parents were the late Bro. Edward and Sis. Irene. Bro. Alfred Bahler performed the ceremony. We wish them many blessings as they establish their Christian home. Bro. Roy Wernli, uncle of the bride, conducted our morning service that day. We thank him for his efforts.

AKRON

Katherine Ries

In the changes that are taking place in this world, the true believers are faced by ever-increasing pressures.

On the one hand the ever-present, ever-heightening tide of worldly pleasures, sins, and entertainment can gradually move us from our firm foundation if we do not stand fast. Let us daily apply

the counsel of the writer of Hebrews: "... lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us".

On the other hand, we are sometimes almost disheartened by the fear of things yet to come on this earth, as we see piece by piece the fulfillment of the scriptural prophecies concerning the last times, as foretold both by our Lord Jesus and also His apostles. May we at such times of apprehension remember the words of Jesus concerning these times, for he said, When ye see these things come to pass, then lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth near. In order to avail ourselves of these words of comfort and hope, it is necessary to maintain our hearts and lives in such a condition that we can retain the peace of God always in our hearts.

We are happy to welcome Friend Andrew Leidal to our assembly again, after a lengthy absence due to illness.

On March 13, our dear Sis. Lena Wright will be 96. We are happy to report this and wish her much happiness, for it is so good to see her Sunday after Sunday, when she is not visiting her relatives in other states. Happy birthday, dear Sis. Lena.

Sis. Anna Von Gunten and Sis. Anna Hanla have been unable to assemble with us for several weeks due to illness.

We extend sympathy to friend Janice (John) Graf and her family in the death of her father.

Thanks to our dear Elder Bros. Rudy Graf and Joe Ramsier for the admonitions and the reading of the memorandum, and pray we can all walk more humbly, and farther away from worldly things and closer to God. May God bless them for their service to us. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Our annual elections were held. Sis. Audrey (Arthur) Graf, Sis. Barbara (David) Graf, and Bro. Ronald (Lynell) Palitto were installed as Sunday School teachers; Bro. Arthur Graf, usher; Sis. Eleanor (Eugene) Pamer on the kitchen committee.

CISSNA PARK

Margaret Rudin — Grace Bauer

Let the peace of God rule in your heart. Such an experience our dear friend, Gerald Rudin, has experienced. He has gone through repentance and is at peace with God and man. He hopes to bring his testimony before the congregation soon. He is the son of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emily.

Sis. Sarah Maul, age 80, passed away Jan. 9, at Lakeview Hospital, Danville Ill. She had been at the Americana Nursing Home. Survivors include one sister, Sis. Emma Geyer. Funeral services were held Jan. 11.

Our friend Henry Jacob, age 59, of Gilbert, Arkansas, formerly of the East Lynn-Cissna Park area, passed away suddenly. Funeral services were held Feb. 1. Survivors include his wife, Anna Mae; Bros. Elmer, William; and Raymond and Arthur; Sis. Eunice Feller; and Lorene Jacob, Mrs. Martha Reutter, Mrs. Ella Luecke. He was laid to rest in the church cemetery. We extend our sympathy to both these families.

Our Annual Meeting was held Jan. 17. Several new offices were filled. We wish them grace to fulfill their new duties.

Our friend, Roy Bauer, son of Andy and Rosella Bauer, was a hospital surgical patient. Sis. Frieda Kuntz is a hospital medical patient. Danny, small son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Myrna Weerts, was a hospital medical patient. Sis. Ollie (Mrs. Ezra) Feller is a hospital patient for observation. Sis. Mary (Mrs. Ernest) Bauer is in Eureka Hospital for treatment for a short time, and is expected to return to the Apostolic Christian Home soon.

Bro. Loren Stoller came to assist our Elder Bro. Ezra Feller in reading the conclusions of the Brother Meeting. May we ever be found worthy to abide by these teachings.

Sis. Margaret Rudin was released from Burnham Hospital, and is being cared for by her sister, Sis. Mary Jane and Bro. Glenn Egolf. . . . "I gratefully acknowledge the many prayers and visits in my behalf. Also the many cards and get-well wishes, and the gifts and love shown me since my accident." Margaret Rudin.

When your plans are upset and the world falls apart,

Remember God's ready and willing to share

The burden you find much too heavy to bear,
So with faith Let Go, and Let God lead the way.

We wish to express our sympathy to the Rittman congregation over the loss of Bro. Noah Bauman, who visited us many times.

A correction: It should have read "Sis. Marie (Mrs. Ben) Laubscher was a hospital surgical patient."

DETROIT Bonnie Popp

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father . . ."

Do we take the time to really see just how much our brethren do in the service of the Lord? The elders, ministers, Sunday School teachers, other offices in the church, those who attend services and gatherings diligently, those who come whenever a way is open, those who greet you with a smile, and those who take the time to thank you for your kinship in Christ . . . Let us never take for granted this fellowship, nourished and strengthened by loving men and women—children of God—young and old. Let us look for the beauty in each other, not the small failings of those around us.

Then onward, sister, brother;
Let us go hand in hand
With joy in one another,
In this bewildered land.
Oh let us childlike be;
Let there no strife divide us!
The angels walk beside us,
God's children, they and we.

Our Elder, Bro. Ben, and Sis. Lorene, Sis. Sheryl and Doug Mai-bach will be spending several months at their home in Sarasota.

Sis. Katharina Koprince is home from a hospital stay, but has been unable to assemble with us. Carl, son of Moses and Sis. Lydia Vorna, was taken to the hospital and had major surgery. He is recuperating nicely at Sis. Lydia's home.

Bless us, O God, if we have good health, to use it for good.
 Bless us, O God, if we have active tongues, to use them for truth;
 Bless us, O God, if we have strong hands, to lift them for kindness.
 Take us and use us to build a corner of the kingdom.

ELGIN, ILLINOIS

Louise Steffen—Katie Kachelmuss

Today let us be useful;
 Lord give us a job to do.
 When hands and thoughts are busy,
 Life takes on a different hue.

Elder Bros. Silas Leuthold and David Kieser of Princeville were with us and assisted Bro. Herman in the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful to the brothers for their efforts and pray for God's blessings in their labors of love.

Sis. Marie (Howard Kimball) fell and broke her hip. She is now at the America Nursing Center at 180 S. State St., Elgin Ill. 60120.

John, husband of Esther Giesel Koch, passed away at Phoenix, where they were visiting with Esther's sister and her husband, Bro. Joseph and Sis. Viola Traub. Funeral services were held here, with Bro. Nathan Steffen officiating. Their home address is 1026 Morton Ave., Elgin Ill. Our sympathy and prayers are with Esther in her bereavement.

Bro. Walter Steffen of Milford, visited us and ministered from the word of God. In his meditation this poem came to his mind:

The road is too rough, I said,
 Dear Lord, there are stones that hurt me so;
 And He said, dear child, I understand;
 I walked it long ago;
 But there's a cool green path, I said.
 Let me walk there for a time.
 No, child, He gently answered me;
 The green road does not climb.
 My burden, I said, is far too great.
 How can I bear it so?
 My child, He said, I remember its weight;
 I carried my cross, you know;
 But, I said, I wish there were friends with me
 Who would make my way their own.
 Oh yes, He said, Gethsemane
 Was hard to face alone,

And so I climbed the stony path,
 Content at last to know
 That where my Master had not gone
 I would not need to go.
 And strangely then I found new friends,
 The burden grew less sore,
 As I remembered . . . Long ago
 He went that way before.

GRIDLEY, ILL.

Ruth Gramm

One of the anecdotes about Abraham Lincoln tells of a man who came to plead with the President for the life of his son, who was under sentence of death as a deserter from the army. When he arrived at the White House, the guards would not permit him to enter. Tired from his long journey and desperate with grief, the man sat on the curbside weeping. A little boy approached, bouncing a ball, and eyed the man's tear-stained face curiously.

"Why are you crying?" he asked. Tempted to dismiss the boy roughly, the man remembered his own son and replied kindly instead, "I wanted to see President Lincoln, but they won't let me in."

"Oh, is that all?" the youngster said brightly. "I can take you in to see him. He's my father."

Hand in hand, the newfound friends went into the White House; the man presented his case to Lincoln, and the President promised that his son's life would be spared.

Christ says to you today: I can take you through the barriers of sin and selfishness, through the Eden wall, into the presence of God Himself. He is My Father.

We have four new babies in our congregation. They are: Elizabeth Ann Grusy, born to Mr. and Mrs. Burton Grusy Dec. 30. Heather Marie Martin, born Jan. 20 to Mr. and Mrs. Byron Martin. Kelli Sue Stoller, born Jan. 15 to Bro. and Sis. Donald and Vyra Stoller. Elizabeth Marie Yoder, born Dec. 14 to Bro. and Sis. Devonne and Leveille Yoder.

We wish the new parents much grace in facing the awesome task of rearing children in today's swift-moving world. Because Christ lives, we can face tomorrow with joy.

Bro. and Sis. Loren and Mildred Schlipf announce the engagement

of their daughter, Karen to Joe Baker of El Paso. Joe is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Baker. A May wedding is planned. May they feel God's blessing in their lives together.

We were happy to add two dear lambs to our flock. On Jan. 20, Mary Ann Ringger and Patty Klopfenstein were baptized. Their parents are Teh Ray Ringgers and Carolton Klopfensteins. In the evening, we had our monthly singing at church. Our hearts and souls felt so refreshed and inspired as we sang together and also listened to the Peoria Chorus sing praises to God.

MANSFIELD

Aaron A. Sauder

Sing praise to God, all ye who love the Saviour.
 Extol His actions; praise His faithfulness!
 Sing praise to Him, Who first showed us His favor;
 His lovingkindness in your song express!

The Bluffton choir did just that, as they presented a program of hymns on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 27. Bro. Orville Ringger accompanied the group and ministered to us at both morning and afternoon services. As we shared a covered-dish supper, we also shared in fellowship, which was concluded by all joining hearts and voices in singing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds", before our visitors left for home. Our heartfelt thank you to each one.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Helen Bricker are announcing the marriage of their daughter, Betty to Terry Mowery, on Jan. 12.

Bro. John Oesch remains in serious condition at University Hospital in Columbus, where he has been receiving treatment for the past three weeks; our prayers are with Bro. John and Sis. Kate (who has been staying with him in the hospital) that the Lord bless and sustain them. Also hospitalized have been Claudia Dolce Gadd (Jerry) and Grant Gerber (young son of Wayne and Sis. Dorothy Sabo Gerber).

It was with mixed emotions that we learned of the death of Elder Bro. Noah Bauman; we were thankful he was relieved of his

illness, and yet saddened by the realization we would see him no more. He often assisted our Elder Bro. Rudy Graf in the care of our congregation. We extend sympathy to his family.

MORTON

Mrs. Keith Stevig
Mrs. Harry Kaiser

The wedding of Bro. Mark Peters and Sis. Carla Kaiser was solemnized on Jan. 6. Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Peters, and Carla the daughter of Bro. Lester and Sis. Irene Kaiser, all of Morton.

Bro. Wayne Bluhm and Sis. Rebecca Herman were united in holy matrimony on Jan. 13. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Bluhm and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Herman of Morton.

David Frank and Debra Sieks have announced their engagement. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Frank Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sieks, all of Morton.

The new year has brought many blessings, as we heard testimony of a dear soul, Barbara Landis, on Jan. 9. We pray that many more dear souls will find their way to the Lord. Barbara is the daughter of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pat Landis.

The weather has been cold, but as we worship with our loved ones every Sunday, we are ever so warmed. We thank all our ministers for their labor of love, especially our visiting minister, Bro. Noah Schrock of Oakville.

Those who are in the hospital and are convalescing are Sis. Marie Belsley, Sis. Naomi Witzig, Sis. Rose Hofmann, Lena Stieglitz, Rose Ehehalt, Janine Schwenk and Henry Aberle.

Thank you: Sis. Sandy Schick wishes to express her thanks for all the prayers, cards and gifts she received in the hospital and at home . . . **Thank you:** Sis. Emma Rocke—a sincere thanks to everyone who remembered me in the hospital and at home, for all prayers, gifts and cards.

Statistics for 1973: funerals—23, converts—32, weddings—6.

PEORIA

Mrs. R. J. Miller

Bro. Walter and Sis. Iola Feucht announce the engagement of their daughter, Sharon to Steve Hopwood. Sis. Melanie Steiner and Bro.

Roger Geyer, son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Hazel, are also engaged to be married. Melanie sings the soprano solos on the "Along the River of Time" record made by the Peoria choir . . .

We wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the many expressions of sympathy and kind deeds at the death of our dear sister, Margaret. The Simon Family.

Sis. Mayme Streitmatter had a heart attack while vacationing in Sarasota. Her condition is improved. Sis. Lillian Streitmatter fell in our church parking lot and broke her elbow. Mrs. Ruth Hofstetter and Sis. Connie Triplett are at home now, convalescing. Sis. Lena Sauder is now residing at our A. C. Home on Skyline Drive. She is not well.

Adolph Roecker. Bro. Bill Wiegand, and Henry Triplett are in the hospital. Our heart goes out to all who have been suffering, including those whose names are not mentioned, but who have anything from flu to arthritis.

The Sunday School had a Pancake Supper at Fellowship Hall Saturday, Feb. 2. The congeniality and happiness of the young people and their parents as they served the delicious pancakes, sausage, etc. to the many, many people who attended gave us the feeling that they were, indeed, serving the Lord. And what joy there is therein!

RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

Our loss is heaven's gain. Many times in the past few days we have been reminded of this as our dear Elder Bro. Noah Bauman, at the age of 76, has been laid to rest. All his cares, pain and suffering are now past. He has answered the call of the Lord, who beckoned him to Come! With sorrow burdened was his flesh, but now will God his soul refresh. In darkened valley he did go; now he is free from all his woe. We were overjoyed to see so many of Bro. Noah's co-laborers who came to bid farewell. Our flock will miss this dear shepherd who has led us faithfully for so many years. He has left us many teachings and examples. Now as his work is finished, we go on with our new shepherd God has provided. May we ever strive to live up to Bro. Noah's many teachings, love, chas-

tisements. Funeral services were conducted by Bros. John Bahler, Joe Waibel, Rudy Graf and Loren Stoller. Comforting words were given to the family who survive: his wife, Sis. Bertha; daughters: Sis. Melba Miller, Sis. Betty Dotterer, Sis. Mary Ellen and Sis. Jean Bauman; one son, Bro. Herbert; two brothers, Bro. Ben and Bro. Joe; one sister, Sis. Martha Beery. In the evening following Bro. Noah's funeral, we were privileged to gather together for services. We want to thank Bros. Ezra Feller, Ed Alt, and Perry Zimmerwan, who gave us many words of comfort which we all needed. These words touched our hearts, and we pray our lives will be blessed with God's love, as we now look to our shepherd, Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier, as he leads us on.

Another dear soul has been called home, unexpectedly, apparently in pretty good health, at age 65. We who have known Bro. Willard Blough will miss his quiet presence in our congregation. May the Lord be near our dear Sis. Anna. Also surviving are one daughter, Dorothy Carter; four sons, Terry at home, Bros. Elmer, Joe, and Ben; one brother, Melvin. Officiating at the funeral was Bro. Henry Dotterer, giving loving, comforting words to a saddened family.

At the age of 73, Bro. Carl Stoller passed away, following a long illness. He suffered much in the past few years, has now laid his cross down and is at rest. He was at home, where his family took loving care of him, until the end. It was the Lord who said, Even a cup of cold water given in my name shall not go unrewarded. Many comforting words were given as Bro. Rudy Graf held the funeral services. Our sympathy is extended to the surviving family: his wife, Sis. Mary; three daughters, Sis. Lucy Gasser, Carolyn, and Sis. Elma; seven sons, Bros. Don, Harold, Everett, Robert, Dale, Andy and Fred. five brothers, Mike, Dan, Bro. John, Bro. Ezra, Robert; three sisters, Sis. Juliet Graf, Sis. Louise Graf, and Sis. Leona Dotterer.

Sickness is still prevalent, as many of our loved ones need hospital care: (Sisters) Wilma Steiner, Linda Zollinger, Josephine Bauman, Bro. Maynard Gasser, Bernie Hilty, Betty Bachman and Max Miller. Many are able to be back

in church again.

As our dear old brethren have left this world, still little new ones have just arrived here. A son was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette Stoller, named Gary C. One sister and one brother welcome him home. Grandmother is Sis. Mary (Carl) Stoller. A daughter was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Noreen Miller and has been named Myra Ann. The others at home, three sisters and one brother, also are glad for a new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Martha Beery and Richard and Sis. Melba Miller; great-grandmother is Sis. Bertha (Noah) Bauman.

The engagement of Vickie Young and Mike Hupp was announced. Vickie's parents are Bill and Sis. Donna Young.

Some of our loved ones stationed in different parts of the world have experienced blessings from visits of folks back home. Bro. Matt Steiner and Bro. Jerry Bauman spent some time around the holidays with Leon Rufener in Germany. Our dear friend, Leon has many lonesome days, and is eagerly awaiting the day when he can be at home again, to be with his family and be baptized and become one of the flock of our Lord. Over on the other side of the world, Jim Laukhaf, stationed in Hawaii, enjoyed a visit from his folks, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Catharine. Even though they enjoyed the Islands, being able to be with Jim was a blessing to all.

Altho we have had sadness in our congregation, we also have rejoicing. Four dear friends have given their hearts to the Lord, are turning their backs to world and Satan, and follow the Lord. We are so thankful for these dear ones: Rick Dotterer, son of Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha; Dale Dotterer, son of Bro. John and Sis. Betty; Beth Beery, daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Ruth; Shelly Jenkins, daughter of Don & Clara. We pray they will find the Lord's nearness and His peace in their hearts.

TAYLOR

Marie Butikofer—Eleanor Yackley

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" With these comforting words we can begin each new day

with new hope, knowing that whatever is before us, all is in His hands. As the waters of the Mississippi rise again, we cannot help but wonder, yet we hope and trust in His wisdom that we may be spared the high waters of last year.

Cynthia Hoerr and Robert DeSigne were united in marriage on Jan. 12. Cindy is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Rose Hoerr; Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeSigne of Roanoke. They are at home at Benson, Illinois. Cindy is an R.N. at Proctor Hospital in Peoria, and Bob works at Caterpillar. We wish them God's blessings in their new life together.

Sis. Charlene Sutter (Bro. Dick) was a patient at Blessing Hospital and had surgery. She is doing well now. Also, Sis. Marge (Bro. Gerald) had surgery at Blessing and is home again, gaining strength. Tim, son of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge, had some teeth extracted at a hospital in St. Louis. We are thankful when all can be home with their families again.

The engagement of Gaye Riney and Dean Redd has been announced. Gaye is the daughter of Irene and Gene Riney of Taylor, and Dean is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Redd of Palmyra.

Bro. Harvey Grimm spent a Sunday with us. We surely appreciated the many precious teachings, and we hope they can come again. Bro. Harvey also told us of the work that is being done at the Home for the Handicapped. We ought to be thankful that there are those who are willing to care and be kind to the unfortunate. God will surely reward with blessings from above.

No one on earth can comprehend
How dark this world would be
Were it not for shining lights
Scattered about that all can see.

VALPARAISO

Camille and Wm. Feller

Joining us in song and prayer on Jan. 20 were brethren from Remington and LaCrosse. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington), who ministered God's word to us on this date, as our Bro. Harry Bucher had other callings. Fellowship such as this dries one's tears, makes a sad heart sing, and gives one a new feeling of hope;

The Christian has hope, not in himself, but in God.

Hope marches us onward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Time is no barrier, nor death.

As hope bounds us for the promise land,

We joyfully anticipate the meeting
in the sweet bye and bye.

The sympathy of our flock goes out to Bro. Bill Jacob & Sis. Eunice (Jacob) Feller, as they lost their brother, Hank, of Arkansas, due to heart failure.

Todd Ames thanks everyone for their prayers and thoughts when he was in the hospital.

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Laurie Petrie — Lois Thomas

We were privileged to have Bro. Joe Braker from Morton as our guest minister at our January meeting. We sincerely appreciate our ministers, families, and friends, driving the distance to bring a touch of home to our college campus once a month at our church service. The regular meeting time is the first Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m., in the student union.

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, we met in the Fox Room in the University Union. Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger from Pulaski spoke to us . . . from Psalm 77 and I Peter 1:1-21. We heard how men should repent and turn to God, especially in these days when all signs point to the Lord coming again very soon.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6 in the New Union at 8:00 p.m.

LEO

Mrs. Elias Souder

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Diane, daughter of Helen and George Zimmer, of the Bremen congregation and Mark, son of Irma and Edward Souder. They are planning a summer wedding.

We held our annual business meeting the first part of January. Few changes were made. Bro. Albert Frautschi consented to fill in another year on the board of trustees. He plans on being home again in April (now in California).

There has been much flu and colds around, but not to serious. Young David Steiglitz had a ton-

sillectomy. David Pfister spent a few days in the hospital, but is home and around again. Friend Lowell Lantz spent several days in the hospital for tests. All were negative.

Linda and John Klopfenstein have a new little daughter, born Jan. 26, named Sheri Lynn.

Today we are experiencing an old-fashioned snowstorm. Schools were closed and children sent home around noon, church and church activities called off.

Bro. Theo. Beer was present for services, inspired with holy teaching. He helped Bro. David with the memorandum.

BURLINGTON, IOWA

Elaine Eisenmann — Edna Pohl

Our sisters, Ella Wagler and Joyce Pohl have been hospital patients, but are assembling with us again.

We held our semi-annual business meeting. Among other items on the agenda was the forming of a finance committee for our new church. Bros. Allen Massner, Uriel Gehring, and Richard Pohl were elected. Bro. Richard Taeger is our newest trustee.

We are happy to report that Tina Pohl (daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce) has been announced for proving and baptism in the near future. We wish her much grace in her desire for this important step in life.

The following poem was given to me by Bro. Allen Massner, who found it among his dear, departed wife's belongings. It is so fitting, and he wishes to share it with all of you.

Since I should leave this world with
little warning.
Grieve not for one more message
from the lips that God has
stilled,
But just remember me with love
... for my soul's journey,
To that fair land beyond life's
tears;
For I have believed with all my
heart in its existence,
And I know that God is good, for
He has come to me,
Through the life of Him, whose
very garment I have sought to
touch.

It may be lonely, and I hope you
miss me just a little,

Because I have loved so deeply my
own family, and faithful friends.
Forgive if I have ever hurt you,
and remember me for what I
longed to be.

Have faith that I am nearer than
your dreams and fondest
longings,

For the God of love shall keep all
kindred spirits close together,
Through the misty vale between.
This world and that to come keeps
us from each other's sight for a
few precious moments.

Whisper softly that you love me,
and it shall linger on within my
soul.

Until you come, say not good-bye,
for on some bright tomorrow,
We shall meet again.

Note of Thanks: Words cannot express our sincere thanks for the acts of kindness extended to us in the passing of our loving wife and mother, Ann (Paige) Massner—For the many prayers, flowers, money, beautiful cards and letters; to the ladies that served the dinner at the church; for all who have brought food to the home; to those who took over the responsibility and care of the Nursery while I was away—For all the many kind deeds, we are truly grateful.

Allen Massner, Paige, Kip, Chad,
and relatives

GIRARD

Kathryn Emch

It is always refreshing to see youth's concern for the aged. Bro. Ed Baumgartner from Bluffton came to spend a few days with Mother and Dad Emch. It was like a breath of spring for them to have him.

Sis. Doris Gasser and her family came to spend Sunday with her father-in-law Bro. Carl Gasser. Bro. Carl is nursing a broken wrist from a fall on the ice.

We were privileged to have Bro. Gary Maibach proclaim the word of Life for us. His family and a group from Rittman accompanied him. Praise the Lord!

PHOENIX

Mrs. Allan Freed

January has come and gone. Many things have happened that we didn't plan on when we started this month. For some there has been sickness or sorrow, for some joy, but through all, we can see

God's will working for the good of those who love and serve him.

Many prayers have gone out for those of our small flock who have been ill. Sis. Kathy Emch, wife of Bro. Don, underwent a nine-hour surgery Jan. 17, to remove a tumor from her spine. She was very weak and in intensive care for some time, but she is making good progress, and is looking forward to leaving the hospital soon, although she will have to return for treatments.

Bro. Carl Blumenschein had to be hospitalized again in his battle against emphysema. He was also in intensive care, but is home now, and we hear he is slowly progressing. Bro. Joe Heinold is able to be in church again, after being laid up at home for several weeks with back trouble.

Sis. Ann Scheitlin of Elgin, who with her husband Bro. Al is visiting here, had emergency surgery. They are staying with their son-in-law and daughter, Al and Kathy Schmidgall, where she is recuperating. Sis. Dora Young was able to go home to Wichita, after being hospitalized here since she had surgery last Nov. 28. Bob Lemons and Herb Mohrman were in traction in the hospital for a week. Sis. Wilma Pulfer entered the hospital for surgery Feb. 4.

Our Elder Bro. Roy Farney is to undergo more tests Feb. 5. We pray for all our shut-ins, that their hours may be filled with the peace and love of God, and that they may have faith as I read recently, like the bird that feels the dawn and sings while it is yet dark.

John and Esther Koch of Elgin were visiting her sister and brother-in-law, Bro. Joe and Sis. Viola Traub in Sun City, when John became ill and had to be taken to the hospital, where he passed away Jan. 27. Visitation was held at a funeral home in Sun City, after which Bro. Roy Farney had a prayer. Funeral and burial was in Elgin. The Phoenix congregation extends sincere sympathy.

We are happy to bring you the good news that Jerry and Kathy Emch have surrendered their hearts to the Lord in repentance. Bro. Paul and Sis. Irene are Jerry's parents.

Visiting ministers were (Bros.) Eli Somerhalder of the Kiowa congregation and Al Scheitlin of Elgin,

who has been with us for awhile. We pray God's blessings on them for bringing us His word.

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that man should be alone"—with these words, Elder Bro. Roy Farney announced the engagement, by faith, of Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Sis. Nanci Freed. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed. We pray God's special blessings on them. They are planning to be married Easter, Lord willing.

BAY CITY

Carolyn Schamback

Though troubles assail and dangers
affright,
Though friends should all fail and
foes all unite,
Yet one think secures us, whatever
betide,
This promise assures us: The Lord
will provide!

Two of our dear sisters, Helen Lambert and Loretta Mosher have been hospitalized; we look to the Lord to provide for them in their illness.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Howie & Dianne Leman

Many of us are great procrastinators. We put off today what we can do tomorrow. We do this in schoolwork, business, housework, and in our spiritual walk too. One of our ministers spoke on this and gave these examples, which really hit home with us. "I'll wait to give more money to charity until I'm making a better income and can fit it into my budget." "As soon as my children are all raised. I can take out time to visit the sick, old, lonely people." "When I'm better settled in my job, I'll be able to donate more of my free time to Christian activities."

Even short-range procrastinations are very prevalent among us. "I'll read the Bible tomorrow, when I'm not so tired." "I'll go to Bible study next Wed., after I've caught up on my schoolwork." Or for the unbeliever, "I'll wait till I'm married to repent" or "I'll wait til I'm through with college."

In everyday tasks, procrastinations have consequences, but they are not of a significant nature in comparison to the consequences

procrastinations can have in our spiritual tasks. Some day there will be no tomorrow for us. Then it will be too late to fulfill all our "good intentions." When our eternal salvation and life with Christ are at stake, let's be a little more careful about the things we put off till tomorrow.

Our church rejoices that our friend, Donna Applegate has found the grace to repent. She began attending our services with one of our sisters, and realized that she had to make a change in her life. We wish her God's blessings, and offer her our encouragement in her new undertaking.

We welcome Ben and Henrietta Waldbuser to our community and church. They have moved to Champaign-Urbana and will be assembling with us.

We welcome as brother and sister in faith, Jim and Jan Stoller, who were baptized in Eureka, and Clarence Zobrist, who was baptized in Goodfield.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Gene Bertschi, Fritz Knapp, Ed Hohulin and Edwin Bahler. Our elder, Bro. Ed Hohulin, was with us to read the memorandum, which is an encouragement to us in our Christian lives.

CROGHAN — NAUMBURG

Alice Virkler — Eleanor Herzig

On a hill far away stood an old
rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and
shame,
And I love that old cross where the
dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was
slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a
crown.

The words of this beautiful hymn were read at the funeral services held on Sunday, Feb. 3, at the Croghan church for our Bro. William Schneider. Certainly Bro. Will has exchanged this life for awaiting his crown. He faithfully labored to care for and beautify our cemetery for 46 years, and will be greatly missed in our small congregation. He reached the age of 78, and was taken from this life

with a heart attack, only being sick a few hours. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Hazel; three sons, Brayton, Ralph and Donald. Another son, Emerson, passed away last August at the age of 50, also from a heart attack. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Peter Farney, whose funeral was held at the Croghan church by Bro. John Widrick on Jan. 11. He was called from this life suddenly and leaves his wife, Susie, three sons and two daughters, all of Holland Patent.

Our sympathy is given to Sis. Martha Steiner and her family. Martha's sister, Lovina Lehman, was taken from this life on Sunday, Jan. 20.

Helen Herzig was called from this life, after a lengthy illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to her sister, Sis. Leona Farney, her family, and the Herzig family.

We are glad to report that Bro. Lowell Virkler has returned home from the hospital, after undergoing surgery on his knee. He will have a cast for several weeks and is improving each day. His mother, Sis. Sarah Virkler underwent surgery on her leg the next week, and is making good improvement. She expects to return to the home of her son, Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois Virkler, within a few days. Bro. Lawrence Farney has been a hospital patient several weeks, and we are happy to say that he also expects to return home soon. Sis. Barbara Virkler has returned home, after being a hospital patient several days. Sis. Ivah Pohling has been unable to assemble with us for several weeks.

We enjoyed fellowship with loved ones from Oakville.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Bertha Bauman and her family at the time of the passing of our dear Elder Bro. Noah. Surely he is near to the hearts of us in Croghan and Naumburg, having visited us and served upon many occasions.

MILFORD

Sue Schieler and Sandee Price

A child of God once said, "Last night I took a long journey across the sea . . . I didn't travel by plane nor by boat, I traveled on my knees." It touched me so, and I thought if more of us were taking

this long journey daily, what calm would be experienced in the too-often storm tossed heart of man.

We knew that prayer does water the seed of hope, faith and love. . . . Many prayer requests have been made for these among us with ill health, our Ministering Bro. Henry Beer, Sis. Dorothy Martin. Angie Troup, Nancy Hunsburger and Sandy Speicher.

An addition namely Kyla Joy, arrived in the home of Joyce and Bob Wolferman on Jan. 23 . . . we're sure she will be a Joy to the whole family. Our annual business meeting was held. (Bros.) Ned Speicher and Dale Strassheim were given Sunday School teaching responsibilities, Bob Cockburn as Sunday School Superintendent. Trustees: Cap Beer, Dick Kaiser, and Don Beer. Building Aid: Ray Haab. Personal Property: Steve Kaiser.

High above the beating waves, prayer is our fortress.

What sometimes would become of us, if we might not shut the door upon mankind and find repose in our Father's bosom? Prayer begins where human capacity ends.

OAKVILLE

Martha Steiner Wiegand

When two join hand and heart . . . In the presence of many witnesses, Elder Bro. Noah Schrock conducted the marriage ceremony for Sis. Martha Steiner and Bro. Albert Wiegand, on Jan. 27.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin, Ill.), Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Merle Bucher (LaCrosse), Elmer Bucher (Francesville), Henry Grimm (Morton), Robert Grimm (Goodfield), Roy Grimm (Taylor), Simon Wagenbach (Tremont), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), and Robert Pohl (Burlington).

Two dear souls have found peace and will be given the opportunity to present their testimony of faith: Carol Massner Bonnesen (daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Ada Wagenbach Massner) and Marilyn Grimm Wilkerson (daughter of Bro. Jess and Sis. Elizabeth Wiegand Grimm).

In our annual church business meeting, the following committee vacancies were filled: Trustee—Bro. Edwin Banwart, Sister's committee—Sis. Mary Ann Frank,

Cemetery trustee—Bro. Joe Wiegand.

TREMONT

Lydia Rassi — Mary Jane Leuthold

Our visiting ministers were (Bros.) Everett Hari. Ron Heiniger and William Kupferschmid, from the Normal congregation. We shared a blessed evening together, learning of the way of salvation, doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers.

John Christopher, born Jan. 25, came to bless the home of Daniel and Connie Call Schweigert. Grandparents are Sis. Ida and Bro. Chris Schweigert, and Mr. and Mrs. James Call of Lowpoint.

Sis. Lucy (Herman) Laidig was hospitalized and is home again.

Jan. 13. Bro. Gary Post and Sis. Kathy (Sinn) took their wedding vows, solemnized by our elder, Bro. Dan Koch. May their home be one where God in truth abides, where two have joined hand and heart, where a threefold cord is found, not lightly rent apart. They have our prayers and best wishes.

Sis. Louise Aberle, 57, was called to her eternal rest Feb. 2. Surviving are her mother, Sis. Lena; five brothers, Bros. Albert, Emil, Walter, Ernest of Tremont and Vernon of Lehi, Utah; and two sisters, Sis. Ann and Elizabeth of Tremont. We all will miss Sis. Louise; she was dear perhaps because of her humility, in appearance, action and deeds. It is truly a priceless virtue. Only in a true and faithful heart can true meekness dwell. We sympathize with her family.

Thank you note: We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all for the many prayers, cards, food, words of encouragement, acts and deeds of kindness extended to our loved one and her family, during her illness and now in her passing away. Family of Sis. Louise Aberle.

WEST BEND

Mrs. Melvin Fehr

Mrs. Raymond Anliker

Overwhelming with joy the blessings we reaped, as our friends gave their testimonies before God and His many witnesses. They were Wanda Grimm (daughter of Bro. Clifford and Sis. Rosene); Kenneth and Ellen Dahlhauser (daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger); Georgia Griffith; Dan and

Eunice Fehr (son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mathilda) (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ervin Metzger of Elgin, Ia.); and Connie Gress (daughter of Bro. Faher and Sis. Marie). Assisting our Elder Bro. Leo Moser from Lester with this wonderful undertaking was Elder Bro. Sam Anliker from Lamont. The impression left in our hearts was that we should live for Christ one day at a time, and not look at the years that lie ahead. As we begin each day with a prayer, asking His guidance and grace, and closing each day with thankfulness—our one day has been lived. On the following day these precious souls were baptized. Present with us also were Bro. Dale Moore, Elgin, Iowa, and Bro. Elmer Schmidt, Winthrop. The evening was spent with the conclusions of our elder conference being laid to our hearts. May we be obedient and let our light shine outwardly, as well as from the heart. The efforts of our visiting elders and ministers were appreciated, as we bring our thanks to God.

Our blessings not only ended in one blessed occasion. We rejoice in the Lord that our friends, Ellen Zaugg (daughter of Richard and Dorothy) and Rodney Gress (son of Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie) have turned to the Lord to be led and guided as He wills.

Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart announce the engagement of their daughter, Yvonne, to David Bruellman, son of Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

Bro. Lawrence Schneider and Louis Schneider were hospital patients, but now are assembling with us again.

Our prayers go out for Sis. Lucille (Dawaine) Schmidt, as she enters the hospital for surgery in Rochester, Minnesota.

MORRIS

Esther Schaefer — Ann Meiss

One thing I treasure much in life
As I travel through this wilderness land
Spurring me onward thru toil and strife
Is the grasp and greeting of a
Christian hand.

In Jesus we see the true Christian love.

Giving oneself, expecting naught
in return
Many has He lifted to the mansions
above
Sharing a lesson on the cross we
can learn.

The oil and the meal were almost
gone
The widow and her son were facing
starvation
She baked it and shared with the
prophet lone
And was blessed til the famine
found cessation.

We appreciate the efforts of a
ministering brother who penned
these lines for us. May God bless
him for his kindness and love.

Bro. Kenneth Zeltwanger was
injured in a farm accident and was
hospitalized with cuts, bruises and
a broken arm. Leonard Minke spent
some time in the hospital, following
a trucking accident.

Surgical patients were Sisters
Chyrstal Luthi, Emma Spohr, Anna
Fehr . . . Paul Fehr Jr. Rose Greiner
and Eileen Burnham. Many
among us have been ill with flu and
complications.

ELGIN, IOWA Eleanor Butikofer

We are as yet in the throes of
winter . . . Noted at dawn today
the mercury had slid to eight de-
grees below the zero . . . Was then
surprised and delighted to hear the
lilting notes of a horned lark, com-
ing from across the fields. Ordin-
arily these larks do not make
their appearance this early. Could
this be an indication that we are to
have an early spring season? Writ-
ing about the wild birds, we want
to tell you about the two new var-
ieties frequenting our feeding
station. They are the gold finches
and tree sparrows. God has given
us such an interesting and awe-
inspiring world. May we ever thank
Him for the most wonderful gift
of all, the plan of salvation.

We have some real good news to
impart. Lonnie Butikofer, son of
Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah has peace
with His Maker and Lord. Shortly
he will have the opportunity to
give his testimony.

. . . Visited with Sis. Celia
Butikofer a few moments ago. She
is back in her home, after having
spent ten days in the hospital at
LaCrosse, Wisconsin. It is nice to

hear her voice and learn that the
rheumatism has subsided. Her
trouble now is a feeling of weak-
ness. We sincerely hope that she
will soon feel stronger and be able
to attend church services. Celia ap-
preciated all the mail sent to her.

The church foyer has now been
constructed. It will, however, re-
ceive a brick facing some time
later. We are happy for this en-
trance room. It is carpeted and con-
tains a water-drinking fountain.

We were blessed with a week-
end visit by Bro. Walter Anliker
from Eureka. He gave us a timely
message, and we appreciated the
food for our souls. He read some in
the letter of the apostle Paul to
the Ephesians, where it informs us
of how there is one Lord, one faith
and one baptism.

How swiftly the precious time
goes by. Let us try to live each day
as though it were our last.

We had our annual business
meeting. Our three trustees are
Bros. Laurence Butikofer, John
Schubach and Floyd Frieden;
Jake Gehring takes care of the
World Relief affairs and is also
treasurer of the church; Dale
Moore is the secretary; Wm.
Butikofer is our Sunday School
treas.; Ervin Metzger is our usher;
our Sunday School teachers are Al-
bert Butikofer, Floyd Frieden,
Elizabeth Moore, and Joy Frieden.

Our mid-week meetings have
been suspended for the duration of
the cold winter months.

The ladies of our church have
been busy from time to time work-
ing on projects of bedding, cloth-
ing and so forth for the World Re-
lief cause.

Time is a Gift from God

How will we use the days of this
year

and the time God has placed in
our hands?

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

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

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

We say we would pray more if
we had the time

and be kind to those in need,
But we live in a world of
"planned progress"
and our national password is
speed.

God grant us the grace as anoth-
er year starts

to use all the hours of our days,
Not for our own selfish interests
and our own willful ways. . .

But teach us to take more time
for praying

and to find time for listening
to you,

So each day is spent well and
wisely,

doing what You most want us
to do.

JUNCTION

Betty Manz — Henrietta Manz

We enjoyed the visit of a large
number of young folks from the
Bluffton church. We do treasure
our blessed fellowship.

Sis. Martha Laukauf has not
been very good. Bro. Henry Manz
is about the same. Sis. Mary Manz
is back in church, after being sick
for several weeks.

Viola Manz (Bro. Emmanuel)
has repented and been announced
for proving. If only more could see
the light!

Jake and Roberta Manz have
moved from Liberty Center to
Wauseon. Their new address is 218
W. Willow St., Wauseon, Oh 43567.

KIOWA Janice Frieden

The beginning of a new year re-
minds me of the beginning of a
new life in Christ. All past mis-
takes are forgiven and forgotten,
and there's a brand new life to
look forward to. Thanks to the
grace and love of God, it can truly
be the first day of the rest of our
lives.

. . . So what better way could
we start off this new year than
have services as we did on Jan. 1.
After a wonderful message, we had
a breakfast to further celebrate
the new year to enjoy Christian
fellowship with one another.

On Jan. 6, we enjoyed another
blessed evening of fellowship,
when we gathered in our new
church fellowship hall for our
monthly singing of praises to our
Lord.

We were privileged when min-
istering Bro. Vernon Leman of
Eureka joined us for a Thursday

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

evening service. We are very grateful that he and his wife planned their journey so that they could worship with us and bring a message from God's word.

We are thankful to say that, although we had several hospital

patients, the Lord has been gracious in allowing them to return home and worship with us again. They were: (Sisters) Alice Tanner, Elizabeth Diel, Dorothy Brown, Lottie Bartel, Marie Schurter, (Bros.) Elmer Kisling and

Huber Farney.

I received a letter from Sis. Anna Miller, who is residing in Stroud, Oklahoma. She asked me to extend to each her humblest thanks for all of the lovely cards, letters, and gifts she has received.

ALIVE FOREVERMORE

Henry Souder Jr.

Eternity, how do you think of it? Jesus translated eternity and its way of life into our understanding. It is beautiful. We peer into the joys of truly happy living.

A tomb had not been a happy place. This particular grave was in a garden . . . But here would be a door, a look into beautiful sunshine! Flowers that never fade. Morning. Loved ones laugh, are jubilantly happy. Hand in hand they walk where cares have faded away forever.

We look to where they had put the body of Jesus. See, someone is there. "But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre," . . . How had the story of man been a beaten trail, told in weeping hearts, broken dreams.

Her faith may have seemed small. The Lord knew. Her heart was looking toward the One who loved her so. We may seem alone, sad at heart, yet holding. Time passes. Encouragement comes. Consider Mary's beautiful view: "And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain."

Back of what seems so, around what is visibly seen is vast reality. We talk about a white Christmas, and we love it. When we lift our eyes in faith, we see God has touched His scenes with wonderfully beautiful white. It is enduring. It delights happy hearts with true thrills.

How interesting, how knowledgeable angels are. Their friendship is another one of those dear

delights in happy at-home scenes. They take a loving, real care. "And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou?"

A right question braces up. Lifts to heights undreamed before. Why . . . Why. God's answer translates His forever view. Mary gave her answer. "She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him." Our humble searching, mistaken, He directs always to the right.

God tenderly points out, our not knowing are what we need to know. There's where joy is. He takes us, as weak as we are, and gives us. We need to love His Book. We need to live in His word. How often we know not, and there is God, wanting to help us. What made Mary turn? What makes us see? **Jesus like a magnet raises our faint spirit to the skies . . .** "And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus."

It was not the place where Mary expected to find His body. We need to let God have His way. His eternal view is different of temporal view. Although He schedules His moves in time, all through breathes the wonderful atmosphere of forever. One day and a thousand years the same . . . so our calculations should be in the immeasurable, and then the figures come out right. We see why.

Again the question probes the tears: "Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?" There is some thing here about the everlasting look. Alike, angels and Master have the same view. This real living in the

Master is **FREE OF WEEPING.** What glorious life!

It seems difficult for us to leave loose of the temporary. Would we rather live in the weeping, or the Dawn? Chrome and casket, silent lips, empty places? Jesus brought Something wonderful. "She, supposing him to be the gardner, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away." Our view needs UP, UP FOREVER.

Jesus brought the happy . . . Life is told in endless Dawn. Everlasting. Listen in the pages of holy scripture. Listen! . . . voices never die. Places never get empty. Loved ones go hand in hand. Before reaches a beautiful sky of eternal brightness. Not a cloud.

Ah, when He speaks, joy rings of eternal merriment. Food fills to the keepest aspiration of the soul. Satisfaction looms, which will find fulfillment in salvation and world without end.

"Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master."

Jesus indeed gives eternal life! There's beautiful rhapsody when your name is spoken of Him. It holds the beauty and thrill of life forevermore!

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