

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

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DECEMBER 1974

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Heaven is next to us! . . . Who has not found the Heaven below will fail of it above . . . God's residence is next to mine . . . His furniture is love.

BORN OF A VIRGIN

(Editor's note: One or both of these are taken from articles which were submitted or came from Bro. Ed Sauder.)

The virgin birth is more than just a Christmas story! It is a fact of history on which salvation depends. No virgin birth: no forgiveness of sins.

God with us! How men need this truth. How they need to learn afresh that God was in Christ; that that **newborn Babe was the everlasting God come down**; that at Bethlehem the **Most High became the most nigh!**

There were several real hazards connected with that first Christmas. Matthew deals with one of them in his account of the visit of the Magi. Commissioned by Herod the king to go and search diligently for the young child, the Magi followed the star they saw in the east. It "went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

The Magi could have become so enamored with the star that they would never have found the Son! Thank God, it was not so! That star, however captivating it must have been, did not satisfy the

hearts of these men. They pressed on to Bethlehem until they found Him, and when they found Him, they were satisfied and worshiped.

The shepherds heard. The angels were gone away from them; they said to one another, **Let us find the subject.** . . . They did! Luke tells us that "they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger." What we need more than ever is to slip away in the spirit to Bethlehem, there to renew our devotion to the Son of God who loves us.

It is back to Bethlehem to recover our simplicity.

Our times have lost the humble Christmas sounds,
The bleat of sheep, the donkey's patient braying.
The amplifier's ring the bells so loud

We cannot catch the voice of Joseph praying.

Bethlehem will ever stand as a rebuke to complicated life. Long before she came into prominence as the cradle of Christianity, the prophet warned humanity against the error of despising small things. Yet history proves that men went right ahead and did it anyway.

The unit of Jewish national government was a community of one thousand or more persons. Such a place was ruled by a **chieftain**, and was therefore a **chief town**. Bethlehem apparently never reached the thousand mark! She was too little to have a place among the thousands of Judah!

But listen to this word from the Prophet Micah. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, **though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.**"

Let us now return to Bethlehem—there to review our doctrine regarding the person of our blessed Lord; there to renew our devotion to Him, making certain that we are disciples of a person and not of a phrase; and there to recover our simplicity, singing as we go,

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

KEEP THE BEAUTY OF CHRISTMAS

The birth of Christ, leads men to God. The story of Santa Claus, confuses men about God.

The Santa story encourages a false view of God during the impressionable years of early child-

hood. Understanding this helps one understand secular man's difficulty in relating to the living God revealed by Jesus Christ.

When asked, "Can Santa really see me through these walls?", how

does a parent reply? If he says, "Yes, Santa can really see you," the parent is no longer operating on the level of healthy imagination; he is giving his words the ring of reality. The mythical becomes "real"

for the child. Santa can see and know a child's behavior, rewarding him on the basis of that behavior; he can leave presents in every home the world over in just one night; he has reindeer that can fly.

Time moves on. The child begins to see flaws. . . What he is told about Santa becomes less convincing. He may suspect that his parents are putting him on. For the most part the child will not mind playing the game, for he is rewarded. . .

What does the child learn from the Santa Claus myth? Santa keeps a record of his behavior; he can be acceptable to Santa by being good. If Santa is not pleased, according to tradition the child will receive cinders and ashes.

As Christmas morning approaches, the child is well aware of Santa's warning and of his own behavior. He has not been perfect, and knows it. Though he may feel some anxiety, he remembers last year and confidently awaits Santa's return. Sure enough, on Christmas morning his faith in his own goodness is rewarded again. He may conclude, he is okay as he is. His behavior, though not perfect, is acceptable; Santa must not really mean what he says about children who cry or pout, for he gives gifts anyway. No matter what Santa says or what the child does, in the end Santa will reward him.

Santa visits his people once a year, spending the other 364 days in obscurity. Santa is not seen as one who is involved with daily living. A child learns to cope with his problems without expecting the help. What does Santa do the rest of the year? He exists somewhere up north as a harmless, friendly old man with a long white beard.

As the child hears the story, he believes it. As far as he knows, he is being told the truth. Why should he expect other than the truth from his parents? The child begins to discover that his parents are playing a game with him. As a result he devaluates his parents' witness. Sadder but wiser, the child learns The deception about Santa means the parent knew better all the time. not to give credence...

Christians should not be surprised that man has a deep misunderstanding of the true nature and presence of God. He has left behind the outward form of the

myth as a pleasant experience of childhood, but has yet to find any other understanding of the supernatural.

As Christians we need to be aware of the possible results of the Santa Claus myth with children. Contrary to popular opinion (even in the church), Christians will not spoil Christmas by omitting Santa Claus; rather, they will increase the child's joy. For not only will Christian parents give the child the birthday of Jesus as the reason for Christmas, but they will make Christmas the basis for the child's ability to trust God in his later life.

It is up to the Christian who is concerned for the spiritual health of his children. Christ must be emphasized; Christmas is his birthday. He has come as a gift from God to show love, care, and concern for man 365-366 days a year. The information the child receives should be the true story of Christ, not the myth of Santa.

FRANCESVILLE IN

Sharon Neihouser Helen Huber
Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life. Hand in hand, oh may love bind us; for each other's welfare strive. Nov. 3 was the wedding day of Sis. Mabel Pelsy and Bro. Leon Wuethrich.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman were blest with a son, named Jarod Larry. Little Jennifer is happy, too with a little brother.

Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont) visited us on Wed. evening. We appreciate his coming and sharing the love of God. On Nov. 24, Bro. Phil Sauder (Cissna Park) was our guest minister. We thank these brothers for visiting and sharing with us.

The week-end of Nov. 23 and 24 was enjoyed by all, but especially by the Sunday School, as the Mansfield Sunday School visited us. We enjoyed their visit and hope they will come and visit us again soon. In the afternoon, a Thanksgiving Program was enjoyed by all.

Mark Metzger has left us to serve in the Army.

The week-end of Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 was another blessed one for us. Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse) shared with us the conference report on Saturday evening, and then on Sunday they assisted Bro. Wendell in serving Holy Communion. May we each

one do our part to keep the unity of the faith, and then together we can reach the portals of Heaven.

ELGIN IL

Louise Steffen - Katie Kachelmuss

No jubilant clang of rejoicing bell
The glorious news to the world did tell,

But angels from glory sang sweetly
the story

Of Bethlehem's stranger, the Saviour of men.

We'll worship before Thee, and
praise and adore Thee,

Thou born in a manger, the Father's own child,

And sing the glad story again and again.

Bros. Edward Gudeman & Albert Scheitlin, who have served us faithfully in the ministry for many years, have felt it would be the time that they should retire from this duty. May God bless them for their service and their efforts in spreading the glad tidings of the Gospel of Salvation. Bro. Tom Leman has been selected to minister unto us, and may God give him the necessary grace and courage to carry on in this labor in the vineyard of God. Tom lives at 212 Gordon Ct., Elgin IL 60120.

We had showers of blessings and seasons refreshing when the following brothers visited us: Earl Kilgus of Remington, Arthur Bahler of Fairbury, Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest, and Maurice Frank of Leo.

We have some that are and have been hospitalized . . . Mary Gross, 187 Moseley St., Elgin IL 60120, and William Foell, 743 Algona Ave., Elgin IL 60120 are at the hospital . . . Sis. Emilie Preiss, 215 Hill Ave.,

THE SILVER LINING

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Elgin IL 60120, Bro. Morris Wil-laert, 165 S. Worth, Elgin IL 60120 have gone back to their homes. James Kellenberger, 602 McClure Ave., Elgin IL 60120, son of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Minnie, has been hospitalized, but may be going home today.

We felt it would be good if there was a change in reporters for the Silver Lining, so it will be no longer Louise Steffen and Katie Kachelmuss as reporters, but beginning the first of 1975, Sandra and Mary Moser, daughters of Bro. Gene and Sis. Libbyann Moser, 3 No. Edison Ave., Elgin IL 60120 as the new reporters. We are confident they will do their best, and we trust that all will continue to support this worthy cause.

ELGIN IA

Eleanor Butikofer

Our fields, meadowlands and roadsides are all covered with a lovely blanket of snow. Because of the snowfall, our wild birds are again coming for food. In addition to the usual ones seen, a new one was spotted, the ruby-crowned kinglet. In summer they are seen in the northern spruce forests, but during the winter they are seen feeding along with the nuthatches, chickadees and downy woodpeckers, in this area. Their olive-grey color with a red crown is very distinctive. They are only about 3¾ to 4¼ inches in length. May God be praised for his manifold creations.

Bros. Earl Gerber from Fairbury and Uriel Gehring from Burlington visited our church.

In Christ, who was born at Christmas, all men may live again.

Let us remember,
When our faith is running low,
Christ is more than just a figure
Wrapped in an ethereal glow,
For He came and dwelt among us
And He knows our every need,
And He loves and understands us
And forgives each sinful deed—
If we are truly sorry.
He was crucified and buried
And rose again in glory,
And His promise of salvation
Makes the wondrous Christmas
story,
An abiding reassurance,
That the Christ child's birth
Was the beginning
Of God's plan for Peace on Earth.

We hope our readers all have a blessed Christmas.

GIRARD OH

Kathryn Emch

Our special thanks to (Bros.) Paul Gasser, Henry Dotterer and Eugene Pamer, who served our congregation while Harold and I enjoyed a vacation.

We had the privilege of being in Rittman as several young men gave their testimonies as to what the Lord has done in their lives. We rejoice with them, and felt uplifted in spirit as they were baptized into God's family.

This year is fast drawing to a close. Let us look forward to a blessed new year as hope and faith spring eternal in each of us.

LATTY OH

Karen Klopfenstein
LeAnn Laukhuf

Many ministers gathered with us Nov. 3. During the day, Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria) spoke to us concerning the similarities between Noah's time and today's. This should remind us to be prepared each day of our lives. Sunday evening our cups were again filled by Bro. Noah Schrock (Oakville). Also in attendance were Ministering Bros. Sam Schlatter and Ben Manz (Junction); Marvin Stieglitz and Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Leo).

Nov. 9, Latty hosted Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio World Relief Sewing. It was well attended, with approximately 250 people. Staying with us on Sunday were Ministering Bros. Ben Hartzler (Rittman) and Vernon Leman (Eureka).

Dave and Nancy Laukhuf are the happy parents of a baby girl, Holly Jo, born Nov. 7. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Laukhuf.

Prayers were again answered when Paul Grant (Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores), one of our dear friends, heard the call from his Saviour. May the Lord grant him grace to overcome all trials and temptations. **Do not get discouraged; it may be the last key in the bunch that opens the door.**

The engagement of Dave Mielke and Deb Plescher has been made known. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mielke and Mr. and Mrs. James Plescher. A February wedding is planned. . . A March wedding is planned for John Laukhuf and Marcia Eddy. Ministering Bro.

Merril and Sis. Dolly Laukhuf and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Eddy are the parents.

The engagement of Bro. Mark Stoller (Bro. Louis and Sis. Mildred) and Sis. Shirley Stephen (Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy) from Milford was announced Nov. 17. . . Also made known was the engagement of Sis. Peggy Rager (William Sr. and Sis. Elsie) and Bro. Gary Ifft (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean) from the Forrest congregation.

Shut-ins: Lisa Rager (Bro. Bill Jr. and Sis. Lou Ann) had her tonsils removed. Bro. Emil Stoller is recovering from a stroke and eye surgery. Ministering Bro. Merrill Laukhuf is in Rochester, Minnesota at the Mayo Clinic, hoping to receive help for back trouble.

You may others from sadness to gladness beguile, if you carry your cross with a smile.

MANSFIELD OH

Aaron A. Sauder

"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious."

The words of the psalmist were carried out in its fullness, when the Peoria choir visited our congregation and presented a most inspiring program of spiritual hymns on Sat. evening, Nov. 16. Following services on Sunday afternoon, we were further blessed when the group sang for the honor of God.

We are thankful to hear that Sis. Caroline Dotterer is recovering satisfactorily, following major surgery in which part of a lung was removed; she is a patient in Mansfield General Hospital. On Thanksgiving morning, we learned that Eric Dotterer (son of Bro. LaVern and Sis. Christine) was involved in an accident, in which his car was demolished. Again we are thankful that he escaped serious injury, although he is in the hospital. He suffered numerous abrasions and bruises.

We have appreciated the visits of Bros. Harold Emch of Girard, Gary Maibach of Rittman, and Aaron Steffen of Alto, who ministered to us.

Congratulations and best wishes to William D. Heckel and Louise Sauder Weil, who exchanged wedding vows on Nov. 8. Louise is the

daughter of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Sauder. The new Mr. and Mrs. Heckel will be living in Florida, where Bill is employed; their mailing address is P.O. Box 808, Lehigh FL 33936.

The Sunday School children are again anticipating the Christmas season, as they practice for the program to commemorate the birth of our Saviour, God's gift to mankind. As we think of Christmas, we also realize the year is drawing to a close and a new year will soon begin. I am reminded of a little saying I learned as a child in school: "We are but moments and little things, and have sixty wings with which we fly on our unseen track and never a moment ever comes back." Therefore we should use each moment wisely, heeding the words of the song:

The time flies on and death draws nigh;
Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high!
Prepare us now to live with Thee
Forever in eternity!

During the past year many loved ones have gone to their eternal Home, and we know not how many we have left on this earth, so let us be diligent in our heavenly calling.

OAKVILLE IA Martha Wiegand

It is with deep regret that our congregation has received the news that our beloved Elder Bro. Noah Schrock will soon retire from his duties as elder. Four members of the elders committee—Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont), Rudy Graf (Akron), Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke) and Ben Maibach (Detroit) made a search among our three ministering brothers, and the congregation voted to select Bro. Edward Lanz as elder-designate. Bro. Lanz will assume his duties after being approved by the entire elder body and his subsequent ordination. May each member of the Oakville Church, as well as our entire membership in the nation, support Bro. Ed and his wife, Sis. Joan, in this important and weighty work.

We were privileged to hear the conference report as presented by these same four elders on that week-end.

Best wishes to Bro. Tom Lindeen and Sis. Vera Schaer (Bro. Bernie and Sis. Leah Mogler Schaer),

whose engagement was announced. The couple plans a Dec. 29 wedding.

Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) performed the impressive wedding ceremony for our Sis. Gwen Steiner and Bro. Ken Manz (Junction). Parents of the couple are Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Other ministering brothers here for the occasion were (Bros.) Duane Metzger (West Bend) and Sam Schlatter (Junction).

We also appreciated the word brought to us through (Bros.) Earl Banwart (West Bend) and Jim Hoerr (Peoria).

PRINCEVILLE IL Ruth Ricketts

We were thankful for visitors the first Sunday in the month, among them visiting ministers Bros. Don Sauder of Roanoke and Francis Rother of Morton.

Some years ago our aged brother, Will Huber, was in the hospital and quite ill. He felt he may not recover and was somewhat concerned. He had a dream of traveling with fellow pilgrims to the Holy City. He recognized several of the pilgrims, and after traveling some ways, the road separated. He chose one and hadn't gone far, when he realized it was getting farther away from the other, and knew it wasn't the right road. He turned, went the other one. It was narrow, and he had to stay in the very middle of the road, for there were so many obstacles along the way trying to divert his attention and pull him aside. Struggling for some time, he came upon a deep gulf with a river far below, and he noticed several pilgrims jumping into the water and swimming to the other side. He felt his faith was too weak for him to jump; while pondering, he noticed a thin pole with a sign attached, **For those of little faith.** Clutching this for support, he got courage to jump in the water and was able to reach the other side. A light shown on a path through a deep woods. He followed, and soon heard the most beautiful singing, which he thought must be coming from high on a hill. He came to a closed gate and wanted to enter, but was told he could not yet enter, as it led to the Holy City, and had to wait a little longer. He then awoke, and has been waiting for quite a number of years for that

gate to open for him.

During the past few months he has been failing, suffering from heart attacks and stroke, and was taken to the hospital. He was a very sick man, and not able to talk so that he could be understood. At 2:00 on the morning of Nov. 7, the death angel came for him, as he slept. The door had opened, and now he is free from his earthly cares and sufferings.

Services for Will were held Sat. afternoon, Nov. 9, where a number gathered to pay their last respect for a beloved member of our precious faith, of which he was a staunch support and pillar. Bro. Joe Stoller, assisted by other local ministers, conducted services. He will be greatly missed in our congregation, for his sound advice was respected by all. He taught Sunday School for many years, and in his quiet way kept godly order and related many interesting stories the children enjoyed hearing.

He was born in Wuerttemberg, Germany, Oct 3, 1888, a son of Johann and Elizabeth Zeh Huber. He came to the United States in 1905, and farmed until retiring, moving to Princeville in 1951. He married Ida K. Wieland in Princeville on May 25, 1919; she survives. Bro. Will and Sis. Ida had no children of their own, but opened their home to three nieces and a nephew of Sis. Ida's, when their mother died when the children were young. The youngest, Wilma Baughman, spent many hours caring for Bro. Will and Sis. Ida, for which they were most grateful. Also surviving are two brothers, Frederick and Johann, and a sister, Mrs. Mina Geist, all in Germany.

Although Ida has been confined to her home for several years, God gave her such unbelievable strength that she was able to be present during the services for her husband, and also followed to the cemetery, where he was laid in the bosom of the earth. She had to say that God has been good to them, and surely provided angels to sustain her during this time, for which she was truly thankful... The family wish to thank everyone for the many deeds of kindness shown during the past few years, during the sunset years of their life, and now during the hours of their bereavement. Sis. Ida Huber, nieces and nephews.

Greg Siebenthal, 8-year-old son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay, spent several days in the hospital, recovering from injuries received when he fell and was struck by a wagon wheel while picking corn. He had gotten off the combine unbeknown to those around, and was struck while trying to get away. He had a bad blow on the head, which has affected one eye and also received a broken wrist. He is able to be back in school and in Sunday School, for which we are all thankful. His guardian angel was near his side we believe... We are thankful that Sis. Natalia Feucht is at home, following a hospital stay, and is showing signs of improvement.

Thanksgiving Day was a beautiful sunny day (and reminded us of the first worship in our new church five years ago, it also being a sunny day.) Even though some suffered reverses and the crops were not as in the past years, many gathered to give thanks for the many, many, blessings we all enjoy. We were most thankful to have Bro. Silas Leuthold take part in the services.

We are sorry that Sis. Mary Leuthold isn't improving so fast and must remain very quiet, as she has such pains in her neck. It has been several weeks since she has been able to worship with us.

The last day of November and the first of December brought such snow that many roads were drifted; there were no church services here. How thankful we are we have the assurance that where two or three are assembled, there God is with us and gives the blessing, as we all in our homes had services of our own.

Soon the Christmas Season will be here and the children in Sunday School are hearing the Christmas story and learning songs and little verses, telling of the humble birth in Bethlehem. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." May we ever display that peace and good will.

Christmas is more than a day at the end of the year,
More than a day of joy and good cheer.

Christmas is really God's pattern for living,
To be followed each day by unselfish giving;

Then peace on earth will come to stay,
When we live Christmas every day.

TOLEDO, OH Lydia Meister

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness." We have given praise and thanks to the Lord for our dear sister, Clara, and brother George Beard. They were baptized Nov. 3. We had the added blessing of our Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Rudy Graf reading the conference memorandum, giving us kindly assistance to full understand its contents.

A group of us went to the World Relief meeting at Latty. We had a blessed day. When one hears of the agonies and sorrow of hardship in so many lands, it moves us to thank the Lord that He gives the opportunity to aid some of His little ones. Bro. Bucher gave a touching account of the Home for the Handicapped and the work being done there. It brought to my attention this poem. It was a great source of comfort to an afflicted one.

The rift in the crest of a mountain,
The twist in the trunk of a tree,
The water cut cave in the hollow,
The rough, rocky rim of the sea,
Each one has a scar of distortion,
Yet each has a sermon to sing:
The presence of what would deface me,
Has made me a beautiful thing.

It was uplifting to hear of the good being done in the various fields. . . . **What ye do to the least of these ye do unto me.**

The Apostolic choir from Peoria spent a week-end with us. The fellowship of so many dear ones will long be remembered.

GRIDLEY KS

Edna Somerhalder / Wilma Young

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." As we commemorate the birth of our dear Saviour, let's not become so involved in exchanging gifts, etc., that we forget the true meaning of Christmas.

We have been blessed with visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker, Bros. Samuel Huber, Al

Langhofer, and Roy Wernli.

"But Jesus called them unto Him and said, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Little Brian Kraft, 3-year-old son of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine, was called from this life Nov. 9 . . . he experienced much pain during his short span of life; now he has exchanged his cross for a home in eternity . . . where all is peace and joy. Brian is survived by his parents, four brothers: Bro. Douglas, James, Richard and Dale Ray; three sisters: Sis. Susan (Bro. Bill) Emch, Sis. Barbara Ann and Mary Jane. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Esther Kraft and Mrs. Blanche Donohoe of Burlington, Kansas. . . . Wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Kraft family. All who were privileged to know Brian loved him . . . he is greatly missed in our congregation.

Thank you: How words do fail us when we want to express our thankfulness to our loved ones, for the thoughts, prayers, cards and gifts. The love and concern shown through the past year and since Brian's death is just overwhelming, and we thank you from the bottom of our heart. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft.

Hospital patients: Rhonda Owens, daughter of Sis. Marilyn and Steve, was hospitalized due to infection. Tammy Isch, 3-year-old daughter of Sis. Janiece and Dale, was in for tests and observation. . . . Glad to report, both have been able to return to church. Mrs. Lawrence Nichols, mother of Carol (Sam) Kraft, is hospitalized; the doctors have made extensive tests, yet unaware of the nature or cause of her illness.

Midweek services have begun at Gridley, on Thanksgiving, alternating with the Lamont congregation.

. . . Have experienced some wintry weather. Wet fields delayed harvesting the fall crops; much of the grain was harvested the past two weeks.

HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Many of our readers will once more think of Christmas with fond memories. If we were to ask what quality about Christmas has brought us lasting happiness, what answers would be given? What has, in fact, Christmas meant to you?

What has it meant to us at the Home? Perhaps each of us could benefit if we would direct this question to ourselves and search for an honest answer which would be an honor to our Lord. Would the true meaning of Christmas lie in what would remain, if circumstance would strip the occasion of all superficial qualities?

Here at the Home the desire and hope is that the remaining ingredient of the lovely Christmas season is a renewed spirit of Christian love. If love administered with prudence brings out the best in mankind in general, it is doubly true here among our residents. Experience has proved time and again how important it is to listen with our hearts more than with our ears.

You, our "reader visitors", have been touring our Home by departments. Now we are ready to visit the important, but "sometimes behind-the-scenes" kitchen and laundry.

Imagine, if you can, being in charge of doing daily laundry for a family of almost fifty people! Not only must clothes and linens be made clean, they must be ironed, mended, and returned to the proper residents' rooms. This, too, is one of those areas where a feeling of gratitude deeper than can be put into adequate words comes over us. A number of our sisters-in-faith come regularly one day each week to volunteer their services, some driving many miles to get here. Would you assume this is God's love in action? We think so. Our prayer is that these and all volunteers will one day be the recipients of a heavenly reward.

Volunteers also are a part of the kitchen scene. Every other Sunday and on special occasions, there are those who forego the privilege to attend their own church services and spend the day cooking for the residents, so that the regular staff may go to church.

Picture yourself doing the planning and cooking of nutritious, well-balanced meals, within a budget, for the family here. To make it even more interesting, there are special diets for some. Among them: the diabetic, low-calorie, allergy, the ulcer and the normal diet. In addition, those who go to Workshop carry noon lunches, which are prepared in our kitchen.

The services rendered these two

departments by a limited number of the residents act as therapy for the residents, as well as to provide help with the volume of work.

Richard Troxel, son of the Donald Troxels, Gary, Indiana, and Miriam Schulz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Schulz of Lowville, New York, are new residents of our Home. We welcome them and hope they will be happy here.

Let us remember that every life we touch is a field. Everything we do, and every word we speak are seed. What will the harvest be?

INDIANAPOLIS IN Wayne and Judy Steffen

May you keep Christmas all the coming year,
In silver threads of peace, in joy and cheer;
May you be one whose heart will never lose
The generosity, but rather choose
To share with all mankind the truth and right
God gave the world on that first Christmas night.

As Christmas approaches, our hearts seem to take on a special feeling. We are more cheerful and are really caught up in the spirit of Christmas. As the above poem suggests, may we retain that special Christmas feeling the entire year, and not only during this season.

We appreciate our visiting ministers, who were: Bros. Ed Hohulin, Goodfield; Elmer Hartter, Milford; Irvin Stoller, Latty; Orville Ringger, Bluffton.

NAUMBURG NY Eleanor Herzig

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Frank Brothers and the family in the passing away of his wife, Sis. Dora.

Hospitalized was Bro. Arthur Herzig. Sisters Cora Beyer and Esther Wallace are patients at the Lewis County Extended Care Facility in Lowville.

PHOENIX AZ Julie Hoerr

We are grateful for our visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Atadena).

It was nice to have several from California the week-end of Novem-

ber 9 and 10. On Saturday evening we heard the testimony of John Kaufman, and Sunday were privileged to witness the baptism. We enjoyed a covered-dish dinner at church later in the day.

John Dotterer has completed his time in the service and is now home. Along with Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina, the rest of us welcome Bro. John back into our midst.

Also returning to Phoenix are Aldo and Joyce Yackley and daughters, Debbie and Sandy. They have been living in Saudi Arabia for almost 3 years. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Vera are Aldo's parents.

It's nice to have Sis. Donna Waibel (Bay City), Sis. Libbi Bahler (Remington), and Bro. Kurt Bahler (Remington) call Phoenix their home. We welcome them.

Saturday, Nov. 16, many helped with our annual church cleaning.

We are looking forward to those who make Phoenix their home during the winter season, and welcome those looking for a warmer climate.

A thought for the Christmas Season: **The HIGHEST kind of giving is done from the BOTTOM of the heart.**

REMINGTON IN Anna M. Waibel

The following verses I believe express our feelings as we partook of communion:

May we in perfect love be found
When we Thy table, Lord, surround;
Keep soul and body purified;
Thy blessings Lord, be multiplied
Upon this feast.

Then come into our midst today;
Impart Thyself to us, we pray.
This cup and loaf are proof and sign
Of this, Thy covenant divine
In Jesus blood.

Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) and Josh Broquard (Fairbury) were with us on Saturday night, Nov. 24, for this occasion. On Sunday Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, came to assist in the reading of the conference reports.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Libby Bahler left us Nov. 2 for Phoenix where we hope and pray Libby can enjoy better health.

We are very thankful the small baby of Bro. Harlan and Sis. Mar-

tha Braker is home from the hospital, after being very ill with a virus.

Sis. Emma Beckley is home from the hospital and nursing home, and slowly improving after a cataract operation. She wishes to thank everyone for all that has been done for her. She appreciates it all very much.

The church in general collected a large sum to buy groceries for the needy at Monticello, who were hard hit in the storm last summer.

On Dec. 1, we did not have church, nor school the next day, due to a snowstorm; the second one this year.

ROANOKE IL

Edith Sauder / Mae K. Hodel

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart: love, joy, kindness, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the mind: ideas, dreams, purposes, ideals, principles, plans, inventions, projects, poetry.

We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the spirit: prayer, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith.

We give of ourselves when we give the gift of words: encouragement, inspiration, guidance.

The only true gift is a portion of thyself.

Many years ago, God gave his best gift to us when he sent his beloved son, Jesus Christ, to earth to be our perfect example of how we should live and conduct our lives! May we always give of the best of ourselves to Him.

We were happy to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our dear friends, Robert and Ann (Getz) Knepp, Nov. 9 and 10.

We are ever grateful to all our ministering brothers who give of themselves so unselfishly. We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Elmer Bucher, Francesville; Raymond Roth, Kiowa; Leroy Huber, Elias Somerhalder, Eureka.

Hospitalized and home again are Sis. Hulda Bill and Bro. Vince Hodel.

Our dear friends, Jack and Gail Blunier have moved from Bloom-

ington to Phoenix. They are residing at 3421 W. Dunlap Apt. 109, Phoenix AZ 85021. They are happy parents of a little son, Nathan Wayne, born Oct. 31. He has a little sister, Nicole. Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Sylvia Blunier and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smock are the grandparents.

Our dear friends, Joe and Janet Tanner welcome a little daughter, Jodee Lynette. Grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Helen Zimmerman and Bro. Ben and Sis. Leona Tanner.

The Roanoke Manor (Rest Home) was closed Nov. 1, by the owners. The Roanoke church board of trustees, with the approval of the church, purchased the 77-bed rest home in Roanoke. Plans are being made to update and remodel it to meet state specifications. Bros. Bill Leman, Melvin Rocke, Richard Bowald, Bill Zimmerman, and Howard Sauder were selected as the board of trustees for the Apostolic Christian Home of Roanoke.

Services were cancelled Dec. 1, because of drifting snow and hazardous highways. We will appreciate all the more the blessing of being able to gather around the word of life with all our loved ones.

SARASOTA FL

Linda Miller

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;"

In this month we have grown in attendance from 20 to 70.

We have given thanks, as the nation has set aside a day of Thanksgiving. Though many in the world see it as a day out of the year to give thanks, we praise the Lord for making it a part of our daily lives. Thanks cannot be covered in a minute, an hour or a day. May the Lord show us the way to serve Him and give thanks the year through.

Gathering with us for Thanksgiving morning services were Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Leo, and our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. Bro. Harold Emch, Girard visited for a Sunday, also, and delivered a most inspiring service from Isaiah 55.

One of our Saturday afternoons brought a gathering, as we were

together for a baby shower for Sis. Linda Sabo (Douglas). The Sabos are expecting in February. One of the many blessings of a small congregation such as ours is to see our number grow. Praise the Lord for His bundles of joy!

As the Christmas season approaches fast, we should take the time to spread more of the real Christmas story; a story to be lived and believed throughout our lives. The glitter and glamor, the tinsel and lights are going up. The artificial glow can only be out-shone by the real love of God. It's our duties as His children to let our lights shine—shine brighter than the tinsel, the glitter and the decoration lights. One of our familiar hymns stands out in my mind:

Our saving hope is all in vain
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee
We find the gift of peace.
Tis not the babe, but Christ the man

Who walked in Galilee;
Tis not the manger, but the cross
That sets the spirit free.

TAYLOR MO

Marie Butikofer / Eleanor Yackley

God has two dwellings: one in heaven, and the other in a meek and thankful heart. Each of us has many reasons to be thankful; let's remember to be thankful always, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but throughout the year. As we celebrate Christmas, we should surely remember to thank God for His wonderful Gift to us. And as we begin the new year, we should be thankful for the many blessings we received throughout the past year. Let us also pray for grace and strength for each new day.

We are thankful that the Lord has called Rodney Heimer to repentance. He is the son of Sis. Naomi Heimer.

Our visiting ministers on Thanksgiving Day were (Bros.) Ezra Feller, Albert Wuthrich, and Bob Grimm. On Dec. 1, our visiting ministers were (Bros.) Sam Huber, Bob Pohl, Lennie Meyer, Bro. Kenneth Dietz.

Bro. Allen Massner and Sis. Rosie Hoerr were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Roy Grimm on Dec. 1. They will make their home in Burlington, Iowa. Sis. Rosie is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Rose

Hoerr.

The engagement of Becky Hodel and Gregg Bailey has been announced. They plan to be married on Jan. 11. Their parents are Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel and Mr. and Mrs. Ed L. Bailey of Quincy, Illinois.

TUCSON AZ
Mrs. Donald Bauer
Mrs. Loren Knapp

Our congregation and many visitors enjoyed a turkey dinner at our November Fellowship Meeting. The evening was spent in singing and Christian fellowship.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, and those elected to new positions are as follows: Chairman of Trustee Board—Bro. Don Bauer; Sunday School teachers—Sisters Rita Bertschi, Gloria Bauer; Silver Lining—Sis. Rita Bertschi.

The Sunday School children are preparing a Christmas Program to be presented Dec. 22. It adds an extra measure of joy to hear our children singing and praising the birthday of our Saviour. It encourages each of us to do our part to spread peace and goodwill every day of the year.

UNION CITY NJ
PHILADELPHIA PA
Karen Martin

We have been blessed with the visits of ministering brothers the past several months. They were: (Bros.) Harry Sutter and John Bahler at Union City, and (Bros.) Harold Emch and Paul Gasser at Philadelphia. It heartens a small congregation such as ours to have visitors.

It was a pleasure to see all the young college students in our midst, while they were home for Thanksgiving.

WOLCOTT IN

Arles Kropf / Marjean Lehman
Wise men still seek Him today.

Bring glory now to God,
Whose throne is built on high!
The realm of darkness comes to naught;
The reign of peace is nigh!

Ye ransomed souls, rejoice,
And your redemption praise!
With angel hosts lift up your voice.
Whoe'er believes is saved!

Glory to God on high;
On earth His peace retell!
The Father's will shall now be done,
Who maketh all things well!

Praise the Lord, Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

We wish you a blessed Christmas!

AKRON OH
Lynda Pamer

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold,
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to Thee.
As with joyful steps they sped
There to bend the knee before
Him who heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

We are glad that Sis. Grace Schuckert is again able to assemble with us.

Sis. Anna Hanla and Bro. Stanley Francis are still confined to their homes because of illness.

Ministering Bro. Walter Rehklau from Toledo visited and served us well.

SILVERTON OR
Joan Dietrich

We certainly appreciated having Elder Bro. Roy Farney from Phoenix with us Nov. 17, and also the timely messages he left with us. In the evening, he read to us the **Memorandum**, which certainly uplifted and encouraged us all.

One of the things Bro. Roy mentioned in one of his sermons was how so many people prepare for an occupation to make a living, but so few prepare for death . . . And how true this is. As Christmas comes around this year, let us all remember the true meaning it brings to us, for it is not the birth of Christ, but His **death**, that gives us the **true** meaning of this season . . . as we sing in one of our Christmas carols:

"Tis not the babe, but Christ the man who walked in Galilee;
"Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,
nor stay at Bethlehem,

But go with Christ to Calvary's brow,
beyond Jerusalem.
'Tis there men learn to know the Christ,
for there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
and let the Saviour in.

This is the **true** meaning of Christmas.

WICHITA KS
Glennis Allenbach

As I prepared to write this month's article, I thought of checking some old magazines of long ago, to see what was said of Christmas. . . . I have faith that like myself, you never tire of reading of this most beautiful event.

I was pleased to find in the December 1925 issue, a yellowed piece of newspaper someone had torn out and pinned to the inside cover. I thought it was beautifully written. I could immediately identify with this and wanted to share it. How beautiful this would be, if read to an audience with a background of hymns softly hummed. Perhaps you can picture it this way as you read it.

The Light of That Night

This is Christmas eve. There lies upon our table, as we write, a paper knife formed like a scimitar. It is of pearl and was given us by Col. Stewart, who saw it fashioned by a descendant of Abraham, in Bethlehem of Judea. As this is an hour that links earth and heaven and whispers immortality to the mortal, our friend's gift becomes to us a beautiful emblem of faith, which spans time and space. We are back among the low-lying hills of Judea, as their wavering lines rolled away into the starlit folds of a solemn night, . . . years ago. The slopes of Nebo lay sleeping, and in shadow and in silence rested the mountains and plains of Moab. The contented flocks were ruminating in peace at the feet of their shepherds. . . . "Thou Bethlehem," of low encompassing walls and dirt thatched homes was that night sheltering the taxed of the land of Judea. Shadows and silence were also here. Watching had ceased . . . and waking eyes had closed throughout the **Promised Land**, save those of the flock tenders of the wild pastures and Herod's patrolling guards. The water of the Jordan went murmuring on to the sea, as on that day

when Joshua had erected beside its darkling waters memorial to the miraculous love of Him who had promised the seed of Abraham a king and deliverer, and in this goodly heritage of pasture and of vineyards.

In that faraway land and far-off time, there was one who could not sleep, who could not rest. As fell the shadows of that hour there was one, a virgin daughter of a chosen people, whose intensely lustrous eyes looked out from a low-roofed stable upon the glories of the heavens with a mingling feeling of anxiety and of ecstasy, such as never agitated a human breast. Imminent upon that maiden's trembling soul hung the destinies of all her time, the fulfillment of one great promise to her people, the potentialities and the fruition of all the prayers and all the tears of all the ages.

There appeared high over that land a gleam of glory, a halo whose radiance was that of a king's diadem, its bright nimbus a benediction. It descended from heaven. Angelic hosts hailed of **Peace on earth, good will to men.** And lo! revealed the Redeemer of mankind as a babe in the manger; a king, a shadow of whose crown was a cross, that symbol of redemption and the promise of life that is eternal.

The revelations of that night have never dimmed; it remains the hope of the world, and, tonight, this night, around about this world of so many sorrows, this heritage of common humanity, in all climes, everywhere, the refrain of that angelic chorus is being sung again and again: **Peace on earth and good will to men...**

In the newsletter we receive from Bro. Ed, he mentioned using glimpses of the real Christmas as our theme. He stated, "catch some pictures under God's spiritual Christmas tree, and the following few lines convey what I would hope to have a part in decorating.

Boughs of faith
Garlands of love
Lights of hope
Ornaments of truth

We were pleasantly surprised to have Bro. Darrel Klopfenstein as a visiting minister. He happened to be in Hutchinson, Ks, found that we were close, and came and worshipped with us. We will not soon

forget his witness.

We were again blessed to have Bro. Marvin Schmidgall, minister, from Eureka, spend an evening of worship with us. His sincerity and concern for the lost were very evident.

VALPARAISO IN Camille and Wm. Feller

Our congregation is most humbled by the thought of many brethren to provide a minister once a month to help our Bro. Harry Bucher, who has been the only minister in Valpo for twelve years. With God's guidance and direction, one of our churches will plan to visit us on the second Sunday of each month. The churches willing to offer their heart-warming support are: Wolcott, Leo, LaCrosse, Francesville, Chicago, Gridley, Roanoke, Remington, Bremen, Milford, Cissna Park, Bluffton and Elgin. On Nov. 10, we were blessed with the fellowship of Ministering Bro. Vernon Schwab from Wolcott. The Gospel message heard on that day could only be proclaimed through the inspiration of the Lord.

Everyone is happy to know that Sis. Alma Morris is home and recuperating from a recent operation.

ATHENS AL Hazel Vibbert

Sis. Clara Ann Haggermaker and Bro. Buddy Lynn were married Nov. 16. They are living with her parents, as Sis. Alma isn't able to get around.

We had visitors from Lamont, Bro. and Sis. Sam Anliker.

We have had a lot of sickness in our church. Sis. Deborah Royster and her mother have been hospital patients, and Bro. Hoarce Hillard had surgery at Huntsville Hospital. Sis. Corrine Barnett has had surgery. Dorothy and Mickey Barnett has a baby girl. They have a son to welcome her home. I am going in the hospital the 5th for surgery.

Two more dear souls have turned their lives over to the Lord, Louise Hall and Ora Massey.

ALTADENA CA Linda Witzig

Our Silver Lining news correspondent has encouraged us to "express ... thoughtfulness and praise to God" in our monthly writing. In answer to that invitation I would

like to share with my brothers, sisters, and other interested readers of the Silver Lining the example of humble faith in a dear old sister I have the privilege of knowing, Sis. Mary Sirovey.

Mary will soon be 95 years old. Her daughter, Sis. Helene Shaw of Detroit, figured it has been over sixty years since her mother was converted in Saskatchewan, Canada, there joining the only Apostolic Christian Church in Canada at that time. Later when the Sirovey family moved to Detroit, Mary joined our church there. Throughout the years the Lord has granted life to her, she has been a faithful member of the church, and the greatest sorrow in her life now is the fact that she can no longer gather with us in our church today.

The Lord has blessed her with a remarkably alert mind, and her memory is very good, but while her spirit is vigorous, her physical body is feeble, and she is confined to home. When she is visited, her joy at having fellowship with those of like mind and faith is beautiful. Although her hearing is poor and it is hard for her to understand the words completely, she cries with apparent inner longing to be filled with His good word, and nods her head in agreement over the scripture she does comprehend. She likes to know how the members are, tells the visitor about other guests she has had, and always, without fail, wants her Christian greetings taken to church and extended "to all the brothers and sisters at church". Truly one is impressed with her love for her brethren, God's church, and her hunger to be filled with His word.

I often ask myself whether I appreciate enough my blessings, that I am able to attend church as often as I please, that my hearing is good, and that I can understand the ministers well, that I have the pleasure to fellowship with my brethren and talk about His gospel to my heart's content.

May our heavenly Father abide with us all, and may we all grow in love and faith.

BERN KS

Esther and Stella Moser

Again the season of goodwill
With joyous sounds has come,

To waken hope for love and peace
 In all of Christendom.
 Again the will to be like God
 Becomes an inner guide,
 And men reveal that love in life
 Is real at Christmastide.

Sis. Emma Wittmer is a new resident at the A. C. Home. Her husband, our late elder, Bro. Joseph Wittmer, was one of the founders of the Apostolic Christian Home, taking great interest in the planning and building.

On Thanksgiving morning, the Sabetha congregation joined us for services. Bros. Sam Huber and Gene Marti ministered to us. Then on Sunday afternoon, Bro. Noah Gerber, West Bend, was our guest minister.

Hospitalized for short stays: Sis. Lucy Rokey (Bro. Roy), Bro. Edw. Lehman. . . Sis. Lillian Edelman is having a longer stay . . . Bro. Melvin Rokey has a broken arm in a cast. Edwin Strahm (Bro. Alpha/Sis. Mayme) is on crutches, due to a broken bone in his foot, which is also in a cast.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Lydia Meyer in the passing of her brother (my uncle), David Bieri, age 77, Manhattan. Bro. Carl Hartman conducted the memorial service at the Popkess Chapel.

As now another year is drawing to a close, we look back and see much to be thankful for, both spiritual and material. Last summer, for days and weeks it looked as though there would be no harvest at all, due to heat and drought. Yet we gathered in a fair amount of grain this fall. We also had a nice harvest in the spiritual field; 12 souls were added to the fold (one already called home).

To all our readers we extend Season's Greetings, and the Lord's blessing in the New Year.

BRADFORD IL Rebecca Endress

The first day of December proved to be a long day in Bradford. About ten inches of snow had fallen since the day before, with gusty winds blowing all the country roads shut. Sunday services were cancelled for the first time since our church was built. There were no classes at the local schools on Monday, and snowplows worked all day to open the roads. Many

said they could hardly wait until the next Sunday arrived and we could all go to church.

Perhaps some were thinking of other recent Sundays when we received so many blessings, especially with the visits of Ministering Bros. Uriel Gehring (Burlington), Joe Kaisner and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), and Dave Kieser (Princeville). Bro. Uriel accompanied the Burlington and Oakville Bible Classes, who spent the weekend here as guests of our Bible Class.

We are happy to report that we have two souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Cathy Stoller, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Rosalie...and Carol Hancher Heinz, daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Velma Hancher.

A baby girl was born on Nov. 30 to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne Knobloch. She has been named Rachel Rose and has two brothers and one sister: Daryl, Angela, and Rolland. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Knobloch and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena Grimm of West Bend are the grandparents. Bro. Ernst Knobloch of Lester is her great-grandpa.

Bro. Leroy Streitmatter is at Mayo's, where he underwent surgery on one knee for arthritis. The other knee was to have been taken care of this week, but he developed congestion in one lung and will have to wait until that is cleared up.

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

CISSNA PARK IL Margaret Rudin / Grace Bauer

Your Happy New Year depends upon what you do for others . . . A good conscience is a continual Christmas.

Our sick: Bro. Harry Bauer was a hospital surgical patient. Sis. Mary (Mrs. Joe) Hofbauer was a hospital surgical patient. We are thankful they are both home again, and getting along well. Our Sis. Til (Mrs. Al) Hari is also enjoying being home again, after being hospitalized. Sisters Lillian (Mrs. Will) Feller and Esther (Mrs. Paul) Hodel were hospital medical patients. Sis. Mary Schupbach remains a patient at the Hoopston Nursing Home. Sis. Arvilla (Mrs. Ben)

Yergler had the misfortune of fracturing her ankle and has been in a walking cast.

(Bros.) Everett Hari and Frederick Knapp were two of our visiting ministers. Frederick visited our Sunday School in the morning.

Raymond Roth spent Thanksgiving with us.

We were privileged to partake of the Blessed Sacrament.

To break Thy bread we now have gathered;

In covenant to drink Thy wine.
 As brethren we unite together,
 That unto death we might be thine.
 This promise we with heart and will;

Give grace our promise to fulfill.

(Bros.) Joe Waibel and Alfred Bahler helped with this important work, and it was a blessed day.

After many weeks of prayerful consideration, it was felt we should have an ordained deacon to assist Bro. Ezra Feller with his many duties. This fell on Bro. Ed Alt. May Bro. Ed and Sis. Marjorie feel our support, and may God's help be felt.

Sis. Katie Steiner, age 76, passed away at a Fairbury nursing home. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Eisenmann. She was married to Albert Steiner, who survives. Services were held by Bro. Ezra Feller.

A Sunday School Christmas Program is being planned for the evening of Dec. 15.

"I wish to thank everyone for the many cards, visits, gifts and prayers while I was in the hospital, and since I am home. Everything was appreciated. Harry Bauer.

CONGERVILLE IL Mary Schrock - Arlene Banwart

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

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

We were privileged to have com-

munion served to us by Bros. Josh Broquard (Fairbury), Noah Schrock (Oakville), and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest). It was brought out how holy communion was first instituted by Christ, because He was aware of the forgetfulness of man. Knowing of the suffering before Him, He commanded us to serve communion as a reminder of His love for us.

Nov. 20, Brent William was born to Bro. and Sis. Gloria Walder. At home to welcome him are Janet, Benji, and Brad. Grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka.

We're happy to have Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley Ifft move into our community and worship with us. They have two children, Brent and Kristi. Larry is a farm manager for a local farmer.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Elizabeth Zobrist and Dave Zimmerman in the death of their sister, Sis. Amelia Koch; and her husband Bro. Edwin; also to Sis. Lula Zimmerman in the death of her father, Bro. Charles Wettstein.

Know Each Other Better

"I remember one instance where my mother was very helpful—to encourage my Sunday School interest. I recall that my mother had checked with my Sunday School teacher about my interest and attention in class. She related to me what the teacher had told her and also encouraged me to take more interest in church.

This small instance has been of real help to me in my spiritual life. Each one of us have a duty to encourage our children to become more interested in church from their youth, that they too can hold fast to the teaching and instructions of God."

This was Bro. Vernon Wettstein's reply when asked to tell of some experience in his youth or parents' advice. Vernon, our youngest minister, was born Nov. 19, 1941 to Bro. John and Sis. Caroline Kyburz Wettstein. He grew up in the Congerville area. On March 20, 1966, Vernon married Judy Wagenbach of Tremont, and Jan. 1972 they both repented. They have four girls, Rhonda, Michele, Peggy, and Rachel.

Linda Schrock, 7-year-old daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol, was hospitalized two weeks, during

which she underwent major surgery.

We are glad to have Bro. Ed Steffen, Sis. Norma Stahl (both were listed as hospitalized last month) and Lynda in church with us again.

"I wish to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and prayers during my stay in the hospital." Sis. Norma Stahl. . .

"We would like to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts, flowers and prayers for our daughter, Lynda while she was in the hospital and since returning home." Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol Schrock.

EUREKA II Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

Greetings from Eureka to all Silver Lining readers.

Our visitors for November were as follows: Bros. Simon Wagonbach, Tremont; John Steiner, Oakville; Vernon Wettstein, Congerville; Joshua Broquard, Fairbury.

Nov. 9 in the evening, our friend Becky, wife of Glen Bauman was given the opportunity to give her testimony of her experiences in her repentance. The next day (Sunday), she was baptized by our Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, and is now our sister in faith.

Nov. 11, the funeral of Isaac Grusy, age 68, was held at the church. He was killed in a farm accident, when his clothing got caught in an auger on a combine and wrapped so tightly around him that he suffocated. His wife was Susie Gallahan, who survives and is in a nursing home in El Paso . . . also five brothers, Robert, Ira, Elmer and Bro. Alf, all of Eureka, and Bill of Texas. Five sisters survive: Hilda Fehr of Eureka; Ollie Henline of Greene, Iowa; Esther Stalter of Gridley; Viola White of Tampa, Fla.; and Virginia Jarmagan of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Bro. Walter Anliker had the funeral service. Burial was in Roanoke Cemetery.

Monday Nov. 18, Bro. Charles Wettstein (my father), age 85, passed away at the Eureka Hospital, after being a patient for six days. He married Martha Schurch in January 1914; she passed away in April 1973. Surviving are three daughters: Sisters Cathryn (at home), Lulu Zimmerman of Carlock, Wilma Pulfer of Pekin, and five sons: Bro. Arthur, Harold, Bro.

Robert, all of Eureka; Leslie of Congerville, and Willis of Bloomington. . . Two brothers, Bro. John of Eureka, Bro. Ben of Gridley, and two sisters, Anna and Mary of Congerville. Funeral services were on Wed. Nov. 20 at the church, with Bro. Leroy Huber in charge. Burial was in Mackinaw Dells Cemetery near Congerville.

Those who are in the hospital or have returned home are: Sis. Inez Mogler was a patient at the arthritis clinic in Ottawa, but is now home. Her husband is August Mogler. . . Bro. Lawrence Zimmerman is a patient in St. Francis Hospital, where he has undergone surgery on one knee. Sis. Martha Grusy is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital.

A large crowd gathered in our house of worship on Thanksgiving morning for services. We were reminded again to count our many blessings each day, and then we would never be able to thank our great God for all He has done for us.

A note of thanks: We want to express our sincere thanks to all for all kind deeds and words of sympathy, cards, food and money for the memorial fund that was given in memory of our dear father, Charles Wettstein. All his children and grandchildren.

JUNCTION OH

Henrietta Manz / Betty Manz

Ministering Bros. Earl Gerber, Forrest; Bill Kuferschmid, Bloomington; Eugene Fetter, Toledo; and our elder, Bro. Loren Stoller, Latty, visited us in November.

A group of us gathered at the church for the annual fall cleaning.

We were happy to have Marion Lehman, Midwest Director of Heifer Project from Goshen, worship with us one Sunday. He was on his way to a meeting, and since he was passing through, he decided to spend the Sunday at Junction.

Many of our brethren spent Nov. 7 at the area World Relief Sewing Group meeting, hosted by the Latty church. It was a very blessed day, and we do thank the Latty folks for serving us so well. The many talks we heard certainly should make us more satisfied with the abundance we have, which is not shared by all the peoples of the world. Perhaps it could encourage us to share at Christmas-time with

the needy, rather than go overboard for some for whom we "can't think what to get because they have everything." We just can't imagine how it would be to be born on the street, live there all our life and die there, without ever having a home.

Sis. Minnie Dotterer and Bro. Henry Manz are not able to assemble with us.

Our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller shared the memorandum with us one Sunday afternoon. We were thankful for the helpful advice given us too by Bro. George Sinn.

Many from here traveled to Oakville to attend the wedding of Bro. Ken Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Gwen Steiner (Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose), on Dec. 1. We are looking forward to having Sis. Gwen in our congregation. That week-end, we had a heavy snowstorm, but we were able to have services here due to the labor of our men and boys who cleaned off the churchyard. Many places around us had much more snow than we did.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

LA CROSSE IN

Lorene Moser / Mary E. Gudeman

Nature imitates herself: a grain thrown into good ground brings forth fruit. A principle thrown into a good mind brings forth fruit. Everything is created and conducted by the same Master: the root, the branch, the fruits—the principles, the consequences.

Bros. Harold Gramm (Morris) and Elmer Bucher (Francesville) spent Sunday, Nov. 10, with us. It is refreshing to sit under the sound of God's holy word. We were reminded to live each day as if it were our last. A Thanksgiving program was given in the evening, in song and verse. We thank the men's choir from Gridley for singing the beautiful hymns, which truly were an inspiration to us. The closing message and prayer was given by Bro. Gramm, who said how thankful we are to God for our forefathers, who many years ago brought this wonderful heritage and freedom to this time.

Friend Dr. Aline Merkel had major surgery and was a hospital patient for 3 weeks. She is at home now and slowly improving. . . Hospital patient and dismissed is Bro.

Ralph Levy. He is assembling with us again. . . Bro. Sam Frank was taken to the hospital and was quite ill. He is somewhat improved. May God's contentment be with Sis. Lena Nuest, who has been absent from worshipping with us.

We are thankful to God that we could sit in quietness and listen to five dear souls tell of their experience of their repentance, Sat. evening Nov. 23: Jaclyn and Jill Nuest (Bro. Jack and Sis. Vera); Shari Bucher (Bro. Merle and Sis. Leona); Jeff Fritz (Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherrill); and Tim Bucher (Bro. Art and Sis. Esther). Elder Bros. Edwin Hohulin (Goodfield) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) assisted Elder Bros. George Yergler and Edward Frank. Sunday, Nov. 24, Elder Bro. Hohulin and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Chicago) brought us many wonderful teachings. God's love was so great for us that His Son, Jesus was willing to die and shed His blood for our sins. Following afternoon services, it was a miracle to behold, when the precious souls were baptized and received the Holy Spirit and were grafted unto the body of Christ.

Nov. 23 was the day Susan Overmeyer and Darick Stewart chose as their wedding day. They will live in Valparaiso. Paternal parents are Bro. Doyne and Dorothy (Heinold) Stewart.

LAMAR MO

Luetta Braker - Marie Marti

Christmas is the warmth of home, the handclasp of a friend, the kiss of a loved one. It is the vision of hope, an awareness of peace, and a feeling of love. . . The true rejoicing, the going forward to promises in which you believe are in the heart and pulse and soul. May they remain there through every day of the new year.

May the inspiration of the warm fellowship experienced the last week-end in November linger long in our hearts. Loved ones from Congerville, Goodfield, and the Kansas churches met with us for an evening of singing and fellowship and a day of worshipping together.

Sis. Betty Baker and Myrt Baker have gone to Oakville for several weeks. Betty has submitted to surgery and is recovering satisfactorily. We are grateful to our God for such healing powers.

The sunny fall days are beautiful, especially since the farmers are able to again work in the fields, after many weeks of anxious waiting, due to wet weather.

MORRIS MN
Esther Schaefer
Corrine Schmidgall

To God be the glory; great things He has done.

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son.

Who yielded His life, an atonement for sin,

And opened the life-gate, that all may go in.

Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Charles Hemmer (Peoria) spent the week-end of Dec. 1 with us.

Jim and Lois (Nohl) Willaert have returned home from Spain, where they have been stationed. Jim has received his discharge from the army.

Our friends who announced their engagements in November are: Kenneth Nohl (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sophie) and Jacki Durkee. . . Gary Brown (Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barbara) and Marlene Gielbrauson. . . Rollyn Zeltwanger (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Edna) and Jodi Weiss.

Sis. Violet Wulf is at home again, after a stay in the hospital with a back injury.

We have three new babies to report. . . A little girl, Jodi Eileen was born to David and Eileen Nohl on Nov. 9. She has three sisters to help care for her. Bro. Henry and Sis. Anna Nohl are the grandparents. . . Jeremy Stephen arrived on Nov. 27, to make his home with Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois Schmidgall. This is their first child, and Bro. Alpha and Sis. Pearl Moser and Sis. Mabel Schmidgall are first-time grandparents. . . Bro. Wallace and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger are the parents of Amy Diane, born on Nov. 30. Little Amy has two sisters and four brothers. Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger are the grandparents.

NEW MARTINSVILLE WV
Minnie Weltz / Della Witschey

This letter which was written on Dec. 3, gives us a real winter wonderland; much snow has fallen, quite cold and more snow predicted.

The funeral of Mrs. Grace Emch Calvert was on Nov. 5.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Anliker of Lamont visited here on the week-end of Nov. 10, attended services at the Sardis Church on the 10th and the evening service on the 11th. They were enjoying a southern honeymoon, also the West Virginia hills.

Miss Jessie Hassig of Akron spent the Thanksgiving holiday here with the Hassig families. Miss Margaret Witschey visited with her brother, Ralph and family in Parkersburg, W. Va., the first week of December.

Mr. and Mrs. Elza Ritz, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade were hosts over the Thanksgiving week-end to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, from points in Ohio and West Virginia.

Mrs. Elizabeth Riggensbach Isinghood will have as her guests to help celebrate her 92nd birthday on Dec. 24 all the immediate members of her family, for her traditional birthday dinner, most of which she will prepare herself.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berger attended services at the Sardis church on Nov. 10.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association will be held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Durig on Jan. 6.

As we approach this Christmas season, may we offer this greeting to all: A Very Merry Christmas, And with it comes a prayer, That through the year Our Father Will keep you in His care. May every day be brightened, By blessings that He sends, By peace that's true and lasting, By joy that never ends.

PORTLAND OR Judy Cremer

The streets were dark as two tired figures shuffled through the City of David. There is no room here for you was always the reply of each innkeeper they asked. One, however, told the couple that if they were willing, they could stay in his stable with the animals. The woman, being weary with labor and near giving birth, needed a place to lay, so they accepted. That night the Saviour of the world was born to a virgin, chosen of God. A short lifetime later that same Jesus, after teaching many God's plan of redemption to the sinful and lost, was slain. Christmas, then, cannot stop at the wooden manger, but includes the wooden cross and the

empty tomb. Christmas is the completed work.

Jesus lives.

Even winter in its bleakness is a colorful season. The trees are still ablaze with a burst of fiery colors. Pink cheeks glow on cheery faces. This glow is so beautiful on the children. I think of our daughter, Bethany, bundled up, taking some of her first steps outside in the afternoon sun, her face shining with joy and expectancy.

We've enjoyed two singing fellowships with the Silverton brethren, one at Bro. Clarence Dietrichs' home and one at Bro. Bob Millers'.

Elder Bro. Roy Farney, Phoenix, was with us for an evening service, following a pot-luck supper at the church with the Silverton congregation.

PURDUE

Elaine Anliker / Lorene Pflederer

As our hosts for the month of November, we were thankful to have (Bros.) Gene Lehman (Wolcott) and Marvin Stieglitz (Leo) bring the word unto us.

On Nov. 20, Elder Brethren Wendell Gudeman, Ed Frank and Alfred Bahler, along with ministering Bro. Ed Bahler, shared parts of the memorandum with those members in the Lafayette area.

Our best wishes and God's blessings go to Bro. Gary Ifft (Forrest) and Sis. Peg Rager (Latty), whose engagement has been announced, and also to Sis. Lynell Bahler (Remington) and Bro. Larry Blume (Wolcott), who will soon begin their married life together.

ROCKVILLE CT

Carlton J. Lanz

There were reasons for rejoicing here at the church, when three baptisms took place, following the interesting testimonies given by our dear friends. William and Fredica (Zahner) Whitman and Billy Rocher. The great love of God and His compassion was certainly evident in the conversions in these converts, though it may have been extended over a span of several years of perseverance. Their goal was rewarding. Bro. Rudolph Graf, elder at Akron, and our elder, Bro. John Bahler conducted the interviews, with the church in accordance with the experience they had made. There was rejoicing as these young

people went on their new way of life.

Death came suddenly to Bro. Alfred Luginbuhl, 78, at the Rockville General Hospital, where he had been rushed, when stricken at his home. Coming to this country, as a boy from Switzerland, where he was born, he and his wife, Sis. Lydia Bahler Luginbuhl operated the Swiss Market for some 30 years. Survivors besides his wife are four brothers: Bros. Christian, John, Ernest and Herman, and four sisters: Sis's. Rose, Ida, Emma and Louise Ballasy. Alfred, as we knew him, was a cheerful and outgoing person and had many friends. He was noted for his high tenor he could reach in some of the hymns he sang. Burial was in Ellington Center Cemetery in the family plot.

Births: Nov. 10, a son, Quenton Scott, to Sis. Erva and Bro. Scott Wheeler. He is their first child. Grandparents are Sis. Vi and Bro. Ervin Luginbuhl and Mrs. Elois Wheeler . . . A son on Nov. 17, Paul Arnold, to Sis. Vergene and Bro. Peter Hany. This is their second son and child. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Leon Schneider and Sis. Hilda Hany.

He who in glory there doth reign,
Did dwell on earth as humble man;
That through His noble sacrifice
We find the path to paradise,
Hallelujah!

Our sincere seasons greetings to all.

SABETHA KS

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle are the parents of their second daughter, born Nov. 4. She has been named Jeanne Beth.

Sis. Karen Wyss of Morton and Bro. Randy Kellenberger of Sabetha have had their engagement announced. Randy is currently employed in Bay City.

Bro. Noah Gerber of West Bend was here to proclaim the word this past Sunday.

We are to assemble this Saturday evening to hear the testimony of our friend, Beth Herold. She is a daughter of Sis. Vila and Bro. Velmer Meyer. Immediately following the proving, we are to hear the results of the conference.

We wish everyone a Blessed and Joyous Holiday Season.

SHIODA JAPAN Willis R. Ehle

There was a group of Japanese young people who had heard the story of the ten virgins many times, as have you and I. It seems strange to us, but these young people thought the 10 virgins were waiting for 10 different bridegrooms, rather than just one bridegroom, who represents the Son of God. Let us all be ready for the Bridegroom's arrival. "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."

Bro. Toru and Sis. Junko (Inoue) Saegusa have a new baby boy, Kei, born on Nov. 19, a younger brother to So (a long o), who is now 22 months of age.

To live a life of real, genuine and uncompromising holiness is a very worthwhile challenge and goal, which is within the reach of all of us through the grace of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

Sis. Kathie Huber has written the following:

Warm and loving greetings to each one of you, my precious brothers, sisters and friends. May the Prince of Peace be present in every heart, granting us wisdom and sufficient grace for each day we live in the year ahead.

How I would love to be able to speak with each individual that sent birthday cards, letters or whispered my name in prayer, to extend my sincere appreciation for your love. This seemed to be the best way to contact you, and I trust you will accept it as my sincere Thank-you. The love and fellowship we share in our church is a priceless treasure. These blessings that we enjoy, almost routinely, are incomprehensible to the majority.

I'm so very happy and contented here in Japan, realizing that God has come ahead, prepared my path, and daily I know that His presence is near. We're living in a gorgeous mountain valley, where I teach kindergarten, in English, to Japanese children. It's been fascinating and a joy, getting acquainted with the people and trying to understand their culture. This also requires an additional responsibility in prayer, that God will reveal Himself and extend mercy to these dear ones,

that they, too, may enjoy full salvation and this abundant life.

Assured that we have your prayerful support, I humbly thank you and wish you a very blessed Christmas season, as we rejoice in God's goodness. Kathie Huber.

TREMONT IL

Lydia Rassi - Mary Jane Leuthold

How beautiful, white and clean our new covering of snow is, as we are about to begin a new year. May it be so with each of us, as we enter 1975, that we keep our hearts and souls clean and white.

Yes, God is our Creator, our beginning and our end. . . . Creator of beauty even in the cold of winter that is now upon us. We praise Him for His many precious gifts to each of us.

The Lord brought many friends and relatives together Nov. 24. at Gridley. and thru His servant. Bro. Edwin Ringger, united Sis. Kathy Gramm and Bro. Curt Rassi in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord's blessings abide in their newly-established home at Champaign. Curt is attending U. of I. there.

We thank (Bros.) Vernon Wettstein and Steve Rinkenberger for their visit to our church and for their labor of love.

Our prayers are with our sick, Sis. Katie Winzeler, who is hospitalized, and Elmer Brunner, who is undergoing heart surgery.

We sympathize with Bro. Leslie and Sis. Wilma Pulfer and their family on the passing of her father, Bro. Charles Wettstein of Eureka.

Sis. Lena Aberle wants to thank everyone that remembered her with cards, gifts, flowers and prayers on her birthday. All was very much appreciated.

WEST BEND IA

Mrs. Melvin Fehr
Mrs. Raymond Anliker

The Lord has blessed Bro. Martin and Sis. Doris Zauggs' home with a baby boy, Elmer Oscar, born Nov. 27. David and RoseMary are waiting his arrival at home. . . . Don has brought sunshine into the home of his foster parents, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evie Bruellman.

Our hospital patients, who have assembled with us again, are Sis. Eileen Fisher and Bro. Arnold Ludwig, but Raymond Wilson still remains in the hospital.

We know that God has a Divine plan, as He has called our friend Cloyce Gress, son of Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie, from sin and darkness unto the marvelous LIGHT. May His grace be sufficient for all of us.

At our annual meeting, the duty of teaching our children was placed upon Bro. Verner Wirtz and Sis. Betty (Albert) Banwart. May God grant them grace to fulfill their important works.

ZAPATA TX

Esther Wagler / Dorothy Stoller

Blest are the humble souls
That see their emptiness and
poverty;
Treasures of grace to them are
given,
And crown of joy laid up in heaven.

We are enjoying our first of winter visitors, and look forward to the arrival of those who stay with us during the winter months.

We had with us two visiting ministers, (Bros.) Noah Herman from Tucson and Loren Strahm from Gridley, Kansas. We were blessed with an abundance of fellowship and Christian love.

BREMEN IN

Pauline Laidig

We love to sing and think about the Babe of Bethlehem, and rejoice in knowing that He came to be the Saviour of all of those who would come to God by Him. . . . But I wonder if we realize how important and wonderful it was that He not only came as a baby, but grew up among mankind so that He might better understand the problems, trials, temptations and heartaches that were experienced by them. Christmas somehow takes on a deeper meaning when we look beyond the Babe in the Manger, and see how God planned all things in the best way for our good.

Not now, but in the coming years, It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

Many hearts were saddened when one of our dear teenagers, Brenda Sauder, was plucked from our midst in the bloom of her youth, after

just a two-day serious illness. We extend our deepest sympathy to her parents, Bro. Gene and Sis. Kate, and her brother, Mark, in their great sorrow and loss. She will really be missed in the family circles of her grandparents, Bro. Oscar and Sis. Hulda Graff of Milford, and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Catherine Sauder of Mansfield. Funeral services will be held on Sunday, Dec. 8, in the Bremen church, with the burial at Milford.

Bro. Joe Bauman has gained in health and strength sufficiently that he and Sis. Bernice were able to go to Florida to spend some time. We hope the warm climate will aid in his recovery.

We wish you many blessings in the New Year.

BURLINGTON IA

Edna Pohl - Elaine Eisenmann

We were grateful to have Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend, minister to us.

On Nov. 2 & 3, our Bible Class students were invited to be with the West Bend and Oakville Bible Classes at Oakville, and were guests, along with the Oakville group, at Bradford on Nov. 9 & 10. We appreciate these opportunities for them to meet those in other Sunday Schools.

On Nov. 16 our members were privileged to be included with the Oakville members to hear the report of the conference. Elder Bros. Sam Anliker, Rudy Graf, Gene Bertschi, and Ben Maibach read and explained it to us and we had a very blessed evening in Oakville.

We again were invited to assemble with the Oakville congregation on Nov. 17, to take part in voting for a new elder to lead our two churches upon Bro. Noah Schrock's retirement. Bro. Ed Lanz was elected. We sincerely give him our prayerful support. We had a very blessed week-end.

On Dec. 1, several of us witnessed the marriage of Bro. Allen Massner of Burlington and Sis. Rosie Hoerr of Taylor. We welcome Sis. Rosie to Burlington.

Service Address: Mr. and Mrs. Virgil J. Eisenmann, 113 No. Nimitz Highway, APO San Francisco 96553.

The amount suggested for the Silver Lining, \$2.00 a year, regular addresses.

FORREST IL

**Juanita Schneider
Kathryn Steidinger**

If I had been a shepherd
In far-off Bethlehem,
Would I have seen that glorious
light,
Brighter than diadem?
If I had been the keeper
Of Bethlehem's crowded inn,
Would I have known my manger
housed
The One Who saves from sin?
Or had I been a wise man,
Across the desert far,
Would I have brought my richest
gifts
And followed that bright star?
No sheep have I, no manger bed,
No costly gift, nor rare,
But when He knocks at my heart's
door,
I'll bid Him welcome there.

Our aged Sis. Mary (Haab) Ebach passed away at the age of 89. By her life, we can see how the Lord provides for His children. Mary lost her husband when married less than a year. Later, she was blessed with a son (Bro. Jake), with whom she made her home until he was suddenly taken from life a few years ago. She spent her last years at Fairview Haven, and although her body and mind were weak, we like to remember her as a loving, kind and cheerful sister in the Lord, as she was before her health failed. Surviving are her daughter-in-law, Sis. Clara Bach.

Sometimes our old folks aren't able to assemble with us, & we miss their presence in our midst. Bro. Louis Zimmerman has been shut in for quite sometime. Sis. Lizzie Honegger's health and strength is failing, and she is often missing. She is now residing at Fairview Haven.

Our friends, Manny Rieger, Tom Hamilton, Andy Metz and Dan Bradley have been in the hospital . . . also Bro. Alfred Kupferschmid, Sis. Marian Rieger and Mathilda Rieger.

Warren and Sis. Betty Ifft were blessed with a baby girl, Kindra Jane. Tammy, Devera, Kevin, Kurt and Kyra welcome her into their family circle. Bro. Bill and Sis. Nettie Kupferschmid are grandparents . . . Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz had a double blessing with the arrival of twins, a girl, Dana Louise and a boy, Damon Lee. Mike, Troy,

Lori, Kristi, and Shelli are their other children.

The engagement of our Bro. Gary Ifft has been announced to Sis. Peggy Rager of the Latty congregation. Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft and Bro. and Sis. William Rager are their parents.

Vicki Huette (Bro. Art and Sis. Velda) was married to John Bellis of Odell on Nov. 30.

We were richly blessed with several visiting ministers. Those who served us so faithfully were Bros. Walt Hermann, Noah Gerber, Art Bahler, LeRoy Hartman, Jim Hoerr, Joe Aberle, Richard Aberle and Silas Leuthold. On Thanksgiving Day, we were privileged to have Bros. Roy Wernli, Vernon Schwab and Bill Gudeman. Our Sunday School children are busy preparing for the Christmas program.

He who loves is blessed indeed;
He who sows this tender seed
That grows, matures, and then be-
hold. . .
Returns to him a thousandfold.

DETROIT MI

Bonnie Popp

Let us be thankful for food, but also for hunger, because it should help us to remember there are those that are still hungry; thankful for homes, but thankful we can understand what it means to be homeless; thankful for health, but thankful also for our illnesses, if they make us understand the suffering of others; joy and sorrow, if we are more sympathetic. Let us be thankful for all the experiences that teach us to be kind one to another.

We in Detroit have much to be thankful for. . . That Bro. Joe Kaiser could visit with us and minister over the Thanksgiving week-end. . . That Sis. Marie Reardon is home from a hospital stay. . . That Sis. Ruth Knochel is able to worship with us, and gaining in her recovery since the automobile accident she was in. . . That though the Weiss family were transferred suddenly back to Illinois, we were able to have them with us for a short while.

Sis. Lucille Maibach's plans are to leave for Florida Dec. 5.

Though time is short in preparing our hearts and home for the

Christmas season, we remind ourselves that we should Keep the Christmas Spirit always, So:

Are you willing

to stoop down and consider the needs of little children
to remember the weakness and loneliness of people growing old;
to stop asking how much your friends love you, and to ask yourself whether you love them enough;
to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear on their hearts;
to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings, with the gate open?
... Then you are ready to keep Christmas!

And at this season . . . Dwell not on
What the world has come to,
but on Who has come to the world!

GOODFIELD IL Elna Grimm

Bro. and Sis. Eli and Loida Knapp celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 17, with a reception and dinner at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. Their hearts were warmed by the presence of the many friends and loved ones who came to wish them well.

Bro. and Sis. Steve and Mary Ellen Wiegand, R.R. Deer Creek, are the parents of a baby girl, Beth Ann, who was born on Nov. 25. Beth Ann has three older brothers to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Simon and Mary Ellen Weigand, R.R. Deer Creek, and Sis. Florence (Bill) Bucher, Roanoke.

A baby boy, Kevin John, was born to Bro. and Sis. Sam and Pat Plattner, W. Sunny Lane, Eureka, on Nov. 27. Kevin is their third child, and first son. Grandparents are . . . Bro. and Sis. Harold and Gerry Plattner, Goodfield, and Bro. and Sis. Ben and Audrey Ehnle, Bradford.

Bros. Marvin Schmidgall, Eureka, and Henry Grimm, Morton were our visiting ministers. Bro. Ed Ringger, Gridley, was here to assist Bro. Ed Hohulin with the reading of the memorandum on Wed. evening, Dec. 4.

The amount suggested for the Silver Lining, \$2.00 a year, regular addresses.

GRIDLEY IL

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

We rejoice with the angels in heaven, that our friend, Valerie Brockwell, has sought the Lord in repentance and has received His wonderful peace that passeth understanding.

Nov. 24 was a joyful occasion, in which we witnessed the marriage of our sister, Kathy Gramm, to Bro. Curt Rassi of Tremont. Ministering Bros. Harold Gramm from Morris, Ed Alt from Cissna Park, and Al Aberle from Tremont were here for the wedding.

A warm welcome is extended to Bro. Silas and Sis. Marie Hohulin, who have moved to Gridley from Forrest.

Al Rich was in the hospital to undergo eye surgery.

It was refreshing to hear the memorandum of the conference read. Before these deliberations were brought forth, Bro. Ed Hohulin from Goodfield, who assisted Bro. Edwin Ringger, briefly explained how the annual elder conference serves to bring about unity and singleness of mind among God's people. He related, too, that the apostles and elders of the early church gathered together in a similar manner, to settle troubling or questionable issues of that time.

How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Libby Meyer

The blessed story of the Christ,
The Babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise
and stirs the hearts of men. . .
The fulness of God's love divine
surrounds the Christ so mild.
Alas, how many only know
the Saviour as a child. . .

This song tells the whole meaning of Christmas so very well. How can we be content only knowing the babe, when the Saviour can multiply our blessings far beyond the joys in this Christmas season.

We thank Bros. Eugene Marti and Sam Huber for being with us this month.

MILFORD IN

Sue Schieler / Sandee Price

This month our congregation was so richly blessed by the visit of the

Bluffton choir. As they raised the Lord with heart and voice, we caught a glimpse of Heaven's atmosphere.

Sis. Georgia Rassi (Elmer) was admitted to the hospital again. How true it is that when one member of a body suffers, they all suffer . . . but we see how suffering and pain purifies us so beautifully in the spirit. Likewise, too much light-heartedness can cause us to grow careless and lukewarm.

As we finish wrapping the last gift, prepare our homes and meals, let us not forget to prepare our hearts also, for Christmas . . . so that in lighting the candles we would light one in our heart too, igniting every heart we meet with the force of love.

LAMONT KS Betty Wernli

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;
Call aloud and spare them not!
Jesus wants a faithful witness;
Teachers not confessing Jesus
Have stern judgment as their lot.
Truly stones could not help crying
If the watchmen's call would cease!

And so does the Lord yet provide faithful brethren to proclaim His precious word. Our visiting ministers were Bros. George Lambert and Al Langhofer of Wichita, for separate Sundays.

Bro. Pete Fankhauser was in our midst this past Sunday and will soon depart for Phoenix to spend the winter . . . is always a joy to have him with us.

Bro. Max and Kathy Burnham are the parents of Kristan Jo, born Nov. 29. Jason and Jeffery are so happy to have a little sister.

MINNEAPOLIS MN Kathryn Olson

A heavenly census book His name alone
Bears on the title-page; for 'tis His own,
That book of life; and there, writ clear and plain
Are names of those born in that king's domain;
All who alive forevermore shall be
Are there enrolled for all eternity.
Since he was numbered once with sinful men,
We may be numbered as God's own again.

Tho Caesar's book has long since
passed away
The Lamb's blest Book of Life shall
stand for aye.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson
wish to thank everyone for the
cards and gifts their son, Timothy
received while his broken leg was
mending.

Nov. 24, the Winthrop Bible
Class joined our group for fellow-
ship.

A bundle of joy came to the home
of Douglas and Roberta Olson. Now
their son Dougie has a new play-
mate, Jolaine Kay.

PULASKI IA

Ernestine Wuthrich
Janice Rinckenberger

Bro. Vernon Lehman was here
Nov. 17, giving all many spiritual
thoughts.

Lynn Townsend was hospitalized
a few days.

Announcement was made of the
engagement of Sis. Vera Schaer,
and Bro. Tom Lindeen of Oakville.

Oh, Spirit of Christmas
Come down from above
And breathe on us mortals
Your essence of love.

Impart for the moment
Your glad Christmas cheer
And oh, Spirit of Christmas,
Stay with us all year!

We wish all a blessed and joyous
Christmas and New Year.

RITTMAN OH Florence Hartzler

I know not why God's wondrous
grace to me He hath made known,
nor why unworthy—Christ in love
redeemed me for His own. . . As we
went around to meet our newlyborn
sisters and brothers, this beautiful
song was sung. . . I know not how
this saving faith to me He did im-
part, nor how believing in His word,
wrought peace within my heart. . .
Oh what blessed hours were spent
on Saturday afternoon and evening
on the 24th of Nov., when seven
young friends gave their testi-
mony; and then again on Sunday,
we could see the love of God in their
faces, as they were baptized into
the fold of Jesus the Shepherd. We
rejoice with Sisters Pat Klotzle,
Nancy Hartzler, Sheila Steiner,
Brenda Winkler, Gale Snyder, and

with Bros. Craig Emch and John
Gerber. . . **But I know whom I have
believed, and am persuaded that He
is able to keep that which I've com-
mitted unto Him against that
day. . .**

We want to thank (Bros.) Robert
Myers and Walter Rehlau for bring-
ing us the word of God in such rich
measure, as they also came to re-
joice with us.

We are very glad and thankful
to see Bernie Hilty is able to attend
church, following his hospital stay.
Bernie is patiently waiting to be
taken into the fold. The words of
this song goes through our minds:
**Yet when bow'd down beneath the
load by heav'n allow'd, thine earth-
ly lot; Look up! thou'lt reach that
blest abode; Wait, meekly wait,
and wurmur not.**

We also thank the Lord for His
protecting hand, as Sis. Estella
Winkler escaped serious injury in
an auto accident. Sis. Catharine
Bauman has been dismissed from
the hospital, and was taken to
Brenn-Field Nursing Home in Orr-
ville.

The Bro. Alvin Laukhuf family
are happy to have Jim home again.
He came home two weeks early, and
is now discharged from the army.
We are thankful to God for his
protection in bringing our loved
ones home again, who have been
gone for a time. It's good to see
you home, Jim.

Our sympathy is extended to
John and Sis. Margaret Calame and
family, at the passing away of
John's mother, Lucille Calame. She
had lived in the little house next to
John's, and was taken good care of
by Sis. Margaret and granddaugh-
ter, Sis. Paulette. Services were
held at Gillman's in Rittman, with
Bro. Joe Ramsier officiating.

We in this part of Ohio have
again felt the almighty hand of
God, as a severe snowstorm put 22
inches of snow on the ground, al-
most paralyzing our community.
Man is nothing compared to the
greatness of God, and even though
we had some discomfort for a time,
it all passed, and we must realize
that this is God's will, so therefore
we must endure with patience.
Many of our loved ones were on the
highways, returning from the
Thanksgiving holiday, and we
thank God they were protected and
arrived home safely.

The Christmas season is here.

Carols can be heard, candles are
lighted, programs are being
planned, candy and cookies are be-
ing made, folks are busy doing
their last-minute shopping. . . What
is Christmas? It is the Christ-child
born on this day, heralded by the
angels to the Shepherds that a babe
was in a manger, to be found in
Bethlehem. Christmas is The Birth-
day of a King:

In a little village of Bethlehem
there lay a child one day,
And the sky was bright with a holy
light, O'er the place where Jesus
lay,
'Twas a humble birth-place, but oh!
how much God gave to us that
day,
From the manger bed, what a path
has led, what a perfect holy
way. . .

AMES IA Georgia Griffith

We were blessed with the
strengthening word of the Lord, as
we gathered together under the
guidance of Bro. Harvey Heiniger
of Oakville at our November meet-
ing. What a wonderful blessing to
gather with those of like mind and
faith.

As the winter quarter has begun,
we are glad to welcome Ken Wuth-
rich of Pulaski to our group. We
are thankful for his presence at our
meetings.

Amid the hustle and bustle of the
holiday season, it is often too easy
to forget the reason of celebrating
Christmas—the birth of our Lord.
I discovered this poem and would
like to share its message.

I had the nicest Christmas list,
The longest one in town,
Till Daddy looked at it and said,
You'll have to cut it down.

I knew what he had said was true
Beyond the faintest doubt,
But was amazed to hear him say,
You've left your best Friend out.

And so I scanned my list again
And said, **Oh that's not true!**
But Daddy said, **His name's not
there,
That Friend who died for you.**

And then I clearly understood,
Twas Jesus that he meant;
For Him who should come first of
all
I hadn't planned a cent!

I'd made a Christmas birthday list,
And left the Saviour out!
But oh it didn't take me long
To change the list about.

And thou I've had to drop some
names
Of folks I like a lot,
My Lord must have the most—
because
His Name Is At The Top!

A tenement district in New York City . . . a boy in ragged clothes . . . a small piece of broken mirror in his hand. Holding it high in the air, he moved it slowly back and forth, watching the narrow slit of a window above him as he did so. "What are you doing?" a man suddenly demanded, as he shook the youngster roughly by the shoulder. "Like most boys in this neighborhood, you're probably up to some mischief, aren't you?" The boy looked up into the stern face of his accuser and said, "See that window . . . I have a little brother who has a room on that floor. He's a cripple. The only sunlight he ever sees is what I shine up to him with my mirror!" The man was ashawed that he had spoken so gruffly, realizing that the lad was doing a kind deed, in reflecting the sun's rays to his brother . . .

We, too, have chances for kind deeds . . . let us, as the sunshine, spread love . . .

WINTHROP MN

Carol Messner / Marcelle Dapper

"And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation. . ." Our dear elder brethren, Leo Moser and Paul Fehr were here to read the memorandum. We were reminded to be obedient or we will fall short of our goal as the churches in Revelation who did not listen. Our weapons against the world are Jesus Christ, prayer, Bible reading, and church attendance.

Jesus Christ said, **will I find faith when I return?** Often we have heard messages on faith, and each time in a different way. Our brothers spoke that no one is without faith of some kind, but not everyone has the same measure of faith. True faith means that our lives should be patterned after God.

"Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the

sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Sunday Nov. 22, the Bible classes spent the day with Minneapolis.

Hospitalized were Sis. Jerry Messner (Harold). Sis. Julia Messner (James), and little Sarah Messner, daughter of Duane and Mona.

Change of address: Srt. R. Messner 476662524, 432 FMS SF, Box 152, APO San Francisco 96237.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." The words, a child is born is the side of Christmas that touches humanity. He was real flesh and blood. The statement, "a son is given" reveals the deity of Christ. He could heal, He could save, He could touch the Father in behalf of men. This prophecy that a Son was to be given points to Calvary. The giving of God's Son was climaxed on the cross. Jesus came to die so that sinners might live. God gave His best when He gave His Son, for He gave Himself.

Unless we see the CROSS overshadowing the CRADLE, we have missed the real meaning of Christ's birth.

SARDIS OH

Karen Indermuhle

Christmas is love — Jesus is love. Jesus lives in us, so we should reflect that heavenly love. . . Love that knows no bounds; has no end; cannot be contained by **earthly fences**, such as prejudice, hate, envy, or strife. Our love should reach out and touch all we see, this Christmas love that can warm even the coldest heart any day of the year.

In all the hurry this year of buying gifts, wrapping presents, putting up the season's decorations, our family can more easily grasp and appreciate the Father's love.

Last Christmas our family was separated because of illness. It was only when our mother's life was spared that we knew what Jesus' love usually meant for us.

We can give this Christmas love to those who are without these blessings. We can help to show them how Jesus can fill that empty space in their lives.

The best gift we can ever re-

ceive is Jesus, and God expects us to share this Christmas gift of love with others in the New Year ahead.

Our small congregation enjoys the precious little ones, as we hear them sing about the Lord at Christmas-time. We fellowship here and truly feel the warm love that blossoms and grows during this special season of love. May this Love keep us warm and radiant in the God-given days ahead.

FT LAUDERDALE FL

Kathy Sutter - Henry Schwartz

We are thankful for the untold blessings from the visits of Bros. David Bertsch from Leo, Joe Schrock from Congerville, Ray Luginbuhl, Ernest Luginbuhl and Al Schneider from Rockville.

Charles Akel is still recovering from his surgery. He has not been able to assemble with us for quite a number of Sundays. We are happy that Dorothy Schaefer made a swift recovery from surgery and is able to continue with her studies at home and at work.

We welcome Sis. Tillie Gerst from Chicago for the winter; if God wills, Tillie will spend her winters with us regularly. We have already found her willing to lend a hand and to carry more than her share of the load. We hope her stay will be pleasant and full of rich blessings.

The Sunday School students completed their annual Thanksgiving project. Each year, the food is gathered for the migrant farm laborers near Pompane, Florida. At Christmas-time our families will prepare bags of goodies for the children at the migrant camp. We feel our Sunday School students gain from these projects, as they see the deep need there.

I overheard my four-year-old earnestly lecturing her brother, "Jesus doesn't make mistakes; He never makes mistakes. My Sunday School teacher said that." It can be delightful to watch these little minds struggling, but it is a grave responsibility also. A visitor told me her little ones beg her to sit down with them often, and she finds that they enjoy singing hymns with her. What a ministry through song she is implanting in these hearts. They are so willing and ready to learn all that is put before them. . . And we have endless opportunities to give them good

instructions, especially during this Christmas season, when children are always awed by the decorations and merrymaking. We should take care that the true spirit and meaning of Christmas is not lost in our homes, as it is in the world around us.

BAY CITY MI Carolyn Schamback

When pure and upright hearts, by flames of love ignited . . . on Thanksgiving eve, Bro. Randy Kellenberger's engagement was announced to Sis. Karen Wyss of Morton. Their parents are Sis. Marie C. Kellenberger of Sabetha and Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydia Ann Wyss of Morton. Randy moved here for employment last spring; they will be married when Karen finishes her nurse's training in June. We wish them much grace and happiness and look forward to welcoming Sis. Karen!

Hospitalized for surgery were Sis. Ida Wieland (Bro. Sam) and Mark Ramseyer, son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Dorte Ramseyer. Both are doing well.

CHICAGO IL Kathy Schlatter

We were blessed to receive Communion in Chicago Friday, Nov. 22. (Bros.) Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, and Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, were here to help us commemorate this important occasion.

With Thanksgiving behind us and Christmas to come, we who are so blessed . . . should be even more thankful—and sharing. Under the guidance of Sis. Nancy Pfeifer, many of our sisters worked together to make gifts for the Morton Home for the Handicapped. Quite a few also baked and made articles at home, contributing even more individually. After seeing the Bazaar and Bake Sale Dec. 6, not only are we anxious to know how much money will be available to the Home, but it also would be interesting to know how many total people-hours were spent in doing craft work, baking, sewing, knitting, quilting, etc., and in managing the day itself. Each year the Bazaar brings so many together in Christian fellowship, as well as providing material help to the Home. This year, with a new arrangement for separating the Sale from the din-

ing and reception room area, the luncheon was especially well-organized. The "leisurely" line moved so quickly; the "hurry-up" line, designed for people with little time or on lunch hours, must have involved no waiting whatsoever.

A young boy asked his mother for some canned goods to take to school for a charity project. After looking over her shelves, his mother decided, "Let's give these cans of mustard sardines that no one liked." (Sound familiar?) Wide-eyed, her son exclaimed, "But, Mommy, then the poor people would be helping us!"

Perhaps it would be wise to remember not only Christ's injunction about "giving to the least of these," but also how He expects us to value our talents and resources, making 'profit' for Him. One of our most precious resources is time. Two of our Chicago sisters are an inspiration to me in their use of time. Sis. Clara Scharlach has spent over 6 years and over 1000 hours doing volunteer work at Cook County Hospital on her days off. With her particular skill in needlework, she has devised small craft kits for patients to work on, so that while recuperating, they might accomplish a project, plus divert their thoughts from pain and illness. Last year alone, Sis. Clara made up over 900 kits from yarn and material remnants, old hose, and materials she purchased. Sis. Marie Kulyan joined Sis. Clara some years ago in volunteer work at Cook County, and has added her talents in sewing for over 4 years to aid patients in their hospital stay. May the Lord give each of us such vision in using the talents and resources He has vested in us, that His name may be honored and glorified.

FORT SCOTT KS Ida Sinn

The earth will be dormant for a season. Each season has its purpose, So do our holidays. We truly have good reasons for gratitude to God.

Soon we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Christmas means more than just the tinsel and glitter. Sometimes I wonder if we fully appreciate what God has done for us, by sending His son down upon the earth to suffer sin in our stead.

We have brothers and sisters in

our congregation who have lived a long life of faith and still assemble with us every Sunday. Bros. Emil and Joe Banwart are among the first to arrive at church. Both have passed their allotted time of three-score and ten years. Sis. Anna Pfister is recovering nicely from the broken hip which she suffered some time ago.

May God be with us in the New Year, and may we live to be worthy of His Blessings.

PEORIA IL Mrs. R. J. Miller

We have so much to be thankful for! Five dear friends have been announced for baptism! They are Ruth Meister, daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda; Larry Herman, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy; Linda Haefli, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen; Faye Meyer; and Ruth Hofstetter, sister of Sis. Louise Mueller and Lydia Roecker.

We are also thankful for the five ministers who visited our church and for the word of God they spoke. They were Carl Kipfer of Bluffton on Nov. 10, Ed Kloter of Fairbury on Nov. 16, Walter Anliker of Eureka on Nov. 20, Raymond Roth of Kiowa on Nov. 24, Dave Kieser of Princeville on Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving Day), and Gene Bertschi of Roanoke Dec. 4. On that evening the conclusions of the conference were read.

We were thankful for hospitals and good doctors when they are needed. We are sorry that the following required hospitalization: (Sisters) Ida Schmidgall, Madge O'Moran, Amy Holden, Erma See, and Jake Simon. Eric Hodel, son of Bro. Irv and Sis. Sharon, broke his leg.

We thank God for the infants born to Christian parents. Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner have a new baby boy, born Nov. 5, named Richard Alan (Ricky). He had to have heart surgery hours after his birth, but came through it wonderfully and is doing fine. Another operation, doctors say, will have to be performed in 9-12 months. The Kaisners' other sons are Brian, 11; Dale, 8; and Steve, 6.

David and Sis. Christine Zeller have a new baby boy, just born at this writing. Details next month!

Bro. Paul D. Meister and Sis. Rhonda Haefli were united in holy

matrimony Sunday, Nov. 10. Bro. Roy Sauder conducted the wedding ceremony. The bride's sisters, Sis. Barb (Mrs. Dale) Geyer and Dori, were matron-of-honor and maid-of-honor. Other bridesmaids were Sis. Susan Hoerr, Wendy Sommer, and Jane Needham. Best man was John Meister. Groomsmen were Peter Bossart, Mark Meister, Mike Meister, and Ed Meister. Parents of the couple are Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli.

A farewell singing was held for Bro. Rich and Marilyn Herman, as they will soon be moving to Plainfield near Joliet, where Rich is working in a new job with Caterpillar. They and their children plan to attend Chicago church. They are well-known and very well-liked here in Peoria, and we hope they will come home and visit often.

We are most thankful for the Babe whose birth this month we are rejoicing over. Just as God so graciously gave us His only Son, so also should we give generously to those in need. Bro. Jim Hoerr has been doing a tremendous job in World Relief. He went to New Orleans with a truckload of grain to be shipped to Honduras for the survivors of Hurricane Fifi. Bro. Joe Thomas is the Peoria representative who plans to go to Honduras to help with distribution of grain and Bibles.

IOWA CITY IA

April Wiegand / Twila Whipple

The engagement was made known of Sis. Vera Schaefer to Bro. Tom Lindeen (Oakville).

Bros. Ed Lanz (Oakville) and Uriel Gehring (Burlington) were our visiting ministers. Let us pray that God will bless them in their labors for him.

As the Christmas season is now upon us, there is much rejoicing in the birth of Jesus. May our thoughts not stop here, but let us be thankful that he did die for us, that we could have the hope of life eternal.

URBANA IL

Deanne and Howard Leman

We have another new baby in our church, Janelle Louise, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Kai Alt. She was born Nov. 20.

We praise the Lord as another student, Greg Getz, has turned to

the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. and Sis. Ken Getz of Mor-ton.

May the Lord grant Bro. Virgil Metzger and his wife, Sis. Mary much grace as Bro. Virgil begins the ministry in Urbana. Bro. Paul Bodine will assume the position of Sunday School superintendent.

Wed., Dec. 11 was the evening for our annual Christmas program. Adult and children alike participated in a beautiful commemoration of our Saviour's birth. Students are busy preparing for finals. As of Dec. 20 they begin a month vacation from school.

On Dec. 8, Bro. Ed Hohulin and Ed Ringger read the letter from the conference.

Dec. 15 is the date set for our annual Christmas caroling around the community. A chili supper at the church will follow.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL IL

Jeanie Haerr / Kayleen Heiniger

A few visitors have had trouble finding our church since Route 66 around Bloomington has been named Belt Line Road. The easiest route is to take the Belt Line Road (Route 66) to Oakland Ave. intersection, turn east, go 2 miles. The church is on the left. You will seem to be out in the country, as homes are not developed near the church as yet.

We read that the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents, so our congregation rejoices with three young souls that were baptized on Nov. 24. They are Tianne Nussbaum, daughter of Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie; Debra Zimmerman, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Judy; and Heidi Haerr, daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie. Elder Bros. Gene Bertschi and Joe Braker assisted our Eelder Bro. Dan Koch with the services, along with Bro. Lenny Meyer. We appreciated very much the loving interest and instruction of these brothers. . . We also rejoice with our friends, Larry Mariani, Jim Howell and Brian Zimmerman, who have expressed their desire to serve the Lord and have turned to Him in repentance. We welcome all the dear souls to our congregation.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Patty Rotl were married at our Chicago church and are now living at Lake Bloomington. We are happy they have decided to make Bloomington-Normal

their church.

Since our congregation is very young, we could benefit from a **Know Each Other Better** article on any brothers or sisters. However, as Kayleen and I considered a bit, we both thought of the same person. Sis. Margaret gave us this article early in December, and as we were very comfortably preparing for the holidays, my mind often wandered to Adam's Christmas of 1944. Adam's mother and family still live in Neuhuetten, Germany.

Know Each Other Better

Adam Maurer

I was born in Crvenka, Yugoslavia, a German settlement. During my childhood days, a government seal was put on our church, and services were held secretly in member's homes. We would have been put in prison if reported.

In October 1944, the retreating German Army told us to leave within 24 hours or be captured by the Communists. In fear, we started, packing our belongings and made ready to flee. With tractor and wagon we traveled, until we reached Hungary. There the German Army put us on a train, with sleeping quarters in box cars on straw.

After a 5-week flight, during which we were fed starvation diets, we reached Eastern Germany. We settled in Gerlitz, Germany, but within three months we again had to flee because of the advancing Communist forces. The house shook and the windows rattled in the attacks. This time we did not have any fuel, so we loaded the wagon and pushed it. Because I was the youngest, I pushed the bike loaded with belongings. After a few days, the Army transported us by truck and later by passenger train. During this train trip, we found ourselves in the flight pattern of an American air raid, and our train was hit. The windows in our compartment seemed to be the only ones left unbroken. Only a small triangle of glass from the ceiling light fell to the floor. Mother told us right away that this is to show that the Hand of God was watching over us. The only thing we had was our Bible, which was read daily.

From there, we boarded another train and went toward the advancing Western Allies. We believed they would be a more God-fearing people than the Russians.

After the war, in April 1945, we went to a re-grouping camp for Yugoslavians in preparation for reports about the Communist government in Yugoslavia, the younger members of the family persuaded our parents to go on to Neu-huetten, Germany, and make this our church and home. There we were taken in with love by the brethren and friends alike.

In Neu-huetten, the family was separated to live with people of our faith, until we could find living quarters for the family. There were many meager days, but mother had faith, and would console us children. She would say, "Don't worry; God will provide." Every so often a package would come from Sis. (Mrs.) John Steiner of Morton.

During the summer of 1949, Bro. Herman Laidig of Tremont came to Germany to visit his family, and I became acquainted with him. After returning to the United States, he decided to sponsor someone, and I volunteered. Mother did not hesitate, because she feared I might leave the church, as some did, and thought that I might repent if I got homesick.

I entered the United States in Dec. 1951. I worked on a farm, and later for Bro. Edwin Schubach as a carpenter. On May 2, 1954 I was married to Margaret Dill of Tremont. That June we found grace to repent, and in December I was drafted into the Army and later sent to Germany. There we met Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr, who were also stationed there.

After the service, I settled in Tremont and worked as a carpenter and cabinet-maker. Our daughter, Monique, was born in 1959. In June 1972 we moved to Normal. Here we are enjoying the new church and fellowship with the brethren.

BLUFFTON IN

Melanie Gerber / Donna Drayer

Two young and tender souls have been included in the Family of God. Jan Aeschliman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene) and Candy Gerber (LaVerne and Madonna) gave their testimonies on a Wednesday evening, and were taken into the fold on November 17 the following Sunday, by Sis. Jan's grandpa, Bro. Sam Aeschliman.

As well as reporting our new spiritual births, we have also had

two infants born in our congregation. Andy David was born to Brother David and Sister Marcene Gilliom on Nov. 7. He is welcomed at home by a sister, Marci. On Nov. 8, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Della Steffen became parents for the third time, as little Melinda May joined their family circle.

We do not only need to wait on the Lord, but much more endure. This and many other beautiful teachings were brought to us through our Heavenly Father's faithful servants. The ministering brothers that have spent some time visiting our congregation are Walter Rehklau, Theo. Beer, Dave Roberts, John Diggelmon, Rudolph Graf, John Bahler, and Joe Weibel.

Two more couples have chosen to walk life's pathway hand in hand. Sis. Carol Reinhard and Bro. Roger Compton are planning a February wedding. Sis. Carol's parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Vergene Reinhard...Sis. Deborah Freiburger and Bro. Jay Gerber are also planning their wedding for the first of the next year. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen are Bro. Jay's parents.

Fred Gerber and Sis. Gladys (Walter) Fiechter, Clara, (Wilmer) Gerber, and Sophia Gerber have spent some time in the hospital lately.

"God bless you..." We are reminded of that first Christmas, when God so blessed the world that He sent His only-begotten Son to earth to become man. We think of the Babe of Bethlehem Wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger, blessing the world with His Presence.

"God bless you..." What more meaningful greeting could we give each other, not only at Christmas, but all through the year? For if we are blessed by Him, what more can we desire?

CROGHAN NY

Alice Virkler

Thanksgiving at Christmas-time

Thanksgiving season now is gone;
As Christmas-time draws near
Let's keep Thanksgiving in our hearts,

To mix with Christmas cheer

Thanksgiving that a Babe was born

To save men from their sin,

To fill each life with joy and peace,
All who invite Him in.

Thanksgiving that at Christmas-time

Our gifts of love we give,
Remembering He who came to earth

To die that men might live.

Thanksgiving that His humble birth,

In lowly cattle stall,
Gave proof salvation was not for
The rich alone — but all.

So when at Christmas we rejoice
With friends and loved ones
Let's keep Thanksgiving in our hearts

All through the coming year.

Our Sunday School children are preparing their program for the Christmas season; may each of us be reminded that Jesus came to this earth in such a humble manner to live and die for all of our sins. May we all have Thanksgiving in our hearts throughout the coming year, and rejoice as we remember this wonderful sacrifice made by one man for all of us. To those who have not accepted this precious invitation, may they yet turn their hearts unto our Lord and Saviour as their constant strength and guide throughout the remaining days on earth. How thankful we are that the door of grace remains ajar for us today.

A little bundle of joy came into the home of Ken and Judy Virkler, when little Dana Ann was born on Nov. 4. She is also welcomed by her sister, Teresa and brother, Craig. Her grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler and Mrs. Ruth Dosztan.

We are thankful that Bro. Niles Farney has been able to assemble with us after having undergone a hip implant. Bro. James Farney and Sis. Irene Farney have been hospital patients, and have been unable to assemble with us for several weeks. Sis. Barbaro Virkler, Betty Rouhe and little Terry Farney, son of Duane and Karen, were hospital patients a few days.

The amount suggested for one year, if you wish to pay, is \$2.00. There are many churches where you may give at a specified time or times, in a combined collection. Check with your reporter.

FAIRBURY IL Joyce Huber

I thank God for Christmas;
Would that it lasted all year,
For on Christmas Eve and Christ-
mas Day

All the world is a better place,
And men and women
Are more loveable.
Love itself seeps into every heart,
And miracles happen....

The author depicted that it takes love to get miracles to happen. Oh that we showed love to Jesus and love to others as recorded in the Scriptures, and we also would get miracles recorded.

Our Sunday School classes will be presenting the Christmas Story in a program Dec. 15, and many other seasonal activities are being planned.

Christmas is special this year for Sis. Lydia Wiedman. Along with being the celebration of Jesus Christ's birthdate, Sis Lydia will have her 80th birthday Dec. 24, reaching fourscore years.

We rejoice that Norman Young has turned to the Lord for his Saviour.

Sis. Matilda (Perdelwitz) Kaiser, 83, passed away. She had been a resident at Fairview Haven. Surviving are 4 brothers: Will, Fred, Ben, Henry; and 2 sisters: Louise Getz and Sophie Heubach.

Sis. Katie Steiner, 76, also a resident of Fairview Haven, passed away and funeral services were held at Cissna Park.

Bro. Ezra Steffen and Andy Steffen were hospitalized.

KIOWA KS Janice Frieden

I look up at the grandeur of God's artwork in the heavens, such as: the first rosy tints of dawn when the sun just peeks over the horizon. or the Majesty of billowy white thunder clouds as big as mountain peaks. or the beauty of the sun's rays fingering their way through silver-lined clouds, or the unbelievable loveliness of the multicolored rainbow, before the quiet softness of a sunset: there is then no doubt in my mind that God is, and my heart is so filled that I must say as the songwriter did, "Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee — How Great Thou Art — HOW GREAT THOU

ART."

We had a tri-fold blessing this month: On the 3rd, we gathered at the Fellowship Hall for our monthly singing of praise." On the 17th, Ministering Bro. Marvin Schmiggall of Eureka joined us for morning and evening services, and by inspiration of the Holy Spirit filled each of us with gratitude for the simplicity of God's precious plan of solvation. On the 27th, Ministering Bro. Richard Schupach of Phoenix joined us for Thanksgiving Services, and we realized how very much we have to be thankful for. May we never take our precious freedoms of worship and fellowship for granted, but cherish them and unceasingly give God thanks for preserving them for us in this time and age.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bro. John Diel, who passed away this month at the Kiowa Manor. after living there for many years. Ministering Bros. Ronald Allenbach and Raymond Roth officiated at the services here..

Death is not extinguishing the light.

It is putting out the lamp because Dawn has come.

A young mother, whose small boy had attended Sunday School for the first time and heard the other children sing "Jesus Loves Me," told us that when they arrived home from church, the boy sat down and sang. "Jesus Loves Me, I Know." He didn't know the entire song, but remembered the most important part.

LEO IN Mrs. Elias Souder

It was a beautiful sunshiny day for the ground-breaking for the Children's Home Nov. 17.

We enjoyed Nick Knobloch for our visitor at one of our Wed. evening Bible Studies. He has been helping with the Children's Home.

The Sunday School children gave their Thanksgiving Program at the fellowship center, and are now preparing for the Christmas program, which is planned for Dec. 15. A Christmas dinner is being planned, and also the program.

It was nice to see Nancy Souder, Pam Frank. Lauren and Linn Klopfenstein home for Thanksgiving.

We visited with Sis. Minnie Bertsch at the Indian Village Health Center (Ft. Wayne). She seems to be improving. Then we visited her brother, Edward Bertsch at the National Rest Home. He seemed to appreciate our coming and seems to be about the same.

We wish everyone a Blessed Holiday season and a Happy New Year.

(Editor's note: Just had word Sis. Anne Leman, the Leo reporter's aunt, passed on into that glorious Rest.)

We apologize for your Silver Lining being late. At this writing, Editor Bro. Henry Souder is in the Intensive Care Coronary Unit at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne. The worst danger is apparently past, and he seems to be doing well.

David Bertsch, Counseling Elder

LESTER IA

Alice Metzger / Donna Metzger

We had many blessings to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day, and then were pleasantly surprised with an added blessing, a visit by Bro. Nathan Stoller, Bradword who so lovingly spoke God's word. The following Sunday, we were so thankful to see that his daughter and son-in-law, Chuck and Vicki Leuthold, had turned their back on the world in repentance. Chuck is the son of Bro. Art and Sis. Emily Leuthold. What a joy for parents when they know their prayers have been answered.

Bro. Sam Anliker and his new helpmate, Sis. Clara, were with us for a midweek service, which we appreciated very much.

Announced to be engaged were Bro. Dale Wulf and Sis. Becky Leuthold.

Fred and Sis. Carrie, known as Grandpa and Grandma Metzger by nearly everyone, celebrated their 67th anniversary on Nov. 17. They are very thankful they can still stay busy and maintain their own home.

A new baby boy was born to Leroy and Luella Kellenberger on Nov. 20. His name is Tony Allen, and the paternal grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Pam Knobloch, Sis. Emily Knobloch, and Delayne Stickling, the infant son of Diane and Dale Stickling.

In memory of Sis. Joan Knobloch, who passed away two years

ago, we would like to dedicate this poem written by her daughter, Sis. Ann Knobloch (15 years old).

Mommy

Mommy was special to a person like me;
She seemed to vanish before I could see,
All the beauty that shone around her each day,
And the love that was given each step of the way.

All that knew her could say her faith had great gain,
For God had a hand in all of her pain.
Her lips always held on those very same smiles,
And for us kids she went many extra miles.

I loved her from the very depth of my heart,
But sometimes I'd want to act a little smart.
I'd pretend I was mad and not want it to show,
But my mommy was someone who always would know.

She brought me up well and taught me wrong from the right,
And always her motions would show forth her bright light.
God seemed to carry us out of each storm,
Leaving us all snuggled close together and warm.

I would read her God's word and she'd sit there and listen,
When all of a sudden I'd see a tear glisten.
It'd roll down her cheek and vanish away,
Leaving beautiful words around us to stay.

One day she got sick and none of us knew,
What our Lord had in His mind to do.
We soon found our mommy had passed away,
And left all the rest of us here to stay.

There was nothing we could do but kneel down and pray,
And ask God to help us to meet the next day.
I never appreciated what I had with her love,
Until God took her to live up above.

When God took her from us and she had died,
She left us here to choose a side.
Would we take Satan, or would God be our choice?
It seems that she's waiting to hear our voice.

It was then that God called me out of darkness and sin,
To a realization that hurt me within.

I felt love and contentment and no burden of sin,
And that was when God granted me peace within.
The love that I feel is something so GREAT,
I wish I could share it with you, before it's too late.

I'm so glad that God chose me to be One of His children and hopefully see
That beautiful Home over Jordan someday,
To see our dear mommy who went on before,
And is patiently waiting on that GOLDEN SHORE.

MORTON IL

Emma Knapp / Peggy Joos

No Sin Was Found In Him

He was the perfect sacrifice . . . no sin was found in Him.
He died for us . . . that we might live and conquer death and sin.
He kept Himself from spot and stain . . . that we eternal life might gain.
No sin was found in Him.

He left His Father's home above and came to us in perfect love.
He yielded not to Satan's call; rose triumphant over all.
He had to die, that we might live.

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

Who's new? Eugene and Julie Herman are the parents of a daughter Abby born Oct. 28. The new baby has a brother Jeromee Wade, 3 yrs. old. Grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Ruth Herman . . . Mr. and Mrs. Murl Clark of Peoria. Great-grandmother, Sis. Sara Streit, great-grandfather, Perley B. Boyer of Zanesville, Ohio. Tonya Richelle Kaiser was born

to Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser Nov. 1. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Barbara Schupbach of Phoenix, Bro. Warren and Sis. Tillie Koehl Kaiser of Deer Creek. Bro. Sam Schupbach of Kiowa is the great-grandfather.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet Stetzler Gutwein and daughter Angela have moved here from Francesville. We welcome them into our congregation.

Our best wishes go to Bro. Dave Hermann and Sis. Kim Ward, whose engagement was made known on Nov. 24. Parents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Eileen Hermann and Sis. Wilma Ward. . . The engagement of Bro. Randy Kellenberger of Bay City to Sis. Karen Wyss was announced on Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day. Parents are Sis. Marie and the late Bro. Arthur Kellenberger of Sabetha and Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann Wyss.

We miss having these dear brethren assemble with us: Sis. Mary Berchtold, as she was moved to Peoria, and Bro. Emil and Sis. Mary Roecker, who with our friend, Katie Ackerman, are residing at the "Home" in Peoria.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Dave Wiegand, Eli Somerhalder, Cleo Rinkenberger, Ron Allenbach and Richard Schupbach.

The death angel called two dear sisters to their heavenly home the morning of Nov. 28. Sis. Kathryn Steiglitz passed away at the age of 88. Surviving are three brothers, Bro. Jacob Steiglitz, Henry and Joe Steiglitz . . . four sisters, Sis. Sophia Witzig, Sis. Louise (Joe) Kaiser, Sis. Ricka Waldbeser and Sis. Mary (William J.) Roecker, all of Morton. . . Sis. Nettie Kaiser passed away at the age of 73. Surviving is one brother, Bro. Joe Kaiser, of Morton. Double funeral services were held on Nov. 30. We feel a loss when a loved one passes away, but we can rejoice, knowing they died in Jesus.

Bro. Ed Teubel is still recuperating from his misfortune, when a tank he was welding exploded, on Sept. 2. He received extensive burns about the face, neck and arms. Our friend, Ray Frank is now in the Iowa City Hospital due to an illness.

God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Those relying upon His strength recently have been: Bro. Erik and Sis. Mildred Koehl,

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

Sis. Marie Belsley and Sis. Tillie Kaiser.

"I want to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, gifts and cards while I was in the hospital. All was very much appreciated. Bro. Ed Teubel.

A group of young people from Forrest and Gridley spent a week-end here, being hosted by the Morton Bible Class.

Service addresses: Sgt. David L. Frank 325506456, H & H S a-c Maint, MCAFH Futema OKQ, FPO Seattle Wash 98772. . . L Cpl Daniel R Frank 325521405, Comm COHQBN, 2nd Mar Div FMF, Air Naval Gun Fire Platoon, Camp Lejeune NC 28542.

Your Silver Lining reporters wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Blessed New Year!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME REPORT

Since ground breaking services on Nov. 16 work has proceeded very well. The first basement has been completed and steel joists have been set in place.

The second basement has been dug and walls poured. The men are installing basement drains and we are hoping, if weather permits, to have the floor of the second basement finished this week, Dec. 21. A number of brethren are planning to start forming the first home Dec.

19, 20 and 21. The following week another group of brethren will be working forming and putting on roof and siding. Windows will be shipped ready to install Dec. 27. Representatives of area churches will be notified for the number of brethren needed.

As noted in previous issues of the Silver Lining, year-end contributions can be sent to Apostolic Christian Children's Home, Box 8, Leo, Indiana 46765, or to any of the Children's Home committee members.

W O and Mrs Charles Albritton
7382 A Gardner Hills
Ft Campbell KY 42223

Forrest

HOME FOLKS

Henry Souder Jr.

Folks like to go home. Homecoming is sweet and warm. Homefolks of God have that special love. One-of-its-kind. There is just nothing like it. It is warm and inviting. God's Home has a halo, draws in sweetness.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us." We are never again satisfied with the dreariness of the outside. This is life, real living in God's home. It is the atmosphere, the reality of the house above upon earth. We live in the heavens. That love is the love in us. It is the same love so beautifully shown in the suffering of our Saviour.

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." This fire casts its warm glow on pleasant faces. This is the spot where the heart returns and finds welcome. This is the place where nowhere else would we rather be. Never, never, never. Love has joy and fellowship, not shallow jokes, not hollow laughter, but rich merriment. It sings, lifting, gladdening, glowing.

God is great, and His greatness is unsearchable. He wants us to graduate with His highest honors.

Perfecting love is a big job. It takes suffering. It takes storms and sorrows. The gold is purified, until it perfectly mirrors the sweetness of Christ. He is here, and we are too. It brings a beautiful bold looking forward. . . "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

With fear there should be felt a need to flee to Christ for increased love. Patience or something in the love verses is falling short. No motor engages unless it is in gear. Our gears are the action of verses of God in us... forbearing, taking the shorter end, doing the great love of God. This is how He would do it. We need a child's imitating character, modeling after Him. His promise is real! "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

He who has felt the wind in the height always wants more. Never satisfied with less than this Best. God shows us His far off dreamland with the golden glow. He shows us Himself... Over the barrenness of waste and the emptiness of desola-

tion, He breathed his word. The beauty of a new creation was formed, one that tates the powers of the world to come... One that loves, and is the same atmosphere of beautiful, wonderful home. Nowhere else can we find such.

"We love him, because he first loved us." It's His plan, it's His home, and what a Home!

It's real. It kindles the best of friendships, lifelong, always and always. It looks on the problems of souls. Love covers all the little marks and ungainly gaits, with loveliness of his covering, like pure white snow. It knows the crucial test, the critical exam, the passing grade is here and now. "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

This moment immense with opportunity. Filled with strife and envy, we let it slip. Love's taking, love's going fills it with joy forever. Thus we hear and know the happiness of God.

"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."