

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

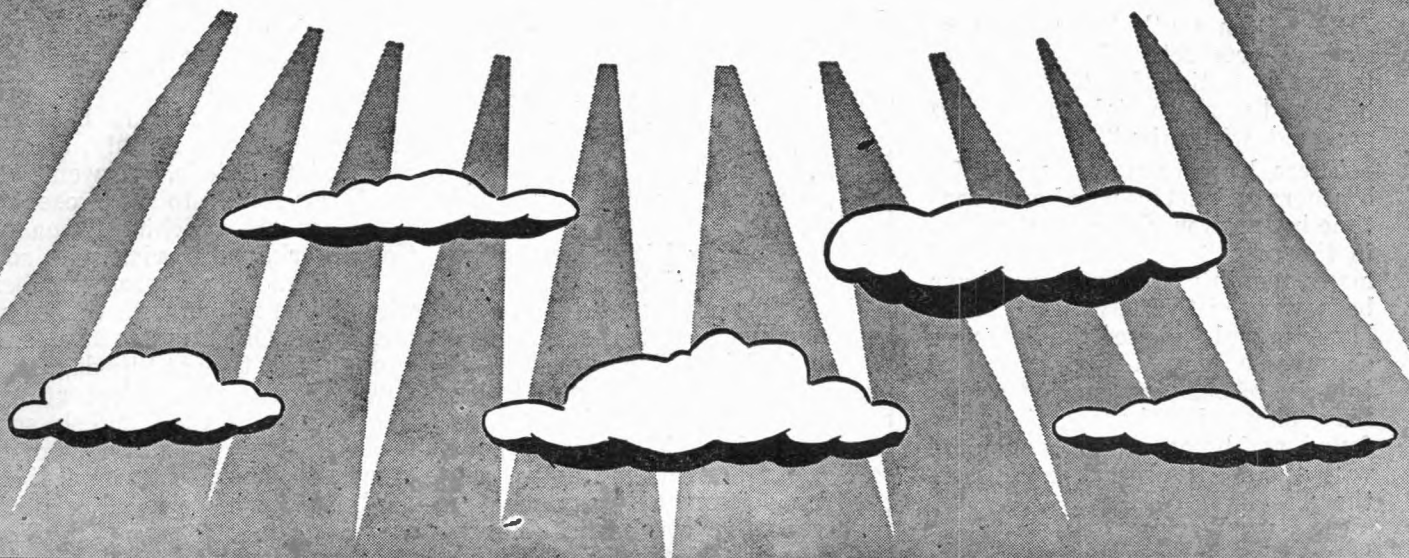
And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens

were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.



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

# THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

If you want to be happy, begin where you are; Your windows to sunlight and sweetness unbar. If dark seems the day, light a candle of cheer, Till its steady flame brightens each heart that comes near. . . If you want to be happy, begin where you are; Tune up daily discords, till out of their jar New harmony rises, rejoicing and sweet, And onward, in music, go over your feet. . . If you want to be happy, begin where you are; God sets in each sky Heaven's joy-bringing star; Live bravely beneath it, through cloud and toward light, And under its radiance your path shall be bright.

## A LIGHT IN JAPAN

("At the request of Bro. Willis Ehnle of Japan I prepared a draft copy of my impressions of Japan . . . This draft was sent to Bro. Ben Maibach, elder for Japan missionary work, and he approved . . . Humbly in Christ, Leon Graf" . . . Dear Bro. Henry . . . Having visited among the Believers in Japan, I find this article written by my nephew, Leon Graf quite interesting . . . Sincerely your brother, Rudy Graf.")

". . . Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

There have been many faithful brothers and sisters who have spent time in Japan working for the Lord in the past 20 years or more, and many monthly news reports have been written to the Silver Lining. My wife and I visited the Japanese churches in May . . . we feel moved to write of our visit, so that others may share in the blessings we found, and become more acquainted with the spiritual work being done there.

Bro. Willis Ehnle was stationed in Japan, and left there in the end of 1952. His spiritual light shined, by the grace of God, and the Utsuki family became interested in Christian truths. . . From Jan. 1953 to Feb. 1954, I was stationed at Camp Bender, in Ota, Japan, about 50 miles north of Tokyo. Bro. Amos Hartzler of Rittman wrote to me in May 1953, suggesting that I take a New Testament to the Utsuki home. This family received me with kindness, and thus began a series of wonderful visits to their home until I left Japan. Subsequently, in April 1954, Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife, Sis. Lois (Beer), went to Japan and have remained there for 20 years, to work in the Lord's Japanese vineyard.

Our visit this year began when we arrived at the Tokyo Haneda Airport and were greeted by many

members of the Utsuki family — a joyful reunion, even though we were blessed to see four of them in 1964 and 1973 during their visits to USA. The following morning, we could greet other Tokyo church members and feel the spiritual love and warmth which is so commonly known in our stateside churches. The day was blessed with a morning worship service and an afternoon Bible study, giving an opportunity to edify the members in their Christian faith. The day ended with a delicious meal of Yakisoba, and afterwards we sang hymns while seated around the table. It was a peaceful and harmonious way to end the day, singing to God in English and Japanese at the same time!

The following Wednesday, after seeing some of Tokyo, we took a train to the country with Bro. Willis, who met us at the Shinjuku Station in Tokyo. The two-hour trip provided a good opportunity to become acquainted and share many spiritual things. The rain stopped before our arrival, and as we left the train station at Katsunuma, the panoramic view was beautiful, overlooking part of the Kofu Valley, with the hills and Japanese Alps in the background. Joyfully we met Sis. Lois, two of the Ehnle children, Thomas and Jewel, and the two teaching sisters, Linda Morrison (Mansfield) and Betsy Erickson (Rockville). That evening we attended services at the Shioda Church and met more of our Japanese brothers and sisters, with an uplifting exchange of greetings and conversion experiences. As in Tokyo, we could see a humble spirit of love and peace among the brethren, and rejoiced to visit a second church in Japan.

The next morning, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois drove us to the Mt. Fuji area, where we could view the famous Japanese mountain and observe its symmetry and snow-capped peak. The Japanese church-

es had their fellowship meeting in July at Lake Yamanaka, near Mt. Fuji, and we can appreciate the beautiful setting of God's natural creation for such a good spiritual endeavor, to strengthen the believers. As we drove around, there were many school children visiting this area. . . We later found out how friendly these children are; sometimes we would wave to them, and it would bring a return smile and wave by many children on one of their buses.

The following Sat., May 18, the Ehnle's other two children, Tony, who was baptized and became a brother in Christ in July, and Joy returned to Shioda. We went with the Ehnle-family to see Syosenkyo, a part of the Chichibu Tama National Park, and to visit with some of the Tamahata church members, who now assemble with the Shioda members. On Sunday, we could worship together at Shioda, and by now we were more adept at finding hymns in the English songbooks, which were sung out of the standard Japanese hymnal being used. It became clear how deeply ingrained in us were the Zion's Harp songs, after being sung so many years in USA. We missed the Zion's Harp very much, but felt a spiritual and musical accord with the fellow-believers in Japan and joined in singing to the Lord. After

### THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

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services, we visited the home of Sis. Eiko Nozawa, who visited USA in 1971, and again joined in singing hymns.

While we were in Shioda, Bro. Willis indicated that there is still a need for sisters to teach the children at our church school there. The term should be for one or two years. . . This should be prayerfully considered and discussed with your local elder, who will contact Elder Bro. Ben Maibach of the Missionary Committee for a final decision. . .

During the five days in Shioda, we could also visit Bro. and Sis. Uchida at their home and Sis. Hiroko Natori at her apartment. The love, hospitality and good Japanese food were appreciated very much, and leave many precious memories.

On Monday, May 19, we returned to the Tokyo area, and were privileged during that week to visit with the Utsukis and their children's

families, and Bro. John Klaus' family. We did some more sight-seeing, and could see how much idolatry is being practiced at the Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. Japanese religions seem to empathize the worship of nature and ancestors, and is directed toward man, rather than God. It is difficult for them to break such family and religious customs and traditions, because of family pressures that are often brought against the one who would seek to change and direct one's life to God, such as we know. . . Such difficulties are similar to those the Apostle Paul found when he took the Gospel to those who worshipped Roman or Greek gods. . .

On the following week-end, we could spend time at the Tokyo church home with Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie (Niehauser) Inoue, and stay one night at Bro. Saburo Utsuki's home. We enjoyed hearing from the Japanese ministers, Bros.

Akito Inoue and Yoshio Yamazaki, both of whom can speak English. The word reminds us, that even though there may be many tribulations to the Christians, that if the church is founded on the rock, Jesus Christ, the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

Let us pray for the believers in Japan, and continue supporting the work there with contributions . . . We should write and encourage them to keep the light of salvation burning. . . Where it is possible to visit them, Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, your local elder, and Bro. Willis Ehle should be contacted before going, for helpful advice and to let them know of such plans. May each person who gives support to this work find the spiritual blessings which Janet, my wife, and I have found during and since our visit to Japan.

"This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."

## FRANCESVILLE IN

Sharon Neihouser Helen Huber

"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." We have enjoyed another Christmas Season. May we remember that it is not the manger, but the cross, that sets the sinner free.

On Dec. 8, Akito Inoue spent the week-end with us, as he was on business in this country. He spoke to us about the number 3%, and how it has many references with the Bible and the world.

On Dec. 22 in the afternoon, the Sunday School children brought to us, in word and song, of the birth of our Saviour and Redeemer and the Good Tidings of Great Joy to all people. In the evening, everyone enjoyed caroling to many shut-ins. The blending of beautiful voices touch their hearts and bring tears of joy to know the love of Jesus.

Hospitalized were Bros. Harry Yaggie, Pierre Neihouser, Dwight Bucher and Fred Gutwein, and Fred Howat and Sis. Ann Ward. We are happy to report all are doing well, and Sis. Ann is responding to the medicine, on the road to recovery.

A precious little bundle, a bit of Heaven, came into the home of converts Phil and Charlene Feldman, a

girl named Calista Shawn. This is the first grandchild of Bro. Nate and Sis. Ad Gutwein.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber (and Bros. Brian and Dave) left for Japan for a visit with their daughter, Kathy, who is teaching there. Mark Metzger, who has been in the army, is now home and will be sent to Hawaii. He has made his home with Sis. Julie Boehning before he left.

On Dec. 31, a New Year's Eve Service and Program was held to see the new year come in. Bro. Roy Grimm plans to share the evening with us.

We welcome Sis. Delores Reinhard back with us after a long illness. They and we are thankful for God's healing power and strength. "We wish to thank each one from the depth of our hearts to the Francesville, Bluffton, and neighboring congregations for the love shown during my wife's illness, a nervous breakdown. We were so grateful for the food brought in with much love to our little family. The cards, gifts and especially prayers sent out for us certainly was very inspiring." Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard and children.

## WOLCOTT IN

Marjean Lehman - Arles Kropf

With grateful hearts we rejoice, praising Almighty God for His marvelous grace. On Dec. 8 we

heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our dear friend, who became our sister, Laurel Widmer. Prayer is still being answered today, as the door of grace stands ajar. What about tomorrow?... Bro. Wendell Gudeman shared this day with us.

Sis. Emma Kropf, age 86, who has for the past 16 months resided at Fairview Haven in Fairbury, passed away on Dec. 9. Funeral services were held here Dec. 12. She was born July 31, 1888, the daughter of Bro. Samuel B. & Sis. Lydia (Ackerman) Hirstein, near Morton. In her early childhood she moved with her parents to a farm near Wing, Ill., later to Fairbury. In 1920 she was married to Bro. Levi Kropf, and they made their home at Wolcott. He preceded her in death in 1966. She is survived by 3 daughters. Sis. Arles Kropf, Sis. Gladys Widmer of Wolcott, and Sis. Velma Schladenhauffen of Forrest; two brothers, Albert Hirstein of Macon, Ill., and Aaron Hirstein of Indianapolis; and 2 sisters, Sis. Miriam Feldman of Fairbury and Ida Edel of Winter Haven, Florida.

Bro. Richard Stoller had the misfortune of breaking an ankle in a fall at his home. We are glad he is able to be about on his crutches.

On Dec. 15, Bro. David Bertsch of Leo spent the day with us, bringing much spiritual food, and assisting Bro. Alfred in bringing

the conclusions of the conference.

The evening of Dec. 18, we were blessed by the songs and recitations of our Sunday School children, as they told the story of Christmas.

Two little bundles from Heaven have brightened homes in our congregation: Sherice Renee, born to Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler on Dec. 17, and Nathan Andrew, born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Yvonne Lehman on Dec. 20.

Dec. 29 was the last Sunday we can hold services in our church for 2 months, due to the remodeling. We will assemble with our neighboring churches until the work is complete.

At our annual business meeting, new Sunday School teachers elected were Bros. Nathan Lehman, Lloyd Kyburz, Vernon Furrer, and Sis. Viola Stoller. Bro. Roy Keller is our new trustee.

#### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Janice Herrmann

Dec. 12 we were privileged to listen to the message of Christmas, through song by the Normal students. We want to especially thank Bro. Wendell Gudeman for bringing the message of the birth of Christ. It was brought out that we must put forth our sincere effort to be worthy of Christ's great love.

Life again is becoming busy as we start a new semester. Those who finished student teaching last semester are: Sisters, Marsha Knobloch, Sally Gramm, Pat Baurer, and Janice Herrmann.

We are happy to have Bro. Edwin Ringger in charge of our weekly Bible Services while Bro. Joe Schrock is in Florida.

#### PRINCEVILLE IL Ruth Ricketts

A solemn and blessed evening was shared by the members of our congregation and Bradford Dec. 11, when Bros. Eugene Bertschi of Renoke and Perry Zimmerman of Forrest came to assist Bros. Dave Kieser and Silas Leuthold with reading the memorandum. May we strive more earnestly to abide by the decisions of our beloved elders. The way cannot be too narrow that leads to the better land awaiting the faithful, and we can be sure it will be well worth the effort for any sacrifices we may make.

On Dec. 10 a daughter, Hope Renee, was born to Bro. Harold

and Sis. Karen Steiner. Little sisters Robin and Tricia welcomed her, as did grandparents. Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophia Steiner of Tremont, Bro. Dave and Sis. Ruth Kieser of our congregation, and great-grandmother, Sis. Pauline Knobloch.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice (Wagenbach) Stoller have announced the engagement of their daughter, Donna to Ted Blunier, son of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier of Eureka. An early spring wedding is planned. . . On Dec. 29, the engagement of Bro. Jerry Endress and Sis. Luann Nussbaum was made known. Parents of Jerry are Sis. Mildred and the late Levi; Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty (Metz) Nussbaum of Forrest are Luann's parents.

Bro. Herman Baer was hospitalized for tests for a few days and learned that he must undergo open heart surgery, which is scheduled for Jan. 10.

There is much good-will shown at the holiday season, and much happiness shared. A number of the aged and shut-ins were warmed when several groups of carolers came singing the beautiful carols. What blessings are derived by all those who take part.

A large number gathered on Dec. 22, when the children of the Sunday School had their Christmas program. How many lessons can be derived from these innocent children... The very tiny ones, eager to speak their little recitations praising God and singing . . . and as each child who was older did their part, one could see a little more confidence, as they had had experience. The singing was especially beautiful, the harmony of the older ones nearly perfect. It made me think that this is the way it should be in a Christian's life; the enthusiasm of a new-born child of God should never be lost, but grow each year. The desire to proclaim the love of God should be just as earnest as these young innocent children who eagerly told of the birth of the Saviour. We should grow in love and harmony, so that our lives blend as the voices of these young ones.

All people do not have good-will in their hearts, as one night shortly before Christmas someone broke a window in the sanctuary and gained entrance. The doors of two charity boxes were torn off and drawers in the recording room were ran-

sacked, although nothing was taken there.

As I write this, it is New Year's Day—a beautiful, sunny, glorious day, a direct opposite of yesterday, which was gloomy, foggy and very dreary. We gathered last evening for church services, and found blessings while worshipping together for the last time in the old year. I am reminded that no doubt there can also be a sharp contrast in this life and the one that we are looking forward to, just as one day can be such a contrast. In the recent past, we have heard of many lives being taken in storms, earthquakes etc., and are reminded how quickly the word is being fulfilled. It makes one tremble to think of all these terrible things . . . yet can be comforted by reading God's word, and know if we keep faith and are true to the end we need not fear for these things.

A number of changes have been made this past year, some joyful and some sad, yet with faith in God all have gone forward with courage. Two friends, a sister-in-faith and a brother-in-faith were laid to rest during the year. Seven babies were born, three boys and four girls. Two brothers and two sisters were added to the fold, and we have five souls awaiting baptism. How rewarding to feel God's hand in all our doings, and ask His help in the new year that is before us.

As the new day dawns, we wonder what is in store. We pray that we will have the courage and faith in God to face whatever may come. Let us pray that we each do our bit to help the poor, the sick, the weary of heart, and those who grieve. We must also pray for the strength to overcome our own weaknesses, and for courage to make amends to those whom we may have hurt. With courage, faith, and duty we can go forward into the new year, vowing to live closer to the Lord and Saviour and share in His rich blessings. The Bible tells us . . . "be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

May each one who reads these words receive many rich blessings in the new year.

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

**TUCSON AZ**

**Mrs. Donald Bauer  
Mrs. Loren Knapp**

As the holiday season passes and a new year approaches, we are reminded of the many blessings of the past year. We must surely thank and praise God for his care and protection.

The Sunday School children delivered food baskets and went caroling for the needy... also, the Tucson congregation went Christmas caroling and delivered fruit baskets to the widows and widowers. Lunch was served in the Fellowship Hall.

The Christmas Program was presented on Sunday evening, December 22. It was a blessed evening, as the small children presented their songs and verses, each carrying a candle. The older children also sang and read the various scriptures that tell of Christ's wonderful birth.

The feeling of peace and goodwill that we feel at Christmas-time warms our hearts and encourages us to try and keep that spirit with us each day of the coming new year.

### HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

As this is read, all of us will find ourselves well into another new year. Christian love prompts us to wish everyone a blessed year, one filled with spiritual happiness. Perhaps our minds travel soberly back over the year which has passed, thanking our Father in Heaven for the many blessings, and praying that, in the coming year, a greater measure of wisdom and inner strength to do that which is best may be ours. What lies before us is largely in God's hands. However, what is important is what lies within us. Let us so live that when the new year is over and we then look back, we shall have lived so as to be a blessing to those with whom we have to do and an honor to our Creator.

A number of our residents spent some time with their families over the Christmas holiday. They look forward to going with eager anticipation, but they are always glad to be back "home". It is heartwarming to observe the concern that the residents have for each other. One who leaves for a few days is wished a happy journey and a happy time. When he returns, there is always a

welcome awaiting him. By observing those who live here, we are often reminded how much a simple kindness means to all of us.

During this season when eagerness to do good for others is prevalent, many groups, school children and others, have made the effort to come to the Home to entertain with programs.

To **Know Each Other Better**, we have yet to visit the Maintenance Department. It would be difficult to put into a few short words what the maintenance department is. The administration, nursing, activity, kitchen and laundry departments all have their particular sections of the building, but the maintenance department is everywhere. In a large facility such as this and on the grounds surrounding it, there are many things which need constant, maintaining care.

An additional, time-consuming responsibility of this department is the driving and maintaining of the van-buses, which are used to transport residents to the County Workshop, Peoria Area Retarded Children's facility, to church, to doctors' and dentists' appointments, and on special group excursions. While these concrete responsibilities are necessarily important, the added dimension of maintaining good cheer is a privilege in this department, as in all departments.

Looking ahead, let us unlock each day of the new year with the key of prayer, walk in it carefully with the Holy Spirit's guidance, and then when day is done, let us again lock it with prayer, giving our Heavenly Father the key for safe-keeping through the night.

**ALTO MI**

**Sue Root**

Stan Wingeier and Elaine Crigger were united in marriage; Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier are Stan's parents.

Gordon and Sherry Henney are the parents of a new son, Benjamin Frederick. Benjamin is welcomed home by one brother, Tony. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Ellen Oesch, and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Henney.

Friend Tim Steffen has found grace unto repentance. Tim is the son of Sis. Helen Steffen.

Sis. Mary Wingeier sustained an injury to her leg and was shut in for a short time. She is able to

gather with us, but still unable to bring Sis. Lyd. Mary cares for her sister Lyd, who is partially disabled.

The Sunday School children presented a program that told of Jesus, from his birth to his death on the cross. They put forth the provocative question, "Do you have any room in your inn for Jesus?"

**BERN KS**

**Esther and Stella Moser**

As I look back in review on the year 1974 . . . find joy intermingled with sorrow; joy over the 12 dear souls added to the fold; joy for the 6 new babies, one wedding . . . and sorrow in the four funerals.

At the Fellowship Center on Dec. 21, Elder Bro. Lester Hartter united in marriage Laurie Luthi and Kenneth Hildebrand. Laurie's parents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Lola. We extend our good wishes as they begin their married life in a mobile home in Bern.

We rejoice with Bro. Louis and Sis. Lena (Hanni) Baumgartner, that with the Lord's blessing, they were able to observe 50 years of married life with their family and friends.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Morris Edelman was chosen as trustee, to serve along with Bros. Harlan Stoller and Leonard Baumgartner.

Hospitalized for tests: Angela Plattner (Bro. Eldon), tonsillectomy; Martha Grimm (Bro. Paul), medical; Sis. Lena Wenger.

"At home 'tis well: with God in close relation, The soul forgets the sorrow it has borne. . ." After weeks of suffering (cancer), our sister in faith, Lillian (Schrock) Edelman was called to her heavenly home Dec. 15. Lillian was born Jan. 29, 1905 to Ben and Minnie (Bauman) Schrock near Bern. Dec. 11, 1929, she was married to Noah Edelman, who survives. Other survivors are a daughter, Nila Snyder, Sabetha; a son, Bro. Morris Edelman, Bern; her aged mother, Sis. Minnie Schrock of the A.C. Home; two brothers, George and Delmar Schrock, both of Hazelton, Kansas. Lillian was a quiet, peaceful sister, spoke no ill of anyone. Services were conducted Dec. 18, by Bro. Alpha Strahm, with burial in the church cemetery.

### ELGIN IA Eleanor Butikofer

As we start a new year, may God grant us the grace to use all the hours of our days, not for our own selfish interests, but to take time for praying and reading God's word, so each day is spent well and wisely. May we try to be kinder than in the year gone by, and to accomplish much more, by asking God's help in all that we do.

We hope Bro. Henry, our editor will by the time this column goes into print be feeling much better.

We are in the throes of winter in this area; at the moment it is snowing, and the weatherman has predicted that we may receive an accumulation of several inches. I am reminded of the poem which goes like this:

The snow had begun in  
the gloaming and busily  
all the night had been  
heaping the fields and  
highways with a whiteness  
deep and wide.

No doubt by morning the landscape will be a beautiful sight.

The engagement of Sis. Sue Banwart of West Bend to Bro. Charles Schneider of Elgin was announced. The former is the daughter of Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart, and the latter is the son of Laverne and the late Lavila Schneider.

Bro. Uriel Gehring conducted New Year's Day church services. The text for his sermon was part of the Sermon on the Mount, the part which included the beatitudes. May we not only be hearers, but doers of the word of God.

My father used to remark that some of the songs in our church hymnbook, the "Zion's Harp" contained songs that were to him as sermons. Here is part of one which to me is particularly impressive. The title of it is "Christ, The Crucified and Glorified. . .

Who hath told me to believe,  
And the gift of life receive?  
Who hath made me just and free  
And a child of God to be?  
Jesus Christ the crucified.

We certainly missed Sis. Alta Tmonan at church the last two Sunday's. Her smiling face is always an inspiration.

Our feeding of the wild birds has

been quite rewarding. Shortly, a covey of twenty some quail appeared on the scene. This gave us quite a thrill, not having seen any quail for a number of years.

We are happy that Bro. Lonnie Butikofer, who spent a few days in the hospital for observation, was able to return to his home . . . Talked with him on the phone this morning; he informed us that with medication and a special diet, he was feeling fairly well.

### ELGIN IL

Louise Steffen - Katie Kachelmuss

Having entered into a new year, we hope and pray that many will be added to the Fold and become reconciled with God, their Creator.

Our lot is found in pleasant places;  
A goodly heritage is ours,  
And gladly would we share the  
graces,  
Which God's great goodness richly  
showers.

Yea, we commend them unto all  
Who would obey the gracious call.

Our Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger, 614 Addison St., Elgin IL 60120, was hospitalized for back surgery. He is getting along very well, and assembled with us again. Bro. Morris Willaert is getting along very well after back surgery, was again in our midst.

The Lord sent His holy teaching to us in humble preaching, yet in the Spirit's power. Our visiting ministers were Bros. Harold Schmidgall of Gridley, Earl Gerber and Perry Zimmerman of Forrest, and Walter Steffen of Milford.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was inspiring, in song and verse telling of the birth of the Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Prince of Peace.

Mary Gross, 187 Mosely St., Elgin IL 60120, has returned to her home after being hospitalized for awhile, and wishes to thank one and all for the prayers, the cards, calls and tokens of love; evrything was much appreciated.

### ZAPATA TX

Esther Wagler / Dorothy Stoller

The love in your heart wasn't put  
there to stay. . .  
Love isn't love till it's given away.

We have certainly felt the love flowing among us, as our visitors gather with us.

Our visiting ministers that have been here are: (Bros.) Noah Herman), Tucson; Loren Strahm, Gridley KS; Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale; Philip Sauder, Cissna Park; and Elder Eugene Bertschi of Ranoke.

We want to extend an invitation to anyone coming this way, to stop, visit and worship with us. Time 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. We gather at the Community Building in Siesta Shores. We now have a sign, Apostolic Christian Church, near the road on Highway 83.

### GRIDLEY KS

Edna Somerhalder / Wilma Young

Our appreciation to Elder Bros. Samuel Anliker and Raymond Banwart, who so aptly shared the conference memorandum. Knowing the concern our dear elders have for us should cause each one to live a closer walk with our Saviour.

The Sunday school children presented the Christmas story in song and Scriptural readings . . . always so impressive to hear it told, especially when told by our children.

Nice to see Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Frank) Beyer back in our assembly, after an illness that kept her home several weeks.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Elizabeth Matilda Beyer in the loss of her sister, Bernice (Fred) Raaf.

As this letter is written, we have a beautiful snow scene to view.

### MANSFIELD OH

Lucille Groh

As we start the new year, the words of the poet, "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me, What Have I to Ask Beside?" gives us courage to face each tomorrow, knowing our Saviour does go before us. We have no need to fear the new year, no matter what it has in store for each of us, as long as we place our trust in Him.

We believe our dear Bro. Aaron Sauder can testify that the Lord has led him many years, and now in the sunset hours of his life, he depends on the Lord even more. Aaron has been the Silver Lining reporter for many years. We deeply appreciate his untiring and unselfish efforts, not only in writing for the Silver Lining, but he has served in many capacities in our

church, being a song leader for many years, trustee, church treasurer, custodian and above all, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie have brought much cheer and comfort to the sick and shut-ins.

On Dec. 15, Bro. Ben Hartzler from the Rittman congregation ministered to us. We enjoyed a blessed day. He also explained the tentative plans for the Rittman Nursing Home.

On Dec. 22, a small bundle from heaven was delivered to the Wayne Gerber family. The new little son has been named Clark Henry. We wish the Gerbers much joy.

On Dec. 22, the Sunday School presented its annual Christmas program and reminded us of our Saviour's birth. How wonderful to see the love of Christ in the children's faces.

Several groups enjoyed Christian fellowship by singing Christmas carols to the aged and shut-ins.

Hospitalized: Friend Jeannine Zimmer and Bro. Russell Sauder. We are thankful to report they are both home again. . . . Our aged sister, Caroline Dotterer submitted to surgery several weeks ago and is now recuperating at home. We are so thankful to the Lord that he has permitted that she can be in her own home, with sufficient strength to take care of herself. We miss her in our church circle, and hope she will soon be able to assemble with us again. . . . Sis. Katie Blumenshine has not been able to attend services for sometime due to failing health. We miss her friendly smile and words of encouragement, both to young and old.

Note of thanks: "Words can hardly be found to express my sincere thanks for the many prayers, cards, gifts, scrapbooks and words of encouragement during my illness. Your prayers and love meant so much to me and my family. Your needy sister in Christ, Alice Groh."

Engagement: Bro. and Sis. Ora and Dora Sauder are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Mary Ann, to Dan Domka, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Domka.

When you're alone with Jesus  
And He sweetly smiles on thee  
Will you gently whisper to Him  
A little prayer for me?

And when I'm alone with Jesus  
And all else is hid from view

I'll gently drop into His heart  
A little prayer for you.

### SHIODA JAPAN

Willis R. Ehle

As we enter 1975, the theme that stirs my heart and mind is **Joy and Enthusiasm** in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas had it . . . "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them."

Some European countries shut down for several weeks in the summer, Mexico has its siestas, and Japan closes shop for one week at New Year. Such hustling and bustling at the year's end. All it really amounts to us that we have come to the end of a set period of time here on earth. Yet in this life, that is significant, especially to the believer when he thinks about the end of the week and preparing for the Lord's Day which follows. The more we respect and honor the Lord's Day, the greater the blessing we receive. "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread. Paul preached unto them . . ." However, I feel certain that in eternity life will be more constant. No more ends of the weeks, and no more ends of the years, but there will be continuous bliss and a feeling of well-being, a feeling of being completely accented by the group.

This being the last day of the year, I was cleaning out our garage this afternoon. A young lady named Ikuko and her younger sister passed by. We greeted each other, and they passed on, but my mind started working. Ikuko has come to church in the past, but she has never taken much of an interest. I thought that **knowing** is the problem. If she and thousands like her could know that Christ makes the difference between heaven and hell, they would be very interested. Satan urges them to reason, "I don't really know about this faith business, or religion business, if you wish. I'll try to do what I think is right and take my chances." That's a terrible chance to take. Christ has given us a way to escape, and am I ever happy about it.

Sis. Kathie Huber's parents and two younger brothers will be spending the first two weeks of January with us in Japan. More blessed times, I'm sure. You come too, please, sometime.

One day this past month, a neighbor lady stopped by to tell me that the community was having a meeting to encourage the mayor. I asked if I was supposed to attend. She replied, that if it is convenient I should attend, but she didn't press me. I didn't attend, and I'm glad I didn't, because I figured out later that they probably encourage the mayor by drinking. I suggest that if you are ever invited to an "encouragement meeting", you should check it out first. "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

The answers to our problems in the church is for each of us to work much harder for our brethren and the Lord, and to deny ourselves those luxuries of pride, egoism and the rest of it. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself. . ."

On Dec. 15 we visited a "Home for the Elderly" and sang Christmas carols.

Let us pray often, aloud, in the presence of our children, that they might repent, be converted, and serve faithfully in our fellowship.

Something we all need more of is CCS (consistent constructive suggestions). Especially with children, there is a strong possibility that CCS will sink in eventually, even with unreceptive hearers. "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."

### ALTADENA CA

Linda Witzig

The wonderful, blessed time of Christmas is over, leaving all of us with memories of family gatherings, greetings between good friends, and the worship services, in which we could assemble and praise Him from whom all blessings flow, especially His gift of the holy Christ Child. Our church enjoyed the Sunday School Christmas program, for who could not rejoice with the innocent children in the joy of Jesus' birth, as they told in verse, prose and song about Christmas?

Our congregation was blessed with visitors during the holidays, and was pleased to have (Bros.) Noah Herman from Tuscon and Bill Dotterer from Phoenix minister the word unto us at our New Year's Eve service. We were reminded that we should omit from our lives those things that were a detriment to us in 1974, and pray for His grace to

use our time wisely in 1975. Perhaps the Lord will take us from life into eternity through death or His coming, and is it not our foremost desire to be ready when that shall happen?

**BRADFORD IL**  
**Rebecca Endress**

It was nice to have many of our relatives come "home" for Christmas visits with their families; among them were Bros. Hartzell Kaisner (Detroit) and Walt Herrmann (Princeville), who brought the word of God to us.

Many of us have had to miss church because of flu and other illness this past month. Greg Rumbold, small son of Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta, was hospitalized for an emergency appendectomy. He recovered in time to say his piece for our Christmas program on Dec. 15.

Bro. Leroy Streitmatter had spent several weeks at Mayo's for surgery, and returned home. Today (Jan. 5), he was able to come on crutches for afternoon services. . . Bro. Ed Guingrich was confined for awhile with a slight stroke, but was soon able to be up and around. His daughter, Sis. Becky Pyles, also had to submit to hospital care for a short time, but is back among us.

Bro. Sam Kieser underwent surgery at Rochester MN, and is recovering at home. He hopes to return to church soon. Bro. Louie Rumbold had surgery the last day of the year.

We sympathize with Bro. Alfred Hausmann and his family; his father passed away in Switzerland. He was able to fly over in time for the funeral, but not in time to see his father in person one last time. May God comfort him and his loved ones.

NOTICE: A boy's light brown nylon jacket was left at the Bradford church and has not been claimed. It is a Montgomery Ward, size 12, and the name "Brian M." is printed on the label. If it is your jacket, write to me at Buda IL 61314, and I will see it is returned to you.

**KIOWA KS**  
**Janice Frieden**

Christmas is for the children, I've often heard grown-ups say; Then I wonder why the aged wise men

Followed the star that stopped right where He lay.  
O Christmas is for us all;  
Our Father invites us to come,  
Adults and children and all in-between.  
In His sight, each of us is a precious someone.

It is hard to fathom that God, Creator of all the universe and everything therein, could look upon this sinful, rebellious human race as precious. When we consider how God sent His beloved Son to be born in a lowly manger, and then to grow into manhood, only to have to face the shame of death on that cruel cross as a sacrifice for our sins, how can we not realize how precious He considers us to be, and fall upon our knees in humble thanksgiving.

Elder Bros. Roy Farney of Phoenix and Sam Anliker of Lamont brought us a blessed week-end of fellowship on the 7th, when they related to us the memorandum, and on the 8th, when we enjoyed messages of inspiration and love from God's holy word. It humbles us so to realize that God is still mindful of us, as He continues to work in the hearts of our elder and ministering brethren, that they may seek out the truth and keep the flock ever watchful in this time, when Satan is deceiving the world as never before. . . And when we see souls still searching for these truths through true repentance as is our dear friend, Brenda Tucker; not only is there joy in the presence of the angels, but there is joy in the heart of every true believer in Christ. Brenda, who is the daughter of Dale and Sis. Marie Tucker, has found peace with God and is now awaiting baptism.

One of God's most precious blessings came to the home of Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart. His name is Justin Ray, and his grandparents include Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen Farney, Kiowa, and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart of Ft. Scott.

Sis. Helen Farney was hospitalized for tests during December, but we are thankful that she is now home and feeling much better.

A Housewarming was held on the 15th, for Tom, Gay and little Brandon Farney, children and grandchild of Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen. It is a great joy to welcome them into our midst again.

Several weeks before Christmas, the Sunday School children started working on boxes, filled with various articles of their own choosing, to be taken to the Wichita Children's Home. On the 21st, the Sunday School class took these boxes to the Home where they were distributed as the Home saw fit. The Sunday School children were taken on a tour of the Home, after which the guide sat down and answered any questions the children might have. It was a truly interesting and blessed experience, and I'm sure each child came away with a deeper thanksgiving in their hearts for the parents God has given them.

Three special remembrances of Christ's birth were ours: On the 22nd, the Sunday School children had their Christmas Program, and in childlike innocence retold the precious story of old. On the 23rd, a group of us caroled at Burlington and Kiowa, returning to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments. Then on Christmas morning, we gathered at the church for services, to again give praise to God for the gift of His son, who brought us so much.

The most important part of Christmas is the first 6 letters.

**LAMAR MO**

**Marie Marti - LuEtta Braker**

Our Christmas program was held Dec. 15, bringing praises to our Lord and Saviour through the spoken word and song.

George Frieden passed away Jan. 1 at the age of 64. He had been in ill health for some time, but only seriously ill in the hospital for a little over a week. He is survived by his wife, Miriam; two brothers, Bros. Virgil of Lamar, Roy of Valparaiso; and two sisters, Virginia Parkison, Liberal, Mo. and Arlene Gastel of Fulton, Mo. Funeral services will be conducted by Bros. Gene Marti of Sabetha and Lester Braker of Lamar, Jan. 4. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Miriam, and his brothers and sisters.

May we treat this new year as a new and precious book, one which we will treasure and turn each new page with care, to keep it as clean and unsoiled as possible.

**LA CROSSE IN**

**Lorene Moser / Mary E. Gudeman**

"Therefore the Lord himself



shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." . . . "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor . . . The Prince of Peace."

We are celebrating the birth of a babe who stirs the heart of man. A program was given Sunday, Dec. 15, and the sweet story of old was so beautifully illustrated to us by the Sunday School children. . . On Monday evening it was the joy of Christmas caroling to many loved ones.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) with us Christmas morning . . . On New Year's morning Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park) in our midst. We are thankful for the blessed teachings that were brought to us.

Bro. Sam Frank is dismissed from the hospital. He was able to assemble with us today. Sis. Bertha Heiniger was taken to the hospital for pneumonia. She is feeling somewhat better.

Bro. George Yergler celebrated his 87th birthday Dec. 21. He is still quite active, although old age has brought a general slowing and has dimmed his eyesight. He felt it best, therefore, to retire from ministerial and eldership duties. The congregation expresses deep and loving appreciation to Bro. George for his many years of faithful service. May God bless and strengthen him in his remaining years.

Another year has so swiftly passed away. We are thankful that the day of grace and mercy is with us to this time. If we take one day at a time and ask for God's grace, He will provide. May God lead the way, and we follow Him.

#### LATTY OH

LeAnn Laukhuf

Karen Klopfenstein

Ministering Bro. Dale Eisenman (Chicago) visited with us the second week-end of December.

When we see a precious blossom  
That we tended with such care  
Surely taken from our bosom  
How our aching hearts despair.

On Dec. 8, our little friend, Timothy Gerber, six-year-old son of

Bro. Jack and Sis. Mary, passed into eternity. Timmy had been ill for quite some time. Our prayers are with Bro. Jack and Sis. Mary and their children.

Elder Bro. Ezra Feller (Cissna) assisted our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller in the reading of the memorandum on Dec. 14. It was brought to our attention that the directives in the memorandum are for our own good, in helping us to walk a closer life with God.

The death angel came unexpectedly and took our dear friend, Dallas Stoller. Dallas (41) was killed in an automobile accident. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and children, Kevin, Byron, and Cindy. Parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Beulah. Brothers and sisters are Bro. Dennis, Jerry, Sharon Bodenbender, June Stilwell, and Brenda Mullen. He was laid to rest Jan. 3. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family. "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

Bro. Bill Jr. and Sis. LuAnn Rager had their third daughter, Kara May, born Dec. 26. Grandparents are Bill and Sis. Elsie Rager. Little Kara was admitted to Parkview Hospital due to a breathing condition, but is now improving. Other hospital patients this month were Paul Grant, Jody Williamson, Wendell Stoller, Stan Sinn, Sis. Mary Eisenman, and Beulah Stoller. All are back home and doing well.

#### PORTLAND OR

Judy Cremer

A new year is ahead of us, filled with new opportunities, experiences and changes. I am always amazed at how much can be learned through changes. I now understand how changes are used to teach us things we would never learn any other way, or to bring us one step further in Christian maturity. We can agree fully with the brother who said that each change in our lives presents an opportunity different from any that we've had before. With a new year stretching before us, we can look forward to new changes, experiences, teachings, and know the Lord is leading us into these things. Let us stand on God's holy promises and practice what He teaches us in 1975.

We had a nice Sunday School program, and many young people sang and read poems or stories of the

birth of our Saviour. On Christmas Day and on New Year's Day, we had church in the morning, and found this to be a blessing. It's so good to start our holiday with the Lord—to learn of what He is doing and has done, and to thank Him.

I came across this poem which is called **Facing the New Year:**

He does not lead me year by year  
Nor even day by day,  
But step by step my path unfolds;  
My Lord directs my way.  
Tomorrows plans I do not know;  
I only know this minute,  
But He will say, **This is the way;**  
**By faith now walk ye in it . . .**  
And I am glad that it is so;  
Today's enough to bear,  
And when tomorrow comes, His  
    grace  
Shall far exceed its care.  
What need to worry then or fret?  
The God who gave His Son  
Holds all my moments in His hand,  
And gives them one by one.

"So teach us to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts unto  
wisdom."

#### ROANOKE IL

Edith Sauder / Mae K. Hodel

"At the beginning of this new year, the word TIME has a special meaning for all of us. We are all given the same amount of time each day. Do we use it wisely? Do we squander it? Does it pass swiftly? Slowly? We will have to give an account of the way we have spent it." Our New Year's message gave us very much to think about!

We were privileged to have Bro. Dave Kieser with us Dec. 8. The memorandum was read and shared with us. We are always thankful our shepherds care about the flocks entrusted in their care.

Bro. David and Sis. Carol (Wulf) Knapp are the happy parents of a Christmas baby. They have named their first daughter Krista Joy.

Those hospitalized and home again are Sis. Katie Hodel and Sis. Anna (John) Mangold. Those still in the hospital are Bros. Aaron Bertsch, Fred Herbst, Sis. Leah Moser, Sis. Annie Leman, Sis. Mary Belsly, and Margaret Design.

On Christmas Day, Bro. Art Bauerer of Princeville brought us the message of Christ's birth. He also told us of Calvary . . . Tis there men learn to know the Christ, For

there He bore man's sin. Then open wide your door of heart, And let the Saviour in.

Bro. John Hodel passed away Dec. 30, at the age of 85 years. He married Sis. Minnie M. Gudeman. They would have celebrated their 60th anniversary this March . . . She survives; also surviving are two sons, Bros. Warren and Vincent, three daughters, Miss Viola Hodel, Mrs. Art (Gladys) Hartwig, Mrs. Elmer (Shirlee) Baer.

There were 10 deaths in 1974, 8 births, 4 weddings, and 19 baptisms, in our congregation.

"I would sincerely like to thank all who remembered me in their prayers and with visits while I was hospitalized. I would also thank those who remembered me with gifts, cards, fruit, and flowers, which I greatly appreciated. Mrs. Joe Hodel.

#### TAYLOR MO

Marie Butikofer / Eleanor Yackley

His home and His comforts were borrowed,  
No pillow for resting His head!  
But He lived and He suffered and sorrowed  
To give us true comfort instead.

In glory His wealth had been boundless;  
He laid all these riches aside  
That we might have riches eternal,  
And with Him ever abide.

Our Sunday School gave their program on Dec. 22. How we older ones who listen are inspired to hear and see their eagerness in portraying Christ's lowly birth. We can truly take a lesson from them to trust Him more fully. Much effort has been put forth by both teachers and pupils. It humbles us when we realize what love and compassion the Father had in sending His only Son into a cruel world for us. Should we not also have compassion one for another—especially for unfortunate ones?

Christmas Day, Bro. Arnold Gerst (Chicago) was with us and proclaimed God's word. Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford) was with us the following Sunday.

We were reminded of the concern for all God's children, when Bro. Harvey Heiniger and Elder Bro. Noah Schrock read the memorandum to us. Holy Communion was

served by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock and Bro. Harvey Heiniger. Each time it reminds us more clearly of Christ's suffering for all mankind. How it concerns us who still have loved ones standing without! May this new year bring many to repentance.

The old year made many changes for us—joy and sorrow for each one. A new year has now dawned bright with sunshine. May we with confidence face it with a greater trust in Him than ever before, to lead us through, the future being unknown to us. On New Year's Day morning, our minister read these words: "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." It is an encouragement to us; may we remember these words each new day.

#### BREMEN IN Pauline Laidig

The true meaning of Christmas was really emphasized in our congregation this season, when two of our loved ones were taken from our midst. . . . For had not the Saviour come into the world, there would have been no promise of everlasting life to Brenda Sauder (whose passing away was mentioned in the last issue) or Sis. Anna Leman, who was called Home the next day. Because of this Greatest of Gifts, there is joy even in a time of sorrow and loss.

Although Sis. Anna had been becoming weaker lately, her death came rather unexpectedly on Dec. 6 . . . But we are thankful she didn't have to suffer long. Anna was born in West Bend, in 1887 to Bro. John and Sis. Mary Gerber. In Forrest, in 1906, she married Bro. Will Leman, who passed away in 1970. A son, Ardale, preceded his parents in death. Those who will most keenly miss Anna's presence are five sons: Lester of Sunnyside, Wash., Nelson, John, Samuel and William Jr., all of Bremen; three daughters, Sis. Leah (Eugene) Zimmer and Mary (Richard) Clemens, both of South Bend, and Velma (Walter) Beer of Bremen; a brother, Bro. Louis Gerber of Wyatt; and a sister, Sis. Leah Souder of Bremen. The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Earl Zeltwanger, and she was laid to rest beside her life's companion.

Even though one of their members was sadly missed, our youth choir along with the Sunday School

children sang and told of the wondrous Christmas story. We were also blest with the message Bro. Walter Rager brought to us on Christmas Eve. Our own ministering brothers reminded us how we should conduct ourselves as God's children, using the talents we have been given, and above all to let the true love shine through us in the coming year.

The Lord has been calling to a number of our young folks, and we are happy that four have yielded their lives to Him. The new converts are Gayle Zeltwanger (Bro. Earl and Sis. Marge), Shirley Meister (Roy and Esther), Douglas Sutter (Bro. Al and Sis. Verla), and Mark Sauder (Bro. Gene and Sis. Kate).

We were sorry to have Bro. Steve Sutter leave us, but since he has found employment in Peoria we wish him God's blessings there.

A little daughter, Kris Ann, brought happiness into the home of Darrel and Karen Sommers; Bro. Silas and Sis. Pauline Laidig are the maternal grandparents.

Last evening, a group of us went to the home of Bro. Dan Germann for a time of fellowship, singing and devotions. Dan still lives alone, but seemingly is getting along well, with members of his family coming in to help along.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Leah Souder wish to convey their sincere gratitude and thanks to the many dear ones who remembered them in various ways during this Christmas Season. We're sure Henry and Leah did their share of "remembering" when they were able to.

#### BURLINGTON IA Edna Pohl

Another year has passed, and a new one begun.

Families together in joy of the holidays . . . others in sorrow or sickness. What is ahead? Surely God's second coming draws closer, as we watch Israel and the Arabs in their battles. We are ever reminded, Watch and Pray, that we may be accounted worthy at His appearing.

In this new year, we have another young couple added to our congregation. Dan and Lynn Scheitlin Townsend come from the Pulaski church. In these times of unemployment, Dan was fortunate to be accepted as a welder, after taking a

test. The Lord surely helps those who put their hope and trust in Him. We also hope for their future baptism in the Lord, and obedience to His word.

We were blest this New Year's Day evening with the presence of Bro. Roy Farney, and Bro. Wm. Gerst of Alto. The precious word came forth, with stirring and humbling teachings. Bro. Noah Schrock was also present.

Bro. Ben Wagler and Sis. Esther are home from Zapata for the Christmas season with their children and families, plus a checkup with their physician, only to find she has a deteriorating spinal disk. That meant traction for a week, but further treatment, time will tell. The hospital is full of flu cases, and they both have bronchitis colds. News reports say the state of Iowa is rampant with 24 hr. flu, and we've had our bouts in the family.

I hurriedly add this happy news of our friend Rollis Scheitlin giving his testimony in turning to the Lord. We rejoice for him to have turned from the tempting world while young in years. We rejoice with all those who find help in the Lord. This was a joyous day with relatives and friends in faith to support another soul on his way.

The overflow in the basement and kitchen clearly reminds us of our need in a new House of God.

#### CISSNA PARK IL

##### Margaret Rudin - Grace Bauer

As we are starting a new year, we were reminded to be as the wise virgins, and gather oil in our lamps.

Sis. Brenda Hoffman and Bro. David Kaeb were united in Holy Matrimony Dec. 8, by Bro. Roy Sauder. They are at home in Bloomington.

Born to Sis. Sharon and Bro. Dennis Walder, Dec. 18, a baby girl, Adrea Leann. She has a brother to welcome her. Sis. Lucille Walder and Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Feller are the grandparents . . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Roland Young, a son, Timothy Troy, on Jan. 6. He has three sisters to welcome him. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. George Young and Mr. Fred Ifft.

Tragedy struck our community, when Bro. Fred Kellerhals, age 86, was killed in an automobile accident. Funeral services were held Dec. 19. Survivors are his wife, Sis. Sophia, who was injured in the ac-

cident; two daughters, Mrs. Bertha Bensheimer and Mrs. Laura Lockhart; four sons, Albert, Edward, Robert, and Arthur; one brother, Albert, who has since his funeral passed away; and a sister, Anna Sharer. Our sympathy is extended to the family. We will miss Bro. Albert in our midst. Another pillar of the church is gone.

Visiting ministers have been: Bros. Arthur Baurer, Edmund Kloter, Elmer Witzig, Harold Schmidtgall, and Everett Hari.

Our sick: Sis. Caroline Gudeman was a hospital medical patient. Sis. Nettie Obergfel was a surgical patient. Alvin Rudin was a surgical patient. Illa June (Mrs. Jerry) Hari and Darleen, daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp, both had minor surgery. We are happy to say, Sis. Ida Frank has returned to her home, and is again able to assemble with us.

Sis. Anna Baumgartner will observe her 100th birthday on Jan. 14. She is still able to assemble with us, for which we are very grateful.

February is the month for the Cissna Park collection for the Silver Lining. Please pay your reporters, Grace Bauer or Margaret Rudin.

"I wish to thank my dear friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness and the love shown while I was in the hospital and since I am home. Lillie Waldbeser.

#### EUREKA IL

##### Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

Greetings and a wish for a blessed New Year from your reporters to all Silver Lining readers.

The old year ends, a new begins  
With pages white and new,  
And what is written on each page  
Will now depend on you.

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

Our visitors were Bros. Harvey Grimm, Bern; Willis Wiegand, Goodfield; Eugene Marti, Sabetha; Roy Farney, Phoenix; Al Langhofer, Wichita; Robert Walder, Vernon Wettstein, Congerville.

Three of our friends were given opportunity to give their testimony of conversion on Dec. 7. They were

Barbara Hartter, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Leonard and Ann Hartter; Dennis Wettstein, son of Bro. and Sis. Art and Donna Wettstein; and Allan Martin, son of Bro. and Sis. Lester Martin. The next day they were baptized by Bro. Leroy Huber.

Two births—The first child, a boy, to Kent and Janet Hodel on Dec. 7. His name is Eric Edward. . . . The second child, and second son, to Bro. and Sis. Gary and Karen Huber; he was named Michael John.

Bro. Joe Eisenman is a patient in Eureka Hospital . . . Sis. Leah Moser fell at the "Home", broke a hip, and was in Eureka Hospital. She has returned to the "Home." . . . Sis. Bena Mae Rocke, the wife of Bro. Leroy, was a surgical patient in Eureka Hospital. . . . Sis. Anna Bittner is a medical patient in Methodist Hospital, Peoria.

Sis. Lola Blunier, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Vernon and Verda, and Bro. Stanley Stoller, son of Bro. and Sis. Leroy and Clara (Stoller) Huber were announced to be married.

Dec. 14, we gathered in our house of worship to hear the report of the conference. Bro. Eugene Marti from Sabetha was here to assist Bro. Leroy Huber. It was good to hear how our dear elders with God's help and grace are trying to keep our churches all together in love and fellowship.

Our Christmas program was Dec. 22, in the evening. A large crowd gathered to hear the children express in word and song the blessed Christmas story.

The summary of 1974: 12 babies were born . . . 10 souls were baptized . . . 5 funerals . . . 3 weddings in the church . . . 2 weddings of friends.

Sunday, Jan. 5, Sis. Maryellen Hartter and Bro. Fred Zimmerman were united in Holy matrimony by Bro. Leroy Huber. Her parents are Bro. and Sis. Dan and Dorothy Hartter; his parents are Bro. and Sis. Orville and Lulu Zimmerman of Congerville. They will live in Congerville.

Bro. and Sis. Ralph and Lulu Fehr announce the engagement of their daughter, Janet to Tom Zimmerman. His folks are Bro. and Sis. Orville and Lulu Zimmerman of Congerville. An April wedding is planned.

### FAIRBURY IL Joyce Huber

The year of 1974 brought into our congregation 10 births; there were 10 deaths, 1 wedding in Fairbury church, and we rejoice for the 4 baptisms.

Bro. Ed Kloter has served us admirably and faithfully in the ministry for many years, and we have been blessed with he and his wife, Sis. Lorene in our congregation. On Dec. 22, Bro. Ed announced that, as they have moved and will be at home at the Goodfield church, beginning with the new year, they would no longer be coming to Fairbury regularly, and that along with this he would be resigning as a minister. We regret this announcement, but know that God will continue to use their talents wherever God wills.

With praise in our hearts, we heard the testimonies of Bonnie Traub and Anna Holmes having received peace with God and their faith in the Lord and Saviour. Jesus Christ. They made a covenant with God and were baptized. Bro. Perry Zimmerman assisted our elder. Bro. Josh Broquard on this wonderful occasion.

Bro. David Kaeb and Sis. Brenda Hofmann were married. Brenda is an underwriter with IAA, and David is a sales representative for Tri-County Supply Co. They will be residing at Bloomington.

Sis. Mary Koehl, 87, passed away at Fairview Haven, where she had resided 2½ years. She is survived by 2 brothers, Bros. Walter and John; a sister, Sis. Emma Schmidt-gall of Minnesota. . . . Sis. Emma Kronf, 86, of Wolcott, but residing at Fairview Haven, passed away.

We are sorry for those who were hospitalized: Bro. Merle Kaisner, Sis. Elaine Hurly, Danny Bahler, Bro. Reuben Bach, and Bro. Ernest Aupperle.

Bro. Alfred Bahler was a visiting minister.

### Know Each Other Better

As a new year begins, taking a glance back through the years, we notice older brothers and sisters who were converted and baptized at an early age and continuing at Fairbury church. Sis. Anna Armbruster (83) is our sister who has attended Fairbury church the longest, since Mar. 14, 1899, and my

father, Bro. Edw. Huber (83) is our brother attending Fairbury church the longest, since 1900.

Anna was born in Dach Altenberg, which was joined into Rotenberg, Germany. She remembers German, as she was in Germany school for 2 years; when she was 8, she came to Fairbury with her parents. Sis. Anna is living in the same corner which her parents bought at the east edge of Fairbury in 1899. The Kilgus' lived across the street from the Armbrusters, and they had also been neighbors in Germany. Anna was in a family of 11 children, but has only one sister living now, Carrie Paternoster (85), residing at the Pavilion.

Of those converted at Fairbury the longest ago, my mother, Sis. Lydie Huber, was baptized Mar. 17, 1918, and Sis. Anna was baptized later the same year. How precious to have so many years knowing the love of Jesus Christ.

Our other older sisters coming to church are Sis. Mary Streib (92) and Sis. Anna Roth, who was 87 on Jan. 8.

### INDIANAPOLIS IN Wayne and Judy Steffen

As we see people around us with little or no faith, let us not lose or become weakened in our faith, but rather grow in faith toward our God.

We have some new births in Indianapolis. Traci Leanne was born on Dec. 9; her parents are Tom and Cindy Cox. . . . On Dec. 31, Carla Renee was born; her parents are Carl and Sheryl Cress. The grandparents of Traci and Carla are Chuck and Doris Neuenschwander. . . . Jonah Matthew was born on Dec. 31; his parents are Ken and Lynn Beer. The grandparents are Walter Aeschlimans of Bluffton and Moriss and Beety Beer of Milford.

Visiting Ministers during the month of December were Bros. Irvin Stoller, Latty; Marvin Stieglitz, Leo; Walt Steffen, Milford; Edwin Bahler, Remington; and Art Gudeman, LaCrosse.

Pat and Judy Dubach will be collecting dues for the Silver Lining in February.

### JUNCTION OH Henrietta Manz / Betty Manz Benita Schlatter

We enjoyed the visit of Bro. John

Steiner from Oakville.

We welcome Sis. Gwen Manz to our congregation. She and Bro. Ken Manz are residing at Rt. 3 Box 161, Paulding. A reception was held for them on Dec. 15. A number of us enjoyed a surprise housewarming and singing at their home.

One Sunday afternoon, the Sunday School and a number who accompanied them Christmas caroled for our shut-ins, Bro. Henry Manz, Sisters Mary Sauder, Minnie Dotterer, and Leona Dotterer. Afterwards, they enjoyed a lunch at Bro. and Sis. Dave and Kathy Manz. Since then, Sis. Leona has moved to a nursing home in Orrville, Ohio. Her new address is Brenn Field Nursing Center, 1980 Lynn Dr., Orrville OH 44667. We miss her here, and hope she will feel the Lord's nearness.

Lester Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) was home from college over Christmas.

Our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us for our annual business meeting on Jan. 1. Bro. Tim Schlatter and Sis. Betty Manz were selected as our new Sunday School teachers. (Bros.) James Spangler is to serve as the new trustee, Eli Manz was re-elected as World Relief Treas.-Representative, Don Manz is to serve as Treas.-Representative for the Home for the Handicapped, Ken Manz as usher, Sis. Juliet Schlatter on Kitchen committee, and Sis. Madeline Manz on World Relief Sewing Group Committee. May the Lord help each one in carrying out their various duties.

### LESTER IA

#### Alice Metzger / Donna Metzger

We cannot see even one day into the future, but the new year is a time for many of us to remember and reminisce about the events of the past months. It is also a time for us to count our blessings. In our church we were fortunate. There were no deaths. Twelve lovely babies were born. There were nine baptisms, and at this time we have fifteen converts. God has been most gracious.

There have been many with flu and various illnesses. Hospital patients were (Bros.) John Gerber, Dave Teubel; Sis. Flora Metzger (Emil); Scott Moser, son of Bro. Ade and Lydia; Sis. Emily Leuthold (Art); Bro. Jake Knobloch; Lauretta Knobloch (Orvie); and

Susan Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Eleanor.

Bro. Dale Moore, Elgin, Ia., was our visiting minister for New Year's Eve services. His message was timely, inspiring and very much appreciated. Bro. Virgil Metzger occupied the pulpit when he was here visiting his parents over Christmas. He was recently given this responsibility in his church at Champaign. Two very young ministers—it is a comfort to know there are sincere and God-fearing servants to put their hand to the helm.

We are happy to report a new convert. Roy Metzger Jr., son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn, has turned his back on the world to live for God.

Announced was the engagement of Sis. Joyce Mogler, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia, to Bro. Bernie Messner, Morris.

This New Year prayer is on my kitchen calendar:

God, grant us the grace as another year starts  
To use all the hours of our days,  
Not for our own selfish interests  
and our own willful,  
Often-wrong ways—  
But teach us to take time for praying  
and to find time  
for listening to You  
So each day is spent well and wisely  
doing  
What you most want us to do.

#### MINNEAPOLIS MN Kathryn Olson

The annual Christmas program by the Sunday School children was Dec. 22. The congregation appreciates the efforts put forth by teachers and students to retell the Christmas story and to remind us of the true spirit of Christmas. After the program, various groups, young and old, went caroling at several rest homes, which was enjoyed by all, the ones visited and the carolers.

Our young friends, Wayne and Marilyn Shellhammer, will be missed by our congregation, as they go to make their new home at West Bend, where he will be employed by his father.

Ministering brothers have been Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop, Arnold Gerst of Chicago.

As a new year begins, may we all strive to do His good and holy will, and strive to do better each

day, by loving God above all and treating our fellowman as ourselves.

#### MORRIS MN Esther Schaefer Corrine Schmidgall

On Christmas day, Bro. Noah Gerber, of West Bend, brought God's message to us, and on New Year's Day we were privileged to have Bro. Elmer Witzig of Gridley with us.

It is heart-warming at this time of the year, when we commemorate the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour. The story of Christmas was presented to us by the Sunday School children on Dec. 22. Everyone enjoyed the message and the singing of the carols, as the youth presented them. Several groups went caroling to the older residents, rest homes, and hospital.

Our sympathy goes to the family of George Luthi, who passed away Dec. 21, after a lingering illness. He found grace to repent, and confessed peace with his Lord before departing from this earth. Left to mourn his death is his widow, Ruby; two daughters, Ardis (Mrs. Jack Lesmeister) and Karen (Mrs. Marvin Schultz Jr.); and two sisters, Sis. Anna Fehr (Paul) and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger (Joe).

Those hospitalized are Ed Heil, who had his leg amputated, due to infection and having diabetes. He is getting along as good as can be expected. . . Sis. Gladys Koehl (Ernest) for surgery. . . Roy Nohl (Noah) for surgery on his knee. . . Jim Dornick for surgery.

The engagement of Loren Zeltwanger (son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Edna) and Rhonda Morton (daughter of Jack Morton) was announced. A March 1 wedding is being planned. . . The engagement of Bro. Bierne Messner (son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys) and Joyce Mogler (daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia of Lester) was announced on Jan. 5.

Beginning the first of the year, we discontinue having our song service on first and third Sundays of each month, and start our Wednesday evening services.

The yearly report for 1974 was: 9 births, 2 funerals, 2 graveside, 2 families moved here, 2 families moved away, 3 weddings, and 3 baptisms.

#### Love And Kindness

Help me, O God, to be loving and forgiving.

May I not think unkind thoughts about other people, or say unkind words to them.

May I remember how Jesus loved even those who hated Him, and may I try to be like Jesus every day.

A prayer each of us could utter . . . and would make us closer to our Saviour, as we begin a new year. We wish all our readers a Blessed New Year.

"Our sincere thanks to all who remembered us on our Silver Anniversary with cards, gifts, and good wishes." Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm.

#### PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Lorene Pfladderer - Elaine Anliker

On Dec. 13, we enjoyed the annual Christmas program, hosted by Francesville. Many inspiring songs were sung and poems read, followed by the evening meditation, by Bro. Elmer Bucher.

Graduating in December was Sis. Peg Rager (Latty). She has received her Bachelor's degree in Dietetics.

The Purdue Group welcomes Jerry Wuethrich, Bros. Dale Gudeman, Ken Wuethrich (Francesville) and Bro. Steve Nuest (LaCrosse), who are attending the short course in agriculture.

#### REMINGTON IN Anna M. Waibel

The congregation collected a sum of money to buy groceries for the people at Monticello, where the tornado struck last spring. It is always a joy to give to those less fortunate. One man gave a prayer, and another said they just told their children there would be no Christmas this year. One has to be thankful when one is spared such an experience. Untold miracles are related of the things that took place during this storm.

Bro. Brad (Edwin) Bahler was among the men who went to Honduras to deliver the grain donated to the suffering and unfortunate people there.

The Christmas program was well attended.

Bro. Joe Braker from Morton and

the Wolcott ministers have been our visiting ministers.

Our church and community at large were saddened at the death of Sis. Anna Louise (Gruber) Waibel, wife of Bro. George, on Monday, Dec. 30. She is survived by 4 sons: Bro. Leon, Wolcott, Bros. Harold and Gene of here, James of Goodland; also a brother, Sam of here, and 2 sisters, Sis. Leah Farnley (Aaron) of Wolcott and Sis. Hulda Jacobs of Emporia, Kansas. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to all.

I am resigning as reporter as of now. Our yearly church meeting will be held Jan. 7, Tues., at which time another reporter will be assigned to this work. I have enjoyed doing it for the past 10 years, and now I bid you all farewell and wish all the reporters and the readers God's richest blessings, guidance and help in all the days ahead.

Jan. 5, a large congregation from near and far enjoyed hearing Bro. Rudolph Graf from Akron . . . reminded me of the time when his father used to come.

#### A Prayer for the New Year

Keep us, O God, from pettiness.  
Let us be large in thought, in mind,  
in deed.

May we put away all pretense, and  
meet each other face to face,  
without self pity and prejudice.

Let us take time for all things.  
Make us grow calm, serene, and  
gentle. . .

#### RITTMAN OH Florence Hartzler

We received many blessings from a visit from Bro. John Steiner of Oakville, as he brought us the word of life.

Another year has dawned. Let us in 1975 walk more closely with God. Let's try and do better than we have in the year just past. Every year that closes brings us closer to the end of our lives. In the past year, some have given their hearts to the Lord, and they will always remember 1974 with joy. There are still those who are walking in the ways of the world, and maybe by the time this year 1975 is past, they too can say we have had joy in this year. God is still calling; why not answer now!

A baby girl was born to Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and has been named Gail Renee. First-time

grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser.

Sunday, Dec. 15 was the day chosen by Joan Ramsier and David Wilging for their wedding. They were married at the Fellowship Hall by Bro. Joe Ramsier. Joan's parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Wilma Ramsier.

We were privileged to hear the tapes from the conference. We received many blessings from listening to our dear elder brethren give us instructions on how to live, so that we may have a home in heaven when our life here is over. Through love we are taught many things that we can benefit from and receive blessings from the Lord. May we each try to be obedient to these teachings.

We are glad when those who have had sickness and were in the hospital can now again be at home. (Bros.) Isaac Rufener Sr. and Maynard Gasser are also glad to be home. Dawn Widmer has her arm in a cast, due to a fracture.

In our yearly elections, we have chosen four to different duties of the church. They are as follows: Trustee, Bro. Glenn Riggerbach; Usher, Bro. Richard Steiner; Kitchen Help, Sis. Betty Steiner; Fellowship Hall Director, Bro. Ronald Steiner.

A daughter, Susanne Nicole, was born to Jeff and Ann Beery. Grandparents are Ted and Sis. Rhea Beery.

I want to thank everyone who helped in any way during the past few years that I have been correspondent for the Silver Lining. This duty has now been placed in the hands of Sis. Grace and Sis. Ruth Gasser. If anyone has anything to put in this column, please let them know. They would appreciate your help and cooperation. Sis. Florence Hartzler.

#### SARASOTA FL Linda Miller

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Bros. Harry Sutter, Fort Lauderdale and Ernest Luginbuhl, Rockville were with us the first Sunday

of December to give us these words.

Several ministering brothers have been with us and shared our spiritual manna. Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale; Ernest Luginbuhl, Rockville; (Elder) Joshua Broguard, Fairbury; Eugene Fetter, Toledo; Earl Kilgus, Remington are those brothers who have served us so willingly.

Sarasota has really been blessed in this past year. The Sunday before Christmas marked our first anniversary in our new church. We are so thankful to all our visitors in our first year, and thank everyone for their support. Our congregation has grown, as 4 souls were baptized this past spring. We are deeply humbled at the works of the Lord and Saviour.

Sunday School in Sarasota is usually slim, as we have so few little children and young adults. Blessings were flowing our direction through the holiday season, as on the Sunday after Christmas there were 45 in Sunday School. Needless to say, this has been our largest class, of which we hope to see more often.

A new voice is coming forth as a song leader in our group; such is the voice of Bro. Doug Sabo. Doug has been working with us in our singings for the second month now and doing a fine job. We are thankful for his efforts and want him to know that he has our full support. The Lord has always provided for us when He sees the need. Bro. Bob Reiman has been quite a help to Doug, and they work well together. Together, they will be our two permanent resident song leaders.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Ferne Wingeier would like to thank everyone for making their Christmas so blessed. The warm wishes and thoughts in cards and in deeds from all over truly proved to be a rich blessing to them.

As 1974 has been brought to a close and 1975 has been opened unto us, let us praise the Lord for His love and grace. A new year opened, but has our time grown short enough that we may not see it end? Our lives are in the Lord's hands, and nothing can we do to control our time; all the more reason to live each day as if it were our last, leaving nothing for tomorrow that should be taken care of today.

Coming our way and need direc-

tion or information? Feel free to contact Bro. Phil Wingeier, 371-4155, or Bro. Dave Eisenmann, 371-2062.

### SILVERTON OR

Joan Dietrich

We certainly welcome Sis. Margaret Wanner back to our congregation, after an extended stay, visiting friends and relatives in Rockville and in central Illinois. It is so nice to see her in her usual spot in church, but although we miss her, we were glad she could visit so many. She wishes to thank everyone for their kindness and hospitality shown wherever she visited.

Sis. Judy Metzger has completed her 12 weeks of schooling at Oregon State University at Corvallis, and has returned to the Lester congregation. We all enjoyed her weekend visits whenever she could be with us, and will miss her being among us.

As another new year starts, may we always remember that what we do with our lives is written in an album, whether it be good or bad.

Our lives are albums written  
through

With good or ill, with false or true,  
And on each page may it be found  
That good and truth and love  
abound.

### SARDIS OH

Karen Indermuhle

Praise the Lord for this new year!  
Still time and grace to find the way  
home, and time to prepare ourselves  
so your hand and mine can  
touch the hands of God.

Bro. Rudolph Graf spent a Sunday with us. Our flock is always glad to see this shepherd. We were blessed when the memorandum was presented to us. We need this instruction in a positive light, to help us better live a pure, Christian life.

February brings Valentine's Day . . . couldn't help but think how Jesus knocks on the heart's door asking, **Won't you be mine?**

Praying each may answer **yes**, before that patient knocking stops and all is left quiet and dark.

### TOLEDO, OH

Lydia Meister

Greetings to all our dear brethren and friends for a blessed year in 1975.

A quotation from a recent ser-

mon: "Forsake not the ordinances left us. . ." What a grave reminder for us to follow as we travel on our Pilgrim Way.

We feel humbly happy that another dear friend has given her heart to the Lord. Betty Fetter has peace and awaits baptism.

The children of the Sunday School classes brought to us the birth of our Lord in prose and song the evening of Dec. 15. One can realize the patient teaching required to gain such fine results. The heart is lifted in humble thanks to the Lord, that in these days of darkening shadows, there are still young folks who come to sing praises to our Redeemer. Our choir's singing is ever a spiritual joy.

Pat and Ken Newman have a son! Richard Warren is the first grandson of Sis. Lois and Warren Newman.

We are so thankful and happy to have young Alice Harmon back with us in Sunday School and church, after weeks in the hospital following a serious fall.

### WICHITA KS

Glennis Allenbach

I have a special love for children and I believe this to be common among believers. In considering the new year, I felt I would like to include the children of our Sunday School. I visited the Sunday School yesterday, and asked the classes to think of a "sort of New Year's resolution" in connection with what they have been taught at home and in Sunday School.

I wanted their answers to be spontaneous, as I felt their answers would be more of themselves. The following resolution-type responses are from the lower three classes. I shed not a few tears while reading these, and I thought how sorry I am that we can't give you a better world to grow up in, but thank God, we can plant the seeds for a better life to come!

Starting with the youngest class, their responses were: "Obey our mom and dad" . . . "Pray to God; read the Bible" . . . "Love Jesus, and have Jesus stay in your heart—not the devil!" . . . "Help God make snow and the rain and clean up my room" . . . "Love God" . . . "Help my mother; love Jesus" . . . "Help Jesus" . . . "Help God love".

"Obey your mother and father; I love God" . . . "Help your mom

and dad and be good" . . . "Be good to other people" . . . "Start treating brothers and sisters like brothers and sisters" . . . "Obey my mother and father" . . . "Obey the Lord, for this is right; God said obey your parents".

"To understand more about God's word" . . . "Pay more attention in Sunday School" . . . "To seek more of God's word" . . . "I wish in this new year to be more like Christ in every way that I can possibly be" . . . "I would like to try to get more out of Sunday School."

I have saved one till the last from the second lowest class. If we believers would use this child's response for our format of the new year, we couldn't go wrong.

"I'll do what the Lord God says, and I'll pray to him every day. I'll do what pleases Him. I'll read the Holy Bible. I'll obey the ten commands, and when I die, I'll live with the Lord God and Jesus and love them very much."

Truly what more could we add? I am reminded of two lines from a poem:

"Home is the first school  
and the first church for your  
children."

We were pleased to have a visiting minister Bro. Vernon Lemman of Eureka. Vernon gave us the old and ever new message of salvation, and is such a strong witness for our World Relief. We were all very interested in his information and the far-reaching results it offers.

As usual, we ladies enjoyed very much our secret pal gift exchange at Christmas-time, within our World Relief organization. We are so fortunate to have Sister Ann Greiner's gift of organization, plus her willingness to give much of her time for our World Relief organization.

We were blessed to have Bro. Loren Strahm of Gridley as visiting minister for our New Year's eve service.

I'll trust Thee for today;  
I'll trust Thee for tomorrow.  
I know not what the future hath  
Of pleasure or of sorrow.  
One thing I know and on this rest,  
That Thou will give me what is  
best.

**BLUFFTON IN****Melanie Gerber / Donna Drayer**

Bros. Clarence Steffen, Fred Gerber, and Sam Maller have found it necessary to spend some time in the hospital.

On Christmas Day, Bro. David Roberts worshipped with us. We were reminded of Christ's first coming as a Babe and also of his second coming as a King. May we all be ready to meet the King of Kings with open arms when he returns.

Henry (Hank) Levy, 71, was laid to rest on Dec. 12. He is survived by two sisters, Sis. Mayme Getz, and Sis. Emma Levy—of whom he resided with until his death. Five brothers remain: George, Amos (Stuck), Ralph, Walter, and Raymond.

Sis. Sally Klopfenstein's engagement to Bro. Rodney Gress of Ft. Lauderdale was announced. Sally, who has lived in Bluffton the past couple years, is a daughter of Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie Klopfenstein of Ft. Lauderdale. We will miss her, but we're sure that her return to the South is welcomed also.

Several infants have found their way into the hearts of some families. Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hackenjos received a son, Andrew, on Dec. 8. . . Janel Susan was born to Bro. Herbert and Sis. Nancy Frank on Dec. 16. . . Leon and Susan Frauhiger became parents of their first child, Jeffrey Alan, on Dec. 22. Grandparents are Walter and Mary Speheger and Leonard and Sis. Mary Frauhiger. . . Another set of first-time parents are Junior and Charlene Lantz. Amy Jo was born on Dec. 30, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Gladys Lantz are her grandparents. . . On Jan. 2, Tamara Nichole was born to Bro. David and Sis. Betty Smeltzer.

Sis. Judy Steffen became the bride of Bro. Donald Isch on Dec. 15. Judy's parents are Sis. Lucille and the late Bro. Norman Steffen. Don's parents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Anna Isch. . . On Jan. 5, Bro. Jay Gerber and Sis. Deborah Freiburger were united in holy matrimony. Parents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Freiburger.

Love one another,  
As I have loved you,  
And care for each other,  
As I have cared for you.

Bear one another's burdens  
And share each other's joys;  
Love one another,  
And help bring each other home.

**DETROIT MI**  
**Bonnie Popp**

"But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;"

Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in reading the memorandum. May we all realize our part in preserving a blessed faith for our children's children.

JOY was the message of the Sunday School Christmas program. As the little ones reminded us, this joy is ours today if we but serve the Lord.

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.

May we all be led closer to Thee  
in the coming year.

**GOODFIELD IL**  
**Elna Grimm**

Another new year is unfolding before our eyes, and we look forward with anticipation to the blessings which might be had . . . just as we rejoice over the joys that were ours in the year that so recently has slipped away. Yes, the days and years may slip away from us, but the joys and blessings which we experience are ours for keeps. No wonder He said, "Rejoice evermore", for we certainly have much reason to do just that.

We are happy to announce that Melinda Meece, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Ernie and Eloise Diggelman, Bloomington . . . and Jahala, daughter of Roy and Sis. Corine Roth, Goodfield, have confessed peace with God and man, and now await the opportunity to speak testimonies and be baptized in His name.

With open arms, we welcome Bro. and Sis. Edmund and Lorine Kloter to our congregation, as they are planning to make Goodfield their church, since they have moved to this community. At the same time, we regret that Bro. and Sis.

Mike and Luann Knapp, along with their children have moved away. They are now attending the Taylor church. In behalf of the members of Goodfield, we wish you much joy and success . . . and above all, a sweet peace in your hearts as you enjoy your new home and surroundings. We will miss you. May the Lord be always near you in the days that lie ahead.

We are sorry to report that Bro. Will Knapp, Deer Creek, has been hospitalized, as he has not been well for the past few weeks . . . Our very dear friend, Bob Hohulin, son of Bro. Eli, has been hospitalized due to an illness which very suddenly befell him. Let us never forget how much We need the prayers of those we love.

We wish to thank Bro. Walt Anliker, Eureka, for the message he brought to us on the first Sunday morning of 1975. It was very much appreciated.

**MORTON IL****Emma Knapp / Peggy Joos**

Showers of blessings are in order for Bro. Ed Gramm and Sis. Lucille Jacobs, as their engagement has been announced. Ed's parents are Bro. Will and Sis. Ollie Gramm; Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Mary Jacobs are Lucille's parents. The Lord willing, they will become one on Feb. 9.

It was a blessed privilege to witness the testimonies and baptisms of four dear souls on Dec. 15. We welcome Kelly Koehl (Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Lou), Becky and Roger Roeschley (Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Hermann and Sister Mabel Roeschley) and Mark Grimm (Bro. Henry D. and Sis. Mary Lou Grimm Jr.) into Christ's church body.

Our annual Christmas program was held the evening of Dec. 15. We wish to thank the teachers, children and parents for all their efforts and labors, for impressing upon us all the true meaning of Christmas, through recitations and songs of praise to our loving Lord.

We were blessed with much spiritual food from our ministering brothers that have visited us. They were Ed Hohulin, Bob Grimm and Richard Schupbach.

Those we have missed seeing in our midst due to illness or hospitalizations have been . . . Sis. Rose Teubel, because of pain in her shoulder and in breathing . . . Sis. Kathryn Jacob . . . Bro. Chris Koehl suf-



ferred a heart attack, as did our friend, John Hirstein.

"To my friends, relatives and neighbors: my sincerest thanks to all for remembering my 90th birthday. Sis. Clara Welk . . . "We wish to thank all who remembered us with cards and gifts at the open house, for our 50th wedding anniversary." Bro. Sam and Sis. Hilda Roth.

I wish to thank ALL for the bountiful donations received . . . for the affiliate in Peoria at the Methodist Hospital . . . Just to see the looks on the children's faces as Bro. Gary Rumbold surprised each child with a present from people who do care was worth the little effort put forth. The staff . . . Sis. Mary Kay Rumbold handed them a check in the amount of \$115.00 and to receive also a child's blood pressure cuff and wheel-chair reassures us that God has everything in control and is working mightily through those that allow their hearts to be set right with Him. Thank you all for allowing me to see what being a Christian can truly mean. Sis. Peggy Joos.

#### NEW MARTINSVILLE WV Minnie Weltz / Della Witschey

A group of carolers from the Sardis Church visited several homes here on Dec. 18 and sang carols to several shut-ins, which was very much appreciated. Thanks for coming.

A baby was born recently to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barcus Jr.; the great-grandfather was the late D. S. Witschey; Miss Della Witschey is a great-great aunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Verda Fankhauser of Easton, Md., were holiday guests of the Witschey families. . . Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brothers of Mt. Vernon, O., were holiday guests of Minnie Weltz and Mary Ann Brothers.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Giles and family of Alfred, N.Y., spent Christmas here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Riggenbach. . . Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Witschey of Parkersburg, W. Va., visited recently with the Witschey families. . . Mrs. Frank Schupbach and daughter, Miss Erma visited one evening with Miss Della Witschey.

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Riggenbach of Paden City celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 20. They are the parents of eight living children, several grandchildren

and great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock Sr. visited during the holidays with their son, William Jr. and family in Huntington, W. Va. . . Mr. and Mrs. James Wade and family of Cleveland were guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Cemetery Association of Limestone Ridge met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Durig on Jan. 6. Plans for the year's work were made, and the annual all-day meeting will be held on June 29. Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Indermuhle, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gehring, Mr. and Mrs. John Figel Jr. of the Sardis church attended the meeting.

#### PHOENIX AZ Julie Hoerr

Sunday evening, Dec. 14, the Sunday School presented their Christmas program. Truly it is a joy to hear the young children tell the story of Jesus in their verses and songs.

Many members and friends gathered at the church Dec. 20, to go caroling for the aged and shut-ins. One of our aged members who enjoyed the caroling was Bro. Sam Farney. His 95th birthday was Dec. 28.

How wonderful we can still gather to hear God's word spoken to us; we thank our visiting minister, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington).

Our annual church election was held on Dec. 4. Offices filled are (Bros.) John Pulfer—trustee, Ted Knochel—Sunday School superintendent, and John Dotterer—assistant superintendent.

We welcome Bro. Pete Fankhauser, who is with us for the winter. He is staying with his daughter, Bro. Clarence and Sis. Gerry Beyner.

Our young Sunday School friend, Patty Carpenter's father passed away. We trust God will comfort her in her sorrow.

NOTHING LIES BEYOND THE REACH OF PRAYER, EXCEPT THAT WHICH LIES OUTSIDE THE WILL OF GOD.

#### TREMONT IL

Lydia Rassi - Mary Jane Leuthold  
This past month we enjoyed our Sunday School portray the blessed birth of our Saviour, in word and song.

Visiting ministers included (Bros.) John Steiner, Steve Rinkenberger and Harold Zeltwanger. We certainly can be renewed and uplifted by the inspiring words brought forth by God's Spirit, thru these brothers.

Our Sis. Kate Winzeler remains in the hospital and in a very weak condition. Our friend, Elmer Brunner is coming along very nicely, after having open heart surgery.

Christmas Day was the setting for the announcement of our Sis. Janice Beutel, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice, and our Bro. Howard Sauder, son of Bro. Willis and Sis. Pauline. . . On Jan. 5, the engagement announcement of our Bro. Kenney Koch, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Frances, and Sis. Amy Holden of the Peoria congregation was made known unto us.

The entire Tremont congregation was saddened by the sudden taking in death of our friend Don Roberts, husband of our Sis. Eileen (Yergler), and father to daughter, Sis. Jody and son, Robin. Services were held in Gridley. Our ardent prayers for strength, grace and faith are wished for all the Roberts family, in this time of sorrow and in the coming days ahead.

So Fare Ye Well—our hands are joined in parting with Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser and family, as they move from our congregation to The Hot Springs, Arkansas area. We pray that the blessings of God will follow their endeavors.

Bro. John and Sis. Rose Schurter observed their 67th wedding anniversary on the 5th of January. They are both at the Restmor Nursing Home.

#### SABETHA KS Mrs. Joe Steiner

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

Our visiting ministers have been Bro. Richard Aberle, Indianapolis, and Bro. Alphia Strahm Jr., Bern. May the Lord bless them.

Sis. Lena Wenger (Mrs. Will) has been hospitalized.

It was nice to see Sis. Tillie Aberle back in church, after having been hospitalized and recuperating at home.

Once again we have begun our midweek services, alternating with

Bern. Services begin at 7:30, and everyone is welcome.

**UNION CITY NJ  
PHILADELPHIA PA  
Carolyn Roberts**

The new year of 1975 has started with a loss for our two small congregations here in the East, leaving a sadness in the hearts of all the brethren in Union City and Philadelphia.

Two of our brothers, Lenard Hitz and Kaywin Martin have been transferred, due to their employment, back to Detroit. Sis. Karen Martin and children will be joining Bro. Kaywin as soon as they find a home. . . Bro. Lenard and Sis. Audrey and their boys will be moving at a later date. Until then, Bro. Lenard is commuting. Their son Jim attends school at Western Michigan, while Tom attends Michigan State. We wish the Lord's blessings upon these two families in establishing their new homes.

Dec. 15 was a blessed day of Thanksgiving, when we were privileged to have Bro. Akito Inoue from Tokyo with us, along with our Christmas program held in the afternoon for the children.

We received a new increase in our small congregation, with little David born to our family of Friend David and Emilia Pancarician. A brother and sister welcome him.

We also miss Marie Walch, who is visiting her home and family in Switzerland. She will be gone 7 weeks, and we trust her safe return.

We're happy that friend Steve Wegman from the Oakville congregation is working in Baltimore, Maryland, and attends services with us.

**VALPARAISO IN  
Camille and Wm. Feller**

On Dec. 8, our small flock had the opportunity to hear the inspirational message of the Lord ministered by Bro. Maurice Frank of Leo. With the Lord's blessing, the fellowship with these our brethren who traveled from afar was a witness to all of how the Holy Spirit can move within us.

Through God's wonderful grace and mercy, our Sunday School in rejoicing in the birth of Jesus was enabled on Dec. 22 to give their annual Christmas program through song. Many of us had the privilege

to carol in homes around the Valparaiso area. We then met in our fellowship area for a warm drink and meal.

On Dec. 28, our dear friends, Todd Ames and Evelyn Alt, were united in Holy Matrimony. Todd is the son of Diller Ames Sr., and Evelyn the daughter of Willis Alt. Our prayers are with this young couple as they begin their life together.

**WINTHROP MN  
Carol Messner / Marcelle Dapper**

Another year of mercies, Of faithfulness and grace.  
Another year of gladness In the shining of Thy face.

What beautiful words the author of this hymn wrote. As we enter a new year, we as born-again Christians have a tremendous responsibility to always let our light shine, to love one another more, to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we be ready to meet the Lord in the clouds of heaven if He should come before the close of 1975.

Our little congregation had a few accidents beginning the new year, but with that came joy to our hearts, as we now have three more precious souls who have turned their backs on the world and are seeking the Lord's grace and mercy: Bruce Messner, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold; Kenneth Messner, son of Bro. and Sis. Walter; and Marvin, son of the late Bro. and Sis. Levi Messner. Our prayer is they may find the peace that passeth all understanding.

Hospital patients were Bro. Roland Messner; Garrett Nelson, son of Al and Sis. Donnabell; and Joy Jacobson, daughter of Lloyd and Sis. Dorothy.

"I wish to thank everyone who sent me cards and words of encouragement while I was in the hospital. I also feel many prayers were made in my behalf." Bro. Roland Messner.

**Submitted By Bro. Gerald Messner**

Praise God—Take hold of eternal life as prescribed in the holy word—repentance, confession, restitution, baptism—Holiness . . . be ye Holy, for I am holy, saith the Lord. Strive for that eternal home, joy, peace, happiness for ever, without end.

Jesus Christ gave His all; He gave His precious, unblemished life. Greater love hath no man than this, that he give His life for his friends. Should we not do as much? We that are His children? Let us serve the Lord, thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Let us exercise our talents, whatever they may be, ministering, teaching, singing, praying, or listening and being a light and an example. How much this dark and dreary world needs a light and a good Christian example.

Grow in Christ—" . . . why cumbereth it the ground"—Let us not become stunted in our Christian walk of life.

Prayer availeth much. This is our avenue of approach to God's Almighty throne. Reach out; touch the hem of His garment; receive the virtue which comes from it; be healed of the issue of sin; receive the strength.

Faith — Faith to believe that God's mansion will be filled with our loved ones—faith to believe. Praise God. . .

**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA IL  
Howie and Dianne Leman**

It's that time of year again . . . Everyone is busy making resolutions for the new year. Most often our resolutions have to do with goals, such as losing weight, avoiding bad habits or making more friends. For those of us in business, we plan our objectives of income and production for the coming year. We spend hours trying to figure out the best way to achieve the desired results.

Yet how many of us did any real spiritual planning? Did we carefully analyze our past year for mistakes and shortcomings? What have we decided to do for the Lord in 1975? Each of us should make some definite plans and goals for this year in our service to Jesus. After all, what can bring a person a higher percentage return than being a true Christian and some day entering heaven.

Let's all do some spiritual planning now, with the help of Holy Spirit. We need to do some deep thinking and commit our lives to some worthy goals.

Our little church just keeps on growing with the help of the Lord. Bro. Mark and Sis. Kai Alt and baby daughter, Janell will now be per-

manent residents, as Mark has accepted a position with A & H Engineering in Champaign. Bro. Denny and Sis. Julie Fehr will be moving to Decatur IL, where Denny will accept an art teaching position. They will continue to fellowship with C-U Church, as we are still the closest to them.

#### CHICAGO IL Kathy Schlatter

December has been another joyful month in Chicago. Elder Bro. Ed Frank, La Crosse, shared the reading of the memorandum with Bro. Dale Eisenmann Dec. 15, and spent time speaking to us of particular concerns and convictions. Our Sunday School's Christmas program on Dec. 18 was a special blessing. Few in number, they make a joyful noise unto the Lord, making up for a lack of quantity with their energy and enthusiasm. For Christmas caroling Sunday, Dec. 22, many travelled first to see Bro. Paul Butash in Reed Hospital, and then to several rest homes in the La Grange area. Bro. Elmer Schrenk from Alto was with us on Dec. 29 and willingly shared the word through His Spirit.

. . . And now that a new year is beginning, we want to welcome Bro. Rich Herman, his wife Marilyn; Lori, Joe, and Doug, and hope they enjoy our Chicago church and their new home in Joliet.

Dick and Jan Gudeman and their daughter, Suzanne include another little New Year's blessing, Julie, born Jan. 3 in their family group.

To Pearl Bozzay, who has had to spend some time in Columbus Hospital, we extend our love and prayers for a speedy recovery.

For a couple of months, a Royal portable typewriter has been sitting in our Fellowship Hall in Chicago. Did a visitor leave it by mistake?

One of our ministers mentioned that we should be both like a lion and a lamb—like a lion in our courage and steadfastness to the Lord, like the lamb in meekness and humility.

#### CROGHAN NY Alice Virkler

We are glad that several of our loved ones have been able to assemble with us again, after coming home from the hospital. Bro. Lowell Virkler still has a cast on his

leg, following knee surgery. He has been able to assemble with us and return to his Sunday School class. Bro. James Farney and Sisters Irene Farney and Barbara Virkler have also been able to worship with us, since their return from the hospital. Bros. Arthur Virkler and Amos Virkler have not been able to assemble with us for a few weeks. Little Terry Farney, son of Duane and Karen, has been hospitalized for a week. Bro. Bernard Martin is a medical patient. May each of those in older years who must suffer afflictions of the body look to the Great Physician for grace and strength sufficient to continue their daily walk of life.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Mabel Ebersol celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house, given in their honor by their children.

Three young couples have made their engagements known to us in the past few weeks. The engagement of Bro. Floyd Graves Jr. and Sis. Linda Virkler was announced on Jan. 5. Floyd's parents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Loretta, and Linda's parents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia. . . Kathy Virkler and Clifford Lehman are planning an April wedding. Kathy's parents are Bro. Clyde and Sis. Lois, and Cliff's parents are Norman and Alice Lehman. . . LuAnn Virkler and Carl Gonsler of California will have a June wedding. LuAnn is the daughter of Bro. Howard and Pernal. Sis. Sarah Virkler is the grandmother of these three girls.

LuAnn Virkler has been transferred to New Jersey, where she is attending school at Ft. Mammouth. Her new address is: Pfc. LuAnn S. Virkler W091-38-2827, Co H Wac Second Bn Sch BDE, Ft Manmouth NJ 07703.

#### FORREST IL

Kathryn Steidinger  
Beverly Eisenmann

Retrieving the years we cannot do . . .

But may we point one path of happiness to you?

Who are the happiest souls on earth?

Those who gather the treasures of gentle worth . . .

The Fairbury congregation gathered with us when (Bros.) Josh Broquard and Dan Koch assisted

Bro. Perry Zimmerman in reading the memorandum. Other visiting ministers were Bros. Art Bahler, Ken Schneider, Bill Kupferschmid and Hartzell Kaisner.

Sis. Dana Nussbaum (Bro. Byron and Sis. Neola) and Bro. Ed Meister of Peoria have announced their engagement and are planning a March wedding . . . Sis. Luann Nussbaum (Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Jerry Endress of Princeville have also announced their engagement. . . Bro. Ed Bach's son, Dave, and Cheryl Demery have announced plans for their wedding in April.

A couple who have exchanged vows recently are Alan Nussbaum (Bro. Willis & Sis. Elna) and Laura Bull. It would be our hearts wish that each of these couples could share many years together, as our Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise (Koehl) Zimmerman have been permitted to do. Their family and friends shared the happy occasion, when they observed their 50th wedding anniversary. They are parents of Bro. Lester and Sis. Doris Steffen, and also have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. . . "Our heartfelt thanks to all our friends and relatives who remembered us with cards and gifts on our 50th anniversary. Each kind thought and deed was sincerely appreciated. Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Zimmerman.

We are thankful that Sis. Josephine Zimmerman can assemble with us again, after having surgery. Sis. Leona Ricketts was in the hospital for a few days. Sis. Lizzie Geyer is at home again, after some time spent in the hospital due to a fall and a broken bone in her arm. Our friend, Ed Traub remains a patient after suffering a heart attack.

Tom and Sis. Jane Bounds have a new son, Clinton Lee. Brian and Jennifer are their other children. Harvey and Sis. Dorothy Rieger are grandparents, and Sis. Sarah Koehl is great-grandmother.

Sis. Carrie Wiegand has moved to Fairview Haven, where we enjoy meeting her when we go to visit.

Yearly report, 1974: Baptisms, 5; Deaths, 8; Babies, 15.

I see not a step before me as I tread on another year, but I've left the past in God's keeping—the future His mercy shall clear, and what looks dark in the distance may brighten as I draw near.

**FORT SCOTT KS****Ida Sinn**

We have now entered the year of 1975. May God bless us with His presence in this new year.

Justin Ray is the name of the son born to Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart on Dec. 15. Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart are the maternal grandparents, and Bro. Huber and Sis. Helen Farney are the maternal grandparents.

Bro. Sam Anliker spent an evening with us. Bro. Sam helped our elder, Bro. Raymond Banwart in bringing the conference letter.

The Sunday School presented a program in verse and song to the praise of our dear Saviour. It is uplifting to see the children so eager to speak of Jesus and His coming upon earth.

Roger Kraft has been hospitalized for knee surgery. His knee is well on the way to recovery.

Janet Kraft has turned to the Lord in repentance. Janet is the daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda.

We have been saddened by the death of Joe Sinn. He was a veteran of World War II, and his body was laid to rest in the National Cemetery.

A group of carolers surprised me and those who were visiting at my house Christmas night. If each house received the blessing we did from their songs of praise, their time was well spent.

**FT LAUDERDALE FL****Kathy Sutter - Henry Schwartz**

Sis. Sally Klopfenstein, daughter of Bro. Bud and Sis. Billy, and Bro. Rodney Gress of Ft. Lauderdale announce their engagement; we rejoice with them, and are especially glad that Sally will be returning home from Indiana, where she has been employed.

Charles Aikel is still convalescing at home. Although he has not been to assemble with us since his surgery, he is making steady progress. Sis. Frances Schwartz was hospitalized for tests and is also convalescing at home.

The holidays brought many visitors and the usual bustle of activity; a group of us enjoyed caroling in warm, breezy weather. Although it is quite different from the memories we have of caroling in the brisk cold of a Midwestern December, the same spirit of joy filled

our hearts as we sang the beautiful Christmas songs.

We enjoyed again the program presented by the Sunday School; through song and verse we heard the Christmas story, and then were asked the question "What does it mean?" What does it mean to us today, that a little child in a manger lay, in a faraway land long years ago? Say what does it mean that this was so?

Oh say, do you think to connect the two? The manger birth and the cross?

Or do you, as you sing with joy of His wondrous birth, think only that he came to earth?

It is our prayer for the coming new year, that the end of the story will not be forgotten, and that many of our friends and loved ones will come to know the Babe of Bethlehem as their Saviour and King.

This was the sum and substance of the stirring Christmas Day message delivered by Bro. Grimm. We had a blessed day, with representation from many of our Northern churches.

We heard the gospel message from Bob Grimm and Roy Luginbuhl. All who attended were happy to hear the good message, and may we all try to do better in the new year.

**GRIDLEY IL****Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein**

What glorious state to be a lamb of Jesus. Valerie Brockwell gave her testimony of faith and was baptized, joyfully accepting her new high calling as a child of God. Her testimony was a wonderful reminder that God is still reaching the lost, through the light which beams forth from the loving fellowship of His children. **By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples: by your love for one another.** Valerie, who previously hadn't known of our church and faith, was impressed by the close tie of love that seemed to bind the members one to another.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Bro. Fred Kellerhaus, who was killed in an automobile accident.

Another life was taken unexpectedly, when Don Roberts of Tremont died of a heart attack at 51 years of age. His funeral was here in

Gridley on Jan. 2. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Sis. Eileen; his son, Robin; and his daughter, Sis. Jodie.

Bro. Ed Gramm was announced to be married to Sis. Lucile Jacobs of Morton. May God bless them and Bro. Ed's seven children, as they happily look forward to having a wife and mother in their home again.

Again this year, it was nice to hear the wonderful Christmas story presented in song and verse by our Sunday School children. The loving spirit of Christmas touches old and young alike.

We are happy to have Bro. Jim Gramm, his wife, Kathy, and his son, Justin, living in Gridley. He has been discharged from the US Army, and they bought a home here in town.

Bro. Herb Gramm was in the hospital, but is restored and home again. Sis. Lorene Stoller has suffered a stroke and is still in the hospital recovering.

Our visiting ministers were (Bros.) Lynn Klopfenstein from Landersville and William Funk of Garden Grove.

**LAMONT KS****Betty Wernli**

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart came to us and helped our Elder Bro. Sam read the deliberations of the elder conference. May we ever be exhorted to walk the straight and narrow way.

Our Sunday School presented their Christian program to us on Christmas Eve. May the seed that is being sown in the hearts of these dear children ever spring up and bear fruits of repentance in due time, for "of such is the kingdom of heaven."

We are truly enjoying the opportunity that is ours to assemble during the week, each other Wednesday evening at the Lamont and Gridley churches . . . was such an inspiration to come together on New Year's night, and even though we live one day at a time, was such a wonderful way to start the year. The Lord did move that James, chapter 1 could be read and meditated upon. . . "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he

being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." This seems a good time that each one readjust their lives to God's purpose, that we can ever be mindful that to visit the widows and fatherless in their afflictions and to keep himself unspotted from the world is indeed pure religion and undefiled.

#### MILFORD IN

Sandra Price - Sue Schieler

The Christmas season brings joy to the young and old, as we all receive such a blessing caroling to our elder brothers, sisters and friends.

We were all saddened by the passing of our dear sister, Georgia Rassi on Dec. 10, after a very lingering illness. We rejoice to know she won't have to suffer any longer, but she can go to her Great Reward. We extend our sympathy to her dear husband, Elmer, and daughter, Joyce Morehouse.

Bro. Ray Sinn from Latty ministered to our congregation.

Bernie Beer and Peg Stillson were united in marriage Dec. 27. A reception was held in the fellowship hall for their family.

Sis. Hulda Graff has been unable to worship with us recently. Bro. Sam Reimschiesel is able to join us again on Sundays, after being confined at home. Many dear faithful brothers and sisters have a regular pew in church, and we miss them when they cannot assemble with us.

On Jan. 8, we held our annual business meeting and elections to fill the following offices: (Bros.) Lewis Speicher, trustee; Phil Beer, Sunday School Supt.; Phil Price, Assistant Supt. . . . new Sunday School teachers are Dan Beer and Clint Bucher. Jesse Haab was elected to be in charge of the World Relief. Sisters Nettie Haab and Linda Beer were elected Silver Lining correspondents.

Jennifer Renee was born Nov. 5 to Bro. and Sis. Dan Beer.

#### NAUMBURG NY

Eleanor Herzig

The Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Dec. 22. How wonderful it is to hear of the birth of our Lord through word and song. Many of us enjoyed Christmas caroling to the shut-ins and older folks.

Robert Justin, born on Dec. 7,

is the name given to the new son of Ronald and Beth Hirschev, and is welcomed home by Lisa, Christopher, Ryan and Deanna. Grandparents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice Hirschev and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Plana of Wisconsin.

Hospitalized for surgery was Sis. Viola Karcher. We are happy that she can assemble with us again.

#### PEORIA IL

Betty Miller

During December, there were many Christmas-related activities. A number of groups, such as Peoria Choir, young members, and H.A.T. ladies and their husbands carolled for the elderly and the sick. Sunday School classes had their Christmas parties at Fellowship Hall and then, on Sunday evening, Dec. 17, gave a program at church. The Bible Class held their annual PARC Christmas party, from which many blessings are derived. On Christmas morning, we were privileged to hear the story of Jesus, our Saviour from Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville.

Other visiting ministers during December were Bros. Noah Herman, Hartzell Kaisner, Joe Braker, and Clifford Grimm.

New arrivals early in December were Benjamin Zeller, born to Bro. David and Sis. Chris, and David Paul Ziegenhorn, born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Linda.

What glorious state — to be a lamb of Jesus! A flock of lambs have been added to the fold: Linda Haefli, Ruth Meister, Faye Meyers, and Larry Herman, Ruth Hofstetter; and on Dec. 29, Judy Waibel, daughter of Bill and Sis. Joyce; Jan and Brad Hoerr, children of Bro. Don and Sis. Velma; and David Stoller, son of Bro. Elsworth and Sis. Evie Stoller.

Sis. Dana Nussbaum and Bro. Eddie Meister are engaged. Dana lives in Bloomington. Eddie is the son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie of here. . . Sis. Amy Holden and Bro. Ken Koch are also engaged to be married. Pam Waibel, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Ethel, is engaged to Ken Ober.

Bro. George and Sis. Joanne Koehl announce the engagement of their daughter, Ida, to Larry Kreeger.

Sis. Mary Martin, 97, passed away. Her funeral, conducted by Bro. Roy Sauder, was Dec. 26.

On the sick list are Bro. Dan

Stahl, Sis. Madge O'Moran. Bro. Les Bittner, Bro. Ben Vogel, Bertha Johnston, Sis. Irma See, Sis. Anna Zercher, and in the hospital once but okay now, Scott Meister.

Our prayer for the new year is that all children of God continue in His service and that the unconverted find the grace to repent.

#### PULASKI IA

Ernestine Wuthrich  
Janice Rinkenberger

We had our Christmas program Dec. 22. It was a blessed event to see our children sing and recite poems for our Saviour's birth. It is a joy to know that our children are taught the real meaning of Christmas.

The wedding of Sis. Vera Schaer, daughter of Bro. Bernard and Sis. Lea Schaer to Bro. Tom Lindeen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vergil Lindeen of near Sweedsberg, Ia., was Dec. 29. Bro. Harvey Heiniger, Oakville, had the wedding services. Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, had the morning services. The couple will be farming near Mt. Pleasant, Ia., and attend church at Oakville.

Danny and Lynn Townsend have moved to Burlington, where Danny has found a job. We are sad to see them leave us, but we know they will be welcomed in the Burlington church.

#### BAY CITY MI

Carolyn Schamback

For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven . . . children! They do indeed "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD", as we heard when our Sunday School children and our choir presented the Christmas program. It seemed that most of the congregation attended, and who could help but receive a blessing. We should put such enthusiasm into our service for the Lord!

Elder Bro. Noah Schrock (Oakville) visited and brought many fine teachings. He also assisted Bro. Joe Waibel in reading and talking about the memorandum.

Sis. Donna Waibel (Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth) has moved to Phoenix to live; we miss her, but wish her God's richest blessings in her new home.

Two new little babies were welcomed home. Jim and Sis. Dianne Rylance brought Aaron a baby sister, named her Rebecca Ann

(grandparents are Marshall and Sis. Muriel Rylance). Dave and Connie Sancraint, Kelly and Chad have a new little boy at their home, Ryan George (Bro. George and Sis. Laidig, Toledo, are grandparents).

Curt Munsel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Delores) was hospitalized long enough to have a broken leg repaired. He, Tom Knochel (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marion) and Sis. Marilyn Schamback were injured when hit by a car while Christmas caroling. Surely the Lord was present and protective, for there were many others close by who could have been hurt. We're thankful none were hurt worse. Bro. Bob Knochel broke several ribs when he fell while working in his barn. All seem to be recovering fine. I'm just waiting for a month when I don't have to write about someone being sick or injured—seems there were quite a few last year!

Yet we praise God, for all this is in His divine plan, and someday we'll see so clearly the season.

#### IOWA CITY IA

April Wiegand / Twila Whipple

So many times when we visit the sick, we feel we are bringing them encouragement. However, it is usually we that receive the greater blessing.

One cold evening after a discouraging day, I was ready to stay home for the evening. . . . But something made me feel like I needed to take a moment to go visiting at the hospital. I had been informed of a seriously ill patient who was acquainted with our faith. I met many obstacles, but finally found his room, and after a moment's hesitation, entered. After chatting with him for awhile, a silence came over the room. Then tears filled his eyes as he told me how he had decided to give his life to God. The joy that filled the room was overwhelming. I could feel God's presence as he told how he had wanted to repent for so many years. How fortunate that through such a critical illness God had spared his life and granted him the grace to repent. It was uplifting to see his childlike faith and his appreciation for what he had found.

I felt humbled to think that I had been privileged to share in this wonderful experience. As I left the room, I knew I had received the greater blessing.

We appreciate the labors of our visiting minister, Bro. Uriel Gehring (Burlington).

#### OAKVILLE IA Martha Wiegand

Best wishes to Bro. Tom Lindeen and Sis. Vera Schaer, who were united in marriage at Pulaski on Dec. 29. Oakville will be their home church.

Friends John and Ingrid Buster are happy parents of Ivy Nadine, born Dec. 6. Ivy is welcomed at home by Ward and Inga.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Roy Farney (Phoenix), (Bros.) Bill Gerst (Alto), Arnold Gerst (Chicago), and Uriel Gehring (Burlington). We appreciated their efforts in bringing us God's word.

#### LEO IN Mrs. Elias Souder

Already we are well into the new year, and we wish all a blessed year.

Our Christmas program was at the Fellowship Center this year. The interesting part was that separate family groups made up the program. The Boys Quartet also participated.

We are happy to tell you Henry is regaining his strength after a heart attack, is at home working some on the Silver Lining.

Our church groups visited the three rest homes in Butler the first Sunday of this month.

Home for Christmas was Diane and Mark Souder from Minneapolis, Nancy Souder from Indianapolis, Loren and Lynn Klopfenstein from Muncie.

Our yearly business meeting was postponed because of much illness, flu and colds here.

Diane Conrad went to join the many loved ones with the Lord. Diane lived here on earth 88 years. She was living in Ft. Wayne with her two sisters, Rose and Adella, who survive. She was a very active person, and moments before she passed away was listening to carolers, and had boxes of cookies ready to give the neighbors. Funeral services were conducted by our local ministers at the church, and burial was in the Leo Cemetery. That was just 4 weeks ago she passed away . . . now another loved one, Leah Conrad (Mrs. Jos.) has also gone to be with the Lord.

#### TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki

General condition of Japan in 1974 was not so good. We had economical and political problems. However, we had really blessed Christmas. Pretty many members and friends gathered in our church in Tokyo to praise the Lord's birth. Bro. Akito Inoue gave us a wonderful message of Christmas. Also, we had the Sunday School Christmas program. Sisters Hiroko Utsuki and Junko Hatsuumi took the responsibility here. About 25 children enjoyed the program very much.

Sis. Kathy Huber's parents, Wayne and Sis. Carol, along with their two sons, (Bros.) Brian and David are visiting here in Japan now. Kathy is excited very much. They are going on a sight-seeing trip down to Kyushu Island, and Bro. Hisato Inoue will guide them. We hope they have blessed time here in our country.

The end of this world is near, and we should work even harder before the Lord comes back again. **The harvest is great but the laborers are few.**

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in faith of Christ our Lord,

Greeting to you all from Japan!

I have confidence that you had really blessed time in the Lord this whole through year, 1974. Of course it's really terrible and difficult situation where we are living now, since the oil crisis and the following economic confusion here in the world today. However, the hearts of true Christians need not be troubled, because the word of God told us that everything might fulfilled by the will of God. Praise ye the Lord.

My English classes are pretty good now, and some of them are coming to our Sunday School here. I am always teaching them, "I love God because He loves us first. I love Jesus because He gave us His life for our sins. All you children should obey your parents and hymns", with other regular conversation. They enjoyed them very much, and some of their mothers told me that they really appreciated it. Our Sunday School also very blessed, and some of new children come and joining with us.

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you

in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father.

May the Lord be with you all coming new year, and may the Lord bless you all.

Your least brother in faith,  
Yoshio

**AKRON OH**  
**Lynda Pamer**

Bless us, Heavenly Father,  
forgive our erring ways.  
Grant us strength to serve Thee;  
put purpose in our days. . .  
Teach us to be patient  
in everything we do,  
Content to trust Your wisdom  
and to follow after You. . .  
And help us when we falter  
and hear us when we pray,  
And receive us in Thy kingdom  
to dwell with Thee some day.

We enjoyed a blessed day when Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier came and ministered to us from God's word. He also assisted Elder Bro. Rudy Graf in reading the memorandum.

We are thankful that Bro. John Steiner of Oakville visited and ministered to us. We were reminded to "Let brotherly love continue."

Sis. Marie Ritzman has moved to an apartment in Wadsworth. Her new address is 143 West St., Wadsworth OH 44281.

Sis. Anna Hanla would like to thank all who have remembered her in illness with cards, gifts, and prayers. . . She is feeling much better, but is still confined to her home.

Sis. Eva Emery has not been able to attend church the past few Sundays. We hope she will soon feel well enough to come again.

"We want to thank one and all at this Christmas season for the love, gifts, prayers, and thoughts." Bro. Stanley and Anne Francis.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN**  
**CHILDREN'S HOME**

Construction on the two homes has progressed rapidly during December, with volunteer help arriving from many of the churches in the Central States. Workers are installing the wiring, plumbing and heating, and inside wall construction, windows and doors.

The home-cooked meals served by the sisters from Latty, Junction, Bluffton, Remington, Francesville and Leo have helped much in the efforts to keep the work going.



Sign along Grabill Rd.—the homes are some distance in from this.

We are very thankful to everyone for their continuing help, and for the contributions to pay for the materials. The next two or three months will see a major portion of the construction work completed.



View of one of the homes.

Volunteer help or those wishing to contribute to the Children's Home work may contact Apostolic Christian Children's Home, Box 8, Leo, Indiana. . . . Phone 627-5138 or 627-2114.

With sincere appreciation, the Children's Home Committee.

**CONGERVILLE IL**  
**Mary Schrock - Mary Leman**

Whatever the new year has in store,  
Remember there's always a good reason for

Everything that comes into our life . . .  
For even in times of struggle and strife  
If we but lift our eyes above  
We see our cross as a gift of love. . .  
For things that cause the heart to ache  
Until we feel it must break  
Become the strength by which we climb  
To higher heights that are sublime . . .  
So welcome every stumbling-block  
And every thorn and jagged rock,  
For each one is a stepping-stone  
To a fuller life than we've ever known,  
And in the radiance of God's smiles  
We learn to soar above life's trials. . .

On Dec. 22, Sis. Luann Knapp (daughter of Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge) became the bride of Bro. Clarence Zobrist (son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Phyllis) of Goodfield. They were united by Bro. Josh Broquard. Other visiting ministers that day were Bros. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Walt Anliker (Eureka), and Gene Lehman (Wolcott).

Mark Steffen (son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary) and Joan Hohulin (daughter of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Laura of Goodfield) were united in marriage on Dec. 27. We welcome Sis. Maryellen (Hartter) Zimmerman to our congregation. Sis. Maryellen and Bro. Fred were married on Jan. 5.

The engagement was made known of Tom Zimmerman (son of Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu) to Janet Fehr (daughter of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lulu) of Eureka.

Three homes were gladdened by the arrival of new babies. Jennifer Rose Ifft was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley on Dec. 14. She has a brother, Brent and a sister, Kristie. Grandparents are Bro. Noali and Sis. Emma Gerber of West Bend and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Ifft of Forrest. . . . John, Tim, Rob and Debra welcomed home their brother, Richard Joel, born Dec. 21. Their parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri Dietrich. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sarah Dietrich. . . . Blessed with their first son are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Judy Wettstein. He was named Brian Kent and was born Jan. 4. His sisters are Rhonda, Michele, Peggy

Mr & Mrs Andy Mogler

Lester Iowa 51242

and Rachel. Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach of Tremont and Bro. John Wettstein are grandparents.

Bro. Ralph Gudeman had the misfortune of slipping on the ice and breaking his leg. We are glad to have Tim Dietrich (son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Sherri) back in church with us. He is now able to walk

with the aid of a brace. Bro. Chris Miller has been confined to his home, due to back problems. Hospitalized is Sandra Osman, daughter of Bro. Sam and Sis. Luella Zimmerman.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Betty Miller in the death of her mother, Mrs. Zelda Shaneybrook.

We enjoyed hearing the tapes of

the Brotherhood Conference. It was very uplifting to hear the inspirations of our elder brothers.

God's plan Fulfilled was the theme of our Sunday School Christmas program. A closing thought was: "God's part of the plan of salvation has been fulfilled; we can fulfill our part by repenting and being converted."

## WHEN CANDLES GLOW

Henry Souder, Jr.

I'm happy to be among the people that let their soft radiant light shine. That's the way God does things. You're made to feel comfortable in eternal things. You're cared about. Kindly things is the way in those mansions up yonder. This people's love is exactly the same love so beautiful where the Father is.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." That's the reason it is so great. It is a heavenly, treasured love, His own.

Remember how He loved? His disciples were quarrelsome and bickering; He was very patience, gently, so gently convincing of the right way. When His teaching didn't sink in to their understanding, He was willing to wait. He would repeat . . . When Peter was proud, and heedless to the Lord's urge to watch and pray . . . how kind Jesus was and after, how Jesus so gently gave comfort to the contrite, humble heart. . . .

We are not just when we are kindly shown to love. Shortcomings, heedlessness are our chances to explore the beauty of the love of our Saviour's commandment. What gentle, pure-white righteousness does the Father give to our asking for another. Love covers a multitude of sins.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." This is the Lord's way to attract interest. Full page ads, the best spots on frequency or

channel, writings in the sky do not come up to this. Do we want the gospel published to the entire community about us? The gold is in the mine. Use a sincere interest. Show your love. Change your corner. The thunder and lightning of His power can spring from prayer!

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house." **There is purpose in illumination.** We in our day turn on an electric light. In those days, they would light their lamp, and put it on the stand prepared for it. . . . But never under the bushel. That would defeat its purpose.

The Lord is telling us of great opportunity. If we would altogether listen to His way of doing things, what brilliant success will star the way of believers. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Like the lamp . . . like the candle, **thus** let your light shine. Men need to be shown **good works**. There is too much in the world of false diamems. Hungry souls need love. Weary souls need peace. . . . You, the believer hold peculiar treasure found nowhere in any restless channels. What a costly, priceless duty you have.

Shine your lamp! God lighted it, and His word directs to use it. His work is love. The beautiful fruits of the Spirit are wonderfully appealing. The bushel can present it-

self in many ways . . . and right in the room . . . long face, impatience, anger, lack of real interest in another . . . It is something to be joyful on a sunny day. To "Rejoice evermore" shines through the clouds! Love courageously braving overwhelming odds finds glorious success.

Paul and Silas were given opportunity; the earth quaked; the jailer cried out. Their response of the good news fitted in, just the right time, just the right way. We, too, need to be alert to the golden opportunity given of God.

The Bible says, and it is God's desire speaking to us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

God always opens His opportunity. It is His concern. Long before, He has worked . . . urging, convicting, appealing. All men would be drawn to humble submission if He could always have His way with all. He gives that we fit in with His golden harvest. Success comes with heart and way formed to His divine nature. This before success needs to come . . . And we are to be ready. Sitting at His feet, falling before Him, thoroughly shone in the atmosphere of His way, then we can confidently grasp His opportunity.

When soft candles glow, hearts listen, and know. Carols of hope gladden. Hearts hear of ages that never end.

This is indeed the beautiful life.