

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 27

JANUARY 1977

NUMBER 4

MY EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

Sally Gramm

His call we obey as Abraham of old,
Not knowing our way, but faith
makes us bold . . .

The sweet strains of the old Zion's Harp hymn came to my mind, and floated gently across the qualms and gnawing doubts that came crowding into my thoughts. The words soothed my mental tempest, as I stepped from the big 747 jet, and took my first step on the soil of the land that was to be my new home — Japan. It was Aug. 10, 1975, and I was arriving at the huge Tokyo International Airport, with heavily-loaded suitcases and a contemplative heart. I was here, along with my dear sister in the faith, Libby Meyer, to spend two years as a teacher in our church's Kindergarten in Japan. What lay before me? What was Japan like, and what would my life be like? I didn't know, but I knew that God would be with me every step of the way.

The days have unfolded one after another in rapid succession, since that day when I stepped tremblingly from the airliner! Already the two years have nearly ended, and soon the time will come for me to step aside and allow the many blessings of this experience to be passed on to other sisters. What can I say, to express what God has given to me, and what I have received?

I have spent the past two years living in a lush valley surrounded by mountains, deep in the Japanese countryside. In the summer, we eat delicious grapes of every size and hue, and peaches nearly the size of our American grapefruits. In the winter, our mountains are snow-capped against a brilliant blue sky, and in the spring they are covered with a carpet of soft, delicate pink, as the peach and cherry trees burst

into bloom. Our apartment (above the church) is small but, from its large window, we can watch the setting sun change God's mountains into different colors each evening.

I am teaching a small elementary class this year, but, beginning next year, that part of our school will close down, and we will be dealing only with the kindergarten. Our kindergarten now consists of 21 dear little Japanese children, and is taught solely in English. How quickly eager little children pick up a new language and are able to use it easily! And how quickly their tender little hearts are responsive to things of the Lord! In a land where idols have been worshipped for generation upon generation, it is so important to plant the seeds in their young, formative years.

I have been very busy while I've been here, teaching English classes a few times per week, and recently teaching Sunday School as well. Libby and I often spend time in fellowship with our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, or visiting homes of Japanese friends in our area, as well. We've had opportunity to travel in Japan, and to enjoy the beauties and the people of this country in a very leisurely, **in-depth** manner. Best of all, we've come to know and love the members of our Apostolic Christian churches here. We've shared our hearts and our faith with each other. Their courage and faith will always be an inspiration to me, and the warm Christian love they extended to me will always be a source of joy.

Sometimes I wonder what my life might have been like if I hadn't availed myself of the opportunity to come. There have been times of pain, doubt and loneliness — of course those times have come . . .

But I expect those times would have confronted me anyway . . . they are so much a part of life, no matter where we are and what we are doing . . . And how much blessing and joy I would have missed, if I had not taken that first trembling step, and had not said to the Lord, **Whenever you lead, I will follow. TRULY I will.**

The time has come for Sis. Libby and me to leave Japan. There is now an opportunity for two more sisters to partake of this enriching experience. If there is a licensed teacher, a new graduate, a nurse, or someone else, who cares about the souls of others who have not been fortunate enough to have been born into our fine church and fellowship, I urge you to take it to the Lord in prayer. The need here is great. If you would like to apply, please inform the missionary committee through your elder. We need to know by March, 1977, whether you will come to Japan. May the Lord guide and direct hearts everywhere to serve Him zealously.

Postscript

Ben Maibach

Interested and qualified sisters must have the approval of their local congregation and shepherd, who will then notify: Ben Maibach, Secretary-Treasurer of the Mission Committee. We would appreciate sisters who are interested letting us know of their availability by March 31, 1977, so we can make definite plans to continue our program.

Words of Froelich: Greetings are spiritual good wishes, expressions of the hope to God for the blessing and well-being of another,

and when they arise from a loyal and sincere heart, they do not remain unfulfilled. God stands between the one who gives expression to the good wish and the one to whom good is wished, that he may fulfill it. Our greetings should not be empty forms, but instead, the genuine outpourings of full, warm hearts, spoken in the name of the Lord.

PEORIA IL

JoAnn Rieker - Barb Geyer

Can we truthfully say that we are better Christians than we were a year ago? If we haven't drawn closer to God, now is the time to renew our vows and strive for that heavenly goal.

Three dear souls have given their vows in the baptismal waters. On Nov. 28, Jim Rieker (Fred and Sis. Norma), Mary Miller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty), and Nancy Triplett (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Connie) were added to the fold. Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville was here to share our joy. We were also privileged to have Bro. Tom Leman of Elgin minister to us on Thanksgiving Day.

The death angel has come and taken two dear loved ones from our community. Sis. Natalie Unsicker passed away Nov. 19. Services were held in the Peoria Church on Nov. 22. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Minnie Unsicker and Sis. Alvena McDermott on the loss of their sister . . . Sis. Hulda Martin passed away Nov. 27. Funeral services were held in Princeville Nov. 30. We extend sympathy to Sis. Martha Hemmer on the loss of her sister, and to Bro. Chuck Hemmer on the loss of his aunt. We pray that God will comfort these loved ones as only He can.

Sunday, Dec. 12, our Bro. Randy Feucht (Bro. Walt and Sis. Iola) was married to Sis. Carol Barth of Roanoke. They will make their home in Peoria.

A blessed bundle from heaven has come to the home of Bro. Ted and Sis. Barb Stoller. They have adopted newborn Robert Lucas, and have one other son, Rory . . . Congratulations to Norman and Sis. Emma Rocke on their new granddaughter; Holly Kay was born Nov. 21. Her parents are Norman and Judy Rocke.

Hospitalized were our Sisters Connie Triplett, Mary Hohulin, Mary Sue Rieker, JoAnn Hoerr,

and Freda Kipfer.

Sis. Ella Hoerr wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and visits during her stay in the hospital . . . The family of Natalie Unsicker wishes to express their thanks for the sympathy and kindness shown to them during her illness and death.

PHOENIX AZ Julie Hoerr

God bless you in the morning
As you greet another day,
A day that promises to bring
Some nice surprise your way.

God bless you in the evening
And keep you free from care,
Grant you sweet, refreshing sleep.
And hear your every prayer.

On Thanksgiving Day morn, Bro. Henry Dotterer, Rittman, brought us many teachings and refreshing points, on being humbly grateful and thankful we could become Christians and not be lost forever.

On Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day, little loveable Jill Darlene was born to Bro. John and Sis. Jeanne Dotterer. The happy first-time parent's joy is shared by Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick and Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVina Dotterer.

During midweek services, Bro. Noah Herman, Tucson, brought us a stirring message on LOVE and PEACE, from I Corinthians . . . "that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."

Our Sunday School Christmas program will be Dec. 19, and we all look forward to their happy but varied ways, telling of Jesus' birth. 'Tis such a joyous loving time — if only it could last for all time, not just around Dec. 25.

On Wednesday night, the 21st, we will be going caroling, and we've many shut-ins who are looking forward to this Christian treat.

Bro. Roy Farney has had to submit to surgery, since returning to Phoenix after their auto accident.

Other hospital patients, but now returned home are Sisters: Ora Schrenk, Kate Blumenschein, Clara Zollinger and Jo Martin. Sis. Lois Elsasser is still in Illinois . . . Sis. Vera Yackley and Bro. Ernest De Mille are shut-ins at home. Rob Beery was an E. R. patient, requiring stitches in his arm.

"May God bless each who remembered us in prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, gifts, and other deeds of kindness during our hospital time in Warrensburg; at our daughter's in Iowa and during hospitalization in Phoenix." Your least ones in faith, Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney.

SARASOTA FLORIDA

Lyn Blunier—Sandra Price

So often this time of year we hear that expression, "Are you ready for Christmas?" We know we are not ready, if all we have prepared is a house, swept clean and neat, and a mound of gifts piled high . . . we are only ready for Christmas if we are ready for Him.

We are always thankful for the return of our residents, and this month Bro. Joe Schrock returned, and Elder Bro. Ben Maibach spent the Thanksgiving holidays with us.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eiseman celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, and will celebrate it at their new address . . . 2352 Siesta Dr, Sarasota Fl 33579.

Sis. Marie Martin has been unable to worship with us. Bro. Warner Bauman has also been unable to attend services.

Our first Christmas program was held Dec. 12, and as we heard the Christmas story told so tenderly, we too wanted to be like the Christ child . . . meek and mild. May the new year bring each of us the gift of His Spirit causing us to watch His footsteps, for they make the pathway glow.

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

The subscription rate is \$3.00 for
1977.

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

AKRON OH Linda Pamer

We enjoyed a blessed evening, when many brethren and friends gathered together for our annual Christmas program. May the Lord richly bless each of the Sunday School teachers for their labors of love.

Ronald Greenback (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Emily), his wife—Pat, and their son, Jonathan, have returned to the States, after their stay in Okinawa, where Ronald was in military service.

Richard Baumgartner, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Evelyn is in military training in Texas.

Howard Dockus has been hospitalized again.

Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) brought us God's word and assisted Elder Bro. Rudy Graf in reading the memorandum.

"We wish to thank all who remembered us with prayers, cards, gifts and food following our auto accident." Juliet and Elmer Graf.

ALTADENA CA Linda Cooper

Welcome was extended on Nov. 28 to our new sisters-in-faith, Melva Alexander and Martha Slenker, when they were baptized into the precious fold of God. We certainly enjoyed that day of fellowship, which included a church dinner and singing.

Announcement of Sis. Heidi Klotzle's engagement to Bro. Tom Luginbuhl of Rockville was made Nov. 28.

Sis. Doris Hecker hasn't been able to be at church with us, due to ill health. Sis. Mary Sirovey is hospitalized with a fractured hip and further complications. Sis. Doris Graf was hospitalized and is regaining health and strength at home now. Let's always remember those who are confined and suffering physical pain; if we can't visit them in person, we can lift them up to God in prayer and ask Him to comfort and heal them.

The family of Bro. Glen Hackenjos has welcomed a foreign exchange student into their home. She is Cornelia Sautter from Stuttgart, West Germany.

ALTO MI Donna Steffen

As another new year begins, we often reflect back to the past that has flown by so swiftly . . . And we have to ask ourselves, "Did we

keep those new year resolutions we made the year before? Did we serve the Lord faithfully in all vigor and zeal as we promised we would?" Let us live each day to the fullest, and press on toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus! Let us spread the joy, love, peace and warm sunshine He's given to us . . . And let us in love labor together in the fields of the Lord.

Dec. 19, we were privileged to attend our annual Sunday School Christmas Program. What a joy it was to see and hear these eager and tender children tell of the true Spirit of Christmas and their love for baby Jesus, in word and song. How important it is that as they grow older, they will accept the crucified Lord as their Saviour as they have the Babe of Bethlehem.

The hours often grow long when in sickness and pain, and when one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. Our thoughts and prayers were with Sis. Donna Steffen, Sis. Cathrine Grauberg, and our friends, June Fahrni and Cathy Steffen (daughter of Sis. Helen Steffen), who were hospitalized.

ATHENS ALABAMA Hazel Vibbert-Irene Haggermaker

Bro. John Wagler assisted Bro. Lavoyd on Dec. 5, as it was a great joy to hear J. R. Hall's testimony, and then witness his baptism. Now Janet and Tim and Sis. Louise have a Christian home. Bro. J. R. has been in the hospital for tests, and may go back in January for surgery on his back. Bro. Tom Simm visited us and sang, **All is Well with my soul**. If only more could say this.

The church Christmas supper was Dec. 18 and was well attended.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Ora Massey and her family in the death of her brother-in-law, Floyd Massey.

We have three more dear souls repenting: Vivian Haggermaker, the wife of Bro. Arnold Lee; and Tim Sinard Sis. Dessie is his grandmother, and John Balin.

Sis. Irene Haggermaker has agreed to help me with the Silver Lining, so maybe we can have more news from Athens.

BAY CITY MI Carolyn Schamback

The Christmas Season now being ended, we have a whole new year to practice the **peace and good will**

we've heard so much about—let's make it last all year!

We rejoice in adding two new souls to the family of God: Bro. Bob Williams and Sis. Sue Ruege-segger (Clinton) are our newest family members. We were each renewed and refreshed to observe that the work of God is still being carried out today. Elder Bro. Joe Waibel and Ben Maibach (Detroit) brought us many wonderful teachings for these provings and baptisms. On Sunday evening, we again gathered to hear the memorandum read. We can be so thankful that our elder body is united and willing to serve us.

We also enjoyed an evening visit and many good teachings from Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit).

February is Silver Lining Collection for Bay City.

BERN, KANSAS Esther and Stella Moser

Dear God, a favor I would ask: Be with us all, whatever the task. Fill our hearts with understanding, love;

Keep us aware of blessings above. Teach us, Oh God, how we should pray,

Not just at night, but also each day.

Helping us ever that we may be Worthy at all times to live with Thee.

Sis. Julia Plattner has a new grandson, Robert Kyle, born Nov. 30 to Loree and Al Lilly. Lenexa, Diana and Jennifer are happy for a brother.

Bro. Morris Rokey was chosen to the World Relief Committee. Five cars of workers with materials traveled to Newton on the 14th. Everyone was pleased with the amount of work accomplished. The ladies worked up 40 bales of clothing, the men packing meat.

Sis. Lena Baumgartner was able to be moved to the Apostolic Christian Home, from the hospital where she was a patient since Nov. 2. May she continue to improve from her hip fracture.

Correction: The son born to Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey is named Ross Benton, in place of Rose Berton as printed.

BLOOMINGTON NORMAL IL Ann Kellenberger - Paula Knapp

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Steve Stahl in the loss of his broth-

er, Don.

Our congregation wishes to welcome Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber and family. They have moved to Bloomington from Ft. Lauderdale. We will miss the faces of Bro. Earl and Sis. Edith Meiss, who will be moving to Morton.

The Annual World Relief clothing drive was held. How grateful we were to receive so much. "God loveth a cheerful giver."

The Lord has blessed Norm and Judy Rocke with a precious little girl. Born Nov. 21, little Holly Kay is their first child.

Our Men's Group and Bible Class each sang during our November Hymn Singing. Song is such an enjoyable way to express our love for our Lord. Old and young alike love to sing. On Dec. 11, many sang Christmas carols at the rest homes here. As we sang them, it was such a joy to see their sweet faces light up as they thought of Christmas. The following day was our Sunday School program; it was so touching to hear the children tell and sing with zeal of the birth of Christ.

On Dec. 1, we gathered to hear the reading of the memorandum. Our Elder Bro. Dale Koch was assisted by Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). Certainly all felt a great responsibility to hold fast to what has been given us. We were reminded of how the devil would delight in destroying the love of our brethren for one another.

BLUFFTON IN

Marti Yergler - Becky Gilliom

Christmas is a time of joy and happiness . . . A time of giving and sharing. Christmas is faith, hope and love. It is more blessed to give than to receive. The young brothers and sisters have experienced this by helping the less fortunate with food and clothing.

We were reminded how important it is that we keep our lives dedicated in serving the Lord. The memorandum was read and discussed by the Elder Bros. John Yergler and Orville Ringger. How pleased we were to see our church overflowing for this blessed evening.

The engagement of Bro. Craig Steffen (son of Bro. Robert Steffen) and Sis. Jeanie Schwartz (daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Elizabeth) was announced.

We have been blessed in Bluffton with the uniting of souls in

marriage: Bro. Alan Aeschliman (son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Imogene) to Sis. Debbie Geisel (daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy) . . . Bro. Les Isch (son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Virgil) to Sis. Ann Steffen (daughter of Bro. Shern and Sis. Lucille) . . . Bro. Rex Gerber (son of Bro. Harry and Sis. Ada) to Sis. Lavon Frauhofer (daughter of Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Doris) . . . Bro. Fred Rupel to Sis. Ronda Steffen (daughter of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Ilene) . . . Colleen Baumgartner (daughter of Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary) to Michael Richards . . . Ronda Bertsch (daughter of Bro. Godfrey and Sis. Anita) to Eric Tonner (Harry and Clara Tonner) . . . Bro. Herman Strahm to Sis. Eleanor Stieglitz . . . Bro. Larry Stoller (son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Flossie) to Sis. Sharon Greene of Morton.

The Sunday school is having their annual Christmas program on the Sunday night before Christmas. Everyone enjoys hearing the children speak and sing.

First-time parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Yergler. Maternal grandparents of Nathan Richard are Bro. Everett and Sis. Alice Geisel, while paternal grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Lillian Yergler . . . Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Geisel have a second daughter now, Carissa Jo. Sharing their joy are grandparents Bro. Harold and Sis. Ellen Geisel, and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Virginia Rauch . . . Little Molly joined the family of Bro. David and Sis. Marcene Gilliom. Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Gerber and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Gilliom are the grandparents.

A new daughter came into the lives of Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys Maller and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Ilene Steffen . . . After three boys, Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Aschliman welcomed Rebeka Sue. Also happy are grandparents, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Doris Fiechter and Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella Aschliman . . . Dan and Trudy Strahm have a new daughter, to the delight of Bro. Aden and Sis. May Strahm, the grandparents. A new baby brings great responsibility, but parents are rewarded with many hours and years of joy.

Hospital patients have included Sis. Karen Stultz, Sis. Mary (Sylvan) Gerber, Joe Neuenschwander (Bro. John and Sis. Irene), Jeff

Ringger (Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan), Bro. Obed Steffen, Sandy Steffen, Sis. Esther Geisel, and Bro. Ralph Baumgartner.

Sincere sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Harold Moser. We are glad they have the Comforter to help them.

BRADFORD ILLINOIS

Jane Leman

We enjoyed a blessed week-end, when Joan Endress, daughter of Sis. Lois, was proved and baptized.

On Thanksgiving morning, it was a pleasant surprise to see a church full of visitors. Greetings were extended from eleven different churches.

Bro. Alfred Hausmann spent a few days in the hospital. They removed a tendon from his arm, to put in his finger that was so badly cut last winter.

As always, we appreciate visiting ministers and thank: Bros. Charles Hemmer, Leroy Hartman (Peoria), Charles Sauder (Tremont), Roy Grimm (Taylor), Art Baurer, Walter Herrmann, and our elder, Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville).

BURLINGTON IA

Mayme Gerst - Edna Pohl

Are we remembering a gift for our LORD and SAVIOUR, who has given ALL FOR US? The best gift would be LOVE and giving ourselves.

Sunday evening was our night for caroling, the children and parents going together to visit the shut-ins. It was an inspiration seeing the happy children wishing everyone joy and singing with all their hearts. After a couple hours, they came back cold and hungry, and we had hot chili, hot chocolate and the goodies of cookies and candy. It gave us all a happy feeling of LOVE.

Thanksgiving Day was a sunny morning, with Bro. Dwayne Metzger serving us God's word. Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger was here last Sunday. They both gave us many timely reminders.

We enjoyed the beautiful weather, before the sudden cold winter now upon us. As in life, we need both the sunny and the dark days. When we have the dark days, we know that God is only a prayer away, and only HE can understand and how much we need HIM.

Little Rachel Gehring, age 7, daughter of Bro. Uriel and Sis.

Judy, is recovering nicely from surgery. Bro. Uriel wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls and love offerings sent him during his illness. He mentioned how comforting and encouraging it is to be remembered by those of kindred faith.

Sis. Rosella (Massner) Oberman wishes to thank everyone who remembered her when she had surgery. She is feeling fine again. Those tokens of LOVE mean so very much.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Evelyn Massner had a young man from Scotland staying with them for a few weeks last fall. He thoroughly enjoyed and was impressed with our church, and gave many comments of his impression of our faith. He said in their church in Scotland, the Bible is read, they sing a song, read a prayer, close their books and go home. He said their ministers are not inspired, and therefore cannot expound on the word. He mentioned when he walked through the doors of our church, he could FEEL the PEACE that he had never found before. He said, over there, they try to keep people from going to church, some making it compulsory to work on Sunday or they will lose their job. Bro. Dale has been helping him find employment here, as he would like to live around our kind of people. Dale told him if he comes back, he probably won't know Dale or our church, and he told Dale, "If you don't know me it will be because YOU are not in church. May this ever humble us and make us strive more earnestly to keep THAT KIND OF CHURCH and win our reward.

Sis. Sarah (Julius) Gerst (who has been in a wheel-chair for a long time, lives with her son George quite a distance from church, and does not get to church very often) mentioned that the Silver Lining means so very much to her and would certainly hate to miss a single copy. She reads it from cover to cover. May God direct each one who takes part in this work to make it a blessing and help to all who read it.

Sis. Tillie (Wagler) Frank's husband, Louis, is seriously ill at the hospital. He told Tillie he has the hope of heaven, and talked to his children, urging them to repent.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Burlington.

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA IL

Diane Leman

We praise the Lord that Steve Fischer, son of Bro. Rich and Sis. Dorothy, has made a decision to follow Christ. He has graduated from high school and is working in this area.

Our dear friend, Ben Waldbeser, age 67, passed away the third week of December. He had been hospitalized for several weeks. His survivors include his wife, Henrietta, who worships regularly with us; a son in Missouri, and a daughter in California.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Nada Leman and their 1½-year-old daughter, Tanya are temporarily living in an apartment, due to a fire which struck their home several weeks ago. They continue to praise the Lord in all things!

We enjoyed distributing food and toys to five needy families over the Christmas season. It is not easy for many of these families to receive gifts, as they are proud people. Giving is so often much easier.

Christmas caroling and a chili supper highlighted the Sunday of Dec. 19.

University of Illinois is now on vacation until the third week of January. Most students have gone home to recuperate from final exams and to enjoy the holiday season.

CHICAGO IL

Kathy Schlatter

As Christians, we must watch. We are beset on every side by the foe; we must prove every spirit. How? First, of course, we listen to the Spirit within us, but lest we be misled, we must have a second witness, and that is when we ask: Does this (situation, thought, word, or deed) measure up to that unchanging, everlasting standard, the word of God?

Many among us are lonely, bereaved, or suffering. May we continually pray that the Spirit may lift them up. We especially wish God's comforting hand to be upon Henry Pfister, whose wife, Sis. Emma, passed away early in December. Bro. Lenny Meyer held those funeral services.

... But there is much joy, too. The engagement of Sis. Sandy Ringger to Bro. Tom Neu from Peoria was announced. We were glad that Pat, Bro. Tom's mother, could be with us for the special oc-

casation. She and her late husband, Matthew are from the Chicago area. Sis. Sandy's parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Nadine Ringger from Gridley, IL.

The Lord has led Bro. Tom and Sis. Sandy together. He has inspired Brett McNeill, son of Bro. Matt and Dorothy Strahm, to seek repentance. We rejoice in the works of the Lord.

We thank Bro. Dave Wiegand, Champaign, for his humble ministering unto us. Bros. Ken Schneider, Remington, and Duane Kilgus, Fairbury, were with us a brief time as we sat, remembering well our own experiences, listening to Dick and Jan Gudeman, beloved friends, give their precious testimonies of faith. Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, IL, assisted Elder Bro. Dale with both their provings Saturday evening and their baptism Sunday the 12th. Our hearts sang within us as we greeted them with the holy kiss and welcomed them to the fold.

This year, the theme of the children's Sunday School program was Gifts. Children themselves are a wondrous gift. Their enthusiasm and delight in their songs and "pieces" made the program thrill each listening heart. . . . And after they were finished, a brother responded to the children's presentation. Part of what he said was a reading about the most important gifts parents need to give their children. First and foremost was mentioned the principles of brotherly love and the love of God. . . . And what else shall we give and teach our children? Our attention, a sense of value, the meaning of discipline, a will to work, the talent for sharing, a love of justice, the passion of truth, the beacon of hope, and the knowledge of being loved! May the Lord help us.

CHILDREN'S HOME

Our Children's Home is now a reality, for which we praise and thank our Lord. We have two children at the homes and have had other requests. We expect to gradually fill them, and hope that these children can benefit from the care and the teachings they will receive.

There are times when we will need alternate house parents, since our regular house parents are entitled to a day off per week, and also vacation-time. Emergencies can also occur.

We are asking that anyone willing to serve as alternate house parents either on a regular basis or occasionally would submit their name to Bro. Terry Farney, Administrator, Box 151, Leo IN 46765. We hope that from this response we can find loved ones in faith that will be available to serve as alternate house parents when needed.

Quite often these days off will be scheduled ahead of time, so we encourage loved ones living in Indiana and from the neighboring churches in Ohio to consider this plea, even if they prefer to commute, rather than relocate.

We appreciate the help, prayers and contributions that so many of you have extended for the home.

Praise, glory and honor be to our Lord Jesus and the Almighty Heavenly Father.

In Jesus Precious Name,
The Children's Home Committee

CISSNA PARK IL

Grace Bauer - Marilyn Knapp

Thy word, O Lord, forever is
The mirror where we see
Our faults and duties as they are,
Our likeness unto Thee.

We thank Bro. Dale Eisenmann who was with us for the reading of the memorandum.

"And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." It was a blessed day, Sunday, Dec. 12, when we could partake of Holy Communion. We thank Bro. Alfred Bahler, who was with us and assisted in this important work. A supper was held at church after our Communion services.

The engagement of Sis. Marla Bauer (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Loretta) and Bro. Gary Ringger (Bro. and Sis. Edwin) of Gridley was announced. A February wedding is being planned . . . A March wedding is being planned by Sis. Dixie Cargill of Normal, daughter of Sis. Ella Cargill of Gridley and C. W. Cargill of West Plains, Mo. and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verena), whose engagement was announced.

We enjoyed listening to many beautiful songs by the Gridley Men's Group at our monthly sing-

ing. We had a pot-luck supper at church that evening.

When peace like a river attendeth
my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll.
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught
me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Kay Walder, daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy, has found peace with God, and is now awaiting baptism. We are glad to have souls turning to the Lord in repentance.

A baby daughter, Elizabeth Renee, was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher. She has a sister, Rachel, to welcome her.

Bros. John Otto and Ed Feller are hospital surgical patients. Bro. Harry Knapp had gall bladder surgery and is home again. Sisters Edna Hoffmann and Cora Scharlach were surgical patients and are now at home. Sis. Ernestine (Alph) Eisenmann has a broken bone in her foot, and is now in a cast. Bro. Vernon Martin also has a broken bone in his foot.

Funeral services were held for Ben Waldbuser, Urbana, Ill. on Dec. 19. He is survived by his wife, Henrietta (Widmer); daughter, Mrs. Norma Placchi of Danville, California; son, Benjamin of Rockaway Beach, Mo.; brother, Joe of Cissna Park; sister, Mrs. Betty Obergfel of Claytonville; stepmother, Mrs. Pauline Waldbuser of Tremont. Burial was in Morton Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Cissna Park.

Soon in your hand will be placed a priceless gift. Look at it closely. There is no price mark stamped on it. It cannot be weighed, because no scale can balance its value. A king's ransom in comparison is as nothing, yet it is given to beggar and prince alike. The giver asks only that it be used wisely and well. It cannot be purchased, cannot be sold. It has been offered many times before; today from the depths of a boundless love it will be given again. Guard it closely, lest through weak fingers it slip from the hand. Accept it as it is offered from the heart of the giver. It is the gift of the New Year!

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

ELGIN IL Mary Moser

On Nov. 30 a boy, Ryan Carl, was born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce Weiss.

The first Sunday in December we were blessed with a visit from Ministering Bros. Loren Strahm of Gridley, Kansas, and Bro. Jim Hoerr of Peoria.

The memorandum was read Dec. 8. Bro. Alfred Bahler assisted in this work. The following Wed. evening, Bro. Ed Frank of LaCrosse helped serve communion.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Albert Wewetaer. Bro. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest was here for the funeral services on Dec. 15.

On Dec. 19, our Christmas Program was held. What a joy it is to hear the little children say their pieces and to listen to the beautiful singing.

CONGERVILLE IL

Mary Leman - Sharon McClure

As the new year starts and the old
year ends,
There's no better time to make
amends
For all the things we sincerely regret
And wish in our hearts we could
somehow forget . . .
We all make mistakes, for it's human to err,
But no one need ever give up in
despair,
For God gives us all a brand-new
beginning,
A chance to start over and repent
of our sinning—
And when God forgives us, we too
must forgive,
And resolve to do better each day
that we live,
By constantly trying to be like Him
more nearly,
And to trust in His wisdom, and
love Him more dearly,
Assured that we're never out of
His care,
And we're always welcome to seek
Him in prayer.

We have another dear soul who has turned to the Lord, Ann Roth, daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline.

On Nov. 29, Lori Jo was born to Sis. Arlene and Bro. Jerry Banwart. She is welcomed home by sisters, Peggy, Denise Amy, and brother Dale. Grandparents are

Bro. Paul and Sis. Sarah Tanner and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sylvia Banwart . . . Another bundle of joy . . . daughter, Jennifer Nicole was born on Dec. 12 to Sis. Mary-Ann and Bro. Dale Leman. Happy brothers are Jeff, Brad, and Christopher. Grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Helen Leman of Forrest.

On Dec. 5, Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin, Goodfield, conducted the marriage service for Sis. Lori Knapp, daughter of Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge, and Bro. Larry Wiegang, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla of Goodfield. Ministering Bros. Gene Lehman of Wolcott and Marvin Stieglitz of Leo helped to make it a truly blessed day. Many teachings were brought forth, not only for the young couple, but for all who were present.

Sue Schieber has announced her engagement to Lee Ehling. Parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma Schieber and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ehling. A February wedding is planned.

We held our yearly Christmas Program Dec. 15; it was such a blessed evening, to see and hear our children sing praises to God our King. May we never forget the true meaning of Christmas.

ELGIN IA

Eleanor Butikofer

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: . . ."

We have a pleasant news item to commence our column with: Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider are the parents of a baby girl. She has been named Angela Beth. The grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart, who live at West Bend, and LaVerne and Kathryn Schneider.

We are looking forward to the Christmas program, which the pupils of our Sunday school are planning to present during the evening of the 22nd. Dec. the 19th marks the date for the caroling. This is such a delightful event for those who can take part. **Silent Night** and **Joy to the World** are the two favorites we always sing at every home.

Most animals are entirely self-supporting within a few weeks or months at the most. It is normal for children to be in the home and

somewhat dependent upon their parents for 20 years. A colt or calf can walk the day it is born. A child normally takes ten or twelve months. Obviously, God intended the child to be helpless and dependent long enough to stay in the home for training. God intended that the home should develop in children the moral qualities, principles, habits and adjustments essential to good character. A child has a body to train, a mind to develop and an immortal soul to save. The Bible has all the guidelines.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Elgin Ia.

On our way to the mail box, we heard a whir of wings and spied four ring-necked pheasants flying ahead, seeking a safer spot for cover. They are such magnificent birds. During the severe cold spell, we experienced the wild birds coming to the feeding stations were numerous. The chickadee seems to be the least timid; sometimes it keeps on eating when a person is ever so close by.

Friendship consists of forgetting what one gives and remembering what one receives.

EUREKA IL

Cathryn Wettstein Salome Schumacher

Let us ever remember the dear Saviour's birth and observe it as such. In this modern day, there is so much put in packages with pretty ribbons and paper, but let us keep the true meaning of Christmas Day, and worship our Lord in truth and in Spirit.

We have two births to report: Becky Sue, to Bro. and Sis. Roger and Ila (Huber) Bradle, born Nov. 20. She has two brothers, Daniel and Nathan . . . Daniel Robert, to Bro. and Sis. Simon and Lavonne (Witzig) Wagonbach, born Dec. 4. He has four brothers.

Two more souls are repenting, Carlton Wittmer and his wife, Mabel.

Among the ill are: Sis. Wilma Blunier (Henry's wife) was a surgical patient in Eureka Hospital: Sis. Kathryn Leman — medical (now home); Bro. Noah Gerber — medical (now home); Sis. Sara Tanner (Bro. Paul's wife) — the Eureka Hospital a few days. Bro. Ernest Fehr is a surgical patient in a Champaign Hospital. Sis. Jean Knapp (Bro. Robert's wife) is a patient in St. Francis Hospital, Sis. Elizabeth Funk a medical pa-

tient in Eureka Hospital, Pete Funk is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital.

There have been twelve souls added to our church since the last writing.

Nov. 20 and 21 was the proving and baptism of five people: Cyndee Rocke — Bro. and Sis. Richard and Marjorie; Jane Rocke — Bro. and Sis. Virgil and Pauline; Douglas Martin — Bro. and Sis. Nelson and Maryellen; Debbie Saathoff — Bro. and Sis. George and Thelma; Inga Zimmerman — Dean Zimmerman's wife. Bros. Edwin Ringger and Joshua Broquard helped. December 4 and 5 was the following: Jake Wettstein — Harold and Loretta; Marcia Ginzel — Bro. and Sis. Elmer and Dorothy; Marilyn Wettstein — Bro. and Sis. Robert and Verna. Bros. Roy Sauder and Perry Zimmerman helped. Dec. 11 and 12 were these: Larry Leman and his wife, Marilyn. His folks are Bro. and Sis. Milton and Caroline Leman. Her folks are Leland and Sis. Mary Swadley from Peoria . . . Judy Leman — Bro. and Sis. Gerald and Velma; Carol Kempf — Bro. and Sis. Bill and Clara. Bros. Roy Sauder and David Kieser did the proving. Then, next day, Bro. Joe Braker helped with the baptizing. Bro. Fred Knapp was also a guest on Sunday.

Steven Rocke and Audrey Hodel were married Nov. 24. His folks are Bro. and Sis. Richard and Marjorie Rocke; her folks are the Kaywin Hodels.

FAIRBURY IL

Joyce Huber

Little Jeffrey Moser, 9 months, was administered mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by his father, Bro. Lloyd Moser, when he was found with a string wrapped around his neck. Jeffrey was admitted to the hospital and dismissed in a couple days, and we are thankful he is okay again.

Bro. and Sis. Duane Kilgus' son, Jeff, was married to Lisa Munz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Munz. Jeff is engaged in farming, and they will reside at rural Fairbury . . . Trudy Strieb, daughter of Bro. and Sis. William Streib, was married to Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zimmerman of Ohio. They will reside in Cisco, as Alan is employed by Steve Gilbert Trucking in Mansfield.

The Christmas Story was presented in a program by our Sunday

School children.

Sis. Doris Rasmus is home from the hospital, after having surgery. Sis. Lydia Aberle has been hospitalized. Sis. Marie Kilgus was taken seriously ill on returning from a trip to Chicago, and was hospitalized there.

We enjoyed visiting ministers: (Bros.) Bill Kupferschmid, Earl Kilgus, Earl Banwart.

John Sutter, 71, passed away following a short illness. Surviving are his wife, Leona Munz; two sons, James and Robert; four sisters: Sis. Ida Kaisner, Mrs. Martha Kaisner, Mrs. Helen Hessing, Mrs. Laura Landells; a brother, Everett.

The children of John and Martha Roth surprised their parents, for their 40th wedding anniversary, by having a Sunday afternoon reception for them.

FORREST IL

**Kathryn Steidinger
Beverly Eisenmann**

Our hearts were stirred as our Sunday School children told and sang of Jesus' birth so many years ago. Now we think of the new before us. During the past year, we had two funerals, 15 births to report, and six young souls were added to the fold.

Dawn Aberle, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean (who lives in Bloomington), is repenting.

On November 27, the Fairbury congregation joined us, as Elder Bros. Ed Frank and Josh Broquard assisted Bro. Perry Zimmerman in reading the Memorandum. Other guest Ministering Bros. have been Steve Rinckenberger, Bill Gudeman, Everett Hari, Art Bahler and Merle Kaisner.

Wesley Wayne Broquard has joined the family of Bro. Wayne, Sis. Roberta, Tess, Lorelei, and Sally. Bro. George and Sis. Clara Broquard and Carl and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold are the grandparents.

Bro. Alvie Kilgus has moved to Fairview Haven. We appreciate having him come to worship with us on Sundays.

Rodney Zimmerman had a short hospital stay, after falling from a bin. Cal Zimmerman had a finger cut off in an accident at work. Bro. Paul Honegger had surgery and is home again. Others who spent some time in the hospital are Jeff Rieger (grandson of Bro. Rich and Sis. Marion), Pauline Henry, Sis. Louise Zimmerman (Bro. Louis),

and Sis. Beverly Eisenmann. Sis. Leona Recketts has gone in for hip surgery, and our aged Sis. Olga Schmid fell in her home and broke a bone in her upper leg. Olga will have her 93rd birthday in January, always comes to church early on Sundays and meets everyone with a smile and greeting of love. We miss our older ones when they cannot assemble with us. Sis. Mattie Wenger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Miriam) is walking with a cast, since she chipped a bone in her ankle.

There is a road leads on and on
Through wintertime and spring,
And pilgrims travelling thereupon
Know courage faith can bring.

And often there are left behind
The prints of those who trod
This selfsame road in Christian
love
And confidence in God.

FT. LAUDERDALE FL

Bert and Karen Aeschliman

The winter visitors are increasing our numbers. The fellowship we enjoy with brothers, sisters and friends from several different churches warms our hearts, and we can feel God's love and presence ever so strongly as we gather around His word. We pray for the safe travel of all our visitors and would invite all to return.

We are grateful to visiting Bros. Al Schneider and Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville) for sharing God's word with us.

We sympathize with Bro. Ed Feller of Cissna Park, who has undergone amputation of a leg. Ed spends much time in Ft. Lauderdale with his daughter, Sis. Arlene (Jim) Wieland and her family. We pray that the family can take comfort from God's word. When time on earth should pass, we will experience no pain or grief in heaven.

The Ft. Lauderdale church will conduct its annual business meeting the second Sunday in January, for the purpose of electing a trustee and ushers.

FT SCOTT KS

Aleta Banwart

Our dear Bro. Joe Banwart has received enough strength to be transferred to the Golden Age Lodge.

This month was our turn to sing at our three nursing homes. We had a good turnout at all three places. May we never neglect to

visit the aged and give them encouragement through word and song.

Sis. Carrie Massner has a new grandchild. Julie Alysse was born to Bro. Lewis and Sis. Ruthie Hoerr of Taylor Dec. 19. Her paternal grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Rose Hoerr of Taylor.

The Sunday School had their program. The results of much time and training was seen, as the children recited their verses and sang songs of praise. During the program, one class surprised the older brothers and sisters with baskets of fruit wrapped as Christmas presents, representing love, faithfulness, etc. . . . the expressions on the face of the receivers told the message was fulfilled. The program ended with the Sunday School Choir filling our hearts with great joy over their singing of praises to God. After the program, the children exchanged their presents, and all enjoyed many refreshments.

It was truly an evening filled with much joy, happiness, and many praises to God. It seems to me after such an evening all of us can feel closer to God and more love toward each other . . . And after all. Isn't this the true meaning of Christmas?

FRANCESVILLE IN

Helen Huber - Sharon Neihouser

On Sunday evening, Nov. 21, a Thanksgiving program was held. We were reminded in word and song of our many blessings, and how we should be thankful every day of the year and not just on Thanksgiving Day.

This past month we were privileged to have visiting Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) and Roy Wieland (Bay City) share the life-giving word with us.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Furrer were blest with a little boy, Travis Clay on Nov. 30. He has a brother, Jason and a sister, Tammie to welcome him home.

The week-end of Dec. 11-12 was a blessed one. Eight dear souls were added to the fold. They were Rhonda and Nadine Yaggie (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Lois), Doreen and Debbie Gudeman (Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret), Melody Gutwein (wife of Bro. Mike), Verene Von Tobel (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola), Suzanne Wuethrich (Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna), and Connie Wuethrich (Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola).

Visiting ministers to share with us were Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Rod Huber (Valparaiso), and Jack Bollier (Leo). We rejoice with them and welcome them into our fellowship. We also have several new converts for which we are thankful.

A Christmas Sunday School Program was held Sunday, Dec. 19. The children told us in word and song of the story of Jesus' birth. In the evening, many gathered to go caroling to shut-ins.

Hospitalized were Emmet Ward and Sis. Barb Wuethrich for observation.

We welcome Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein and Kevin back home from Kansas, where Steve has been attending KSU.

GIRARD OH Louisa Lance

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord . . . Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

What a beautiful season of the year to celebrate the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour, but not only for this one day, but every day should we bring praise to God for his precious gift to all mankind.

We thank Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman) for ministering to us on Dec. 5.

Bro. Harold Emch entered Northside Hospital, where he submitted to surgery; he has been critically ill since returning home.

Bro. Joe Emch passed away on Nov. 17 at the age of 86 years. He was a faithful member of the church for many years, very seldom missed coming to church until the last few Sundays. He leaves his wife, Sis. Alma, four sons and one daughter: Bro. Harold of Girard, Don and Lloyd of Rittman, Ralph of California, and Mrs. Jess Binion (Loretta) of Florida. Mrs. Carl L. Emch (Ruth) passed away Dec. 13 at University Hospital in Cleveland, where she had open heart surgery. She is survived by

two sons, Samuel and Robert, both of Youngstown. She was a very dear person, and always had a warm welcome for everyone.

Sis. Charlotte Emch, daughter of the late Bro. Isaac Emch, passed away on Dec. 14, after being a patient in Northside Hospital, Youngstown, for one week. She was 86 years of age. She is survived by one brother, Samuel. Funeral services will be held Sat., Dec. 18, 11 A.M. at Blackstone Funeral Home in Girard.

GOODFIELD IL

Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm

And they fell down and worshipped him; and presented unto him gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh.

On the evening of Dec. 12, we assembled to hear our youth tell us of this Wonderful Story of the Birth of our Dear Saviour. We earnestly pray that their verses and songs of this gift of love remain in their hearts, as they grow into the years of accountability.

Cara DeAnn is the new baby girl who has joined the family of Dennis and Sis. Carol Martin. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Henry and Persida Wiegand and Mrs. L. B. Abel of Peoria. Great-grandmother is Mrs. Rose Wiegand of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home.

A sincere thank you to (Bros.) Todd Feller, LaCrosse, and Fred Knapp of Congerville, who so humbly ministered unto us.

We extend our sympathy to (Sisters) Hilda Bauman and LaVina Ott in the passing of their brother, George Reckhemmer.

We are happy to report that Sis. Hanna Siebenthal has returned home from the hospital and is recovering nicely.

"Thank everyone for cards (get-well and birthday), gifts, and flowers sent while in the hospital. Also a thanks to the Goodfield Church young folks for singing for me one evening." Hannah Siebenthal.

GRIDLEY IL

Perry and Carol Klopfenstein

God has blessed the home of Bro. Jim and Kathy Gramm with the arrival of their new baby boy, Matthew Paul. He was born Nov. 29 and has two brothers, Justin and Nathan. Matthew's grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm of Gridley and Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Brockwell of Flanagan. Great-

grandparents are Mrs. Mayme Ellenberger and Sis. Louise Gramm, both of Gridley and Mr. and Mrs. William Knight of Flanagan.

Three marriage engagements were announced: Bro. Gary Ringger, Gridley; to Sis. Marla Bauer, Cissna Park; Sis. Dixie Cargill, Gridley, to Bro. Kevin Knapp, Cissna Park; and Sis. Sandy Ringger, Chicago, to Bro. Tom Neu, Roanoke.

Bro. Mike Prevo and Sis. Barbara Gramm, both of Gridley, vowed their lives to one another in the bonds of holy matrimony on Dec. 19.

We were fortunate to have with us visiting ministers (Bros.) Ron Heiniger of Bloomington and Garth Steffen of Portland.

We were glad to have Elder Bro. Dave Kieser from Princeville with us for the reading of the memorandum. One of his noteworthy comments was: "If we don't stand for something, we may fall for anything."

Our friend, Henry Lynn Stortz, passed away on Nov. 23 at the age of 50. Surviving are his sons, Thomas and John, and his sister, Mrs. Kathryn Rojek.

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein was in the hospital for a few days. Sharon Rinkenberger, daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ruth, was in the hospital for a tonsillectomy.

Sis. Leah Ringger wishes to thank everyone who remembered her with prayers and cards while in the hospital and since returning home.

In Memory of Bro. George M. Gramm

"Lord, help us to lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty during the short time we have here on earth". These words were echoed in prayer many times by our dear departed Elder Bro. George M. Gramm during his 43 years in the ministry of our Lord and Saviour. The words "quiet and peaceable" tend to best illustrate the virtues and lifestyle he reflected during his earthly pilgrimage.

Following an illness of 2½ weeks, the death angel summoned Bro. George to the Lord's bosom, just 10 days short of his 80th birthday. He was born on Dec. 9, 1896 to Bro. Christian and Sis. Catherine Mangold Gramm. Two sisters, Sis. Salome Schlipf and Lena preceded

Him in death. Surviving are his brother, Bro. William, Gridley and a foster sister, Sis. Nellie Lambert of Wichita. He is also survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sis. Louise; four sons, Bro. Harold of Hancock, and Bros. Robert, Herbert, and Donald of Gridley; two daughters, Sis. Marjorie Witzig, Gridley, and Mildred, at home. A great-grandson, Matthew Paul Gramm, son of Bro. Jim and Kathy Gramm, Gridley, was born on the day of his death.

In 1917, clouds of uncertainty hovered over the land as armed conflict had drawn the country into war. No doubt multitudes of young men, when confronted with the possibility of being shipped off to battle, began to ponder their soul's salvation. Young George Gramm, age 20, was no exception. During the spring of that year, he told his brother Will, "I am going to repent". To which Will replied, "If you do, I will too".

George set about making restitution and going forward in faith. Yet, progress did not come easy. One evening, his sister Sally said to him, "Can you really see all your sins?" This question struck at him and caused him to pray earnestly and with diligence that the Lord would truly reveal all his sins to him. He awakened the next morning and saw them before him as though they were written on a blackboard. Such a revelation from heaven caused a deep and abiding conviction within him, from which he was drawn closer to God, and later received the precious peace of God in his heart.

He was the first convert during Gridley's great "in-gathering" in 1917. Thirty-six souls were baptized between July and December of that year. He was baptized on July 8, 1917 by Elder Bro. Mike Mangold of Roanoke and assisted by Bro. William Schmidt of Gridley. Four years later, Bro. George and Sis. Louise Grusy of Gridley were united in holy matrimony, on Nov. 20, by Bro. Mangold.

As a young married brother, George taught Sunday School and served as a song leader. In April of 1929, Bro. George, along with Bro. Joe M. Klopfenstein, was appointed by Bro. Mangold to serve in the ministry. After preaching his first sermon, he later commented to his wife, "Es ist sehr wichtig das wort Gottes in den mund zu mehren" (It is very important or a serious

matter to take the word of God into your mouth).

Bro. George was ordained as an elder on April 21, 1963. He served concurrently with Elder Bro. Joe M. Klopfenstein, and assumed sole leadership when the latter suddenly expired on March 5, 1965. Bro. George served nine years as an elder, during which time 76 souls were baptized. A new church was constructed during his oversight of the flock. Although he presided during a time of great social upheaval and turmoil (Vietnam, riots, etc.), he nonetheless led the church with a calm and gentle hand.

Bro. Gramm was always very grateful for his family and the many blessings from God they received over the years. He would think of the verse found in Psalms 128:6: "Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel." He had the joy of personally baptizing nine grandchildren.

He retired from active farming in 1965. In 1972, he handed the mantle of elder of the Gridley congregation to Bro. Edwin Ringger.

"Cast me not off in the time of old age . . ." These words were particularly meaningful to Bro. George during his declining years. One of his favorite hymns was "The Best Refuge", which he could sing from memory. In his prayers, he would often refer to these verses: "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." . . . "For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

His funeral was held on Thursday, Dec. 2, with Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman — Francesville, Ezra Feller — Cissna Park, Joshua Broquard — Fairbury, and Edwin Ringger, Gridley officiating.

The memory and example will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He has gone on to his reward. Yet, those who remain will miss him. Perhaps we should not sorrow, as the following poem suggests:

Those we love are with the Lord,
And the Lord has promised to be
with us.
If they are with Him, and He is
with us,
Then they cannot be far away.

"We wish to thank everyone for the cards with words of encouragement, gifts, and your prayers for our beloved husband and father

during his illness and now since he has gone to his Eternal rest." Sis. Louise Gramm and family

GRIDLEY KS

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

FORGETTING THE PAST — I
PRESS ONWARD. . .

What a challenging thought to accompany each of us as we now begin another new year. The dawn of a new year is just one of God's glorious gifts bestowed to mankind.

Through many dangers, toils and
snares

We have already come;
Twas grace that brought us safe
thus far.

And grace will lead us home.

Our dear friend, Charlie Knapp spent a guarded and lengthy stay in the hospital. Charlie is home again, and doing fairly well. Little Darren Isch, son of Sis. Janiece and Dale, also was hospitalized due to a serious systemic condition. Sis. Dora Young, Wichita, mother of Sis. Liseten Strahm, entered a hospital in Emporia for evaluation of a developed condition resulting from her past hip surgery.

We certainly miss our dear Sis. Sarah Beyer, who has left us for a time to live with her daughter, Mary Ann McCurry in Tulsa Oklahoma, after she had spent some time hospitalized with a severe arthritic condition.

What a blessing when one is privileged to sit and hear children stand and proclaim the birth of our Saviour. Our Sunday school Christmas program was held the 19th of December.

HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Charge not thyself with the weight
of a year,
Child of the Master, faithful and
dear;
Choose not the cross for the coming
week,
For that is more than He bids thee
seek.

Bend not thine arms for tomorrow's
load;
Thou mayest leave that to thy
gracious God.

Daily, only He saith to thee,
Take up thy cross and follow Me.

Knowing Charlene Kay Hirstein makes one want to know her better. She is the youngest of the five daughters of Walter and Irene Schwartztraub Stoller, and has been a part of our family since Feb. 6, 1973. Of her three lovely children, Michelle Rauch (Mrs. Mike), lives in Bluffton. The other two, Chris and Scott, live in Morton. Phyllis Greene and Sherrill Jones of Morton, Jean Linderud of Cranston, Wisconsin, and Carol Sue of Kettle Falls, Washington are the sisters . . . Her beautiful singing voice, her lovely smile, and her cheerful attitude are only a few of her assets which find their ways into all our hearts. Birthday time for Char is May 27.

Progress on the new building continues. A new sprinkler system for fire prevention purposes is being installed in both the old and the new parts of the building. A temporary wall has been built on the south side of the present dining room, as a preparation for tearing out the existing outside wall. Windows are being installed in the new part, door openings have been enclosed, and the roof decking is on.

A number of benevolent area groups have favored our residents with seasonal entertainment.

It has been interesting to note that, this year, several congregations have held local benefits for our Home, rather than contributing to our Benefit Day held here in November of each year. It is an idea that has a lot of merit.

It is always so heartwarming to see the ministers and brethren from the various congregations take time out from their busy schedules to come on Friday evening for services here. This month we thank Peoria, Gridley and Fairbury.

May all have a blessed New Year!

HUNTSVILLE AL

At Christ's first coming into the world, few were looking for Him, although Scriptures told where it would be. Now again, few evidently are really expecting His second coming, even though there are so many more passages reference this. As children of light, it behooves us to wisely use our time, talents and possessions for eternal gain.

We keep reaching more boys and girls to teach them the things of

the Lord. Our church and school building is being well-used 7 days a week. We will be needing more classrooms by fall, and so have started another building. Anyone who would like to come and lend a hand would be welcome.

If He had not come, wouldn't you wish He had?
Wouldn't you wish someone would come who could:
Forgive your failures?
Be your strength in weakness?
Lift away your guilt feelings?
Give peace of mind?
Give you security about the future?

BUT HE DID COME!

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Barb Hoffmann

The New Year

Father, let me dedicate
All this year to Thee,
In whatever worldly state
Thou wilt have me be.
Not from sorrow, pain or care
Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer:
GLORIFY THY NAME!

If in mercy thou wilt spare
Joys that yet are mine,
If on life, serene and fair,
Brighter rays may shine,
Let my glad heart, while it sings,
Thee in all proclaim,
And whate'er the future brings,
GLORIFY THY NAME!

Songs of praise to God for the birth of our Saviour were sung at our Christmas program. We were also reminded not just to stay at the manger at Christmas, but to go to the Cross. This same Christ who we honor at Christmas for His birth should much more be honored for His death and resurrection, for without Him there would be no life in us — We sincerely want to thank Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) for sharing the precious word of God with us.

We also want to thank Bro. Robert Pohl (Burlington) for the inspiring and interesting words he shared with us last month.

While Bro. Joe Schrock is in Florida for the winter months, Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) will be with us Thursday evenings.

After our Christmas vacation,

our Bible study will start again January 13 — all are welcome.

INDIANAPOLIS IN Patrick and Judy Dubach

Wonder of Christmas is its simplicity.

There is Mary the mother, and there is Joseph to whom she was betrothed . . . plain and simple folks, these, even as you and I. There are the shepherds — the first Christmas congregation — Humble folks, these, folks who lived close to the things God made, the earth the carpet for their feet, the sun and star their coverings.

Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler — Wolcott and Ed Frank — LaCrosse read the memorandum to us. We should all try to follow all the good instructions of God's works. Other ministers who came to see us were Bros. Bud Beer, Walt Steffen — Milford, Joe Aberle — Sabetha.

After our carefully considered vote, our Elder Bro. Alfred (Bahler) announced that Bro. Art Ringger has been called into the ministry. We surely give him and his wife, Sis. Susie all our support, as they undertake their God-appointed task.

KIOWA KS Janice Frieden

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

As we celebrated the blessed Christmas season and relived the birth of our Lord on that holy night so long ago, how truly our hearts overflowed with love for God for the most perfect Christmas gift ever given to man, His own Son. Our children retold the story at their Christmas program, and our ministering brethren again on Christmas Day, but no matter how often we hear it, the beauty never fades, and its simple truth never grows old.

We have had several hospital patients: Sis.'s Esther Hodel and Esther Miller, and Friends Gerald Murrow and Dale Tucker. We are thankful that Sis. Esther Hodel is again in our midst, and fervently hope that Sis. Esther Miller, Gerald and Dale will be with us again soon.

Sis. Martha Roth has taken up residence at the Kiowa Manor now.

We would like to extend our deep sympathy to the family and friends of Clara Dreyer, who was called quite suddenly from this life. Clara was almost 86 years of age and quite crippled in her limbs, but she was a joy to many of us, because of her cheerfulness and love of just having someone come to visit her at the Home. She loved to read her Bible, and thoroughly enjoyed the church services held at the Home. Ministering Bros. Ronald Allenbach and Ronald Nelson officiated at services held here, and though Clara will be greatly missed by many of us, it gives us peace to know that God's will is always best.

We extend congratulations to Sandra Ott, daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Nelda, Burlington, and Phil Hamilton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Hamilton of Beggs, Oklahoma, upon their engagement and approaching marriage this month. It will be a pleasure to have Sandra and Phil in our midst.

World Relief workday was held at Newton the 14th, and due to the busy schedule of so many, only a few were able to go from here. We were thankful that quite a number went from our other churches, though, and that a lot was accomplished in getting articles ready to be sent to needy areas.

February is Silver Lining collection for Kiowa.

As we look back over the past year of our lives, what do we see? A year guided and directed by the **One** who died, arose, and lives for us, or a year lived only in selfish pleasure? If our answer is the first, then our year has been one of peace and content, amidst the chaos of life. If our answer is the latter, we have really missed out on something wonderful . . . But God is still **There**, the day of grace is still open, and a new year is about to begin. We still have a chance to let this be **The - First - Day - Of - The - Rest - Of - Our - Lives - In - Him**. Praise be to God for this wonderful gift.

JUNCTION OH Gwen Manz

Elder Bros. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park) and Loren Stoller (Latty) were with us on Nov. 27-28 and shared the conference conclusions. It is now up to each one of us to heed the warnings that were

brought forth.

The engagement was made known of Bro. Paul Manz and Sis. Sandra Ramsier, of Rittman. Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Louise and Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez are their parents, respectively.

We rejoice with Lowell Schlatter (Sis. Esther), that he has found peace with God and man. He is awaiting the opportunity to give his testimony of how God has worked in his heart.

Several in our congregation have moved. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz have moved to Cecil, where they are operating a grocery store. Their new address is Box 173, Cecil OH 45821. Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz are living at RR 3 Box 2402, Paulding OH 45879, and John and Elaine Manz are moving to 755 Miller Parkway Drive, Paulding OH 45879.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Brenda Tucker

Another semester is now closing, and everyone is busily studying for their final tests. As students, we find that if we let our studies get behind, everything turns into a big rush, trying to hurry and do our best . . . But if we would take one day at a time and do our best each day, we would not fall behind and have to worry of possible failure. Truly our lives here on earth are one big test. We must prepare daily for that final that will not be announced. First, we must make our decision of whether we want to pass, and spend eternity with our heavenly Father, or fail . . . May we ever look upward to our heavenly Father, and strive daily to do our best in serving him, that when our final is before us, we will have properly prepared, and that God may tell us. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and (Bros.) Roy Wernli, Lamont, and John Lehman, Bern.

LA CROSSE IN Marilyn Zeltwanger - Carolyn Levy

Our faith was renewed and refreshed by a program emphasizing love. We especially want to thank the Wolcott Men's group for their songs.

Ken and Susan Pfeifer welcomed their first child. Brian Jason on Nov. 19. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Emma Pfeifer and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Boesch.

Thanksgiving Day, Bro. Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park, was kind to bring the true word.

Sis. Henrietta Heiniger is now home from the hospital and doing quite well.

Our hearts were again uplifted to hear the blessed news that another dear soul is willing to give his heart and soul in God's service, Don Nuest, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Norma.

What a heartwarming experience to hear the touching testimonies of two dear friends, LuAnn Feller (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann) and Laurie Zeltwanger (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn). Though younger in years, their strong faith and convictions was a joy to behold. Elder Bros. Ezra Feller — Cissna Park and Roy Grimm, Taylor assisted Bro. Ed Frank in the provings and baptisms. Many were present to witness their thankfulness to become children of God. Such an occasion stirs all our hearts to serve our Lord more faithfully.

Wedding plans have been made known of Lynn Koener and Vic Heinold, son of Bro. Virgil and Sis. Ruth.

Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman are grandparents of a daughter, born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenniger of Latty.

Sis. Janet Nuest (Bro. Elvin) wishes to express her thanks for prayers and cards, gifts of love during her illness.

LAMONT KS Jane Isch

Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart from Ft. Scott assisted in reading the memorandum. May we be fruitful to the teachings that were given, and may all become more united in Christ.

We received many blessings from a visit from Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa, as he brought us the word of life.

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

Several brothers and sisters spent a rewarding day at Newton, Kansas, helping the World Relief workers package the goods to be sent to those in need.

Our good wishes go to Bro. Fred Luthi, who will observe his 90th birthday on Dec. 20. Fred's children are planning an open house for him to enjoy.

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

LATTY OH

Diane Stoller - Karen Klopfenstein
Our sister, Darlene Stoller has moved to the Tucson church. May the miles never keep us apart.

Bruce Laukhuf (Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge) and Vickie Mielke were united in marriage on Dec. 4. We are thankful that Bruce could see the need of a Saviour and turn his heart to the Lord. May God be the unseen guest in their home.

Now it is accomplished — I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine . . . were the vows made on Dec. 11 and 12 by Marsha and Cyndee Stoller (Bro. Darl and Sis. Iva), Julie Stoller (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Ede), Charlotte and Brenda Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine), Charlotte Grant (wife of Bro. Paul), La Nae Laukhuf (Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera), and Susie Sinn (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann). Elder Bro. John Bahler (Rockville) was in our midst for this joyful occasion. Also visiting us were Bros. Walter Steffen (Milford), Art Gudeman (La Crosse), Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), and Ben Manz (Junction). Many good teachings were brought to our attention.

Erica Rae was born to Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger on Dec. 15. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger and Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Gudeman (La Crosse).

LEO IN The editor

The Silver Lining of November had tones of an event coming. November. Page 3: O Christmas, merry Christmas . . . 'Tis not so very long . . . Since other voices blended . . . With carol and with song . . . God's forever is really beautiful . . . And in December, page 3: Oh think of stepping ashore and find it Heaven . . . November, page 14, under Leo news, the beautiful, Eternal Thanksgiving — **Sing for the night is o'er, Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna forever more!**

Mother, Sis. Lydia Souder, departed to join the Home Circle on

Friday, Dec. 17, a glorious Christmas without end. Following are some things taken from her recording book:

Kim and I got our turkey ready . . . Irma came over this eve. and got both tables ready. They looked beautiful . . .

This is Thanksgiving Day. We were in church this forenoon. Had dinner about 1:30.

. . . We were to visit Minnie Bertsch and Jenny Klopfenstein today. They knew us and seemed happy to see us.

Monday . . . her last entry included: We had a lovely Christmas dinner at the Heritage House . . .

Sing, for the night is o'er . . . and tho' we can't deny there is loneliness, missing mom . . . we appreciate and let know there is gratefulness to God for giving everything enduring . . . and to loved ones who made known their care and sympathy.

Henry, Ed and Dwight are her sons . . . Marjorie Frautschi her sister . . . What a day, when we can actually meet her again. . .

Hosanna in the highest; Jesus keeps her safe, forevermore!

LESTER IA

Alice Metzger - Donna Metzger

Our Sunday School students, of over 200 children, presented a lovely Christmas program to a large crowd on Dec. 16. It is heart-warming to hear them tell of their love for Jesus. Also in keeping with Christmas, our young group spent an evening caroling for shut-ins, which was a blessing for the singers and those who listened.

Bro. Nathan Stoller was our visiting minister for Thanksgiving Day, which we appreciated so much. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker was present to share in the proving and baptism of Tom and Deb Metzger. We are so happy to have them in the Brotherhood, and hope others can see the hope and joy which radiates from them.

Elder Bro. Gene Marti helped Elder Bro. Leo in sharing the memorandum with us. How thankful we are for shepherds who are willing to sound the warning in these sinful times.

The Peoria Choir made the long journey to Lester in a chartered bus one of the last week-ends in November. We enjoyed the warm fellowship and lovely singing which they brought with them. We hope

they received as great a blessing as we did.

A baby girl was born Dec. 2 to Verlyn and Linda Kellenberger. Emily Marie has one brother, and grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger and Sis. Karoline Doorneveerd.

In the hospital for surgery were Sis. Elaine Kellenberger, Bro. Roger Knobloch, and Bro. Pete Van Wyhe. Bill Metzger was in traction for back trouble, and we are happy all have returned home.

Friend Scott Moser is home on furlough from the Navy, after being in Alaska for a year.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Lester.

To all Silver Lining readers, we extend a wish for God's nearness to you in this New Year.

LEXINGTON KY Glenda Huber

Soon 1976 will be a closed book! Deposited on the shelf of time, it will not be taken down again, until God opens the volumes of the ages for His final review and judgment. The brevity of life and the eternal consequences of our actions should impress upon us the necessity of wisely redeeming the time, as we enter the new year.

Trusting the One who unerringly leads,
Bright though the pathway or dim,
Praying for wisdom, we joyfully go
Into the new year with Him.

We were privileged to have as a visiting minister, Bro. Rod Huber of Valparaiso. Our hearts were truly blessed by the messages that the Lord inspired him to bring to us.

On Dec. 14, a group of ladies got together to prepare boxes of cookies, for folks we Christmas-caroled for on the following Friday evening. We also Christmas-caroled at Harrison's Nursing Home, where Sis. Ann Witzig (of Morton) worked this past summer. There, we delivered favors that were made by a group of ladies from Morton.

Sunday evening, Dec. 19, we had a Christmas program which was centered around the theme, **There Shall Come a Star**. The children all took part, as well as many adults, and it was a real blessing as we were reminded of our dear Saviour's birth.

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

MANSFIELD OH Lucille Groh

HEAVEN AND EARTH SHALL
PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS
SHALL NOT PASS AWAY.

As a new year approaches, we all have so very much to thank our dear Lord, especially for His wonderful word, which we can read every day and receive manifold blessings. The above passage of scripture reminds me of an incident which happened a short time ago. God's power was so evident in a tornado which raged through the Northwest. A family saw everything wiped away, a beautiful farm and buildings completely destroyed . . . two members of the family hospitalized and one taken in death. After the storm, grief stricken and dazed, this dear family went to view the site. Only remaining were the front steps which once led to the entrance of their home. Then, to their amazement, a sight met their eyes; laying on the top of the steps unharmed and completely intact, their richest possession still remained, THE FAMILY BIBLE.

WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE were spoken by our dear Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto) on Thanksgiving Day and again on the following Sunday.

IN SICKNESS, God's word is such a comfort. In James, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." This has been the experience and faith of our dear friend, Winona Matuck, who is hospitalized and very ill and who has called upon her Lord. Our dear Sis. Anna (Sauder) Hoffman had a fall and received a broken hip.

IN JOY — "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice." We rejoice with Sis. Katherine Morrison, who has a new granddaughter, Cheryl Eileen. The happy parents are Lloyd and Joyce Morrison. We also rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Freda Beer, who are spending the winter in California visiting Freda's sister, Sis. Elizabeth Kaisner and Bro. Albert . . . and with Sis. Dorothy Durkin, who is spending the winter in Florida.

The Sunday school presented a beautiful Christmas program, reminding us of the joys of Christmas, and many groups visited the lonely and shut-ins and tried to

brighten their Christmas with lovely carols and good wishes.

WHEN LONELY — "Thou . . . shalt comfort me on every side." We miss our friends, Lonnie and Carol Sue (Ramsier) Browne, who have moved to (P.O. Box 310) Forked River, NJ 08731. Maybe some of us could take time, write Carol and let her know we miss them.

OH wonderful, wonderful word of the Lord,
Our lamp that our Father above
So kindly has lighted to teach us the way

That leads to the arms of His love!
Its warnings, its counsels, are faithful and just;
Its judgments are perfect and pure,
And we know that when time and the world pass away,
God's word shall forever endure.

MILFORD IN

Linda Beer - Coleen Beer

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Bro. Orville Ringger assisted Bros. Theo. Beer and Elmer Hartter in reading the memorandum. We pray that others may find this wonderful way and that it might ever be preserved.

The engagement was announced of Bro. Lee Beer and Sis. Sandy Barth. Parents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida May of Roanoke and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer. We gladly welcome Sandy to our church and community.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Beer were blessed with a son, Jonathan Michah; he has three brothers, Joel, Joshua and Joseph. Grandparents are Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Herman of Morton and Bro. Levi and Sis. Kathryn Beer . . . Bro. Dan and Sis. Debbie Beer are the parents of their first son, Barry Andrew; he is welcomed home by his sister, Genny. Grandparents are Bro. Carlton and Sis. Maryann Beer and Carl and Grace Shearer.

Sis. Frieda Ruch would like to thank all who remembered her on her 90th birthday.

Sis. Betty Knochel is now home, after being in the hospital for a couple weeks. Other dear ones that have not been able to assemble with us are Bros. Bert Krauter and George Lehman and Sis. Louise Rapp.

MINNEAPOLIS MN Josephine Esterling

What a great portion of heavenly blessing was ours this past month as we redeemed our time here below. We heard the testimonies of three lovely souls, Carol and Perry Virkler and Susan Esterling, and on Dec. 5 they were baptized, and we were privileged to greet them as new sisters and brother in faith. The same evening, we sat under the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bros. Paul Fehr of Morris and Joshua Broquard of Fairbury took part in this labor of love. Other ministers visiting for the occasion were Bro. Harold Messner, Leroy Messner and Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop and Floyd Schmidgall of Morris.

On Dec. 12, a group from this congregation caroled to the shut-ins. It was indeed a blessing for us to see the enjoyment derived from just a song or handshake from these older sisters and friends. We visited Sis. Carrie Schmidgall, Sis. Sophie Sikoparija, Friend Ellen Nelson, and others.

A bus load of brothers and sisters and their families journeyed to Gridlev, Illinois for the wedding of Bro. Michael Prevo and Sis. Barbara Gramm. It was a tired and happy bunch that rolled in on Monday morning. One dear young brother traveling with us put it so nicely, when he said, "What a good time we can have when we know Jesus."

MORRIS MN Corrine Schmidgall Lois Schmidgall

Everyone is busy, but let us not forget the true meaning of Christmas. The Christ child was born into this world in such a humble way, so all could be saved. Many different groups of young people have gone caroling to the hospitals, rest homes, the aged and sick, to bring joy in their homes. The children and Sunday School teachers are going to present their program on Wed. evening, Dec. 22, to bring the story of Christmas.

We had a blessed week-end on Nov. 20-21, when we heard the testimonies of seven dear young souls, who were proved and baptized. They were Barb Joos (Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith), Tom and Dan Schmidgall (Bro. Flovd and Sis. Vila), Michelle Myers (Bill and Arletta), Gregg Gramm (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila), Nancy Schmidgall

(Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine), and Jim Meiss (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann). How wonderful to hear these dear souls give their testimonies, before a cloud of witnesses. Each one of us can remember when we sat in their places. It is a blessing to be renewed in our precious faith and know that God's plan is still working with us. To add to our wonderful week-end, Elder Bros. Leo Moser of Lester and Joe Braker of Morton assisted Bro. Paul Fehr in the reading of the memorandum, and many good teachings were brought forth. Surely we, as sheep, can be thankful that we have elders that are still concerned for our welfare and our soul salvation. Let us take heed, for without love and discipline our precious faith would surely fall. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Elmer Witzig of Gridley, Ken Lawson and Noah Miller both of Minneapolis, and Bro. Ken Dietz of Bradford.

Randy Koehl and Shirley Wulf have announced their engagement, and are planning a spring wedding. Parents of the couple are Bro. Charley and Sis. Esther Koehl and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet Wulf.

We have two more souls who have confessed peace with God and man and are awaiting baptism. They are Lenard Minke (son-in-law of Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner) and Vera Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn).

Among the hospital patients are Otto Greiner, Bro. Chris Moser, Byron Koehl (Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda), and Mary Schmidgall (Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda), all surgical, and Tim Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois) for medical treatment.

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Harold Gramm and family in the loss of his father, Bro. George Gramm of Gridley. One by one old soldiers of the cross are leaving us. All of us who have learned to know and love Bro. George will be looking forward to meeting in Paradise.

Graveside services were held for little Valerie, infant daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn Luthi . . . our sympathy to Ray, Marilyn and their family.

Ed Heil, age 73, passed away at his home on Dec. 4, after a lingering illness. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Laverna (Nohl); five sons, Robert, Howard, Kenneth, Charles and Lloyd; and three daughters, Margaret, Dorothy and

Vickie.

Reid Christopher was born to Gary and Rita Rose on Dec. 1. Bro. Werd and Sis. Lillian Koehl are the maternal grandparents; Glendon and June Rose are the paternal grandparents . . . Bro. Tony and Sis. Nancy Messner are parents of a son, Andrew Mark on Dec. 16. He has a brother, Michael to welcome him home. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Leo and Sis. Georgia Messner of Winthrop and maternal grandparents Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch.

"I would like to thank everyone for their deeds of kindness through the cards and gifts I received for my birthday and for Christmas. I also want to thank those who came to sing the beautiful Christmas carols and visit me." Sis. Rose Moser

MORTON IL

Lorna Schrock - Judy Springer

A blessed week-end was spent, when five of our dear young folks shared their testimonies with our congregation, and were baptized the following day. Bros. Roy Sander of Peoria and Dan Koch of Tremont were with us. Those baptized were: Marcy Coddington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Elward; Esther Herman, daughter of Sis. Emma and Bro. Clarence; Jay Getz, son of Sis. Louise Ellen and Bro. Howard; Mike Kaiser, son of Sis. Lorraine and Bro. Lloyd; and Bruce Schoenbein, son of Lydia Schoenbein. We wish them the Lord's continued guidance on their heavenly journey.

Jason Scott was born on Dec. 1 to Sis. Jackie and Bro. Ken Babin. Delighted older brother and sister are Kevin and Kimberly.

Those hospitalized during the past month are: Bro. Harry Wick, Sis. Sylvia Schmidgall (wife of Bro. Mike), Hollis Roby, Bro. Elmer Stoller, Sis. Anna Rapp, Keith Baum (son of Melvin and Linda), and Sarah Ackerman (daughter of Margie and Roger).

The engagement of Frank Bauman to Lorri Bartelmay has been announced. Their parents are Sis. Doris and Bro. Eldon and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bartelmay. An April 9 wedding is being planned.

Our congregation has been saddened by four deaths.

Phillip La Verne Joos, eight-day-old son of Sis. Peggy and Bro. Bob, died Nov. 23. In addition to his parents, two sisters and a bro-

ther survive. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Starlie Phillips Jr. of Smithville; paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Paul Joos.

Bro. Daniel Grimm, 71, died suddenly on Dec. 6. Surviving are his widow, Sis. Mary B. Rapp Grimm; one daughter, Sue; two sons, Bro. Daniel and Bro. Milton; three brothers, Bro. Henry, Bro. William, and Benjamin.

On Dec. 12, Bro. Walter Freidinger, 76, died at his home. His widow is the former Mabel Eaves, and surviving children are Mrs. James (Lynn) Stout, Mrs. Norma Cooper, and Lester. Two brothers and one sister also survive. They are Sis. Bertha (Harry) Getz, Bro. Ben and Jake.

Following a short hospitalization, Bro. Fred Grimm, 82, died on Dec. 15. He was married to Sis. Caroline Hoerr, who died in 1970. Surviving is one daughter, June Buttrick.

We sympathize with Sis. Elsa Schuon (wife of Bro. Karl), whose mother, Mrs. Helen Wiegelman of Danvers, died.

With joy, we watched the Sunday School children and young people present the story of Jesus' birth in word and song, during the annual Christmas program . . . A week later, the entire church divided into several groups and went Christmas caroling for the shut-ins and several nursing homes. Refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by all at the church, following the caroling.

On Sun. Dec. 19, Sis. Sharon Greene and Bro. Larry Stoller were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Phyllis Greene and Bro. Ray and Sis. Flossie Stoller of Bluffton.

"I want to thank my friends and relatives for prayers, cards, and gifts while in the hospital and since my return home." Sis. Anna Springer

NAUMBERG NY

Betty Virkler

Bro. Earl Rohr is still in the hospital, but is now out of intensive care. He received many cards when he celebrated his 90th birthday, Dec. 10.

Sis. Barbara Bachman observed her 99th birthday Dec. 15. She was born in 1877, at New Bremen, to the late Joseph and Anna Farney Virkler. She married Joseph C. Bachman Dec. 25, 1902, and has

since lived on the same farm at Naumburg. Her daughter and husband, Alice and Norman Lehman, reside with her. She has seven grandchildren: Mrs. Alton (Geneva) Virkler, New Bremen; Mrs. Robert (Janice) Crofoot, Castorland; Mrs. Frank (Janet) Tuley, La Grange Park, Il; James F. Lehman, Dewitt St., Lowville; Mrs. Duane (Elsie) McElheran, Beaver Falls; Sanford, Church St., Lowville. She has 12 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Bachman enjoys reading, and attends church regularly at Naumburg, where she has been a member for 72 years.

Members and friends from Naumburg congregation made their annual visit, singing hymns and Christmas carols for the shut-ins. They visited Greenbriar and the Skilled Nursing at Carthage, the extended care at Lowville, also Sis. Edith Herzig at her home.

NEW MARTINSVILLE WV Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

At this writing, Dec. 16, we are having lovely winter weather, no snow, sun shining brightly, but a cold wind indicates it is winter.

Mollie Emch Froelich, 87, passed away on Nov. 30, following a several weeks' illness. She was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Froelich, in 1972, her parents, six brothers and five sisters. Surviving are two daughters.

Clyde A. Riggenbach, 71, a son of the late Fred and Bertha Kloss Riggenbach, died on Dec. 1 after a long illness. Surviving are his widow and two children.

Marvin and Mary Klopfenstein of Latty, Clarence and Doris Koehl of Forrest, visited the Sardis church on Nov. 26 and visited with Miss Della Witschey at the Nursing Home later in the afternoon.

Ray Witschey of Pittsburg, Pa., who suffered a severe heart attack several weeks ago, is improving nicely and at home, being cared for by his wife, who is a registered nurse.

Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood has been returned to her home, after surgery in the local hospital, and is doing nicely, able to care for herself, and with the help of her two daughters is happy to be back home. Edward Berger is recovering very nicely from an illness of several weeks ago. Arthur Thornton, husband of Daisy Riggenbach Thornton, suffered a heart attack on Dec. 16, and will be confined in

the local hospital for at least three weeks.

The annual meeting of the officers and members of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery of Limestone Ridge will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Berger on Jan. 3.

Miss Della Witschey is doing very well in the Nursing Home and has many visitors; the folks from the Sardis church are very attentive to her, and she appreciates their visits very much; also her nieces and nephews here watch over her at all times.

Mr. and Mrs. Okey Edge of San Leandro, California returned to their home before Christmas, after spending several weeks with the Witschey families.

Mrs. Dennis Miller and Miss Joyce Indermuhle of Sardis visited with local relatives here on Dec. 15, bringing Christmas treats to shut-ins. The choral group from the Sardis Church came in on Dec. 29 and sang Christmas carols to many shut-ins also: their visits are always appreciated. I happen to be one that is always remembered by them.

Sgt. and Mrs. Timothy Murdock of Sumter, S. C., spent several days during the month with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Elza Ritz, Jimmy Wade of Reynoldsburg, O., visited with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade during the holidays.

Holiday guests of Minnie Weltz and Mary Ann Brothers during the holidays were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brothers of Mt. Vernon, O., Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wright and children of Jacobsburg, O., Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Weltz and children of McMechen, West Virginia.

OAKVILLE IA Phyllis Siegle

There were shepherds abiding . . . how the anticipation must have mounted in their hearts as they drew near the manger, where lay their Lord and Saviour! As we anticipate the celebration of His coming with the singing of carols, giving of gifts, and so forth, let us remember **why** He came: to show us the way of truth, and then to give Himself a ransom for our sins! Surely, **this** is love!

. . . And His love was felt among us as another soul was added to the fold; Kathy Lanz gave a testi-

mony of true faith and was baptized, to become a child of God. We welcome Sis. Kathy. Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman from Forrest assisted our Elder Bro. Edward Lanz. Kathy is the daughter of Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan.

Elder Bros. Perry and Ed related to us the conference report. It was truly a timely meeting for us. May we often ponder the holy teachings and be obedient unto them.

Friend Rhonda Grimm and Doug Peters are engaged. Rhonda is the daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Janice . . . Our friend, Stephen Stoller is engaged to Paula Mack. Stephen is the son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Ione.

We were thankful for the food given us by our visiting ministers: (Bros.) Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski; Duane Metzger, West Bend; and Earl Gerber, Forrest.

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Sunday evening, Dec. 19. It was truly heart-warming to see their happy faces, as they eagerly told of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Marisa Jean is the new little miss born to Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell. She is welcomed also by her three brothers, Landon, Nathan, and Clark. Grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Louise Rowell and Bro. George and Sis. Hazel Kuntz. Great-grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Lena Wegman . . . a son, James (Jamie) Theodore, was born to Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach. Six brothers and two sisters are also happy to have a baby at their home. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bertha Wagenbach and Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Behne . . . A daughter, Barbechen Hilda, was born to Peter and Sis. Luanne Beyer. They also have a son, Andrew. Grandparents are the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Hilda Gerst and the late Bro. Ralph and Sis. Nina Bever . . . **A child is a joy and a miracle too. A wonderful trust from heaven to you . . . to live and be reared with the tenderest care, through happy years a family can share.**

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Doris Kuntz have our sympathy upon the passing of Jerry's father, Lloyd Kuntz. He died at his home, of an apparent heart attack.

Lord willing, Bro. Dave and Sis. Sarah Miller will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary Dec.

24. They were married on Dec. 24, 1926, at Sabetha. They have resided at their present home since 1947. They are the parents of seven children. They have 24 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. An open house is being planned at their home on Sunday, Dec. 26.

Soon God will give another year,
Brand new with pages white.
We pray, dear God, that all our
deeds
Be worthy in Thy sight.

PULASKI IA

Janice Rinkenberger
Mary Jane Knapp

On Nov. 19, Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend were blessed with the arrival of their second son, Jamie Wade. His little brother, Joshua also welcomes him. Raymond and Karla Townsend of Bloomfield and Bro. Ken and Sis. Charity Scheitlin of Burlington are the grandparents.

Our annual Christmas program was held Dec. 19. It is certainly uplifting, to see our young ones participate with such eagerness in proclaiming the birth of our Lord and Saviour.

As the year 1976 is behind us forever, let us look forward to the new year with eager anticipation, trusting, as God, only, knows what it holds for each of us, that He will provide sufficient grace to carry us through, as He has promised.

REMINGTON IN

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

The year ahead is untried; it is a beckoning tomorrow that abounds with fresh possibilities and challenging assignments. No doubt it will be filled with difficult decisions, requiring spiritual discernment and a closer walk with the Heavenly Father. With eternal values in view, and with the solemn knowledge that the Lord will judge all that we do, let us go forward prayerfully, performing our duties faithfully as unto the Lord.

On Saturday morning, Nov. 20, we were privileged to hear the testimony of our dear friend, Luann Schneider, daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta. Baptismal services were held on Sunday, and in the evening our congregation partook of Holy Communion. Our vis-

iting ministers for the week-end were: Bros. Clarence Kachelmus (Forrest), Virgil Metzger (Champaign), John Steiner (Oakville), Elmer Witzig (Gridley), and Elder Bros. Ezra Feller (Cissna Park), Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott).

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized: Sis. Marie Schini, Sis. Eunice Knochel, Bro. Earl Kilgus, Susan Beckley (daughter of Elmer and Nancy), and Sis. Emma (Mrs. Herman) Beckley.

Sis. Charlotte Bahler wishes to express her thanks to all who remembered her with prayers, greetings and deeds of love during her hospital stay and since she has returned home.

RITTMAN OH

Grace Gasser

We were thankful to have Bro. Rudolph Graf of Akron with us on the afternoon of Nov. 21, to assist Bro. Joe Ramsier in reading the memorandum.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been: Bros. Delbert Indermuhle of Sardis and Ernest Graf of Akron.

Sis. Anna Blough was a hospital patient, but we're thankful she is able to be with us again.

Our sympathy is extended to Richard and Glenn Miller and Barbara Acker, in the loss of their mother, Mrs. Fanny Miller.

We welcome to our Rittman congregation those from neighboring churches who are now residing at the Apostolic Home: Sisters Caroline Dotterer and Emma Bucher of Mansfield, Eva Emery of Akron, and Alma Emch of Girard.

Many homes have been blessed with new arrivals. These include: Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller, a son named Kirby Alan. He is also welcomed by two sisters . . . Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner welcome their second son, named Joel Alvin. First-time parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener, a girl named Rebecca Ann . . . A daughter, Cheryl Ann, brought much joy to the home of Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler. Cheryl has four brothers and one sister . . . Bro. Tom and Mary Lov Saurer have a boy named Joel Thomas. He has two sisters.

We rejoice with Harry and Marguerite Gasser, who have turned to the Lord in repentance.

Announcement was made of the

engagement of Bro. Paul Manz of Junction and Sis. Sandra Ramsier, daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez.

As we are now being given a new, unspotted year, may our intentions and desires be as those stated in the following poem — to do better now . . .

He came to my desk with quivering lip—
The lesson was done—
Dear Teacher, I want a new leaf,
he said,
I have spoiled this one.
I gave him a new one, all unspotted,
And into his sad eyes smiled,
Do better now, my child.

I went to the Throne with a quivering soul
The old year was done—
Dear Father, hast Thou a new leaf
for me?
I have spoiled this one.
He took the old leaf, stained and blotted
And gave me a new one all unspotted,
And into my sad heart smiled,
Do better now, my child.

ROANOKE IL

Mae K. Hodel - Edith Sauder

We heard the testimonies of our dear friends, Dan Monk, Mike Hohulin, Russel Fischer, Curtis and Denise (Leman) Knepp. On Sunday, they were baptized and welcomed into the fold. Elder Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont) and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) were here to assist Bro. Don Sauder with this work, in the absence of Bro. Eugene Bertschi.

Our dear friends, Robert and Cindy (Hodel) Designe wish to give their testimonies this week-end in Taylor (Cindy's home church). We are glad Elder Bro. Roy Grimm will help with this most important work.

Elder Bros. Dale Eisemann and Joe Braker read the memorandum to us. We will be wise to follow the teachings set forth in God's holy word.

Funeral services were held for Bro. Peter Pfister, 101 years old, our oldest brother. He is survived by a daughter, Sis. Lena, with whom he lived in El Paso, and a son, Peter of Pontiac. He lived to a ripe old age, and just spent the last few days of his life in the hospital, following a fall at his home.

We have three births to report:

A son, Daniel Darren, to Judy and Dan Magnuson. Little Cheryl is happy for a playmate. Bro. Walter and Sis. Marian are the grandparents . . . Luke Edward was born to Mark and Connie Rocke, a brother for Jedd. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Bro. Harry and Sis. Lydia Rocke are the grandparents. Benjamin Robert was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter. Brenda and Brad welcomed him home. Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter of Sabetha are the grandparents.

The coming marriage of Sis. Sandra Barth (Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae) and Bro. Lee A. Beer (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley), Milford, was made known . . . Announcement was made of Bro. Tom Neu (Chicago) and Sis. Sandra Ringger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Nadine), Gridley, that they plan to be married.

Sis. Carol Barth (Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae) and Bro. Randy Fuecht (Bro. Walter and Sis. Iola) were united in Holy Matrimony Dec. 12. (Bros.) Chuck Hemmer, Jim Hoerr (Peoria), and Jim Ringger (Bradford) were here.

The Sunday School children and Bible class students presented their Christmas program in word and song Dec. 12.

A quartet. (Bros.) Dana Taufer (Morton), Steve Bucher (Washington), Earl Ringger (Gridley), and David Hodel (here) sang several numbers at our family sing.

"Thank you for visits, prayers, cards, gifts, and flowers for our 70th wedding anniversary." Bro. Andy and Sis. Emma Schumacher.

At this time, we have had 17 births, 11 deaths, 22 baptisms, and 16 marriages of friends and members.

Our Sis. Martha Martin has returned home from the hospital. Our dear Bro. Eugene Bertschi has suffered a stroke, following his third surgery, leaving his right side paralyzed. He understands and can form words with his lips. He was able to swallow water yesterday. Because he is very weak, they are giving him therapy in his room.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Roanoke.

ROCKVILLE CT

Carlton J. Lanz

Christmas of 1976 is passed. As it was passing, all around us we heard talks of peace on earth and good will toward men. Yet we know

that in many parts of the world there is no peace, and in the hearts of many men there is no good will. This was emphasized in one of our Christmas morning messages from our pulpit. It was pointed out how Mary, a most humble woman, submissive and willing to carry out the Great Plan of God, was chosen to become the mother of the Saviour. The greatness and wisdom of God is not to be measured. Are we not fortunate to really understand and know what the true meaning of peace on earth and good will to men is? the brother asked with emphasis.

These are indeed difficult times in which we live. We see a defeatist trend or philosophy has threatened to capture many of our young people, and older ones as well. Every era has brought with it specific problems.

As we begin our year of 1977, each day we will again decide the direction in which our lives will move, by selecting one course or another, by making a series of decisions. No matter what privations or indignities are the lot of man, if he can anticipate another day in life as an opportunity to better his condition, then he has hope . . . But if man does not have hope, his spirit is utterly crushed.

If we can shed a little light in a darkened corner, or replace fear with courage, plant a seed or two of hope where there is despair, and bring good will to an aching or troubled heart of just one . . . then we can count ourselves as privileged . . . And with God's help let us be one of the privileged.

Our beautiful program, which was well planned by the Sunday School teachers and others was held on Sunday afternoon. The assembly, with a full house in attendance, heard and saw these youthful children carry out the exercises, speaking their verses and little songs they learned. How fortunate are the children that, in this time in which we live, still have the privilege of learning the true meaning of the Saviour coming to this earth. Bro. John Bahler, our elder, opened the exercises with a very fitting prayer, and at the close delivered a friendly message to the classes. He remembered what he called fond memories of his and those of his time, when they were taught to learn of the Saviour. He reminded these children how they should think of these times, as they

grow in years when the time comes that they too will be called to serve God and the Saviour. The brief message was well accepted. The most beautiful hymn or carol was then sung by the entire audience, with a closing prayer offered by Bro. Roy Luginbuhl. Bro. Emanuel Luginbuhl, Sunday school superintendent, conducted the program.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Heidi Klotzle and Bro. Thomas Luginbuhl. She is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Lois (Hoffman) Klotzle and he the son of Bro. Ervin L. and Sis. Viola Luginbuhl.

SABETHA KS Mrs. Joe Steiner

The blessed story of the Christ,
The Babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.

Our hearts also were stirred to hear the songs of our Sunday school students, our future church, as they presented their annual Christmas program in song. It is heart-warming to see the sincerity on their faces, especially the younger classes. May they always remember the days of their youth and the good seeds that are being sown.

The Bern congregation met with us to hear the report of the conference. (Bros.) Lester Hartter and Gene Marti read the letter and spoke on the various subjects with love and admonition.

Donald Strahm, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen, entered the KU Medical Center on Dec. 14 as a surgical patient. Also hospitalized this past month were Sisters Mary Aberle, Ruby Grimm, Mary Huber and Tillie Aberle.

The Bern congregation will be meeting with us on Friday evening, the 24th, Christmas eve.

Our midweek services will begin again on the Wednesday evening after the start of the new year. We will alternate with Berne; services begin at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

TAYLOR MO Lena M. Haerr

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. Every word of the gospel is a joy-bell. We must be sure that we let this good news into our hearts, else we can never share this great gladness.

We enjoyed three visiting ministers and their families when they visited relatives. Bros. Art Baurer—Princeville, Lenny Meyer—Chicago, and Garth Steffen—Portland.

Several sisters of Taylor church attended the dinner and bazaar at the Home for the Handicapped in Morton, a day well-spent and enjoyed.

Nancy and Keith Oberlander, Pasadena Ca., are parents of six-year-old Joey, who came to make his home with them on Dec. 3. The Henry Hodels of Quincy and John Oberlanders of Morton are the grandparents.

Three-year-old Dana, daughter of Dan and Jody Sutter Meyer, fell over a register and cut her face quite badly.

Bob and Cindy Hoerr DeSigne were announced to give their testimony of repentance and conversion, the 18th of December at the Taylor church. We rejoice with them. Bob is the son of Ray and the late Margaret, and Cindy the daughter of John and Rose Hoerr of Quincy.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Taylor.

TOKYO JAPAN

Yoshio Yamazaki-Marie Inoue

Bros. Vernon Leman—Eureka, John Klotzle—Altadena, and Jim Hoerr—Peoria made a stop to visit us on their way to India. Bro. Leman spend Sunday in our Tokyo church and gave us an inspired message through the Holy Spirit, on John 3, being reborn. In the afternoon, we were taught from the Beautitudes in Matthew 5, being reminded how important **spiritual salt** is in our life. Salt, a very important item in the Japanese diet, strengthens and preserves food. We often need to be strengthened by hearing the word, that our faith may be preserved. It was mentioned that, after a very long journey across the Pacific, how good it was to see the lights shining at Tokyo International Airport. It was like a welcome after a long journey, and so will our Saviour be waiting for all the true and faithful after our journey here. We learned that we carry responsibility with our "light" to glorify our Father. If our light is not a good example, we bring shame, mockery and reproach upon Christ's name.

After our services, Bro. Vernon

gave an interesting explanation of our brotherhood's World Relief program.

So many things happened, from Lockheed business to the general election here. We can't realize what might happen in the future. The world becomes much busier day by day. When Christmas comes, it's busy in town, and we can hear jingle bells here and there . . . But it's really an unfortunate thing that most people don't know about the true meaning of Christmas. According to the police department, quite a few people were killed by the traffic accidents last Christmas eve. We hope not this year. Our churches here, in Japan, are going to Christmas eve service in Tokyo on Dec. 24.

What and how much did we do for God this year? We should think about our spiritual fruit. We wish you all have very blessed New Year in 1977.

TOLEDO OHIO Josephine Rehklau

If you were given a dish of sand, and told that there were particles of iron in it, you might look for them with your eyes and search for them with your fingers, and be unable to detect them; but take a magnet and sweep through it, and see how it would draw to itself the invisible particles, by the mere power of attraction.

The uncharitable heart, like your fingers in the sand, will find no true happiness; but let the spirit of charity sweep through the day, and as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find in every hour God's rich blessings.

Bro. Walter Rager has been in the hospital for eye surgery. We are thankful that he is now at home for a period of recuperation.

Sis. Irene and Burley Zeigler would like to thank everyone who remembered them on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Somehow, it is not only at Christmas, but all the year through, that the joy you bring to others is the joy that comes back to you.

TREMONT IL

Lydia Rassi-Mary Jane Leuthold
At Home tis well! There shall the pilgrim tarry, when tired and worn by sorrow, grief and strife.

In Heaven, when the hard race of early life is run, the longborne load no more she'll carry. Dear Sis. Lucy Laidig passed into her eternal rest Nov. 28, after a month's illness. Her quiet, humble manner will be missed among our congregation. May the comforting Spirit of the Lord be with Bro. Herman and daughter, Sis. Dorothy (Bob) Wagenbach. They wish to express their heartfelt thanks for cards, visits, gifts, food and prayers during the hospitalization and passing away of their loved one. Bro. John Steiner, Oakville, was with us for the services.

Bro. Levi Sauder suffered a heart attack, but is now at home again. Bro. Walt Aberle had a ruptured disc, which required surgery. He is improving nicely in his home also. Bro. Orville Locke was hospitalized with an infection, but is recovering, Bro. Dave Koch was down with pneumonia for a time, and Bro. Elmer Sauder has had many days in his illness. **In sorrow and pain thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Saviour. In patience then bear all trial and care. Above streams of bliss will refresh thee.** Sis. Velda (Carl) Glueck is able to assemble with us again, and wishes to express her thanks for all deeds done unto her during her illness.

Sis. Katie Oertle observed her 88th birthday and received over 100 birthday wishes, for which she expresses her heartfelt thanks. She is among us every Sunday and stays in her own home, doing her own housework for her and her son. Surely the Lord has richly blessed her with good health, and she is a humble, shining example among us all.

How richly blessed we were again. Bros. Nate Stoller—Bradford, Dave Kieser—Princeville, and Russell Rapp—Morton were with us to hear Mark and Marcia Rapp expound to us the joy and peace that has entered into their hearts. This wonderful feeling came only after they unloaded that burden of sin that had possessed their hearts for many years. Now they have and feel the Spirit of God ruling their hearts and lives. It was brought out, that we should clean out our hearts much the same way we would weed our garden. If we would not confess our sins to man,

it would be like pulling the weeds out at ground level; soon they begin to grow again, and we fall back into the same path we left. We completely clean out our heart, and all things are brought into the light, just as pulling the weeds out by the roots, it is brought into the light, and soon the sun's heat completely kills it. So our sins are brought unto the light, and we become dead unto our old sinful way, through His grace and strength.

TUSCON ARIZONA

Gloria Bauer

Our annual business meeting was held. New offices being filled were: Bro. Bob Haas—Trustee; Sis. Rita Bertschi—Sunday School Teacher; Sis. Caroline Zeltwang—Silver lining reporter.

Our congregation had the wonderful privilege of hearing the testimonies of Sue Lanneck and Dorothy Heckel. We all rejoiced with them and counted it a special blessing to have them as our sisters in Christ.

Bro. Jay Bertsch had the misfortune of breaking his ankle. He is progressing nicely at the home of his son, Wendell. Sis. Martha Blessman is spending some time in the hospital, after having a bad fall.

We welcome Sis. Darlene Stoller of the Latty congregation. She has moved to Tucson and is working at the Tucson Medical Center. We wish her God's blessing in this new venture.

VALPARAISO IN

Marie Heinold

What shall be for the coming year?
What shall my watchword be?
What dear Lord, in this New Year?
What shall please Thee?

Lord, I would ask for a holy year.
Spent in Thy perfect will.
Help me to walk in Thy footsteps.
Help me to please Thee still.

Lord, I would ask for a year of love.

Oh, let me love Thee best.
Give me the love that faileth not
Under the hardest test.

Esther Neuffer has to undergo major surgery Dec. 20. Her ad-

dress is St. Catherines Hospital, East Chicago Il 46312.

A precious little bundle came Dec. 14, to bless the home of Sis. Susan and Keith Heinold. They named her Katherine Marie.

Bro. Henry Beer was our December visiting minister—what a blessed day we enjoyed! He told of the tenderness that comes into a home and hearts, or even the arms that hold a new baby. He told of the long-awaited birth of the Christchild—and also how a mother and family await and prepare for the birth of their child. A song that meant so much to him: **I am so glad I belong to the family of God . . .** Also a motto: **I want to be better than I appear.**

Sis. Tillie Heinold (Bro. John) is well on the road to recovery, after a two-week stay in the hospital with pneumonia. Our small congregation misses her presence very much.

Our thanks to Francesville visitors who took part in a very enjoyable Christmas program and caroling Dec. 12.

Wishing you a blessed 1977.

WEST BEND IOWA

Mrs. Melvin Fehr
Mrs. Raymond Anliker

An inspiring message by Bro. Dale Moore of Elgin, Ia., was laid to our hearts, of God's love and grace that each have access to, if we humbly ask for it.

Precious bundles from heaven are welcomed in the following homes: Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr, Darren, Ann, and Jason welcome home Ryan Dennis, born Nov. 30. Grandparents are Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz and Sis. Nima Fehr . . . A first child, Elizabeth Ann, born Nov. 30 to Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg. Grandparents are Bro. Oscar and Sis. Frances Zaugg and first time grandparents Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise Anliker . . . a son, Chad Alfred, born Dec. 12 to Alfred and Annette Fehr. Happy grandparents are Eldon and Verdell Fehr and the Carl Hansans.

At our annual meeting, duties of teaching our youth in their tender years have been placed on Bro. Wayne Fehr, Sis. Phyllis Banwart and Sis. Lela Banwart. Sis. Becky Banwart will be your new Silver Lining reporter. May God grant each one wisdom and grace as they

serve their terms.

Hospital patients have been Collette Fehr (daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Mary Mogler and Dick Schmidt. Remaining hospitalized is Bro. George Sauder.

Recently announced was the engagement of Dean Banwart (son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther) and Irene Meyer (daughter of Sis. Emma Meyer of Lester).

We rejoice that our friend, Merlyn Metzger, has heeded His gracious call and turned to the Lord. May the grace of God be with him.

The Sunday School students presented their Christmas program, through songs and Bible verses. May we be inspired by the story told of why our Saviour came to earth.

WASHINGTON IL

Carole Kellenberger

How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Philip asked the Ethiopian, "Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me?"

How we appreciate the dear brothers from our neighboring churches who have preached the Gospel unto us: Bros. Willis Wiegand, Russell Rapp, Harold Schmidtgall, Bruce Leman, Simon Wagenbach and Albert Aberle. Bros. Bob Grimm and Ezra Feller were with us Thanksgiving Day . . . And our Elder Bros. Roy Sauder and Joe Braker read and expounded on the Conference Conclusions on Dec. 1.

Young and old from our congregation enjoyed an evening of Christmas carolling, and the Sunday School presented its program the following evening. We are so thankful for the enthusiasm of our youth, and may we strive for the simple faith which they display.

WICHITA KANSAS

Glennis Allenbach

I would like to share with you the beautiful passing of a loved one. You may wonder at my choice of the word **beautiful**, but bear with me.

My aunt was 81 years old and had been a Christian since youth. She had a zest and appreciation for life and believed in miracles more than most. During her last

few months, her health failed fast. Her last night was extremely restless, and she could not be completely roused in the morning. She could scarcely utter a word. They never dreamed of her going so fast, until a short time before, her daughter experienced a heavenly thought. She didn't quite understand. It was as if the loved ones already in heaven were saying, "Get ready for a jubilee; Hazel's coming home." It wasn't long before she plainly called her husband and, while he and others were in the room, she began saying, "Jesus". They felt she was actually seeing Him. She repeated Jesus' name again and again, never taking another breath after saying it the last time. She passed so quickly and quietly, they didn't know she was gone . . . They shared a time of prayer, knowing at that moment she was with the Lord. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

A precious week-end was spent by our young people, when they invited brothers, sisters and friends from all over Kansas. The Lord has blessed us with several new converts.

WINTHROP MN Delores Messerli Marcelle Dapper

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief . . ." Elder brethren, Eugene Marti, Paul Fehr and Leo Moser presented the memorandum. We enjoyed a most memorable evening together.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Among the many precious teachings Bro. Merrill Laukhuf, Latty, brought to us was to tell of John Newton, the hymnwriter of **Amazing Grace**, a truly meaningful hymn. He had a touching personal encounter with the Lord that changed his life, as he was out at sea. I'm sure if we knew of our hymnwriters, each one would have a special testimony to tell, which prompted them to write such beautiful words in song. Down through

the ages they have been and will continue to be a blessing to us.

A NEW YEAR AHEAD, BUT THE SAME GOD.

Thou remainest; Thou art the same and Thy years shall not fail.

As we begin a new year, we realize more and more that we live in a world where transition is the regular pattern of our days. We are thankful the attributes of God are not altered by the shifting sands of time. For example, His LOVE is unchanging. Unlike human affection, it never wanes, but remains constant under all circumstances. His POWER is unchanging. He said, **All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.** His ADVOCACY is unchanging. He is a Mediator who is always aware of our needs. His CARE is unchanging. We can cast all our anxieties upon Him, for He is concerned about us. To all our loved ones, our prayer is to face 1977 with courage, by putting our faith in the almighty God who is always the same!

Tim Schmidts have been blessed with a baby boy, their first child, named Joshua Timothy. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel are the maternal grandparents.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Winthrop.

Sis. Pearl Lienemann was hospitalized for treatment, and we are thankful all went well. Lord willing, Bro. Jim Messner will have ear surgery. After a month in the hospital, Sis. Jeanine Messner is thankful to be home with her family, but is very weak yet. We called her, and she asked that we express her appreciation for the gifts in the sunshine box, cards, visits and prayers offered in her behalf.

The children of Bro. and Sis. Cornelius Messerli hosted an open house for their 35th Wedding Anniversary. Many friends and relatives attended. THANK YOU for remembering us on this day!

Know Each Other Better

Lyla is our God's little angel! She was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Messner, but is a part of all of us. Lyla goes to Winthrop public school. We are fortunate to have the county classes for handicapped children in our city. Children come from other schools in the county by bus.

Lyla enjoys the fellowship, shaking hands and knows us all by name; then asks "who's that" if there is a visitor. It is my privilege to have Lyla in my Sunday School Class. She does not always appear to be taking part, but come Sunday evening, ask her what she learned in Sunday School, she is ready with a quick answer. Singing is one of her favorite pastimes. Lyla knows many of the hymns by heart and sings along with great enthusiasm. A favorite of hers is "What a Day That Will Be". I know her Jesus she will see.

WOLCOTT IN Laurel Widmer

Again the Christmas season is past. Let's look forward to the new year, and strive to put the spirit of Christmas in our everyday lives. As God freely gave us His Son, we also should bear in mind that it is what we give during life that is important, not what we receive.

Robbie Lehman, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna, suffered an eye injury while playing. Kristie Furrer (Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley) was involved in a bus accident on her way to school, but suffered no injuries. Sis. Dorothy Lehman was a patient for tests and diagnostic surgery. She is now home, doing well, and wishes to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and prayers during her hospital stay. Sis. Leah Farney was dismissed to the home of her son, after recovery from a stroke.

February is Silver Lining Collection for Wolcott.

ZAPATA TEXAS

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" How wonderful it is to have this fellowship in the Lord . . . singing our beautiful hymns, that have so much meaning.

On Dec. 19, there were 46 at our services. Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and Sis. Elsie of Goodfield have been with us the month of December. Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin has been bringing the messages clear and plain, for which we are grateful.

Our meeting place: Siesta Shore Community Building, Siesta Shore sub division, on Highway 83. Look for the church sign. Services start

10:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M. We welcome everyone coming this way. Here are two telephone numbers to call: Edwin Hohulin 765-5123 . . . Herman Kellenberger 765-5219.

SARDIS OHIO

Linda Indermuhle

Not one of us knows what the new year will bring us of joy or sorrow. How precious is the promise, that we will not be tempted or burdened with more than we can bear—that God's grace will be sufficient for all things.

Caroling was a blessing for everyone who was able to sing for our loved ones.

Sis. Ruth Headley is feeling better. She wishes to thank everyone for the cards and hospitality she received while being sick.

CROGHAN NEW YORK

Alice Virkler

John Purvines was taken from this life on Nov. 22 at the age of 19 years. He sought help for his brother and another hunter after their boat capsized, and they were stranded on an island in a snow-storm, while returning home from a week-end hunting trip. John crossed the water on a homemade raft and walked 7½ miles for help. When help did not come the following day, his brother, Robert, also left on a raft in search for help. After walking the 7½ miles, he found his brother's body. Funeral services were held by Bro. John Widrick on Friday. He is survived by his parents, Larry and Sis. Louise; three sisters, Joyce (James) Rice, Janet (Louis) Beck, Linda (Frederick) Lawton; three brothers, Robert, Michael and Lawrence; his maternal grandmother, Sis. Huldah Farney; his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Fern Purvines, Springfield, Illinois. He was born April 16, 1957, and has been employed as a machinist since graduation from high school.

Our Sunday School children gave their Christmas program on Sunday evening, Dec. 19. What a blessing we receive, when we hear the children sing and speak of the birth of our Saviour and tell what they have learned in the Sunday School. Cookies and chocolate milk were enjoyed in the basement after the program.

We fellowshipped with the Naum-

burg congregation, for a covered-dish supper and Christmas singing.

Their first child, a daughter, was born to Andy and Wendy Lehman on Nov. 20. She has been named Chelsea Lynne and is also welcomed by grandparents, Donald and Sis. Rita Petzoldt, and Richard and Theresa Lehman, and great-grandparents, Bro. Ted Sr. and Sis. Amelia Belle Virkler.

Sis. Barbara Virkler is our hospital patient.

MAYWOOD CA

Helen Julien

Greetings from the Maywood church. It's been some time since we've had any news edited from this, small congregation, and several people have inquired about it, so I was asked if I would write for them. I didn't feel I could since I am not of the church, but after praying on it I feel I should.

It is sad, and sometimes discouraging, to see how the congregation has been dwindling down to so few. There are now only eleven members, but due to ill health some of the aged are unable to attend. Eight of the members are in their seventies and up.

Hulda Imthurn, our oldest member in age at 94, hasn't been able to attend for almost a year. Julia Milenkovich, who will be 91 in February, was with us about two months ago. She is such an adorable little lady, and while she was not feeling good at all, she said she hadn't been here in six months and was going to make it . . . She had a heart condition and was in intensive care for five days before being sent home. I'm told she isn't eating much and sleeps most of the time. It would be nice if those of you who know her would send a card. She has always tried so hard to attend, even with such severe headaches that she suffered for quite some time. Her address is 2715 N. Santa Fe, Compton CA 90221. Mary Schick, her sister, who is a faithful attender and still driving the freeway at 86 or 87, has not been able to be with us for several weeks, which is very unusual for her. I don't know if she is ill; she wasn't feeling too well the last time I talked to her, or if it is because of Pete, her husband . . . who has not been about for about two years, due to

his poor health.

Our Sunday school class consists mostly of the neighborhood children who drop in now and then. I sometimes think they are just coming in for the beautiful lunches the older women serve, especially Eva Fuehrer and Faye Percy . . . but they are such neglected-looking children, they actually look like they are starving. Eva and Faye always prepare more than enough and seem to get a reward in seeing them enjoy what is one of their favorite pastimes, baking. Faye reads to them in Sunday School when they visit. Eva is the "churchwife" who keeps it so clean.

The ministers from Altadena take turns serving, and since there are only on the average about eight or ten people, including us friends, we just have church in the morning.

Bill Hecker has been assembling with us the past two months or so, and the last few weeks, Doris, who is in a wheelchair, has been able to come with him. It sure helps when one or two more are added to help with the singing of hymns.

We at Maywood would like to wish you all a very happy healthy and blessed year, and invite you to visit our church with so many empty pews waiting to be filled as they once were. So welcome ALL of you.

SHIODA JAPAN

Willis R. Ehnle

Bro. Hisato Inoue, a young brother still in his twenties, and I were visiting about some of the friends we have coming to church and their attitude about seeking their soul's salvation. Hisato quoted a Japanese proverb which states, "He taps on a stone bridge before crossing it", indicating a person who is very cautious, but very stable once he has checked a matter out carefully. This is similar to what Jesus taught when He said, "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? We do not want our friends to wait, but we do want them to be complete in their surrender and stable after their conversion to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our friends, Hideo and Sumiko Takei were blessed with a baby

boy, whom they named **Practicing Faith**, which in Japanese is pronounced **Nobuyuki**. The Chinese character for Nobu means faith, and the Chinese character for Yuki means practicing. Pretty good name, I would say. "The just shall live by faith." The reason I say Chinese characters is because during the Nara Period, between 710 and 749, Japan went to China and borrowed their written language as the basis for their own written language. Prior to that, Japan had no written language and could only pass on their history from generation to generation by word of mouth.

Three former students of the American school in Tokyo for children of fundamental missionaries have served time in prison in the United States and Canada, in one case at least, for armed robbery. What goes wrong and how can such things be prevented in the future? If we as parents would make it a practice to listen patiently to our children when they have something to say, and also make it a practice to kneel together in prayer as a family, in our living rooms each night, the effect is almost certain to be of benefit. You still have the influence of television to counteract, if your children have access to it. In the case of missionary children, many of them leave home at an early age to go to boarding school, where there is TV and where they may lose the opportunity to keep their authority figure, usually the father and mother in the home.

Sis. Morie Uchida suffered a light stroke. She comes to church every Sunday, but the left side of her body is partly incapacitated. Let us pray for one another.

It is a good thing for us here on earth that time is divided into segments, for it helps us to live regulated lives. We look forward to the New Year as a fresh start, a time to put the past behind and to face the future with joy and enthusiasm. **Forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward the mark . . .**

SILVERTON OR Kathy Dietrich

We enjoyed having visiting Bro. Henry Dotterer minister to us. We appreciate each of the brothers who are willing to be spent on our

behalf.

As the Christmas season nears again, let us lend an ear to the message even the children bring in their verses:

The birthday of Jesus has joy for the soul,
And men with the angels His praises extol!
For God in His Son still dwells among men;
All glory to God for this Christmas again.

LAMAR MO

Becky Hohulin - Janice Braker

When we think of Christmas, we think of opening our hearts and giving freely to others . . . Or we might also be reminded of the little baby, born in a stable, sharing His humble birthplace with animals. This same little boy was to grow up and some day die on the cross, that our burden of sin might be lifted.

Sis. Emma Lanz was again hospitalized for tests. We are thankful that she is home again and able to assemble with us.

On Dec. 18, a few gathered to go Christmas caroling for the older ones. I'm sure they could feel their efforts were already rewarded, when they could see how appreciative these dear older ones were.

Here are some reminders as we look forward to another new year: Face the New Year with the Old Book . . . Face the New Needs with the Old Promises . . . Face the New Problems with the Old Gospel . . . Face the New Life with the Old Remedies.

PRINCEVILLE IL

Ruth Ricketts

Thanksgiving was a beautiful, warm, sunny day, and a number gathered in the House of Worship to give thanks to God for the many, many blessings enjoyed the past year. Every day should be a day of thanksgiving. Are we as grateful for our many possessions, as the Pilgrim's were for their meager possessions?

Many gathered the last Saturday night in November, with short services being conducted by Bro. Bob Grimm of Goodfield. We heard the stirring testimony of a dear friend, Barbara Streitmatter, whose questioning was led by her great uncle, Bro. Henry Grimm of Morton. How uplifting to listen to the experience of a young soul who had the same experience as many

older ones present. Barbara's parents, Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia, her Grandfather and Grandmother Bauman of Morton were present to hear of her experience. Sunday, (Bros.) James Ringger of Bradford and Henry Grimm occupied the pulpit. A meditation on the Beatitudes gave much food for thought. We have many opportunities to witness for the Lord, rather than just blend in with the ways of the world. After afternoon services, a large number witnessed the baptism of Barbara, and she became a sister in our precious faith.

Thanksgiving Day, Sisters Louise and Hulda Martin enjoyed dinner with their sister, Sis. Martha Hemmer at the Peoria Church Home. Hulda became ill, was taken to the hospital for examination and was sent home. The following day she became so sick she was admitted to the hospital. She was alert and interested in the activities of the family. Late Saturday, Nov. 27, she quietly slipped into eternity, having had a blood clot behind her heart. Nearly eight years ago, Sis. Hulda suffered a paralyzing stroke, and all these years she had been very courageous, and very determined to keep active. She had been an avid knitter, & after a time mastered knitting with her left hand, using her paralyzed hand to hold her work, and has done some large, beautiful pieces of work. For therapy, she and her sister, Louise have become interested in ceramic work and have turned out many nice articles. Hulda was not afraid to pursue new avenues, giving confidence to those around her. Louise was her constant companion who helped in all her needs. She had worked as a secretary for the same firm for 46 years and still worked part-time since her stroke. She was a light and inspiration to all who knew her, and a joy to be around. She is survived by three sisters, Sisters Martha Hemmer of Peoria, Mary Scholl and Louise Martin of Princeville. Bro. Dave Kieser and other local ministers conducted services on Nov. 30. The family wishes to thank everyone for the acts of sympathy extended during their bereavement.

Many from the Princeville and Bradford congregation spent a soul-stirring evening, when Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley came Dec. 1 to assist our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser in reading and meditating on the memorandum. What a joy to be a

DALE WLEGAND
200 EAST BULLOCK
EUREKA ILL 61530

part of such a precious body of believers!

Bro. Ben Streitmatter is still in the hospital in grave condition. A few doors away, Ben's brother Paul is very ill. He was taken to the hospital following a stroke, from which he has recovered, but suffered two heart attacks since. He seems to be slowly improving.

Sometime ago, Sis. Lucille Rumbold was in the hospital for surgery, and we are thankful she is recovering nicely. "Many thanks to my relatives, friends and neighbors for prayers, cards, visits, telephone calls, flowers and gifts I received while in the hospital and since returning home." Mrs. Ezra Rumbold . . . Bro. Ezra Rumbold spent 11 days in the St. Francis Hospital for tests and treatments, and is now at home and able to be out again. "I want to thank those who remembered me with tele-

phone calls, visits, flowers and gifts while in the hospital and since returning home." Ezra Rumbold.

Many signs indicate the approaching Christmas season, decorations and colored lights, but precious is the groups of carolers who bring so much cheer to shut-ins and elderly. Children are learning their little pieces and songs for the Sunday School program, to be given Dec. 19.

As we approach a new year, we wonder with anticipation what it holds in store for us, yet if we place our trust in our Lord and Creator, we need not fear, for He will go with us.

**BREMEN IN
Marian Germann**

God has chosen a vessel from our congregation to minister unto us.

Bro. Bob Beebe was put in as a minister on Dec. 4. Bro. Bob, Sis. Sue and their four sons will need many prayers and acts of love as they take such a great opportunity on from the Lord.

The healing of God's hands has been on our hospital patients. Kenny Germann and Jake Schuch both had hip surgery at the same time.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Rudy Graf, Loren Stoller, John Bahler, and Wendell Gudeman.

CHICAGO IL

Three addresses, two of college students, one of a serviceman: Jenny Gerst, 1518 Hewett, Normal Il 61761 . . . Mark Gerst, 201 Shelbourne Drive Apt. 2 Normal Il 61761 . . . Pfc Ken Foxe 044-40-2471, D BTY 2nd BATT, 5 ADA Ft. Bliss TX 79916.

STILL ROOM

Henry Souder Jr.

God has prepared a wonderful supper. It is an eternal thing. The Father has for His family joy. Full of satisfying contentment. In Luke 14, Jesus opens to us festivity that will never end.

We see the boundless love of God. So nice is it, so nice to come Home to . . . so rich . . . the Father Himself is glorious riches. Why did He take all that care, working to make such a supper? What was His thought? What is the call that went out to come?

What is this! Marvellous love! Beautiful joy! Canyons have scenic loveliness. This love is awesome — grandeurs of rising heights and depths . . . wondrous width and beautiful breadth. In Eternity He will be revealing His marvelous love.

He pleads for souls, to come. It's all ready, the very best. It lasts, without end. There He is, just like that father who saw His son coming, away off. He ran to meet him. There just is nothing like the sweetness of God. We see for ourselves a Father heart of beautiful

love.

Can you picture those He called, the lack of concern? . . . the hum drum of self drowning out the tender voice? How exactly does holy scripture picture the human heart, unconcerned.

How woefully sad is the character of the uncaring sinner. . . It is forging its failure, fabricating its flimsy excuse, but, at what cost. Strange, how the heart refuses to believe so much, so very much is missed . . . they will never see the wonder, joy and satisfaction of knowing God. Sin must soar and roar down. Unlistened it is unstoppable. The whole fruit becomes bad, no good. They miss our Lord, who is light, joy and life. Their woeful character presents a sad accumulation of heaping sins. A dungeon of heavy chains sinking them forever in stark misery.

Go quickly. The hardened Jew refused to hear. Yet God will have His people. The excusing, uncaring, fretting would never fit. Even if they got in, their heart would be sinister. There never could be any

harmony. God knows who He wants. There's no favoritism, no prejudice.

The called He makes into His own likeness. They are after His own heart. The golden grain is saved for everlasting banquet. Not one, not the least will He miss . . . and how beautiful they become. The rose in His garden, a thing of beauty, a joy forever.

Yet there was room. There's gaiety for someone. Come . . . a morning of gladness . . . a freedom from ever hearing that, **Depart away from Me.** There is no sadder words. If weeping is to be done, our heart should flow for such a soul. It is an enduring parting. Away . . . away . . . away.

His call is our command. There's a lost sheep out on the cold mountain. We need to pray, to work, love and care. His family is not complete. He is searching, even until the last one is brought in.

Our privilege is to help Him in His gladness find . . . and make His circle complete.

We have a real-for-sure part.