

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work

in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.



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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

CHRISTMAS EVE IS TODAY

They are beautiful! The words about Jesus. Read the wonderful tender touch of the pen of God. See Christmas in His glory. With the soft radiance of His peace. Go to Matthew 1, 2 and Luke 2. Listen for the touches of Mary and Joseph in their journey. Hear the words of glory in the countryside. The greatest news has come. Look at the delight in the wondering eyes of wise men. Yet chorded with the joy is the sadness of suffering mothers, weeping for little ones who were not.

Our Lord is our Christmas. The greatest joys are also fragrant with the myrrh in suffering. AS SORROWING YET ALWAYS REJOICING is keyed to hope, and lighted in love . . .

That they might have my joy . . . A poor little street girl was taken sick one Christmas and carried to a hospital. While there, she heard the story of Jesus' coming into the world to save us. It was all new to her, but very precious. She could appreciate such a wonderful Saviour, and the knowledge made her very happy. One day the nurse came around at the usual hour, and "Little Broomstick" (that was her street name) held her by the hand and whispered: "I'm having real good times here—ever such good times! I suppose as soon as I get well I shall have to go away from here, but I'll take the good time along—some of it anyhow. Did you know about Jesus' being born?" "Yes," replied the nurse, "I know—Sh-sh, s-s-sh. Don't talk anymore." "You did? I thought you looked as if you didn't, and I was going to tell you." "Why, how did I look?" replied the nurse. "Oh, just like most folk—kind o' glum. I didn't think you'd ever look gloomy if you knowed about Jesus' being born."

Many overlook the treasured Bible. Sometimes not clearly seen, or even at all, we His own people leave some treasure unused. We can even memorize a phrase, yet the bountiful treasure lies, because we fail to live it.

An old man living in New Jersey discovered about \$5,000 in a

family Bible. The bank notes were scattered throughout the book. His aunt had died, and one clause of her will was: To my beloved nephew . . . I will and bequeath my family Bible and all it contains, with the residue of my estate after my funeral expenses and just and lawful debts are paid.

The estate amounted to a few hundred dollars, which was soon spent. For 35 years, his chief support had been a small pension from the government. He lived on in poverty, and within his reach there was the precious Bible, containing thousands of dollars, sufficient for all his wants. He passed it by. His eyes rested on it, perhaps his hands handled the old leather-bound Bible with its brass clasps, but he did not open. At last, while packing his trunk to move to his son, where he intended to spend his few remaining years, he discovered the unknown riches . . .

Today is Christmas eve for God's Tomorrow. It will be wonderful, being glad in the Father's house. Verse after verse gives glimpse to where the eyes of His children are always wonder-lit. Little folks gone before gladden in joyful carols. Dear familiar faces smile in everlasting sweetness. This beckons us homeward. Listen to that festival-filled circle! This same love is ours now. We can find its comfort in the verse we do. It's a privilege to know God's Christmas eve way. Joy flows when we live His word. That is tasting the powers of the world to come!

It was said of a certain man, the way to have him as one's friend was to do him an unkindness.

If His own knew the joy of turning the other cheek and going the second mile, one would embrace the privilege!

A certain man was very earnest in winning souls for Christ. The enemies of the gospel were very angry at his success. One of the foremost men met him in a great rage, struck him a violent blow on the head. "May God forgive and bless you," was the rejoinder.

Days after they both met again in a secluded spot, and he expected another blow. The man asked forgiveness for the treatment. A disciple of Christ by gentle and peaceful words had a friend, of an enemy.

We have a very important gift exchange this Christmas eve. The presents endure. Among them are kind, encouraging words. If we would know, we would love to give.

A terrible fire was raging. Many attempts were being made to save a child, who stood frantic at the top window. One man, braver than the rest, was about to fail, when someone in the crowd cried, "Cheer him, cheer him!" The people caught the words and cheered loudly. Inspired by the shouts raised on all sides, the man redoubled his efforts and rescued the child from the flames.

Christmas eve. Tomorrow happiness will be without cloud. Today, it carries the cross . . . but the gifts, those gifts He has given. When we think of Him, a gentle rapture overwhelms the soul. What joy awaits the true bliss of just a verse, just thinking about Him.

"And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:" . . . A middle-aged, refined man came into a leper asylum or Friday morning. On the following Sunday, there was the usual ser-

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor: Henry Souder Jr.

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.

Jan. 1, 1977, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address.

vice in a little grove of trees. The minister was preaching from the miracle recorded in Matthew 8:1-4, and was emphasizing the love that Jesus had for the leper. This chap sat literally at the feet of the preacher, squat on the ground, his knees tucked up under his chin, his arms folded around his knees, face upturned, eyes and mouth wide open, listening to the wondrous story of the love of Jesus. He stood it just as long as he could, then he said, "Stop there, preacher. Am I hearing you right? Are you trying to tell us that there was someone once here upon earth who loved a leper?" "Yes, I am." ". . . who was it?" "Jesus." "Who is he? Where does it tell about him?" "It tells about him in this Bible." "Is that Bible written in Hindu?" "Yes, and you shall have a copy of it." And I heard him repeating to himself: "Is it not strange! Someone once loved a leper!"

We need more of God's emotions. There is a place to entreat and a place to weep. Music can flow in tears. Jesus wept. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Let us bear the cross, plead His cause, glow His kindness, and weep His tears — all inspired of His heavenly love.

On the English coast there was a wild storm. The cry was, "Man the lifeboat!" Harry, the usual leader of the sailor's crew, was not to be found. They went with-

out him and brought back all the shipwrecked people, but one. Harry appeared and said, "Why did you leave that one?" "He could not help himself at all, and we could not get him into the boat." "Man the lifeboat!" shouted Harry, "and we will go for that one." "No!" said his aged mother standing by, "you must not go. I lost your father in a storm like this, and your brother Will went off six years ago, and I have not heard a word from him since he left, and I don't know where he is, poor Will, and I cannot let you also go, for I am old and dependent on you." "Mother, I must go and save that one man . . ." The lifeboat put out. After an awful struggle with the sea, they picked the poor fellow out of the rigging, just in time to save his life. As they came within speaking distance, Harry cried out, "We saved him, and tell mother it is brother Will!"

Tell mother . . . How many a joy can come to the heart who loves to love in the storm. We feel the merriment of heaven when a soul returns. We can know the joy of John when His dear ones did the truth. The world is cold, dark and lifeless. You know where the true colorful light is . . . remember, His Christmas includes all. What joy comes in our heart that He lives!

"The Lord is risen indeed . . ." A famous preacher selected as the

first hymn for a Sunday morning service, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." Someone nervously inquired if there had not been some mistake; this, he suggested, was an Easter hymn, and it was not Easter. "There has been no mistake. That is the hymn I want. Every Sunday is Easter Day."

Resurrection is what rings the joy bells of our Christmas eve. What glory thrills our wonder-filled eyes for the morning. How blessed in every storm to be safe in arms of Jesus. We have more than filled stockings and houses filled with gold. We live in the hope of Home. Our dreams come true.

Oh think of stepping ashore
And find it Heaven;
To clasp a hand outstretched
And to find it God's Hand!
To breath new air
And that celestial air;
To feel refreshed
And find it immortality;
Oh think to step from storm and stress
To one unbroken calm;
To awake and find it Home.

Only God's Christmas satisfies our longing heart. Now is the dim twilight of morning . . . but even NOW we see the outline of the wondrous shapes of reality—the awaiting of the home of perfect happiness.

ELGIN IL

Mary Moser

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts.

Daniel Seth is the name chosen by Sam and Betty Bachtold for the new little baby who came to live with them. He has one brother, Micah.

Ed Schambach and Gayle Lamp were united in marriage. Ed's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Jennie Schambach.

Sis. Clara Knobloch, Bro. Al Wewetzer and Sis. Norma Schambach were hospital patients. Sis. Sophie Gudeman is not at the Americana Nursing Home.

Two precious souls, Dave and Millie Jepson were added to the fold. We are thankful they can share in the joys of our most precious faith.

We were blessed with a visit from Ministering (Bros.) Aaron Steffen of Alto and Maurice Frank, Leo church.

Now is the only time you own,
So trust and toil with a will.
Place your faith in the love of God,
Til the clock of life is still.

FORT SCOTT KS

Aleta Banwart

The farmer ploughs through the fields of green,
And the blade of the plough is sharp and keen,
But the seed must be sown to bring forth grain,
For nothing is born without suffering and pain—
And God never ploughs in the soul of man

Without intention and purpose and plan;
So whenever you feel the plough's sharp blade,
Let not your heart be sorely afraid,
For, like the farmer, God chooses a field
From which He expects an excellent yield—
So rejoice, though your heart is broken in two;
God seeks to bring forth a rich harvest in you.

A miracle happened! Another soul has renounced sin and dedicated her life to serving the Lord. Our convert, Teresa Bahr gave her inspiring testimony the evening of Oct. 9, and was baptized the following afternoon. Her parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth Bahr. Sis. Teresa is a student, and light to others at Manhattan. Our visiting ministers

for the occasion were: Elder Bro. Eugene Marti — Lamar, (Bros.) John Lehman — Bern, Lloyd Kraft — Gridley, Earl Banwart — West Bend.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller opened their home for singing and fellowship. It's so wonderful to be able to meet and fellowship together without the threat of harassment.

Bro. Joe Banwart has returned home from his hospital stay.

January is Silver Lining collection for Ft. Scott.

ALTO MICHIGAN

Donna Steffen

When Jesus Christ came to earth 2000 years ago, they could only find room for Him in a lowly cattle stall! Angels saw their Beloved One on earth in the form of a little baby at Bethlehem. The world in general gave little heed to the Son of God, who was born among them.

When Jesus Christ comes to our hearts today, do we open our hearts to Him and prepare our homes to receive Him worthily? This is a soul-searching question which involves our hope for time and eternity.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathie Schrenk are thrilled about the new addition to their family. Their precious daughter, Rachael Nichole, was born Oct. 24. She has one brother, Philip. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Deliah Schrenk are the happy grandparents.

We are so thankful for another dear soul in our midst, who has turned her back to the world, and has found grace unto repentance and the desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We sincerely pray for Elizabeth (Marvin) Blough, that she will be blessed with much strength, grace, joy and peace in her new walk of life. Her in-laws are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough.

Remember this: Jesus came "to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives . . . the opening of the prison to them that are bound . . ." yet they nailed Him to the cross!

Before you can enjoy the peace of God, you must know the God of Peace.

MANSFIELD OH

Lucille Groh

A heavenly census book His name alone

Bears on the title-page, for 'tis His own.

That book of life; and there, written clear and plain

Are names of those born in that King's domain.

All who alive forevermore shall be Are there enrolled for all eternity.

Since He was numbered once with sinful men,

We may be numbered as God's own again.

Though Caesar's book has long since passed away,

The Lamb's blest book of life shall stand for alway.

In the Lamb's Book of Life

They are our new sisters in Christ, Claudia Gadd and Ann Marie Martin. Claudia is the daughter of Mildred Sauder Dolce, and Ann Marie is the granddaughter of Sis. Mary Traub, Fairbury. Here to share in Ann Marie's joy was her uncle, Bro. Bruce Lehman, Ronoke, who shared in the ministry, together with Bros. Rudolph Graf and Joseph Ramsier.

As Joshua so beautifully expressed it so many years ago, As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord, so has this same beautiful experience taken place in the home of our friends, Wayne and Nina Rufener and their two sons, Ronald and John. The four have all given their hearts to the Saviour, and now have found perfect peace on earth and good will toward all men. We all rejoice with them, as they experience a new love for the Saviour this Christmas season, and look forward to the day when they can all four be baptized.

Friend Joe Sabo and his wife, Sis. Esther, Sis. Martha Streitmatter, and Sis. Louise (Henry) Sabo have all moved to the Apostolic Retirement Center at 455 Logan Road, Mansfield Oh 44907.

Friend Laura Beer (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Pat) broke her finger and has it in a cast, and Sis. Shirley (Bro. Dave) Roberts was hospitalized for surgery.

A LIGHT THAT SHOWN BRIGHT, GREW DIM AND NOW IS DARK . . . were the words spoken by Bro. Joseph Ramsier at the funeral of our dear departed sister, Tillie Bucher, who at the age of 90 years left us on Oct. 25. Sis. Tillie was an orphan. She loved to come to church, having served the Lord from her youth. She did not have a life filled with roses; she once

dreamed she was on a rough sea, and such was her life. She requested the hymn, PRECIOUS MEMORIES be sung at her funeral, because as she spent many days alone in the rest home, she would reminisce on the memories gone by, when she lived with her foster mother, who lived to be 103 years of age and of her foster father, Bro. Will Ingold, and of the pleasant times she had while there. Tillie did housework most of her life and was a good example to all of us. Born Nov. 4, 1885 in Sardis, Monroe County, Ohio, she lived here most of her life. Surviving are four sisters, Sis. Ella Widmer (Rittman), Sis. Elizabeth Dotterer and Sis. Emma Bucher of Mansfield and Sis. Josephine Sauder of Doylestown, Ohio.

Let me burn out for thee, dear Lord,

Burn and wear out for thee.

Don't let me rust, or my life be

A failure, my God, to Thee.

Use me and all I have, dear Lord,

And get me so close to Thee,

That I feel the throb of the great Heart of God,

Until I burn out for Thee.

May the blessings of Christmas be yours, and let's remember, Though Christ a thousand times in Bethlehem be born, it will avail you nothing unless He is born in you!

With January 1, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

BRADFORD IL

Jane Leman

With joyful hearts we report three new converts: Deanne Klumpp (Bro. Ray and Sis. Eunice), Martha Kay Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirley), and Marcia Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha).

Bro. Dennis Endress (Bro. John and Sis. Lucille) was very fortunate and thankful to escape with just an injured foot, when his clothing caught in the power take-off on a tractor.

Ministering Bro. Jim Ringger sends this: Many thanks to all who came to visit me, sent cards and gifts, and kept me in your thoughts and prayers while I was hospitalized.

We always appreciate visiting ministers, and thank (Bros.) Tom

Leman (Elgin IL) and Simon Wagenbach (Tremont), also Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), who came along with the Bible Class group from Remington and Wolcott.

Bro. Gene related to us an interesting story of a university that could find no reason for the lack of water in one building. Upon digging up the water main, they found a large dead frog clogging the pipe. They concluded it must have entered as a tadpole and had just enough nourishment to grow there, until so large it couldn't move, and died . . . Thus illustrating, not to even let the smallest thing into your life and heart, lest it be nourished enough to choke out your spiritual blessings.

Know Each Other Better

Julia Anna (Merkel) Ehnle — Apostolic Christian Home — Peoria.

Julia was born June 5, 1890 in Grossachen, Germany. She had six sisters and two brothers. Her father was a farmer and also ran a flour mill.

In her early thirties, she came to America because of her health. She married Louie Ehnle in Peoria, Nov. 16, 1924. They had three sons and one daughter: Bro. Roy (one of our ministers in Bradford), Bro. Ed, and Robert, all of the Bradford area, and Sis. Mary (married to Bro. Hartzell Kaisner — minister in Detroit . . . also two step-children: Louie Ehnle Jr. of Sparland and Laura (Amos) Stahl of Wyoming, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was baptized May 3, 1908, in the mill stream by her home by Elders Baer and Stieglitz (Germany). She was proved a month before her baptism, and they stressed staying true and really serving the Lord.

They assembled in four different homes for their Sunday worship services. They traveled by train from town to town, and because of the cost of travel, only two from her family could go each Sunday, so they took turns. The first Sunday of the month was in her home (Merkel) in Grossachen. The second Sunday in Monheim at the Menold home. The third Sunday in Heidelberg in the Louser home. Two old sisters there were very poor, so everyone brought food this Sunday for their

livelihood. The fourth and fifth Sunday (if it was so with the month) they gathered at Waldorf at Bro. Hermann's home, who was the minister.

To Julia, the Lord's Day is the happiest day of the week, and she lives for Sunday. Scripture reading and singing are very valuable to her, as they lift her up. Her counsel to help someone to heaven is: To repent and live for the Lord, doing what He reveals in His word, and the daily grace through prayer, to have patience to wait on the Lord's will.

FRANCESVILLE IN.

Helen Huber — Sharon Neihouser

Our dear Sis. Luisa Welker, 78, passed away after a long illness. She was born in Yugoslavia, and came to Francesville from Austria 26 years ago. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Wendell Gudeman on Oct. 29. Her husband, Bro. Ludwig, passed away Oct. 1. May God comfort the children and grandchildren in the loss of their parents and grandparents.

We were privileged to have Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) visit us. We were richly reminded of Noah's Ark and how so few were able to enter. "And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation." Bro. Henry Beer spent a Wednesday evening with us and shared the living word and also the **Good Things For The Christian Home**.

Hospitalized: Sis. Priscilla Anliker (auto accident), Bro. Don Vogt (auger accident), and Sis. Nola Wuethrich and Bro. Herman Wuethrich and Virginia Masten (observation).

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher have taken in little Jimmy as a foster child. May God bless them for their deeds of love.

The engagement of Sis. Wendy Grimm (Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna) of Taylor and Bro. Jeff Gutwein (Bro. Nate and Sis. Ad) was announced.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Brenda Tucker

As the Christmas season approaches, we were interested to hear that this season is celebrated worldwide. Truly our lives were blessed as we shared a day with one of our Japanese sisters. She told

us of the customs of the people of her country and about the celebration of their Christmas season. Although they celebrate somewhat differently, the season is still acknowledged and celebrated. It is sad that many times the true meaning of Christmas is lost, whether it be here in the United States or in any other country. As Christians, we celebrate the birth of our Saviour and the gift of life eternal that he has promised. As we celebrate this glorious event, let us also remember the second coming, that we may await it anxiously and prayerfully, that many more may find this true joy and peace that is the daily gift to a child of God.

Visiting ministers that brought us God's word were Bros. Loren Strahm and Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, Ks.; Elder Bro. Eugene Marti, Lamar; and Bros. Sam Huber and Roger Aberle, Sabetha.

On Oct. 30, several of us traveled to Lamont, to witness the testimony and baptism of John Wernli. As we welcome him into the brotherhood of Christ, we pray that our group here may be a unit of God's family, to shine as a light to all those that live and work around us.

At the close of this semester, we will be losing Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein, and their son Kevin. Steve will be graduating in Food Science and Management. Truly there will be a vacancy in their leaving, and we wish them all of God's grace and blessings as they make their home in Francesville.

MILFORD IN

Linda Beer - Coleen Beer

The message of Christmas is a message of joy — good tidings of great joy to all men everywhere. We read where the wise men "departed into their own country another way" after seeing the Christ child. All truly wise men will go another way after finding Christ; all truly wise men will take the road that is different. All who have gone to Bethlehem, found Christ as their Saviour are now going another way — this is truly being WISE.

We have been blessed with God's messengers visiting in our midst. (Bros.) Floyd Schmitgall, Morris, and Wendell Gudeman, Francesville were present to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our friends, Peg Beer (Bro. Phil and Sis. Millie) and Ron and Steve

Beer (Bro. Carlton and Sis. Maryann). We welcome them into our fold.

(Bros.) Roy Grimm, Taylor and Bob Grimm, Goodfield, told us of our need to be Good Ambassadors in our place in life. Others around can see we are striving to make a living, but do they see that we place our lives in the Lord's hands, who has saved us, and that His will directs our actions, behavior and plans?

Sis. Kate Price has been a surgical patient, but is recovering at home now. Bro. Lou Rassi has been shut-in for several weeks. We hope they can soon worship with us again.

Steve and Marcy Haab were blessed with a son, Jay Andrew. Twins Bobbi and Becki, 3, welcome him home. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Esther Haab, Milford, and Sis. Emma Furrer of Wolcott are grandparents.

Sis. Frieda Ruch was honored by her family on her 90th birthday. Frieda's quiet spirit, love, and kindness radiates from her and is something we all can strive for.

When you WORRY you don't trust; when you TRUST you don't worry.

PRINCEVILLE ILLINOIS

Ruth Ricketts

Adversity can distress us or bless us.

The last Sunday in October was a truly blessed one, and we could feel God's divine presence. What a joy to join in singing the beautiful hymn. **O how welcome is the Sabbath, Joyous day for all the ransomed! Day of peace and day of rest, Consecrated to God's blest.** We were thankful to have visitors with us, among them Bros. Ken Hoerr of Peoria and Ben Fehr of Roanoke. In comparing two words, **world** and **word**, the difference on paper in the words are the letter L. The inspired word gives so much. In quietness, when we all assemble we can put the world outside. The word gives peace, love and so many good virtues; the world has no lasting pleasures and nothing to cling to. Noah and his family were faithful, and God saved them because Noah believed His word and obeyed.

Another blessed week-end was the first one in November, when a number visited us. Bro. Ben Hartzler being among them. This was a special time for them and us, as

their son, Alpha, has turned his back on the world and is seeking his soul's salvation. All were encouraged to walk close to the Lord and stay true to our life's end. It is always uplifting and strengthening when a soul comes in repentance.

Another dear soul, Jerri Cole, just recently started attending our services because she saw the light and happiness in some of our members. She has had to turn her back on her parents, but has found the very important part and feels a deep appreciation of the love all are giving her.

No one ever sought the Father and found He was not there,
And no burden is too heavy to be lightened by a prayer;
No problem is too intricate, and no sorrow that we face
Is too deep and devastating to be softened by His grace.

Sis. Lydia Feucht suffered a stroke one Sunday evening while at the table. We are thankful she is able to be up again and is able to walk. Our dear Bro. Ben Streitmatter lies gravely ill in the hospital and is in a coma. Sis. Elizabeth Kieser broke her knee cap in a fall and is wearing a cast. She is thankful to be able to be up and around.

January is Silver Lining collection for Princeville.

On Nov. 11, a son was born to Marvin and Sharon Eberle. Scott Carl has two little sisters, Lisa and Jill to welcome him. Bro. William and Sis. Marie Eberle and Vernon and Jessie DeWolf are the grandparents. . . In the last issue of the Silver Lining, the name of Sis. Lena Joos, the great-grandmother of Denise Lynn, daughter of Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda Joos, was omitted. She has a special place in her heart for this precious little bundle of love.

How quickly the time does pass! The harvest has been completed and fall work nearly all done. The trees are bare, and the cold weather has come.

Our dear friend, Katherine Baer, has been hospitalized the past five weeks for tests and treatment. . . hopefully she will be able to come home in the near future.

Sis. Mary Leuthold, our retired Elder Silas's wife, will be observing her 80th birthday Nov. 19. How thankful we are that she and Bro. Silas are able to be together in

their home again and care for one another. Mary has been through much suffering, yet is always so pleasant and appreciates being able to worship with us.

In just a short time, the Christmas holidays will be here and soon another year will have reached an end. I felt the following poem contains such nice words for us to ponder.

It's Christmas in Your Heart

Christmas is more than gifts or carol singing
Or snow upon the roof or candle-light
Or greetings or the chime of church bells ringing
Across the silent night.

It's Christmas in your heart, for in your heart
True friends forever are, and home is there,
And God is in your heart . . . you cannot roam
So far that you will step outside His care.

Not outward forms, but what the heart may hold
Measures the joy of Christmas everywhere;
This day the thoughts of those who love you fold
You like a whispered prayer.

For Christmas is your love for those who love you,
Your faith that God and you are not apart.
It is your star, not in the night above you,
But shining in your heart.

ROANOKE IL

Mae K. Hodel — Edith Sauder

Joy at Christmas

If every day with love
We'd extend a helping hand . . .
Letting others know we love them
And their conflicts understand.

If when it wasn't Christmas
We acknowledge Christ as King,
God would shower us with blessings.
We could hallelujah sing.

If the happiness of Christmastime
And joy that fills our heart
Could through the year be scattered . . .
God's love, to others, we'd impart.

The more love is divided, the more it is multiplied.

WEDDINGS . . . Bro. Randy Martin and Sis. Jan Blunier exchanged their vows and became husband and wife Oct. 24 . . . Our friends, Susan Blunier and Alan Haas were married at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall Oct. 29 . . . Carol Martin and Dave Romersberger chose to be married Oct. 30 . . . Bro. Rick Gerber and Sis. Shirley Moser were united in Holy Matrimony on Nov. 7.

The engagement was announced of Sis. Nancy Hodel (Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret Hodel) and Bro. Ross Gingrich (Virgil and Wilda Gingrich). They are planning a February wedding.

Little Heather Leigh was born to our dear friends, Les and Pam Sauder. Michelle and Candace welcomed their little sister.

Sis. Louise Belsley passed away unexpectedly. She is survived by one brother, Bro. Sam, and four sisters: Sisters Ella (with whom she lived), Rose Minger, Minnie Leman, and Anna Heiligenstein. We miss her quiet ways and presence.

Our dear friend, Sam Belsley had the faith and desire to be baptized. This wish was fulfilled in his home, as he is 81 years old and in bed. Bro. Roy Sauder helped with this important work, in the absence of Bro. Eugene Bertschi. Bro. Sam expressed his love for everyone and is so happy his wish could be fulfilled. We welcome him into the brotherhood.

We are happy to report five more dear friends who have repented and are awaiting baptism. They are Dan Monk, Mike Hohulin (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie), Russel Fischer (Bro. Les and Sis. Lucy), Curt and Denise (Leman) Knepp. Their parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth Knepp and Bro. Walt and Sis. Velma Leman. They will be given the opportunity to give their testimonies on Nov. 27, the Lord willing.

Bro. Ed Aeschleman was the visiting minister. (Bros.) Vernon Leman and Marvin Schmidgall were here for the weddings.

Our dear Bro. Eugene Bertschi is in the hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, awaiting heart surgery. He is gaining his strength slowly.

Sis. Angela (Bro. Joe) Rassi has been hospitalized at Mayo's. She expects to come home this week. Bro. Wayne Fischer is in the hos-

pital. Our friend, David Mangold (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Helen) and Bro. Harold Roth are home again from the hospital.

WISE MEN STILL SEEK CHRIST!

TOLEDO OH Josephine Rehkla

O Lamb of God, to Thee we sing;
Our gratitude and honor bring
To Thee, our Lord forever.
To all the people be it known,
That unto Jesus Christ alone
Our heart and soul is given.
Grant, we pray Thee, understanding,
Knowledge giving of salvation
And Thy graceful dispensation.

We were happy to have Bro. Henry Dotterer of Rittman bring God's message to us.

Sis. Emma Schick has been confined to her home for several weeks.

Bro. George Laidig and Richard Fetter were hospitalized, but are home again. It reminds us to be prepared to meet our Maker.

January is Silver Lining collection for Toledo.

WOLCOTT IN Laurel Widmer

"We wish to thank you loved ones for flowers, visits, gifts, and the beautifully versed cards I received while in the hospital and since returning home. How true it is, we need the prayers of those we love." Shirley Furrer.

On Oct. 24, Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) was with us for the day.

Sis. Leah Farney has been hospitalized, after suffering a stroke and is in satisfactory condition.

On Nov. 14, Bros. Frederick Knapp and Joe Schrock spent the day with us.

BERN KS Esther and Stella Moser

Our joy bundle is Rose Berton, born Nov. 9 to Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey. Todd, Brian and Dwight welcome him into the family circle. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Lucy Rokey, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lois Grimm.

Bro. John and Sis. Marie Strahm are new residents at the Apostolic Christian Home. Bro. Jake Wenger was able to return to his home, after a time of convalescence at the Home.

Sis. Lena Baumgartner (Bro. Lou) is hospitalized with a fractured hip. Sis. Ella Hartter (Bro. Lester) is home again, after a short stay for a check.

Our guest ministers: Bros. Herman Kellenberger (Elgin Il), Wayne Miller (Ft. Scott), Noah Gerber (West Bend).

A potluck at the Fellowship Center on a Saturday evening was well attended by both Bern and Sabetha congregations. Then, on Sunday, we sang the farewell song for Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner, Andy, Dallas and Lila, who left our congregation and community for a home in Zapata. They will be missed, but hopefully the change in climate will be a help to them healthwise.

This morning (Nov. 15), the choir sang the beautiful hymn, At Home Tis Well, at the service for Sis. Sarah Hartter Meyer, age 90, who passed away after a very brief illness. Sarah was a resident at the Apostolic Christian Home since last February. Sarah was one of 14 children born to John and Eva Elizabeth Edelman Hartter at Cissna Park. She was married to Louis Meyer, who survives. Also surviving are four daughters, Sis. Mildred (Alvin) Strahm, Lena (Oscar) Strahm, Leora (Leslie) Baumgartner, Alberdene (David) Vancil. Norton; four sons, Bros. Velmer and Lewis, Fremond and Ezra; one brother, Bro. Ben Hartter, three sisters, Sis. Emma Wittmer, Sis. Lena Strahm, Sis. Tillie Stoller.

Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman, Natalie and Kristen have moved into their new home at 606 No. 13th, Circle Drive in Sabetha.

BURLINGTON IA Edna Pohl - Mayme Gerst

"The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy."

Two friends are finding the way of the Lord, and that it is good . . . two souls that were not brought up in our family of believers. Recently a ministering brother spoke to us a wonderful sermon. He mentioned, too, of the many friends of God's children brought up in the word, hearing it Sabbath after Sabbath, and yet they are bound by Satan. The brother mentioned, could it be

the Lord is calling them in from the highways and byways? . . . as the Lord did at the great supper when others had no time, but many excuses. He would like His mansions to be filled before His second coming, and with judgment. Those who hear and do not submit unto His word may be too late. A sad thought. Our hearts yearn for these adult children of God's believing children, that they may yet awaken before the last trumpet sounds. Obedient souls to the word have tasted of God's goodness, and many can also taste of His blessings thru obedience, and receive that eternal reward promised to the faithful.

Late in October the Bible Classes from Lester and Oakville were guests of our student youth. About 60 youth, plus their teachers and chaperones, arrived by bus on a cool, rainy Saturday. A beautiful Lord's Day shone bright and clear. God knows best in what He sends forth. We trust they enjoyed the fellowship and the teachings of Bro. Robert Pohl in the afternoon for them alone.

FAIRBURY IL Joyce Huber

We again rejoice with Broquards, for Sam to come to repentance. He is the son of Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione. Also, Ron Hoffman wants to take Jesus as his Saviour.

Sis. Marie Broquard returned home from having eye surgery. Martha Stortz had eye surgery. Sis. Donna Schieler was hospitalized, and Sis. Ruth Walter is home, after having had an accident. Bro. Ernest Gerber was in Connecticut when he had surgery, and he is returned to his home here.

Alton and Sis. Sally (Paternoster) Schieler celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Nov. 21, with a reception at the fellowship hall.

We were glad to have the Princeville Sunday School class with us for a weekend.

We enjoyed having visiting ministers here: Bros. Vernon Schwab, Gene Lehman, Chuck Hemmer, Bruce Leman, Everett Hari.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Colleen Frances Kaisner were blessed with a new baby boy, Daton Francis. Other children are: Daren Robert, Dean, Kara. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Merle Kaisner, and great-grandparents Bro. and Sis. Joe

Kaisner and Bro. and Sis. Louis Zimmerman.

We are sorry that Bro. Chris and Viola Leman have moved from our midst, but they have moved to Sarasota. They gave the following: "It is with humble gratitude we thank each one who took part in a very memorial farewell for us, on our last Sunday evening. Since we could not shake each one's hand, we take this way of saying, May God bless each one."

ALTADENA CA Linda Cooper

Visiting us in California were ministers, Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf and Bro. Ernest Graf from Akron, (Bro.) Bill Gerst—Alto, Vernon Leman—Eureka, and Jim Hoerr from Peoria. Bros. Vernon and Jim stopped here on their way to India. Our ministering Bro. John Klotzle joined them on their journey to that country of great physical and spiritual need. We pray God blessed the trip and guided their observations, and made known to them how best our churches can be involved in the work going on there.

Sis. Mabelle Graf and her family wish to express thanks for the prayers, cards, and gifts extended to them at the death of their dear husband and father, Bro. Clarence, also to those who made the long trip out here to be with them at that time.

ATHENS ALABAMA Hazel Vibbert

It was a great privilege to have Bro. Henry and Sis. Lydia Kilgus to visit us again. He has made around 66 trips. We have all learned many things from Bro. Henry.

Sis. Louise Hall was in the hospital.

Sis. Irene Haggermaker lost her home a few weeks ago, due to a fire. She has found another house, and would like to thank everyone who helped in any way. Her new address is R. R. 8 Box 513, Athens, Alabama.

Bro. Buddy and Sis. Clara Lynn have a playmate for Alvin Ray: his name is Buddy Allen.

BLUFFTON IN Marty Yergler — Becky Gilliom

Father, we thank thee:
For peace within our favored land,
For plenty from thy bounteous hand,
For means to give to those in need,

For grace to help in thought and deed,
For faith to walk, our hands in thine,
For truth to know thy law divine,
For strength to work with voice and pen,
For love to serve our fellowmen,
For light the goal ahead to see,
For life to use alone for thee.
Father, we thank thee.

We were so pleased to hear the announcement of our Sis. Eleanor Stieglitz to a dear Brother Herman Strahm. Also, Bro. Don Steffen (Bro. Elmer & Sis. Dee) has found love for Sis. Karen Graham from the Gridley congregation.

Bro. Paul Baumgartner and Sis. Milly (Paul) Schladenhauffen have been dismissed from the hospital. Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Ringger's youngest son, Jeff, has been in the hospital, and we are glad that he is in the way to recovering.

We were very happy to have many of our brothers and sisters come to the Apostolic Christian World Relief Sewing meeting. We had a blessed weekend, and we hope through this meeting we can now serve the Lord better, by knowing the needs of those less fortunate.

Little Joseph Nelson arrived to live with Ken and Sheila Sprunger; what a blessing he will be to his family! Three happy little boys, Vincent, Kyle and Ryan, welcomed Baby Rebeka Sue home . . . Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Aschliman are joyful with their little daughter . . . Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller are the happy parents of their first child, Jamie Lynn. The grandparents are Bro. Lenard and Sis. Ilean Steffen and Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys Maller . . . Mr. and Mrs. Terry Fiechter welcomed into their family a son, Todd Ryan.

BREMEN IN Marian Germann

A great promise for each of us is found in Ecclesiastes 3:14: "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

This verse shows us that God is above all, guiding each of us, telling us of His loving plan. Part of His plan was sending Jesus to live, walk, and talk with mankind, then to bear our sins upon the cross. Praise God for the babe of Bethlehem.

Our congregation were enlightened by the teachings of Bro. Ray Sinn of Latty. We were glad for inspiring messages.

Our high school class was privileged to entertain the Gridley Ill. young people. An enjoyable time was shared by all.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Marge Zeltwanger are very happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Gayle to Bro. Mark Balin.

Sis. Mary Conrad had the misfortune to fall down the basement steps of her home. She suffered a broken arm, among her injuries.

We were happy to have Sis. Leah Zimmer assemble with us again after her illness.

"Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day."

With January 1, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

CISSNA PARK IL

Grace Bauer - Marilyn Knapp

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Sis. Lena Rocke, age 84, passed away Oct. 25. She was born April 27, 1892 at Roanoke, the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Sauder Rocke. She is survived by several nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held at the church, and burial at the church cemetery.

Bro. Sidney and Sis. Sandy Kaufman are the parents of a son, Anthony Edward, born Nov. 4. He joins three sisters, Valerie, Vickie, Veronica. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Walter Kaufman and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kietzman of Onarga. Great-grandparents are Sis. Ida Rocke of Cissna Park, Sis. Anna Kaufman from Watseka and Grandpa Dabbe from Onarga.

Sis. Lizzie (Mrs. Adam) Knapp had the misfortune of falling and breaking her arm. Mary Steiner (Mrs. Isaac) is at the Carle Hospital in Urbana, after suffering a heart attack. Isaac Steiner is now at the home of his daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Vogel, Champaign. Bro. Joe Waldbeser spent several days in the hospital, but has returned home.

Our church was privileged to host the ACYF (Bible Classes from 12 of our churches in Illinois) on Nov. 14 and 21. It was a blessing to

hear our youth bring forth their efforts in song and praise.

We spent an enjoyable evening giving praise to God at our monthly singing.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. . ."

EUREKA IL Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

Let us ever be thankful for all things that God shares unto us, and most of all for His own beloved Son, who came into this world, walked and talked with many people, and did many miracles of healing. Then He had to be crucified on an old rugged cross and shed His precious blood for the sins of all people. . . This week end, five of our converts will have their chance to tell of their conversion.

Among the ill are: Bro. Leroy Huber was in St. Francis, but now is home. Sis. Wilhelmina Anliker had to return to Eureka Hospital for some tests, but is also home. Bro. John Rocke from the "Home" was a hospital patient in Eureka Hospital, but is back. Sis. Mary Jacobs from the "Home" was in the Pekin Hospital several weeks, after she had a fall and broke her hip. She is back now. Sis. Minnie Martin has entered the "Home", after being in the Eureka Hospital for some time. Bro. Alf Leman is in Eureka Hospital, after having surgery on his hand. His wife, Sis. Lena has also been a patient in Eureka Hospital. Bro. Sam Leman (Sis. Aldine's husband) was a patient in a Peoria hospital, after suffering a broken leg, by a tiling machine on the farm. He has returned home and is using crutches.

New Residents: Sis. Elda Funk from Gridley. . . Sis. Minnie Martin from Eureka.

Bro. Vernon Leman is absent from us, as he and two other brothers went on a trip to Japan and India.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all for prayers, cards, gifts and visits while in Eureka Hospital and since returning home, also for the birthday cards." Bro. Dennis Wettstein. . . "I want to thank all for their kindness and prayers while I was a patient in Eureka Hospital." Sis. Minnie Martin

January is Silver Lining collection for Eureka.

FORREST IL Kathryn Steidinger Beverly Eisenmann

Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin are thankful for their first child, Scott Willard. Bro. Glen and Sis. Mildred Zimmerman of Forrest and Bro. Willard and Sis. Tillie Rudin of Cissna Park are his grandparents. Bro. Louis and Sis. Louise Zimmerman and Bro. Paul and Sis. Martha Honegger are Scott's great-grandparents.

Three families have experienced a new birth when their sons brought their testimonies of a true repentance and conversion and were born anew out of water and Spirit. Our new brothers in faith are Rodney Aniker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy), Ernie Leman (Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna), and John Schmidgall (Bro. Dave and Sis. Alma Jean). Elder Bros. Josh Broquard and Dale Eisenmann were with us for this blessed occasion, also Ministering Bros. Merle Kaisner and Art Bahler of Fairbury.

Bro. Earl Kilgus from Remington spent a Sunday with us and shared many teachings from God's word.

Sis. Doris Steffen spent some time in the hospital for minor surgery, and also Cory Masters (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary), for a tonsillectomy.

"To everyone who helped to make my birthday such a memorable occasion. . . I appreciate the cards and gifts received at this time and during the past few months. A thanks for the prayers that have done so much toward my recovery." Kenneth Lehman. . . Kenneth has been in a Minneapolis hospital since an accident in July. He has shown a lot of improvement, and is looking forward to being dismissed and getting home soon. He is able now to walk with crutches.

Though old be the world, the years passed away,
The joy and the peace of that first Christmas Day
Still lingers and fills the Christ-like, the pure.
The joy of the birthday of Christ will endure.

Know Each Other Better

We spent an enjoyable evening visiting Ministering Bro. Joe and Sis. Ida Kaisner so that we would get to know each other better. Bro. Joe can tell of many interesting things from years gone by. His

parents were members when they still lived in their native country of Yugoslavia, and his father was a faithful minister of God's word. Because they did not conform to the ways of the State Church, they were sometimes imprisoned, having to leave their family of little boys at home. They were provided for by a grandmother during their parents' absence.

Their occupation was farming, and one year they were put in prison for several weeks at the planting season, but God provides for His own, and caused a rainy spell until they were released. Then they could plant their crops along with their neighbors. In 1892, they felt moved to come to America, where they could worship freely and their sons did not have to be persecuted in the service of the government. They sold their possessions and brought their family of five boys to Fairbury, where they acquired a farm and were an asset to the church and community. One daughter and three more sons were born in this country, one of them being Bro. Joe, who was born March 13, 1899.

In February of 1922, he and Ida Sutter were united in marriage. They were blessed with a family of eight children — Bro. Merle of Fairbury and Bro. Hartzell of Detroit have also been chosen to speak God's word. Other children are Bro. Leon of Peoria, Bro. Larry, Sis. Alma Jean Schmidgall, Sis. Janet Farney, and Sis. Lou Ida Steffen, all of Forrest. Another daughter, Helen Follmer, lives in California.

Bro. Joe regrets that he waited so long to answer God's call to repentance, but in 1932 his parents' prayers were answered, when he and Ida became children of God.

At that time they worshipped at the North Side church. One time Joe was sitting beside Bro. Pete Bach in church, and Pete said — "Joe, they need some help in Sunday School." So that was the beginning of his 8 or 9 years of teaching. After the sudden death of Elder Bro. Pete Bach, Joe was chosen to serve as minister, along with Bro. Henry Kilgus, Bro. Dave Mangold and Bro. Klopfenstein ordained him in June of 1946. One day right after Bro. Joe was told the duty of minister was to be placed upon him, he went down the road to mow weeds, but instead he sat on a stump to meditate. Before him he saw a most beautiful garden

of flowers and a voice said to him: "Would you like to labor in there?" "Yes," was his answer, to which he received the reply — "This is your congregation." He opened to the book of Joshua when it was time for him to deliver his first message, and received much encouragement when he read — **Be strong and of good courage.** Later, the church was built in Forrest, where he continues to encourage, admonish, and call souls to repentance through the word of God.

Bro. Joe has endured many afflictions of the body, but we are thankful that each time God has restored enough health and strength that he could again speak God's word to us. He has suffered from arthritis, had eye surgery for cataract and detached retinas, and still has poor vision. He has also suffered two heart attacks, the last one in December 1968, which was very severe, but God saw it good to cause a miracle to happen by again healing him.

Bro. Joe's occupation was farming, but now they are retired and have an apartment in Forrest. When their health permits it, they are often seen taking long walks in the country, and both enjoy raising a bounteous garden.

GIRARD OH

Louisa B. Lance

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

We thank Bro. Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield) for coming to minister God's word unto us.

Glenn Enyeart has returned home from the hospital after having surgery. Sis. Marian Klotzle is able to worship with us again after having surgery. Bro. Joe Emch is in a very weakened condition. Ruth Emch (Bro. Carl Emch) is in University Hospital, Cleveland, where she has had open heart surgery. Her condition is very critical.

Our family and community was saddened by the death of Charles Saylor, husband of Sis. Esther (Emch) Saylor, on Nov. 10. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Joseph Ramsier (Rittman), assisted by Bros. Ernest Graf (Akron) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield), from the McClurkin Funeral Home, Girard. He is survived by three sons, Edward of Girard, William of Rittman, Robert of Addison, N.Y.; two daughters, Doris Riehl at home

and Mrs. Thom White of Indianapolis. We will miss him very much; he was always busy lending a helping hand where needed.

Births: A daughter, Gretchen Malissa to Kenneth and Joan Alquist; she is the great-granddaughter of the late Bro. Jess Emch . . . A daughter, Lisa Michele, to Robert and Janice Bearsfield; the maternal great-grandmother is Louisa Lance.

GRIDLEY IL

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

The Christmas season is a time when many are busy acquiring material goods to be distributed to loved ones. It is a time of sharing and good-will. The poor and less fortunate are often remembered by others who have greater material abundance. True wealth cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Indeed the poorest and most miserable person at Christmas is the one who is lonely and without friends and relatives whom he loves. Even if one is away from home, he can still enjoy precious thoughts of those he loves, and perhaps keep in touch by letters or telephone . . . But the one who has no friends, who doesn't love and isn't loved, the one who does not know of the greatest love which is in Christ and does not enjoy God's peace in his heart, this is the individual who is truly poverty-stricken.

Jes was born in a humble stable, and perhaps His family didn't have many worldly goods . . . And yet He was the richest man who ever walked on this earth, because He was one with the Creator. His heavenly Father loved Him dearly and He loved His Father. Together they enjoyed a perfect nearness and unity. This greatest treasure that He possessed — perfect love for God and mankind — is available to us. The treasure of love bears the fruits of joy and peace and brings contentment to our hearts.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Ardean Romersberger are the happy parents of a new son, Nathan Robert, who was born October 23. He has one sister, Christine. Nathan's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger of Gridley and Bro. Robert and Sis. Eileen Greiner of Cissna Park. Great-grandparents are Sis. Rose Schlipf and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Lydia Kuntz of Gridley and Sis. Helen Knapp of Cissna Park.

We are sorry that so many dear

ones from our congregation have been in the hospital: Sis. Matilda Witzig, Sis. Anna Klopfenstein, Bro. Willis Gramm (Butch), Sis. Leah Ringger, our retired elder brother — George Gramm, and Carol Stoller, wife of Larry Stoller.

We were blessed by the message of truth and hope which was brought to us when Ministering Bro. Andrew Virkler of Bay City was our visitor.

The special joys of a Christian marriage await Sis. Karen Gramm and Bro. Don Steffen of Bluffton, whose engagement was announced.

HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Autumn has come again, beautiful in every direction. God's smile upon our land reveals beauty on our homeland, which reaches even to the heavens, as far as eye can see. Words are not available to describe a harvest moon or an autumn sunset. It brings to mind the words of the Psalmist David: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?"

It was on Feb. 4, 1974, when Dwight Schmeckpeper, son of Walter and Lavina Knapp Schmeckpeper of Steger, Illinois, came to live at our Home. Dwight's eagerness to learn makes him an interesting personality. His alertness to the activity here and elsewhere helps his time pass quickly. Riding the Home's bus to PARC in Peoria five days per week permits him to see the changing seasons, as well as to take his part in the PARC program. It is always a pleasure to stop for a few pleasant minutes during a busy day to chat with him. On Oct. 27, a day quite special to him, is Dwight's birthday.

Bro. Simon Wagenbach and brethren from the Tremont congregation visited here and conducted one of the Friday night services during November. These times are meaningful and precious for all of us.

It was noted with thankfulness when the last brick was put into place on the outside walls of our new addition. Since then, the steel trusses have been hoisted up for the roof. The beautiful weather has been of tremendous help, and we are grateful. Too, we cannot refrain mentioning again how much

we appreciate all of the volunteer labor.

As the observance of Thanksgiving blends into the wondrous season of celebrating Christ's birth, let us approach it prayerfully. History tells us that Christ's first coming, His birth, was brought to pass on a still, clear night. Is it possible that His second coming will occur on another, perhaps imminent, still, clear night?

INDIANAPOLIS IN Patrick and Judy Dubach

Harvest is indeed. There is a song in the air, a song of joy-filled hearts and thanks giving. Goodness and mercy have followed throughout every day of the year. We have been loaded with benefits of His love and mercy. We praise God that He saw us through the tempests we thought would pull us under. He is our own God, and we His flock. Praise be to God and He shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

We have added another little lamb to our flock. Bro. and Sis. Ted and Elaine Perry acquired their second son, Andrew, who made an early appearance on Nov. 7. Big Brother Chris awaited at home.

Those ministers who kindly visited us were Bros. Bob Meyer — Bluffton, Karl Westfall — Francesville, Ken Scheidner — Remington.

LA CROSSE IN Marilyn Zeltwanger - Carolyn Levy

As Christ was born in Bethlehem
To heal the world of sin,
Let us invite the high and low
To let the Saviour in.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ron Heiniger — Normal, Ken Schneider and Edwin Bahler, Remington.

Our hospital patients were: Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger, staph infection; Bro. Doyne Stewart, surgery; and Sis. Henrietta Heiniger, tests. We are glad to report that all have returned home.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sylvia Banwart have left for Florida for the winter months. We do miss their presence, but know they are welcomed in the Sarasota congregation.

Today, Nov. 18, we laid to rest our dear Bro. George Yergler, who served as our elder for 38 years. His love and concern for the church

will always be remembered by those who knew him. Bro. George reached the age of 88 years and enjoyed good health until very recently. He had been in the hospital after suffering a stroke, but was released to go to a nursing home, where he passed away. Services were conducted by Elder Bros. Theo. Beer, Joe Waibel, and Rudy Graf. Surviving are two sons, Ralph of LaCrosse, Willard of Hanna, Indiana; three sisters, Sis. Anna Beer — Milford, Sis. Ida Wacklerle — Bay City, Sis. Fanny Zimmerman — Cissna Park; and three brothers: Henry, Sam, and William, all of the Cissna Park area.

We lost a beloved brother,
A shepherd and a friend;
He taught us love and patience
Until his life did end.

LESTER IA

Alice Metzger - Donna Metzger

A warm, friendly feeling is felt among family, friends, and even strangers as the Christmas season approaches. The miracle of Jesus' birth has far-reaching blessings. Sometimes children let us know their preference of gifts, and sometimes parents feel something else would be better for them . . . God knows what's best for us . . . not always what we ask for.

I asked for health that I might
do greater things;
I was given infirmity, that I might
do better things . . .
I asked for riches that I might be
happy;
I was given poverty, that I might
be wise . . .
I asked for power that I might
have the praise of men;
I was given weakness, that I might
feel the need of God . . .
I asked for all things that I might
enjoy life;
I was given life, that I might enjoy
all things . . .
I got nothing that I asked for but
everything I hoped for;
Almost despite myself, my unspoken
prayers were answered.
I am among all men most richly
blessed.

We were privileged to have two visiting ministers . . . (Bros.) Virgil Metzger, Champaign, and Noah Miller, Minneapolis.

Several have been hospitalized, but we are happy all have returned home. They are Sis. Carrie Metz-

ger, Bro. Jake Metzger, Sis. Evelyn Stickling, Bro. Ted Gerber and Calvin Kellenberger.

First-time parents are Harvey and Mary Metzger. Heather Marie was born Oct. 26. Grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ella Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Bud Bush.

Grandpa Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger observed their 69th wedding anniversary on Nov. 17. Ice cream and cake were served to callers who came to wish them well. **Thank you** for the many kindnesses shown us, for the cards, gifts, flowers and loving thoughts. God has blest us manifold through the years, and we are grateful to Him for the dear ones we love." Fred and Carrie Metzger.

Shelley Wysong, daughter of Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet, was united in marriage to Leroy Van Wyhe on Nov. 12. Elder Bro. Leo Moser performed the ceremony.

"We wish to express our thanks to everyone for the love, kindness and sympathy shown to us after the loss of our baby daughter (and granddaughter)." Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch and girls. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold and family.

LAMAR MO

Becky Hohulin - Janice Braker

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the BIBLE tells me so—
Little children ask no more,
For love is all they're looking for,
And in a small child's shining eyes
The faith of all the ages lies.
And tiny hands and tousled heads
That kneel in prayer by little beds
Are close to the dear Lord's heart
And of His kingdom are a part.

Born to Bro. Alfred and Sis. Charlotte Banwart was a dear little son, Jonathan Charles. This is their first child. Grandparents are Oscar and Sis. Caroline Banwart and Bro. Amos and Sis. Ruth Meyer . . . A daughter brought joy to the home of the Kenneth Marti family. She is also their first child and named Kenya Sue. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn and Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti. What a priceless treasure God's little creations are!

Young Triston Mikael Marti was hospitalized for surgery. A blockage of the lymph gland was corrected. Triston's parents are Larry and Judy Marti. Hospitalized for surgical reasons was Sis. Luetta

Braker (wife of Bro. Raymond). In the hospital for medical reasons was our dear Sis. Emma Lanz.

May we earnestly take time to go to God in prayer and thank Him for all His bountiful blessings.

Oh make us more aware, dear God,
Of little daily graces
That come to us with sweet
surprise

From never-dreamed-of places.

NAUMBURG NY

Betty Virkler

Sis. Dorothy Herzig was hospitalized in the intensive care unit at Lowville, but is back home. Bro. Earl Rohr is in the intensive care at Lowville. Bro. Perry Virkler has been ill at home with pneumonia. Wilson Merz was hospitalized, but is now back at the Bender Adult Home.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Leon R. Herzig, who passed away suddenly at the age of 69, Oct. 22, in the Rockville Hospital. He was born in New Bremen, N. Y. and lived in this vicinity until 19 years ago, when the family moved to Rockville. He leaves his wife, (Sis.) Emma Limburger Herzig; two brothers, (Bro.) Arthur Herzig, Theodore R. Herzig, both of Beaver Falls, N.Y.; and a sister, Sis. Dorothy Herzig of Castorland. Funeral services were held Monday at the Naumburg Church, burial at the Croghan Cemetery. The family would like to express their thanks for sympathy, love, and kindness shown during their sorrow, also thanks to the dear ones that served dinner at the church and brought food.

A covered-dish supper was held at Croghan church, with both Naumburg and Croghan members and friends attending.

PEORIA IL

Jo Ann Rieker - Barb Geyer

All of our days should be filled with thanksgiving to our Lord. He has done so very much for us! Should we stop to count our blessings, we would find the list to be endless. Let us ever praise His holy name. Even now, His angels are praising Him for three dear friends who wish to be His children. Jim Rieker (Fred and Sis. Norma), Mary Miller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty) and Nancy Triplett (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Connie) have been announced for baptism. If the Lord is willing, their testimonies and

baptism will be Nov. 27 and 28.

Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) assisted our ministering brothers in bringing us the news from the conference. We were glad to be reminded of our Christian duties. We can only pray for strength to be bright lights in this dark world. Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein from Landersville brought the good word to us also this month.

Healthy new babies are surely one of God's most loving gifts. Blessed this way were our Bro. Tom and Sis. Jo Ann Rieker. Little Kristi Lynn was born on Oct. 25 . . . Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister also have a new baby. Their son, Michael Raymond Jr. was born on Nov. 2. Rebekeh and Sarah are his two sisters.

Our dear Sis. Anna Baer will be leaving our congregation, after assembling with us for 20 years. She is moving to our church condominiums in Eureka. Her friends may write to her at 501 Valley Ct., Eureka IL 61530.

On Oct. 23, David Lee Swadley and Deborah Harken were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Leland Swadley of East Peoria and Mr. and Mrs. Evert Harker of Bartonville. They will make their home in East Peoria.

Confined to hospitals were our Sisters Sophie Harbarger, Natalie Unsicker, Ella Hoerr, Margaret Schumacher, Wilma Huber, and Bro. Walter Hess.

We wish to express sympathy to our Bros. Les, Mel and Wayne Unsicker on the death of their mother. Katie R. Unsicker. She passed away on Nov. 16.

With January 1, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

PORTLAND OR

Connie Steffen

Psalm 34:3 says, "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." Now is the season when we think of the Babe of Bethlehem and sing many beautiful hymns of His birth, but like the lovely Christmas Carol says, "be not content this babe to know, nor stay at Bethlehem—" and as it tells us, to go to Calvary's brow. That's where we can sing of a soul set free. How much He has done for us and all who come to Him in a true repentance; only then can we sing of Christmas.

We were so richly blessed by the visit of our Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger. We appreciate his care for us, and are so thankful that at the time of His visit we were able to join Silverton in witnessing the baptism of our dear Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger. We truly rejoice with them and all who come to know our Lord . . . Bro. Guy Miller told me at the time of my conversion, "It's not only the beginning, or the middle, but the end of the journey that counts." Let us all hold fast to the Lord.

We have enjoyed getting together with Silverton to hear the conference tapes. I hope we can all be doers and not hearers only of the guidelines set for us.

PULASKI IOWA
Janice Rinkenberger
Mary Jane Knapp

Another year, Lord, Thou hast kept

Us in Thy tender care;
Another year, while we have slept,
Thine angels hovered near;
So we have come to thank Thee,
Lord,

Our Father up in heaven,
For every promise in Thy word,
And every blessing given.

We had the privilege of having Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester), Ed Lanz (Oakville), and Ed Ringger (Gridley) to read and comment upon this year's conference.

We should be thankful for having elders and ministers that still follow the word of God.

RITTMAN OH
Grace Gasser

Funeral services for two friends were held at our church . . . Ed Roth, age, 87, who passed away at the Apostolic Home; also Alvin Marty, age 67, whose home was in Creston, Ohio.

We are always thankful to see our shut-ins assemble with us again. Hospital patients have been Sis. Kay Nieman and Sis. Mary Ellen Bauman. Mary Ellen underwent surgery twice during her hospital stay, but we're glad to see her make such a rapid recovery.

New arrivals include: a daughter, Jennifer Lynn to Ben and Lindsay Maibach; also a daughter, Kimberly Ann, born to Bro. Vic. and Sis. Brenda Bauman.

Our visiting minister on Oct. 31

was Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle of Sardinia.

As the Christmas season approaches, may our hearts be filled with wonder and deep appreciation, as we pause to consider that the greatest GIFT ever given to anybody can be ours!

O Lord, my God, I have no comprehension
Of Thy great Mind who set the worlds in place,
Exploding stars and burning constellations
And planets spinning far in endless space.

And Christ was there with Thee in royal glory
When Thou with stars the cosmic gulf did span;
O Thou who knowest Christ in loving Sonship,
How can it be? He came to earth a man.

But this I know, Thine only Son was giv'n
To men on earth, by lowly birth,
That we may dwell at last with Thee in Heav'n,
To sing Thy worth, to sing Thy worth.

Know Each Other Better

One of the greatest blessings we enjoy in our congregations is to be able to greet our brothers and sisters, as we gather together in God's House. We especially enjoy greeting our older brothers and sisters who have travelled this way for many years.

AS we arrive at church on Sunday morning, how strengthening it is to be met with a greeting of love by our dear Sis. Maggie Bauman. Though 86 years old, Maggie seldom misses a Sunday, and is usually one of the first persons to arrive at church on Sunday morning. In fact, we are often welcomed at the door by her daughter, Mary Alice. Mary lives with Maggie, and though she is unable to care for herself, Mary is certainly a blessing to our congregation, as she has so much love for everyone — the same love which she has seen in her home all her life.

Maggie is a daughter of Bro. Ben Maibach, who was one of the first ministers of our Rittman church, having moved here from Monroe County in 1900. When people live together for a long time,

they tend to resemble each other. It is then little wonder that we see and feel Christ's love in Maggie, for she has walked with Him for 66 years, having been baptized in 1910.

Sixty years ago, she was married to Bro. Elmer Bauman, who was one of our song leaders. He passed away in 1954. One daughter died in childhood. Maggie has 7 daughters: Clara Jenkins, Sisters Emily Greenbank, Ella Miller, Ruth Beery, Anna Rufener, Velma Rufener, and Mary Alice—who lives with her. She also has many grandchildren and great grandchildren. In recent years, she has been privileged to see many of her grandchildren turn to the Lord.

Though she does not feel as ambitious as she did at one time, Maggie is always ready to go and help her daughters with various jobs. Maggie still bakes her own bread, and of course does her own housework. Many times visitors in her home leave with a loaf of her freshly-baked bread.

ROCKVILLE CT
Carlton J. Lanz

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
God is not dead; nor does He sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!

These familiar words, written some 150 years ago, remind us of the true meaning of Christmas, still today in a troubled time: Christ is the Hope of the world, the same yesterday, and today, and forever. The Bible is just as relevant to today's world as yesterday's. The world's problems have not changed; they have only taken on a different color. Sin is sin, it matters not how it is committed. What Christ was able to do for yesterday, He can do today.

On a visit to Rockville, Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington began his evening sermon with, "We rejoice in our hearts as we observed the faith here which is still the true faith." He said, We have an unchanging God, yesterday and today the same forever. He sees the nation slipping into apostasy and turning into a nation of moral degeneracy. He saw the merits of love in a home. Nothing will destroy our peace more in a home

than when parents do not get along. He also commented, "How beautiful to be kind to one another and willing to forgive; if we are not willing to forgive, we destroy the bridge that you and I will have to cross one day." In referring to his parents he said, "They both are in their graves," yet with a bit of emotion, "they still speak to him from their graves. The examples that the parents set are looked upon and beyond by the children and are important.

We also had as a visiting minister, Bro. Ernest Graf of Akron, who brought us a good many fine teachings and sound directives.

Our several new benches that have been installed in our main assembly have been furnished by our brethren, Arthur Foote, who is also one of our trustees, and Paul Foote, at their plant. This also brought Bro. Roy Weiland of Bay City here to cushion these benches, who had done those we had been using. This should accommodate some extra seating space we needed, especially on Sunday morning service and other various occasions.

Births: A girl, Rachael Louise, to Sis. Luella and Bro. Mark Hoffman. Grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Martha Schneider and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Elsa Hoffman . . . A son, Jonathan Peter, to Sis. Jan and Bro. Kenneth Boynton; grandparents are Sis. Carol and Warren Gottier and Mary and Frank Boynton, Rockville . . . a boy, Samuel David, to Sis. Glenna and Bro. Ben Moser. His grandmothers are Sis. Olga (Marti) Bahler and Sis. Emma (Gottier) Moser.

As we commemorate the birth of Christ, let us remember the many families across this land and ocean, especially our Switzerland friends and brethren and those who are serving our country.

May the joyous spirit of Christmas remain with you throughout the year.

WINTHROP MN

Delores Messerli - Marcelle Dapper

The Sunday School children are busy learning songs and verses for our Christmas program. This special time of the year is enjoyed by the youth and adults alike. A **Christmas Prayer** is being recited by the 3rd and 4th grade class.

Accept the praise I bring to Thee,
Thou Son of God, divine;

Through all my life be near to me,
And keep me ever thine.

A large group of members and friends gathered for a house-warming at Bro. Carl and Sis. Sophie Miller. They have left the farm and moved into Winthrop.

Brenda, wife of Rickie Messner, is hospitalized for the second time, following gall bladder surgery. Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messners' son, Paul, escaped serious injury, when the car left the road and landed in a drainage ditch. Sis. Jeanine Messner (Stan) has had additional surgery and is entering the hospital for the third time. We can be thankful the Lord knows and understands their trials and cares.

How it must have been for Joseph and Mary when they arrived in Bethlehem long ago and learned that the Inn was full. We can imagine Joseph pleading, telling him of Mary's condition and their need for a suitable place where she could give birth to her child.

Today, a similar situation is being repeated in the lives of many people. Patiently Jesus pleads, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him . . ." The **no room** sign of self-will is displayed by thousands who have closed their hearts to the Saviour.

On that memorable night almost 2000 years ago, there was no place for Jesus in the inn. May it not be said of you, that there is no room in your heart for Christ!

If you have no room for Jesus in your **HEART** now, there'll be no room in **HEAVEN** for you later.

Was Jesus Born in a Stable?

When we think of Christ's birth in Bethlehem, a picture is formed of a barn for cows and horses.

Stables for sheltering a herd of cattle or flock of sheep, protecting them from the elements, evidently did not exist in Bible lands and times. The nearest thing to animal shelters were the sheep cotes (sheds) or folds. For the most part, these were open enclosures, walled to protect the animals from thieves and beasts of prey, rather than from the elements. The word "stable" appears only once in the Scriptures (Ezekiel 25:5), and the words translated "barn" or "barns", occurring in the King

James Version, do not refer to homes for animals, but storehouses for grain and seeds.

The mother of Jesus, after giving birth to the Son of God, "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger". Since the manger was the place from which the animals ate their food, it is quite natural for us to conclude that Jesus was born in a stable. The scripture in Luke is "because there was no room for them in the inn."

The guest rooms were already completely filled when Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn at Bethlehem. Therefore, even though Mary was "great with child", they had no choice but to spend the night in the section provided for animals. Mary "brought forth her firstborn son", who in reality was God incarnate. It was indeed a very lowly place for a baby to be born.

ZAPATA TX

Tillie Kellenberger - Luise R. Engle

Our thanks and honor, love and praise

Be to our God on high.

He builds for us a church on earth
And a mansion in the sky.

We are very thankful to be able to assemble at the Siesta Shores Community Building again this year. Our first services were held Oct. 31, with 13 present.

We welcome Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl of Hancock and their children. They are living in McAllen, Texas. Nov. 7, we had 21 at our services, Nov. 14, 38. Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger brought all the messages clear and plain.

Bro. Leland Plattner, his wife, Sis. Mary, and three children from Bern plan to live here permanently for health reasons. Bonnie Esslinger came with them to help get settled.

Elder Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger spent a little over two weeks with us, and have now returned to their home in Elgin. They harvested their fruit and took it with them, to share with their families and friends.

Our meeting place: Siesta Shore Community Building, Siesta Shore Subdivision on Highway 83. Look for the church sign. Services start 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. . . . We welcome everyone coming our way.

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

CHICAGO IL**Kathy Schlatter**

Sometimes I'd like to say: Please, dear friend, dear brother or sister, whenever I think or say or do anything righteous, Know instead that it is Christ in me who guides my way . . . And when I stumble and fall short, please look beyond my faults to Christ who will grant both you and me grace to forgive and to follow Him who is perfect.

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." For the wisdom of the Lord, which He spoke through them, we are so thankful to Bros. Bob Grimm, Goodfield; Harvey Heiniger, Oakville; Joe Zimmerman, Morton; and Byron Stoller, Gridley. We extend our appreciation, too, to the Goodfield choir and the Gridley men's group for the glorious praises these saints of His lifted up to His throne on High. "O give thanks unto the LORD . . ."

Bright-eyed Derek Duane joined his earthly family, Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay (Baumgartner) Reutter and lively Nathan, on Oct. 26. His grandparents are all from Cissna Park.

Frank Milazzo is recovering from an automobile accident, though not as quickly as we might wish. His wife, Marlene is the daughter of Bro. Carl Schick of Morton.

Elder Bro. George Yergler passed away Nov. 16. Many in Chicago now or who have lived here at various times remember him fondly. In 1923 he held the first service in Chicago at the Alfred Meyer home one evening, with a few members and friends attending. On his approval and that of Elder Bro. Jacob Stettner, the church at Sunnyside was purchased in April 1937. A few years later, Elder Bro. Jacob Stettner relinquished the oversight of the Chicago church to Elder Bro. George. This responsibility he carried in full until Dec. 1954, when Bro. Al Fisher, being appointed Deacon, was able to assist him. In 1970, some 30 years since Elder Bro. George had been given responsibility for the church in Chicago, Bro. Al was ordained elder. We are sure of the treasures laid up for Elder Bro. George in heaven. May his passing remind us of the wedding banquet Christ has prepared.

. . . God has written a lesson for the rest of mankind;

If we're slow in responding, He may leave us behind.
He's preparing a banquet for that great and glorious day.
When the Lord and Master calls us, be certain not to say:
I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now.
I have married a wife . . . I have bought me a cow.
I have fields and commitment that cost a pretty sum.
Pray, hold me excused, I cannot come.

We must all count the cost. Do we have excuses — as friends, as members — for heavenly tasks set before us, as yet undone?

An example was given from the pulpit, how aggravated we can get when we need something right away, we know it's there — it's been there, but it can't be found anywhere, the recriminations and impatience, perhaps even despair, we feel. The word of God is here now and openly proclaimed, but we know there will come a time when those on earth will have lost the word. How will we feel?

ELGIN IA**Eleanor Butikofer**

School buses with warning lights drop off pairs of feet too happy to keep quiet. As the sun peeps over the horizon a little later each morning and retires a bit earlier in the evening, the atmosphere becomes somewhat more crisp, and we become conscious of the fact that the year is in its last quarter.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Esther Braker and her sister, Julia (Mrs. John) Grimm. Their brother, Andy passed away on the 6th of November due to a heart attack. He was the son of Andrew and Louisa Lederman Braker and was born on May 5, 1900 at the farm home where he lived for 72 years. Due to ill health, he retired and moved to Elgin. On Sept. 5, 1956, he was united in marriage to Florence Thoman, who preceded him in death. Funeral services were conducted by our local ministers. We will certainly miss Andy.

The ladies who met at Sis. Marie Butikofer's home sewed and rolled bandages and sorted and packed clothes as part of our World Relief project.

Harold Schneider, son of the late Bro. Joe and Sis. Coiea, is in the

hospital at La Crosse, Wisconsin, due to a thrombosis.

It was my pleasure to view several wedges of wild geese winging their way across the blue sky. What a fantastic sight it was to behold and to hear their honking as they passed by.

We thank God for the seasons. We give thanks for the bountiful harvest in addition to our freedom of worship, our friends, our relatives. In the Bible we are reminded to give thanks in every thing.

My husband and I want to thank everyone who helped by way of cards, gifts and congratulations to make our 50th wedding anniversary a memorable one. We were married on the 7th day of November in 1926 by Bro. Emil Schubert of Peoria. Bro. George and Sis. Eleanor Butikofer.

FT LAUDERDALE FL**Bert and Karen Aeschliman**

Already we are in the remaining days of 1976. As we reflect over the past year, are any of us worthy to think we deserve the rich blessings God showers on us? Have we done all we can to be shining examples to the world? Surely everyone has room for improvement, and we are thankful that God is merciful and freely supplies the grace we need to walk a pathway toward heaven. To the believer, every day is a time to reflect on Thanksgiving and Christmas, as each day we are given the opportunity to love God more fully and serve Him more earnestly.

Wonderful grace of Jesus,
Greater than all my sins,
How shall my tongue describe it?
Where shall its praise begin?
Taking away my burden,
Setting my spirit free,
For the wonderful grace of Jesus
reaches me.

Our Sunday School students have opened their hearts and have donated, along with the entire congregation, much needed food for the less fortunate.

A resident of Ft. Lauderdale for several years and subsequently of Ft. Wayne, Bro. Henry Schwartz has passed on. Bro. Schwartz, 83, was undoubtedly a light to many struggling souls. We express sympathy to his family and rejoice with them as they can take heart and hope to meet again on heaven's shore.

We are grateful to Bro. Al Schneider, Rockville, for sharing God's word.

We would extend an invitation to all who travel to Florida to worship with us. Church address is 750 N.W. 46 Ave., Plantation.

GARDEN GROVE IA
Verla Funk

Today is the day I have been looking for. All my life has been spent in preparation for it. Yesterday and tomorrow are far away. This is my day. It offers all that God has to give me, and I'm a laggard or coward if I fail to make the most of it.

We appreciate the efforts of our elder brethren, Edwin Ringger, Ed Lanz, and Leo Moser, who shared the conference report with us. We enjoyed a blessed evening with the Pulaski congregation for this event.

Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend) warned us to just take a good look at ourselves — and be real honest about it, How do we look in the mirror of God's word?

GOODFIELD IL
Elna Grimm - Verna Hartter

When I cannot understand my Father's leading,
And it seems to be but hard and cruel fate,
Still I hear that gentle whisper ever pleading,
God is working, God is faithful,
ONLY WAIT.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sisters Elizabeth Hartman, Viola Wagner, and Loretta Hess in the passing of Mrs. Harold J. Hartman of Phoenix. Mrs. Hartman was the daughter-in-law of Sis. Elizabeth, and a sister-in-law to Sisters Viola and Loretta . . . Also with our Bro. Norman Musselman we sympathize, in the loss of his father, Alvin Musselman of Morton.

If all my days were sunny, could I say,
In His fair land, He wipes all tears away?

If I were never weary, could I keep close to my heart: **He gives His loved ones sleep?**

Were no graves mine, might I not come to deem
The life eternal but a baseless dream?

My winter and my tears and weariness,
Even my graves, may be His way to bless.

I call them ill, yet that can surely be
Nothing but love that shows my Lord to me!

Sis. Carol (Harold) Hohulin and Bro. Eli Knapp were both hospitalized. Sis. Hannah Siebenthal is in the Eureka Hospital.

Wed. evening, Nov. 3, Bro. Roy Grimm from Taylor assembled with us, to help with the Conference Letter.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Barb Hoffman

Can you measure the value of friendship,
Of knowing that someone is there,
Of faith and of hope and of courage,
A treasured and goodly share?

Are we thankful enough for the Christian friends which God has shared with us? Or do we place them in the closets of our minds, and not even pause to thank the Lord for them? Our friends are gifts from God, and without them our lives would be a barren field, void of love, trust, honesty, and understanding. Yes, I thanked the Lord for my friends today — did you?

The ISU Bible Study would like to thank ministering brothers, Charles Hemmer, Wendell Gudeman, and Joe Schrock for bringing us inspiring and beneficial messages. The topics were **Rapture, Prayer, Russian Invasion, and Tribulation.**

MINNEAPOLIS MN
Josephine Esterling

A commemoration of the birthday of Jesus . . . but in the great majority of gay parties, the Guest of Honor is nowhere to be found. Instead of honoring the Advent of this Man, the present day demonstrations of Christmas are a disgrace to the One of whom it is said, Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins. Have we forgotten why He was born? He came to die, to give His life a ransom for sinners.

His birth is not the important event in the story of Jesus. His birth was a necessary incident to prepare Him for His death on the

cross — May we refuse to carry on with the world which celebrate a Christmas without Christ. Let us make this Christmas a season the occasion for remembering not His birth first of all, But His death.

Lewis Peasley is our newest convert.

Bro. Paul Fehr from Morris came to be with us on Nov. 7, and made the announcement that Perry and Carol Virkler and Sue Esterling have peace with God and have expressed their desire to be baptized. Baptisms will be Sunday, Dec. 5.

MORRIS MN
Corrine Schmidgall
Lois Schmidgall

Oh Father in heaven, renew and restore
The real, true meaning of Christmas
So we can feel in our hearts again
That Peace on Earth Good Will to Men
Is still a promise that man can claim
If HE BUT SEEKS IT IN THY NAME.

Our sincere thanks to Bros. Edwin Ringger — Gridley, and Roy Wieland, Bay City, for sharing with us the word of God.

A baby boy, Timothy Dean, was born Oct. 27 to Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois Schmidgall. He has one brother, Jeremy to welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl Moser and Sis. Mable Schmidgall. Great-grandmothers are Sis. Rose Moser, Sis. Emma Schmidgall and Sis. Carrie Messner of Winthrop.

Those hospitalized were: Ed Heil, Sis. Helen Joos (Bro. Carl), Bro. Chuck Koehl, Katherine Schaefer (Emil), Judy Zeltwanger, Sis. Caroline Reuter (Bro. Jim), Ed Nohl, Bernice Luthi (Harold), and Bro. Chris Moser. We are happy to see improvement in little Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen). He had more surgery, but has been at home and is now able to come to church.

Engagements of the following were made known: Gary Moser (Bro. Alphai and Sis. Pearl) to Doreen Koehl (Bro. Edward and Sis. Lois) . . . Wayne Heil (Robert and Lucy) to Susan Heins (Esther Heins of Morris) . . . Susan Schmidgall (Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Barbara) to Tom Cook (Bob Cooks

of Alberta) . . . Arnold Kassatz (Bro. Earl and Sis. Minnie) to Jeanne Loher (Ray Loher of Morris.)

Bertha Goll, age 82, passed away on November 10. Our sympathy goes to her family: John Goll Jr. and Howard, both of Hancock, Alene of Fergus Falls, Mrs. Ray (Lila) Watson of Hancock, Mrs. Gene (Libbie Ann) Moser, Elgin, Ill. and Mrs. Dwain (Minnie) Benson of Morris. Also surviving are three sisters, Mary Spohr and Mrs. W. N. (Minnie) Schlupp, both of Morris, Mrs. Rose Jensen of Santa Barbara, California.

"I want to thank my relatives and friends who were so good to me while in the hospital and after returning home." Sis. Louise Mohrman.

TREMONT IL

Lydia Rassi - Mary Jane Leuthold
Tis not the babe, but Christ the man, who walked in Galilee; Tis not the manger, but the cross, That sets the spirit free.

May the Lord bless each one this Christmas season. The Lord came into this evil world and endured the hardships of life, all for us, out of love. We pray in our small way we can do something for Him. He doesn't ask great things of us, but if we are humble and obedient, we pray to be worthy of His great gifts to us.

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace . . ." Gratitude fills our hearts as we recall the visits of our Brothers, Philip Sauder, Everett Hari, Walter Rehklau and Harold Zeltwanger.

Sis. Lucy (Herman) Laidig is hospitalized with a heart condition. Aaron Gschwind was hospitalized, and is home recuperating.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Janet Wettstein and Daniel Beutel. Their parents are the Harold Wettsteins of Eureka and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel. The couple is planning a Jan. 1 wedding.

January is Silver Lining collection for Tremont.

VALPARAISO IN

Marie Heinold

The joyous season of Christmas and gift-giving is here again. It has been said, "The ONLY true gift is giving a portion of one's self — kindness — love — understanding — patience — encouragement —

consideration." JESUS, our LORD and SAVIOUR is the perfect example when HE gave HIMSELF — ALL on the cross.

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.

We are thankful as two more souls, Todd Ames and his wife Evelyn have found Christ's peace of mind, have taken their vows to serve Him all the days of their lives, and were baptized Nov. 13. We are grateful to Elder Brethren Ezra Feller and Ed Frank for their part in this important work.

We welcome everyone to our Wed. evening service at 7:30, and Sundays at 10:15, to come worship with us.

WASHINGTON IL

**Betty Schumacher
Carole Kellenberger**

"Rejoice in the LORD, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

We give thanks for a new convert. Steve Schick (Bro. John and Sis. Dolly) has decided to follow Jesus.

We wish to express our gratitude to the following ministers who served us: Ben Fehr, Dan Koch, Charles Sauder, Henry Grimm, Joe Zimmerman, Joe Schrock, Vernon Wettstein, Roy Sauder, Joe Braker and Walter Anliker.

A man's hat, pair of children's mittens, and two navy blue children's sweaters were left at the school. Please contact Bros. Walter Merkle or Bill Wiegand if you lost these.

Our congregation was blessed with many visitors, when Paul Streitmatter (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pearlina) and Fred Wyss (Bro. Carl and Sis. Lydiann) gave their testimonies and were baptized. Bro. Joe Braker assisted our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder in this joyful and important work. Let us be true and steadfast, so our converts can continue to testify that they saw something in the brethren that they wanted.

With January 1, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

WEST BEND IA

Mrs. Melvin Fehr

Mrs. Raymond Anliker

James and Sherry Schmidt wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Debbie, to Dan Schultz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Schultz. Announcement was made of the coming marriage of Lori Bruellman (daughter of Bro. Donald and Sis. Verda) to Mark Skoglund.

Their first child, a girl, Carrie Ann was born to Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress on Nov. 5. Grandparents are Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie Gress and Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophie Steiner of Tremont . . . A baby boy, Jeremy Lee, was born Nov. 6 to Lowell and Sis. Janet Fehr. One brother and four sisters will welcome him home. Sis. Nima Fehr will welcome him into the family circle as his grandmother.

Our hospital patients: Sis. Mary Traub — who has returned to Clear View Manor, Conrad Schmidt, and Sis. Lila (Mike) Wirtz.

"We wish to thank each of you for cards, gifts and especially for your prayers, while I was in the hospital and since I'm home." Bro. Oscar and Sis. Frances Zaugg . . . Sam Mogler wishes to express his thanks to those who remembered him with cards and visits during his hospital stay and since returning home.

WICHITA KS

Glennis Allenbach

A Christmas Prayer

Dear Father, I pray that in this holiday season, all true believers, my brothers and sisters everywhere, will have the desires of their heart. Thy word promises this in Psalms 37:4, and I stand on Thy word. I have confidence that they, being true believers, have delight in Thee and Thy ways, and therefore to do Thy will is the foremost desire of their heart.

Dear Shepherd, I know they will listen for Thy voice, for the word says Thy sheep will know Thy voice.

Thy word tells me that all things work for my good if I trust in Thee. I would ask for grace to patiently wait upon Thee.

Father, I thank Thee for the beautiful things of Christmas, the love, the warm fellowship, the joy that is shared.

Again I thank Thee, Father, and

pray these things in the strong and lovely name of Jesus. Amen.

CROGHAN NY

Alice Virkler

Our Sunday School children are preparing their Christmas program. As the season commemorating the birth of our Lord and Saviour is upon us, we are reminded of our standing in this life. We are reminded of the important event in history, His birth, and we should be thankful for this and for His care and strength for us each day.

Glory to God in the Highest!
In remoteness and near by us
Ruleth He with might and grace.
Let us bring our thanks and
praise!
Hallelujah!

Sis. Lillian Virkler was a medical patient several days. We are thankful she could return home in moderate health; Bro. Amos celebrated his 92nd birthday on Oct. 13. For many years they faithfully performed the janitorial duties for our church. They are missed in our assembly.

We enjoyed a covered-dish supper at the Croghan church on Wednesday evening; the Naumburg congregation fellowshipped with us for the occasion.

Our midweek services have been discontinued for the winter months.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA IL

Howard and Dianne Leman

Could you go through each day without speaking badly about **anyone**? Bro. Dave Wiegand ministered to us on James 4:11, where James writes, "Speak not evil of one another, brethren." In the context of his sermon, Bro. Dave encouraged us to make a daily commitment in our morning meditation, to speak evil of **no** one throughout the day. If each of us could purpose to give only a **good** report about one another, or else remain silent, think how much more Christ-like we could become.

We thank our Elder Bro. Ed Hohlun & Bro. Bob Grimm for sharing the memorandum on Nov. 4.

On Dec. 12, our Sunday School presents the annual Christmas program. Our program will include all 22 Sunday School children, directed by Bro. Wayne Banwart, and

Sis. Virginia Bodine and Nada Leman.

University students will be coveting the prayers of fellow Christians as they face final examinations during the week of Dec. 15. Please remember to include them.

January is Silver Lining collection for Champaign-Urbana.

CONGERVILLE IL

Mary Leman - Sharon McClure

We want to thank the visiting ministers who were with us . . . Bros. Byron Stoller and Elmer Witzig from Gridley, Ill. We always enjoy those who come to share God's word and worship with us.

Two families were richly blessed when God sent into their lives precious bundles from heaven. Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen Zimmerman are the parents of a daughter, Rebecca Lynn. She has one brother, Matthew. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Hartter of Eureka and Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu Zimmerman. . . Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria Walder are parents of a son, Brian Henry. Welcoming their new brother home are Janet, Benji, Brad and Brent. Grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka.

Bro. John Rocke was hospitalized, and is now back at the home in Eureka.

SARASOTA FL

Sandra Price - Lyn Blunier

No further away than a picture,
A smile or remembered phrase,
Our loved one lives in memory
So close in so many ways.
Yes, memory has a magic way
Of keeping loved ones near.
Ever close in mind and heart
Is the one we hold most dear.

In loving memory of Sis. Fern Wingeier, who went to her Rest a year ago.

Our small congregation is always happy to hear of new residents moving to our area. We welcome Bro. Chris and Sis. Viola Leman, formerly from Fairbury. They have moved to 2031 Tetlow Pl, Sarasota. Our winter residents, who we have come to know and love, are joining us again.

Burley and Sis. Irene Zeigler would like to extend their thank you to everyone who remembered them and help make their 50th wedding anniversary so happy.

We would like to thank Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville) for visiting us . . . the Sarasota church warmly welcomes all visiting ministers. Our address is 333 Honore Ave, or call Bro. Phil Wingeier at 371-4155 for information.

LEO IN

Lydia Souder

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men." At this time of the year, we are reminded of the wonderful birthday of our Lord Jesus.

The church held Communion Services; Bro. Orville Ringger of the Bluffton congregation assisted Bro. David Bertsch.

We enjoyed the two ministers, Bros. Gary Maibach of Rittman congregation and Ken Schneider of the Remington congregation. The beautiful story of Joseph was reviewed; in spite of many hardships, Joseph never gave up and had a good ending.

Nov. 15, our dear Bro. Henry Schwartz went to be with the Lord. He is survived by two sons, Harry of Decatur, and Arthur from here, and one daughter, Dorothy, of Florida. Bro. Orville Ringger of the Bluffton congregation held services. Burial was in the Leo Cemetery.

David Bertsch spent some time in the hospital, is able to be home again. Sis. Rose Conrad is in the intensive care unit at the Parkview Hospital. She is there for heart failure.

ELGIN IA

Visiting ministers: Bros. Earl Banwart, West Bend, Uriel Gehring, Burlington.

UNION CITY & PHILADELPHIA

Carolyn Roberts

We are grateful for our visiting ministers, Bros. Henry Beer and Corbin Bahler. We are especially thankful that our Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and John Bahler could be with us for communion and the reading of the conference report. We should all heed the warnings and the admonishments that the shepherds, who watch for our souls, bring to us.

Friend Matt Aeschleman has started his first year in college. His address is Box 2558, Elwell Hall Bloomsburg State College, Bloomsburg PA 17815.

Friend Elizabeth Rush has been

a shut-in for three weeks and unable to attend services.

Bro. Don Weiland from Bay City is here on a six-month business stay. We are thankful he can worship with our congregation when not going to Bay City.

The home of Bro. David and Sis. Carolyn Roberts has been blessed with three foster children (the 8th since July 1976). Two and one half year old Candy is a precious girl who called us Mommy and Daddy the first day. Tom—8 years and Mike—7, who are brothers, were here two months. They were never in church or Sunday School, never prayed at meals, or before going to bed. It was very touching to hear the boys pray that their Daddy would stop drinking and for their Mommy and Daddy to live together again. The last night at their foster home, each was given a New Testament (KJV). The oldest boy, Tom, clutched his Testament to his breast and even kissed it. The case worker has told their mother that the children have been going to Sunday School and about their training in the foster home. The mother has said she will start to take them to Sunday School. We should all be thankful for the blessings we take for granted.

Sis. Marie Walch does domestic work north of Union City. She has an hour to church by public transportation. She is visiting her native Switzerland, and in the future plans on going back there to live after retirement. The following is her testimony:

I was born and raised in Switzerland. Both of my parents were members of the church, also my grandmother. My mother told me her father found **peace of heart** on his death bed. He died very young, cancer of the liver. At that time, they had no cure for it. An aunt was very ill when she got baptized; after two weeks, she could go home.

I went regular to church. Sometime in summer I walked to church, three hours one way, and after church back home through the woods. Nice memories to remember . . . we could talk and sing. When I was 16 years old, in several places in Switzerland did break the polio out. I got frightened, If I would die I would not go to heaven. Also, I had a dream about the same time about judgment Day, and I was such in a panic, so I did not

wait longer. I confessed my sins; I cried and was sorry and asked God for forgiveness. There were not any baptisms before me for many years, and after there came a few more elderly people. They were ashamed that I came before them.

When my parents died, I had the desire to go to America. In 1955 I got the visa, and I came over with the beautiful Andrea Doria, which sank ten months later.

The Union City church means so much to me. In summer, my boss goes to Vermont, so I have the tapes from Bluffton; then in fall when we come back I enjoy to have fellowship again.

I just want to say, the Christian Pathway is not always just sunshine. There are storms and blizzards through life, but we have to hold fast on His precious word and promises, that He will never leave nor forsake us . . . And my sincere wish and prayer is that many can make the decision and choose Christ as their Lord and Saviour for their life, especially in this bad times.

CHILDREN'S HOME

Douglas and Sue Kellenberger

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Can one imagine what it would be like to give up their own son or daughter for the sake of others? That thought of loss sends grief to our imagination, and causes us to realize that we would do anything to protect them from harm.

We as houseparents love our own begotten children more than any other child in the world, and yet, besides being responsible for them, we know God has called us to care for other children also. These children are dear souls in the sight of God, and He loves them, but we notice, in our human self, that there is a difference between them and our own.

With these deep concerns for our own begotten children, we now begin to understand that God did so love the world, and how He felt to give up His only precious dear Son to save us, who were also unattractive by nature . . .

Experiencing these deep concerns, and at the same time, knowing the responsibility God has laid upon us for the sake of others, we

truly praise and thank Him for His promises of grace in time of need, and for the many comforting examples of His almighty protection and ability recorded in His word.

. . . So with joy and satisfaction to be able to serve the omnipotent Lord, we go forward, realizing that we do what we do and are what we are by the grace of God.

GRIDLEY KS

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Our dear friend, Golda Johnson, mother of Sis. Wilma, passed away, after spending her last few years in a nearby nursing home. Golda died Nov. 11 following a stroke. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her beloved family.

Many thanks to our visiting ministering Bros. Ed Lanz, Oakville, and Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, for their inspiring messages.

Hospitalizations were: Sis. Sarah Beyer, Sis. Dorene (Eldon) Metzger and Tammy (Sis. Janice and Dale) Isch.

IOWA CITY

Lynn Banwart - Twila Whipple

Glad Tidings herald the Christ

Child's birth—

Joy to the World and Peace on Earth,

Glory to God — let all men rejoice
And hearken once more to the
angel's voice. . .

In the days we are living in, it seems harder and harder to experience the true meaning of Christmas. Our Lord and Saviour came into this world in a very humble and lowly state, and suffered and died on an old rugged cross. Can we ever be thankful enough for what He has done for us?

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Willis Wiegand (Bradford) and Harvey Heiniger (Oakville).

MASON CITY IA

There are worship services held on a trial basis the 4th Sunday of each month at the YMCA, 2 South Adams, Mason City, at 12:30 p.m. We welcome anyone in the area or coming our way to worship with us.

Mason City is a town of 30,000 people, with the job opportunities a town that size can offer. If you would like information about Mason City, please contact Ken and Jill Rinkenberger; 809 E. State Mason City Ia 50401.

JUNCTION OH Gwen Manz

We have again been blessed with many visitors to our congregation. Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Edmund Kloter (Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) came to minister the word unto us. Bro. Loren left with us the thought that "we gain patience through tribulation."

Several of us attended the annual World Relief meeting for Indiana, Ohio and Michigan churches at Bluffton. We were reminded of the many ways we can aid those who are poor and needy. We have begun our regular sewing meetings, held monthly from October through April.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Schlatter are first-time parents of a sweet little girl, born Nov. 10. Grandparents are Sis. Juliet Schlatter and Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller. They have named her Gretl Jean.

January is Silver Lining collection for Junction.

KIOWA KS Janice Frieden

I have a record, the first stanza of which has some humbling words that I so often repeat when trying to find words to thank God for all He's done for me.

How do I say Thanks for all
the things
Thou hast done for me?
Things so undeserved yet Thou
gavest

To prove Thy love for me.
The voices of a million angels,
Could not express my gratitude.
All I am or ever hope to be,
I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory, To God Be
The Glory, To God be the Glory
For the things He has done!

I hope the above can be as much of a blessing to you as it has been to me . . .

We would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Sophia Kircher at the passing of their husband and son, Bro. Wayne Kircher. Wayne's walk was an inspiration to us, and though he will truly be missed, we know that he is happily asleep in the One whom he loved so much. Ministering Bros. Ronald Nelson, Rich-Schubach (Phoenix) and Ronald Allenbach, officiated at services held here.

Our hospital patients include Bro. Pete Farney, Kathryn Miller, Sisters Esther Miller, Martha Roth, and Lucy Hoffman. Pete has now returned to the Home, and Lucy is able to be in our midst again.

It was our appointed time to hold services at the Kiowa Manor this month, and later, as I was visiting with one of the dear ladies there, I found that her only complaint was that the Service just wasn't long enough. Their pleasure causes us so little effort, but the blessing gained is enormous. We have another loved one residing at the Home now. We pray that God will truly bless Bro. John Schrock in his new home.

Wednesday evening services have been resumed again, after the busy season has slowed down a bit. May we always be thankful for the privilege to openly and freely worship our Lord, for some have not this blessed freedom.

If God seems far away, who
moved?

LAMONT KS Jane Isch

We were blessed with much spiritual food the weekend of Oct. 31, when Elder Bro. Ed Lanz from Oakville was with us for the provings and baptism of Jay Luthi (Lloyd and Joann) and John Wernli (Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty). We welcome them into the fold as our brothers in Christ.

We thank (Bros.) Carl Hartman, Sabetha, and Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, Ill., for their visits and inspiring messages that they shared with us.

"We wish to thank our friends and relatives for the cards, gifts, and good wishes that helped make our 50th anniversary such a happy occasion." Bro. Charlie and Sis. Carrie Gleichman.

With January 1, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

LATTY OH Diane Stoller - Karen Klopfenstein

Lord, never let me grow too wise
or modern

To love the Story which the years
have not undone;

I just want to be a child with
Mary's child,

And in simple faith to trust the
Father's Son.

On Oct. 27, Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller became the happy parents of Neil Alan. Grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein . . . Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller welcome their second little daughter, Kimberly Kay, born Oct. 28 into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite Stoller and Bro. Carl and Sis. Tootie Sinn.

We were reminded of Jesus suffering and death, as we partook of communion on Oct. 30. Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) helped Bro. Loren in this important work.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Sis. Marie Stoller and Sis. Marie Heffner, Teresa Stoller, Bro. George Sinn, and Sis. Mary Gerber (Jack), as they were in the hospital.

On Nov. 12, Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) assisted Bro. Loren in the reading of the memorandum. We were reminded of our duty as a child of God. May we ever walk this path of life in humbleness and sincerity, always willing to obey the teachings and traditions that we are taught.

". . . Want to thank everyone for cards, gifts, food and prayers while in the hospital and since I am home . . . also thanks to the Milford folks." Nellie Sinn

Are You Willing

To stoop down and consider the
needs of little children;

To remember the weakness and
loneliness of people growing
old;

To stop asking how much your
friends love you, and to ask
yourself whether you love
them enough;

To bear in mind the things that
other people have to bear on
their hearts;

To make a grave for your ugly
thoughts, and a garden for
your kindly feelings, with the
gate open?

Then you are ready to keep Christ-
mas!

NEW MARTINSVILLE WV Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

Winter came quite early to our
area, and while we have had very
little snow, the temperature dips

very low at times; we feel that we are having Squaw Winter, but we are wondering where our Indian Summer is.

Mrs. J. C. Froelich is still a patient in the local hospital, and is recovering slowly, and hopes to be able to return home very soon.

Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood (Aunt Lizzie) underwent major surgery in the local hospital early in the month, and is doing very nicely.

Edw. Berger suffered a heart attack the last of October and is a patient in the local hospital; he was confined to the Intensive Care Unit for several days.

Clyde Riggerbach has been a medical and surgical patient in the Ohio Valley Hospital in Wheeling for several weeks; he is improving and may get home soon.

John Potts of Tulsa, Oklahoma is spending some time here with the Potts families and other relatives . . . Frank Barth of Parkersburg left the first of the month for Florida, where he will spend several weeks.

Mark Wade, who is serving in the Air Force in North Carolina, visited with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade.

Miss Della Witschey is doing very well in the Nursing Home; she is able to sew, write letters, but in visiting with her, she said she is unable to use her feet and is handled in a wheel-chair.

From the folks here in the West Virginia Hills, we wish for everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Glad New Year.

OAKVILLE IA Phyllis Siegle

When we start thinking about those things which make our hearts thankful, we may begin with vital things, such as our faith in a loving God, our wonderful health, and the family members we hold so dear. However, in counting our blessings, we should also remember those things we ordinarily take for granted. For example, this day, the joy of children playing, the sight of roses blooming. Little things? Not at all. Just things that have become such an accepted part of our lives, that we tend to forget all about them.

Let us thank God for ALL His blessings and place our trust in Him, that He will continue to watch over us. "O give thanks

unto the LORD, for He is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ed Ringger, Gridley; (Bros.) Fred Knapp, Congerville; Benjamin Fehr, Roanoke; and Bill Kupferschmid, Bloomington.

We were all so sorry that Elder Bro. Roy Farney was unable to minister unto us while he and Sis. Minnie were here at his daughters. How thankful we are, though, that Roy has recuperated as well as he has since their auto accident. We are most grateful to God that they were kept from more serious injury, and that we are still together in the spirit . . .

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Marilyn (Graf) Wagenbach and family upon the death of her father, Bro. Clarence Graf of Altadena. May their consolation be that he now is free from pain and sorrow.

Let us be the first to give a friendly sign, to nod first, smile first, speak first, and—if such a thing is necessary—forgive first.

PHOENIX AZ Julie Hoerr

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy PEACE.

Where there is hatred, let me sow LOVE;

Where there is doubt, FAITH;

Where there is despair, HOPE;

Where there is sadness, JOY.

The Lord has truly blessed us and shown boundless mercy many times and many ways, but this month has been so richly blessed. Elder Bro. Roy Farney and Sis. Minnie were safely returned to Phoenix, when his brother Louis and wife Hazel went to Iowa to bring them home. Roy is improving, but is still unable to return to the pulpit.

We've had many hospital patients: My father, Bro. Ron Hoerr, is recovering at home, after two surgeries in less than six weeks. Sis. Kate Blumenschein underwent major surgery; her daughter Ruth Rhinehart has been with her while she required hospitalization. Sis. Kate plans to spend some time recuperating (with Sis. Ruth Baer) before returning home. Sis. Ora Schrenk and Sis. Clara Zollinger are both hospitalized for studies.

Many enjoyed a potluck supper Nov. 14, to welcome the many who

have moved here and our converts of the past year. Later in the evening, many gathered to see some of Bro. Tony Ehnlé's slides of Japan.

Our sympathy is extended to three families who have lost loved ones: Paul Yackley passed away Oct. 27; our sympathy is extended to his brothers, Bro. Clarence (Phoenix), Bro. Roy (Wichita) and Erwin. Sis. Irene (Paul) Emch's brother, Alvin Marty, of Ohio passed away Nov. 9. Dorothy (Richard) Kraft's uncle from Miami, AZ passed away.

Bro. Elmer and Sisters Clara, Dorothy and Linda and Joe Zollinger's address is 19022 99th Dr, Sun City AZ 85351. Their phone is 602-933-0660 . . . Bro. Alvin and Sis. Katherine and Jim Laukhuf's address is 6615 N. 17th Ave Apt 2, Phoenix AZ 85015. Their phone is 602-242-5438.

A thought from a Sunday Message: ARE YOU A CROSS FOR CHRIST? — or do you carry your share of the burden?

REMINGTON IN

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Births: To Bro. Roger and Sis. Vickie Steffen, a girl, Sara Renee . . . To Phil and Diane (Schieler) Izabel, a girl, Charity Renee . . . To Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel, a boy, John Eldon.

January is Silver Lining collection for Remington.

Sis. Marie Schini is in a hospital in Chicago, where she underwent hip removal surgery. Elmer Warner is home again, after a stay in the hospital with pneumonia.

Welcome back to church to Sis. Charlotte Bahler, who was absent for awhile due to an automobile accident.

We have enjoyed many precious teachings from visiting ministers, Bros. LeRoy Hartman, Ken Hoerr, Frederick Knapp, Joe Schrock, Gene Lehman, and our elder, Bro. Alfred Bahler.

We extend our sympathy to Wayne and Caroline Siebenthal, in the death of her father.

No cradle waited for Him at His birth;

Haste! Clear your heart to-day!

Still homeless in the wilderness of earth,

Make room for Him to stay.

The life is desolate that does not
know
The presence of this guest,
The mind unsatisfied, although it
go
On far and varied quest.

Make shelter ready, lest He wait
outside
Who could transform your walls.
Unlatch the cautious door and
fling it wide
The instant Heaven calls.

SABETHA KANSAS

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Visiting ministers have been
Bros. Herman Kellenberger — El-
gin, Ill., and Noah Gerber, West
Bend.

Bro. Lester Hartter assisted our
elder, Bro. Gene Marti in the prov-
ing and baptism of Teresa Hart-
ter, daughter of Bro. Virgil and
Sis. Marie Hartter. We welcome
Sis. Teresa into the fold and wish
her much grace in her chosen walk
of life.

We enjoyed a visit of Sis. Eiko
Nozawa of Shioda, Japan in our
community. We trust the Lord was
with her as she returned to her
home.

Sis. Arlene and Bro. Rodney
Grimm are the parents of a new
son, born Nov. 2. He has been
named Kent Edward and has a
sister, Wanda, and a brother,
Wayne, to welcome him home. His
grandparents, Bro. Nathan and
Sis. Lois Grimm, are happy with
still another grandson, Ross Ben-
ton, born just a week later to Sis.
Glenda and Bro. Allen Rokey of
Bern.

We sympathize with Bro. Velm-
er Meyer and family on the loss of
his mother, Sis. Sarah Meyer of
Bern.

SARDIS OH

Linda Indermuhle

Our congregation rejoiced as the
angels in heaven when our friend,
Joyce Indermuhle made known her
desire to turn to the Lord in re-
pentance. Joyce is away at college
and would enjoy mail. Her address
is: Kent State University, Prentice
Hall, Room 124, Box 84, Kent OH
44242.

We were glad when Bro. Robert
Beyer surprised us with a visit.

Bro. Beyer gave us many teach-
ings from God's word.

Sis. Ruth Headley and Bro. Bill
Brake spent time in the hospital.
Ruth is home and recovering from
surgery. Bro. Bill has been able
to go back to his job. Bill gave me
the following note to include . . .
"Thanks to all who remembered
me with prayers, cards, and visits
during my stay in the hospital.
Often when the Silver Lining
comes, I skim through looking for
news of people and places most fa-
miliar to me. With time on my
hands while in the hospital, I took
advantage of the opportunity to
read it cover to cover. What a
blessing . . . each letter a testi-
mony of the love which exists be-
tween God and His children . . .
Plus the many poems and writings
which are a source of encourage-
ment and upbuilding to all who
will read them. Only want to ex-
press my appreciation to all the
correspondents and urge them to
keep up the good work." Bill Brake.

January is Silver Lining collection for
Sardis.

SILVERTON OR

Kathy Dietrich

We were again blessed and felt
God's nearness, as the Portland
brethren joined us, and we assem-
bled together on a Saturday eve-
ning to hear the testimonies of our
dear friends, who were then bap-
tized on Sunday and taken into the
fold. We sincerely welcome Bro.
Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger into
our flock at Silvertown, and pray
we can all walk together in love
and unity. We appreciate that El-
der Bro. Carl Kinsinger could travel
from Altadena to conduct these
holy rites, and could also feel the
way open to serve Holy Commu-
nion to us on Sunday.

The Silvertown and Portland
brethren gathered together at two
different meetings to hear the de-
liberations from the Conference.
These are surely words we should
give earnest heed to in our walk of
life.

TAYLOR MO

Lena M. Hoerr

Pray without ceasing. "Jesus oft-
times resorted thither with his dis-
ciples."

The Lord's example teaches us
that we should spend much time
in devotion. Some people manage

to get along without much pray-
ing, but it is always at the expense
of their spiritual life.

We saw again how we can let our
lights shine. Sis. Susie Fellers
school pal saw, and she (Sandy
Roan) is repenting. How happy we
are for each soul to have that heav-
enly peace.

The Sunday School Junior and
Senior classes, including teachers
and some parents, spent the day
in Pulaski.

Bro. Norman Haerr is recover-
ing nicely from an eye injury.

We enjoyed visiting ministers,
Bros. Elmer Bucher, Francesville,
and Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski.

Sis. Wendy Grimm, daughter of
Roys, and Bro. Jeff Gutwein, son
of Nates of Francesville announced
their engagement Nov. 7.

On Nov. 7, we had open house
and dedication for our Fellowship
Hall. Our local ministers had serv-
ices in the afternoon in the fel-
lowship hall. We are enjoying the
World Relief sewing room. Sis.
LuAnn Knapp is our chairman and
not Sis. Susan, as stated in the last
Silver Lining.

A son, Jonathan Darell, was born
Nov. 5 to Darell and Sue Cottrell
Logan of Columbia, Missouri.
Grandparents are Bro. William and
Sis. Ruth.

One Wednesday evening in Oc-
tober we listened to the tape of
Bros. Rudy Graf and John Bah-
lers' trip to Romania. Our heart
goes out to these people, who want
to gather together and worship
God, but can't. Our prayers will
help, and how we should cherish
our faith and churches.

Paul Yackley died; the funeral
was Oct. 29 in Pueblo, Colorado. He
was born Aug. 3, 1910 . . . and mar-
ried Lennie Ferguson April 2, 1955.
She died in 1962. Survivors are
three brothers, Erwin of Nucla,
Colorado, Bros. Roy—Wichita, and
Clarence — Phoenix . . . Phillip
Hoerr, born May 12, 1910, died
Sept. 10. His wife, Hilda and son
Roger survive, also two brothers,
Bros. John and George of Taylor
community; and three sisters,
Sis's. Anna, Lydia and Rachael of
Peoria.

AKRON OH

Lynda Pamer

Ministering Bro. Harold Emch
(Girard) visited us.

Sis. Esther Fritz was hospitalized for surgery. We are glad that she is home and able to attend church services.

Sis. Juliet Graf (Bro. Elmer) was hospitalized after an automobile accident, on the way to the world relief meeting in Bluffton. Bro. Elmer was treated and released.

BAY CITY MI
Carolyn Schamback

The troubles assail
And dangers affright,
Tho friends should all fail
And foes all unite . . .
The Lord will provide.

Bro. Eugene Meylan, 28, is still hospitalized, after suffering from a heart attack.

There's been a lot of talk this holiday season about cutting down on "commercialism"; maybe if everyone tried harder to remember to put God and Christ in the center of their Thanksgiving and Christmas, the other would take care of itself!

FT SCOTT KS
Aleta Banwart

We welcomed the Peoria choir for a week-end of singing and fellowship. It is so heart warming and encouraging to have such fellowship in the midst of the world's problems. Saturday evening and Sunday dinners were served in the College cafeteria. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Roy Sauder, Peoria, and Bro. Max Reimschisel, Wichita.

God presented Becky and Ken Marti, Lamar, with a bundle from heaven. A baby girl, Kenya Sue was born Nov. 10.

Sis. Lydia Hawkins has been hospitalized. She is able to assemble with us again. Bro. Joe Banwart is in the hospital, in a very weakened condition. He would welcome cards of encouragement, (Mercy Hospital, Rm. 304, Ft. Scott Ks 66701)

Bro. Emil Banwart would like to thank the dear ones who sent cards, brought food and many gifts for his 91st birthday.

Getting to Know You

Sis. Marie Zaugg was born January, 1916, at Morris, to Bro. John and Sis. Emma Zaugg. She moved

with her family to the Ft. Scott area in 1922 at six years of age, and has been a great asset to the community since.

At the age of 23, after true repentance and conversion, Marie was baptized by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock, and became a faithful member. Her testimony was taken by Bro. Jacob Pfister. She recalls wanting to repent many times before she actually did. One minister stated, "You don't have to know everything before you start."

When asked about any older brothers or sisters remembered: "They were all so very good to me." She did recall the loving and kind ways of the late Sis. Louise Banwart, who was a very helpful example.

Sis. Marie has always walked to and from her work, and the Lord has protected her on her travels. She feels grateful for not having to walk on Sundays, and loves the Lord's day of rest.

She has felt the Spirit's guidance many times in her hour of need. When asked advice for others about how to get to heaven, after much thought and prayer her answer was: **The kingdom of God is within you. We should meditate on these words. God has given us a portion of His Spirit . . .**

She commented on, when she was a young girl at home, members used to get together more often and really sing those German hymns with much vitality. Their family used to sing hymns around the table after their evening meal.

She is a very hard working and loving person. She does many things people just take for granted, such an asset to our church. She was reporter for The Silver Lining for many years, and if there is any work to be done, Sis. Marie is usually there in the middle of it.

LEXINGTON KY
Glenda Huber

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

Thou that hast given so much to me,

Give one thing more—a grateful heart,

Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if Thy blessings had spare days,

But such a heart, whose pulse may be Thy praise!

A visiting minister was Bro. Ed Hohulin from Goodfield. He reminded us of the importance of our lives as Christians upon this earth. The Lord has two purposes for us, To work out our soul's salvation, and To help others that they also may find the way.

With January 1, the subscription rate will be \$3.00.

MORTON IL

Judy Springer - Lorna Schrock

The week end of Oct. 30 and 31, we were privileged to have the Bluffton Choir with us. On Saturday evening, we enjoyed a group singing at the Fellowship Hall, and also were inspired by the messages brought forth in song by our Bluffton brethren. We enjoyed the fellowship with one another.

We wish to thank our young people who sponsored a chili supper and then an evening of singing on Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Fellowship Hall. A quartet of brothers sang some special selections. The proceeds from this event went to the Children's Home in Leo.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 10, Bro. Harold Kaiser and Sis. Helen Jean Meichenthaler were united in marriage.

A daughter, Michelle Jean, was born to Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria Leman on Nov. 12. She has three brothers and two sisters to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Bertie Leman and Bro. Carl and Sis. Rose Vierling. Sis. Mary Meister of Eureka is the great-grandmother . . . Bro. Robert and Sis. Peggy Joos are the parents of a new son, Philip LaVerne, born Nov. 15. He has two sisters, Missy and Tricia, and a brother, Robbie.

On Nov. 11, our friend Kathryn Knapp, 89 years old, was baptized into the fold. We welcome her as a sister in our precious faith.

Our Bible class participated in the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship singing in Cissna Park on Sunday evening, Nov. 14.

Those who have been in the hospital are Sis. Barb Moser, Sis. Joyce Strunk, Bro. Dan Kaufman, Sis. Anna Springer, Freddie Roecker (son of Fred and Sis. Joanne) and Mary Krug Gorsage.

Wm. Pfister
R. 4
Bluffton, Indiana 46714

SHIODA JAPAN Willis R. Ehle

A three-day tour of Japan is a bit brief, but it was packed with experiences of interest for Bros. Jim Hoerr, Vernon Leman and John Klotzle, when they visited here Nov. 6-9. The brothers were able to visit our Shioda Estate, a home for the elderly, an orphanage, and the office of the gentleman in charge of coordinating relief work in Japan in times of disaster. We were blessed, and we benefited by their visit, and I speak also for the Tsutsujiga Church in Tokyo, where Bro. Vernon spent Sunday.

In Japan, Christmas is just another day for business as usual. It is not a national holiday, although there is a deluge of national holidays for other rather insignificant reasons . . . but when you walk into a department store in Japan during the Christmas sea-

son, you are amazed at the outstanding Christmas decor, the Christmas music, the advertising which urges everyone to purchase gifts for Christmas parties. What has happened? Has this country, where considerably less than one per cent of the population makes any pretension of being a Christian, suddenly become Christian? Not at all. It's the economics.

At this Christmas season, let's endeavor to get back to the basics. There is something marvelous about our Christmas traditions, going carolling, a church service, a Christmas basket for some unfortunate one, a Christmas dinner with the family. The Christmas gift exchange may be in order, but certainly it can be greatly overdone. The love within the family and the love within the church, if it is as it should be, far surpasses any material gift, which

only requires more space for storage when not in use. Love, joy and peace doesn't require any extra space for storage, and neither does the love of God which was revealed to man when Christ was born in Bethlehem. In fact, that love, when fully embraced, eradicates a lot of unnecessities, and makes more room for the things in life which are worthwhile. Forget the economics and have a wonderful Christmas.

Life is like a torrential stream. In the midst of it you will find a Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. Anchor yourself to that Rock, and let the current roar.

From Froehlich: The joy in the Lord is the strength we need so much in order to bear the ill and do the right.

RESURRECTION REVEALS REAL CHRISTMAS

Henry Souder Jr.

Things to come . . . Jesus' actions reveal the way of life in eternity. The eternal ages. To real faces? . . . mothers, fathers, little ones, treasured members? When we drink up the sweetest joys of Jesus, we can see for ourself beautiful home scenes.

Sweet memories bring warm recollections. Think back. Loved ones in faith and innocency in our memory. Gone on before. Did you know you can think forward? Memories of yesterday are alive, real in detailed life, the ever after.

Linger over the satisfyingly beautiful chapter 24 in Luke. Observe the movements and words of Jesus. Did we enjoy an intimate and sweet one in the lovely yesterdays? Our Lord kindly talking, that is the view into family gathering. We're going to be like Him. See how He answers, His perception, His beautiful kindness, His sweet care. While He talked, their heart burned. That is happiness! The dear ones passed on, so let us in our dreams abide where truth

reveals reality.

Recognizing is a warm trait in the riches of love. We shall know each other. Verse 39 has revealing power to rest you assured. I am He. The same one that transformed life into such rich associations. The same One before and after. The familiar form and face that loved them then loves them now.

Look at the joy pent up, rising — surprising, ready to flow. Here's a key that turns the latch into that picture window of promise: He shows it like it is. Like He taught them there, He leads us link by link. Soon His glorious presence. Throughout God's word, we closely clasp His well-knit, orderly, kept love. Mother, dad, brother, sister, toddler, infant — are His way. Friendships of faith in pleasant brotherhood remain unparted. The deep joy of charity continues, with not one link of His broken nor unfulfilled.

The gladness of the boys, the folks, all is there. That gathering! Around the table of His house.

Jesus took that piece of fish, prepared in plain cooking here, and ate it. He is showing us. How glows in His gathering! There are all the trimmings. Sweet aroma! Heavenly holiday perfect. Delighted? We grasp a part of a surprise of full satisfaction.

John 20 can gladden the heart in the touching drama. Years may part. Oh that embrace coming. Distinct and detailed. The common touch is there, but rising in the skies. Welcome like the home folks. The marvellous waiting at the door. It is so wonderful, real — such gladdened embraces — that Jesus. in His coming gives. What he will reveal there. Loving embraces no one can measure.

Beautiful, beautiful chapters! Chapters — wonderful, marvellous life! Matthew, Revelation — the Old Testament. Gladness dawning.

Yes, Jesus lives. Like a happy child, you will love His glorious surprises. They are wonderful!

MOVING? LET US KNOW.