



And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away

from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

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

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

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INTO THE SUNSET GLOW

Real . . . eternity is actually and really true. Hope has wonderful dreams. We know that God is. Knowing eternal life is knowing the Father and the Son. Not a passing acquaintance, but a rich, deep undying Oneness. His people live in His love. His together is the way of life now fitting us for His house . . . eternal life is the life of the heavenly Jerusalem . . . the life of Jesus goes on and on, forever and ever.

Why do I love Thee, Lord? It's not that I have seen Thy beautiful face or because Thou hast physically fed and clothed me and given me an earthly home, or that Thou hast allowed me beautiful music and sweet fragrances. Yet, I know Thy beauty and have tasted Thy manna, drank Thy living water and felt Thy garment of salvation, heard the music of Thy sweet voice and have known the sweet savor of Thy love, and I know I love Thee, Lord.

Christmas, counting on man's calendar, is one day. In God's view, His together is everlasting and continuous. Beautiful in July, October or March . . . a million years hence . . . always. Our Saviour came to earth in time's counting. A thousand years in His sight is as one day. His giving is for always, so let us rejoice . . .

In the fullness of time in a faraway clime,
God sent down a Saviour to earth,
And the wise men were led by a star to His bed,
The herald which told of His birth.
It will lead us aright through the darkness of night,
To Jesus our Saviour and King,
And our hearts once so sad, will rejoice and be glad.
He cometh, Salvation to bring!

The star still stands for His divine direction. He leads to His priceless Gift. If we could imagine getting here a roomy mansion, fantastic chests filled with gold and jewels, lifetime incomes for easy street, wardrobes of fabulous clothing, vain positions of power where men look up to us, that's nothing. Not even worthy to compare to His gift. He gives the bread of life, satisfying, enduring,

everlasting. The beautiful residences, Hometown, Home street, His family and all . . . so wonderful!

It matters not who or what you are,
All men can behold The Christmas Star—
For the star that shone is shining still
In the hearts of men of peace and good will;
Joining together in brotherly love,
Let us worship again our Father above,
And forgetting our own little selfish desires
May we seek what the star
Of Christmas inspires.

It's nice to give something to someone and their heart smiles up . . . We do not see His face, but we know and feature what He likes . . . God, the Father, and His Son have joys and sorrows too . . . Jesus was moved to tears. It's a happy heart that brings to Jesus every day what delights His heart.

The Best Christmas Gift Ever . . .

Let me see — what can I give Him?
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would give him a little lamb.
If I were a wise man—
I would really do my part,
But what can I give Him?
I know! The best thing I can give is to
Give Him my heart!

When we give our heart, our life becomes a giving.

The divine timetable says we should number our days that we may apply them to wisdom. To number is to count the way God counts . . . and not boasting of tomorrow . . . seeing our days as they really are, only a little fog and then vanishing away. Counting is trusting, asking for this day . . . leaving and casting all our cares and concerns with God. He perfectly fits and blends into the numberless ages of ages coming.

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

Holding the rejoicing and con-

fidence fast unto the end, that means wonderful and final triumph. No chance of loss, no fear of defeat in that abiding. How heaven will ring with jubilant voices. Ahead . . . look! when we abide, we receive His Best . . . Clouds are behind, ahead sunshine and seashore, warmth and beauty before . . . His family are all present, right with us . . . Best of all, we'll really be with our God and our Jesus. He will welcome, and be so happy to have us. We'll feel and see His pleasure.

I would be true, Lord, in this new year. Amen.

Soon this becomes that, for passing must pass. Eternity dawns in all His everlasting continuousness and beauty.

Really true. Actually real. It is all gloriously true. Just as we believed.

Lift up in faith your eyes
To realms beyond the skies;
Move onward toward the prize
That waits for all
Who hear the call
And make the sacrifice.

When His time comes, and heaven and earth passes away, His people will be living on and on. That's His word. We shall see our own jewels fitted and placed by Him. What joy to be with our own people, who live the way of God, the way we do. What love and kindly caresses. Safe forever in His care.

The Master was searching for a vessel to use;
Before him were many,
Which one would he choose?
Take me, cried the gold one,
I'm shiny and bright.
I'm of great value, and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,
And for someone like you, Master, Gold would be best.

The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a silver urn narrow and tall.
I'll serve you, dear Master. I'll pour out your wine;
I'll be on your table whenever you

dine.
My lines are so graceful,
My carvings so true,
And silver will always compliment
you.

Unheeding, the Master passed on
to the brass,
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.
Here! Here! cried the vessel, I
know I will do.
Place me on your table for all men
to view.
Look at me, called the goblet of
crystal so clear,
My transparency shows my contents
so dear,
Though fragile am I, I will serve
you with pride,
And I'm sure I'll be happy in your
house to abide.

The Master came next to a vessel
of wood,
Polished and carved, it solidly
stood.
You may use me, dear Master,
The wooden bowl said,
But I'd rather you used me for
fruit, not for bread.
Then the Master looked down and
saw a vessel of clay,
Empty and broken, it helplessly
lay.
No hope had the vessel
That the Master might choose
To cleanse and make whole, to fill,
and to use.
Ah! This is the vessel I've been
hoping to find.

I'll mend it and use it and make
it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of
itself,
Nor one that is narrow to sit on the
shelf,
Nor one that is big-mouthed and
shallow and loud,
Nor one that displays his contents
so proud.
Not the one that thinks he can do
all things just right,
But this plain, earthly vessel, filled
with power and might.
Then gently he lifted the vessel of
clay,
Mended and cleansed it, and filled
it that day;
Spoke to it kindly — There's work
you must do —
Just pour out to others, as I pour
into you.

It is so very important to use
His opportunity. This day rushes
past. Many rich men could give
much. An audience with the presi-
dent would be welcome to many.
Ours is an audience with Him who
commands the universe. He will
direct each step in His eternal
way. His way becomes our Way and
we love it. Yours for the asking,
to be in the very presence of the
King of Kings! What warmth, and
comfort.
The camel, at the close of day
Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have his burden lifted off
And rest to gain.

My soul, thou too shouldst to thy
knees
When the daylight draweth to a
close,
And let thy Master lift thy load
And grant repose.

Else how canst thou tomorrow
meet,
With all tomorrow's work to do,
If thou thy burden all the night
Dost carry through?

The camel kneels at break of day
To have his guide replace his load,
Then rises up again to take
The desert road.

So thou shouldst kneel at morning's
dawn
That God may give thee daily care,
Assured that He no load too great
Will make thee bear.

Into the Sunset Glow His peo-
ple go. His sunny homeland has a
real house, with all His children in
. . . sights and sounds undreamed.
Best of all, God and His Son, our
Jesus are right with us! At Home.
It will come; IT IS COMING! Let
us press every part of us, and tri-
umph!

There is a long and winding road,
along which each of us must go.
It leads beyond The Hills of Time
Into the Sunset Glow—
Tis only for a little while our loved
ones leave our sight,
For just beyond the Hills they
wait, in God's Eternal light.

... LIVING IN JAPAN ...

Libby Meyer

May we ever seek to glorify our
God, to whom we joyfully give all
thanks for the peace and hope of
eternal life which He has so freely
entrusted unto us.

I vaguely remember seeing
slides of Japan when I was 12 or 13
and unconverted. I never even
thought about Japan until Sis. Ka-
thie Huber, with whom I was well
acquainted, went there to teach.
We corresponded occasionally, but
it wasn't until January of the next
year that I realized that there was
a need and an opportunity for sis-
ters to work in Japan. After pray-
erful consideration, I really de-
sired to go.

To begin with, Bro. Maibach tire-
lessly answered many questions

and helped us prepare to come. My
roommate, Sally Gramm, was near-
ly a complete stranger when we
left America, but is the compan-
ion God just knew I would need
here. Before coming to Japan, I
had never met the Ehnle family,
who have labored here for over 20
years, and who work very closely
with our elders in America. The
missionary committee provides for
travel expenses, which includes two
trips per year within Japan. We
also receive money for living ex-
penses . . . we teach kindergarten
and English classes. Part of the
money earned goes back into the
mission fund.

We live in a small western style
apartment in the second story of

the church. Our classrooms are on
the main floor, and the Ehnle's
house is beside the church. The
Ehnles have generously allowed us
to use their car, after obtaining our
International Driver's Licenses.
Bus and train service is very con-
venient, even in the country. The
area in which we live is mountain-
ous and especially beautiful in
spring and fall. Peaches and grapes
in particular are grown here.

These 1½ years in Japan seem
like the fastest in my life. There
is always something new and inter-
esting to see, or people to talk to.
The second year is more enjoyable,
because a person is more adjusted
and knows a little of the language.
Sally and I also highly recommend

that interested sisters begin studying Japanese in the States with a native speaker, and-or in Tokyo upon first coming to Japan.

Teaching in our Christian kindergarten has been a very enjoyable experience. Japanese children are basically just like all children and one grows to love them so quickly. These children are all loved and well cared for at home, but there is a difference. Those who do not have Christian parents come to us without any knowledge

of the Bible or the plan of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the midst of a nation where many people still openly pray to man-made idols, it really is a miracle to find those who stand up and are strong for the Lord. Everyone in our churches here has just taken Sally and me in and made us feel at home. We sense the warmth and love of the Spirit of the Lord in the homes of those who walk with Christ, as compared to so

many non-Christian homes that we've visited. The song, **Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go, Anywhere He leads me in this world below** has become so meaningful to me. It's so true!

I'm so thankful to have had this chance to live here. It takes courage and grace to be willing to come to Japan and also to make the adjustments when one returns to America. The Lord has certainly provided for Sally and me . . .

SUBTILITY VS. SIMPLICITY

Douglas Kellenberger

" . . . I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Simplicity is clearness, plainness—simple and uncompounded, not complex.

Subtily is the power or practice of drawing delicate distinctions from rare, unsubstantial, insigni-

ficant and flimsy reasoning. Subtily is given to or characterized by refinements of thought. From the scriptures, we learn that Satan uses subtilty to beguile souls, and he does so in a sly and skillfully clever way.

When we have been warned by the Holy Scriptures against sin and evil or instructed by the same unto a life of more godliness in Christ Jesus . . . when these warnings or instructions have been supported by many good and valid reasons compiled from the com-

bined effort of a praying, sincerely seeking and God-fearing brotherhood . . . and we reject this majority of good counsel from God and brother because of a trivial reason, then we are succumbing to the beguilement of Satan's subtilty.

The simplicity in Christ is that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God . . ." Christ does not teach us to analyze and refine it with our human mind, but rather believe it with our whole heart, and its effect will save our soul.

From Froelich: ". . . there is no temptest as great and as terrible as sin, and when the heart has once become free, peaceful and quieted of sin, it is also armed against every outward storm of the enemy, without being thrown into confusion or removed from composure."

Retirement-Nursing Home Is Now Seeking an Administrator

Parkview Haven, Apostolic Christian Retirement Home Inc., is a project sponsored and being built by the Indiana churches of Francesville, LaCrosse, Remington, Wolcott, and Valparaiso.

Preliminary studies began in Nov. 1974, with groundbreaking ceremonies being held in May 1976. Ground was broken by our late Elder Bro. George W. Yergler. The proposed facility will house 32 retirement people, and 24 nursing home patients.

In spite of adverse weather conditions, work is progressing at the site on the northeast side of Francesville. The Retirement Home Committee, chosen from the five churches, is acting as its own general contractor. The plans for con-

struction were drawn up in cooperation with a Mishawaka Indiana Architectural Firm. The Home has been incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Indiana. All contributions are therefore tax deductible.

Although the Home will not be fully operational until late 1977 or early 1978, the Committee is now beginning a search for an administrator. Any person desiring to apply for this position, or having an interest in doing so, is urged to write Apostolic Christian Retirement Home Inc., Francesville In 47946, or call the chairman of the subcommittee in charge of finding an administrator, Bro. Virgil Heindold, Kouts In., Phone 219/766-3816.

Akron OH, Lynda Pamer: Jerry and Susan Ritzman were blessed with a baby boy, Kurt Edward. He has one sister, Krista. Sis. Marie Ritzman is Kurt's grandmother . . . Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn Miller also have a new bundle of joy; his name is Joseph. He has one brother, Johnny. Grandparents are Glen and Sis. Ella Miller (Rittman) and

Bro. John and Sis. Martha Palitto.

The following have taken positions of service: Bro. Art Graf (trustee), Bro. Don Gasser (usher), Sis. Audrey Graf (kitchen committee), Bro. Dave Graf, Bro. Marvin Luginbuhl, and Sis. Lynda Pamer (Sunday School teachers).

I am resolved to follow the Saviour, Faithful and true each day,

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Heed what He sayeth, do what He
willeth.
He is the living way.

I am resolved, and who will go with
me?

Come, friends, without delay;
Taught by the Bible, led by the
Spirit,
We'll walk the heav'nly way.

**Purdue University, Doreen
Gudeman - Luann Bahler:** A second semester has been started at Purdue, and we welcome all of our students back from Christmas vacation. A warm welcome is extended to those attending the Agriculture Short Course at Purdue . . . Bros. Jerry Rager (Latty); Mark Hodel (Roanoke), Brian Huber and Dave Huber (Francesville), and our friend, Paul Stefan (Lamar).

Our visiting ministers for January have been (Bros.) Edwin Bahler (Remington) and Earl Kilgus (Remington). Many precious thoughts were spoken, and we certainly appreciate their love shown to us.

Let us remember that, even though the weather is so cold, the love of God in us will keep our hearts warm.

Valparaiso IN, Marie Heinold: "Now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may be before thee for ever: for thou blessest, O LORD, and it shall be blessed for ever."

We appreciated the visit of Minister Gene Lehman and all our visitors this cold and snowy January.

There are glad tidings from Valparaiso, as Esther Neuffer has confessed to the longing in her heart to serve and surrender herself to her Creator. We wish her much grace and faith to carry out this important step in her life.

A blessed Wed. evening service was enjoyed, when Elder Bro. Ed Frank was with us, and we were impressed with, "If we seek in God's word, there's a solution to every problem."

March is Silver Lining collection for Valparaiso.

Altadena CA, Linda Cooper:

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. Andy Virkler, from Bay City, and Bro. Al Langhofer, from Wichita, for sharing God's holy word with us when they were in our congregation.

Sis. Christine Locher underwent emergency surgery and is doing well now at home. Bro. Simon Bahler is feeling well again, after a short illness. Sis. Mary Sirovey has been moved from the acute care hospital to a convalescent care center. She is slowly recovering from a fractured hip and, despite her poor physical condition, her mind and Christian spirit of love is strong. She will be 97 years old Jan. 29. Her address now is: Thousand Oaks Convalesarium, 93 W. Avenida De Los Arboles, Thousand Oaks CA 91360.

Our small congregation welcomed the engagement announcement of Sis. Rita Bertschi, Tucson, to Bro. Don Cooper. We look forward to welcoming Sis. Rita to California, and feel blessed of God as He reveals His will to faithful children. Small flocks such as ours in Altadena especially appreciate additions to our assembly.

Alto MI, Mrs. Ronald Erismann:

Prayer is like a telephone to our Lord;
It needs no operator, switches, or cord.
You can pray everyday for 24 hours;
The gift of prayer always has power.
Your prayer has no wrong number or any busy tone;
It's nice to have such a royal telephone.
You just bow your head and close your eyes;
You'll find it's a system that never dies.

We were glad for the visits of Elder Bros. Joe Waibel from Bay City and Ben Maibach from Detroit, to share with us the memorandum. It was brought out the purpose of the memorandum is to be used as a guideline in establishing a unity of our basic beliefs and doctrines throughout our churches. Bro. Joe stayed in the evening to conduct our annual business meeting. Newly-elected officers were: Sis. Pat Schlatter and Bro. Lyman Feldman, Sunday School teachers; Bro. Ron Erismann, Sunday School superintendent; Bro. Lloyd Blough, treasurer; Bro. Otto Schlatter, sec-

retary; Bro. Noah Blough, trustee.

We will miss the presence of two families in our area. Bro. Bob, Sis. Clara, and son Tony Plattner have moved back to Peoria. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Deliah Schrenk will spend the winter months in Zapata.

Our hospital patient was Sis. Donna Steffen. "I wish to thank all who remembered me in prayer and with gifts and cards." Donna.

Bern KS, Esther and Stella Moser: Harlan and Alice Wittmer have a new grandson, Matthew Joshua, born Jan. 6 to Larry and Beverly Wittmer. Matthew has a little sister, Shelli. Sis. Emma Wittmer is the great-grandmother.

On a Saturday evening, Bern assembled with Sabetha to hear our Elder Bros. Lester Hartter and Gene Marti read and comment on the conference report. May all strive to follow more closely the guidelines set for us.

Bro. Eldon Plattner was elected as trustee, to serve with Bros. Morris Edelman and Leonard Baumgartner. Bro. Richard Strahm was elected to help with the Public Address system.

Hospital patients, and thankfully all out again: Staci Hartter, small daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois, tonsillectomy . . . Sis. Katie Grimm, (Bro. Paul), surgery . . . Sis. Ella Hartter (Bro. Lester), a dislocated and fractured elbow caused by a fall . . . Arlene Bauman, fall and fracture of both bones in her ankle. After a week in the hospital, she was able to return to her teaching duties, getting around with the aid of crutches.

Bloomington-Normal IL, Jean O'Shea - Paula Knapp: Christmas services were held on Christmas Day, and we were reminded of the birth of Jesus Christ. On Sunday, Dec. 26, we were privileged to have Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, Ill) to preach the gospel.

Another Christmas season has slipped away, and we are beginning a new year. Take a moment in your busy schedule to whisper a special thank you for our wonderful blessings:

God has blessed us with another day of grace. Debby Somers granddaughter of Sis. Louise Moulton (Fairbury), has chosen to live for the Lord.

God has blessed our congregation with a new sister in faith. Sue

Steffen (Bro. and Sis. Earl—Elgin. Il) gave her testimony and was baptized on Jan. 16 in Elgin. Sue lives in Bloomington.

God has blessed us with ministering brothers that are willing to proclaim the word of God. On Sunday evening, Jan. 16, services were held at Wood Hill Towers.

God has blessed us with a sister willing to correspond to the Silver Lining. Our new correspondent is Sis. Jean O'Shea.

Bluffton IN, Marti Yergler - Becky Gilliom: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" . . . We were privileged to be witnesses of the baptisms of five dear souls. It reminded us of the importance of a true repentance and cleansing, upon which to build the foundation of our Christian life. Our new brothers and sisters in the Lord are: Robert Steffen (Sis. Marie Steffen), Susan Dotterer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Phil), Terri Steffen (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Ilene), Mike Craighead and Doug Dailey.

We were blessed with precious teachings from visiting ministers, who included (Bros.) Walter Rehlklaus (Toledo), Dave Roberts (Philadelphia), Max Reimschisel (Wichita), and Ben Manz (Junction).

The new year brought new commitments to many brothers and sisters who are taking charge of church offices and Sunday School classes.

Sandy Gerber and Rick Herman were joined in marriage on Jan. 8. Sandy's parents are LaVerne and Madonna.

New parents include Bro. John (Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella) and Sis. Nilah (Bro. Oscar and Sis. Aones Schaeffer) Aschliman. Their new daughter is Nichole Faye . . . Farah Em has joined the family of Julie and Lonnie (Bro. Herber and Sis. Lucille) Frauhiger . . . Bob and Anne (Bro. Ken and Sis. Justine Aschliman) Levy are the parents of Erika Anne . . . John and Becky (Bro. Roger and Sis. Pat. Kaehr) Maggart are the happy parents of Adrienne.

This month's patients include: Chris Stucky (Bro. Steve and Sis. Carol), Susan Kaehr (Bro. Chad and Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Eli Gerber, Sis. Martha Moser, Bro. Elmer Isch, Sis. Bernice (Bro. Alvin) Fiechter, Tyson Campbell (Mike

and Janet), Susan Steffen (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Lucille), and Sis. Anne (Bro. Joe) Steffen.

Statistics of 1976 of the Bluffton congregation are: 65 baptisms; 24 weddings (14 church, 10 friends); 14 deaths; 43 births.

These may seem like large numbers, but we know the Lord has no trouble keeping everyone of us in His care. "Casting all your care upon him; for He careth for you."

Bradford IL, Jane Leman: Three families in our congregation have been blessed with sweet new babies. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles welcome Shane Edward. Alisa, Jennifer, Troy, and Shannon are happy with their new brother. Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich are maternal grandparents . . . Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold have chosen the name Jeffrey Ryan for their new son. Brothers and sisters are Marjorie, Connie, Mike, Mark, David, Greg, and Julie. Grandfathers are Bro. Ezra Rumbold (Princeville) and Bro. Andrew Martin (Eureka) . . . Friends Dick and Marilyn Tanner, Wayne and Craig welcome Jennifer Rose into their family. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Margaret Tanner and Bro. Simon and Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand (Goodfield).

Also happy grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle. Their daughter, Sis. Connie, and husband Bro. Don Manz (Junction) were blessed with Christopher Donald on Christmas Day.

Bro. David Klumpp (son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Eunice) has chosen Sis. Barbara Hartter (Eureka) for his bride-to-be. They have planned a February wedding.

Our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser came to lend us a hand at our annual meeting. Bro. Loris Kieser is our new trustee. Bros. Jim Knobloch and Alfred Hausmann are ushers.

Several of our loved ones have submitted to surgery: Sis. Martha (Nate) Stoller, Sis. Anna (Louie) Rumbold, Bro. Carl Hancher, Friend Marion Knobloch (son of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma), little three-year-old Benji Endress (son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky), Pam Kieser (daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Shirley), who had her tonsils removed. Bro. Bill Elsasser has entered the hospital for tests.

"I wish to thank family and friends for flowers, gifts, cards,

food and other kind deeds while hospitalized and since returning home." Sis. Anna Rumbold.

"May God bless each one who remembered me with flowers, gifts, visits, and get-well cards, each bearing a prayer on my behalf while at the hospital, also for remembering my dear family." Sis. Martha Stoller

Bremen IN, Marian Germann: Eternity. It is a grand and glorious thing to await, especially because we will walk the streets of gold . . . But, can we really comprehend the reality of eternity?

Ecclesiastes 3:2 says, A time to be born, and a time to die . . . Bro. Mike and Sis. Marge Mangold were blessed with their 3rd son, Nathaniel David Matthew and Joshua really enjoy their new brother. As in December we had a birth, in January two of our families experienced death. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed Jr. and Bro. Al Suttor and their families on the death of their father, Bro. Ed Suttor Sr. of Eureka.

A blessed time of love and sharing was left by all at our New Year's Eve service. God can strengthen us so much by the experiences of others.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 19. As people accept their elected offices, we pray God's blessing upon each.

Bro. Henry and Sis. Leah Souder would like to thank all who remembered them during the past holiday season.

"He hath made everything beautiful in his time . . . Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth."

Burlington IA, Edna Pohl: In the goodness of God we stand at the portal of another year. The old year has rolled into eternity . . . the beginning of another year, and with it the assurance that God of our years is with us, to make us victorious, where last year we were defeated, strong where we were weak, and hopeful where we were fearful. We know not what surprises or sorrows the untrodden way holds for us, but full of hope, we face the unknown future, believing that so long Thy power hath blest us, sure it will still lead us on. With hellish forces loose upon the earth, and the prospect of a year of unprecedented woe and tribula-

tions, we must have some inspiring message we can take to our hearts. Isaiah for example, holds a wonderful promise for the critical days ahead: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God . . . I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

The God who declares that He will be with us is the Strong One, who will carry out every promise on our behalf.

After many days of loneliness and desiring the Lord to take her home, our Sis. Tillie Rauhaus was relieved of her cross, and went to sleep on Sunday evening after Christmas, having been in the Lord's house that day. Only short illnesses kept her away. We praise the Lord for His wonderful mercy. Word came to us Sis. Lydia Souder of Leo was also called to her rest, and active for her age. She was still reporting the news for Leo area. They too can be happy for her blessed sleep in Jesus, even tho' they are missed.

This Jan. 17, word was received of the passing of a converted soul on his death bed. Again we praise the Lord for snatching him from Satan's grasp. He is Lewis Frank of Salem, Iowa, formerly of this area. His wife, Matilda Wagler Frank survives, with sons, Lewis Jr. and Robert Frank, daughter, Marilyn Anderson. Sis. Matilda regularly sends the Silver Lining to her children, hoping a portion therefrom will bring them to the Lord. May they ponder their father's conversion and apply it to their lives.

Cissna Park IL, Grace Bauer - Marilyn Knapp:

Not many wise has the dear Saviour chosen,
Not many shall enter His rest.
Foolish, despised ones are heirs to his mercy;
Simple in faith, by His grace they are blest.

Our winter has set in with below zero temperatures, along with snow and high winds, making driving hazardous. On Sunday, we had to cancel our afternoon services because of drifting snow.

Friends Julia Bumgartner, daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta, and Shelly Beer, daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Twylla, have peace with their God and are

awaiting baptism.

Dana Feller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Feller, and Kim Knoll, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Knoll Jr. were united in marriage, with Bro. Ezra Feller officiating at the ceremony.

We want to thank our visiting ministers: Bros. Robert Walder, Congerville; Robert Beebe, Bremen; Everett Hari, Bloomington-Normal; and Dale Eisenman, Chicago, all of whom were from our congregation. Also Bro. Roy Grimm spent a Sunday with us.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening. The following were elected: Bro. Clarence Maul for trustee, Bros. Gerald Rudin and Max Yergler and Sis. Joyce Bauer as Sunday school teachers.

Our hospital surgical patients are Bro. Ed Feller Sr., Sis. Esther Hodel (Bro. Paul), Jill Haupli — daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Haupli, and Lori Young — daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Anna Marie. Our medical hospital patients were Sis. Clara Vogel (Bro. Walter), Sis. Katie Walder, Sis. Emma Geyer. All are able to be home again except Bro. Ed Feller, and he expects to return soon.

Our Sis. Esther Fisher has been relieved of her suffering and pain. She passed away Jan. 17 at the Paxton Hospital. She was the daughter of Bro. Emil and Sis. Julia Isch Anliker. She was married to Bro. Emil, who survives. Other survivors include two daughters, Sis. Edith Stoller (Bro. Glenn) of Latty and Sis. Blanch Steffen (Bro. Eldon) of Cissna Park, one son, Bro. Eli of Eureka, four brothers. Services were held at the church, with Bro. Steve Rinckenberger officiating.

Eureka IL, Cathryn Wettstein - Salome Schumacher: Since the last report we have had the following visiting brothers to minister to us: (Bros.) Roy Sauder — Peoria, Joe Ramsier — Rittman, Rudy Graf — Akron, Dan Koch — Tremont, Steve Rinckenberger — Cissna Park, Joshua Broquard — Fairbury.

Among the ill and who have returned home are: Sis. Jean Knapp (Bro. Robert's wife), Sis. Clara Zimmerman (Bro. Lawrence's wife), Maurice Crawford — surgical patients.

Those who are still in the hospital: Bro. John Blunier, from the

"Home", Sis. Mary Nohl, from the Home (medical); Sandra Getz, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Allan and Natalie (surgery on her back in the Methodist Hospital). Sis. Aldine Leman (Bro. Sam's wife) fell on an icy spot and broke her hip. She is in Methodist Hospital. Bro. Philo Fehr is in Methodist Hospital, where he underwent surgery, amputating his leg above the knee.

Mrs. Melvin Martin had been a patient in the Proctor Hospital, but has returned home.

On Christmas Day, this engagement was made known: Sis. Barbara Hartter and Bro. David Klumpp from Bradford. Her folks are Bro. and Sis. Leonard and Ann Hartter, and his are Bro. and Sis. Ray and Eunice Klumpp.

On New Year's Day, Janet Wettstein and Dan Beutel were married. Her folks are Harold and Loretta Wettstein, his are Bro. and Sis. Alvin and Carol Beutel from Tremont. They are living in Eureka.

One birth: A son, first child, to Bro. and Sis. James and Janet (Schlipf) Stoller, born Dec. 21. His name is Justin James.

Two funerals: Bro. Ed Suttor, age 79, passed away at his home on Jan. 9. His funeral was Tuesday the 11th, conducted by Bro. Walter Anliker. He is survived by his wife, Mathilda, two sons and three daughters: Bro. Ed Jr. and Bro. Alan from Bremen, Sis. Evelyn Hangartner of Roanoke; Sis. Mary Ann Herman and Carol Gunderson of Peoria. Three sisters survive.

Sis. Lydia Fischer, age 82, passed away at her home Jan. 17 after a short illness. Her funeral was Jan. 19, conducted by Bro. Marvin Schmidgall. Surviving are six sons: Bro. Frederick of Roanoke, Bro. Lyle of Ft. Scott, Bro. James and Bro. Robert of Morton; Leroy and Eli Jr. of Washington; three daughters, Sis. Lorene at home; Sis. Arlette Fehr of Roanoke, and Sis. Wilma Teubel of Bloomfield; two brothers and three sisters.

Another soul is seeking the Lord. He is Terry Leman, son of Bro. and Sis. Milton and Caroline.

Jan. 9, in the evening, we gathered in God's house to hear the summary of the conference. (Bros.) Rudy Graf and Joe Ramsier helped Bro. Leroy. If we are to keep our precious faith pure and holy, we all have work to do. So let's all try to be more obedient in our high and heavenly calling.

The summary from 1976: 4 funerals; 12 births (6 boys and 6 girls); 3 weddings in church; 1 friend's wedding; 14 baptisms; 15 more converts to be baptized.

Fairbury IL, Joyce Huber: For the year of 1976, we were blessed with the births of seven babies, two baptisms, and there were 11 who passed out of this life into eternity.

We praise the Lord for some new converts: Marsha Moser, daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser; Jean and Jill Bachtold, daughters of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Viola Bachtold; and LuAnn Steidinger, daughter of the Don Steidingers.

Bro. Alph and Fannie Steffen observed their Ruby Wedding Anniversary, of 40 joyous years together; and Bro. and Sis. Ralph Bahler observed their Silver Anniversary.

Sis. Lavina Moser had the mishap of slipping on the ice and fracturing her arm. Sis. Louise Bach is at Mayo Clinic, and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler were hospitalized. Sis. Lydia Aberle is at the Americana in Champaign.

We enjoyed visiting elders, (Bros.) John Bahler and Sam Anliker; and from the Wichita ministers, Bro. Max Reimschisel.

Forrest IL, Kathryn Steidinger - Beverly Eisenmann: Our congregation has shared joy and sorrow with loved ones in this new year. There was joy in three homes, when Carol Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Beverly), Marjorie Wenger (Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia), and Robert Anliker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy) felt their need to repent and have a desire to live for the Lord.

Eldon and Marje Waibel have reasons to rejoice, with the birth of a son, Nathan Alan. Other children in the family are Teresa, Stephanie, Amy, and Brian. Bro. William and Sis. Esther Honegger and Bro. Carl and Sis. Elsie Waibel are the grandparents. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold are parents of Marsha LaVerne. Marsha is their first child, also the first grandchild for Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia Wenger, and the first granddaughter for Sis. Dorothy Bachtold.

Friends and relatives of Andy and Ann Metz shared their joy at an open house reception, as they observed their Golden Wedding

Anniversary.

Stanley Stoller (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta) escaped with minor injuries in a car accident. Bro. Dan Schlatter and Mike Zimmerman (Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy) had surgery. Todd Kuferschmid (Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin) was in the hospital for treatment of burns from a previous accident, and Sis. Kathryn Honegger had some injuries from a fall on the ice. Other hospital patients are Bro. Eli Walter, Bro. William Kupferschmid, Pauline Henry, and Kenneth Lehmann. Sis. Olga Schmidt was dismissed from the hospital, after having surgery for a bone fracture, and is now residing at Gibson Manor, a nursing home at Gibson City.

On Christmas Day, Bro. Bill Kupferschmid (Bloomington) reminded us of our dear Saviour's birth.

All but four of our elder brothers met here on Jan. 7 and 8. Because of their gathering for this meeting, many of them lent themselves in the service of the Lord by proclaiming the word to us. We enjoyed having Elder Bros. Joe Waibel, Joe Ramsier, Sam Anliker, Lester Hartter, and Herman Kellenberger with us the evening before the meetings. The following Sunday, we were thankful to have Bros. Raymond Banwart, John Bahler and Sam Anliker stay with us. Also over for the evening services were Bro. Josh Broquard and the Fairbury ministering brothers. Might our elders ever feel their congregation's prayerful support, as they seek God's help to direct us on ways, that are needful for us to work out our soul's salvation.

At our Annual Meeting, Bro. Homer Blunier was elected to serve as trustee.

Our aged friend, Percy Herberich passed from this life. Bro. Perry Zimmerman held the funeral services. She leaves one sister and several neices and nephews.

Ft. Scott, KS, Aleta Banwart: A blessed evening of fellowship was held New Year's eve at the college cafeteria. Much of the Lord's praises were sung; refreshments of all kinds were served. What a loving way to start a new year. Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend, was here visiting his parents.

Our annual meeting was held Wed. evening. Teachers in Sunday School are Bros. Harvey Smith,

Konnie Banwart, Sis's. Lillian Fischer and Ruth Bahr. Ushers are Bros. Harvey Smith and Don Banwart. Trustees are Bros. Jim Bahr, Harold Kraft, and Lyle Fischer. Sis's. on the food committee are Ida Sinn, Waneta Sinn, and Marie Zaugg.

Sat. evening was set aside for the reading of the memorandum. Elder Bros. Raymond Banwart and Sam Anliker advised the congregation of the many temptations Satan uses on God's people, and expressed how we should be more loving to others. The following Sunday, we enjoyed a covered-dish dinner at the church.

Our friend, Mary Massner was visiting her mother-in-law, Sis. Carrie Massner, when she fell on the icy steps and fractured her hip. She will be hospitalized a few weeks at Mercy Hospital in Ft. Scott.

The other day as I was ironing and thinking of what to write, my small son came up and bothered me. I spanked him, somewhat unjustly, and he left in tears. When he returned, he had a bright smile on his face and such a forgiving attitude. That's when the Scripture: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." If we, children of God, could all be so loving and forgiving as a child, we would be a much better light to the world.

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Lyle Fisher and family over the death of his mother, Sis. Lydia Fischer of Eureka.

Francesville IN, Helen Huber - Sharon Neihouser: On Christmas morning, many gathered together for services when we were reminded of the prophecy in Isaiah, that a Messiah would come, then the revelation in Matthew and that He would be called Emmanuel, meaning **God With Us**.

A New Year's Eve service and program was held to see the new year, 1977 come in and to be in the house of God.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our Bro. Keith Getz, who was involved in a train-van accident. He remains hospitalized. Also hospitalized are Sis. Lena Yaggie and Sis. Angela Von Tobel for observation and treatment. Sis. Elsie Yaggie fell and fractured her wrist, and Sis. Carol Huber had

foot surgery.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher observed their 25th wedding anniversary. An open house for friends and relatives was planned by their family.

Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse) came and spent a Wednesday evening with us, and assisted Bro. Wendell in reading the memorandum. May we be obedient, so that we can preserve our faith until the Lord comes.

Girard OH, Louisa Lance: "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart . . ."

As we begin a new year, may we all strive to have clean hands and a pure heart. May we all pray that our new President to be may look to our Heavenly Father, to guide and direct him in all his duties at all times.

We extend our sincere sympathy to our Silver Lining Editor and his family in the death of his mother . . . also our sympathy to Sis. Helen Emch in the death of her two brothers, Jacob Durig in December and Joseph Durig in January.

Dr. Rita Emch spent some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Emch, during the holidays; she is in the University Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio.

Sis. Esther Saylor has been on the sick list, is improving at this time.

This little article came to my notice, and I think it would be good if we could all **Pass It On:**

Have you had a kindness shown?
Pass it on.
Twas not given for thee alone;
Pass it on.
Let it travel down the years;
Let it wipe another's tears,
Till in heaven the deed appears.
Pass it on.
Hast thou some peculiar pleasure?
Pass it on.
For the heart grows rich in giving;
Loving is the truest living.
Pass it on.
Have you found the heavenly light?
Pass it on.

Souls are grouping in the night;
Daylight's gone.
Hold the lighted lamp on high;
Be a star in someone's sky.
He may live who else would die.
Pass it on.

Home for the Handicapped: ". . . the land whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys . . . which the LORD thy God careth for . . . from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." A new year is ours "to possess" as good stewards. Who can tell what we shall find, or where we shall be led?

In pastures green? Not always;
sometimes He
Who knowest best in kindness lead-
eth me
In weary ways where heavy sha-
dows be.
So whether on the hilltops high
and fair
I dwell or in the sunless valleys,
where
The shadows lie, what matter? He
is there.

Our featured resident this month is Ruth Ann Schwartz, daughter of Ed and Josephine Schwartz of Bluffton, who became a happy addition to our Home's family in March, 1974. One sister, Etta, and her husband, John Steffen, have three children: Todd, Chris and Mandy. One brother, Ed Jr., and his wife, Jeni, have two children: Tonia and Rick. All of this family, which is very dear to Ruth, live near each other and not far from Bluffton. Ruth's time is wisely spent, sometimes in the laundry and sometimes working on the rug loom, besides taking part in the various programmed activities. Knitting and reading worthwhile, inspiring books are two things which she enjoys in her free time. Her sweet, pleasant smile and her willingness always to lend a helping hand where needed increase the value of her many talents.

Quite severe winter weather has slowed the progress on the new addition. On the part of the new building where the roof is completed and heat can be maintained, some interior work continues.

Wintry January has permitted resumption of our regular routine, after the hustle of the holiday season. In quietness of soul, we can

reflect and re-evaluate God's directives, while viewing the beauty of the white winter landscape about us.

Friday evening services for January are scheduled for Normal, Forrest and Roanoke. We appreciate the extra effort it takes during these winter days.

Thank God every morning when you arise, that you have something to do that day which must be done, whether you like it or not. Being forced to work and forced to do your best will breed in you temperance and self-control, diligence and strength of will, cheerfulness and content, and many virtues which the idle never know.

Junction OH, Gwen Manz: We have much to be thankful for as we begin the new year. Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz are especially thankful for their Christmas bundle, Christopher Donald, who was born on Dec. 25. His grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnle (Bradford) and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz. We rejoice with them.

Sis. Minnie Dotterer is now residing at the Apostolic Christian Home in Rittman.

Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita), Eugene Fetter (Toledo) and Henry Dotterer (Rittman) brought the word to us.

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us on Jan. 1, when we had our annual business meeting. Elected as new Sunday School teachers were Bro. Don Manz and Sis. Emily Manz. Bro. Bill Schlatter is our new trustee. Sis. Annabel Manz is on the kitchen committee, Sis. Evelyn Manz on the World Relief Sewing committee, and Bro. Mark Schlatter is an usher. Bro. Ray Schlatter has accepted the duties of janitor.

La Crosse IN, Marilyn Zeltwanger - Carolyn Levy: We were blessed with several visiting ministers. Christmas Day, Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) and Bro. Art Ringer (Indianapolis) brought us the beautiful story of the birth of our Saviour. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Bill Funk (Garden Grove) —New Year's Day and Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern), who assisted Bro. Ed Frank in reading the conference report.

Hospital patients were Jimmy Bucher (Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois), Bob Feller (Bro. Lyn and Sis. Mary Ann), and Sis. Melva Bucher (Bro. Vernon).

Our annual business meeting was held, to elect brothers and sisters to fulfill various duties of the church.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Margaret Heinold announce the engagement of their daughter, Donna, to Stephen Hall. Their date has been set for April 23, and the wedding will take place in Indianapolis, where they both reside.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Tim Bucher and Sis. Julie Jacobs. Parents are Sis. Esther and the late Bro. Art Bucher and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jacobs of Valparaiso.

LOVE OF ALL GIFTS IS THE GREATEST.

Lamar MO, Janice Braker - Becky Hohulin: "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

Our annual election was held Jan. 11. Elder Bro. Gene Marti was here to conduct the meeting. The following brothers and sisters were elected to fill the following offices: Trustee, Bro. Dean Marti; Sunday School Teachers Bro. Martin Hohulin; Sis. Sandra Marti; Food Committee, Sis's. Ruth Banwart, Luetta Braker; Silver Lining Reporter, Sis. Janice Braker; Cemetery Board, Bro. Leonard Braker.

Bro. Dale Marti was appointed to be the Sunday School Superintendent, and Bro. Noah Schlupp continues to take care of the furnace and air conditioning for us. May God bless everyone for their labors as they undertake their new duties. He is a rich rewarder to all who serve Him with a willing heart.

In the hospital for tests was our dear Sis. Edna Frieden. She is home now.

We wish to express our love and sympathy to our dear friends, Jim and Terri Duncan in the loss of a stillborn son. Our hearts go out to them as we feel the sorrow that must be theirs. Terri is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti. We also wish to express our sympathy in the passing of our friend, Gayle Knapp. He is the son of Everitt "Bill" and Lorene (Schlupp) Knapp, and is also the

nephew of our Sis. Emma Lanz.

Our friend, Paul Stefan has gone to Indiana to study for a number of weeks at Purdue University. Paul is the son of Bro. and Sis. William Stefan Sr.

Many willing hands have been present to work on World Relief Sewing these past few weeks. We have been meeting at the home of Bro. and Sis. Raymond Braker. Surely work like this is never in vain.

March is Silver Lining collection for Lamar.

Know Each Other Better

Our dear Sis. Emma Lanz is the oldest member of those who moved here from Minnesota in 1902. Previously, the brothers and sisters of our church in Lamar had met in homes, but after this time a church was built. Emma was born in 1899. She found grace to seek her soul salvation in the year 1920. Preaching was done in German then, but it is interesting to note that she was proved in the American language.

In Feb. of 1921, she married Bro. Fred Lanz. They started a family and brought up their children to love and fear God. She looks back now, and can say that the Lord always provided.

Sis. Emma could tell us much of the trials of life. Of their five children, one died when he was two years old. Another one, Wallace, was killed in the service in World War II. How often she prayed for her children, as she said of her son Wallace. She knew when he went into the war that she and her husband would just have to lean on the Lord. Her prayer was, "Lord, if you can't bring him home, let him be ready to meet you."

Our dear Sis. Emma has now seen her children and grandchildren grow up. She and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1971. Bro. Fred has since passed away.

It was such a blessing to talk to Sis. Emma, as she had so much love and advice to offer. How appreciative we should be of our older members. She is so thankful to the Lord for all His goodness. She told us, that she could never repay all the people who helped her out when she needed it, but in turn she will pass it on and do for others now. What a loving motto!

Wouldn't the world be a nicer place if everyone did this?

When asked of her temptations now, she replied, "Oh, you know, everyone has them, bad thoughts, worldly things, etc. One of us that were talking to Emma said, "You mean you have that temptation, too?" Yes, Satan does not stop when we get older. He is always there to trouble us . . . But with God, all things are possible. Emma states, We have our faith, churches and ministers to teach us, and also a love and fellowship that the world knows nothing of. What a blessed heritage!

Leo IN, the editor: These things are lovely . . . the beautiful hymn, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives", a gem at the graveside and the path onward . . . the white loveliness God covers the flowers, the newly-cut ground, and the name cut in stone . . . the promise of things to come . . . though the stone pass away, the body will arise . . . the same person before and after and evermore . . . alive . . . new life, real joy, wonderful love, ages without end. There are more so nice . . . the kneeling near the fireplace at the Children's Home . . . with little Eddie also having the priceless privilege — so rare and dear in these days . . . The beautiful moments that come at the beginning of services also — being on time and enjoying what God gives.

Bro. William Funk was our visiting minister the first Sunday of 1977. He pointed out a comforting reality. A yoke is made for two, and our Lord makes our part easy. He takes care of the other part, the biggest. Brad Funk, William's son, pointed out that Garden Grove, their home church, is in south Iowa, toward Missouri. The land is rolling. Cattle is their business, raising calves. Sis. Funk is our reporter.

The beauty of a winter wonderland goes mile after mile in northern Indiana. Our Christmas Program was on the afternoon of December 26 . . .

Great is the greatest reality, not the temporal, but the unseen. Look how beautiful it is! Away and beyond, forever and ever.

Lester IA, Joyce Knobloch - Alice Metzger:

Prayers are the stairs we must
climb every day,
If we would reach God; there is no
other way,
For we learn to know God when
we meet Him in prayer
And ask Him to lighten our burden
of care—
So start in the morning and,
though the way's steep,
Climb ever upward till your eyes
close in sleep,
For prayers are the stairs that lead
to the Lord,
And to meet Him in prayer is the
climber's reward.

In 1976 our church witnessed 8 baptisms, 14 new babies were born, and we had 5 funerals. We are thankful we can share each other's joys and sorrows.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue Leuthold are happy to welcome their Christmas Eve baby boy, Quinn Justin, born Dec. 24. He has two sisters, and grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold and Alvin and Sis. Donnabelle Nelson, Winthrop . . . Andy and Elsie Leuthold have a new granddaughter, born Jan. 14 to Carol and Bill Stover. Little Darcy is their first child . . . On Jan. 17, Jim and Betty Leuthold became parents of a little girl, and her name is also Darcy. She has a brother and sister, and grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emilie Leuthold.

Hospital patients are Bro. Martin Knoblock, Sis. Lydia Knobloch, and Bro. Ernie Metzger.

Know Each Other Better

Bro. John and Sis. Rose Moser enjoyed meeting loved ones, old and young, when their children held an open house for their 60th anniversary Dec. 20. They wish to express their heartfelt thanks to all who took part in their special day. Bro. John and Sis. Rose (Kellenberger) were born and grew up in the Bern community, and were married in 1916. As a young married couple, they moved to Lester in 1918 (and began farming, which they continued to do until their retirement).

They were convicted by God's word and repented the following year. The church was very small—only eleven families on the serving list—but there was a special quality of fellowship and friendship which was precious to them. Bap-

tism took place in a large stock tank outside the country church. Their clothes froze as they stepped from it, as it was 20 below. Bro. Kellenberger bought the tank for this event, as all previous baptisms had taken place in the little creek near the church.

They experienced many peaks and valleys as they struggled to raise their family through the depression years, ever seeking to instill in them a true faith and love of God. Heartbreak was their lot when three times the death angel claimed a son. Donald was accidentally drowned in a tank at 14 months of age, Johnny died of ruptured appendix at 14, and Harry was killed in World War II in the Phillipines, on Mother's Day 1945. At his graveside services three years later, Sis. Rose thought all she knew was grief, and yet found herself thanking God for the minister who conducted the service and the song leader who led the singing.

The dear couple would rather tell of their joys than their sorrows. They live in a small house on the homeplace, which is farmed by Bro. Frank and his family. They are humbly grateful their children all live within seven miles of them, and all have been converted. Besides Bro. Frank, they are Elder Bro. Leo, Sisters Ione DeHaan, Mariann Metzger, Betty Jean Leuthold, Estelle Leuthold, Evelyn Metzger, Donna Gerber, and Janet Wysong. A blessing they never expected to live to see, and which has brought them great joy was to see so many of their dear grandchildren repent and find peace in the Lord.

A serious auto accident in 1974 put Sis. Rose in the hospital for 2½ months, and left her with some pains, with which she has learned to live. Bro. John spends many pleasant hours in his workshop. His family and friends are recipients of lovely wooden gifts created there.

Their joy is found in a simple and God-fearing walk of life.

Mansfield OH, Lucille Groh:
HAST THOU ENTERED INTO
THE TREASURES OF THE
SNOW? OR HAST THOU SEEN
THE TREASURES OF THE
HAIL, WHICH I HAVE RE-
SERVED AGAINST THE TIME

OF TROUBLE, AGAINST THE DAY OF BATTLE AND WAR?

Many of us in the North have experienced the wonder of God during this winter, and have seen a portion of His treasure of snow. It marvels one to think of God's treasury, and we cannot comprehend what it must really be like. It does reveal to us how little we humans really are, and how great God really is. Then we ponder over the last part of the above verse which says, "Which I have reserved against the time of trouble . . ." May we ever cling to our Lord and Saviour and escape the great trouble which is coming on this earth, so we may receive his Heavenly treasures one day.

God has entered into our midst and has taken loved ones from our family circles . . . On Dec. 16, a dear young mother, Barbara Miller, at the age of 20 was called from time into eternity. She leaves to mourn her husband, Rickie Miller, and two small sons. She was the granddaughter of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Sauder . . . Our beloved friend, Winona Matuck, was relieved of her suffering on Jan. 3. She attended church regularly and was a retired school teacher. Before her departure, she was able to find grace to call upon her Saviour, and we believe found peace and pardon for her soul. She leaves to mourn one son, Jerry, and one daughter, Betty Oyster.

The annual trustee meeting was held; Bro. Larry Enderle was elected as a new trustee, and Bro. Dan Sauder the correspondent for the Home for the Handicapped.

On Jan. 14, Friend Cindy Oesch (Sis. Catherine) was married to Randy Walp . . . on Jan. 16, Bro. Fred Domka and Sis. Connie Hartzler (Rittman) announced their engagement. Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth (Sabo) Domka are Fred's parents and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce (Stoller) Hartzler are Connie's parents.

Hospitalized have been: Sisters Barbara Schneider, Barbara Bricker and Anna Hoffman, and Friend Judy Oesch (surgery). We miss our sisters Mary Witchie and Anna Wittmer, who have been confined to their homes for a lengthy season.

Jan. 1 and 2 were wonderful days of blessings and such a beautiful way to start off a new year. Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf and Joseph Ramsier were here, and we could

listen to the testimonies of an entire family, Nina and Wayne Ruefner and their two sons, Ron and John, who are now all members of God's family. Each told of their need of a Saviour, what had transpired in their lives, and how they could experience God's pardoning grace and peace. Truly they can say as the hymnwriter so beautifully expresses it:

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole,
I want thee forever to live in my soul,
Break down every idol, cast out every foe,
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

New Martinsville WV, Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey: At this writing, Jan. 19, we are in the grip of a very severe spell of old-time winter weather. For the two past weeks, we have had at least 15 inches or more of snow, falling at different times, but most of it still lays on the ground. Temperatures have ranged from 18 to 25 below zero in different sections of the state. Most schools are closed, many business houses close early to save fuel, the river is froze over in many places, and it has been a very trying time for many people. Now, it all depends how this amount of snow and ice will leave, what danger there will be of a heavy flood. Ice and snow don't usually cause floods, but it don't take too much rain to cause the rivers to swell and cause flooding and much suffering and loss.

Miss Della Witschey is thankful to all who remembered her with cards and well-wishes at Christmas-time; she remains in her usual health and is always glad to have visitors.

Edward Berger was able to go home for Christmas, from the hospital, but on Jan. 1 was taken back to the hospital, and is still a patient there, doing nicely, and will likely go home soon.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Berger on Jan. 1, with the following present: Delbert and Kenneth Indermuhle, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gehring of Sardis, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Berger, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Durig, Mr. and

Mrs. Lloyd Durig, Mrs. Carl Berger, Mrs. Elza Ritz, Mrs. C. O. Wade, Mrs. Minnie Weltz and the hostess, Mrs. Edward Berger. Many items were discussed, and the annual all-day meeting at the country church was planned again for this year, for the 26th of June. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Berger, and while the weather was very cold, snowy and icy outside, much warmth and good-will prevailed inside.

Oakville IA, Phyllis Siegle: A dear sister in faith passed from this life Dec. 27. As we have experienced before, we had **worshipped together** in God's house only the day before. It was also our privilege to have served her at the dining-table for the last time. Who, perhaps, will we worship with this Sunday and will be denied this the following Lord's Day? Sis. Matilda Rauhaus passed away at the age of 86. She was born Sept. 15, 1890 in Illinois, the daughter of Ministering Bro. Albert and Sis. Lena Schlagel Reiman. She married Bro. Herman Rauhaus at Oakville, Feb. 4, 1917, and he died in 1940. Surviving are two sons, Raymond, Burlington, and Bro. Roy, Oakville; one brother, Bro. Robert Reiman, Sarasota. We will greatly miss her friendship, but rejoice she could be relieved of her earthly cares, being a widow many long years.

"We wish to thank everyone who helped celebrate our Golden Anniversary with cards, gifts, flowers, and calling during open house. We will cherish the memories of this day." Dave and Sarah Miller

On Jan. 9, the duty of ministering God's holy word fell upon Bro. Jerry Kuntz. It was truly an impressive event, and we surely felt the presence of God. May we all have a special prayer upon our heart for Bro. Jerry and his wife, Sis. Doris (Rocke) Kuntz, for encouragement, our love, and deep concern. May they feel our sincere support, and find also that **He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater; He sendeth more strength when the labors increase.** Parents of Bro. Jerry are late Lloyd and Martha Kuntz of Mediapolis, and parents of Sis. Doris are Bro. Orttie and Sis. Verna. Bro. Jerry is the grandson of the late Sis. Lena Kuntz.

We certainly miss Sis. Ann Eber-

hard, who has moved to Phoenix, where her sister and brother-in-law, Bro. Art and Sis. Leona Messner live.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Bill Gerst, Alto; Bro. Arne Gerst, Chicago; Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer, Elgin, Ia.; and Bro. Simon Wagenbach, Tremont.

Phoenix AZ, Julie Hoerr: "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." What a most blessed week-end our congregation and many visitors spent Jan. 15 and 16, when Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Carl Kinsinger assisted Elder Bro. Roy Farney in the undertaking of the Lord's work. Surely our prayers have been answered, that Bro. Roy was able to be in our midst for this special occasion. On Sat. evening, we gathered to hear Bro. Richard Schupbach's testimony and vows to support the Lord's will and work in the office of Deacon. We were also privileged to hear the Memorandum and again be refreshed, as our brethren have been since the conferences were first held in 1859.

Sunday, our congregation was abundantly blessed, when our church was filled to overflowing for both services. Following afternoon services, many members and friends witnessed the ordination of Bro. Richard Schupbach to the office of Deacon. Certainly this must be most impressive to our friends. Later in the afternoon, we enjoyed a potluck supper and evening services.

A special thanks to our other visiting ministers for the timely and loving teachings they shared with us. Our visiting ministers were: Bros. Andrew Virkler (Bay City), Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop), Al Langhofer (Wichita), Noah Herman (Tucson).

Many enjoyed starting the new year with a pot-luck supper, held at church on Sun., Jan. 2; in the evening, a large number gathered for a singing and short services.

Bro. Dan Kokanovich remains hospitalized, after a severe heart attack on Christmas Day. Truly our congregation has been blessed, as many of our shut-ins have gradually been able to return to church. Sisters Kate Blumenschein and Clara Zollinger are still unable to

be with us, as are Sis. Vera Yack-
le and Bro. Ernie De Mille.

We extend a warm welcome to
our winter visitors and trust they
may find a warm welcome and a
Christian fellowship while here. It
surely is a joy to see our church
overflowing with God's children.

March is Silver Lining collection for
Phoenix.

A Progress Note on our new
church — We are looking forward
to construction, as our sisters,
friends, and high school friends
have started working on interior
decorating.

**A THOUGHT LEFT WITH US
FROM A WEDNESDAY EVE: IF
YOU WERE ON TRIAL FOR
CHRIST, WOULD THERE BE
ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CON-
VICT YOU OF LIVING FOR
HIM?**

Princeville IL, Ruth Ricketts:

We wonder now what this new
year

Will hold for everybody here.

Tis like a book with pages white;
Each day on one of these we'll
write.

These words were spoken by one
of the young folks when the Sun-
day School presented a fitting
Christmas program, and I felt
them fitting for us all.

On Dec. 18, a beautiful, sunny,
winter day, many relatives and
acquaintances went to the Peoria
Fellowship Hall to extend best
wishes to Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary
Leuthold on their 60th wedding
anniversary. After the reception,
a dinner was served to a number
of close friends and their family.
Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary wish to
thank everyone for the tokens of
love shown them . . . the cards,
gifts, well wishes and any act of
love. Their children who hosted
this pleasant affair likewise wish
to also thank everyone for making
this a memorable occasion.

On Dec. 23, a son, James Ever-
ett, was born to Bro. Ray and Sis.
Edna Martin. Five sisters and
three brothers welcomed him home.
Grandparents are Sis. Louise Mar-
tin of Princeville and Bro. Eman-
uel and Sis. Louise Manz of Junc-
tion.

On Dec. 24, a son, firstborn of
Bro. Raymond and Sis. Janna Lou
Baer, was born. He has been named

Kerry Robin, and his grandpar-
ents are Bro. Herman and Sis.
Mary Baer of here and Sis. Mar-
ilyn Schieler of Wolcott. Great-
grandparents are Bro. George and
Sis. Emma Sauder, Sis. Emma
Furrer, and Sis. Marie Schieler.

Many gathered for Christmas
Day, to hear the Christmas Story
read by Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein,
who was our guest minister. Our
thoughts were led from the hum-
ble manger to the lowly cross. On
Sunday, the 26th, Bro. Joshua Bro-
quard of Fairbury was our guest
minister . . . The friends again
warned what our fate would be
if they spurn the call. How will
they meet our just God if they
have carelessly passed by this gold-
en opportunity? Eternity is forev-
er, and how sad if they wait too
long and have to be in torment
forever.

Sis. Frieda Streitmatter, who re-
sides at the church home in Eur-
eka, observed her 93rd birthday
Dec. 25. She is always so grateful
for all the remembrances, the
cards, gifts, visits and prayers
given. She wishes to thank every-
one for remembering her for her
birthday and Christmas.

As the year comes to a close, we
like to review a few of the happen-
ings. Two of our beloved sisters
in faith and a dear friend were
called out of this life; six girls and
five boys were born to parents in
our congregation; four brothers &
two sisters were added to the fold,
and we have four more dear
friends awaiting this precious
privilege.

How thankful we are to have Sis.
Lydia Feucht worship with us
again. Recently she has been com-
ing for morning service and stays
for lunch. Her speech has come
back somewhat, and she can let us
know how thankful she is to be
with her beloved at church again.
Lydia and her family want to thank
each one for prayers, gifts, and
getwell wishes, also the gifts and
Christmas greetings during the
holiday season.

Paul Streitmatter was able to
leave the hospital and is recover-
ing in his home. He gets about in
a wheelchair, although recently he
can get about with the aid of a
walker. He had suffered a stroke
and a heart attack, so is thankful
he is recovering. "I wish to thank
everyone for the kind deeds during

my illness, the cards, gifts, visits,
and the prayers uttered." . . . Sis.
Elise Stahl has been confined to
her home for several years and al-
ways enjoys mail and visits. "A
Thank You to the dear ones for
cards, gifts, prayers and deeds of
love shared with us." Sis. Elise
"Lizzie" Stahl and family.

Bro. George Wagenbach had his
81st birthday Jan. 1. He resides at
the Eureka Church Home, but al-
ways enjoys coming "back home"
for Sunday worship. His children
and grandchildren are all very good
to see that he gets here, and we all
enjoy meeting him. We miss him
when he is not in his usual spot in
the fellowship hall. He faithfully
ministered to us over 30 years.

Recently one of our ministers
spoke of Heaven and Hell. He told
a story of a man who was seriously
injured and was presumed dead,
but revived. During his uncon-
scious state, he saw in a vision a
white form come to him, and led
him on a path. They came to a
tunnel, and while going through
here, he could hear screaming and
moaning. It was very dark, but he
followed. At last they came to the
end, where he beheld a most beau-
tiful sight. There were flowers all
around, with a sweet fragrance,
and in the distance a city, from
which beautiful singing could be
heard. At their feet was a river,
with a small boat on it. The man
was ready to get into the boat to
go to the city. **No, you are not
ready for that place yet.** There was
something else he must see first.
They went back to the tunnel, and
he was shown Hell. People were
moaning and groaning. He could
see forms floating up and down
above the flames. All was torment
and misery. This made the man
shudder, and when he awoke, vow-
ed to prepare for Heaven.

We have been experiencing much
severe cold weather the past few
weeks. We have about six inches
of snow on the ground. We are
sorry for the birds and wonder
how they survive such cold weath-
er, but when we feed them they
chirp cheerily. We know God cares
for them.

**Pulaski IA, Janice Rinkenber-
ger - Mary Jane Knapp:** We all wish
Sonia (Rinkenberger) Wegner the
grace of God, as she has started
to repent. We pray that many more

may come to the Lord in repentance before it is ever too late.

Montie Wuthrich had eye surgery in Iowa City. He is at home now and improving.

Nancy Teubel wishes to thank everyone for their kindness during her illness.

March is Silver Lining collection for Pulaski.

Remington IN, Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss:

A little bit of hope
Makes a rainy day look gay;
A little bit of charity
Makes glad a weary way!

Bro. Loren Stoller was our guest on Sun., Jan. 9. He assisted our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in reading the memorandum. Their reminders were so lovingly given that it helped us to again have a new and deeper appreciation for our salvation and our church. Please visit us again, Bro. Loren.

Randy and Gina Knochel of Coronado, California, are the parents of a son, Jeremiah, born Dec. 25. Maternal grandparents are Mrs. Norman Black of West Lafayette and the late Glen Sears, paternal grandparents, Bro. and Sis. Alpha Knochel of West Lafayette.

Congratulations to Ana Encinosa and Ross Jones, who were married Jan. 8. Ross' parents are Bill and Sis. Ada (Schieler) Jones. The newlyweds will live in Boston, Mass., where Ross is employed.

Due to snow-bound roads, we couldn't have church services on Sun. the 16th. Those who could assembled with the Wolcott congregation.

Rittman OH, Grace Gasser:
"Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

As these verses were read and meditated upon in one of our services, it was brought to our attention of the very strong influence which parents have on their young children. This reminded me of a

perfect example of good parental influence which I had observed. During the Christmas season, my 3rd grade class at school had been given a creative writing assignment to answer the following question: "What would your reaction be if your parents told you that there will be no tree, and no presents this Christmas?" One little girl's short answer touched my heart, and, I believe, says much about parental influence in her home. Here is Rhonda's answer:

"I would be sad, but some boys and girls in the world do not even have parents. Just so I have parents is a gift. Some boys and girls do not have food to eat. And I have food to eat. So it is good to have parents as a gift. And we can serve God. So there is my reaction."

Then there are always those parents who joyfully receive these little ones into their homes. Three homes have been blessed with baby boys. These include: Ricky and Kathy Garrison, their first child, named Michael Alan; Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller, their second son named Brian Ralph; Bro. Steve and Sis. Karen Ramsier, a son named Marlin Wayne. Marlin is also welcomed by one sister.

Funeral services were conducted on Dec. 31 for Sis. Selma Hartzler, age 75, who passed away at the Apostolic Christian Home.

Ray Patterson, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol, and Bro. Richard Steiner have both recovered, following surgery. Larry Bachman, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn, was hospitalized for tests. Sis. Burdella Bauman is a hospital patient. Sis. Elizabeth Barna suffered a heart attack, and is recovering at the home of her daughter.

We are grateful to have had two visiting ministers. They are Bro. Dave Roberts of Philadelphia and Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle of Sardis.

The following engagements have been announced: Bro. Rob Stoller of Latty and Sis. Joanne Walder (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) . . . Bro. Fred Domka of Mansfield and Sis. Connie Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce).

Sabetha, KS, Mrs. Joe Steiner:
Visiting ministers have been Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, and Bro. Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, Kansas.
Hospitalized this past month

were Sis. Tillie Aberle, Sis. Fanny Bahr, Bro. John Plattner. Also hospitalized for surgery were Bro. Joe Aberle, Bro. Paul Strahm and Keith and Clinton Beyer, small sons of Sis. Karen and Bro. Martin.

Toledo, OH, Josephine Rehklau:
The fruits of the Spirit of God provides the oil to keep our spiritual lamp burning. Faith, hope, and charity are fruits of the spirit. The greatest of these three is charity.

What are characteristics of charity which should influence our life-style? Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. It does not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own; is not easily provoked, and thinketh no evil. It beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, and endureth all things.

Let this little lamp of ours be filled with the oil, which will make it shine brightly in our daily walk of life.

We rejoice, as do the angels in heaven, over one soul who comes to the Lord in repentance. Our dear friend, Richard Fetter through repentance and grace from God has found peace in heart and is looking forward to becoming an heir of His eternal kingdom.

Many prayers have been offered that Bro. Walter Rager could again receive sufficient sight to assemble with us again. This has come to pass, and we give heartfelt thanks to God for His blessing.

Our Sunday School children, in presenting their Christmas program, reminded us of the marvelous manner in which God made known to the world of the coming to earth of His Son, our Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Karen and Dennis Labadu have a son, Carey Dennis. His grandparents are Sis. Lois and Warren Newman.

Roanoke IL, Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel:

I don't know about tomorrow;
I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine,
For its skies may turn to gray.
I don't worry o'er the future,
For I know what Jesus said—
Today I'll walk beside him,
For He knows what is ahead.
Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand,

But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand . . .

On Christmas Day, we had Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin IL) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) as our visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Joe Braker was with us on New Year's Eve.

The annual business meeting was held on Wed. evening, Jan. 12.

The engagement of Sis. Lynne Wuthrich (Bro. Willis and Sis. Flo) and Bro. Ken Yordy of Gridley was announced. Also announced was the engagement of Sis. Charlene Kuperschmidt (Bro. Charles and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Dan Monk, Eureka.

Sis. Frieda Schafer, Sis. Nancy Hodel, Bro. Joe Rocke, Bro. Alvin Hodel were hospitalized. Bro. Eugene Bertschi was transferred to Peoria Forest Park for therapy. He is slowly improving.

"Thanks for the cards, gifts, money, and beautiful basket of fruit." Sis. Anna Schumacher.

Four of our dear friends have found peace and wish to give their testimonies this week-end, the Lord willing. They are Paul and Chuck Fehr (Bro. Rich and Sis. Madlyn), Tammie Diggle (Bro. John and Sis. Sarah), and Curtis Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris).

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Rockville CT, Carlton J. Lanz.

An Entreating Message to the church at year's end by our elder.

This will be the last time we will be together this year, at least on the Sabbath Day—this is the last one. We never know; we could have a funeral this week. . . . But we do know that this is the last Sunday we will be together, and I believe that even as we together commemorated the birth of Christ, which is a tremendous blessing, how God revealed his love to us through the sending of the best he had . . . we have come to the close of that blessed day, and now we are drawing to the close of the year . . . as we reflect back and just think of the past year and the many events that have happened; loved ones have been taken out of this life, which perhaps a year ago we had no inkling that this would be the

case.

Not only is it customary that we perhaps close our books in a material way and reflect upon our business, but much more in the spirit. As we have no promise of tomorrow, and when we look back and count the blessings, how good God has been to us! Certainly those that have been taken from us, we thank God for every victory that has been won. For those that could close their eyes to this world, at peace with God and go to their reward, we thank God for it. Others that we had to place in the hands of God that were taken out of this life, where it is well that we do not judge, and we are not called upon to do this, but we commit them into the hands of God . . . both those that are converted and those that are not can be called out of this life without a notice and within a moment of time.

As we embark upon a new year, that we may do this soberly, just looking ahead . . . we do not have to concern ourselves that much, because God is going to provide . . . but just look ahead possibly somewhat in wonderment, just what will be in a year from now, Lord willing that we live and the world remains, just what will be the changes that will have taken place among us. I believe that we together, our fondest wish and hope would be that our children whom we love, that have been reared with the word of God and been exposed to the word at services and have joined us many times—our fondest wish and hope would be that they could see the light—that God could reveal Himself to them—that they could become a child of God, a part of the flock of which we have sung together (Hymn No. 119). Again . . . that whoever is taken out of our midst, that they can close their eyes to this world with a peace and contentment of heart, and as we have heard in the prayer, to know that their Redeemer lives. So let us not be discouraged, but let us be thankful for the blessings that we have enjoyed, and even look forward with anticipation and faith, that the Lord will be with us even in the ensuing year, if we should live. May the Lord bless us all in my humble wish and prayer.

As we listened to the words of the above message and rereading them, it was plain to note the concern and even the apprehension could be seen in his thinking. Yet

near at the close he said, "Let us not be discouraged, but let us be thankful for the blessings that we have enjoyed and even look forward with anticipation and faith that the Lord will be with us even in the ensuing year if we should live."

Announcements were made of Bro. Terry Virkler, son of Bro. Bernhard and Sis. Caroline, to Sis. Cindy Lanz, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Frieda . . . also, Sis. Mary Lu Gerber, daughter of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Matilda, to Bro. Daniel Goric, son of Sis. Janet (Hoffman) Goric . . . Bebra J. Luginbuhl, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen, has announced her engagement to Charles K. Crary Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Crary of Preston, Conn.

Born Jan. 6, a daughter, Kimberly Ann, to Dean and Joanne Kupferschmid, their first child. Grandparents of the infant are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Dearstyne, Tolland, Conn., and Bro. Werner and Sis. Clara (Lanz) Kupferschmid, Rockville.

We are experiencing a severe spell of cold weather. Lots of snow all around. Yet, when it at first falls, what could be more beautiful and what could produce a more beautiful or majestic scene. Everything softens to swans down . . . just to name a few, corn shocks left standing in the fields, old machinery left outside, rail fences, clotheslines are strings of white cotton, and unsightly heaps of trash all are covered with that beautiful white. The Hand of our God, the great Creator, we see in every direction, never idle. How great is God Almighty, who has made all things so well.

Our annual business meeting was held, with nearly all offices filled by each succeeding himself. One exception was Bro. Kenneth Bahler as trustee, a three-year term. The meeting was orderly and well attended, in spite of the cold.

Tremont, IL, Lydia Rassi-Mary Jane Leuthold: We were privileged to have (Bros.) John Steiner and Steve Rinkenberger visit us. We are a blessed people to be able to sit and hear the true word and sound teachings of the holy scriptures.

The inspiring Christmas program was brought to us in songs and readings by our many children, friends of the truth and their

teachers. It is such a joy to see so many happy faces telling us the true message.

Our prayers are with our dear shut-ins, (Sisters) Helen Pflederer, Sophia Steiner, Merna Koch; Bro. Jay Bolliger and Bro. Elmer Sauder; Mike Aberle. We are so thankful when our sick are able to worship and fellowship with us again.

Bro. Levi Sauder wishes to thank all the loved ones who remembered him with cards, gifts and in their prayers. He has slowly been regaining his strength and has been able to assemble with us a half day at church. Bro. Walter Aberle has been assembling with us again since his surgery and has been enjoying better health. "We want to thank everyone for visits, cards, flowers, gifts, and help during my stay in the hospital, and since I'm home. We are also thankful for the prayers in our behalf." Bro. Walter, Sis. Vera Aberle and family.

Our love and good wishes to Daniel Beutel and Janet Wettstein, who were married Jan. 1.

A dear little baby girl, Sarah Jane was born to Duane and Cynthia Miller Jan. 12. Her grandparents are Edward and Doris Miller and the James Berniers, Tremont.

Athens AL, Hazel Vibbert:

Praise him, our Lord and Redeemer,
For love greater far than we know.
O praise him and love him forever,
And tell forth wherever we go.

Truly God's blessing was bestowed upon three dear souls, as they have seen their need for a loving Saviour; Bob Tucker, husband of Sis. Mary; Randall Gwen, a son in law, and husband of Robin; and Frances Rouse.

The program of the new church is coming along real good.

Charles Vibbert is in the hospital and has had knee surgery.

Our area has been in the path of a terrific cold spell, with some damage due to frozen water pipes . . . some that has electric heat got cold, when the electric was off. We are just not used to this kind of weather. The newsman says it hasn't been this cold in a hundred years.

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

Chicago IL, Kathy Schlatter. Our earthly itinerary: I must needs go home by the way of the cross.

Our little 3-5-year-olds were singing about the wise man and the foolish man: The wise man built his house upon the Rock . . . and the rains came tumbling down. The rains came down and the floods came up . . . but the house on the Rock stood firm. Now, the foolish man built his house upon the sand . . . and the rains came tumbling down. The rains came down and the floods came up . . . and the foolish man's house went smash . . . And it struck me that the rains and the floods, the trials, temptations, griefs, fears were the same. The wise man received no special favors, but building his life on the Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ, made all the difference! (the last verse mentions, **The blessings will come down as the prayers go up.**)

I remember distinctly a friend's testimony I heard some time ago. He was happily married, had two children, had a good job which he enjoyed. One day he looked out at his world . . . things had gone so well. He said to himself, "What have I ever done for God that I should have all these joys?" Then he turned around, repented, and the Lord blessed him even more mightily.

We pray that the Lord will bless Sis. Diane Gramm (daughter of Bro. Ed Gramm and Sis. Lucille, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Tom Witzig of Morton (son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Mary Ann Witzig, Morton), whose engagement was announced Christmas Day.

Newcomers to our Chicago congregation are Marvin Wieland (Bay City), who is repenting, and starting to school here, and Kurt Mitchell, born Jan. 19 to Bro. Glen and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer. His brothers, eagerly waiting at home, are Lance and Bart. We are greatly pleased to have them both with us. May they (and we) grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our visiting ministers, Bros. Virgil Metzger, Campaign; Bob Pohl, Burlington; Bill Gerst, Alto; and Joe Braker, Morton, who as vessels in the service of the Lord, have truly spoken His word. Elder Bro. Joe was with us on Sat. evening, Jan. 15 for the reading of the memorandum, and again on Sunday he very lovingly ministered unto us.

Some of his thoughts especially made us think. When we are spared trouble, perhaps it is because we are weak and could not bear them . . . for when we think we are strong, we are weak; yet when we know we are weak, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness . . ." And there is this amazing set of sums, relating to our lives: Everything minus Jesus equals Nothing; Jesus plus 0 equals Everything.

For Morris Stedman, whose mother passed away, and Sis. Verna, we wish God's comforting arms to bear them up in their sorrow. Our prayers go out to Bro. Ray Young, whose leg was severely fractured in an accident at work. His leg will be in a cast for several months.

Do we appreciate enough what the Lord has provided us with? Materially we have food, shelter—since it's been so cold here, we've lately appreciated perhaps more than ever the heat in our homes.

Congerville IL, Sharon McClure - Judy Wettstein: Jane Steffen, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary, has become engaged to Ken Studebaker, son of Paul Studebaker of Eureka . . . Millie Honeg and Donald Bigger of Pekin have been united in marriage.

Another bundle of joy, Joshua Fred, born in December, came to live with Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp. He has Derrick, Sara and Jonathan to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge Knapp and Bro. Bill and Sis. Clare Kempf of Eureka.

Our sympathy is given to Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber in the loss of their infant son. Nathaniel Grant, who was stillborn on Jan. 17. Graveside services were held at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday at the Dells Cemetery. Grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Velda Obermyer of Francesville and Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma Schieber.

Loved ones hospitalized and now home have been Bro. Alvin Schrock, Sis. Mary Schieber and Dave Zimmerman . . . Bro. Alvin wishes to express that he is "thankful for the outpouring of kindness, prayers, and concern and well wishes during my short stay at the hospital."

On Jan. 15 and 16, we were again able to witness the miracle of rebirth, when seven dear souls, after

having given their testimonies, were baptized and became members of the body of Christ. We gladly welcome as our brothers and sisters, Myra Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois), Bonnie and Glen Ott (Clayton and Sis. Margaret), Brian and Debbie Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy), Karen Knapp (Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Marge), Sue Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline). Elder Bros. Roy Grimm and Perry Zimmerman assisted Josh Broquard. Also with us this day were Bros. Gene Lehman of Wolcott and Kenneth Knapp of Taylor.

We're thankful that the call of the Lord has not ceased, and there are still others who have now turned to the Lord in repentance. Terry Hasty, daughter of Richard and Katie, has made a start on this precious pathway.

On Jan. 16, Elder Bros. Edwin Ringger, Perry Zimmerman assisted our Elder Bro. Josh Broquard in sharing with us the results of the Conference. We were reminded of our precious heritage. It is always good when we can take stock of our spiritual lives and compare ourselves to the word.

Our Annual Meeting was held Jan. 17. Bro. Chris Miller was put in as trustee, Bros. Harvey Schieber, Duane Steffen, Don Ott and Tim Zimmerman as ushers.

Summary: The old year made many changes for us, joy and sorrow for each one. There were: births 8, marriages 3, friend's marriage 1, converts 10, deaths 3, anniversaries 1, new families 2.

March is Silver Lining collection for Congerville.

Elgin IA, Eleanor Butikofer: To view our landscape this morning was to see a beautiful snow-covered one, glistening in the sun. We have been in the throes of real winter weather for a number of weeks; fact is, the mercury had slid down to 25 degrees below zero one morning. This morning, the wild birds began quite early to search for food next to our kitchen window. After removing the snow from the walk, it was quite a sight to see cardinals, jays, juncos, titmice, chickadees, woodpeckers and sparrows alight to partake of the seeds and grains scattered for them.

It was a real pleasure to see and visit with Mike Butikofer, who has been home on a leave from military training. He is the son of Bro.

Wm. and Sis. Norma Butikofer. Mike left for Charleston, S.C., and from there he was flown to a point in Germany.

A wedding reception for Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Sandy was held at the home of Lonnie's parents, the Bert Butikofer. Quite a number of our folks attended their wedding, which took place at West Bend. We welcome Sis. Sandy into our midst.

Our hospital patient is Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer. He is in the Postville Community Memorial Hospital. Bro. Gottlieb was always very faithful in church attendance. We will miss him while he is away.

Here is an up-to-date list of our Sunday School teachers: Bible class — Bro. John Schupbach . . . substitute: Bro. Wm. Butikofer . . . Next to the Bible class: Bro. Tim Butikofer . . . substitute, Bro. Lonnie Butikofer; intermediate class— Sis. Gloria Frieden . . . substitute, Sis. Elizabeth Moore; Beginners class, Sis. Karla Moore . . . substitute, Sis. Joy Frieden . . . Ushers, Bros. Lonnie Butikofer, Floyd Frieden; Trustees, Bros. Wm. Butikofer, Chas. Schneider, Tim Butikofer; Bro. Jake Gehring, World Relief Fund.

The past is a memory. The future is a hope. Facing it with hope will encourage us in each endeavor. The future begins today. The best preparation for the new year ahead is to do today's work well. Paul, the apostle gives us food for thought, as we pause to look back at the year that is past and forward . . . He writes, "but **this one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." If we look to the future with hope, and live each day with courage, our faith in God will carry us through.

Ft. Lauderdale FL, Caroline Akel: This winter, several of our families traveled north to visit relatives or friends. Their presence was missed by our church, but our prayers were with each one. We are glad that God protected them, and all have returned home safely.

At this time of the year our church welcomes many visitors from the North. It is so wonderful to worship our Lord together and to share in the blessed fellowship. We should be so thankful that God

bleses us with dear Christian friends. They mean so much to us.

Our visiting ministers were Rodney Huber from Valparaiso and Homer Reineck from Toledo. We are glad that God's word is still going forth, encouraging Christians and inviting all others to come to our Lord.

Little Daniel Sauder has been hospitalized again. Our thoughts and prayers are certainly with his parents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder.

Goodfield IL, Elna Grimm - Ver-na Hartter:

Dear Lord! Kind Lord!
Gracious Lord! I pray
Thou wilt look on all I love
Tenderly today!

Weed their hearts of weariness;
Scatter every care
Down a wake of angel-wings,
Winnowing the air.

And with all the needy
Oh divide, I pray,
This vast treasure of content
That is mine today.

How truly were these words felt as our converts gave their testimonies, and shared the joys that are theirs in their new walk with the Lord. Barry Kloter, son of Bro. and Sis. Edmund and Lorene; Bruce Wyss, son of Bro. and Sis. Roy and Arlene; Janet Tanner, wife of Joe and daughter of Bro. and Sis. Rich and Helen Zimmerman, Roanoke; and Noel Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davis, Goodfield were then baptized and joined to the body of Christ.

Bro. and Sis. Glenn and Bev Joos, Deer Creek, were blessed with a little boy, Ryan Earl, on Dec. 28. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Howard and Vera Heinold and Bro. and Sis. Bill and Clem Joos, all of R.R. Deer Creek . . . a daughter, Allecia Nicole, was born to Bro. and Sis. Mike and Kathy Finley, R.R. Carlock on Jan. 10. Grandparents are Chester and Sis. Ethel Finley, Goodfield, and Bro. and Sis. Bill and Dorothy Sauder, Roanoke.

Our friends, Mel Blunier, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold Blunier — Roanoke, and Marilyn Hohulin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Underwood, Eureka, were married on Dec. 17.

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Leroy Huber — Eureka, Sam

Anliker — Lamont, Simon Wagenbach — Tremont, Henry Grimm and Joe Zimmerman — Morton.

Bro. Dick Hohulin had surgery on his toes, and was laid up for a week or two. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger was hospitalized with a knee infection. They are both up and about again. Bro. Eli Knapp and Sis. Mary Nohl were both moved to the Eureka Hospital, where they are in fair condition. They would both earnestly covet your prayers.

I know that I must take the time
To do some kindly deed,
To shed a little happiness
On those in such deep need.

A word of cheer for some dear soul,
A card, a song, a prayer . . .
Yes just a moment of my time,
So they will know I care.

Indianapolis IN, Patrick and Judy Dubach: Longfellow could take a worthless sheet of paper, write a poem on it, and make it worth \$6,000 — **that's genius.** Rockefeller could sign his name to a piece of paper and make it worth a million dollars — **that's capital.** A mechanic can take material that is worth \$5 and make it worth \$50 — **that's skill.** An artist can take a 50c piece of canvas, paint a picture on it and make it worth \$1,000, **that's art.** God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it in the blood of Christ, put his Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to humanity — **that's salvation!**

We want to thank Bro. Marvin Stieglitz — Leo for visiting and ministering to us.

Kiowa KS, Janice Frieden:

We oft look into the skies and tears will fill our eyes, for our burdened hearts grow heavier with each day. First we cry, Oh Lord, please come; come and take thy children home . . . But then we look around us and we say: Wait a little longer, please, Jesus; there are so many wandering out in sin; Just a little longer, please, Jesus. A few more days to get our loved ones in.

One of our ministering brethren talked of Christ's return, and of how fervently he is looking forward to it. Also of how we should be ever ready, as the time is short. As the brother spoke, I couldn't help but recall the many many times I have wished for the same

return, especially as I've looked around at the decay of moral and spiritual values, sweeping this beautiful land wherein God has so richly blessed us . . . But then, I look again at the many who don't know Christ yet, and I'm so very thankful that we have a longsuffering Father who is **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

We were fortunate that our sick list was small. Bro. Richard Guthrie was in for a short stay, but we are thankful he is again in our midst. We have special cause to thank the Lord, for our friends, Dale Tucker and Bud Murrow both had tumors removed and neither are malignant. We find out daily how fully God answers prayer!

We received the memorandum tapes from the Conference, and as we listened to the godly instruction from the concerned Elder body, we couldn't help feeling humbled at how unworthy we are of such marvelous grace. How thankful we should be that the elder body is concerned enough to give us scriptural instruction to help us through the pitfalls of this life.

Lamont KS, Susan Emch: We are thankful for visiting brethren who are willing to speak God's word. We were blessed with much spiritual food the first Sunday of the new year, when Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend, assembled with us. May it be a year of spiritual love and growth among us, His children.

Brandon Emch, son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan, was hospitalized for a few days. Our friend, Joann Luthi was a hospital patient for surgery. We are thankful she can assemble with us again.

Our annual business meeting was held, and those elected were: Bro. Clarence Young, treasurer of cemetery board; Bro. David Wernli, Sunday School superintendent and teacher; Sis. Barbara Wernli, substitute teacher for nursery and primary classes; Sis. Kathy Burnham, to serve on food committee; Sis. Susan Emch, Silver Lining reporter; Bro. Jay Luthi, usher.

Latty OH, Karen Klopfenstein - Diane Stoller: Last year we had: 5 friend's weddings, 4 member weddings, 19 baptisms, 4 funerals, 12 births.

We laid to rest Sis. Nettie Drayner on Jan. 10. Surviving is her one

son, Hilmer.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Bros. Tom Laukhuf, Louis Stoller, and JoAnne Klopfenstein while in the hospital.

The engagement of Bro. Robin Stoller (Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene) to Sis. Joanne Walder (Rittman) (Bro. Don and Sis. Martha) was made known Jan. 9. A March 6 wedding is being planned.

Visiting us on Jan. 15 and 16 for the provings and baptism of: Bonnie Riggerbach (Harlan and Sis. Delores), Gaye Laukhuf (Bro. Bob and Sis. Iris), Jill Stoller (Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther), Carol Stoller (Bro. Delmar and Sis. Marguerite), Wayne and Lee Klopfenstein (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen) were Bro. David Kieser (Princeville), Bro. Ben Hartzler (Rittman), and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction). May God give them grace for each day that they may stay upon the narrow way.

Milford IN, Coleen Beer - Linda Beer: FAITHFUL IS HE WHO HAS PROMISED . . . "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead . . ." Isn't this a comfort to know that Jesus as the Good Shepherd will carry us in His arms? Shepherds sometime have trouble with young lambs straying from the flock into the brush and rocks, where they're easy prey for the wolves. The shepherd knows the danger, but the lamb does not. Since the shepherd must protect the lamb, he will break its leg if it insists on straying. While its leg is healing, the shepherd will carry the lamb in a sling suspended around his neck. During this time a relationship develops between the lamb and shepherd that nothing can separate.

God's ways are so much higher than ours. He causes adversities and afflictions when it's needed, to teach and show us direction. He promises to see us through.

We were refreshed in spirit when Bro. Garth Steffan of Portland, Bro. Ray Sinn — Latty, Bros. Don Gudeman and Todd Feller of LaCrosse were in our midst.

Bro. Oscar Graff was hospitalized for a stroke. He has regained speech and are thankful for his recovery and hope he can soon assemble with us. During his illness, he and his wife, Sis. Hulda observed their 60th wedding anniversary.

We have those of our congregation whose physical body does not allow them to hear God's word, but we pray that their spiritual body is growing stronger each day — Bros. Charles Weisser, George Lehman, Sis. Laura Wuthrich and Anna Steiglitz.

All God's testings have a purpose—
Some day you will see the light.
All He asks is that you trust Him,
Walk by faith and not by sight.

Minneapolis MN, Josephine Esterling: In the twinkling of an eye our Lord shall come to claim His own. It may be in the morning, It may be at midday, at evening or midnight. We must be wearing our blood-bought robes, and our hearts must be right. Signs are everywhere, the winter is past. The rains are over, and the fig tree is budding. Look upward, He is drawing nigh —

We have an interesting visitor from Austria with us. Elizabeth Eurick is in the States, visiting her three children and their families. Her English is limited, so only those who can converse with her in German can fully enjoy her many interesting stories of her homeland. Her very countenance radiates with the love for her Lord. She is delighted when she can come and worship with us. She often tells about the hard times in Austria and reminds us to be grateful for our many blessings in America.

Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner welcome a new family member. Joan Ellan was born Dec. 14. Ryan and Quinn are Joan's older brothers and were on hand to welcome mother and daughter home from the hospital.

Bro. Paul Butikofer from Elgin, Iowa ministered to us on Sunday, Jan. 16.

Naumburg NY, Betty Virkler: Hospital patients were Sis. Iva Poling, Bro. Earl Rohr and Sis. Betty Virkler.

We welcomed our young folks home for the holidays to worship with us: Rose Virkler (Bro. Perry) Elim; Carlene Virkler (Bro. Perry); Sara Hirschey; Norman Hirschey; and Martha Hirschey (Bro. Leland and Sis. Bernice).

"We wish to thank everyone who remembered us in our sorrow, with the passing from this life of our beloved grandfather and great-grandfather, Alfred P. Hendrick,

88 years old, of RR 3, Carthage (Sis. Betty Virkler and Linda Beyer). He is survived by a son, Donald A., and two daughters, Mrs. Lyle (Gladys) Abel and Mrs. Arlington (Leta) Stoddard. His wife, Alice (Snyder) died April 27, 1965.

On Jan. 16, the engagement was announced of Sis. Cindy Lanz and Bro. Terry Virkler. Parents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Freda Lanz and Bro. Bernard and Sis. Carolyn Virkler.

We enjoyed a blessed noon hour Christmas program, presented by our Sunday School children on Dec. 19. We also shared a covered-dish supper with the Croghan congregation, at Croghan church Wed. evening Jan. 12.

We have been experiencing a real old-fashion winter here so far, with lots of snow, lots of wind, and very cold temperatures . . . we hope for an early and warm spring.

Peoria IL, JoAnn Rieker - Barb Beyer: Never be afraid of giving up your best, and God will give you His better. At times it seems awfully hard to get going and give of your time and efforts to those who really need them. However, it seems when we give of ourselves, we are often the ones who receive the greatest blessing. We should be thankful that our ministers are so willing to give of themselves. On Christmas Day, we were privileged to have Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson) minister to us. Both he and Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena) traveled many miles to bring us the good word.

Two dear souls have answered God's call and have come into the fold. Pam Ober (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ethel Waible) and Kevin Plattner (Bro. Mel and Sis. Mardell) gave their testimonies on Jan. 15 and were baptized the following day.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Loretta Schafer were blessed with a new baby daughter; Laurie Lee was born Dec. 30. Her brothers are Craig and Alan.

At our New Year's Eve service, we were happy to hear of the engagement of Sis. Mary Ann Hartman (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Elsa) to Bro. Jack Davis.

Jan. 2 was the wedding day of Bro. Ben Hoerr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia) and Sis. Tina Pohl (Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce). They were married in Burlington and will make their first home in Cham-paign.

Hospitalized were Bro. Jim Hoerr, Fritz Bessler, Bertie Siebenthal, Sisters Elma Ziegenhorn, Marie Wiess, Ida Huber, Emma Eberhardt, Emma Messer and Connie Triplett.

We wish to express our sympathy to Sis. Mary Ann Herman on the death of her father, Bro. Edward Suttor. He was also the grandfather of our Bro. Steve Suttor.

"Thanks to you dear ones for the prayers, gifts and cards I received while in the hospital and at home." Sis. Freda Kipfer.

Our new Sunday School teachers are Sis. Barb Thomas. Sis. Kathy Hoerr, (Bros.) Mike Rieker, Rich Hermann and Steve Sauder.

Apostolic Christian Home for the Aging (Peoria) by Joe Thomas Sr.: Newcomers to our home are Sisters Lavina (Beckly) Meister — wife of the late Carl Meister, Eva Baurer, and Huldah Plattner, residents of Peoria many years.

Many of the ladies spend their time making items such as quilts, stuffed dolls, stuffed monkeys, and many other things. Several of the men are making doll houses and furniture, bird houses, candlestick holders, and other things, since we have a wood-working shop set up.

Although the snow lays heavy on the ground, several of the residents are looking forward to working in our garden, especially Bro. Will Perdelwitz, age 90, who spent many hours there this past summer, also Sis. Wilhelmine Baurer, who did much of the harvesting. Other residents processed the food.

Recent trips to hospitals were made by Sis. Ida Huber, wife of the late Bro. Will Huber, of Princeville, our friend, Frieda Berchtold. Both are home again and doing well.

We are blessed with many visitors, and it is a joy to see these visitors come to see their loved ones.

Sis. Bertha Johnston has been moved to the infirmary, where she will receive special care.

Shioda Japan, Willis R. Ehnle: I read the following, "Christmas was outlawed in America from 1659 until the last century . . ." What's that? Christmas outlawed? I didn't read that in our school textbooks. Didn't realize that such a thing would have ever been possible. Those who outlawed it so early

in the history of our country must have felt that it was pagan as celebrated in Europe, and were determined that such paganism would not be brought to the new land. Christmas is all right insofar as it honors Christ and promotes love of one's family and neighbors, but care must be exercised not to depart from the holiness of the occasion. "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them . . ."

An author reports, that people do not get enough love from other people and must turn to pet animals for affection. Let God's people pave the way in doing better in this regard. Among other things, how about a cheerful "Good morning", said with lots of joy and enthusiasm! Show your love by respecting others and giving them consideration. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

Children, as well as adults, should learn to say an emphatic "No" to all things which are not wholesome or pleasing to God. "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

At our Conference held at Shioda on January 15, mention was made that our faith is a living faith and requires nourishment, by regular assembly, daily Scripture reading, prayer and hymn singing, as well as by the spiritual exercise of being a light and a testimony.

The Grabill Hardware in Grabill, Indiana, burned to the ground. I heard it on a news commentary over the U.S. Army radio station out of Tokyo. The owner, (one of them) a Mr. Schrock, fought the blaze with all his might until he could see the fire could not be extinguished. Then he sat down to ponder his loss, where so many neighborhood farmers had come to obtain the tools they need to carry on their occupation. To clean up the mess and to start again from scratch was just too much to think about, let alone to attempt. However, the next day a few of those farmers came and started cleaning up; their number grew to about 100, and things changed fast . . . With 100 men pitching in and working like beavers, just out of the goodness of their heart, who wouldn't get new hope and courage! The Grabill Hardware shall rise again, if the report

was correct. In this particular matter, we can certainly learn something . . . Their action was basic to fulfilling the teaching, **Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.**

A slogan which was proposed at our conference is, **Let us joyfully go to church.**

When it comes to modesty and self-denial, always go an extra mile on the safe side of the road.

Silverton OR, Kathy Dietrich: A second daughter, Lori Kay, was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich on Jan. 20, an innocent, welcome addition to our small group.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: . . ."

March is Silver Lining collection for Silverton.

Taylor MO, Lena M. Haerr: Live and Learn . . . be thou an example . . . in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

I read the following, and we can learn much . . . If a boy lives with criticism, he learns to condemn . . . Hostility — to fight. Fear — to be apprehensive . . . Pity — to feel sorry for himself . . . Jealousy — to feel guilty . . . Tolerance — to be patient . . . Acceptance — to love . . . Recognition — to have a goal . . . Fairness — what justice is . . . Honesty — what truth is . . .

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine; Lord, I will forever and always be Thine! Bro. Don Sauder, Roanoke, and many gathered at Taylor, from Eureka, Roanoke, Peoria and Morton, when Robert and Cynthia Hoerr Designe of Roanoke gave their testimony and were baptized Dec. 18-19. We are so happy for them.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Ezra Feller — Cissna, Arnie Gerst — Chicago and Ben Wysong — Sabetha.

A new baby girl, Julie Alysse was born Dec. 19 to Bro. and Sis. Louis and Ruth Massner Hoerr. Shelly, LuAnn and Douglas welcome her. Another special baby was born Dec. 30 to Bro. and Sis. Bruce and Lauretta Hoerr Schafer of Peoria. Alan and Craig welcome their little sister, Laurie Lee, too.

Many missed church with sickness at home. They say the weather is so unusual in Zapata (I was there for two weeks), but it surely isn't more unusual than here, with so much snow and below zero for

such a long time.

The church business meeting was held Fri. evening, Jan. 14. Bro. Mike Stratton was voted in as trustee, the cemetery committee dissolved, and Bro. Robert Hoerr is the new Sexton.

With deep sympathy to Bros. Henry and Ed Souder in the passing of their dear mother, Lydia. I know how it feels to have mom go home . . . **But, home to die no more.** We have so much to be thankful for, when we know our loved ones belong to Jesus, our Lord.

Tokyo Japan, Yoshio Yamazaki: I heard that terrible cold weather has spread around the United States this year and quite a few people were killed in Chicago. We are having cold weather here in Japan, too. According the paper, it is coldest since 15 years. However, we are really blessed in the Lord. World has become worse and worse lately, and it really looks like that Sodom and Gomorrah in the Old Testament. The people of this world should realize their sins and should repent, before the Lord, ahead of time before His last judgment.

The Lord gave a real wonderful gift of a girl for Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue a day after Christmas, and they gave her named Ayako Catherine. She is real cute baby girl.

Sis. Hisayo Shinkai came to Tokyo and helped Sis. Marie, after Sis. Tamino Inoue, Akito's mother went home.

A blessed day was spent as several us went to Shioda church on Jan. 15 for our annual Brotherhood Conference. May we be watchful and careful in our Christian life and serve the Lord with gladness.

Tucson AZ, Caroline Zeltwenger: We were happy to have Bro. Elmer Schmidt of the Winthrop church visit us. We sincerely hope that he enjoyed our congregation as much as we enjoyed his messages.

As spring approaches, our winter visitors are many. They come to enjoy our warm, sunny climate and fellowship with us.

Our congregation rejoiced with Sis. Rita Bertschi and Bro. Don Cooper of Altadena, as they announced their engagement. It is an unusually exciting event here in Tucson, because we have such few occasions as this.

Winthrop MN, Delores Messerli - Marcelle Dapper:

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail;
By the living word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

GOD HATH GIVEN UNTO US EXCEEDINGLY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES. Although men often make promises they cannot keep, this is not true of God. His promises in Christ are "yea" and "Amen". Here are just a few which we as Christians may lean on:

HELP in time of need. He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. **THE LORD IS MY HELPER . . . STRENGTH** in our weakness. Fear thou not; for . . . **I WILL STRENGTHEN THEE;** yea; I will help thee . . . **CHEER** in despondency. **BE OF GOOD CHEER;** it is I; be not afraid . . . **GUIDANCE** in perplexity. For this God is our God forever and ever; **HE WILL BE OUR GUIDE EVEN UNTO DEATH . . . COMFORT** in trouble. As one whom his mother comforteth, **SO WILL I COMFORT YOU . . . JOY** in sorrow. The Lord says, **THEY THAT SOW IN TEARS SHALL REAP IN JOY.**

Claim His promises today; they're the kind you can lean on! **YOU CAN NEVER BREAK GOD'S PROMISES BY LEANING ON THEM!**

The brothers conducted the annual business meeting Sat. evening, electing Bro. Dick Schmidt trustee, Bros. Dennis Messner and Mark Schmidt to aid committees.

Sis. Darlene Schmidt (Darrell) spent about a week in traction, as a result of a past car accident. She expresses her thanks for the cards and acts of kindness during her hospital stay. At this writing, Sis. Esther (George) Messner enters the hospital for x-rays and tests.

Bro. and Sis. Roy Hawk announce the birth of another granddaughter, born to Karen and Tom Smith of Fridley.

We join in the many prayers offered for our government, during the changing of leaders. May God ever keep this land of ours a place where we can worship freely and according to the dictates of our own hearts.

Wolcott IN, Laurel Widmer:

Such as do not grow in grace, decay. There is no standing at a stay in religion; either we go forward or backward. If faith does not grow, unbelief will; if heavenly mindedness does not grow, covetousness will. A man that doesn't increase his stock, diminishes it. If you do not ascend in religion, you descend.

We began the new year by gathering with Remington for services New Year's Day. On Jan. 9, Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) was with us for morning services. His efforts to come and be with us in the cold snowy weather was greatly appreciated.

We're happy to announce the arrival of Steven Edward, born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Yvonne Leman on Dec. 22. His big brother, Andy welcomes him.

Several of our older brothers and sisters have been unable to assemble with us this winter due to illness; Bro. Aaron and Sis. Leah Farney, Sis. Margaret Reel, Sis. Mary Hofstetter.

Little Sherry Bahler, daughter of Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla, was hospitalized several days due to complications of the flu. She is now home and on the road to recovery.

Zapata TX, Luise Engle - Tillie Kellenberger: The Lord Will Provide: How truly were those words spoken, when we hear in Zapata that we would be without a minister the last Sunday of 1976 and the first Sunday of the new year 1977. The Lord directed Bro. Elias Sommerhalder and Sis. Emma to spend a few weeks with us. Although he said he was retired from the ministry, he would lend himself in time of need. With prayerful support, Bro. Elias did declare God's holy word to us.

Jan. 9, Bro. George Lambert of Wichita, Bro. Elmer Schrenk of Alto, brought God's word and teachings to us.

Jan. 16 — Elder Bro. Paul Fehr of Morris, Bro. Harvey Heiniger of Oakville proclaimed God's word, making us more aware of our daily living.

There were 82 that gathered with us Jan. 16. It is a joy to meet and greet so many from far and near, having this common bond in Christ; we feel we have always known each other. We had a cover-

ed-dish potluck at the Community Bldg. Sunday and had evening services.

We are also having Wed. evening singing at 7 o'clock at the Siesta Shore Community Building.

Meeting place: Siesta Shore Community Bldg., Siesta Shore Subdivision on Highway 83. Look for church sign. Services 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Everyone Welcome. Telephone numbers to call: Herman Kellenberger, 765-5219; Edwin Hohulin, 765-5123.

Bay City MI, Carolyn Schambach: Several of our brethren have been ill and unable to assemble on and off these cold months . . . if we only have our health and the opportunity to come and go as we please, we should surely thank God frequently!

Bro. Neil, Sis. Sharon and Marianne Ramseyer welcome home their newest addition, Kayleen Elizabeth. Bro. Earl and Sis. Mary Ramseyer are grandparents. Congratulations!

Washington IL, Carole Kellenberger: "Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

How thankful we are that through singing we can "Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name." We thank the Mortonaires for their participation in our monthly Hymn Sing.

Again we thank the following Ministering Bros.: LeRoy Hartman, Ken Hoerr, Walt Anliker, Noah Herman, Ron Heiniger, Marvin Schmidgall, Bob Walder, Fred Knapp, Carl Feucht, James Ringger, Ken Dietz, Ed Alt, Leroy Huber, Vernon Leman, Sam Anliker and Henry Grimm.

Morris MN, Corrine Schmidgall - Lois Schmidgall: Many blessings have been ours when we look back over 1976. Our church statistics show that we have had 8 new babies, 10 baptisms, 2 new families moved here, 1 family moved away, 2 funerals and 1 graveside service.

We have resumed our Wed. evening services. They are at 7:45 p.m. It is always uplifting when we can gather around His word, not only on Sunday, but during the week too.

Hospital patients were: Sis. Sophie Nohl (Bro. Lawrence), Bro. Noah Nohl, Bro. Wm. Zeltwanger Sr., John Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd

and Sis. Vila), Bro. Gene Schmidgall, Bro. Larry Nohl, Paul Fehr Jr., Bros. Albert Joos, Dave Wulf, Joe Feuchtenberger.

On Jan. 1, Bro. Jim and Sis. Caroline Reuter were blessed with a bundle from heaven. His name is Brian James. He has a little sister, Amy Jo to welcome him.

Visiting us on the week-end of Jan. 8-9 for the provings and baptisms of LeAnn Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi), Vera Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn) and Leonard Mehke was Bro. Leo Moser of Lester.

The engagement of Sis. Joyce Durkee to Bro. Douglas Wulf was announced on Jan. 9. Parents are Lloyd and Dorothy Durkee and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi Wulf.

Champaign-Urbana, Dianne Leman: It's good to see the students again as they have returned after a month's semester break. We welcome Sis. Tina Pohl Hoerr to our congregation. She became the bride of Bro. Ben Hoerr on Jan. 2, in Burlington. Ben is a student at U of I, and they will live in Urbana.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Nada Leman are still living in an apartment while their home is being repaired following a fire. Bro. Greg and Sis. Sara Peters also had a small fire in their home while they were refinishing woodwork. Sara's mother, Sis. Ilene Herman of Morton, was burned and is hospitalized in Peoria, for treatment of burns.

Elgin IL, Mary Moser:

We are going down the Valley one by one,
When the labors of the weary day
are done . . .

Such was the lot of another of our faithful brothers, a pillar in our church for many years. On Dec. 13, Bro. Albert Wewetzer, age 83, could quietly and painlessly lay down his cross. His wife, Julia (Leuthold) preceded him in death in 1974 (after 58 years of marriage). He was also preceded by three sons. His five surviving children are Ruth (Charles) Maha, Sis. Evelyn (William) Gudeman, Eileen Schock, William, all of Elgin; and James of Lynchburg, Virginia. Also surviving are 5 sisters. Bro. Perry Zimmerman, assisted by our local ministers, conducted the services.

. . . And then what blissful joy shall
bind such hearts together,
When after parting's grief, they
meet again in heaven.

"Every kindness shown our beloved father during his illness — visits, cards, gifts, food and prayers, were so greatly appreciated by him. Now his children wish to thank relatives, friends, brethren and neighbors for love and sympathy extended them in their sorrow." The family of Bro. Albert Wewetzer.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Clara Knobloch and Bro. Jonathan Steffen. Bro. Jonathan is now home, recovering from back surgery.

On Jan. 16, four precious souls were added to the fold. They are Matt Heim, Sue Steffen, Alison Brown and Elaine Schambach. Visiting ministers on this blessed occasion were Elder Bros. Dan Koch of Tremont, Walt Steffen of Milford and Ron Heiniger of Bloomington. Other visiting ministers we were privileged to have are (Bros.) Garth Steffen of Portland, Willis Wiegand of Goodfield, Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest and Harold Messner of Winthrop.

Illinois State University, Barb Hoffmann: The children of Israel left Egypt to attain the Promised Land. God promised to care for this land and to keep His eyes upon it. God did not promise to care and watch over it for a day or a week, but He promised to always have His eyes upon it, from the start of the year even unto the end.

When we start a new year, we do not know what is ahead of us. We will meet up with new experiences, new blessings and new discouragements; nevertheless, God's eyes will always be upon our endeavors, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. Always: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

We were thankful to have Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville) share God's word with us for our first Bible Study of the new year.

Morton IL, Judy Springer - Lorna Schrock: Gary and Lisa Miller are the parents of their first child, a daughter born Dec. 24. She was named Tanja K. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Miller and Sis.

Edna Kahler.

On Christmas Day, the engagement of Sis. Diane Gramm, Gridley, to Bro. Tom Witzig of our congregation was announced. Their parents are Bro. and Sis. Ed Gramm and Bro. and Sis. Gene Witzig.

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Dave Kieser, Princeville and Dale Eisenmann, Chicago, for assisting in the reading of the memorandum on Wed. evening, Dec. 29. Truly God's love was brought forth by the brothers, and it was a very blessed evening. May we ever **Strive Aright.**

We are thankful for the messages of our visiting ministers. They included Bros. Richard Schupbach, Phoenix; Ben Maibach, Detroit; Carl Kinsinger, Altadena and Harvey Grimm, Bern.

Those who are or have been hospitalized include Bro. John Oberlander, Henry Aberle, and Sis. Eileen Hermann.

Our monthly hymnsing was held Sunday evening, Jan. 9 at the Fellowship Hall. A quartet of brothers sang some special selections, as did the residents from the Home for the Handicapped. I'm sure each one received a blessing.

Sarasota FL, Sandra Price - Lyn Blunier: It is beautiful to see our church filled to capacity the past few months, and it is with love and joy we welcome new as well as familiar faces. We welcome anyone traveling. Please call Bro. Phil Wingeier at 371-4155, if you need any information.

We are grateful to the following ministers who have been with us: (Bros.) Joe Schrock (Congerville), Phil Sauder (Cissna Park), Todd Feller (LaCrosse), Rod Huber (Valparaiso), Ed Bahler, (Remington), Homer Reinick (Toledo), Jim Leman (Roanoke), Floyd Wieland (Detroit), Ezra Feller (Cissna Park), (Elder) Roy Sauder (Peoria).

It is also good news when we hear of permanent residents . . . we welcome with love Chester and Lydia Davis (formerly from Mansfield), now living at 433 Crosby Ct., Sarasota, and Sis. Minnie Nueest, now living at 2314 Canal Drive, Bradenton.

Croghan NY, Alice Virkler: Sis. Barbara Virkler was relieved of her earthly suffering and pain when she was called from this life

on Jan. 22. She leaves the following survivors who mourn her passing: one son, Ralph, Lowville; two daughters, Sis. Charlotte Virkler — New Bremen and Jean (Boyce) Widrick — Castorland; one sister, Minnie Virkler — Lowville . . . Funeral services were held at the Virkler Funeral Home on Jan. 24 by Bro. John Widrick.

Friends and members of the Croghan and Naumburg congregations enjoyed fellowshiping together at a covered-dish supper, held Wednesday evening, Jan. 12, at the Croghan Church.

Our hospital patients have been Charlie and Eddie Farney, sons of Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice, and Lynnette Lawton, little daughter of Fred and Linda. We are thankful they have returned to their homes and can be in Sunday School and church again.

Sis. Lillian (Bro. Amos) Virkler and Gerald Grau, husband of Sis. Polly, are both medical patients. Bro. Clyde Virkler is a surgical patient and expects to have knee surgery.

Roger Farney, son of Bro. Donald and Sis. Alice, has joined the Navy. His address is: SR. Roger Farney USN 089-52-7103, Co. 109 RTC, Orlando FL 32893.

Gridley IL, Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein: In 1976, there were 8 baptisms, four weddings and eight deaths in our congregation.

It was interesting to receive the new books which list each church, its ministers, address and statistics. Bro. Orel Steiner has done an excellent job of compiling this useful information. We compared this to the last one which came out three years ago, and we are pleased to note that the membership of the Apostolic Christian churches has increased by 656 or 7 percent. May our wonderful and loving God and Saviour continue adding daily to the church such as should be saved. We are so glad for every soul who recognizes his lost condition and comes with a broken and contrite spirit to the foot of the cross. There, his sin debt can be forgiven and he can experience the miracle of conversion.

Bro. Harold and Sis. Wauva Kaupp are the happy parents of a baby girl, Tiffney Lee, who was born Dec. 31. She has four brothers: Tony, Tim, Troy and Trent. Tiffney's grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Denzel Cooper of Hudson and

Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Kaupp of Gridley. Great-grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Ida Rinkenberger of Gridley.

The marriage engagements were announced of Sis. Diane Gramm of Gridley to Bro. Tom Witzig of Morton, and Bro. Ken Yordy of Gridley to Sis. Lynn Weuthrich of Eureka.

Bros. Perry Klopfenstein, Bill Romersberger, Butch Gramm, Ministering Bro. Elmer Witzig, and Sis. Martha Witzig were in the hospital and have returned home.

We appreciated the visit of Ministering Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein from Landersville, Alabama.

March is Silver Lining collection for Gridley IL.

Gridley KS, Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr:

Too Much To Do

I knelt to pray, but not for long. I had too much to do. Must hurry off and get to work, for bills would soon be due . . . and so I said a hurried prayer, jumped up from off my knees. My Christian duty now was done; my soul could be at ease. All through the day I had no time to speak a word of cheer, no time to speak of Christ to friends. They'd laugh at me, I feared. No time, no time, too much to do, that was my constant cry; no time to give to those in need. At last, 'twas time to die . . . And when before the Lord I came, I stood with downcast eyes, within his hands he held a Book, It was the Book of Life. God looked into His Book and said, Your name I cannot find . . .

Due to much snow and ice, it became necessary to close church one Sunday. What an empty feeling one surely experiences when we are suddenly barred from fellowship with one another.

Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten) entered the hospital for nose surgery, due to complications of a fracture. Bro. Scott is home now, doing fine.

Lexington KY, Cathy Knobloch: This winter season has brought an unusually large amount of snow to our city. Heavy snowfall brings with it many inconveniences. Yet it is always an awesome sight to peek out the window early in the morning, and view the homes and streets blanketed in that pure, white snow. It reminds one of

Psalms 51:7, ". . . wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." Imagine! Christ's blood can cleanse us whiter than snow.

We are happy to report that several individuals from our congregation have turned to the Lord and experienced the joys of being washed in the blood of the Lamb. Two young couples have committed their households to the Lord. They are such a wonderful asset to our church. We welcome them to the family of God.

One Sunday evening, it was a real pleasure to have a group from the Open Door Children's Home with us. The girls sang several inspiring songs for us.

A group of young adults from Illinois and Indiana assembled with us, after they had spent a week doing volunteer work at the Open Door Home. Several couples, who were visiting the Dessie Scott Home, fellowshiped with us. We always appreciate company and encourage you to stop by if you are traveling in the area . . . "if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another . . ."

West Bend IA, Mrs. Raymond Anliker - Becky Banwart: Our prayers go out to the loved ones in our community, as it was saddened when the death angel took three teenagers' lives Jan. 7. In this one car accident, Sis. Corrine Traub lost a grandson, Kevin Ray, son of Paul and Shirley Wagner.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Mary Traub, Sis. Ida Metzger, Leslie Schneider (son of Louis and Joni), and Melissa Fehr (daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy). Our Sis. Mary Mogler is undergoing tests. May we remember one another in prayer.

A baby girl, Katie Lou, was born Dec. 31 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Lyla Wirtz. A son, Matthew will welcome her home. Grandparents are Sis. Emma (Alvia) Meyer of Lester and Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz.

Our hearts were filled to overflowing on Dec. 26, as Bro. Bert Butikofer and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer brought forth the word of life. On this day, our Sis. Sandra Banwart and Bro. Lonnie Butikofer were united in Holy Matrimony. May the Lord bless their hearts together, and keep their lights aglow as they make their home near Elgin, Iowa. Bro. Albert and Sis.

DALE WLEGAND
206 EAST BULLOCK
EUREKA ILL 61530

Betty are Sandra's parents; Lonnie is the son of Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah.

May God's blessings be shared to Friends Lori Bruellman and Mark Skogland. They were united in marriage Jan. 8. Lori is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Verda.

Many teachings were shared with us from Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin Ia.) at our New Year's service. Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) ministered to us the following Sunday. On Jan. 15, Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) and Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern) read the Memorandum and gave many exhortations and warning on the dangers that enter our daily lives. We are very grateful for these warnings and teachings. We pray each brother and sister will be obedient

to the inspired conclusions of our elder body.

"I would like to thank each one who remembered me with prayers, gifts, and visits while in the hospital and since my return home." Sis. "Sid" and Dick Schmidt

Wichita KS, Glennis Allenbach:
In this year of our Lord, 1977, have you checked your compass and await your Captain to sail your ship of faith? Do you find as I do that it is sometimes hard to wait upon the Lord? We may check our compass, but don't wait on our Captain and find ourselves in some strange port. We might even find the trip unnecessary . . . but this we know, **God is our Captain** and He knows best.

A young lady who was paralyzed . . . was praising the Lord and

believed that all her trials here were getting her ready for heaven.

We know the word tells us that man is subject to time and chance, and if by chance we find ourselves imprisoned in some way, we can be sure the Lord will use our situation for good.

Our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker gave our New Year's sermon. His inspired message left no doubt as to what our priorities should be for the new year.

We have a new addition to our congregation. Received with much love is Benjamin Luke, son of Steve and Joanne Langhofer. He has two brothers, Chad and Tyson.

We have really been experiencing winter here, but if winter comes, can spring be far behind?

Dear Lord, ever sail my ship of faith. Amen.

TOGETHER

Henry Souder, Jr.

It's nice, the way God has given being together, His unity. Magnetically drawing is His beautiful life. Satan would wreck asunder. He hates and despises love and unity. Evil is the opposite, darkness from all the warmth and sweetness of charity.

Kindred hearts together forever are our Lord's cherished plan. You can see in His praying in John 17. Loveliness is in the Father's house. Beautiful words of real home are in John 14. What favorite spots in those places He has gone to prepare. He wants His children with Him, even in the same house. We see more glorious beauty in Revelation 21. Our Father and our Lord are the temple. — Think! dwelling, conversing, listening, rejoicing, ages without end, being face to face with God.

It takes a lot, His power for us to know the sweetness of God. Not just when we are favored of others and esteemed. He gave us verses of action in forbearing, forgiving, love covering a multitude of sins. The reasons He saw! He knows what it takes. He not only under-

stands, but He's lived in our very same life situations. His verses are our opportunities, diamonds in the rough to make His history. How they all sparkle and radiate with the loveliness of life eternal.

Together takes waiting. Time is spent in merciful caring of the sheep that is weak. Our Lord, in His great love comes down to 30-fold. He loves His own even though they are weak. There are other souls who miss the hundred-fold in another way, being too rigid and demanding. Now, if we are really to be humble, we will care about all. Together means a covering of love. Proud reasoning divides in divisions; thus: this belongs to this way of thinking . . . this one is weak. With God's way, there is always a new beginning. And it can be different with that soul. There is always His dream for unity, and for one who believes, it comes true. His power unites. His everlasting Home will find more than one soul of whom somebody had doubts about.

Together takes its Theme and Ties from the truth. There are cer-

tain conditions, like in I Corinthians 5, II John 10, 11 and more . . . that would wreck if left alone. Together we stand in purity and purge the unclean. Then we give to the offender God's chance, and many times success, with salvation in the day of Christ.

Together has the comfort and joy of the scriptures. There is no happiness in the loneliness gendered from no charity. Alone, even if quiet hours, spent in the action of I Corinthians 13 is warm and wonderful. These verses claim as our own the saints here and in heaven. Faith hears the glad laughter of children in ages without end. Hope gladdens the warm soul, and love lifts.

Together is never torn asunder . . . nothing can hurt the ties. They are eternal. There is sweet contentment now, the enduring circle, and pleasant love. Then it reaps of the Spirit everlasting life. Do you know just part of what this means?

Together is all you can dream and ask for, and more. Then, it is God's total of perfect satisfaction.