



For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

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

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

CHRISTMAS!

The eve of December 24! A happy heart glows. Morning coming. All the fantastic tales of Santa Claus, chimney, sleigh, gliding through the night, various bursts of man's imagination, unattainable realms never comes even near what God actually does. Man places, but displaces room for God's treasures. The false always take's what could be reality—a Father's pleasure, His presence, wonderful surprises and delights . . . Home, heaven . . . and beyond the fantastic—powers, dreams, gifts of the world to come!

Christmas is this!

Say rather that my morn has just begun;
I greet the dawn and not a setting sun,
When all is done . . .

The child of God is given gifts that endure forever. Hand printing of Bro. Elias Souder seems to be the source of what is next. Two lists. What do you want, forever? Elias is home in the Father's mansion now. Freedom from one list is wonderful giving, a world of light and joy away from gruelling realities. The other list is the riches of a Father's giving now and coming joy forever!

Earthly Pleasures
Satan
Satan's Angels
Hell
The Rich Man
Who Is Hell for
Dance
Dates
Wealth
Weeping and Gnashing
The Prodigal—Riotous Living
Paradise Lost
Scenery of Hell
A Great Gulf Between
Books

Heavenly Pleasures
God
Jesus
Righteous Angels
Heaven
Crowns
White Robes
No Death
Wealth

Harps and A New Song
A Christian
Paradise Restored
Scenery of Heaven
The Bible

Send to God, in His letter way, and sweet Christmas eve will hear morning gladness—riches, overflowing treasures, never passing away . . . But we have to love the way He does things . . .

There is a Book that never ends . . . And one that's traveled o'er the earth . . . To spread the wisdom from on high . . . And news about the Saviour's birth . . . If we desire to do God's will . . . Thus yield our lives for Him to mold . . . The treasures that are in this Book . . . Will clearly now to us unfold . . . We should believe its every word . . . And not just here and there in part . . . Then we will have the fulness of . . . The blessings poured from God's own heart.

IF ONLY. Broken, twisted, depressed lives show no joy from real happiness. If only they would look into His Book . . . if only they would pray—then they can find, and enter the halls now, where God's merriment rings in heavenly places! In Him, for the returning soul is everlasting life . . . Repentance and faith . . . and then . . .

If we could see beyond today . . . As God can see . . . If all the clouds should roll away . . . The shadows flee . . . O'er present griefs we would not fret . . . Each sorrow we would soon forget . . . For many joys are waiting yet . . . For you and me . . .

Jesus is the One that means more than all the world—more than life itself. What shall that feeling be, when we look into His glorious face?

The light of heaven is the face of Jesus . . . The joy of heaven, the presence of Jesus . . . The melody of heaven, the name of Jesus . . . the harmony of heaven, the praise of Jesus . . . The theme of heaven, the work of Jesus . . . The employment of heaven, the service

of Jesus . . . The fulness of heaven, the Person of Jesus.

Listen now to words of a believer, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein. There are melodious strains that are peacefully quieting in the eve. The morn is coming!

For those who allow themselves to fall victim to the more shallow aspects of Christmas, the season comes, passes, and is soon forgotten.

Then there is the real Christmas. The rallying cry is "Joy to the World, The Lord is come!" This Christmas is alive and vibrant, because our Lord makes it that way. It brings peace and excitement. Who celebrates this type of Christmas? Those of the household of faith, those who have been born-again and believe in the Man for whom the season was originally intended . . . Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is not soon forgotten!

His flock of believers focus their thoughts primarily on Him at Christmas-time. He is the One that is remembered . . . the One that gives reason to sing carols and praises. He is the One that causes rejoicing . . . the One that ignites the spirit of giving. He is the One that brings peace on earth and good-will toward men . . . the One that gives the proper meaning and substance to Christmas. He is the One that can rescue us from sin. He is the One, Period! Why? Because He is our precious Lord and Saviour.

Those who firmly and devotedly follow this wonderful Good Shep-

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

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Published Monthly By the Apostolic
Christian Church of America
Counselors: Theo. Beer, Loren Stoller,
David Bertsch.

News Correspondent: Ed Souder
Send correspondence to The Silver
Lining, Grabill, Ind. 46741
Second class postage paid at
Grabill, Indiana 46741

Amount per year, \$2.00.
Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address.

herd experience a Christmas of infinite substance and dimension. . . For it is a delight to remember how our Lord was born in a lowly manger of poor parentage. He remained humble and loving throughout His entire life. His teachings of love, redemption, and His promise of eternal life cause us to rejoice, and to love Him with all our heart. It warms the heart to think that this lowly babe grew into manhood, and paid the price at Calvary that enabled all who would follow Him to attain salvation.

It is not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free. In order to experience the true peace and relevance of Christmas, we must be fully committed to this Saviour of the world. Through repentance, conversion and faith we can be reconciled to Him eternally. This makes Christmas a season of great joy.

Our thoughts of the Lord Jesus are not confined to the Christmas season. He is a Man for all seasons. He is with us always. His example is our guide every day, and what He taught inspires us day after day. How glad we can be that our rejoicing is not confined merely to one day of the year . . . Because with Christ in our heart, we can easily heed the Biblical teaching to "Rejoice evermore".

Yes, Christmas is an enjoyable experience . . . it truly creates something more than an artificial joy, when the celebrants know the Babe of Bethlehem as Saviour. It is Christ Jesus that makes the Christmas season lovely and delightful.

The true meaning of the birth of Christ has endured through the ages. It might be ignored by some, twisted by others, but it cannot be changed. Jesus Christ came into the world as a Saviour to all who repent and believe on Him, and then lead a converted life. This is what makes Christmas so wonderful. It always has . . . and it always will.

A prayer was never unanswered that kept in the keeping heart of Jesus. We can never be satisfied with the world's little toys, its fame, and pomp—its fleeting shadows and escaping fun. We know who fills our dreams! We know Him and His unsearchable riches.

In Loving Memory Of
Anna Gruber Waibel
who passed away Dec. 30, 1974

She wished no one a last farewell,
Nor even say Good-Bye,
And was gone before we knew it . . .
And God knows why.
Her busy hands are resting now;
Her work on earth is done.
Her worries all are over,
And her heavenly crown is won.
Husband and Sons

ZAPATA TEXAS
Tillie Kellenberger

We are thankful for our many blessings throughout the year . . . We thank God daily for His great love and compassion.

Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger and wife Sis. Della spent two weeks with us in November. They came to pick their oranges and grapefruit on their place, and to take them home, to share with their family and friends. They are delicious this year.

Bro. Herman brought us two inspiring messages. They will be returning to Zapata the latter part of January.

We are thankful for the visitors that are traveling our way and spending time here. We enjoy and encourage anyone coming to Texas to come worship with us. We have a wonderful fellowship in the Lord. We meet in the Community Building in Siesta Shore Subdivision. . . Services start at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Zapata population is 2500; when winter visitors come, it soars to 6000-8000.

WORLD RELIEF
Elaine Norr

A letter of thanks from Dr. Mellon from Haiti, and also a letter from his wife from Hospital Albert Schweitzer:

(In part)

The sewing machines arrived safely, with minor bruises, and the recipients were so happy . . . Mrs. Mellon wrote, you cannot imagine the excitement and joy that you brought us by sending the 26 drums. The layettes are beautiful, children's clothing are so well chosen, and the blankets and quilts came just at the right moment, as it just begins to be fresh in the evening. So many hours were spent on all the things you made . . . it

is so wonderful, and it is a joy to see our children in the new clothing . . . The bags with toothpaste, combs etc. will be passed out for Christmas. The hospital patients will receive one, and it will be a happy time for them . . .

From Grace Children's Hospital of Haiti: thanks were given for the 14 drums of sheets, towels, washclothes, soap, clothing etc. . . They said, "Our words are never sufficient to tell you how much we appreciate groups like yours who take an interest in our work. If it were not for those who contribute funds and supplies, there would be no Grace Children's Hospital. We receive no income from patients . . . If the children could, I know that they would too send their personal thank yous. (This hospital is for children that have TB, and are cared for until fully recovered)

If anyone would care to give items or donate to the Haitian Project, it is deeply appreciated. Please notify Elaine Norr, Box 145, Leo IN 46765.

LAMAR MO

Gail Banwart - Marie Marti

A thousand years have come and gone,
And near a thousand more
Since happier light from Heaven shown
Than ever shown before;
And in the hearts of old and young
A rapture of assurance stirred
That sent such news from tongue to tongue,
As ears had never heard.

A thousand and a thousand years,
And still that radiance glows;
God's promise to mankind throughout
His darkest night of woes—
And shall, until the dawning rays
Of peace and brotherhood proclaim
The Child is born in every heart,
And all revere His name.

There is joy in the Christmas story. Almost two thousand years ago, Love stooped low, lighting a manger with heavenly glow. That night love came down shedding its warmth abroad. Since then we have recognized its presence in glad song, in hearts made pure, and minds made clean. Each time we hear the story, its beauty increases.

We recognize the miraculous power of music in bringing us the Christmas message. With thankful hearts may we look up, and in the abundance of God's love, may we seek and find great joy, gladness and contentment in knowing and serving Him.

Sis. Fern Braker spent some time in the hospital. She is home, but was unable to attend church last Sunday. Louisa Rentsch is in the hospital, as a result of a knee injury, sustained in a fall at her home.

**ALTO MI
Donna Steffen**

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Let the light of the real meaning of Christmas shine into your life today. The Lord Jesus Christ left heaven to be born in Bethlehem, to grow up in poverty, to die on a cross for the sins of the world. He died . . . but He rose from the dead . . . and now He lives, offering you His forgiveness, His peace . . . His love! Can you think what must have been the greatness of the atonement, which was the substitution for all this agony which God would have cast upon us, if He had not poured it upon Christ? . . . And can you grasp the thought of the greatness of your Saviour's mediation when He paid your debt, and paid it all at once, so that there now remaineth not one farthing of debt-owing from Christ's people to their God, except a debt of love. We wish you a blessed Christmas full of peace, joy and love.

We are thankful that Bro. Chris Weigle and Sis. Melva (Bro. Joe) Oesch are able to worship and fellowship with us again. They both are doing quite well, after undergoing orthopedic surgery some time ago.

Our congregation was truly thrilled and grateful to have Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse) minister unto us the wonderful words of truth and life.

On Oct. 31, our Bro. Wally Gerst and Sis. Donna Waibel were joined in holy matrimony in Bay City. We pray that Christ might always be found in the center of their lives, hearts and their home, and that He will richly bless the bond of love that binds them together as ONE. We warmly welcome Sis. Donna into our fellowship and congregation.

PRINCEVILLE IL

Ruth Ricketts

Christmas is God's shining love, expressed in human birth . . . to make us, as in Heaven above, one family here on earth.

This has been another month filled with many blessings as we enjoyed visitors. We enjoy so many privileges in our Christian fellowship with sharing in the ministry, Sunday School teachers, song service and those who offer their humble prayers for the benefit of us. Truly we are a fortunate people and thank our Loving God for permitting us to share in these blessings.

Early in the month, Bro. Everett Hari was our guest minister. In reading and meditation on the scriptures, it seems it can't be long before the Lord will come to "catch up those whose lives have displayed true Christian spirit and they can look forward to meeting the Lord." Our ministers are earnestly preaching, just as Noah did. After he and his family were safe in the ark, God shut the door. God will some day shut the door of grace, and how will you then stand?

We had a most blessed day, with Bros. Paul and Bert Butikofer of Elgin Iowa with us. We heard of the trials of Jacob and of his patience, how he kept his faith in God, even though his loved ones tried to discourage him. God used him for an example.

The 23rd, we had visiting ministers. Bros. Harold Schmidgal of Gridley and Bob Walder of Congerville in their humble, kindly way brought out many rewarding thoughts. If we have confidence that the Lord will lead us safely through this life by walking close to Him, as he was with the children of Israel, He will stay by us.

Bro. George Seidel and Sis. Clara Berchtold enjoyed the blessings with us on Sunday the 23rd, and on Tuesday morning both suffered a stroke. Both are in the hospital, Bro. George being unable to talk, and Sis. Clara unable to talk or swallow. A second stroke left her right side paralyzed.

Bro. Leonard Menold is in the hospital, recovering from surgery . . . Sis. Marie Seidel had an operation on her hand, and is able to worship with us again . . . Our friend, Frieda Berchtold is still a patient in the hospital, recovering from a stroke . . . Bro. John Joos

has made an excellent recovery from heart surgery and is in his home in Sarasota. He realized he must take care, but has learned to adjust to his condition quite well. He has been to church half days . . . and slowly regaining his strength . . . "Our sincere thanks to the loved ones who remembered us with cards, letters, gifts, and especially the prayers during John's hospitalization and convalescence." Bro. John and Sis. Louise Joos and Sis. Mary Lou.

Sis. Mary Leuthold spends her days and nights in a reclining chair, where she feels more comfortable . . . Some time ago our friend, Al Mueller, had a fall from a tree and had a bad bump on his head. Later he began having trouble, was taken to the hospital, and a blood clot was removed from his head. He has made a good recovery, and is at home and able to do limited chores.

A son, Ryan Daniel, was born to Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kay Sieben-thal Nov. 12. Welcoming him were two brothers and four sisters, grandparents, Sis. Anna Sieben-thal and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Bauman.

January is Silver Lining collection for Princeville.

The day before Thanksgiving Day was a snowy, wintry day and made traveling quite hazardous. Many plans were changed, yet quite a nice number were able to assemble for Thanksgiving Day services, where we again received many blessings. We then had a warming trend, and the eight inches of snow melted overnight.

Children, parents, and teachers are busy preparing the program the children will present before Christmas.

God keep you;
God love you;
God bless you
With a wonderful Christmas.

WOLCOTT IN

Arles Kropf - Marjean Lehman

We extend our best wishes to Bro. Darl Schieler, son of Sis. Marilyn and the late Bro. Bob, and Sis. Darlene Stoller, daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Florence, of the Latty assembly, as they make plans for their wedding.

A precious baby girl, Erica Joy, has come to bless the home of Bro.

Irvin and Sis. Shirley Furrer. She was born on Nov. 18, a birthday present for her sister, Kristie, age 2. Her other sister, Missy, age 3, also welcomes her. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emily Anliker of Francesville and Sis. Emma Furrer are grandparents.

Sis. Frances Bahler has been a surgical patient, and we are thankful she is again able to be at home.

A blessed day was enjoyed by all on Nov. 23, when Ministering Bros. Merle Kaisner and Duane Kilgus of the Fairbury assembly spent the day with us.

We rejoice with our dear friends, Fred and Mary Beth (Schwab) Basham; it was made known that they now have found peace with their God, and look forward to bringing their testimonies.

"Our sincere thanks to all who remembered us with cards, gifts, letters, and to our families who helped make our 25th wedding anniversary a memorable occasion." Ed and Sis. Gladys Widmer.

Our area received the first snow storm of the season on the evening before Thanksgiving. Due to road conditions near the Remington church, we welcomed them in our gathering on Thanksgiving morning.

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

ATHENS AL Hazel Vibbert

The First Coming

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

The Second Coming

"And they shall see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

This month we have had some visitors from Illinois and Indiana.

Bro. Henry Perry has spent another week in Athens Hospital. He is home now.

ELGIN IA

Eleanor Butikofer

How do we come to Christmas? What it means to us depends on what we bring to it, not in gifts and outer display, but in the inner offerings of love and faith that

abide in the heart. The charm of Christmas lies in the thought that we live in the memory of our friends.

Some of the sources of Christmas are warm words of welcome between reunited loved ones . . . voices raised in singing the old-time carols . . . and in the heart, the clear sound of the angel's message: ". . . unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Joni Butikofer, daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Norma, and Roger Loftsgard, son of Raymond and the late Mrs. Loftsgard, were united in marriage Nov. 21.

Sis. Anna Schupbach has had her knee operation; she withstood it well.

Our Sunday School pupils are planning to present a Christmas program, which is always a delight to attend.

We are missing two faces in our church attendance . . . Sis. Alta Thoman and my mother, Sis. Elizabeth Schneider. Their health does not warrant their attending at this time.

Since our snow cover has arrived, the wild birds are winging their way to the various feeding stations. We spied a rare first-time partaker . . . an Evening Grosbeak. It is about the size of a robin, yellow and black, with some white bars across its wings. It was quite a thrill to watch as it eagerly feasted on sunflower seeds. The black-capped chickadees dart in and out from morning until night. The titmice are eager for feed, as well as the various woodpeckers. The little juncos seem to enjoy picking up their food directly from the ground. It is most interesting to study God's creations.

I am personally looking forward to the evening we go carolling to the aged and infirm, with pleasant anticipations.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Barb Landes

No room that night was there in the inn;

No place for a weary-worn stranger;

No place where a baby could be born,

No place but a Bethlehem manger.

Glory to God in the highest,
Joy to the world we bring,

Born in a Bethlehem manger
Is Christ, the Saviour King.

Brethren, let us give Jesus Christ every room in our lives. Surely He will fill these rooms with wonderful guests: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. May we follow His star throughout the year, so that His light will shine through our lives.

We want to thank Bros. Joe Braker, Bob Pohl and Joe Schrock for worshipping with us during the month of November. Bro. Joe Schrock, who is our sponsor, will be spending the winter in Florida, and Bro. Edwin Ringger will shepherd our group. We wish to welcome Bro. Edwin, and hope that Bro. Joe will have a nice visit. We students are very busy this time of year, studying for final exams and completing projects and papers. We're all looking forward to going home for Christmas. To God be the glory for His many blessings during the past year!

LATTY OH

Diane Stoller - Karen Klopfenstein

Bob and (Sis.) Sharon Parady are the happy parents of Julia Louise. Grandparents are (Bro.) Carl and (Sis.) Louise Rager.

On Nov. 1 and 2, the testimonies of Steve Plummer (son of Bro. Rex and Sis. Ann), and Jim and Tam Stoller (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Louis and Sis. Mildred) were given. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Theo. Beer and Bro. Walter Steffen from Milford, to help conduct this important work.

Eli Pfister suffered a light stroke. Bro. Joe Schlatter Sr. was in the hospital with a heart attack. Nettie Ringger had the misfortune of falling. Mike Stoller was overcome by carbon monoxide at his home. They are all home and doing fine.

On Nov. 16, Sis. Darlene Stoller (Bro. William and Sis. Florence) and Bro. Daryl Schieler (Sis. Marilyn) of Wolcott were announced to be married. They are planning a February wedding . . . The wedding engagement of Sis. Ruth Klopfenstein (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen) to Bro. Craig Stoller (Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane) was made known.

We were privileged to have Bros.

Henry Dotterer (Rittman) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse) this month to bring the wonderful words of life.

We, The Irvin Stoller Family, wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone for your love shown us during the loss of our loved one. We appreciate the prayers, food, gifts, visits and kind words of all of you.

When God created all the earth,
It was His will that we
Should love our neighbors as our-
selves
And live in harmony. . .

MANSFIELD OH
Lucille Groh

Shown on a Christmas Card

WHAT IF CHRIST HAD NOT COME! Someone dreamed he found himself looking through his home, there were no Christmas bells, wreath or holly and no Christ to comfort, gladden and save. He walked outside and down the street, but there was no church, . . . there came a ring at the door, and a messenger asked him to visit a dying mother. He tried to comfort, but when he opened his Bible to look for a familiar promise, it ended at Malachi; there was no gospel . . . A few days later, he stood beside her coffin . . . no words of a glorious resurrection, no open Heaven . . . He burst into tears and bitter weeping. Suddenly, he awoke with a start and heard a choir singing in a church close by: "O Come All Ye Faithful, joyful and triumphant . . . Come and behold Him, born the king of angels . . ."

Yes, we are thankful and rejoice that our Saviour has come and will soon, we believe, come to claim all those who will accept His gift and who have served Him true and faithful.

Peace on earth good-will toward all men is the assurance of Friend Dan Sauder (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue), who has received peace and pardon and has been announced for proving and baptism.

Bro. Aaron Steffen visited us on Nov. 2. Bro. Aaron brought us many good teachings. He compared our hearts to a large room. The room must be kept clean, and we must not let the things of this world crowd out the Saviour.

Nov. 16 was the wedding of Sis.

Brenda Ramsier and Bro. Wayne Herrmann. God granted a beautiful day, both weatherwise and the sunshine of His love, as Bros. Rudolph Graf, Arthur Bauer, and Walter Herrmann proclaimed His good word.

Friend Jerry Roberts fell at school and pulled some ligaments in his leg. He is on crutches and getting along well. Sis. Freda Beer fell and broke a bone in her foot.

Sis. Mary Sauder spent a few weeks visiting her family. We were happy to have her "back home" for a season. She has now returned to Junction, where she resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Eli Manz and family.

Unto you, yes even you, O weary heart and worn,
Unto you whose feet are tired,
whose trembling
Hands are torn,
Unto you, this sacred morn, come tidings from above,
Which whisper of a Saviour born and speaks His
Tones of love.

RITTMAN OH
Grace Gasser

Hospital patients have been: Bro. Harvey Gasser, Jerry Amstutz, and Sis. Gail Steiner, all in for surgery. Larry Bachman, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn, was also hospitalized.

New babies include: Anthony Ray born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeanette Stoller. Anthony has one sister and two brothers . . . Joe and Sis. Karen Riegenbach welcome their second daughter, Julie Ann . . . Bro. Terry and Sis. Peggy Young are glad for their first child, and have named him Thomas William.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers: (Bros.) Vernon Leman of Eureka, Harold Emch of Girard, and Delbert and Kenneth Indermuhle of Sardis.

A Christmas Prayer

O Lord, there sit apart in lonely places . . .
Some stricken ones with sad and weary faces . . .
For these, O Father, our petition hear,
And send the pitying Christ-child very near.

Lord some sit by lonely hearthstones, sobbing,
Who feel this night all earthly love denied,
For these, O Father, our petition hear,
And send the loving Christ child very near.

ROANOKE IL

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Sis. Hulda Bill passed away. She is survived by nieces and nephews. Sis. Hulda enjoyed sewing baby quilts and little dresses for World Relief. Even now there is a row of little dresses hanging in our sewing room at church that she made just recently. Somewhere some little baby boy or girl will receive a gift showing her love for others!

The family of Joan Umphress has our deepest sympathy. She was killed in a car accident.

The engagement of Sis. Cheri Sauder and Bro. Fred Janssen was made known. A Feb. 22 wedding is being planned. Her parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ann Sauder. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Janssen.

Little Sunbeams: Ross Allen, born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Valerie Wuthrich, Nov. 4. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Flo Wuthrich and Bro. Wally and Sis. Rosella Bucher of Francesville . . . Anthony James, born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Mueller, Nov. 23. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Esther Sauder and Mr. and Mrs. William Mueller.

We welcome Bro. Alvin and Sis. Marie Farney to Roanoke; they have moved to their new home at 1310 Carol Drive.

We were privileged to hear the testimony of Bro. Bob Moser. He was baptized and welcomed into the fold on Nov. 25.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo), Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa), and Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin) were our visiting ministers.

(Bros.) Jack Sauder and Joe Zimmerman and Sis. Esther Weyeneth were hospitalized, but are home again.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Emma Schumacher wish to thank all who remembered them on their 69th Anniversary and her birthday.

No room at the inn,
Not a booth or a table;

No room at the inn,
Only room in a stable.

Now Joseph and Mary
To Bethlehem went,
To be taxed of Caesar,
To this city were sent.

God's angel had told them
A short time before,
Of the child He would give
To love and adore.

He would bring freedom
From sin and death's sting,
And cause the hearts
Of many to sing.

Now let us go see Him,
Humble shepherds said,
This great gift of God,
In His manger bed.

No room at the inn,
It was true, not a fable;
No room at the inn,
Only room in a stable.

A Saviour, God's promise
To the prophets past,
And now at God's will,
That time's here at last.

That night in that city,
No room at the inn,
Now let me ask you—
Have you room for Him?

Bro. R. K. Hohulin

SHIODA JAPAN Willis R. Ehnle

"Mother, please wash this dress for me which we bought at that American School Thrift Shop?" . . . "But, daughter, why do you want to wash it? It is perfectly clean." . . . "Because it smells like foreigners." . . . The conversation was told to me by the mother, and it is a true conversation which took place in their Japanese family.

This causes me to examine myself. Why cannot I see myself and think of myself as others see me and think of me? Why do I have myself as the standard by which to view others and to think of others? Proverbs 21:2 gives us the answer. It covers not only me but the whole human race. "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts." This expresses what human nature is, but Christ calls us to live above human nature. "I can do all things through Christ which

strengtheneth me."

The kindergarten, which our church sponsors and for which we will now accept teacher applications, had its first Alumni trip on Monday, Nov. 24. We rented two buses, and went to an aquarium along the Pacific Ocean, a 2½-hour bus ride. There were 54 adults and 61 children, a total of 115 persons. There was good opportunity to talk to the adults on our bus over the speaker system, so I shared John 3:16 with them, and several times during the trip invited everyone to come to church.

It was Nov. 28, and we were in a mountain village in the Chichibutama Mountain Range. I had just given a young lad a pamphlet containing several Scripture verses and some explanation of the hope a person can have in Christ. A woman came along carrying a baby on her back; the boy showed the pamphlet, and she immediately read it. Unusual, indeed, in Japan. I asked the lad how many students were in his elementary school, and he said there are 5, one for each of the first six grades except the third grade, taught by 3 teachers. I was certain I had found a place in Japan where it isn't crowded. I asked how many students in Junior High farther down the road, and he said six, God willing, I would enjoy returning to that village and leaving whole Bibles. In their isolation I have the feeling they would read it. **To the poor the Gospel is preached,** said the Lord Jesus.

We sang at the Home for the Aged in Yamanashi City, a 15-minute drive from our church, on Sunday afternoon, Nov. 30. One lady, 87 years of age, had a small Bible and a small hymnbook, but the print is too small for her eyes. We had previously given a good-sized Bible for their book shelf, and on that day we added a large hymnbook, so this lady and others could read and sing with their limited eyesight.

December is the month we celebrate the birth of a baby, a special baby, God's Son. As a baby, He belonged to all of us, but as a man, after His death and resurrection, we all should belong to Him, because He purchased us with His own blood. **The church of God, which He hath purchased with His own Blood.** Let us serve the Lord as someone who has been pur-

chased, and not as if we were our own boss.

TREMONT IL

Lydia Rassi - Mary Jane Leuthold

How great is the joy in our hearts to celebrate Jesus' birthday, and be renewed again and again with the living truth of our beloved Saviour.

Love came down on Christmas Day
So many years ago,
And brought the greatest happiness

The world would ever know . . .
Peace came down on Christmas Day

To fill the hearts of men
With all the sweet tranquility
Each Christmas brings again.
Joy came down on Christmas Day
As angels came to earth
Heralding the miracle
Of our Messiah's birth.

Many loving ministers visited us and brought many kind teachings. Bros. Ed Lanz, Vernon Wettstein, Willis Weigand, Robert Pohl, Dave Weigand, Steve Rinkenberger, Philip Sauder, Carl Hartman and John Steiner were with us.

Sis. Esther Muselman fell and is recovering slowly. Sis. Lydia Brunner had surgery and is recovering nicely. Emma Greiner fell and broke her hip; she is in the hospital. Sis. Pauline Waldbesser is a resident at the Peoria Home.

Little Joseph Alan Mooney was born Nov. 14, and has brought much joy to his parents, Bob and Judy, and his brother . . . also to his grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Lila Moser, and Robert and Mary Mooney—Marion, Kentucky . . . Also rejoicing are Wesley and Nancy Koch, as little Melissa Gail came to live with them Nov. 27. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Til Koch are happy grandparents, also Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zobel, Darien.

Many gathered for the wedding, Nov. 23 of Bro. David Koch and Sis. June Sauder. Dave's parents are Bro. David and Sis. Frances, and June's are Bro. Willis and Sis. Pauline.

Our sympathy to Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Jane Leuthold and family on the passing of Bro. Dean's mother, Sis. Sophia Leuthold . . . We think of all her children . . . and wish to express our sympathy . . . "We wish to express our heart-

felt thanks to all who remembered us during the illness and passing of our loved one." Family of Sophia Leuthold

Our sympathy to Sis. Elizabeth Moser on the passing of her son-in-law, Marion Schuttler, Elkhart on Nov. 23 . . . Our sympathy to Elsie Lou, his wife and their 2 daughters, his 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

The death angel has visited us and taken our Bro. Elmer Frank to his eternal rest. We sympathize with his wife, Sis. Bernice and their 3 children, Timm, Mary Lou and Mrs. Maizie (Bill) Hopkins . . . also he leaves a brother, Bro. George Frank. "We wish to thank all for the prayers . . . we thank those who tendered their services . . . for the memorials, food, flowers and gifts of money." The Elmer Frank Family.

January is Silver Lining collection for Tremont

WICHITA KS
Glennis Allenbach

The world knows not, nor can it know
The tender thoughts, the lovely glow
We Christians feel, and love to share
The Christmas story, everywhere!

As far back as I can remember, I've loved to hear the Christmas story. It's ever new for young and old. I love to hear it read aloud in its entirety. It seems to me this must be a special spot to God, the place where His son was born. I wonder if its exact location isn't kept from the world, as part of God's will.

We've had a great many visitors. These included visiting minister, Bro. Clarence Yackley from Phoenix and a return visit from some of the Peoria choir members.

We welcome the engagement of Sis. Cindy Huber and Bro. Eric Langhofer. We are looking forward to gaining a new sister to worship with us.

The Peoria choir left something behind when they left, namely enthusiasm. We are in the process of organizing a Wichita Choir. Bro. Steve Langhofer has sort of "got the ball rolling"; anyone interested may contact him. I will try and include our progress . . .

I know the Wichita congregation

would have me include the wish for blessed holidays for all our brothers, sisters and friends. Out of all this hustle and bustle, I'm sure we can find time for that extra love and fellowship that the holidays give us opportunity for.

BLUFFTON IN

Ruby Habegger - Rhonda Steffen

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Some weeks ago, the Bay City Choir visited us. We appreciated their inspiring words in song.

We have been very blessed with precious gifts from heaven. Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser were the parents of Jamie Lynn, born Nov. 17 . . . On the same day, Karen and Mike Todd were parents of a baby girl, Robin Elaine. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr . . . On Nov. 22, Lynette May was born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Della Steffen . . . Bill and Renee Biberstine were the parents of little Michelle Renee, also born on Nov. 22. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Lucille Frauhiger . . . Jerry and Vickie Meyer were the new parents of Matthew Ryan, on Dec. 2. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander.

We pray that the Lord will comfort those who were ill, and that each day they will be feeling better: Vonda Geisel, daughter of Sis. Alice and Bro. Everett Geisel; Shawn Chaney, son of Nick and Sis. Sue Chaney; Sisters Carolyn (Bob) Yergler, Elizabeth Graber (Jacob); Cordelia (Harry) Aschliman, Ida Gerber; and Bros. Ervin Schwartz, Jim Geisel, Ezra Kaehr, and Phil Kaehr.

Our congregation was fortunate to have two precious lambs added to the fold. Our new sisters are Theresa Fiechter (Sis. Eunice and Bro. Gerald) and Kari Leman (Sis. Marilyn and Bro. Wallace).

We sympathize with Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida Aschliman in the sudden death of their dear son, Richard. His brothers and sisters are David, Ralph, Nancy, Delilah Biberstine, and Arlene Stump.

Melinda, the daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Colleen Ringger was married to Bill Lemon. Arlen, the son of Bro. Harry and Sis. Clara

Tonner, was married to Susan Parish.

Several visiting ministers were with us.

On Nov. 2, the engagement of Sis. Ruby Habegger (Sis. Arlene and Bro. Ben) and Bro. Doug Gerber (Sis. Justine and Bro. Don) was announced.

We want to warmly welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Carolyn Yergler to our congregation. They have decided to make their home with us now, and though we know the Florida congregation will miss them, we are glad they are here.

GIRARD OH

Louisa B. Lance

What a lovely season of the year this is, when we find the land and trees all covered with snow so white and beautiful, then coming in out of the cold to the warmth of a bright burning fire in the fireplace. Everyone seems busy, preparing for celebrating the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour, bringing our gifts of love to one another, singing the beautiful Christmas carols, and praising and thanking God for the precious gift of His Son to us . . . may we not only worship the Christ child, but go with Him all the way to the cross and give our hearts to Him.

On Nov. 16, Bro. Henry Dotterer and many others from Rittman came to worship with us. On Nov. 23, Bro. Gary Maibach and others came.

We are thankful to have Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn safely home again after a week's vacation.

Sis. Ella Deislinger had the misfortune of falling and fracturing her hip; she was taken to South Side Hospital in Youngstown, where she had surgery. She is recovering very well, and improving each day. She has now been moved to Hillside Convalescent Center, where she is receiving therapy. Her address is: Hillside Hospital, 8747 Squire La., Warren Oh 44484. I am sure she would appreciate a card.

We are glad to hear that Emma Lou Deislinger has improved . . . hope she will soon be able to assemble with us again. Sis. Esther and Charles Saylor received word that their daughter-in-law, Sis. Norma Saylor from Rittman was hospitalized. Bro. Jess Emch has not been able to assemble with us

for quite some time. He does enjoy hearing the church service over the phone, and also is thankful to have different ones come to visit and have a prayer with him.

Ronald and Barbara Emch of Girard were blessed by the birth of a precious baby boy, Nov. 29. They have named him Todd Michael. Sis. Mina Emch is the great-grandmother.

FT LAUDERDALE FL

Kathy Sutter

In this past month, our prayers have been with Sis. Frances and Bro. Henry Schwartz. Frances has kept a long vigil in the past few weeks, caring for Henry while he was in the hospital, and now in the nursing home where he is a resident. He is at the Amercian Health and Rehabilitation Center, 7751 W. Broward Blvd., Plantation FL 33317.

In November, 38 from our congregation and Sunday School enjoyed a trip to Sarasota.

As in past years, the Sunday School collected food and clothing for the migrant village in Pompano. Soon we will be packing Christmas sacks for the children of the village. We feel these are worthwhile projects, because of the great need there. Our children benefit from the lesson of giving, and we hope this spirit stays with them in years to come. In the Christmas season particularly, it is good to be reminded of the blessedness of giving. Actual projects such as these will mean more to our children than our words alone. Perhaps it will help prepare their hearts for understanding the true reason for celebrating Christmas—the giving to the world of a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Elinka Okrinov returned from Canada, where she had major surgery.

We had several visitors for Thanksgiving services. Their presence added to the blessedness of the holiday. We welcome Bros. Ernest Luginbuhl, Al Schneider and Roy Luginbuhl from Rockville, knowing that blessings will be forthcoming as they bring the good word to us.

INDIANAPOLIS IN

Patrick and Judy Dubach

Jesus Christ was born in the

meanest of circumstances, but the air above was filled with the hallelujahs of the heavenly hosts. His lodging was a cattle pen, but a star drew distinguished visitors from afar to do Him homage . . . His birth was contrary to the laws of life. His death was contrary to the laws of death. No miracle is so inexplicable as His life and teaching. Three years, He preached His gospel. He wrote no book, built no church . . . After 1,900 years, He is the one central character of history, the theme of all preaching, the pivot around which the events of the age revolve, the only Regenerator of the human race.

What thinking man can keep from exclaiming: **My Lord and my God!**

Our small, but growing congregation has been twice blessed with new arrivals. Born to Bro. and Sis. Ray and Carol Fiechter on Nov. 10 was Shurell Alani, who was welcomed at home by sister Shantelle. On Nov. 26, Bro. and Sis. Ted and Elaine Perry welcomed their first child, Christopher Theodore, into their home. Truly both these children are gifts from God.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Maurice Frank—Leo, Walt Steffen—Milford, Earl Zeltwanger—Bremen, Elmer Witzig—Gridley, Vernon Schwab—Wolcott.

KIOWA KS

Janice Frieden

When I behold the heavens, Lord,
The sun and moon and stars,
And think upon the worlds that lie
Beyond the planet Mars,
I shrink into my smallest self,
Even smaller than a mote,
And wonder God should take of
me

The very slightest note.
Then I see sparrows in the wind,
And know God marks their fall.
My soul swells up with God's great
love,
And my heart is thankful for all.

When I read these words, I had to think how true they were, because of a plane trip we took: As we looked down at the many tiny lights from that small window thousands of feet in the air, and thought of how many people were encompassed in such a small area, we realized just how all seeing and

all mighty God is. He is able to see each, and knows not only our deeds, but also our thoughts and intents of the heart. We are nothing, yet God, who need not be mindful of this rebellious, sinful human race still loves, and ever has His hands of grace outstretched to any and all who call upon His name through true repentance. The poem says, It truly fills our hearts with humility and our souls with thanksgiving for God's great love to us.

We experience this love every day, but I feel that we were triply blessed with it this month: First, when Elder Bros. Roy Farney, Phoenix and Sam Anliker, Lamont, shared the Lord's Supper with us, thus bringing to our remembrance the suffering of our Lord Jesus upon that cruel cross in our stead . . . Second, when we gathered for Thanksgiving services and remembered the many blessings for which we should give thanks every day, but sometimes take for granted . . . and third, when midweek services were resumed, after having been cancelled during the busy summer season.

The precious words, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory" — are a great comfort and hope to those who know the Lord, and we would like to extend them, along with our sincere sympathy, to the family of Bro. Elmer Kisling, who was called from this life quite suddenly. Elder Bro. Roy Farney and Ministering Bros. Ronald Nelson and Raymond Roth officiated at the services here. Although Bro. Elmer will truly be missed from among us, we have hope in God's promise, that being absent from the flesh is to be present with the Lord, and this gives us peace.

MORTON IL

Emma Knapp - Peggy Joos

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take twelve, fine full grown months, see that these are thoroughly free from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy; cleanse them completely from every clinging spite; pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness . . . Cut these months 29, 30, or 31 equal parts. Now prepare only one day at a time as follows: Into each day put faith, patience,

courage, work, hope, fidelity, and liberality, kindness, rest, meditation, one well-selected resolution, and mix with prayer throughout the day. Pour into the whole love, and mix with vim, garnish with a few smiles and joy; then serve with quietness, unselfishness, and cheerfulness, and a Happy New Year is a certainty.

We were privileged to witness the testimonies and baptism of three dear souls Nov. 8 and 9. They were Gwen Witzig (Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy), Barbara Hauter (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley), and Barbara Herman (Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma). With willing heart, may every child accept his guidance sweet and mild.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Lynn and Bro. Ralph Garber. Funeral services were held for Lynn's father, Robert Warner, Nov. 17 at the Funeral Home. Bro. Joe Braker conducted the services . . . Interment services were held for Bro. Elmer Kisling Nov. 20. His wife, Sis. Mary Aleene survives, also a daughter, Colleen.

Nov. 21, funeral services were held for Catherine Seidel. Surviving are her husband, William, a son William, and a sister, Mrs. Joseph (Margaret) Power . . . We were saddened by the sudden death of Naomi Rostetter. Surviving are two sisters, Mrs. Lucy Kemps, Mrs. Bette Leman, and one brother, Joseph Anliker. Her husband, Gustave preceded her in death.

The first wedding ceremony to be held in our new Fellowship Hall was performed Nov. 29 by our Elder Bro. Joe Braker. Julie Kaiser and Mike Shafer vowed their lives to one another. Parents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Mavis Kaiser and Mr. and Mrs. Gary Schafer.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jody Knepp are the parents of a son, Andrew William. The new baby has three brothers and two sisters to welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Frieda Knepp of Eureka and Eugene and Mary Springer.

Sis. Emma Paluska wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for the beautiful cards, gifts, good wishes and prayers, after suffering a stroke. She is now at Restmor Nursing Home in Morton . . .

"I wish to express my thanks and appreciation for cards, gifts

and prayers during my hospital stay and at home." Robert Belsley.

The precious word was brought to us by (Elder Bros.) Orville Ringger, Dale Eisenmann, Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago), Harry Bucher (Valparaiso), Merle Bucher (LaCrosse), William Gudeman (Elgin), and Walter Anliker (Eureka).

Hospital patients: Eileen Yentes, Sisters Mabel Roeschley, Olga Frintz, Katie Pflederer, Laura Hauter, and Frank Strunk, Dale Dufeleier, Bros. Dan Kauffman, Phil Getz, Robert Belsley, and Ray Frank.

HUNTSVILLE AL.

It was a blessing to our congregation when Bro. Wendell Gudeman of Francesville ministered the word of God.

Five souls have been added to the fold, for which we are grateful to God.

Work is nearing completion on the addition to our school. Many people have contributed money and labor over the past several months to make this possible. All this is greatly appreciated. There are 58 children enrolled.

Norma Schini of Remington is school director, and Gail Gutwein of Francesville is art teacher. Local teachers are Linda Davis, Susan Parrucci, and Ann Wagler.

TUCSON AZ Gloria Bauer

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend, Harold Blessman. He was killed in an automobile accident. Harold will surely be missed by young and old alike. He was one of the first to arrive at church services and activities. Survivors are: his wife, Eleanor; a daughter, Ruth Ann; his mother, Sis. Martha Blessman; a brother, Glenn Blessman; and a sister, Mrs. Shirley Jeness. Our sympathies are extended to Harold's family.

Our annual business meeting was held this month. New offices being filled for 1976 were: (Bros.) Jay Bertsch, Trustee; Loren Knapp, Sunday School superintendent.

January is Silver Lining collection for Tucson.

Sis. Carole Haas was a surgical patient. She is at home and improving nicely.

Visiting ministers were: Bros.

Ernest Graf, Akron, Elder Bro. Roy Farney, Phoenix.

During the Christmas Season, we hear so much about peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Certainly we would all benefit by keeping this spirit all through the new year of 1976.

WINTHROP MN

Carol Messner - Marcelle Dapper

I'm baptized in Christ's name,
And in His death I'm buried.
How should I further bear
The load so long I carried?
Thou, Lord, art He who died
And who arose again;
Therefore in holiness
Through life I will remain.

Although the special month set aside for thankfulness is passed, we are especially grateful for the dear souls taken into the fold, Bruce Messner and Renee Nelson. Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Paul Fehr were here to share in the baptism of these loved ones. Since then we rejoice that Mary Messner, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Viola, has turned to the Lord in repentance.

Marvin and Verna Bruns (Chris and Sis. Ida Schmidt of West Bend) held an open house in honor of their 25th wedding anniversary. Many came to share this happy occasion with them.

On Christmas Day, we are reminded that "the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us". Think of it, a visit from eternal God. Like the lowly shepherds, let us this day be "glorifying and praising God", because "the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness".

But more than precious gifts,
There's one our Lord above
Will treasure so much more:
The gift of our dear love.

AKRON, OHIO Lynda Pamer

For God so LOVED the world that he gave his only begotten Son . . .

At this time of the year, we remember that God sent His love to us when He sent His Son, Christ Jesus, to live on this earth for a time and then to die for our sins. God's gift, His Son, was an expression of His marvelous love to

all mankind. Our gifts to each other this Christmas season . . . a kind word, a cheerful and warm greeting, a smile, or a Christmas present . . . should also be tokens of love, so that we may show a very small part of the love that God has for us.

We enjoyed rich blessings when many of our brothers and sisters came to attend the combined meeting of the World Relief Sewing Groups (of Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan) and the World Relief Committee. Several ministering brothers visited us that week-end. Those who remained to worship with us and serve the good word were Bros. Francis Rother (Morton), Arthur Gudeman (LaCrosse), James Hoerr (Peoria), Sam Schlatter (Junction), and Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville). We thank all who came to the meeting and showed such concern for the World Relief work.

Bro. Ben Stavenik (Mansfield) came and also brought us God's holy word.

Eric Spangler was admitted to a hospital in Pittsburgh for a few days for an ear operation. He is Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail's youngest child. We are glad to hear that he is getting along fine.

BRADFORD IL

Jane Leman

May the meaning of Christmas be deeper,
Its faith stronger, and its hopes brighter
As it comes to you this year.

We were blessed with several visiting ministers: Bros. Walter Rehklau (Toledo), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), Jim Leman (Roanoke), & Walter Herrmann (Princeville).

A little blessing has come to live at the home of Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle. Joseph Lee has a brother, Jim, and a sister, Ann, to welcome him. Our Ministering Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle are grandparents. Sis. Julia Ehnle is great-grandmother.

Bro. Ed Ehnle spent a few days in the hospital and is well again. At this writing, our Ministering Bro. Kenny Dietz is confined to the hospital with a back ailment. Cheryl Elsasser, daughter of Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen, had the misfor-

tune of injuring her ankle in a one-car accident.

It is now time for the collection of Silver Lining dues. Please inform me of any address changes.

BURLINGTON IA

Edna Pohl - Elaine Eisenmann

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name. O most High:" . . . Thus began Bro. Uriel's reading Thanksgiving morn. He echoed our thoughts in giving thanks often thru each day . . . A beautiful morning of sunshine glistening on the pure white snow from heaven . . . 6" fell thru the afternoon and evening before, while many traveled the icy hiways to be home with loved ones . . . Thanks again for His protection.

Oct. 28 culminated a long awaited visit from our ministering brothers, Arthur Bahler and Duane Kilgus of Fairbury, including the loved ones with them . . . A blessed week-end for us all.

Nov. 30 was our last Lord's Day in the old church. It served us well for 20 years. Our new edifice, we are told, should be ready in early January, with some finishing work to be done.

Bro. Uriel extolled our beginning, with our votes for a church in the city. Bro. Noah and Sis. Hattie were with us, and other visitors also. He also helped us in our desire for this beginning. Remodeling was done by brothers and friends, to make it suitable for our way of worship. We began with 9 families, and it more than tripled, although some moved to better work. There were a few baptisms and two marriages. We very much look forward to more space. Again we are moved with thanks to all those who came to our aid with generous offerings and pledges.

In the interim month of December, our elder, Bro. Ed Lanz, and Bro. Noah spoke for the Oakville congregation, inviting us to assemble with them. The Lord always provides. There, most of us made our beginning in the Lord.

The Oakville-Burlington Sunday schools will have a joint Christmas program, the Saviour's birth retold and reminded . . . he was the forerunner, saving souls.

Nov. 23 was the announcement of Bro. Rollyce Scheitlin of Burlington and Sis. Knobloch of Les-

ter. Their parents are Bro. Dale Knoblochs of Lester, and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Charity Scheitlin.

CONGERVILLE IL

Mary Schrock - Mary Leman

Our Bible Class recently visited the Dessie Scott Children's Home in Kentucky. A good time was enjoyed by all.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Elsie Knapp were happy to have their children home with them for their 40th anniversary; Sis. Marge (Missouri), Sis. Doris (Texas), and Bro. Ralph, Sis. Linda and family (Congerville).

We wish God's blessings and guidance to Bro. Allen and Sis. Carol Schrock on the arrival of a 3½-year-old son, Michael Joseph (Joey). Mark—11, Lori—9, and Linda—7 are very happy to have a new brother.

We congratulate the new grandparents in our congregation. Bro. Lonnie (Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Susie Steffen (Chicago) are first-time parents of a boy, John Eric. Mindy has a new playmate, Marsha Renee. They are the daughters of Stan (Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice) and Sis. Judy Knapp (Goodfield) . . . Jeffrey James is the first child of Jim (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois) and Valerie Steffen (Marquette Heights).

We were glad to see Sis. Mardell Grusy home for the Thanksgiving holidays. We hope she will come back and visit us often. Mardell is working near Alto.

Thanks to our visiting ministers, Bro. Roy Wieland (Bay City) and Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) for the spiritual food they provided.

FAIRBURY IL

Joyce Huber

The season of the birthday of our Saviour, Jesus Christ is here, and hearts are turned to think of Jesus. When we think of Jesus, we think of giving — the giving of something that is needed, or the giving up of ourselves for the cause of Jesus. It is this Spirit in our hearts that makes this a joyous season. The Sunday School children are preparing to present a program on Sunday, Dec. 14, to portray the reason of joy, the coming of Jesus in the Holy Land, and the coming of Jesus into our hearts.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Ban-

wart were blessed with a baby boy, David. The new baby has a sister, Dana. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Vernon Hartman and Bro. and Sis. Earl Banwart of West Bend.

The visiting ministers were: (Bros.) Joe Schrock of Congerville, Eugene Bertschi of Roanoke, Frederick Knapp and Vernon Wettstein of Congerville, Nathan Stoller and James Ringger of Bradford, Ray Sinn of Latty.

Sis. Bertha Moser wishes to thank everyone for the tokens of love shown her while in the hospital and during her recovery.

We are sorry for those that have been hospitalized: Sis. Nancy Johnson (surgery), Sis. Anna Lou Van-Antwerp, Sis. Laura Zimmerman.

FORREST IL

Kathryn Steidinger
Beverly Eisenmann

Our thoughts turn to the time of Christ's birth, as our children are practicing for the Sunday School program and plans are being made to go caroling to the old and shut-ins. We should remember and be thankful for His coming each day, and not only at this time of year.

Each time we are privileged to gather around His word, we appreciate the efforts of our faithful brothers who share it with us. On Nov. 30, Elder Bro. Joe Braker from Morton gave us many words of encouragement and admonition, and also an invitation to those who haven't learned to know Him yet.

Two young couples have announced their engagements. Daryl Leman (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Leona) and Laura DeBoer are planning for their wedding in May. Kim Farney (Dale and Harriett) and Douglas Benway will exchange their vows in February.

Many from our congregation have experienced the healing touch of God recently. Sis. Ida Kaisner had cataract surgery, Sis. Janita Koehl had ear surgery, and Bro. Emil Sohn had hernia surgery. Hospitalized for a short time were Minnie Bachtold, Sis. Mildred Zimmerman, Sis. Kathryn Steidinger, Bro. Eli Walter, and Ed Schrof.

Ministering Bro. Joe Kaisner was absent one Sunday due to illness, and Ministering Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss had a mishap at work, requiring several stitches in

his head. We are sorry that our older Sis. Rosie Tyler fell as she was coming to church, but are grateful she was not injured seriously. Bro. Glenn Knapp was hospitalized for his heart condition, but we are thankful he can be among us in church again. . . . "We sincerely want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts, and visits while Glenn was in the hospital and since at home." Glenn and Laura Knapp.

The years come, and the years go. May it be that we have watched carefully, so that the end of each year finds us nearer to God than when the year started.

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

Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier of Forrest and Sis. Joyce Huber of Fairbury have returned home from a 16-day tour of the Holy Land, Egypt and Greece. They wrote the following account in answer to a request:

Our Jewish guide's name was Abraham, who called our group **My People**, and as he said a shepherd leads his people, he led us to walk the paths that Jesus walked. He showed us sights where Jesus did many miracles, and called his country, Israel, **the land of miracles**, and believes in miracles for today.

Abraham took us for a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus walked on the water, and when showing us the Biblical sights, he would explain the Biblical passages relating to it. We saw so many of the things, that Jesus did that it is as St. John recorded, that he supposed that if they were written, the world could not contain the books.

We visited the birthplace of Jesus, the Pools of Bethesda and Siloam, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized, drank water from Jacob's well dug by Jacob and where Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman, took the Jericho Road to the walled city of Jerusalem . . . saw the Garden of Gethsemane . . .

Our group went through a Needle's Eye, which is the same as was once in the city wall for entrance to the city, after the large city gate

was closed. Since it is only four feet high, a camel could enter it, if it unloaded all burdens and crept through on its knees.

We were invited to a dinner to meet the Mayor of Jerusalem, the friendly Teddy Kollek, who asked us about certain things in Illinois.

At the Shrine of the Book, we saw the Dead Sea Scrolls and visited Qumran, where they were found. We took a cable car to the top of Masada, to see the remains of the elaborate palace of King Herod the Great.

Our tour took us to Egypt, where we rode a camel to the Great Pyramid, covering 13½ acres, 454 feet high, with 2,300,000 stones. In the Egyptian Museum, we saw the treasures found in King Tut's pyramid. Our African guide, Moses, pointed out the bulrushes and took us for a sailboat ride on the Nile River. In Greece, we visited Mars Hill, the Parthenon, and the remains of the Biblical city of Corinth.

We visited an olive wood factory, saw many industries and fruitful fields. This Biblical land has had a most historic past and will have a most dramatic future. In Jerusalem, the guide pointed out the large stone which is the center of the earth, and the Bible states that Jerusalem is the navel of the earth. Jerusalem is the "city of the great King" (Psalms 48:2), and it is a great experience to see it.

FRANCESVILLE IN

Helen Huber - Sharon Neihouser

May we always remember to put **CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Huber were honored by their children with a Silver Wedding Anniversary celebration. They were presented with a friendship quilt, which included quilt blocks from each of the guests who were present.

The engagement of Sis. Cindy Huber (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Eric Langhofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Judy) of Wichita was **announced**.

We are always happy and rejoice that the Lord is still calling souls unto repentance, as four friends have turned their hearts unto Him.

Hospitalized this month are Sisters Ella Yaggie and Peg Bucher and Glen Boehning.

A Thanksgiving Program was

presented in the evening of Nov. 26. We were all richly blessed and reminded to be THANKFUL every day, and not just at this season.

HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Oh Heavenly Father, grant that at this Holy Season, we will not only use our physical ears to hear the beautiful carols, the loving greetings and perhaps a sob of loneliness, but that we will also use our inner ears to hear the mighty chorus, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men', and then in the sacredness of deep silence hear the vibrant whisper of the eternal Word."

This month we are happy to have you meet Harry Lee Hartman, son of Gerald L. and Lillian Graber Hartman of (RR) Grabill, Indiana. He, his two brothers and three sisters make up the family. Mail from family and friends are a highlight of his day. Harry and his wheel-chair are a pleasant sight in and around the Home. His pleasant smile and mellow singing are something we all enjoy. We hope you keep singing, Harry.

A hearty welcome is being extended to Sis. Doris Hutchison, who is our newest resident. She has relatives in Tremont.

The Geography class continues now with the study of the southern states. The study of the Northeastern and of the Middle Atlantic states has been completed.

The November birthday party was held out of doors on the courtyard patio! Our beautiful fall weather came to an end, however, with a heavy snowfall on the day before Thanksgiving.

In addition to the well-attended Friday evening services held by Congerville, Goodfield, and Morton, Bro. Henry Grimm of Morton has consented to come for bi-monthly meetings with our resident brothers and sisters in faith. For this we are deeply grateful.

It was as if a smile of blessing was ours on Nov. 14 and 15, when the bright sun and mild temperatures helped to make our Benefit Days a heartwarming experience. We wish we could somehow express adequate thanks to all who helped to make this combined ef-

fort so worthwhile. The total net after expenses for the two days was \$13,840.

As the unblemished new year lies at hand, we ask, "Lord, what wouldst Thou have us to do?" "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Quietly we wonder whether the Heavenly Father has loaned us some of His "angels" wrapped in special raiment, for the purpose of teaching us how to accomplish a beautiful work. To this end, we solicit your prayers.

JUNCTION OHIO

Gwen Manz-Betty Manz

We enjoyed hearing Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Bro. Carl Kipfer (Bluffton) minister to us.

Daniel James is the new son of Bro. Ben and Sis Carolyn (Steffen) Manz. He arrived on Nov. 9 (his grandfather Henry's birthday), and was welcomed by Judy, Debbie, Mike and Tom.

Friends Karen Schlatter (Sis. Esther), Mark and Denny Schlatter (Sis. Juliet) have found peace with God and man, and are anticipating giving their testimony on Dec. 27 if the Lord is willing.

We have received word of the death of Sam Reineck of Bryan, Ohio, who formerly attended our congregation for many years while living in this area. He was the son of Bro. Joe Reineck, who was a minister here.

Friend Lester Manz has moved to an apartment in Toledo, where he attends college. His address is 3022 Tinehurst, Toledo, Oh. 43613, c/o Laura Hansen.

January is Silver Lining collection for Junction.

Please give your name and money to your reporter.

"We would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, letters and gifts while I was in the hospital and since I have been home." Sis. Louise and Bro. Emmanuel Manz.

LA CROSSE IN

Lorene Moser-Marilyn Zeltwanger

Suppose there were no gaily decorated trees;

There would still be a Christmas.

Suppose there were no colorful wreaths;

There would still be a Christmas
Suppose there were no pretty presents;

There would still be a Christmas.

But suppose there had been no Christ-child lying in the manger at Bethlehem. Then there would be no Christmas, no holiday season, no carols singing out Joy to the World. Christ makes the difference; Christmas began with Him. God so loved the world, that he GAVE his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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

We extend a welcome to Ted and Theresa Kipfer. They moved to our area from the Bluffton congregation.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." The important word charity, this wonderful Christian love, and how needfully it is to each individual's life was brought to us by Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Sunday, Nov. 23.

God's blessings be with Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann Feller on their 25th wedding anniversary. Relatives came to be with them for this day.

God is our refuge and our strength,
A very present help indeed.
He in the time of trouble sends
His grace to meet our every need.

Our hospital patients and dismissed are: nine-year-old Billie Feller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann), who had the misfortune of falling in the gym at school and fracturing his arm, and spent four days in hospital. Bro. Art Bucher was a patient for an infection, also tests taken. He was able to be in church Sunday afternoon . . . Bro. Sam Frank fell at the nursing home, and was taken to the hospital for observation. He hasn't been able to assemble with us for some time . . . Bro. George Yergler was hospitalized for chest pains. He had tests taken and is improved . . . Sis. Mary Gudeman (Bro. Art) suffered a light heart attack Thanks-

giving Day and was taken to the hospital. She is feeling much better.

Our Shirley Pfeifer (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Emma) was happy to be with her family Thanksgiving, but was ready to go back to her "home" again in Morton.

**MILFORD IN
Linda Beer**

A baby's hands in Bethlehem
Were small and softly curled,
But held within their dimpled
grasp
The hope of all the world.

A hope for you, a hope for me,
that we need not remain in sin. "I
am come that they might have life,
and that they might have it more
abundantly."

Bros. Mike Zimmerman and Ezra Beer are able again to assemble with us after surgery. Those still shut-in and often in our thoughts are Bros. Sam Reimschisel, Charles Weisser, and Sis. Inez Brooks and Laura Wuthrich . . . "We wish to thank everyone who remembered us with food, cards, prayers, and transportation during my recent surgeries." Bro. Ezra Beer

Sunday evening, Nov. 23, was set aside for our Thanksgiving program, with the Sunday School children refreshing us.

WHY MERELY DREAM OF A
WHITE CHRISTMAS WHEN
JESUS STANDS READY TO
WASH YOU WHITE AS SNOW?

**NEW MARTINSVILLE WV
Minnie Weltz-Della Witschey**

The weather here has been beautiful for the first of December, and if tradition holds true we will have a good winter . . . the old saying: The first three days of December rule the winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Durig and Miss Della Witschey attended the funeral of Mrs. Albert Meyers in Washington, Pa., on Nov. 4

Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood was a patient in the local hospital in early November and had minor surgery; she is at home and recuperating . . . W. E. Riggenbach was hospitalized in Wheeling in early November and has returned home; a throat and digestive condition has been cared

for . . . Roy Riggenbach, son of the late J. W. and Carrie Riggenbach, is a patient in a Wheeling hospital; he suffered a light stroke in early November, and other ailments have entered into his condition. However, he is improving.

Mrs. L. W. Witschey and family of Moundsville visited here with relatives on Nov. 11. . . Albert Hassig will leave within a few days to spend the winter with his daughter in Ashland, Ohio.

Mary Strosnider, a sister of Elza Ritz, passed away on Nov. 20; she had been a nursing home patient for some time, and was 80 years of age. Services were held on November 22.

Miss Lila Witschey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Witschey, was a surgical patient in a Wheeling hospital in early November.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade had as Thanksgiving guests their son, James and family of Cleveland, grandsons Jimmy and Mark of Reynoldsburg, O., all at the home of their son, Jerry and family (here) for Thanksgiving. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Witschey of Parkersburg were guests of relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burton attended the opening of a new Dental Clinic in Feeding Hills, Mass., on Nov. 15. Drs. Willett and Witzemberger, D. D. S., have moved their families there and will operate the clinic, both being graduates of West Virginia Dental College of Morgantown, W. Va. Their wives are the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burton, granddaughters of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burton, and great-granddaughters of the late Fanny Burton Schupbach.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association will be held in the home of Mrs. Gus Weltz on Monday evening, Jan. 5.

Blessed are they who see Christmas through the eyes of a child. . . . Let this be mankind's gift at Christmas.

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

**PULASKI, IOWA
Ernestine Wuthrich
Janice Rinkenberger**

Bro. Joe Braker visited here Nov. 23. Bro. Joe stated we have been given a special gift from God.

We were given this gift to use, not to put in a closet or drawer. This is so appropriate for this season, when the Saviour, our gift, was given to us. Are we using Him every day, or do we put Him away during the week and bring Him out just for Sundays or special occasions? Using Christ does not mean just reading the Bible . . . but one day it may mean stopping at a shut-in . . . or another day writing a letter to someone . . . possibly just singing **Jesus Loves Me** with a child!

"We want to thank our children for the surprise reception at the Howard Musselman home. We wish to thank the relatives and friends for gifts and cards which made it a happy 25th anniversary." Bernard and Leah Schaer.

Our Sunday School presented a Thanksgiving program Sunday, Nov. 23. It was a joy for young and old to recite their poems and verses about thankfulness.

Heart Gifts

A cheerful smile, a friendly word,
a sympathetic nod
Are priceless little treasures from
the storehouse of our God.
They are the things that can't be
bought with silver or with
gold,
For thoughtfulness and kindness
and love are never sold . . .
They are priceless things in life
for which no one can pay,
And the giver finds rich recompense
in giving them away.

REMINGTON IN

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

Sis. Nina Beyer of Lowville, N.Y. has returned to her home, after spending six weeks here visiting her mother, Sis. Marie Schieler and other relatives.

Bro. Joe Stoller, Princeville, was our visiting minister on Nov. 9, and we had a blessed day together.

Bro. Odell Pitman was hospitalized for surgery, but has now been dismissed to his home. He and his wife, Sis. Marge, wish to express their thanks to everyone who remembered them so kindly while he was in the hospital and since he returned home.

Glen Braker, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara, broke his shoulder in a fall at school, and is in traction at Home Hospital, Lafayette.

January is Silver Lining collection for Remington.

Nov. 30 was a very special day for our congregation, as four souls were added to the fold: John and Cheryl Knobloch, Beth Bahler and Melody Knochel. Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, and Bro. Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, were here to assist Bro. Alfred Bahler with the provings on Saturday evening and with the baptism on Sunday. We thank God for the ministry of Bro. Chuck Hemmer, Peoria, and Bro. Nate Steffen, Elgin, who brought us inspiring messages on Sunday. We also had many other visitors, including Ministering Bro. Willis Weigand, Goodfield, who helped to make the week-end such a blessed occasion.

Our dear friends, Ron and Brenda Clark have been announced for proving.

Our two oldest members, Sis. Eunice Knochel and Sis. Marie Schieler, each celebrated a birthday recently (87 and 86 years respectively). We sincerely pray that God will grant to them and to each of our dear aged brothers and sisters grace and courage to continue to serve Him faithfully each day.

SILVERTON OR Joan Dietrich

More than a Merry Christmas
I wish for you this year . . .
More than a happy Christmas
With your loved ones dear . . .

More than the precious hours
With friends who are true . . .
More than the gifts you treasure
That others give you . . .

I wish for you the blessing
Of that Christmas Day
When angels said the story
And stars marked the way.

I wish you joy unending
With much love and cheer . . .
I wish you peace on Christmas
And through all the year.

May we ever hold fast to this precious peace we have found, and always be mindful of what the true gift of Christmas is.

. . . And as another new year begins, may we cross the threshold with purpose and faith in One who goes with us and knows the way.

ALTADENA CA

Linda Witzig

Christmas again . . . Let there be sincere joy and peace in our hearts at this time of year, instead of anxiety and weariness. The Lord doesn't ask us to burden ourselves with unnecessary toil and expenditures, so that we dread this season. The Bible tells us that God sent angels to men, with ". . . good tidings of great joy . . ." and "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace . . ." May we as true Christians seek such blessings from our Father in all we do this Christmas.

We enjoyed the visits of Ministering Bros. Ernest Graf and Alphai Moser, from Akron and Morris respectively. We were privileged to sit under the sound of God's word as each brother was inspired to share it with us.

Sis. Doris Graf is feeling better, I'm thankful to God to report. She extends her appreciation for all the prayers sent up for her and tokens of love sent her during her illness.

Sis. Marie Kaupp was gone over Thanksgiving, to be with her sister, Sis. Ida Alt, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

My engagement to Bro. Kenneth Cooper of this Altadena congregation was announced Nov. 30. His parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Virginia, and mine Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary.

BERN KS

Esther and Stella Moser

America, America, God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.

With the above words, Bro. Harvey Grimm concluded his Thanksgiving message . . . Much to think about in those few words. While we thank God each day anew, at this season of year it is like cleaning house. We clean each day, but twice a year we put forth a little extra effort . . . So it is with Thanksgiving, a little extra thanks for God's love, for family and friends, a bountiful harvest. The list is endless.

Last writing, Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mavis Meyer had a new grandson. This month we report a new granddaughter, born Nov. 12 to Mr. and

Mrs. Louis Jon Meyer, Waukegan, Ill., Nichole Ann, their first child.

Sis. Lydia Hanhart is again a hospital patient.

Relatives received word of the passing of Sis. Sophia Widmer Leuthold, Peoria. Sophia was born near Bern in 1923. She married Chris Leuthold (he died April 17, 1974). Early in married life they sought the Lord together. They farmed near Bern until moving to Peoria.

I resolve this year to do my best,
With confidence to meet each test.
Each day I'll pray to God above,
Who showers me in constant love.
I'll thank Him for the good in life
And ask Him to guide me through
strife.

No matter what my lot may be,
I'll look to God for victory!

CHICAGO IL

Kathy Schlatter

Very often, people we meet know we are teachers, farmers, engineers, mothers and fathers of a number of children . . . But do they know that we are Christians first?

Sun. Nov. 9, Mark Gerst, son of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marge, in a conversation with Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) gave his testimony before the congregation, and was baptized that afternoon. Bros. Fred Knapp, Congerville, and Phil Sauder, Cissna Park, as well as many of Mark's friends and relatives, shared our blessed day.

"Be still, and know that I am God . . ." Those who partook of Communion Saturday evening, Nov. 22 felt that reverent stillness, the all-encompassing peace. Elder Bro. Joe Waibel, Bay City, Michigan, assisted our Elder Bro. Dale, and ministered unto us again the following day.

Other brothers who shared the word with us were (Bros.) Bill Gerst, Alto, on Wed. evening, Nov. 19, and Bob Grimm, Goodfield, on Sun. Nov. 30.

Our flock in Chicago is growing. Friend Steve Law has repented and found the peace that passeth understanding.

. . . And Casey William Klaus was born Nov. 15 to Bill and Sis. Peggy (Bowald) Klaus. His grandparents reside in Eureka and Roanoke . . . Sis. Susie and Bro. Lonnie Steffen became parents two days later,

Monday the 17th, when John Eric arrived. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen, Congerville, and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Hulda Stoller, Gridley . . . Sarah Louise joined Penny and John France and brother Andrew, aged 3, on Sunday, Nov. 23. Her grandparents are Sis. Louise Knecht (Ernest) and the Frances, all of the Chicago area.

More sobering news includes Sis. Marge Young's recent hospitalization and the death of Sis. Charlotte Meyer's father, Rudie Haerr of Taylor. May the Lord provide.

In an age when men are reaching for the stars, Christmas reminds us of the time when a Star reached down to men.

DETROIT MI Charlotte Barton

I read a story which has stuck with me, which I'd like to share. A young child decorated her bedroom door with the nativity scene, and over it she put the words, **To the World, From God.** How completely she caught the meaning of Christmas.

We are so happy that Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and Sis. Perseda Wieland are able to assemble with us again. It's been such a long time since Sis. Perseda has been to church. We certainly rejoice with her in thanking God for His tender care.

Friends Leland and Katie Hanes and their children are assembling with us.

Our friend, Darlene Novak (daughter of Harvey and Sis. Kay) was united in marriage to William Kujawa.

The other day I received a most beautiful gift. I was walking down a crowded college hallway, when through the noise I recognized a young child's voice. It was that of a girl who had attended the nursery school I had worked at some months ago. I wondered if she'd remember me. As I knelt down to her, before I could say a word, her small arms were around me. Of all gifts, that of remembrance and love are the most precious to receive, not only at this Holy Season, but all year. Let us remember to give of ourselves, as Christ gave Himself for us.

January is Silver Lining collection for Toledo.

EUREKA IL Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

Our visitors thru November were: (Bros.) Wendell Gudeman, Merle Bucher, Francesville; Tom Leman, Elgin Ill.; Ron Heiniger, Normal. We always enjoy our visitors and invite them to come again. It is always interesting to hear God's word spoken from the pulpit. It is still the old, old story, but it is ever new again each time it's told.

Birth—A son, Ernest Ray, to Bro. and Sis. Dale and Friedora Wiegand. He was born Nov. 11, and he has four brothers and one sister, to welcome.

Sis. Dorothy Grusy, wife of Bro. Ed, is a patient in St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, after having a stroke . . . Bro. Ralph Fehr hasn't been well enough to assemble in God's house for several weeks.

Another soul is repenting—Daryl Blunier, the son of Bro. and Sis. Lewis and Clara Blunier.

Some of our newer residents in the "Home" are: Sis. Sophie Kaupp—Gridley; Sis. Lydia Holliger—Goodfield; Bro. Sam Hartter—Eureka.

January is Silver Lining collection for Eureka.

The Sunday School children are busy, getting ready for our Christmas program.

Just Think

Of stepping on shore
And finding it Heaven;
Of taking hold of a hand,
And finding it God's hand;
Of breathing a new air,
And finding it celestial air;
Of feeling invigorated
And finding it immortality;
Of passing from storm and tempest
To an unbroken calm;
Of waking up —
And finding it Home!

GOODFIELD IL

Elna Grimm - Verna Hartter

JOY to the world, the Lord is come! Do we pause often enough to realize what it means? . . . this beautiful Christmas message—

Christmas is JOY, an emotion to the heart of man, as to the heart of God. Surely a JOYFUL Creator fashioned the snow-garlanded fir trees and diamond-frosted stars for

our delight, and the small winged creatures that sing even through the rain . . . It is said that in no other religion and in no other literature is JOY so conspicuous as in Christianity and in the Bible. Physically and psychologically speaking, it is the criterion of health whereby all the powers and affections are enriched and harmonized. In religion, it denotes the satisfaction of the soul at attaining its desire, and Christianity stands firm so long as men who have it are invested with JOY.

And so it is true, that the children of God are the greatest reapers of JOY!

It is good to be children, and especially at Christmas-time, when its mighty founder was a child Himself.

We have 3 new babies to report: A baby boy, Matthew Lee, was born to Friends Ed and Joanne Wiegand, Goodfield, on Nov. 15. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Bob and Helen Wiegand, Eureka, and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Pyles, Deer Creek. Great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Dan and Lena Wiegand Sr., and Bro. Andrew Martin, Eureka, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pyles and Mrs. Anna Horn, Deer Creek, Matthiew also has a great-great-grandmother in Chambersburg, Pa. Her name is Mrs. Lucinda Pyles. . . . Bro. and Sis. Stan and Judy Knapp, Goodfield were blessed with a baby girl, Marsha Renee, on Nov. 23. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Howard and Phyllis Zobrist, Goodfield, and Bro. and Sis. Willis and Bernice Knapp, R.R. Congerville. Great-grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Ed and Bena Steffen, Bro. and Sis. Eli and Loida Knapp, and Sis. Clara Zobrist, all of Goodfield, and Bro. and Sis. Frank and Naomi Bauman, Morton. . . . A baby girl, Heather Joy, was born to Friends Steve and Beth Mallory, Eureka, on Nov. 29. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Harold and Carol Hohulin, Goodfield, and the Dave Mallorys, Eureka. Bro. and Sis. Ben and Esther Hohulin, Goodfield, and Bro. and Sis. Ed and Doris Guingrich, Bradford are the great-grandparents.

Sis. Verna Hartter fell and broke several ribs earlier this fall, but is almost completely recovered, for which we are very grateful.

Sis. Lydia Holliger has been

transferred from the Eureka Hospital to our Eureka A.C. Home, where she is presently residing.

GRIDLEY KS

Julie Strahm - Wilma Young

A Christian now baptized,
To me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?
That I with Christ am risen.
This is the holy aim;
He who does this neglect
Cannot truthfully claim
I'm one of God's elect.

... Are the precious words sung by three dear souls on Sunday, Nov. 23. . . . Sis. Tina and Bros. Phill and Scott Strahm, daughter and sons of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten, were granted the privilege of baptism, following the opportunity given to them to share their testimonies of the Lord.

Sis. Rose Schiesser, daughter of Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten Strahm, entered St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo., for surgery of a thyroid tumor. Rose is recuperating slowly and is now home in Emporia.

LAMONT KS

Jane Isch

Christmas is more than a day at
the end of the year,
More than a day of joy and good
cheer.
Christmas is really God's pattern
for living,
To be followed each day by un-
selfish giving;
Then peace on earth will come to
stay,
When we live Christmas every day.

Our friend, Emma Enz, had the misfortune of falling and hitting her head at the base of the brain. She is suffering from a possible stroke and is a patient at Wesley Hospital in Wichita.

We are again enjoying midweek services every Wednesday evening, alternating with the Gridley congregation.

LEO IN

Mrs. Elias Souder

More beautiful, better than the glitter and glow of outward decorations are these; the song "Jesus loves Me," with little voices also

joining in the noon hymn sing . . . Bro. Terry Farney's liking the song **The Service of Jesus** . . . indeed the service of Jesus true pleasure affords . . . he is the children's home administrator, with love, earnest effort, sympathy, not only for the brethren, but the underprivileged . . . Bro. Steve Bollier going ahead in the beautiful **In the Garden**, the congregation joining . . . a song inspired of beautiful aliveness of John 20, **In the Garden**, but **He bids me go** . . . this life is an approach to eternal Christmas; like the follower of good, tho' the wind be sharp, and deep the snow, yet the print of the Master's steps make good following . . . And best of all, **the Best of All**, is warm, everlasting hope, the sweetness of good things to come . . . the key is love . . . These are real . . . gifts only He can give . . . rhapsody of evening—the eve of eternal Christmas.

It was wonderful news to hear of the announcement of Pam Frank wanting to give her testimony and to be baptized. Lucille and Morris Frank are her parents.

A very enjoyable Thanksgiving program was given Sun. evening Nov. 17 by the Sunday School.

Quite a number of our students who are away were home for Thanksgiving vacation.

A Christmas dinner is planned for Sun., Dec. 14 at the Fellowship Center and then a Christmas program following.

We are happy to report Bro. Aaron Schwartz is home again and to church, after spending a number of days at Parkview Hospital . . . Bro. Sylvon Pulfer is in the hospital for tests.

Sis. Mary Souder is spending a week at the home of her sister-in-law, Mary Gerber, near Latty. Mary Souder had been quite ill, but is much improved . . . Our friend, John Steiner still remains quite ill . . . Bro. Oliver Stieglitz was able to attend church services. Oliver had the misfortune to hurt both of his hands in a farm accident.

LESTER IA

Alice Metzger - Donna Metzger

An enjoyable part of Christmas is the giving and receiving of gifts, but I like remembering childhood Christmases, which was in the de-

pression years. Very little money was spent, but what excitement when everyone worked to make and create gifts and simple decorations. As we worked together, our folks would impress upon us the real miracle of Christmas. Recently I had the privilege of seeing the awe in a young boy's face when, for the first time, he understood what was meant by the virgin birth . . . things that make this season special, but so much better than going overboard on commercialization.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger have a new baby, Lana Elizabeth, born Dec. 7. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rose Moser and Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger.

Bro. Freddie Metzger is recuperating at home, after being hospitalized with pleurisy. Bro. Cris Kellenberger is very sick in the hospital, with pneumonia and complications.

The engagement of Sis. Lori Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen, to Bro. Rolyce Scheitlin, of Burlington, was announced.

Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger observed their 68th wedding anniversary, at the Care Center where they reside. Both are in fair health for their age and enjoy visits and letters.

This area was buffeted by a severe blizzard a week before Thanksgiving. Several snowstorms since have given our landscape a premature wintry look.

MINNEAPOLIS MN

Josephine Esterling

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE
WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY BEGOTTEN SON . . .

Each Christmas season, we renew our thoughts how God, in His great plan presented the Baby Jesus to the world. This is a joyous time of the year for the Christian. Not only do we enjoy the special programs, special foods, the special songs and special gifts, but our real enjoyment is knowing Christ, the man who really came to die for us and present us with the GIFT of eternal life.

Bro. Paul Fehr from Morris came to share Wednesday evening services on Nov. 12. We cherish the times we can spend with the ministering brothers . . .

MORRIS MN
Esther Schaefer
Corrine Schmidgall

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of His Heaven.
 No ear may hear His coming, but
 in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him
 still,
 The dear Christ enters in.

Bro. Ken Lawson of Minneapolis spent a Sunday with us.

Virgil and Susie Wehking, Shari and Brian, welcomed a baby girl, Lisa Jo on Nov. 11. Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma Feuchtenberger are the grandparents . . . A baby girl was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter on Dec. 3. They have named her Amy Jo. This is their first child, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lena Lou Reuter are first-time grandparents. Virgil and Mildred Sauder are the maternal grandparents.

Marilyn Moser (Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl) and Kevin Schmidgall (Sis. Mabel) have announced their engagement. A spring wedding is being planned.

Ed Heil had to return to the hospital for surgery. He is home and doing quite well . . . Joe Koehl (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) spent several days in a hospital in Fergus Falls, where he submitted to eye surgery . . . Ruby Luthi was in Rochester for tests . . . Galen Luthi (Bro. Don and Sis. Della) and Glen Domnick were medical patients at Morris Hospital. Bro. Glen and Sis. Frances have since left for Zapata, Texas, where they intend to spend the winter months.

Our good wishes go to Sis. Rose Moser, who will observe her 90th birthday on Dec. 6 . . . She still is able to assemble most every Sunday, and lives in her own home with a housekeeper.

NAUMBURG NY
Eleanor Herzig

We have another dear soul, Joanne Demorest, who has heeded the Lord's call to repentance, and is awaiting baptism.

Another dear aged sister-in-faith, Ella Zahn, 96, passed from this life on Nov. 22. She has resided in a nursing home for quite some time, and has been unable to be out and around. Funeral services

were held on Nov. 24 at the Bos-suot Funeral Home in Carthage, by Bro. Robert Beyer. She was laid to rest in the Naumburg Cemetery. She is survived by one son, Franklyn Zahn of Carthage, and two daughters, Mrs. C. Frederick (Helen) Weir, Carthage, and Mrs. Casper (Ruth) Stockburger, Castorland.

A daughter, Megan Jean, was born to Robert and Janice Lehman Crofoot, Castorland, Oct. 31. Grandparents are Norman and Alice Lehman. Sis. Barbara Bachman is the great-grandmother. Megan has a brother, Chad, 2.

OAKVILLE IA
Martha Wiegand

We welcome our new Sis. Janette Schulz, who was proved and baptized by our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, assisted by retired Elder Bro. Noah Schrock. Janette's parents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy (Wagenbach) Schulz.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Michelle Wagenbach are the happy parents of their first child and son, Kirk Alan. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. Albert and Sis. Martha Wiegand. Great-grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bertha Wagenbach, Sis. Anna (Fred) Marti (Lamar), Sis. Edna (Joseph) Wiegand, and Bro. Bert and Sis. Marie Bucher (La-Crosse). Aimee Marie is a welcome newcomer in the home of Friends Craig and Becky (Heiniger) Shaffer. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Clem and Sis. Kathleen Heiniger . . .

Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Anliker now have two sons and two daughters. Welcome little Jennifer Renae was born Nov. 30. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bertha Wagenbach and Bro. Noah Anliker (West Bend).

Bro. Arnold Gerst of Chicago shared the word of God with us.

Since Dec. 1, the Burlington congregation has been assembling with us on Sunday and for mid-week services. It is a special blessing to have them with us; many of our children do not remember when we were one congregation, and we hope all will benefit from our new relationships.

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

SABETHA KS
Mrs. Joe Steiner

Wonderful birth, to a manger He came,
 Made in the likeness of man, to proclaim
 God's boundless love for a world sick with sin,
 Pleading with sinners to let Him come in.

Wonderful hope, He is coming again,
 Coming as King o'er the nations to reign;
 Glorious promise, His word cannot fail,
 His righteous kingdom at last must prevail!

Bro. Aaron Moser has been in a Topeka Hospital for some time. He is now receiving therapy and slowly improving. He may be able to leave the hospital in another week or so.

Our visiting ministers were (Bros.) John Lehman, Bern, and Gene Marti, Lamar. It was nice to have Bro. Gene, Sis. Mary and their family in our midst again.

In just four short weeks we will begin another new year. We can say:

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

Our Bro. Dan Steiner of the A. C. Home is one of those who are waiting. He was 103 years old Nov. 18. He is our oldest member.

The new year will begin our mid-week services again, in which we will alternate with Bern. Everyone is welcome. Services begin at 7:30.

SARDIS OH
Karen Indermuhle

Praise the Lord. The Christmas spirit is beautiful! As one of our New Year's resolutions, we could prayerfully work to feel the great love and caring all year. We can find this true love in our close communion with Christ. We see the Christmas spirit in:

—our children singing carols, maybe off key with wrong timing, but oh, how the Lord must dearly love it!

—giving of ourselves during this Christmas season. It helps us to

know the blessings of giving. Our Saviour gave us His life.

—joyfully and thankfully remembering the Babe in the manger, the boy of Galilee, the Son of man who heals the broken spirit and body, our Redeemer who died to bring us back from death to a life of reigning with Him. Let's celebrate this Christmas in honor of our Lord.

Christ should be in our
Homes
Reigning,
In our hearts
Saving and redeeming, and with
Thanks and praise we must
Make known to
All the meaning of our
Saviour's birthday.

January is Silver Lining collection for
Sardis

TAYLOR MO

Marie Butikofer - Eleanor Yackley

Sally Riney and James Gottman were married on Nov. 1. Her parents are Gene and Irene (Hoerr) Riney of Taylor. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Gottman of Palmyra, Mo.

Sis. Lena Haerr lost her beloved husband, Rudie, on Nov. 19. Bro. Gerald Sutter had the funeral services on Nov. 22 at the church. He was assisted by Bros. Roy Grimm, Dave Wiegand, Albert Wuthrich, and Leroy Huber. Survivors are his wife, Sis. Lena; sons, Bro. Raymond (Bloomington) and Norman (Taylor); and daughters, Sis. Laretta Schafer (Peoria) and Sis. Charlotte Meyer (Chicago). Also surviving are three brothers and three sisters: Bros. John and George Hoerr of Taylor, Phillip Hoerr of Peoria, and Sisters Anna, Lydia, and Rachel Hoerr of Peoria.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven: we have two more converts. May God be merciful to them, even as He has been to each of His children.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Eugene Bertschi (Roanoke) and on Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Robert Pohl (Burlington) . . . Elder Bros. Roy Sauder, Dan Koch, and Eugene Bertschi were here to conduct the selection for an elder of the Taylor Church. Bro. Roy Grimm was elected. We wish him God's grace in carrying out his new duties.

The Rudie Haerr family expresses their thanks for all love and kindness, cards, and prayers at the time of their bereavement.

The Sunday School students and teachers are busy practicing for the Christmas program. Although we've heard the story many times, it never grows old. We have been richly blessed with God's Gift. Let us also give, for God loveth a cheerful giver.

TOKYO JAPAN

Yoshio Yamazaki

The national railroad strike started just a week ago, and it will last another 3 days if the government doesn't answer their request of the privilege of striking and some percentage of bonus money. I don't know very much about the political business, but only I can say that many people are thinking about themselves more than others.

This morning I read the Old Testament about Babel tower. In that time, the people concerned much about their own side, instead of the side of God. God gives us grace and mercy through His much love and long patience, but we people of the world don't understand nor realize it. However, we Christians should count our blessings day by day.

There are much apartment houses around here since our Tokyo church established in 1953, and a lot of children are playing, their parents never concerned about their souls, but for their knowledge of the world. Most of the children are going to the children's club (some of the sports, entertainment, etc.) and some private school on Sunday. Only very few children are coming to our Sunday School. They are really nice and lovely children and also good listeners. We hope they will be realized their sins and repentance after they grow up enough some day. Pray for us as we pray for you.

VALPARAISO IN

Camille Feller - Marie Heinold

Again the Valparaiso church has reason to rejoice. Viola (Nuest) DeHaven is seeking the Lord in repentance, wanting to serve and surrender to Him.

The Lord has blessed our congregation with a helper in the ministry. Bro. Rod Huber was ordained Nov. 9. We are thankful for him

and his wife, Sis. Mary and their four children. We wish them wisdom and God's blessings in this great responsibility. Elder Brethren Wendell Gudeman, Alfred Bahler, and Ed Frank visited us this month. We enjoyed all our visiting brethren and sisters very much.

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" . . . This lesson was interestingly given—The believer should be consistent and show forth a good example . . . Another teaching given: Love is the bond of perfection.

The wonderful Christmas season is here again. I love the words in **The Nativity**

From lands afar led by a star,
The wise men came to see
The Saviour King; rich gifts they
bring
For Christ's nativity.
This story sweet I would repeat,
And praise Him with my voice.
For he who finds Christ's peace of
mind,
He cannot but rejoice.

WEST BEND IA

Mrs. Melvin Fehr
Mrs. Raymond Anliker

The evening of Nov. 13, our new fellowship center was filled with members and friends to participate in the dedication services, conducted by our Ministering Bros. Earl Banwart and Noah Gerber. All enjoyed a bountiful pot-luck supper and an hour of singing praises to the Lord. Our thanks and appreciation especially goes out to the building committee, for their many hours of labor and planning, to provide us a place for fellowship and other church-related functions. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts. "Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain . . ."

On Sunday, Nov. 30, we were blessed with the visit of three ministering brothers—Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, (Bros.) Ben Fehr, Roanoke, and Steve Rinkenberger, Cissna Park. The "three generations" of ministers all spoke of the difference between love and the fear of God, which is very important in our Christian walk of life . . . Bro. Albert Wuthrich of Pulaski was also a visiting minister this month.

Our hospital patients were Bro.

Noah Anliker, little Denise Bruellman, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne; and Sis. Ida Fehr, who has a broken knee cap—from a fall on the ice. Sis. Florence Banwart also had the misfortune to slip and fall on the ice and is in the hospital.

Our Sunday School teachers are busy with their children, preparing for our Christmas program which will be presented Dec. 21. We are all looking forward to hearing their songs of praise, renewing our love for Jesus at His Holy Birth.

Our annual church meeting was held Dec. 2, for the purpose of choosing brothers and sisters, to fill expired terms in the various duties.

"I would like to thank all of my relatives and friends for remembering me on my 80th birthday. It was very much appreciated." Nathan Banwart

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Paula Knapp - Ann Kellenberger

We always appreciate the efforts of visiting ministers. Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) brought the word to us in recent weeks. Also, we are grateful to have had our Elder Bro. Dan Koch assemble several times with us.

Our hearts go out in sympathy to Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie Haerr and Ed and Sis. Barb Meiss, for the recent loss of loved ones. Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeanie suffered the loss of Ray's father. Sis. Barb and Ed Meiss suffered the passing of Barb's mother.

Bro. Steve Stahl has moved; his new address is 2103 Todd Dr. Apt. 3-D, Bloomington IL 61701.

Sis. Paula Knapp will replace Sis. Jeanie Haerr in writing the Silver Lining news. We appreciate the many efforts Jeanie has put forth.

CISSNA PARK IL

Grace Bauer - Marilyn Knapp

The light that shines from the humble manger is strong enough to lighten our way to the end of our days.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you . . .

Our congregation was privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Bro. Perry Zimmerman helped in this important work. It was a blessed day. We were happy that Sis. Mary Schupbach was able to be with us for Communion. It has been a long time since she has been able to be in church. A supper and singing were held that evening at church.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Roy Grimm, Raymond Roth, and Dale Eisenmann.

Our hospital patients are Bro. John Otto, Sis. Martha (Mrs. John) Brenner, and Sis. Til (Mrs. Al) Hari. Bro. Carl Moser, Sis. Anna (Mrs. Elmer) Hari, and Sis. Ollie (Mrs. Ezra) Feller were in the hospital, but have returned home. Sis. Esther Siegle has been moved to the Iroquois Residence Home in Watseka. Sis. Priscilla Knapp fell and hurt her ankle. She stayed with her daughter, the Charles Manns. Sis. Mable Vogel fell and hurt her ankle while visiting her brother in Indiana. They are both well and home again.

Our friend, Rick Knapp is still hospitalized and has had more surgery on his leg. He is now out of the Burn Unit . . . We are happy and thankful that our Bro. Jon Anderson is home, after being hospitalized in Texas. He seems to be getting along fairly well.

We extend our sympathy to the Gerry Farney family in the loss of her mother, Sis. Dorothy (Mrs. Ed) Grusy of Eureka.

"I wish to thank everyone who has remembered me with cards, gifts, visits, food and prayers, while in the hospital and at home . . . thanks to our home ministers and David Wiegand, who visited me at the Burnham Hospital in Champaign. We wish to thank our young church group who caroled for us." Sis. Emma Wahl.

FORT SCOTT KS

Ida Sinn

We postponed our Thanksgiving service, as we were covered with a twelve-inch blanket of snow. Transportation was slow, but there was still beauty all around. We seemed to be engulfed in a great white wonderland.

Lydia Hawkins underwent heart surgery at KU Medical Center. She is home now and recovering nicely.

Kenneth and Janice Sinn are the

parents of a son, born Nov. 29, named Kendal Eugene. He has a sister, Kendra to welcome him home. Sophia Sinn is the paternal grandmother.

January is Silver Lining collection for Ft Scott

Bro. John Lehman was with us one Sunday and brought the gospel message.

GRIDLEY IL

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Christ gives us a peace that is so wonderful it passes all understanding. How we rejoice with every dear soul who has become a recipient of His peace. Darlita Marti, Ann Stoller, Cathy Klopfenstein, Al Hany and Ben Gramm have repented for their sins, and have felt the love and peace of God and His forgiveness. Lord willing, they will give their testimonies of faith before the church and be baptized this Sunday, Dec. 7.

Many of us will miss our Sis. Lena Funk, who passed away Thursday, Nov. 13, at the age of 92. Her funeral was the following Sunday. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her sons: Julius of Yucca Valley, Calif.; Bro. Amos of Gridley; and Bro. Eugene of Eureka; and to her daughters; Sis. Lorene Kiefer and Sis. Hulda Meiss, both of Gridley; Mrs. Barbara Meiss of Heyworth and Mrs. Madlyn Nelson of Seattle, Wash.

In memory of Sis. Lena Funk and loving mothers everywhere—

(Editor's Note: God's Valentine's are forever for the righteous . . . the real joys of Christmas! His Keepsakes are really now and forever.)

Mother Dear—Why do I love you?
Because of all the things you've done,

For every thought of love you gave us,

And the patience you have shown
Through the years of trials and struggles.

Surely you have Heaven won!

You have shared our joys and sorrows;

It will never seem the same,

When you've gone away and left
us
To dwell in Heav'n, where is no
pain.
Memories ever true and loving
Always in our hearts will reign.

Valentine's Day—the special day
To pledge to those we truly love,
Our devotion, and the pleasure
Deep within our hearts alway—
That we've had the precious trea-
sure
Of you, Dear Mother, on Life's
Way!

This poem was written by my
sister for our dear mother many
years ago. As I read the words, I
have to think how pleasing it would
be to our precious Saviour if we
took the time to show this love
each day . . . Sis. Pauline Witzig.

Our friend, Joe Aupperle, passed
away Nov. 14 at the age of 80. We
extend our sympathy to his broth-
er, John, of Gridley, and his sister,
Mrs. Ricka Lay of Tremont.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Karen Stoller
are the happy parents of a new
baby boy, Jeffrey Joseph, who was
born Oct. 30. He has two brothers,
Mark and Scott. Jeffrey's grand-
parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie
Stoller of Gridley, and Mr. and
Mrs. William Grau of Flanagan.
His great-grandfather is Mr. Vis-
sering of Flanagan.

Sis. Minnie Stortz and Al Rich
are in the hospital . . . Sis. Ida
Rinkenberger and Bro. Walter
Kaupp were in the hospital and are
home again . . . Sis. Sophia Kaupp
is residing at the Eureka Home, af-
ter having been in the hospital for
a few weeks.

Ministering Bro. Lynn Klopfen-
stein, of Landersville, was with us
on Thanksgiving Day.

At the dawn of the new year, a
time of renewal and resolution, it
behooves us that we resolve to be
good stewards of all our manifold
blessings from God. He has blessed
us foremost with the gift of sal-
vation, which was made possible by
the offering of His dear Son. We
must guard it carefully and trea-
sure it most highly, by keeping
ourselves unspotted from the world
and allowing the fruits of the Spir-
it to shine forth in our lives. Again
this year, and especially so with
the abundant harvest the earth
has yielded, God has bountifully
blessed us by meeting and surpass-

ing our physical needs. We dwell in
the midst of an affluence unprece-
dented in world history. As good
stewards of God's gifts, let us
reach forth our hands to the needy
and not be slothful in well-doing. . .
For if we say, **Be ye warmed and
filled**, and yet not give the desti-
tute those things which are need-
ful to the body, what doth it pro-
fit? This Christmas season, when
so many are giving gifts to one an-
other, may we willingly give our
time, our talents, and our wealth to
ease the burden of the distressed
and lonely. Let us seek to lay up
unperishable treasure in heaven.

PURDUE

Kathy Tanner - Kris Leman

As the Christmas season is upon
us, we watch everyone hurrying
about, buying presents and all the
pleasures of this merry season.
With days so filled with activities,
we pray that each of us would not
forget the precious reason for the
celebration. In our preparations for
the holidays, may we also remem-
ber to prepare our souls for the
birthday of our dear Saviour, and
may our light shine even brighter
at this time.

We thank Bro. Ed Alt, Cissna
Park, for sharing the word with us
in November . . .

With a new year just ahead, may
we all be revived in spirit to ever
serve our Lord!

ROCKVILLE CT

Carlton J. Lanz

Death came quietly to Sis. Hilda
Hany, at the age of 60. She had
been hospitalized for some time,
but was able to return to her home,
and could be cared for by her
daughter-in-law, Sis. Betsy. Dur-
ing her illness, she held fast to her
faith, and at last could yet say,
"I'm ready to go". She is survived
by three sons, Raymond, Bros.
Richard and Peter. She was a good
mother, also did much in caring
for her several small grandchildren.

Sis. Jan Gottier, daughter of
Warren and Sis. Carol, and Bro.
Kenneth Boynton, son of Mr. and
Mrs. Frank Boynton, Vernon, plan
to wed according to an announce-
ment made here.

Sacred wedding vows between
Sis. Amy Luginbuhl and Bro. Billy
Cone were exchanged and solemn-
ized in the presence of the church
by Elder Bro. John Bahler. A re-

ception followed at the home of
Bro. Leonard and Sis. Irma Lugin-
buhl, Amy's parents. Billy's par-
ents, of Tolland Ct., are Mr. & Mrs.
William Cone.

Our church, or as the early set-
tlers or Pilgrims chose to call
"Their Meeting House" was the
scene of a most joyous and sacred
event. There were three elders in
attendance, Bros. Joe Ramsier, Ru-
dolph Graf and John Bahler, our
elder, who interviewed the nine
dear friends who had submitted to
the friendly call of God and were
rewarded with that precious peace.
The wonderful experiences these
young men and women made as
they related them in their testi-
monies were not strange or impos-
sible, for we or our readers had
similar or possibly identical ones,
as were the tens of thousands over
the years ahead of us. The Spirit
of the Lord, we find, has His ways
of reaching the hearts. One of the
above young men, not having been
reared in our faith, in associating
with some friends, could readily
see that his former affiliation did
nothing to convince him that their
philosophy had merit. In brief, in
observing this, our conversions, he
became convicted to the point that
put him into desperate misery. To
ease his situation, as he had hoped,
he went to Chicago to spend some
time with a relative, only to find
an Apostolic Christian Church ab-
out three miles nearby. He then
attended a service and could have
a conversation with our elder there.
This finally convinced him that it
was the Spirit of God working, and
he could do nothing more than to
succumb to the Hand of God . . .
So, upon the testimonies of these
precious young people, they
stepped one by one into the water
and were baptized, and could be-
come one of the brotherhood. The
names of these were Carol Kloter,
Dorothy Mangold, Judy Moser,
Kevin Ryan, Bernard Garrow, Ma-
ry Lou Gerber, Roberta Clark, Kay
Schneider and Dawn Ballasy. Par-
ents are as follows: Bro. and Sis.
Emanuel Kloter, Bro. and Sis. Clar-
ence Mangold, Bro. and Sis. Ben
Moser, Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan,
Mr. and Mrs. Garrow, Bro. and Sis.
Melvin Gerber, Mr. and Mrs. Clark,
Bro. and Sis. Wilbur Schneider and
Bro. and Sis. Ernest Ballasy, re-
spectively.

Born to Sis Sharon and Bro. Eric

Kloter Nov. 8, a daughter, Jessica Lynn. Grandparents of this infant are Bro. and Sis. Urban Luginbuhl and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter. The couple has three more children, Jennifer, Mark and Bruce.

The Sunday School teachers and their assistants are preparing their Christmas programs, which no doubt are in remembrance to the great event of Christ's humble birth and the ultimate purpose for His coming. Many centuries have passed, yet this beautiful story never grows old.

UNION CITY & PHILADELPHIA
Carolyn Roberts

Thou didst leave Thy throne, and
Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me,
But in Bethlehem's home was
there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.
Oh come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for
Thee.

There was no room for Him in
the Inn . . .
Is there room in your heart for
Him?

Bro. Uriel Gehring of the Burlington congregation visited the Philadelphia brethren and brought the message. How thankful can one be to receive **Blessings of the Word** from those that teach the word.

Our prayers and well wishes go to our friends, Bertha Orth and Train Vojkovic . . . Trusting the Lord's help in their recovery.

BAY CITY MI
Carolyn Schamback

When pure and upright hearts
By flames of love ignited
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united . . .

On Nov. 30, Bro. Wally Gerst (Alto) and Sis. Donna Waibel were united as husband and wife by her father, Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Sis. Elizabeth). Wally's parents, Bro. Richard and Sis. Liberty (Oakville), and many relatives and friends were with us to share in this joyous occasion. Among the guests were Bro. Earl Banwart (West Bend) and Bros. Robert

Pohl (Burlington) and Bill Gerst (Alto), who shared in teaching us that day.

Ken Schlatter (Bro. Dave and Sis. Margaret) has been discharged from the hospital, after suffering broken ribs and bruises when thrown from a horse. Glad to see you mending, Ken!

Bay City subscribers: your reporter has been asked to send a complete list of names and addresses of those who receive the Silver Lining—if you are one who does, please be sure to give it to me as soon as possible.

BREMEN IN
Marian Germann

The divine grace and love of God was truly given to us when He gave us His love in the person of the baby Jesus. Jesus still is our King, and we humbly bow at His feet for the love He has shown us . . . that is, hanging upon the cross, shedding His blood, and taking our sins, that if we ask of Him we shall be eternally free.

A few of our older brothers and sisters have been in the hospital. Sis. Leah Souder was dismissed from the hospital, but was returned to the nursing home. Sis. Leah Zimmer was a hospital patient, and now is at home, being cared for. We all miss Leah's love and warmth at church. Bro. Dan Germann will be having cataract eye surgery on Dec. 10. If all goes well, Dan will be home for Christmas.

Early in November, we were fortunate to have the Roanoke young people assemble with us. We all enjoyed the fellowship with our brothers and sisters in faith.

There is no limit to God's wisdom; no limit to His power, His mercy, His love. There is no limit to God!

CROGHAN NY
Alice Virkler

Each Christmas this gift is given
To those who will hold it true,
A present that never grows old!
Jesus' love for me and you.

How thankful we are that Jesus' love is still given to everyone who will submit to His calling. We can receive this wonderful gift at any-time of the year.

Bro. Leon Ebersol passed away

on Nov. 13; funeral services were held on Sun. Nov. 16, by Bro. Robert Beyer. He had been a hospital patient for ten days, after undergoing surgery. It seemed he was gaining and had been removed from the Intensive Care unit, when he was suddenly taken during the night. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mabel; four sons, Frederick of Lowville, Gerald of Sacramento, California, Warren of Castorland, Calvin of Glenfield; four daughters, Mrs. Fern Reed of West Carthage, Mrs. Charlotte Hunziker, Glenfield, Mrs. Lois Baker and Mrs. Sandra Zehr, of Lowville; his sister, Sis. Huldah Farney, and his brother, Donald of Manlius. Bro. Leon and Sis. Mabel celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Jan. 1975. Sis. Mabel Ebersol and her family wish to extend their thanks to all who remembered her and Bro. Leon in the hospital and at Bro. Leon's passing.

Sis. Laura (Virkler) Farney was called from this life on Nov. 19. Funeral services were held by Bro. John Widrick on Sat., Nov. 22. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Barbara Bachman of Castorland. Sis. Laura observed her 90th birthday in April. She has not been able to assemble with us for many years. We can be assured she is **Asleep in Jesus**. She was the compiler and author of the 1933 Farney-Virkler-Zehr Genealogy, and assisted her niece, Mrs. Julia Karcher in the compiling of the 1969 genealogy.

Sis. Lillian (Amos) Virkler was a patient at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, where she underwent surgery. We are glad to hear that she returned home. Arthur Woolschlager was again a medical patient for several days, and his wife, Lucy, is a patient in Watertown, where she had a pacemaker put in. We are thankful that she is slowly improving. Sis. Polly Grau has been a medical patient. We surely can see God's almighty hand at work, when we see a measure of health restored to our loved ones. Sis. Barbara Virkler has been able to assemble with us the past two Sundays, after being a hospital patient for ten weeks.

IOWA CITY IA
Lynn Banwart - April Wiegand

Come, ye thankful people come;
Raise the song of harvest home.

All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come;
Raise the song of harvest home.

Truly this Thanksgiving hymn is for all days. As each day, God, our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied, then it seems only natural that we should come, ye thankful people, come. Paul said, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Visiting ministers, (Bros.) Paul Butikofer (Elgin) and Ed Lanz (Oakville) brought the word of life to us.

PEORIA IL
Betty Miller

The joyous Christmas season is upon us! Christ went through a natural birth; cousins Doug Waggenbach and Scott Stickling, husband and wife Ted and Barbara Stoller, and their nephew, Randy Stoller went through a spiritual birth. Dec. 7 they were baptized. What a wonderful way to begin commemorations of that miracle in history that revealed God's love to us all! The boys' parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach, Bro. Ben and Sis. Sharon Stickling, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Rosalee Stoller.

Parents for the first time are Bro. Roger and Sis. Melanie Geyer. They have a new baby girl, born Nov. 14 and named Deanna Kay.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Diane, to Bro. Mike Honegger, son of Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Honegger.

Marilyn Swadley, daughter of Leland and Sis. Mary, was married to Larry Leman, son of the Milton Lemans, Sat. Nov. 29, at the fellowship hall.

We regret that the following loved ones have been quite ill, and hope that by the time this is printed they will be much improved: Bro. Jake Schneider, Bro. Alfred Hoerr, Sisters Emma Eichenburg and Martha Altorfer, Ray Frank, Annie (Mrs. Rudy) Hoerr, and Bill Schlipf (brother of Sis. Elsa Hartman and Sis. Emma Rocke).

Thank you, visiting brothers, Kenny Dietz and Dan Koch, for your labors of love here.

Sis. Sophie Leuthold, wife of the late Bro. Chris, died. Her funeral was Nov. 24. Our sincere sympathy to all of her family, who, even in their sorrow, submitted . . . "We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all who remembered us during the illness and passing of our loved one."

Peoria hosted ACYF Nov. 9.

SARASOTA FL

Sandra Price - Lyn Blunier

We thank the Ft. Lauderdale Sunday School for visiting the week of Nov. 15 and 16 and to Bro. Bud Klopfenstein for his inspirational message . . . and many thanks to Ministering Bros. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) and Paul Gasser (Akron), for helping us make Thanksgiving a blessed one.

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach was here several weeks convalescing from surgery . . . Bro. John Joos and wife, Sis. Louise are settled in their winter home, and we are happy to report, Bro. John is recuperating well after surgery at Houston, Texas . . . Sis. Fern Wingeier has been admitted to the hospital, hopefully for a short span. She is a living testimony of grace for every Christian's cross.

As we are approaching the time of nativity, we are not experiencing the typical Christmas card scene, rather warm sunny days, palm trees and green grass . . . But wherever we live and whatever our environment, God's creation is beautiful . . . our main thought this season should be the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and his gift to us of everlasting life. Let us be thankful to Him and praise His name!

There are many visitors enjoying the season with us. We are thankful that we have an edifice where we can worship together and fellowship with brethren from so many places. Our Sarasota church address is 333 Honore Ave., or call Bro. Phil Wingeier at 371-4155.

CHILDREN'S HOME

Terry and Mary Farney

As Christmas approaches and we feel the excitement of the season, we also anticipate the time when we can share this special season with the foster children for whom we hope to provide a home . . . And we also think of the one child whose birth and love we celebrate at this time. This baby Jesus grew

to a man that loved others like no other man could. It seems He had a special love though for little children, and as we strive to be more like Him, we pray He can help us also to have a special love for the children He gives us to care for.

The delayed approval of a sewage disposal system by the state has long delayed substantial progress here. However, we now have high hopes of getting that started soon. Our thanks to all who have sent donations — both small and large are greatly appreciated. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have made it possible for the two homes to be furnished with stereos. May God bless all of you who put forth the effort and prepared for the Grabill Day's booth. The stereos are beautiful and very much appreciated.

We wish you all the joys of the holidays.

ELGIN IL
Mary Moser

"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." . . . we wish you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of his love.

On Thanksgiving day we were blest with a visit from Ministering Bro. Maurice Frank from Leo. On Nov. 30, Bro. Elmer Schmidt from the Winthrop congregation brought us the word of God.

Sis. Lydia Messerschmidt celebrated her 90th birthday, and wishes to express her thanks for cards, gifts and visits she received.

Becky Steffen and Jim Miller of Elgin were united in marriage on Nov. 22 in the home of Becky's parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen . . . Bro. Dale Heininger and Sis. Karen Kellenberger were united in Holy Matrimony on Dec. 7. We were thankful for the presence of Bro. Dale Eisenmann from Chicago for this blessed occasion.

The Steffen family welcomed home their oldest son, Phil, who returned from Ethiopia, where he had been serving in the Peace Corps for 2 years. We welcome him back and are thankful for his safe return . . . We wish to welcome Curtis and Becky Leman and son, Arthur, who have moved from Oregon. Curtis is the son of Bro. Le-

Wm. Pfister
R. 4
Bluffton, Indiana 46714

Roy and Sis. Florence Leman.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Anna Lohbauer wish to express their thanks and appreciation to those who remembered them with cards, gifts of money, flowers and dinners on their 50th wedding anniversary.

On Nov. 16, a baby girl, Debra Marie was born to Bro. Herman and Sis. Sharon Braun. She has three sisters and four brothers to welcome her home.

The engagement of Bro. Eugene Braun (son of Sis. Celia and the late Bro. Herman Braun) and Sis. Susan Roubie (daughter of Sis. Mary and Art Herchey from N.Y.) was made known on Dec. 7.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA IL
Howard and Dianne Leman

The real meaning of Christmas
Is the giving of love everyday.
O the real meaning of Christmas
Is to live as the Master, they say,
And when you're giving your presents,
Don't forget as you give them away,
That the real meaning of Christmas
Is the giving of love every day.

These words can be the answer to your prayer, as you decide what you can give during this blessed season and throughout the new year.

Our church has several Christmas events planned. Sun., Dec. 14, our Sunday School presents their program. I

praise the Lord that I, like these children, was raised in a Christian home where we learned that Christmas is more than Santa Claus. As a first grade teacher, I know many, many children who do not know the Christmas story of Jesus' birth.

Monday, Dec. 15, our congregation plans to carol at various nursing homes. We are also working on distributing goods to several families for Christmas cheer.

Combined Champaign-Urbana collection is January.

Sis. Verna Roth is a grandmother again, as her son Charles and his wife welcomed their first child, a daughter named Brooke.

SURPRISES AND DELIGHTS

Henry Souder Jr.

Christmas eve is beautiful anticipation. The gladness of the morning glows in hope. When a child, there would be wondrous shapes that little folks liked, a garage by uncle . . . a small steam engine . . . an exciting toy clock . . .

God wants us to enjoy constantly His joy-filled gifts. Hope stirs, morning and evening, throughout the day . . . the deep things are His, those real, those that never fade . . . in the midst of sorrow, the second mile and the daily cross. His mind, what a radiant joy! And we radiate the true joy of His, for we have His mind.

In Corinthians, chapter two shines beautiful verses. One's about the eye not seeing, nor ear hearing, not even has it entered upon the heart of man what God has prepared. The next verse says they are revealed unto us by the Spirit. Waiting is in such a joy. This is the eve before his Cinderella-like, yet beautiful and satisfied, morning. There is much to know, to glow our hope, if we are willing to let the Spirit reveal.

What did He mean, "revealed"? How can we fully let God show us? What method does He use?

Verse 13 brings out "comparing". Our Lord pointed out in Matthew 22 to avoid a great error.

Some didn't know the scriptures nor the power of God. The Spirit gives: "that we we might know the things that are freely given to us of God".

To reveal is to uncover. The natural man doesn't know. To reveal gazes not only into the beautiful sights of hereafter, but gives us His way of life now . . . love, righteousness, peace and joy. The saints live and learn the way of eternal life now. There it will burst into the full blossom, of everlasting springtime.

How happy are those who love God's Book, familiarly and intimately. Those success-striving saints of old, Joshua and David held precious and dear God's word. How about Paul? Bring the books, but especially the parchments. It's a fact, we need to linger lovingly, thoroughly in this priceless privilege, the life of the Father's mansion now. We need to know the revealing in the tempest, the valley, the thorn-crowned, cross-bearing, His dying . . . and His resurrection. It reaches deep, and true, as only God can teach.

We need syllables forged in the power of God—when the sparks fly with the molding of our spirit . . . till they are written clearly. Our daily duty becomes the bril-

liance of God, His translation into the very life we breath and walk in. To the holder of the lamp, nothing can happen against . . . all know the lamplighter is there! Can we believe what glories, untold, unfold even now!

The clouds may tarry, but the glow will carry. Don't ask God to use some method or way—but plead with Him to use the tools He knows is best. Paul, in prison, had many a blow, including false brethren of contention. Even this is filling in success (Philippians 1). There was the man blind from birth, in John 9, but look what glory came. Nothing can hinder the matchless moves of the Master. Lazarus was sick, even passed away, but view the majestic, joy-breathing writings, in John 11, reality coming. The widow was penniless casting her mites, but look how the Almighty valued it.

So . . . when we sincerely place ourselves into His hands . . . become willing to suffer, lose the things of today, deep things of God are written richly, largely. All can see. A smile helps the hurting. We can smile deep and large, with the hurting, for we have the mind of Christ. Really we have Him and all the Scripture says!