

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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THE GARDEN OF LIFE

"in the place where he was crucified there was a garden"

The Cross was close to a garden. There is spiritual significance. Joseph of Arimathea besought the body of the Christ from Pilate. Nicodemus helped take the dead Master from the Cross and bury Him in a new tomb, after anointing His body with myrrh and aloes. John alone recorded "in the place where he was crucified there was a garden".

The crowning glory of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus. A faith that stopped short at the crucifixion could have no triumph in it. A religion that ended at the Cross and knew nothing of the empty tomb would lack power. The great day of Christianity is not Good Friday, but Easter. Calvary without the garden would not have been all-conquering . . . If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

The early church was born and nourished by its faith in the risen

Lord. Their world was a world of sin and death, of war and conflict. Christianity could never have been spread throughout the length and breadth of the Roman Empire if it were not carried aloft on wing of faith—the faith that Christ had conquered the tomb and vanquished death. Never, before or since, except among those who have shared the disciples' faith has there been anything like it.

When we come to the deep experiences of our lives, it is equally true that the garden is not far from the Cross. What happens when a man repents of his sins? Repentance includes sorrow for wrong doing, a renouncing of sin, and a determination, with God's help, to walk in the paths of righteousness. All this means a crucifixion of self . . . but in the place where we are crucified, there will be a garden — a garden of new life and joy.

Paul identifies this pain and gladness with the death and resur-

rection of Jesus — "I am crucified with Christ . . . I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me".

How can a forgiven sinner enter into that life that Jesus lives on that first Easter morning? Salvation is not earned; it is the gift of God. Those who have received the divine pardon can testify that Christ liveth in them; it is not a matter for argument, but of experience. In the Christian soul, there is a place of crucifixion, but near is a garden, in which are blooming all the fair flowers of spring.

Men and women meet the griefs and sorrows, disappointments and woes of this life with brave hearts, and a serenity which the world can neither give nor take away. Some of the greatest souls are found in the poorest of dwellings, and some of the choicest spirits are troubled on every side, yet not despairing. In the place where they have been crucified, there is a garden, where they met their Risen Lord, and like Mary recognize their Master.

EASTER

Easter! what means this day to thee and me . . . New Easter bonnet, gay attire that all our friends may see? . . . Or do we see the empty tomb where Christ gained the victory! . . . Have we gone to dark Gethesmane where Jesus prayed alone . . . For strength to drink the bitter cup, thereby our sins atone . . . And after times of agony, where his sweat drops fell as blood . . . Then to receive the betrayal kiss from one whom He dearly loved . . . Friendless and forsaken, and alas! then by friend denied . . . To Pilate's Judgment Hall, let's go there to be falsely tried . . . Enough! Enough! the heart does cry, yet to Herod then was He led . . . There ridiculed and scorned by

Herod's men, haughty . . . Again to Pilate, where he sought to set Christ free . . . Saying, **I find no fault in Him; I will scourge Him and set Him free** . . . The irate mob then angrily cried, Away with such a fellow from the earth! Crucify Him, Crucify! . . .

Long, lonely trek to Calvary's brow, beyond Jerusalem . . . There on cruel cross to give life and blood to rescue fallen men . . . In spite of pain and agony, He earnestly did plead . . . Father, they know not what they do; forgive them for this deed . . . His mercy reached the penitent thief as unto Him he cried . . . "remember me" — The answer came, **Today you'll be in paradise** . . . The earth did quake,

and rocks did rend, and through the darkening sky . . . Was heard, **My God, why hath thou forsaken me** — now the plaintive cry . . . Amid the dark and gathering gloom, He bows His head and saith . . . **Tis finished**; victory is won over sin and grave and death . . .

Within the garden's rock-hewn tomb He was laid with tender care . . . Till Sabbath Day be passed again, and they sweet spice prepare . . . The Disciple band, filled with despair hid from the eyes of men . . . Forgetting He had told them, **the third day I'll rise again** . . . They thought to keep Him in grave secure by stationing soldiers there . . . Twas God within, with mighty power of whom none was

aware . . .

As new day dawned first of the week, God's angel glorious, bright . . . Descended, rolling stone away, as Christ came forth in might . . . Women were hurrying to the tomb and asked, **Who will roll the stone away?** . . . Forgetting the word their Master had said, **I will rise again the third day** . . . They found empty tomb with stone rolled away, and angel glorious and fair . . . Who said, **Tell his disciples and Peter, He goes to Galilee and will meet with them there** . . .

As we read again of Christ's victory, what means it to me and thee? . . . Can we say as the Apostle, Death, where is thy sting; grave, where is thy victory? . . . Do we but love when we are loved, forgive when we're forgiven . . . 'Tis not the way the Saviour taught, if we'd find that home in heaven.

From Froelich: Now, if we expect the second coming of Christ just as certainly as we believe in His first appearance in the flesh, how must we then be prepared so as to appear with confidence and stand before Him without shame? . . . "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him." We must have **in** us and bring **with** us the fruit of the first appearance of Christ, that we have died unto sin, live unto righteousness, love Him as our Bridegroom and keep His word; then we can lack nothing.

GARDEN GROVE, IA. Verle Funk

Elder Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville brought us many wonderful teachings and explained so clearly God's redemption plan. We were also able to partake of Holy Communion. These are precious moments and so necessary to our spiritual growth.

We miss the smiling face of our friend, Clarence Peasley. He had been hospitalized for sometime, but is grateful to be recuperating at home now.

One day I mentioned a sort of thankless situation, and my daughter remarked, "Think how God feels when we take so **much** for granted and don't really say Thank You, Lord." I pondered this. How soon we complain even of little things, it's too cold, too hot, too wet, too dry . . . But how often

do we really, spontaneously say, "Thank you, Lord" for sunshine and showers, for food, shelter, family, friends, neighbors, fields, grass and flowers, and WATER, a thing we really take for granted, but how helpless we would be without water.

Thank You for eyes to see the beauty of Thy Creation, for ears to hear, for taste, for smell, the smell of a rose, new cut hay or the earth after a spring shower.

Then there's problems, trials, those deep ones that we face sometimes. Even for these we can say, Thank You, Lord, for tribulation worketh patience and patience understanding.

Most of all, Thank You for Jesus, My Saviour and my Lord.

ZAPATA TEXAS

Tillie Kellenberger — Luise Engle

Heart with heart in love united,
Seek upon God's heart repose;
Let your love to flames ignited
To the Saviour upward flow.
He the head, and we his members,
He the light, and we the glow,
He the master, we his brethren,
In true fellowship we grow.

How our hearts flow with love toward one another, as we sing this beautiful hymn, and as we glance over the assembly, and see the many visitors from many churches.

Spring is here — our beautiful birds, cardinals, green jays, red birds, quails, road runners, doves and so many more we do not know. Trees are bursting their buds some with flowers, some with green leaves . . . nice to see the grass getting green. Gardens are planted.

Our big news is the starting work for our church Feb. 14, at Siesta Shore Subdivision, they have been busy leveling the ground for our new church buildings.

Our visiting elders and ministers were: Elder Lester Hartter, (Bros.) Harry Sutter, Carroll Gerber, Loren Strahm, Walter Anliker, and Bob Grimm.

There are many that are on the sick list, but with the warm sunshine . . . hope we will all feel well again.

Our meetingplace, Siesta Shore Community Building, Siesta Shore Subdivision, on Hiway 83. Look for

church sign.

Services start, 10:30 A.M. 12:30 P.M. . . . We welcome everyone coming this way.

A little less impatient with those we deem too slow,
A little more forgiving and swifter to be kind;
A little bit more careful to speak with gentle voice;
A little more eagerness to understand each other;
A little more real striving to help a shipwrecked brother;
A little more high courage to each task that must be done;
These be our resolutions. God, help us, everyone!

MY MOTHER

Memories, memories from the lane of yesteryears.

Of the many hurts she kissed away; and dried my many tears.
Years have gone ne'er to return;
she's bent and aged and gray
Which speaks of sorrows, toils and cares she encountered on life's way.

Much anxiety and sleepless hours she spent caring for frail, little me.

Many a star will be in her crown having served so unselfishly.

Of all the folks who touched my life, none can e'er compare
To understand life's problems;
banish every fear.

Thankless toils, unending tasks — cook, bake, wash and mend;

Doctor, nurse and teacher — ever a helping hand ready to lend.

Heart of gold, virtuous, true; hands work-worn and gnarled;

THE SILVER LINING

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Humbly serving her Master and King as kind deeds to others she rendered.

Ever faithful, loyal, kind — ne'er thought of self but others;
With countless daily sacrifice; unknown to all save Mother.
Rich am I that God did give to me a Christian mother,
As day after day she pointed the way to that heavenly home up yonder.

What are words? Philosopher and vainly wise people would have them sealed off. Something separate, apart, intangible. Real words are a part of people, pictures of the person. Remember what the Lord said, out of the treasure of the heart a good man brings good things? The word of God shows us the heart of God. It is wonderful. His words are spirit and life. Out of His mouth, His words, men shall live. They shall not pass away. What glory in our life when His word is our action. Then it is our picture forever!

IOWA CITY IA

Lynn Banwart - Twila Whipple

After much prayer and planning, we are privileged to have two services at our monthly Sunday meeting. Services are the first Sunday of each month, at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Our Ministering Bros. were Russell Rapp (Morton) and Bob Pohl (Burlington). We were reminded of the brevity of life, that we must heed God's call today, for we know not what tomorrow holds.

God Is Our Helper

There is a compensation
For every burden borne—
The sun to pierce all shadows,
The rose to shame the thorn;
Above earth's vale, the peaceful
Eternal light shines clear—
God's love transcends all trials.
His help is always near.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Brenda Tucker

What is LIFE? Many people feel that living on this earth is life. Others think of eternal LIFE with God in heaven. Actually both are right, but we must consider the meaning of each. To live on earth, we must be alive. This means merely existing . . . But to have LIFE is

completely different. We need to be satisfied: with living, with ourselves, and with others. We need to have a peace in ourselves that gives us a meaning, a direction, and love for all. We need God. This is what ties these two meanings together. It is so sad that people may live on this earth and never experience life. Satan has a means of disguising, so that people have a false feeling and are just merely existing. They feel they need to live just so much before they can let God guide their lives. Many times these are just the ones who never experience LIFE of either form. Their lives on earth had no victory, and these lost souls will be in eternal destruction. Then there the true victors, who through turning their lives to God have experienced life on earth and have the hope of eternal life.

Our small group has surely been touched by the passing of our dear Sis. Mary Huber, Sabetha. Truly she experienced life on earth and will also share eternal life with God. We will all miss her, as she and Bro. Sam have been such a help and backing to our youth group. We all extend our sympathy to her dear family. Our sincere prayer would be that our dear friends could seriously consider the true meaning of life, and look to the examples of those who have experienced it. May we all look to Christ, the perfect example, and let him give us that life (both on earth and in heaven) that living is really all about.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Harvey Grimm and Lester Hartter, Bern; Roger Aberle, Sabetha; and Jim Ramseyer, Bay City, who spent several days on campus.

BLUFFTON IN

Marti Yergler - Becky Gilliom
My lifetime doth pass away.
Hourly to the grave I hasten, and I know each fleeting day My allotted span will lessen. Think, man, death comes soon or late. Tarry not, it will not wait. Three dear souls in our congregation have gone to their reward. Even in our sorrow, we rejoice that they are now with the Lord. Bro. Adam Meyer, 84, passed away Wed. Feb. 9. He had been a resident at Cooper Rest Home. Sis. Anna (Joseph) Steffen, 77, passed away Sunday, Feb. 13; surviving are three daughters. Sis. Irene Kipfer, 62, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 15. Surviving

are three sisters and three brothers.

Our Ministering Bro. Carrol Gerber is convalescing at home, after having back surgery. His services were missed by our congregation. We realize how fortunate we are to have all our ministers well and able to preach the word.

Bro. Eli Gerber is in the hospital at Indianapolis, after undergoing surgery. Sis. Priscilla (Dan) Steffen had eye surgery. She is now convalescing at home. Other hospital patients were Ida Wolf and Sisters Minnie (Sam) Aeschliman, Esther (Olen) Geisel, Dorothy (Jim) Geisel, and Vi (Sylvan) Ringger.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger are the happy parents of their new son, Mathew Alan. Grandparents are Bro. Sylvan and Sis. Vi Ringger and Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Gray . . . Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee welcome in their home their new son, John Robert. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Irene Neuenschwander.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyllis Dotterer announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Susan, to Bro. Doug Dailey.

LA CROSSE IN

Carolyn Levy - Grace Heinold

The severe cold weather and blizzard conditions this year help us realize how mighty is God's power and how frail and powerless are man's efforts.

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,

And there, sometime, we'll understand.

Our entire congregation was saddened to hear about the sudden and unexpected death of Don Curry, age 40, from a heart attack. He was seemingly in good health at 8 a.m., and at 8:30 passed away. He is survived by his wife, Nila and three children, Brenda — 14, Julie — 10, Michael — 4. He was a son-in-law of Bro. Ben and Sis. Lena Hitz. May God help to sustain and comfort his dear family.

Hospital patients were Sis. Louise (Edward) Wittmer, who suffered a light stroke, and Sis. Leah (Edw.) Frank, who had tests.

Two of our loved friends, Danny Rinkenberger and Glenna Marquardt have announced their en-

agement, and plan to be married March 6. Their parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha Rinckenberger and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Marquardt.

MANSFIELD OH

Lucille Groh

TWO MEN STOOD BY THEM IN WHITE APPAREL; WHICH ALSO SAID, YE MEN OF GALILEE, WHY STAND YE GAZING UP INTO HEAVEN? THIS SAME JESUS, WHICH IS TAKEN UP FROM YOU INTO HEAVEN, SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN HIM GO INTO HEAVEN.

Today at work someone said, **The end of the world is coming.** My Christian friend looked up, smiled and said, "I can't wait!" Last Sunday at church an old brother said, "When we couldn't go to church the other Sunday because of the gas shortage and the doors of the church were shut, it made me think, What will it be like when the door to grace is closed?" It's something sobering.

Hospitalized have been our sisters, Anna Hoffman and Elizabeth Dotterer, and our brothers, Steve Domka and Robert Sauder, also our dear friend, Thelma (Bro. Ed) Beer.

Our aged brother, Jesse Beer and his wife, Alice, are no longer able to take care of themselves at home and have taken residence at the Woodlawn Nursing Home, 535 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield OH 44907. I'm sure Jesse would like to hear from all his friends.

A new baby to love has arrived at the home of our friends, Bill and Becky Sauder. Little Deborah Jo was born Jan. 21, and is the granddaughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder.

Loving sympathy is extended to Bro. Frank Graszal in the loss of his mother, and to Bro. Alvin Rigganbach, whose brother passed away.

On Jan. 23, the small Sunday School classes visited Sis. Anna Hoffman, who at that time was in a rest home recuperating from a broken hip. Anna is better known in our church by the children as the "candy lady". For many, many years, Anna has loved the children, and as regular as Sunday came, she had a little treat to give to all the little children. The first Sunday after her accident and she wasn't at church, one little child said, I'm

very, very sad today. And when asked why, she said, "don't you know, the candy lady broke her leg?" The teachers, with the help of a few others, took the children to the rest home and let them sing for Sis. Anna, and before they left, to their delight, the "candy lady" gave them candy. The Lord had provided!

We are pleased to report that Sis. Anna is now back home and able to get around with the help of a walker, and hopes to be back in church as soon as the weather gets nicer.

When the sunset comes and life is o'er,
And we set sail for heaven's shore,
What works will follow us below
What memories bless through afterglow?

ALTADENA CA

Linda Cooper

THUS UNITED AND IN CONCORD, LET US WALK THE PATH OF LIFE.
HAND IN HAND, O MAY LOVE BIND US,
FOR EACH OTHER'S WELFARE STRIVE.

Feb. 13 was a beautiful day for the marriage of our Sis. Heidi Klotzle (Bro. John and Sis. Lois) and Bro. Tom Luginbuhl (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Viola) from Rockville. They will make their home in Rockville.

We were certainly grateful to visiting Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, when he preached the word of God to us. We realize now how unselfishly he served us, for Sis. Mary was unable to attend services with him that Sunday due to her serious illness. May God comfort Bro. Sam and his family in their loss of wife and mother. We can see how mighty God is, in upholding His servants in times of heartache and sorrow.

Sis. Elizabeth Kaisner was hospitalized, due to a fall that injured her head. Sis. Martha Slenker had minor eye surgery not requiring hospitalization, and Sis. Melva Alexander had been unable to attend church due to a painful ailment. All three dear ones have been able to be with us again, for which we are thankful.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

MAYWOOD CA

Helen Julien

If words are able to describe what I experienced yesterday, Feb. 13. I would like to share with you readers who are miles away what I believe to be one of the most beautiful days I have seen in a long, long time.

We did not have services at Maywood, because there was to be a wedding in the Altadena church. The bride was a daughter of one of our serving ministers, John Klotzle, so those who were able went up to Altadena for services and to attend Heidi and Tom Luginbuhl's wedding.

During the ceremony, I was reminded of all those who wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of the Lord's mouth when he gave his first sermon; as the Spirit came, Elder Karl Kinsinger preached the wedding sermon. Every word he read and delivered was just beautiful and so inspiring for a young couple starting their life together.

It is not often we have the opportunity to see the expressions of the father of the bride, as we were able to see John's when he sat on the pulpit, grasping every word and glancing at his daughter now and then. His face was indescribably radiant, and of course there was a tear or two of what I am sure was pure joy. There are no other words for me to use for the impression it left on me, as the bride and groom walked out together but to say, **Holy and Miraculous.** What a beautiful faith you have, to be able to commit such serious vows to someone you've only known such a short time in your life and are willing to share the rest of your lives together, knowing and trusting it is the Lord's will. It took me back four years ago as I watched my daughter, Penny, and Ron Erismann standing before the pulpit and thought. They looked like they were carved out of the same piece of clay, as Heidi and Tom looked to me yesterday . . . So very perfect for one another that only His majesty could know who is made for whom.

The reception was held at the Klotzle home. It was a beautiful sight as I drove up and looked at the bright green lawn, with the huge pine tree in front of the house sitting high on the hill. The atmosphere was so warm and full of love and joy, as I stood in the

reception line and met visitors from out of state who knew my loved ones . . . Emma Fuecht, my sister from Iowa, and Penny and Ron. The weather was gorgeous as I sat in the patio and looked up to the mountain in the background and thought, how majestic this creation really is, and what favor Lois and John must be in the eyes of God for the wonderful reflection their lives show in the way they live. God is felt all around their dwelling-place.

As I drove home, I felt so happy to share their joy with them; I thought this was certainly one of the most beautiful and memorable days of my life.

Ruth and Dale Dapper invited all the out-of-state guests to their home in Yorba Linda for dinner in the evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you well-wishers for your support and encouragement for me to write for the Maywood Church.

We have had a note from John Dapper, our faithful minister for almost 40 years before leaving to be with his wife Julia, who is in the Apostolic Christian Home in Illinois. He is living with his daughter, Julie, until he can get into an apartment. They seem to be content and are enjoying their Christian fellowship with their many longtime friends. The Maywood church would like them to know they will always be remembered.

TOLEDO OH Josephine Rehkla

Now it is accomplished! My soul
He hath healed;
A position in heaven to me He hath
sealed.
O may He direct me through joy
and through ill;
I'll never forsake Him, but follow
Him still.

This was the accomplishment of a blessed week-end, when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Richard Fetter. It gives us much joy and happiness to see that souls are yet coming to the knowledge of this most precious faith through Jesus Christ. It was stressed that it is **yourself** that stands between you and God. This is a big stumbling-block many times.

Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in

administering this work of the Lord.

We also listened to the reading of the memorandum. The advice of **Being United** was as a strong cord which is needed for the preservation of God's holy church. United we stand, divided we fall.

At the Annual Business Meeting, Bro. John Breitweiser was elected as a trustee for a five-year period, and Bro. Al Weigele was re-elected as superintendent of the Sunday School.

Bro. R. D. and Sis. Sue Hilton have a son, born in January.

Warren Newman (Sis. Lois) is in the hospital, recovering from surgery.

FRANCESVILLE IN

Helen Huber - Sharon Neihouser

We were richly fed with spiritual food when Bro. Art Gudeman (La Crosse) ministered unto us in St. John 15. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Hospitalized were Bro. Karl Westfall and Sis. Katie Gutwein for surgery and Sis. Cheryl Schefler for observation.

On Friday, Jan. 28, our area was hit with a severe snowstorm, making many streets and highways impassable. Therefore, we were unable to have church services. May we cherish the times we can be together in the house of God.

On Feb. 8, Sis. Lena Yaggie passed away. She leaves to mourn her husband — Bro. Joe, daughters — Sis. Annabelle, Sis. Elsie, and Viola, and sons — Bros. Harry, Merle, and Irvin. She was a dear sister in the faith. May God comfort the family in their loss.

Bro. Roy Grimm (Quincy) spent a Sunday with us and shared many teachings, especially on patience.

The engagement of Sis. Glenda Huber (Bro. Lester and Sis. Glendoris) of Lexington to Bro. Jan Neukomm (Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry) of Morton was announced . . . Also Bro. Bruce Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis), to Sis. Kathy Tanner, both of the Francesville congregation.

The week-end of Feb. 19 and 20, the member choir spent a blessed time with the Bloomington congregation.

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

ROANOKE IL Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

O blessed are they
In holy array,
Who with eager mind
Salvation in Jesus
Did seek and did find!

We were privileged to hear the testimonies of and witness baptisms of four dear friends: Chuck Fehr, Paul Fehr (Bro. Rich and Sis. Madlyn), Tammie Diggle (Bro. John and Sis. Sarah), and Curtis Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Doris). It is so inspiring to hear them give the testimony that they had seen the light of God's love in someone near to them. May we all trim our lamps, that our lights might shine brighter. Thank you, Elder Bros. David Kieser and Ed Hohulin for helping with this most important work. We appreciate our brothers helping Bro. Don Sauder, in the absence of our beloved Elder Eugene Bertschi.

Hospitalized were Tim Leman (surgery), Jim Tibbs, and Sam Minger. Bros. Joe Rocke and John Mangold are home again. We were all happy to have Bro. Eugene Bertschi with us on Sunday afternoon. It was the first time since Oct. 3 that he could be with us. He has to take therapy treatments during the week, but could spend Sunday at home.

Sis. Nancy Hodel (Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret) and Bro. Ross Gingrich (Mr. and Mrs. Virgil) exchanged wedding vows Sunday, Feb. 13. Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) was visitor for the wedding and ministered.

THE HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Nature has a built-in sensor about what is imminent. Does not the crocus know that spring will soon be here, when it bravely pushes through the snow? Why is it that small birds gather to sing at winter's end, when the temperatures are still very cold? Has someone sent a mute signal for all to prepare for spring's activities, when the temperature rises to 50 degrees, when at summer's end, this same temperature signals all to prepare to **close shop** for a season? How does nature know something which we do not? Is it because it is more in tune with our Creator? If so, what lessons can we learn from observing those things which

yield themselves completely to God's regulatory powers?

Our Shirley Pfeifer, daughter of Ernest and Emma Pfeifer of Knox, Indiana, came to live at our Home in April of 1974. Of her three younger brothers, one lives in Chicago, one in Kentucky, and one in Indiana. Most of her time is spent in Pekin at the Holiday Adult Development Center, where she goes five days per week. When here at Home, her steady, even personality is useful in various capacities. In her free time, she is involved in the activities of the Home. Birthday time for Shirley is Aug. 23.

The few recent warm days were quickly utilized by the men who are finishing the roof of our new building. With spring approaching, we anticipate seeing renewed activity at the site of construction.

Christian love and concern are always evident in those who so faithfully hold the weekly Friday evening services. Scheduled for February are Congerville, Eureka, Goodfield, Morton.

Christian love is never out of season.

"Love suffereth long, and is kind . . ." God's treasure house is unlocked to the believer by the golden key to love and obedience . . . We have a greater capacity to love each other when we have God's love in our hearts . . . Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully . . . Love all; trust a few; do wrong to no one . . . Service is love in work clothes.

SHIODA JAPAN

Willis R. Ehnle

It was still early morning. The telephone rang, and Lois answered it. She soon put down the telephone receiver and said to me, "It's Mr. Otagiri. He's asking, if you want to quit drinking rice wine, on what page is it written in the Bible?"

The Otagiri family have been coming to church lately, and we like them a lot. There are two young school girls in the family. Mr. Otagiri was serious, as serious can be about the drinking problem, so I asked him if he is tempted so badly when he is home with his wife and children. He said, No, he doesn't drink too much when he is home. I then told him he should stay at home in the evenings and

stay away from the temptation as much as possible, and I told him to pray to the only true and living God for strength and for mercy, through the Lord Jesus Christ. I suggested that he read Galatians 5:21, "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Wednesday night after our mid-week meeting was over, Mr. Otagiri immediately asked, "Where is the tape of tonight's message?" In part, the message had been on the man who looks into the mirror and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. Mr. Otagiri says he forgets the message too easily, so he would like to keep hearing it after he goes home. I hadn't recorded the message, but I better begin doing so.

The Vernon Clauss family of our Cissna Park church visited us the end of the year. We had a wonderful time with them. We visited Hiroshima together and were reminded that "the elements shall melt with fervent heat". Hiroshima is the first of two Japanese cities to experience the atomic bomb at the end of World War II.

Our monthly hymn singing was held at the home of our dear friends, Hideo and Sumiko Takei, far back in a rural mountainous area. It was a blessing to all of us. We trust that it helps to draw the unconverted nearer to a place of repentance and full surrender to Christ. A singing church is a good kind of church to be, especially if sanctified living goes with it.

Our son, Tommy's, dog died, apparently just from wearing out with age. The earth life span for all creatures, including human beings, is limited. We have no choice but to recognize this. The better we can accept it, the less of a shock it will be, although the loss of loved ones will still be painful. When we think that we ourselves are included in this phenomena, we certainly want to be certain that we have fulfilled Christ's teaching. **Ye must be born again, and also that we are Walking in the light as He is in the light.**

Everyone should repent and believe the Gospel.

LEO IN
the editor

How will that day be when Jesus

comes? Beautiful and glorious. Vividly real . . . enjoyment perfect. Think when we can say, **There is our Jesus.** How about loved ones? "Hello Mom and Dad"! Bro. Lloyd Klopfenstein gave this tender glimpse. It was 6:00 in the morning. Some boy had come home. Awaking out a deep sleep, to dad it reminded him of the resurrection. How about those familiar face in everlasting ages: **Hello Mom and Dad!**

We visited Sis.'s Rose and Adele Conrad. The Lord willing, Rose will be 92 on April 10, Adele 85—Nov. 26. Rose had been really sick, in intensive care. The doctor reported she was not responding as she should. It is certainly a blessed hope: She was not afraid to die — ready to go — only she didn't want to leave her sister alone. She would like to come to church. To "keep faith" is her desire. That heavenly home will have riches — such good people, indeed treasures.

Cary Osborne is 13 — he was the first one at the Children's Home. Kieth Weilers is 13, Eddie Myers — 8. Now there are Debbie and Mary Brown, 8 and 12. It was good to hear one of the young lads talking to another, and referring to this as **our church.**

The Minnick Road goes north and south. Bro. Marvin Stieglitz would travel this road in his work, going to and from Decatur. There was a house, and he would see an older gentleman sitting. Even when cold, he would be by the window. This man was handicapped. He wanted to be doing something good. He would rise at 4:30, so he could have breakfast over. Then he would give his cheerful wave. One day the man was not there. In the picture window was a very large sign, black with white letters: **Heaven Is His Home Now.**

Let us be by the side of the road, and be a friend and be kind.

INDIANAPOLIS IN

Pam Frank - Lynn Klopfenstein
Marsha Gutwein

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: . . ."

Recently two couples received such a reward. Bro. Tom and Sis. Tammy Speicher were blessed with a little girl, Trisha Lynn, born Jan.

27, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Connie Witzig — a little boy, Brian William, born Feb. 16.

We thank Bros. Maurice Frank and Ken Schneider for visiting us and again bringing the word.

We are now having midweek services the first and third Thursdays of every month, beginning at 7:30. All are welcome.

April is Silver Lining collection for Indianapolis.

BERN KS

Esther & Stella Moser

What Is Faith?

It's seeing a cloudy and threatening sky
And knowing the sun will come out by and by!
It's planting a seed on a bright spring morn,
And knowing a flower will soon be born!
It's seeking our Father for light for the way,
And knowing He'll send grace and strength for the day.
It's reading His word and believing it, too,
And may God in love grant a true faith to you!

We are thankful for another dear soul who has heeded the call of the Lord. May the grace of God be with John Baumgartner as he starts his new walk of life.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Lillian Esslinger have a new grandson, Dennis Lee, born Jan. 19 to Judith and Paul Day. Mike and Chris complete the family circle. Sis. Della Heiniger is the maternal great-grandmother (Sabetha) . . . Bro. Alphonse and Sis. Mamie Strahm also have a new grandson, Brandon Lee, born Feb. 2 to Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner (Sabetha). Brian Scott now has a playmate. Bro. John and Sis. Marie Plattner are the other grandparents.

Bro. Edward and Sis. Leola Lehman have moved from the farm to 382 Parkview Drive, Sabetha; sons Rudy and Kenneth are taking over farm operations.

Our guest minister on a Sunday evening was Bro. James Ramseyer, Bay City.

BRADFORD IL

Jane Leman

Faith will bring into our life
A sweet blessing, free from strife,

If we will live, from day to day,
Trusting God each step of the way.
However, when we're sad and blue . . .

Hope will always see us through;
Our loving Father will e'er impart
Perfect peace into our heart.
Each one of us should always try . . .

Charity towards each passer-by . . .
Helping hands will lighten their load,
An added blessing along life's road.
Real joy will always be
In faith, hope and charity,
To all who are along the way
Yearning for a brighter day.

Bro. John Endress had eye surgery in Florida, as the need arose while they were vacationing. Bro. William Elsasser has been in the hospital for some time, due to open heart surgery. Little two-year-old Davey Kieser (Bro. David and Sis. Shirley) had a short stay in the hospital for surgery. Shane (infant son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky) was also hospitalized.

CISSNA PARK IL

Grace Bauer - Marilyn Knapp

The voice that breathed O'er Eden,
That earliest wedding day,
The primal marriage blessing,
It hath not passed away;
Still in the pure espousal
Of Christian man and maid
The Holy Three are with us,
The threefold grace is said.

Sis. Marla Bauer (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta) and Bro. Gary Ringger (Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat) were united in Holy Matrimony on Feb. 13, by Bro. Edwin Ringger.

Three more souls were added to the fold . . . Kay Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy), Julie Baumgartner (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta), and Shally Beer (Bro. Bill and Sis. Twylla).

Now it is accomplished!
With heart and with mind
To Thee, my dear Saviour
I now am resigned!
I'll ever be faithful
In life and in death,
Abiding in Jesus
Unto my last breath.

Bob and Sally Rinkenberger have found peace with God and are now awaiting baptism. Their par-

ents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Rinkenberger and David and Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid.

Amy, baby daughter of Dave and Sue Walder, was a hospital medical patient. Sis. Lorene Rocke had eye surgery, and Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann was a surgical patient. All have returned home. Sis. Mary (Bro. Earl) Knapp is a hospital medical patient.

We enjoyed having many from the Forrest congregation visit with us at our monthly singing.

Bro. Ed Feller has been transferred to the Americana Nursing Home, Urbana, Illinois.

Our visiting ministers were (Bros.) Edwin Ringger and Nathan Stoller.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lizzie Knapp in the loss of her brother, Willis Frank of Peoria.

We welcome Bro. Robert and Sis. Leanne Siegle and daughter, Laura, from Oakville to our congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. William Holbert of Wayzata, Minnesota are parents of a baby daughter, Margaux Danielle. Grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Vi Griener, and Mrs. Bernice McBride of Minneapolis.

ELGIN IA

Eleanor Butikofer

Congratulations and best wishes are due the Gene Moores. They are the parents of a baby girl. She has been named Heather Marie. The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brehme of Wadena, Iowa, and Sis. Elizabeth and the late Bro. Werner Moore.

We are indeed grateful for the change in the temperature; the subzero days were quite severe. However, everyone had sufficient fuel and food in this area, which is a lot to be thankful for.

Bro. Albert Butikofer had the misfortune of breaking a bone in one of his ankles, which prevents him from doing his usual activities. He is doing all right as far as the break is concerned, for which we are thankful. Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer continues to be a hospital patient, but has improved somewhat. Our mother, Sis. Elizabeth Schneider is now a patient in the same hospital at Postville, Iowa. On the 19th of Feb., she will have been there three weeks. They are both 93 years old.

A group of ladies met at the home of Sis. Marie Butikofer. The time was spent tying a comforter

and packing clothes for the World Relief project.

We are happy to report that Sis. Alta Thoman is feeling somewhat better and is able to be up some of the time . . . was delighted to hear her cheerful voice on the telephone a few days ago. She once remarked, that if one could be patient, this tended to make a person feel better.

Sis. Mildred Butikofer is recovering from a siege of laryngitis.

Because of the severe cold weather, the wild birds have been really numerous at the feeding centers. At one time, eight jays were seen together partaking of what had been put out for them. One lady reported having seen 24 cardinals near her home. Two squirrels scampered away from our feeding area yesterday . . . counted 14 deer speeding across the cornfield. All this makes winter a very interesting season, and we do thank our Creator for blessing us with so much, the greatest of which is the plan of salvation.

Did you leave a trail of kindness today?

FORREST IL
Kathryn Steidinger
Beverly Eisenmann

LOVE works in ways
That are wondrous and strange,
And there's nothing in life
That love cannot change!

LOVE can transform
The most commonplace
Into beauty and splendor
And sweetness and grace!

LOVE is unselfish,
Understanding and kind,
For it sees with its heart
And not with its mind!

Bro. John and Sis. Patsy Stoller were blessed with a baby boy. Kevin John has two sisters, Candy and Sandy. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller and Bro. John and Sis. Elizabeth Schambach. Bro. Ernie Gerber is his great-grandfather.

We had a blessed week-end when Kanda Knapp (Bro. Glen and Sis. Laura) brought her testimony before the congregation and was baptized. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Josh Broquard were with us to share the duty with our Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman. Other vis-

iting ministers were Bros. Dave Wiegand, Duane Kilgus, and Art Bahler.

John Roth and Karen Waibel have exchanged wedding vows and are living in Forrest. John is the son of Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth. Karen's parents are Glen and Pat Waibel.

"My heartfelt thanks to each one for the prayers, visits, flowers, and cards I received while in the hospital." Rosa Tyler . . . Sis. Rosa is back at "The Home" again after suffering a stroke and spending several weeks in the hospital. She is much improved and able to get around in a wheelchair now.

Other hospital patients have been Harvey Rieger, Sis. Leona Ricketts, Bro. Leroy Koehl, Tara Farney (Dale and Harriett), Bro. Harvey Ifft, Sis. Bertha Maurer, and Sis. Lizzie Honegger. We are thankful for Doug Aberle, since doctors have told him they can fit him with glasses that will help his daytime vision. We miss our retired Elder Bro. Henry Kilgus, who has not been feeling well enough to assemble with us for several weeks.

Due to the severe cold winter weather and drifting snow, we were unable to have services one Wednesday evening, and the following Sunday our congregation was small, with some families still unable to get out.

GIRARD OH
Louise B. Lance

This beautiful, cold winter morning, we have great reason to thank our Heavenly Father for all the many blessings He has bestowed upon us. The winter has been severe, with much cold and snow; roads were drifted, so that many schools, businesses and churches were closed for a time, but everything seems to be back to normal again.

We thank Bro. Ernest Graf (Akron) for coming and proclaiming the word of God to us.

Those that were on the sick list were unable to assemble with us again. Bro. Harold is much better and has returned to his duties again.

Births: Benjamin Joseph is the name of the little son that came to brighten the home of Les and Diann Zunkel; Bro. Harold and Sis. Kathryn Emch are the happy grandparents . . . Glenn and Sandra Wright are the happy parents of their first child, a son, Vaughn

Gregory; Sis. Minna Emch is the maternal great-grandmother.

April is Silver Lining collection for Girard.

This beautiful hymn tells only in part what Jesus means to me.

I cannot tell how precious The
Saviour is to me, Since I have
Him accepted.
And He hath made me free;
I cannot tell His goodness, Enough
to satisfy;
And if you'll only take Him, You'll
see the reason why.

Whene'er I think of Jesus, I
cannot but rejoice;
To me He's ever precious; For Him
I raise my voice.
I know He has in glory
A home prepared for me,
Where I shall live forever So hap-
py and so free.

GOODFIELD IL

Verna Hartter - Elma Grimm
THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN
PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE
MIND IS STAYED ON THEE,
BECAUSE HE TRUSTETH IN
THEE.

In the quietness and peacefulness of a Wednesday evening service, we could be strengthened with the firmness and promise in this Bible verse. Oh, that we might keep the simple faith and have our mind stayed on our God, and wait upon Him.

Our best wishes to Sis. Janell Rinkenberger of Normal and Bro. Kent Kloter, as their engagement was made known to us. Their parents are the Dale Rinkenbergers of Gridley and Bro. and Sis. Edmund and Lorine of this congregation.

Bro. and Sis. Henry and Persida Wiegand have a new little granddaughter; Chanel Sue was born on Jan. 25 to Gene and Connie Zacha, of Mahomet. Paternal grandparents are the Eugene Zachas Sr. of Mazon. Sis. Rose Wiegand of Eureka is the great-grandmother . . . Thad Aaron is the new son of Bro. and Sis. Dan and Carol Heinold. He was born on Jan. 28, and his grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Melvin and Mary Helen Heinold, and Sis. Esther Yentes of Morton. The Eli Hodels of Goodfield and Mrs. George Yentes of Morton are his great-grandparents.

Hospitalized were Jenise Zobrist (Bro. and Sis. Howard and Phyl-

lis), for a tonsillectomy, and our Bro. Josh Nohl, who was there for a short time and is back home.

We did appreciate the visit of Bros. Fred Knapp and Vernon Wettstein of the Congerville congregation and their ministering unto us.

Our dear Sis. Mary Nohl passed away on Jan. 24 at the Apostolic Christian Home, Eureka. She is survived by Bro. Josh of Goodfield and Sis. Naomi of the Eureka Home. It is pleasant to remember the ready smile she seemed to have for everyone.

A vacancy is felt in our congregation since the passing of our Bro. Eli Knapp, on Jan. 27. He had been ill during the past two months. Surviving are his dear wife, Sis. Loida; two sons, Bros. Glen and Willis of Congerville, and a daughter, Sis. Carrie Lou (Gene) Hartman, Congerville; one sister, Sis. Peninna Miller of Deer Creek. "The family wishes to express their deep appreciation for the prayers and expressions of love during his illness and death."

A short visitation service was held at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall on Jan. 31 for Bro. Rich Shurter of the Chicago congregation, and his burial was in the Dells Cemetery. We express our sincere sympathy for his wife, Sis. Aldine, and their two sons. We treasure his frequent visits and support in the Goodfield Church.

Our sympathy also goes to our dear Sis. Hulda Witzig, in the passing of her brother, John Witzig.

KIOWA KS Janice Frieden

I was visiting with a dear friend from church, and he told me that it seemed to him as if Christians live in a glass bowl, with everyone watching to see if they do anything wrong. Later, as I considered what he'd said, I realized just how true that statement is. As a child of God, our walk of life is viewed as through a glass bowl — by everyone: our children, our friends, those we work with, etc. . . . And what do they see? Do they see Christ living in us as we walk from day to day, or is our Christian light hidden from view? It's a tremendous responsibility to be a child of God, and like Christ, who suffered so terribly on that cruel cross, we will, in a smaller way, suffer criticism and trials of all kinds . . . But whereas our dear Lord had to suf-

fer all alone, we have a heavenly Father who surrounds us, like the protecting glass of a bowl, with His never-ending love, and shields us from the world outside. So let us rejoice when our life is viewed by the world, for the scripture states, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven", and maybe we can in a small way repay a little of all He's done for us.

Our hospital patients included Heidi Liggenstoffer, daughter of John and Sis. Linda Liggenstoffer. Heidi had her finger cut badly when a door closed on it, and had to have it sown back on. She is doing very well now. Bro. Vern Schurter and Sis. Bea Diel both underwent leg surgery, and we are happy that Bro. Vern is home again. Our prayers are with Sis. Bea, who suffers much pain, and we hope she'll be home again soon.

We received a tri-fold blessing one Sunday: after the blessing of our morning and afternoon services, a great number of us gathered to share hymns and the word of God with the aged at the Kiowa Manor. Then, we returned to the church and fellowship hall, where we enjoyed a supper, Bible Study, and a singing of praises to our Lord.

As we gathered for our annual meeting, on a Wednesday evening, I couldn't help but be very thankful that the brothers and sisters are willing to lend themselves to do the Lord's work in the church. We may think our job is small, but any work done cheerfully in the Lord's name is not small to our Lord.

LAMAR MO

Becky Hohulin - Janice Braker

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." On Jan. 30, Elder Bros. Sam Anliker and Gene Marti shared with us the conference report. May we endeavor to follow these guidelines and strive to be faithful servants.

We had several hospital patients. Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti were both surgical patients, but are now assembling with us again. Tim Braker (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie) and Bill Schlupp, were hospitalized for surgery, and Jeff Mar-

ti (Bro. Joe and Sis. Evelyn) remains hospitalized for tests.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." On Feb. 6, a small son came to brighten the home of Ed and Jane Braker. He has been named Robert Shawn, and his paternal grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Cecil Braker.

For the past few weeks, we have been doing some World Relief work. We certainly enjoyed these hours spent together, but we have again concluded this work until next year.

"Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti would like to thank everyone for their thoughtfulness and for the cards they received.

LESTER IA

Joyce Knoblock - Alice Metzger

Our weather is moderating, after a severely cold January with very little snow.

The brotherhood of our church spent three interesting and enlightening Thursday evenings listening to the conference tapes. We are so thankful for the privilege and for the elders who spoke.

We rejoice to hear of friends who have heeded the call to repent. Bradley Kellenberger and Harve Metzger and his wife, Mary have turned their life over to the Lord.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock became parents of a little girl, Tina Rae, on Jan. 21. Delighted to welcome her home are Thad, Trent, Troy, Travis and Tricia. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Banwart, West Bend.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Bill Wulf, Judy Feucht, and Lloyd Metzger, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Jane. Bro. Nathan (Bud) Knobloch has been shut-in for several weeks with a severe arthritic condition. Bro. Ernst Metzger is recuperating at home, after a lengthy stay in the hospital.

Bro. Jake and Sis. Lydia Knobloch held a household auction and moved to the Rock Rapids Health Centre.

Many tearful goodbyes were said, as Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Gerber and their fine family have moved to the Taylor area. We trust the move will be a blessing to them and the congregation there.

Sis. Marvella Knobloch and Ida

Metzger are graduates of LPN training in Sioux Falls.

MORRIS MN
Corrine Schmidgall
Lois Schmidgall

When troubles press your heart
and mine,
And Satan tempts us all the time,
When skies do turn from blue to
gray,
What great relief when we can
pray.
When Jesus answers anxious pray-
er,
How we can feel His loving care.
Our prayers are blest if in accord
With our patient, loving Lord.
Prayer works only with faith and
trust,
In purified hearts freed from lust.
Sinner believe; start praying to-
day,
While Jesus is taking sins away.
Lord keep us hoping, trusting,
praying on,
Till the glorious morning dawn.

We have had several hospital patients. Bro. Anton Schaefer is home again, after being in St. Marys Hospital in Minneapolis for about ten days for therapy. Dale Brown (Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barbara) had knee surgery. Loren Schmidgall (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby) and Julie Fehr (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Diane) were both in for minor surgery. Sis. Elizzie Schmidgall had surgery on her wrist. Janell Joos (Bro. Harv and Sis. Debbie) and Ryan Kellenberger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane) were both medical patients. We are glad to report all are home again.

Bro. William Luthi celebrated his 85th birthday . . . are glad to report he has been well enough to assemble with us.

Merlyn Metzger of West Bend (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice) and Judy Zeltwanger (Bro. William Jr. and Sis. Betty) were united in marriage on Jan. 29. Bro. Noa' Gerber solemnized the wedding services. We also enjoyed having Bro. Duane Metzger with us on Sunday; he was here for the occasion.

The engagement was announced of Sis. Barb Joos (Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith) to Bro. Rodney Heimer (Sis. Naomi) of Taylor. A May wedding is being planned . . . Alene Goll and Neil Handorf of Morris have also announced their engagement.

"I want to thank my relatives and friends for the cards, gifts and prayers, while a patient in the St. Mary's Hospital in Minneapolis and since I am home." Bro. Albert Joos.

April is Silver Lining collection for Morris.

PHOENIX AZ
Julie Hoerr

The Lord has blessed us with really warm weather this winter, and our church is filled to overflowing with visitors from our churches, from all parts of the country. We truly welcome each of you.

On Jan. 23 we were doubly blessed when two visiting ministers were here. Bro. Earl Zeltwanger (Breman) had services in the morning, and Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) in the afternoon and evening. Other visiting ministers were Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabetha) and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville). Elder Bro. Roy Farney sat with his co-laborers on the pulpit Feb. 6, and we are thankful the Lord has healed him this far. It's so good to see him and Sis. Minnie worship with us.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Huber visited family members in Flagstaff, Az. and California before returning to Phoenix enroute to Sabetha, when Sis. Mary had to be hospitalized Feb. 1 and went to her heavenly home Feb. 5. Our sympathy was expressed to Bro. Sam and his family when a visitation and prayer service was held at Mercer Mortuary, here, the night of Feb. 6, before they left for Sabetha and interment at Ft. Scott.

Sis. Josephine (Glenn) Martin was hospitalized for surgery. Bro. Dan Kokanovich is at home recuperating. Sis. Lois Elsasser is back home to Phoenix, and it is nice to have her able to attend church with us again. Sis. Kate Blumenschein is gaining strength and looking fine, but doctors don't want her out in any crowds yet. Sis. Vera Yackley and Bro. Ernie DeMille are both confined to their homes. We appreciate your prayers for our shut-ins and for those loving hands who care for them. We also miss Sis. Francis Schrenk, who has been unable to assemble with us.

The week-end of Feb. 19 and 20, our Sunday School and young folks will journey to Tucson for fellowship.

Sisters Lois Elsasser, Clara Zol-

linger and Jo Martin each wish to express their sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards, letters, and gifts during their surgical hospitalizations and recuperation.

The Heavenly Weaver deftly
weaves
Upon His loom each day;
The pattern of our lives takes
form

In an often puzzling way.
Dark threads and light are inter-
twined

In ways that seem unwise,
But, when it's done,
A Masterpiece unfolds before your
eyes.

RITTMAN OH
Grace Gasser

The week-end of Jan. 22 and 23 was a memorable one, as we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of our dear sister and five brothers, who were joyfully welcomed into the fold. Our newest "lambs" include: Audrey Beery (daughter-in-law of Harold and Sis. Reah), Wayne Klotzle (Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane), Walter Beery (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth), Max Miller (Richard and Sis. Melba), Larry Bachman (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn), and Larry Hartzler (Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce).

The following week-end, Jan. 30, was also memorable, but in a different way. Due to weather conditions, we were unable to have services at Rittman church. (Some of us were fortunate enough to be able to attend Akron church on that Sunday.) Such experiences always leave us with a new appreciation of the wonderful privilege of gathering together, which we enjoy, but often do not stop to appreciate and value highly enough.

The next Sunday, Feb. 6, found many roads still snow-covered and difficult to drive on, but our spirits were lifted by the beautiful sunshine which greeted the wedding day of Bro. Paul Manz of Junction and Sis. Sandra Ramsier. They will be making their home in Junction. We will miss Sis. Sandra, but we're sure she will be an asset to the Junction congregation.

The engagement of Bro. Dave Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Connie Ramsier (Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez) has been announced.

We are grateful to have been

served by a number of visiting ministers: Bros. John Bahler — Rockville, Rudolph Graf, Ernest Graf, Eugene Pamer of Akron; Robert Beer, Wallace Ramsier, Ben Stavenik of Mansfield, and Kenneth Indermuhle of Sardis.

Births include: Bro. Dick and Sis. Karen Hartzler, a son, Scott Richard. Scott is welcomed by one brother and one sister . . . James and Judy Mathys, a son, Steven James . . . Jeff and Ann Beery, a daughter, Amy Kristen . . . Doug and Thena Howell, a son, Benjamin Douglas. Little Benjamin has been hospitalized since birth, but we trust he will soon be able to join his family at home.

I take this pain, Lord Jesus,
From thine own hand;
The strength to bear it bravely
Thou wilt command.
I am too weak for effort,
So let me rest,
In hush of sweet submission
On thine own breast.

Many have been ill in the past, and we are always thankful to see with us again those who have recovered. Those who remain in hospitals or ill at home, we remember often in thought and prayer. Surgery patients have been Marjorie Maibach, Sisters Grace Marty, Donna Young, Eva Emery, and Bro. Mitchell Baltic. Sis. Roberta Stoller and Kenneth Rupp are recovering at home, after being hospitalized. Bro. Bernie Hilty is a hospital patient. Mary Alice Bauman has been ill and unable to be at church for a number of weeks.

Sis. Minnie Dotterer of the Junction congregation is now a resident of the Apostolic Christian Home.

Beginning next month, Sis. Marlene Dotterer will be the Rittman reporter for the Silver Lining. Marlene will appreciate your support and cooperation, as I have appreciated in the past.

SABETHA KS

Mrs. Joe Steiner

The Promise of Easter . . . Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf of springtime.

Sis. Mary Huber, 52, passed away Feb. 5, in a Phoenix hospital. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Sam; one daughter and three sons, Sis. Karen Beyer, Bro. Gordon and Bro. Eric, all of Sabetha, David of Houston, Texas. Also sur-

viving are her mother, Sis. Carrie Massner, Ft. Scott; five sisters, Sisters Pearl Miller, Lillian Fischer, Ethel Smith, all of Ft. Scott, and Sisters Emma Hoerr and Ruth Hoerr of Taylor; two brothers, Roy Massner of Houston, Texas, and Dr. Ray Massner of Prescott, Arizona. Services were held Feb. 8 in Sabetha, with Bro. Eugene Marti, Lamar, and Bro. Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, officiating. Burial and graveside services were held the same day at Evergreen Cemetery at Ft. Scott. The family wishes to express their thanks for the prayers, cards, letters, gifts and visits during her illness and for the expressions of sympathy at the time of her death. A special thanks to all the dear ones who sent food and prepared meals for the family from the beginning of her illness.

We also extend sympathy to Sis. Hulda Bieri, on the death of her sister, Edythe E. Barton, 87, at a hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida on Jan. 19.

Brandon Lee Plattner was born Feb. 2 to Sis. Ada and Bro. Don Plattner. He is welcomed home by his brother, Brian.

Bro. James Ramseyer, Bay City, and Bro. Eugene Marti were our visiting ministers.

Bro. Eugene Marti conducted our annual business meeting, wherein Bro. Paul Strahm was re-elected as a church trustee. Bro. Elmer Strahm was elected as a trustee on the Fellowship Hall, Bro. Joe Menold on the Personal Property Aid committee.

SARDIS OH

Linda Indermuhle

We share with our brethren across the land the discomforts of snow and very cold temperatures. The records show that we have endured, with God's help, the most severe winter in this century. Yet, when the sun shone again, we could hardly believe it had been that bad. To be able to forget adversity and look to the future optimistically is truly a gift of God. We were fortunate that we could hold services every Sunday, and those of us that could gather can say again that God provides a blessing if only two or three gather in His name. One Sunday we had an additional blessing, as Roy, Margaret, and Blair Weyland of Bay City stopped to worship on their way to Florida. Bro. Roy ministered to us, remind-

ing us of our calling in this earthly pilgrimage.

Sisters Martha Indermuhle and Paula Figel spent a few days in the hospital for tests and treatment. With the Lord's healing hand upon them, they have recovered and soon hope to be back in normal health.

After a long illness, Sis. Karen Indermuhle's mother, Arlene Stoll, has been called away. When the parting time comes, only the Lord can give us true comfort and the hope of a glad reunion. We wish this for the Stoll family.

TOKYO JAPAN

Yoshio Yamazaki

We would like to let you know how the Lord blesses us and loves all children of God. We all thank God, for He provided such a wonderful way of salvation for us through Jesus Christ, on the cross. Now we really understand what to do. We should follow whatever He says, as same as Abraham did in the Old Testament.

We had a little bit of snow this week in Tokyo. It reminded us to thank God, how He cleanses us from our great sins through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I told my Sunday School and English classes about the story of Abraham, and it is often difficult and painful to obey God's word, but we should obey what God says, and He always takes care of those who obey Him. We always remember you in our daily prayers as you pray for us.

TREMONT IL

Lydia Rassi - Mary Jane Leuhold

"I want to go home", as heard by her sister, were the last words uttered by our Sis. Leah Schurter, before entering into eternal rest Jan. 17. She had repented, was baptized, and lived a godfearing, quiet life. She had that hope of going to that heavenly home. May we all be prepared, that we too can say, I want to go home to die no more. We extend our sympathy to sisters, Sis. Hannah (Chris) Pflederer, Sis. Rose Kahler and to all the nieces and nephews. They wish to express their heartfelt thanks for love and kindness shown unto them during Leah's illness and in her passing.

Bro. Vernon Wettstein, Congerville, shared God's word with us.

Bro. Weldon Staker had the misfortune of falling on the snow in the church lot one Sunday. He suf-

ferred damage to his knee and needs the aid of a cane. Bro. Jay Bolliger had serious surgery and has just come home. He would appreciate the daily prayers of his sisters and brothers in Christ. Bro. Pete Aberle has had many tests and is home, but faces radiation and perhaps surgery. Bro. Ernie Schaefer has had surgery and is on the way to recovery. Bro. Elmer Sauder is again in the hospital and suffers severe pain again. May all of our brothers remember the words: **How many times discouraged we sink beside the way; about us all is darkness, we hardly dare to pray. Then thro' the mists and shadows, the sweetest voice e'er known says, Child, am I not with thee. Never to leave thee alone.** Sis. Mera Koch (Vernon) wishes to express her thanks for all prayers, cards and gifts bestowed on her during her illness. Friends Les and Barbara Koch have moved back to Tremont from California, due to Barbara's health. She is suffering severe pain, so we certainly keep them in our daily thoughts and prayers.

As Easter approaches, I was reminded of this:

If we could just lift up our hearts
like flowers to the sun
And trust His Easter promise and
pray, **Thy Will Be Done,**
We'd find the peace we're seeking,
the kind no man can give,
The peace that comes from know-
ing He died so we might live!

We are sorry we forgot to report the marriage of our Bro. Marvin Sauder, Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna, and Sis. Mary Ann Schweigert, Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida. They were married Dec. 12.

WEST BEND IA
Mrs. Raymond Anliker
Becky Banwart

A dear sister was laid to rest Jan. 23. Sis. Mary Traub passed away, after spending many years in area rest homes. She is survived by four sisters: Sis. Lydia (Jake) Knobloch of Rock Rapids, Ia., Sis. Emma (George) Sauder, Sis. Elizabeth Traub, and Leah Traub, all of West Bend; and one brother, Joseph, of West Bend. May God comfort the family in their loss.

Hospital patients were Sis. Ida Fehr, Sis. Elizabeth Metzger (Duane), Bro. Gary Schneider, little Ryan Fehr (son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr), and Conrad

(Dick) Schmidt, who still remains in St. Mary's Hospital at Rochester. May God add His healing power to our loved ones, and to Sis. Eleanor Steffen of Elgin, Illinois.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Carol Fehr are the happy parents of a little son, Mitchel Dean, born Feb. 9. Bro. Eli and Sis. Lena Grimm and Sis. Nima Fehr are the grandparents.

A reception was held Feb. 11 for Mr. and Mrs. Merlyn Metzger. Merlyn is the son of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice. His wife, Judy, is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger of Morris.

BURLINGTON IA
Edna Pohl

After a severe winter across the nation, we can see spring is not far behind. There is always something good to look forward to . . . Even eternal life with our Lord, if we remain close to Him . . . And His coming can't be far behind, as we see the evils abounding more and more. We who are saved can see the handwriting on the wall.

We also look forward to all the members of God's family returning to their respective churches.

We cannot say it too often, **watch and pray, that we may escape those things coming to pass on this earth.** Yet we all have loved ones that are not saved, nor born again of water and spirit.

Sis. Tillie Wagler Frank and family wish to thank everyone who remembered: "Our dear husband and father during his illness, with prayers and visits, also the sympathy cards and deeds of kindness."

They say that I am growing old,
I've heard them tell it time
untold.

In language plain and bold, but
I'm not growing old.

This frail old shell in which I dwell
is growing old, I know full
well.

But I am not the shell.
What if my hair is turning grey;
grey hairs are honorable they
say.

What if my eyesight's growing
dim, I still can see to follow
Him,

Who sacrificed His life upon the
cross for me.

What should I care if time's old
plow has left his furrow on my
brow.

Another house not made with

hands awaits me in the glory
land.

What tho' I falter in my walk,
what tho' my tongue refuse
to talk,

I can still tread the narrow walk;
I still can watch and praise
and pray.

My hearing may not be as keen,
as in the past it may have
been,

Still I can hear my Saviour say in
whispers soft, This is the way.

The outward man, do what I can
to lengthen out this life's short
span,

Shall perish and return to dust, as
everything in nature must.

The inward man, the Scriptures
say, is growing stronger every
day.

Then how can I be growing old,
when safe within my Saviour's
fold

Ere long my soul shall fly away,
and leave this tenement of
clay.

This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
to seize the everlasting prize.

**Though our outward man perish,
yet the inward man is renewed
day by day.**

The first wedding in our new church and the bride being our first granddaughter, yet we failed somehow to rewrite the report. Our humble apologies to those concerned and present at the wedding of Sis. Tina Pohl and Bro. Benjamin Hoerr. Their parents are Bro. Robert Pohl and Sis. Joyce, and Bro. James Hoerr and Sis. Virginia, Peoria. They are living in Urbana, while Jim finishes his schooling. Bro. Joe Braker read from the Holy scriptures, with timely advice to those beginning a new life together. We who listened could go back over our own lives and find renewed help for our remaining allotted time on earth. May they always turn to the Lord when tests and trials come, as they do to us all.

Bro. Uriel gave the parting visitors a return welcome anytime. It was a joy to see the Lord's new church filled and may God bless us with many souls added to His fold. Yes, we are ready for the Lord's coming again, but too many loved ones and friends yet to be gathered in.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine Eisenman have a new son, born Jan. 17. His brothers are Mark and Mat-

thew, and a little sister, Monica. Grandparents are the Orel Steiners, Oakville, and Jess Eisenmans of Burlington.

WINTHROP MN
Delores Messerli
Marcelle Dapper

Let Your Wish Become a Prayer

There's no problem too big
and no question too small.
Just ask God in faith,
and He'll answer them all—
Not always at once,
so be patient and wait.
For God never comes
too soon or too late,
So trust in His wisdom
and believe in His word,
For no prayer's unanswered
and no prayer unheard.

Every second Sunday of the month, we welcome anyone who wishes to take part in group singing for the three nursing homes in our area. Singing spiritual hymns is only one way of sharing our faith with the shut-ins and less fortunate.

Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me — We rejoice with convert Tim Schmidt, son of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel, as he has been announced as having peace and awaits baptism.

Sis. Jeanine Messner was hospitalized for additional surgery and treatment. She is recovering at home. Having minor surgery on his hand was Bro. George Messner.

The children of Alvin and Sis. Donnabell Nelson hosted an open house in honor of their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

A blessing, Stephanie Joy, born Jan. 22 to Bro. and Sis. Dennis Messner, has three sisters and two brothers to help care for her.

Face to face I shall behold Him
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face, in all His glory
I shall see Him by and by!

CROGHAN NY
Alice Virkler

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy, golden day,

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river—

Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

These comforting words were sung at funeral services held for Sis. Lillian (Bro. Amos) Virkler on Tuesday, Feb. 15. What a comfort for the bereaved family to be assured that we shall **gather at the river** to meet with those who have departed from this life. Sis. Lillian could be relieved of many months of suffering on this earth, and we can be assured that she is now safe on that other shore. In addition to Bro. Amos, her survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Irene Strife and Mrs. Imelda (Brayton) Schneider, both of Lowville; two sisters, Sis. Pearl Lehman and Lucy Wool-schlager; and one brother, Bro. Theodore Virkler Sr., all of Lowville. Services were held by Bros. John Widrick and Norbert Steiner, at the Croghan church.

We are thankful that our Ministering Bro. Floyd Graves has returned home from the hospital, after having been a medical patient several days. Bro. Clyde Virkler returned home from the hospital, following his knee surgery, but has had to re-enter again. We are glad that Gerald Grau and little Terry Farney could return home from hospital stays.

EUREKA IL

Cathryn Wettstein
Salome Schumacher

Our visitors on the pulpit were (Bros.) Ed. Lanz—Oakville, Alfred Bahler — Wolcott, Nathan Stoller — Bradford, Joe Stoller — Princeville, Willis Wiegand—Goodfield.

Since our last writing, eight more souls were added to church membership.

Jan. 29 and 30 were: Susan and Bob Prather; parents are Bro. and Sis. Jack and Millie . . . Phil Lehman, son of the Cliff Lehman; and Robyn Rocke, son of Bro. and Sis. Richard and Marjorie. Bro. Ed Lanz helped Bro. Leroy with proving and baptism.

Feb. 5 and 6: Carol Stoller, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Leroy and Clara (Stoller) Huber; Marlene Wiegand, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Robert and Helen; Merle Weyeneth, son of Bro. and Sis. Melvin and Leona; and Paul Schmidgall, son of Bro. and Sis. Marvin and Dorothy.

Bro. Alfred Bahler helped Bro. Leroy with proving and baptism.

Among the ill are: Bro. Paul Rocke was in Eureka Hospital, but then transferred to Methodist Hospital for further tests. Sis. Marie Klaus is in Eureka Hospital for tests. Bro. David Leman underwent an appendectomy in Eureka Hospital and is home again. Sis. Minnie Leman is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital. Arthur Fehr is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital. Pete Funk from the Home is a medical patient. Levi Anliker from the Home fell, broke his hip, and is in Proctor Hospital. Philo Fehr is a medical patient in Methodist Hospital.

Two of our dear old folks at the "Home" have answered the call to **come Home**. Sis. Mary Nohl, age 93, passed away Jan. 24. Her funeral was in Goodfield Church. Sis. Emma Reeser, aged 78, passed away Feb. 5. Her funeral was in Congerville church. We miss these folks so much, and yet we know they have gone to a better home.

Our newest residents in the "Home" are Sisters Clara Berchtold from Princeville, Lydia Aberle from Fairbury.

Another one is seeking the Lord in repentance, Ron Hartter, son of Bro. and Sis. Dan and Dorothy.

"We wish to thank everyone for cards, gifts and prayers for our beloved husband and father during his illness and since he has gone to be at rest in that Eternal Home." Sis. Tillie Suttor and Family . . . We wish to sincerely thank all for the prayers, cards, gifts and visits while our dear mother was in the hospital and after passing away." The family of Sis. Lydia Fischer

Sandra Getz, age 10, daughter of Allan and Natalie, who underwent surgery on her back some time in January, has returned to her home. She is in a cast that comes to her neck, but is hoping in a few more weeks to have a lighter cast on. This she will have to wear perhaps about seven months. She has a tutor who comes to the home to help her with schooling. Anyone who would like to send her cards or notes of cheer, I think she would be happy to receive.

On Jan. 9, Bro. Walter Anliker was ordained a deacon by (Bros.) Rudy Graf, Joe Ramsier and Leroy Huber. May we pray for Bro. Walter and also Bro. Leroy, as they have great responsibilities in the present day and time.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 26. The following

were put in: three Sunday School teachers, (Bros.) James Vierling, Keith Leman, Kenneth Fehr; Trustee for church, Nelson Martin; Trustee for the Home, James Stoller from El Paso; World Relief, Elmer Ginzel.

Sis. Rosa Wiegand from the "Home" is in St. Francis Hospital for skin grafting.

GRIDLEY IL

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

Lord, I would Thy mercy see;
Lord, reveal Thy love to me.
Let it penetrate my soul;
All my heart and life control.

Wednesday evening, Feb. 9, we gathered in the house of worship for a very special event. The presence of our Lord and Saviour was among us, and our hearts were flooded with His joy and love as we listened to the testimony of a dear soul. As he eagerly expressed his new victory in Christ over the struggle which had plagued him for months, it was easy to forget the petty cares of earthly life and dwell on the spiritual blessings which we enjoy. His struggle was one which perhaps even now many sin-sick souls are engaged in. They desire to repent and know they should repent, but they let Satan put snares and excuses before them. Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. His grace is sufficient for every seeking soul who continues to hunger and thirst after righteousness. He will open up the way and provide the needed strength for the lost soul to say, "God be merciful to me a sinner. I want to repent."

After giving his testimony of faith, our friend, Roger Gramm, accompanied by his father, Bro. Willis (Butch) Gramm, left to prepare for baptism, and the doors of the assembly room were opened to the host of friends who joined us to witness this blessed event. It was heart-warming to see this young man and his father step out behind the baptismal waters. Bro. Butch has been very ill in the past months. We were so glad for him, that he was able to be there with his son in those special moments, as he entered into a covenant with his heavenly Father, and then was baptized into the death of Christ — rising unto newness of life.

Jesus said: "My grace is suffi-

cient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." The apostle's response was: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." May this thought be a source of strength and comfort to those who are sick. Bro. Willis (Butch) Gramm was in the hospital for a few days and is home again. Sis. Betty Schmidgall was in the hospital for surgery, and Bro. Elmer Witzig was back in the hospital for a few days and is now well again.

Another couple is looking forward to the time when they will be joined together in the very special union which exists between husband and wife. The marriage engagement of Sis. Janell Rinkenberg of Gridley to Bro. Kent Kloter of Goodfield was announced.

Bro. Gary Ringger of Gridley was united in holy matrimony with Sis. Marla Bauer of Cissna Park.

FAIRBURY IL

Joyce Huber

Sis. Beverly Kaeb, daughter of Bro. and Sis. David Kaeb, is engaged to Bro. Steve Virgil of Bloomington.

We enjoyed visiting ministers, (Bros.) Arthur Baurer and Walter Hermann from Princeville.

We are sorry that several from our group were hospitalized, including Ryan Hartman — son of Bro. and Sis. John Hartman, Sis. Elsie Peter, Sis. Emma Schmidgall, Bro. Herman Kilgus, Bro. Lloyd Zimmerman, Sis. Mary Traub.

(Bros.) Joe Slagel is a new trustee, Ben Bolliger an usher, Jim Walter on personal property aid, Warren Fehr on hail aid. Jim Walter is a new member on the Fellowship Hall board, and Lloyd Bach told the treasurer.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Barb Hoffmann

Today

My life is a gift of God given, not in years but a day at a time. Today is the day the Lord has made for me, and He planned it to be the most important day of my life.

Yesterday is gone, never to return. I must not worry about it, but leave it in the hands of God. Tomorrow and all that it holds is

God's secret, and its coming is not assured.

Only today is mine. Each day, arranged by God with infinite wisdom and goodness is His gift, His act of love for me. In thanksgiving I will offer Him, every day, the gift of myself — my prayers, works, joys and sufferings. . . Dear Lord, receive it graciously.

We are especially thankful for the dear ministering brothers who came to ISU in the cold wintry weather to share God's word with us. These are Bros. Walt Anliker, Don Sauder, Bob Grimm, and Bill Kupferschmid.

This spring, ISU is planning to host College Week-end, on March 26 and 27. College Week-end is set aside for all the young members and friends who are college age or older. It is a time for learning and sharing with new and old friends. We are all praying for a blessed week-end in which to glorify God and to grow in His love.

JUNCTION OH

Gwen Manz

We were privileged to hear the testimony of our friend, Lowell Schlatter (son of Sis. Esther) on Jan. 22, and are happy to welcome him into the Fold as our dear brother-in-faith. Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty) and Bro. Gene Fetter (Toledo) were with us for the blessed occasion.

Peter and Helen Hurd are the parents of a baby boy, Mark Allen, born Jan. 28. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Louise Manz.

On Feb. 6, Bro. Paul Manz (Bro. Emmanuel and Sis. Louise) and Sis. Sandra Ramsier (Bro. Robert and Sis. Inez) were united in Holy Matrimony in Rittman. We welcome Sis. Sandra into our congregation.

LEXINGTON KY

Cathy Knobloch

How much we have to be thankful for in having a Christian home background, and Christian training!

Yet sometimes we can rely as hea-

vily on this spiritual backlog to keep our Christian fire glowing, that we neglect our own part of the responsibility . . .

A backlog is fine,

but it is no substitute for a blazing fire!

Although the weather has been unseasonably cold, our congregation has been warmed by the fires of fellowship. We have enjoyed the visits of several families from Francesville. What a privilege it is to share our spiritual struggles and victories with other Christians. God's love is a universal ignitor of friendship. Praise Him!

It was a great joy to hear the announcement of our Sis. Glenda Huber, daughter of Bro. Lester and Sis. Glendoris Huber, to Bro. Jon Neukomm of the Morton congregation. Jon's parents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Gerry Neukomm.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

LATTY OH

Karen Klopfenstein - Diane Stoller

Chris Alan was born to Bro. Milard and Sis. Irma Stoller. Lane, Amy, Cody, Sue, and Pam welcome him home. May God guide them in raising their children.

Bro. Orville Ringger was with us for another blessed week-end on Feb. 5 and 6. Our new brothers and sisters in the Lord are: Eli Schlatter (Bro. Joe and Sis. Elsie), Keith and Jo Anne Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary), Dave and Deb Wenninger, Ed and Alice Wenninger (Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine). May they all ever strive to follow the Lord, and do His will in all things.

Those hospitalized were Bro. Loren Stoller, Carrie Stoller, and Sam Laukhuf. We are thankful all returned home now.

NEW MARTINSVILLE W. VA

Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey

At this writing, Feb. 19, we are losing much of the heavy snow we have had for several weeks, but still have a lot of heavy ice on the upper tributaries, which could cause flooding if there is heavy rain for any length of time. Like most of the country, we were hard hit by the gas shortage, schools were closed; many business places worked shorter hours, and many plants were shut down for short periods of time because of the fuel problem.

During the period of severe cold weather and the ice and snow, very little illness has been reported;

many cars were not used for days, due to the condition of the highways and side roads leading to them. My car was in for 37 days; members of my family brought us groceries and needed items.

Mrs. Delbert Indermuhle of Sardis was a hospital patient in the local hospital in January.

Robert Stoll of Girard and daughter, Mrs. Robert Indermuhle of Sardis, visited with Della Witschey on Feb. 17. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Indermuhle, also of Sardis, visited with her on Feb. 18.

This reporter visited with her on Feb. 19, and found her in her usual good health. Her room had been very warm and comfortable during the cold weather. She appreciates cards and company.

Edward Berger has been home for some time, and seems to be improving and gaining in strength each day.

PEORIA IL

JoAnn Rieker - Barb Geyer

Faith came singing into my room; Its other guests took flight. Fear and anxiety, grief and gloom Sped out into the night. And I wondered how such peace could be—

Faith said gently, **Don't you see? They really could not live with me!**

So many loved ones in our community have been struck by death's sudden blow. We pray for God's sustaining grace to be near all these loved ones. Our dear Sis. Louise Asal passed away Feb. 11. Funeral services were held Feb. 14. We wish to express our sincere sympathy to her sisters, Amelia, Lena and Mae.

Also on Feb. 11, Bro. Amos Schaefer was taken from this life. He was buried Feb. 15. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Marie; his son, Bro. Bruce; his sister, Sis. Kathryn Schaefer; his brother, Bro. Chris; and all his other loved ones.

Our congregation also wishes to express sympathy to Bro. Dave Meister II on the death of his father-in-law, Tom McFarland. His funeral was held Jan. 24.

Milton Risinger, father of our Sis. Lois (Alan) Herman, has also been taken. We pray to God to comfort Sis. Lois in her loss.

Wilbur Messer, the nephew of Sis. Emma Messer and Bertha Linsley, has passed away. He was

laid to rest on Jan. 27. Our sympathy is extended to his parents, sisters, brother and aunts.

Feb. 5 was the date of the annual Pancake Supper that is sponsored by the Bible Class. It was held at the Fellowship Hall and proved to be a joyful evening for all.

Congratulations to our Bro. Walt and Sis. Hazel Geyer on the birth of their sixth grandchild. Sarah Beth was born Jan. 20 to Wally and Bonnie Geyer of Tremont. They have two sons, Ben and Joe.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hayes announced the engagement of their daughter, Sally, to Russell L. Arndt. They are planning an April wedding.

Recent hospital patients are John Schaefer, Lawrence Triplett, Bertha Linsley, Sisters Sarah Baer, Emma Eber, and Connie Triplett. We are so happy that Sis. Connie has been able to leave the Mayo Clinic and is now back in our community.

Sis. Marie Wiess wishes to thank all who remembered her with money, cards, visits and prayers, especially the ministering brothers who so freely gave of their time.

"With a grateful heart, I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with their prayers, visits, cards and gifts while I was in the hospital with a fractured hip and also since I am home, with their many acts of kindness in our behalf." Sis. Mary (Ezra) Hohulin.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE AGING

Joe W. Thomas

Our friend, Margaret Ferdinand, passed away on Jan. 20. This reporter has known her family of two sons for a number of years, fine, reputable businessmen.

Our new sprinkler system in the infirmary is completed and operational. This gives a certain sense of security in case of fire.

Our Sis. Rose Hofman from Morton has been hospitalized for several weeks. A card to her at Proctor Hospital, Rm. 212-A would be appreciated. Our friend, Winona Pfander is also hospitalized.

REMINGTON IN

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

Due to the severe cold and excessive snowfall, our Remington church was forced to cancel its worship services for two Sundays. Many motorists were stranded on

I-65 in our area, and one Sunday the rolls which had been ordered for our noon lunch were sent to the local armory, to help serve the many people stranded there. It seems that, in every circumstance, God gives us an opportunity to do some good for our fellowman.

The annual business meeting of our congregation was held on Tuesday evening, Feb. 8. New Sunday School teachers elected were (Bros.) John Knobloch and Harlan Braker; Ben Braker is our newly-elected trustee.

Our hearts rejoice with Susan Getz and her parents, Bro. Maurice and Sis. Eileen, because she has turned to the Lord in repentance and is seeking salvation for her soul.

What shall I give Thee, Master?
Thou hast giv'n all for me.
Not just a part or half of my heart,
I will give all to Thee.

TAYLOR MO Lena M. Haerr

"... when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

A dear brother, Joe Sauder of Tremont, who has gone to His rest, ministered, We should serve Christ as if we had the rest of our lives to accomplish His purposes for us, but we should live as if He were coming today!

We have two new families who moved to the Taylor area: Bro. and Sis. Dave and Carol Wuff Knapp and two small daughters from the Eureka area, Bro. and Sis. Robert and Nancy Wysong Gerber, three sons and a daughter from Lester. One daughter, Stephanie, is in nurse's training in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. We welcome these families and may God bless them.

Friday, Jan. 21, Bro. Joe Braker, Morton, visited us, and Bro. Joe and Bro. Roy Grimm told and explained the conference report. This was so helpful to us all.

Sis. Louise Grimm went to the hospital Jan. 30 to Feb. 10. She submitted to surgery and is getting along real well. Sis. Louise has such faith in God, that we can all learn from her, how she trusts in Him, day by day.

Saturday, Feb. 12, Bro. Ed Frank, LaCrosse, visited us, and Bro. Ed and Bro. Roy Grimm heard the testimony of two dear souls. They were baptized the next

day, so now, Steve Sutter and Joe Yackley (son of Sis. Clara) became children of God and are our brothers in faith. May they realize in all the earth, there is no higher standing than to be a lamb of Jesus flock.

Feb. 13, Bro. Rodney Heimer (son of Sis. Naomi) and Sis. Barbara Joos (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Albert and Edith Morris) announced their engagement.

The Sunday School children have adopted a child. Once a month money is sent to a family in a foreign country, and each month this child writes, thanks them and tells about himself... Love and kindness shown to the needy.

TUSCON ARIZONA Caroline Zeltwanger

There's sunshine in my soul today,
More glorious and bright...

God has been very good to us here in Tucson, by giving us daily sunshine and warm weather to enjoy. We wish to thank our Lord for sending us (Bros.) Earl Zeltwanger from Bremen and Clarence Yackley from Phoenix; their teachings served as sunshine for our souls.

It was good to have Jay Bertsch back to church, after convalescing at home, following an injury.

Our church extends its sympathy to Sis. Marie Schaefer and her family. Bro. Amos and Sis. Marie were visiting us for the winter, when Sis. Marie was injured in an auto accident. Weeks later, the Lord called Bro. Amos to His home. Our prayers are with Sis. Marie and her family. It is comforting to know God will give us grace and strength in our times of need.

WASHINGTON IL Carole Kellenberger

Our small congregation has a welcome addition! Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach are the parents of a son, Philip John, born Feb. 6. Grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Martha Wagenbach and Bro. Ben and Sis. Louise Stickling of Peoria.

On one of our icy winter days, Bro. Lloyd Schumacher was involved in a minor auto accident. While standing along the highway, he was then struck by another car and seriously injured, but we are happy to report that he is home

from the hospital and doing nicely. Sis. Lillian Cagle was also a patient. We were happy to have her assemble with us again last Sunday.

We thank the Lord for inspiring the following brothers: Russell Rapp, Arthur Baurer, Don Sauder, Jim Leman, Charles Sauder, Dan Koch, Bill Kupferschmid, Ken Hoerr, Ron Heiniger, Vernon Wettstein and John Steiner.

CHAMPAIGN- URBANA Dianne Leman

When you are discouraged or depressed, do you sometimes question whether or not God really hears and answers prayer? I know I have had doubts, but the Lord has shown me a way to gain victory over my lack of trust. I now keep a record of my daily prayer requests. This record has four columns: Request, date of request, answer, date of answer. Whenever I have cause to doubt His attentiveness to my prayers, I have only to flip open my notebook and survey my prayer request record. It is amazing to see how many times the Lord has answered my prayers.

The answers are not always what I want, but I can be sure they are what I need to bring me that much closer to the goal of Christian maturity. Praise a wonderful Lord who not only listens to sinful men, but takes time to answer our requests.

IOWA CITY IA

Lynn Banwart - Twila Whipple

For our monthly Sunday service, we were honored to have Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest) and Bob Pohl (Burlington). There were many young brothers and sisters from various states that shared the week-end with us. It was a real blessing to meet and greet old friends and to make many new ones. It was a week-end that will be fondly remembered, and we hope that all were inspired.

Bro. John Steiner (Oakville) ministered to us at our Thursday evening meeting. The encouraging message was, that we should certainly do our best for our Lord, but not be discouraged when we fail, and not to expect too much from ourselves. I am always amazed that God knows the exact message I'm in need of, and through His serv-

ants He speaks to us individually. It seems like a miracle, but God's power is shown to us in that way, and in many other ways each day of our life.

PORTLAND OR Connie Steffen

Matthew 24:7 tells us nation shall rise against nation, and we will have famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. It seems as though this was written for today's newspapers, for certainly it would fit our times, but in another place we are reminded to "look up", for our redemption draweth nigh. What a blessed hope for those who are looking for our Lord's return.

Bro. Martin Reuter is now making his home with his daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Ann and Bro. Paul Rumbold, and assembling with us at Portland. We know he is greatly missed by Silverton, but we are glad he can go back and forth between the two congregations.

I would not walk without Thee,
blessed Jesus;
The days would be so long to walk
alone.
From morn to night we walk and
talk together
Along that upward path that leads
me home.

When sorrow like a mantle falls
upon me,
A sorrow that no earthly friend
could know,
When none could share my grief
nor understand me,
To whom, O Lord, to whom then
could I go?

Through sunshine and through
sorrow Thou art with me;
The nights are never long when
Thou art near,
And through my tears I smile
when in Thy presence.
O walk beside me, Lord, through-
out the year.

VALPARAISO IN Marie Heinold

We all, this past month, whether at home in this stormy midwest, winter vacationing in the warm sunshine, or on the high seas had to feel and think of the words **How Great Thou Art . . .**

O Lord my God! When I in awe-
some wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands
have made,
I see the stars, I head the rolling
thunder,
Thy power throughout the uni-
verse displayed. . .

And when I think that God, His
Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take
it in,
That on the cross, my burden
gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my
sin.

Here in Valparaiso we have another dear soul. Kenneth Susdorf is repenting of past wrongs and giving himself into the service of our Saviour, Lord Jesus. We pray for him and one another, as we journey together to that home in Heaven with Jesus.

Bro. John Heinold was hospitalized Tuesday, Feb. 15, with influenza, and is still in the hospital . . . hoping he will soon be able to come home and be well again.

CHILDREN'S HOME

The Lord has truly blessed the Children's Home project, and the time has come to select another set of houseparents. Any married brother and sister-of-the-faith above age of 21 may apply.

Any couple that feels so directed by the Spirit of the Lord to apply should send their resume to Terry Farney, Box 151, Leo IN 46765. We would appreciate having the resumes by April 15, so that a personal interview could be arranged.

Dear Brethren and Friends in Faith:

On March 26, we will have our annual meeting, time 10:00 a.m., Central Standard Time. A complete report on activities, needs and financial position will be made.

We have had a very blessed start at the Home. Three years of planning, construction and fellowship gained through cooperative efforts were followed by open house and dedication of buildings.

We now have five children at the Home, and God's blessings have brought them in at 3 to 4 week intervals, allowing them to become partly established before another child was added.

We invite the church representatives, ministers, and all interested parties. A visit through the Home is included. We will appreciate advice from **each church** as to how many plan to come, also if you plan to spend Sunday with the Leo congregation. Arrangements will be made.

We trust God will continue to bless this work, and an orderly admission of children can continue. We need our prayers, patience and financial support.

Children's Home Committee

UNION CITY NJ and PHILADELPHIA PA Carolyn Roberts

Such blessings to have visiting Ministering brothers! We were happy to have Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl with us to bring the word.

Rachel and Grabiell Clough welcomed their new baby sister, Rebecca Debra, on Jan. 29: Parents are Bro. John and Sis. Kathy. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Gerber of Bluffton.

Friend Jan Aeschleman was confined at home for a short time from minor surgery.

Thanks be to God for safe travels, as Sis. Marie Welch traveled to her native home in Switzerland for a lengthy visit and has returned safely.

WICHITA KANSAS Glennis Allenbach

Have you counted your blessings lately? I'm so glad our ministers in our church often remind us just how fortunate we are to be able to come unmolested, set comfortably and have fellowship together. God has protected and blessed our country in many ways and will continue, if we allow Him to. It's up to us how much longer we have His protection.

Did you ever wonder about the scripture that tells how only God knows the day and the hour, when He will say—enough. The more I study the Bible and contemplate. I am convinced that the time is set according to the sinful state of the world. As always, man is given a choice, and when the world becomes so full of sin that God can no longer look upon it, He will say enough. So we can say in reality that man brings this about himself. Oh, if only the whole world would repent, like the city in the Old Testament where they repented and

God spared them.

I would like to include some things that merit passing on from our local paper. There was a story about a man injured in Vietnam about 10 years ago. It was thought he would never move again, from atrophied muscles and paralyzed nerves. Through much effort, he has gained control of his right arm, neck and back muscles.

The following is his testimony: "My goal is just getting better—to have the patience to see where the good Lord wants me to put my efforts. It's the good Lord's will that I be alive and I put all my trust in God while I work at getting better. Every morning I say, Praise the Lord; it's another day to be alive."

Now this strikes me as an amazing testimony — until I consider the marvelous grace of God.

Another article was about a local woman who was celebrating her 100th birthday. When asked if she wanted to live another hundred years she said—"No, now I'm just waiting to go home." How wonderful that she has this promise. The picture included her sitting peacefully in a wheelchair and above, a beautiful floral picture with these words, "Try a little kindness"—I like the sound of that line—don't you!

In closing, I would like to include some new addresses for our brothers, sisters and friends who might like to take note: Steve and Jeanne Langhofer, 2262 Westport, Wichita KS 67203 . . . Glen and Sally Funk, 4510 S. Fern, Wichita KS 67217 . . . Oliver and Glenis Allenbach, 1112 Hackberry Rd., Derby KS 67037.

ALTO MI

Mrs. Ronald Erismann

Love is an act, one that can be practiced by any of us, anyplace, anytime.

We've experienced severe weather conditions this past month, as did the rest of the midwest and eastern states. Bro. Lloyd Blough is recuperating, after a short stay in the hospital.

AKRON OH

Linda Pamer

During one of our midweek services, we read a portion of the 11th chapter in Hebrews. One of the verses, in speaking of Moses, tells us that he chose "rather to suffer

affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season". In the meditation, the brother mentioned, that if we will leave behind those things that displease God, no matter how much our flesh or our own will may desire them, we will find happiness.

We were glad to have Elder Bro. John Bahler (Rockville) as our visiting minister. May the Lord richly bless our beloved elders and ministers, who labor so faithfully for Him.

Sis. Eva Emery was hospitalized with a broken hip. We're glad that she has been released from the hospital and is now back at the Apostolic Christian Home at Rittman.

BLOOMINGTON NORMAL IL

Paula Knapp - Jeanie O'Shea

Like many of our surrounding area churches, we felt God's almighty power, as the snow and freezing weather became a real threat to those traveling upon the highways. We become powerless in only a short time. It truly reminds us of our weakness and humbles us when we realize our days and activities can only continue if the Lord wills. It's so good to be reminded of this by our Heavenly Father . . . And the void we feel when we know we can't assemble together with our loved ones and be warmed by the word is so great. It fills us with a real longing and desire, and makes us appreciate the clear roads and nice weather we so often take for granted.

Elder Bro. Dan Koch spent the day with us Feb. 6. We are always so thankful to have him in our midst again and hear the word proclaimed in wisdom and truth, as the Lord directs.

The engagement of Bro. Steve Virgil and Sis. Beverly Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary of Fairbury) was announced the 6th. Our hearts truly rejoice when we can see God's divine plan and bountiful blessings as He draws two souls together in holy love.

The week-end of Feb. 19 and 20, we were able to share the blessed fellowship of a group of brothers and sisters from the Francesville choir. Saturday evening, our little church resounded with beautiful songs and praises to our Heavenly Father. Then after Sunday services, we were blessed with more singing and a supper at the church. We would like to express our deep gratitude for the efforts put forth

by this talented group. Our hearts can always be drawn so close together, as we share our Christian love and zeal in song.

April is Silver Lining collection for Bloomington Normal.

CHICAGO IL

Kathy Schlatter

In the swirling snow, I found it difficult to see. I could barely follow the car ahead of me . . . And what was the car following who hadn't a car in front of him? I looked higher—of course, the stoplight. And I remembered how much brighter the red light was than the green, because going ahead on red could be so much more disastrous. How often we are caught up spiritually in a world of swirling snow!

Dear Bro. Rich (Hudreich) Schurter died Jan. 26. As a fellow Chicago member put it, God judges a man by the depth of his faith, and under those criteria, Rich will be called to step up higher at the marriage banquet. The funeral was held Saturday, Jan. 29 in Chicago. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann had services. Among his remembrances were these: Paul writes in I Corinthians 4:15, "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers . . ." One night in repentance throughout the night and morning hours, Bro. Rich struggled and wrestled with Satan but, through Christ, he won the victory and never again did Satan grip him that way. Bro. Rich also mentioned that he always went to church Wednesday evenings and Sundays, every chance he had . . . And when he was ill and could not come, the Tempter could not upset his peace, for he had always assembled whenever he could. Bro. Nate Steffen from Elgin, IL, was also able to be with us.

Yet even the weather that day showed us God's tremendous power, for our plans were rendered helpless. Many were unable to move from their homes because of the snowfall and drifts. The Lord did provide a way for Sis. Aldenne's family and other friends to see Bro. Rich once more and hear the funeral tape on Monday, when he was laid to rest in Goodfield. We pray that the Lord may give great comfort to Sis. Aldenne, her sons, their wives, for their loss is great, but Bro. Rich has gained eternity.

A loving niece wrote this poem about Bro. Rich:

An uncle who was so near and dear
Has gone to his reward without
fear.

His love always showed in the
smile he wore,
And his love for the Lord was for-
ever more.

His chair will be empty
And he'll surely be missed,
But we can believe his prayer
would be this:

Today your salvation is free,
So this, dear ones, is my plea:
Do not detain or delay;
Answer His tender call today.

Sis. Judy Bittner must leave our congregation and will be returning to Roanoke. We will miss her cheery smile and her support in many church responsibilities. May the Lord guide and direct her paths and let her come back to visit often.

Sis. Lois Gary has been hospitalized, and Sis. Verna Stedman has just entered the hospital. We hope that both stays will have been beneficial, that each sister may have improved health, Lord willing. Someday we may have what-seems-to-us-unlimited money. We will never have unlimited time on earth. Each day that passes we have one day fewer.

CONGERVILLE IL

Sharon McClure - Judy Wettstein

On Feb. 5, God opened His merciful arms to our dear Sis. Emma (Moser) Reeser, at the age of 78. Her husband, William Reeser, whom she married in 1920, passed away in 1974, and from this time Sis. Emma had resided at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. Surviving are children: son, Richard, and four daughters, Mrs. Marian Aeschliman, Mrs. Marie Petrosky, Mrs. Edna Tellkamp, Mrs. Linda Waller; three sisters, Sis. Olga Schmidt and Sis. Elizabeth Honegger of Fairbury and Sis. Julia Grant, Toledo. Two sons and three brothers preceded her in death. Bro. Fredrick Knapp had the services.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Carrie Lou Hartman and Bro. Glenn and Bro. Willis Knapp in the passing of their father, Bro. Eli Knapp of Goodfield, who passed away Jan. 27. He also had a sister from our congregation, Sis. Penina Miller.

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Frances

Schumacher in the passing away of her brother, John Witzig; also to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie Grusy in the passing of his brother-in-law, Richard Schurter.

Ministering Bro. Edmund Kloter of Goodfield spent Feb. 6 with us. We certainly appreciated his visit and the messages he brought us. It was brought out there are two ways, and the one way we must choose if we want to enter into those beautiful mansions above.

We wish Bro. Bob and Sis. Leann Siegle and daughter, Laura, God's blessings in their new home at Cissna Park; we will miss them. They have given much love to our congregation, and we hope they can feel that they are taking much love and many prayers along with them.

Sis. Cordilla Zimmerman was hospitalized, has returned home, and is improving slowly. Also hospitalized were Sis. Arlene Banwart and Ruth Miller.

Best wishes to Sue Schieber (Bro. Harold and Sis. Alma) and Lee Ehling, who were united in marriage on Feb. 12.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary Schieber would like to express their heartfelt thanks for the many expressions of sympathy.

FT. LAUDERDALE FL

Caroline Akel

Our congregation voted for a new trustee. Bro. John Marioncu has been asked to serve in this capacity.

Sis. Arlene Wieland has been ill and unable to assemble with us. She is missed by the members of our church, and often remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Our hearts were saddened by the passing of Jack Kinkle. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Elsie along with the rest of the Kinkle family. The Kinkles are members of our sister church who assemble with us in Ft. Lauderdale. Jack was dearly loved by the members of our congregation and will be missed. What a comfort it must be to those who were close to him, when at the close of his life he was able to say that he felt ready to go. We pray that God will strengthen those he leaves behind and keep them in the hope of meeting with him again someday.

This month, God's message was brought to us through several visiting ministers: (Bros.) Ezra Feller, elder, Cissna Park; Roy Lugin-

buhl, Rockville; Roy Wieland, Bay City; and (Elder) Joe Braker, Morton. We were reminded of how very fortunate we are to be numbered among the blest, and the invitation was extended again to those who are still without. What a wonderful plan of salvation! Our hope is that many more will respond while there is still time.

We were asked to examine and prepare ourselves for what should prove to be a most blessed weekend. We expect to have Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Joe Braker in our midst. Saturday night, a supper is to be held at church for all who wish to attend, followed by the reading of the memorandum to our members. Sunday service is to be followed by the breaking of the bread and passing of the cup in Holy Communion. It is a privilege to be able to participate in this blessed event, and we are truly filled when we come to the Lord's table in the right spirit.

MILFORD IN

Coleen Beer - Linda Beer

The Milford brethren again rejoice to be able to assemble together, after having missed two Sundays because of snow and cold weather. Our ministers have reminded us that, through the snow, God has shown us how powerful He is, also that in the Bible, snow is referred to as a symbol of purity.

Bro. Stan Wuthrich is recovering well, after being involved in an accident with a tractor power take-off. Sis. Inez Brooks is in the hospital for tests. We look forward to the time when they can assemble with us again.

PRINCEVILLE IL

Ruth Ricketts

An apology is a friendship preserver, often a debt of honour, is an antidote for hatred, costs nothing but one's pride, and always saves far, far more than it ever costs.

After what seems like a rather long, cold winter, we are experiencing a little warmer weather, the days considerably longer. We are anxiously looking forward to spring, when all nature again comes to life.

Sis. Clara Berchtold, who has been at the Parkhill Medical Complex in Chillicothe the past 14 months, was taken by ambulance to the Eureka Church Home. Al-

though she is unable to speak, due to a stroke, when her family explained that she was going to a different home and that now she was in Eureka, she looked at them and shook her head. It makes one feel that, even though there is no way for them to communicate, they can feel when they are placed in the hands of faithful, loving ones who do so many kind deeds for them.

Bro. Ben Streitmatter, who has been in the hospital for over two months, was moved to a new Shelter Care Home in Toulon, Illinois. His faithful wife, Sis. Alvina stays by his side and does so much for him. He has not been good, unable to talk, and recently lies with his eyes closed.

Sis. Marlene Plattner is recovering nicely from eye surgery. Phyllis Elsasser has gone to her home in Denver, Colorado, after spending several weeks with her mother, Martha Elsasser, and her sister, Jan Elsasser, recuperating from surgery. She sent a touching **thank you** note to the church, and said how she felt the power in the prayers of her loved ones and was thankful to the LORD for His healing power. We too are thankful she is getting along so nicely.

Our friend, Lisel Rapp and her husband, Eugene were visiting together the evening of Feb. 8. She decided to retire for the night. She had recently been in the hospital, but had felt real good this day. She hadn't gone far when she fell, never to walk again. The death angel had called her from this life so suddenly. Services were held Feb. 11 at the church, with Bro. Dave Kieser and other local ministers officiating. She never had a daughter, but highly respected her two daughters-in-law. She was laid to rest in the church cemetery near the grave of her infant son. Lina Paulina Rapp was born in Neuhutten, Germany, June 17, 1902, a daughter of Andres and Katherine Niebel Woerner. She married Eugene Rapp June 27, 1925. Surviving are her husband; two sons, Roland and Werner. The family appreciated all the kind deeds done for them during their bereavement.

Sis. Louise Asal of Peoria, formerly of Princeville was laid to rest in the church cemetery Feb. 14, very near the new grave of our dear friend, Lisel Rapp.

A little girl and her father were walking along in the evening. She was fascinated by the stars, and

kept looking up at them, but made no comment until her father asked what she was thinking. She replied, "If the bottom side of heaven is so beautiful, how wonderful the other side must be."

We were happy to have Bro. Kennie Dietz from the Bradford congregation worship with us. It stirs our hearts to hear the humble words of exhortation, encouragement, and comfort brought forth by our young brother. It seems such a short time since he was a young boy in our Sunday School, and we appreciate his humble attitude. Just preaching to people isn't enough; our actions speak louder than words.

We look forward to a blessed week-end, the last in February, when we expect to hear the testimonies of three precious friends, who have turned their backs to the ways of the world and have a new found faith in our crucified Lord. Geraldine Cole, Carol Martin — daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Esther, and Alpha Hartzler, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara of Rittman, are awaiting this privilege.

A number of years ago, Sis. Sally Streitmatter lived in our community and worshipped with us. As her health failed, she went to live at the Eureka Church Home, being one of the first residents, and has enjoyed her sunset years here. Her daughter, Alice Mellott, has sent words of thanks for her mother. "My family and I wish to thank all our friends and relatives for the many prayers, gifts, cards, and visits at the Christmas holidays and throughout the last year. Sis. Sallie M. Streitmatter."

SILVERTON OR Kathy Dietrich

Our oldest member, Bro. Martin Reuter, who is 88 years old, has moved from his home in Silvertown where he lived for many years. He is now living with his daughter, Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Rumbold in Oregon City. He will be attending services in Portland, and we miss having Bro. Martin assemble with us. Everyone is needed in our small congregation.

WOLCOTT IN Laurel Widmer

Our area, along with many others, has experienced severe winter storms. The combination of wind and snow resulted in several days of inactivity for most people.

Schools, businesses and churches were closed. Many people stayed in area schools and restaurants, after being rescued from their stranded vehicles. The men who braved the sub zero weather in their tractors and snowmobiles to rescue stranded motorists were present day **Good Samaritans**.

On Jan. 23, Bro. Wendell Gudeman assisted Bro. Alfred in reading the memorandum. We were reminded that God has given us this heritage of faith. It is our duty and opportunity, now, to preserve it.

Sis. Leah Farney, age 82, passed away Feb. 5 at the home of her son, after an illness of several months. She is survived by her husband — Bro. Aaron, her son — Leroy and daughter-in-law, Frances. Also surviving is a sister, (Sis.) Hulda Jacobs of Emporia, Kansas and a brother, Sam Gruber of Remington. Funeral services were held on Feb. 8 at the church here. Sis. Leah will be missed by everyone. We will always remember her for the kindness and cheerfulness she showed.

One by one their seats are emptied;
One by one they go away.
Though in our youth we feel immortal,
God only promises today.

BREMEN IN Marian Germann

I asked the Lord to comfort me
When things weren't going my way;
He said to me, **I will comfort you,
And lift your cares away.**

I didn't ask for riches,
He gave me wealth untold—
The moon, the stars, the sun, the sky,
And gave me eyes to behold.

I thank the Lord for everything,
And I count my blessings each day;
He came to me when I needed Him—
I only had to pray.

He's only a prayer away. This is truly a great comfort to each of us as we go through this life.

We were very happy to have Bro. Alfred Bahler and Bro. Wendell Gudeman in our midst as they read the memorandum Feb. 12.

Feb. 6, we were happy to have

many of the Milford congregation to fellowship with, as they had maintenance problems at their home church.

April is Silver Lining collection for Bremen.

ELGIN IL

Mary Moser

I have learned, in whatever state I am, in this to be content.

Sis. Eleanor Steffen was seriously injured with a skull fracture, when she was struck by a car while crossing the street. She is now at home, and we pray that she may have a full recovery. David Schock was in the hospital for minor surgery. Bro. Charlie Graff is now back at the rest home, after spending some time in the hospital.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellenberger and family have moved to Peoria. May God watch over them in His care.

We were blessed with a visit from Ministering (Bros.) Arnold Gerst from Chicago and Harold Zeltwanger from Bremen.

"We would like to thank the dear ones for cards and gifts received for our 50th Anniversary. The love and wishes meant so much to us." Bro. Joe and Sis. Anna Schmidgall.

Special Notice

We believe it is generally known among our churches that we have a sheltered care rest home here at Elgin, called the Apostolic Christian Resthaven. By March or April of this year, we will be in need of a new administrator to manage our home.

It is our faith to believe that, somewhere in one of our beloved congregations, there would be a brother, sister, or friend who might be led to fill this position. Should anyone be interested, please contact: Arthur D. Schmidt, 671 East Chicago Street, Elgin IL 60120, 312-741-1412; Albert Schambach, 500 N. McLean Blvd., Elgin IL 60120, 312-741-8759; or Richard Kilgus, 137 Brookedge Dr., Hampshire IL 60140, 312-683-3817.

DETROIT MI

Bonnie Popp

We have been blessed with several ministering brethren: Walter Rehklau and Homer Reineck from Toledo, Roy Ehnle from Bradford, Richard Aberle from Indianapolis, (Elder) Dale Eisenmann from Chi-

cago in the reading of the memorandum.

Each dear brother was able to share God's love and truth with us — in a different manner. Though sometimes the burdens seem heavy and cares are great how wonderful to know they leave a jewel of God's wisdom everytime they can assemble with God's children.

April is Silver Lining collection for Detroit.

Many dear friends and family from Toledo gathered with us as we welcomed Elaine (Schlatter) Burgos as a sister in faith. It was a blessed sharing of Jesus' love with Elaine, her dear family here, the many visitors, and all of us in Detroit. We pray that God will remain close to her now and evermore.

For my words, I take His wisdom;
For my works, His Spirit's power,
For my ways, His ceaseless Presence
Guides and guards me every hour.

Of my heart, He is the Portion,
Of my joy, the boundless Spring,
Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer,
Glorious Lord, and coming King!

LAMONT KS

Susan Emch

Tim Anliker, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorean, was a hospital patient for an appendectomy. We are happy he is well and resuming his activities. A number of us gathered at the home of Bro. Glen and Sis. Loreans' for an evening of singing and fellowship. We also enjoyed having with us Bro. Walter and Sis. Wilhelmina Anliker, Eureka.

(Bros.) Jim Ramsier Bay City and Roger Aberle, Sabetha, ministered to us, as we joined the Gridley congregation for mid-week services.

On Sunday, Feb. 13, we assembled with Gridley, due to a furnace malfunction.

MORTON IL

Lorna Schrock - Judy Springer

Our annual business meeting was held during January, with reports given from the various committee chairmen. Also, the following new officers were elected: (Bros.) Marvin Getz, trustee; Sam Pfederer, funeral usher; Mark Grimm and

Brian Harvey, Sunday ushers; and Don Hermann, in charge of Brotherhood Aid.

We wish to extend our sympathy to (Bros.) Anton Rother and Francis Rother in the death of their daughter and sister, Lydia (Mrs. Roy) Charlet of Peoria. She was buried in our church cemetery.

Those hospitalized recently are: Sis. Pat (Bruce) Landis, Sis. Esther Aberle, Richard Bernhardt (who is in Iowa City), Phil Witzig (son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Dorothy), and Sis. Rose Hoffman, who is a resident in the Peoria Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. Bro. Earl and Sis. Edith Meiss and their son, Greg have moved to our community from Bloomington. We welcome them into our fellowship.

Bro. Terry and Sis. Diana Rassi are parents of a new baby boy, Kevin Andrew. He has a big brother, Chad. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Stella Zimmerman, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Rassi of Florida. Sis. Nima Zimmerman of Eureka is the great-grandmother.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Glenda Huber of Lexington to Bro. Jan Neukomm. Their parents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Glendora Huber of Lexington and Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm. Also engaged are Sis. Barb Joos and Bro. Rodney Heimer (of Taylor). Sis. Naomi (and the late Bro. Bill) Heimer of Taylor and Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joos of Morris are their parents.

At our February Hymnsing we were privileged to have the Goodfield choir and our intermediate choir (7th and 8th graders) sing. It's always a blessing to come together to lift our voices in praise of God.

"I want to thank my friends and relatives for their prayers, cards and gifts while in the hospital and during my stay at Restmore Nursing Home." Sis. Cora Rechkemmer.

"My thanks to relatives and friends for the cards, gifts, flowers, messages and phone calls received at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis, where I had vascular surgery. My appreciation also for all that has been done for me since I'm home." Sis. Anna (Mrs. Henry W.) Rapp.

"Dear Ones . . . the many acts of kindness and the precious prayers

offered for us during the loss of our beloved little infant, Phillip, . . . we gratefully say Thank You. In return we pray that we will be able to help all that our precious Lord and Saviour tells us to.

If you should happen to get to Heaven before Bobby or I, would you please give the little red-headed "angel" with the dimple on his nose a kiss for us? Thank you." Bro. Bob and Sis. Peggy Joos

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Luann Bahler — Doreen Gudeman

Because the Purdue group was snowbound and unable to go to our home churches for the week-end of Jan. 30 we had church on Sunday at Bro. Al and Sis. Evelyn Knochel's who so lovingly opened their home to us. Our minister was Bro. Alfred Bahler from Wolcott, who was also snowbound in Lafayette. It's so wonderful to know that the Lord will provide if we trust Him in all things.

The word was so plainly brought to us by Ministering Bros. from Remington, Forrest and LaCrosse. We appreciate so much the love and concern these ministers have for us as they bring forth the word.

The time has come for those who have attended the Agriculture short-course to return to their homes. We have enjoyed having them here these past eight weeks.

PULASKI IA

**Janice Rinkenberger
Mary Jane Knapp**

We were blessed with a visit from Bros. James Ringger and Roy Ehnle from Bradford. With true humility, they stood before us to bring us teachings from His holy word.

Bro. Ronnie Rinkenberger has been laid up for several weeks with back trouble. He is feeling some better, but still cannot be up for long periods of time.

Through the love of God, our congregation has increased, when on the week-end of Feb. 19-20 we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of three dear friends. Billie Cruikshank, Ginny Wuthrich (daughters of Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley) and Sonia Wegner (daughter of Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinkenberger) were added to the fold and are now our dear sisters in faith. How uplifting it is to hear how God

works in each heart just a little differently, to bring about conviction unto repentance. With us that week-end were (Bros.) Eugene Marti from Sabetha, Leo Moser from Lester, Ed Lanz from Oakville, and Virgil Metzger from Champaign.

"I was most grateful for all cards, gifts and prayers offered in my behalf while I was in the hospital." Albert Wuthrich . . . "I wish to thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, cards and gifts during my hospitalization and stay at home . . . a thank you to those who helped and offered their help." Monte Wuthrich.

In making others happy,
You will be happy too,
For the happiness you give away
Returns to shine on you.

SARASOTA FLORIDA Lyn Blunier—Sandra Price

Bro. Roy Sauder assisted our elder, Bro. Ben Maibach in reading the memorandum and in conducting our annual business meeting. Our new trustee is (Bro.) Roland Keller, alternate Chris Leman; church secretary, Sis. Linda Miller. Sunday School Teacher (Bros.) Bob Blunier, assistant, Rich Martin and Rod Getz, . . . Sisters Elda and Vera Martin . . . assistants, Lyn Blunier and Aldene Martin . . . Bro. Ed Getz was appointed assistant treasurer to Residing Treasurer Bro. Glenn Price Jr.

Our warm wishes were extended to Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz, who celebrated their 25th anniversary.

Ministers visiting our congregation were: Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley), (Bros.) Charles Hemmer (Peoria), Henry Grimm (Morton), Robert Beyer (Naumburg), Gene Leman (Wolcott), Henry Beer (Milford), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton).

Fellowship breakfasts are held for the residents and visitors here, and if you are passing through and would like to take part, call Bro. Phil Wingeier, 813-371-4155.

ATHENS ALABAMA Hazel Vibbert

It is good for brothers and sisters to get together, as a supper was at a local restaurant, and the teenagers were invited.

Our visitors have been from far

and near. Sis. Clara Heinger has been with us for a few weeks. She has worked for 23 years here in Alabama, now. She is going to the jail to visit lost souls.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch had a message for us Sunday, Feb. 20, and as always gave us many spiritual blessings. He told us to hold fast to our faith, and to never let go, and our Lord will come to take us home. He warned us, the devil would never let up. We always have to pray and stay safe in the arms of our Lord.

Sisters Hazel Kyle, Charlene Roberson went to Hammond, Indiana to be with their sister, Nadine Kyle, as she had major surgery. When they had to leave, she wasn't doing too good. Sis. Charlene had to leave, as her grandson, Ray was in ICU; he is better now. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Billy Russell.

Wanda Barness has a baby girl, Amanda Darlene. Donna and David welcomed her home.

BAY CITY MI Carolyn Schamback

Count your blessings;
Name them one by one . . .

We surely are blessed this winter if we have enough fuel to keep us warm, and are able to go to and fro as we please! Some are not as fortunate.

Bro. Lee and I have a new little girl at our house, Lori Ann, born Feb. 3. Jodi and Tessa welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Marian Knochel, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schamback of Croghan.

On Feb. 17, our friend, Albin Rezmer passed away. Al and his wife, Martha (Lobsinger) had recently found grace to turn to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers go out for Martha in her loss and in seeking her salvation.

FT SCOTT KS Aleta Banwart

Good morning, God!
You are ushering in another day
Untouched and freshly new,
So here I come to ask you, God,
If You'll renew me too;
Forgive the many errors
That I made yesterday,
And let me try again, dear God,
To walk closer in Thy Way . . .

But, Father, I am well aware
I can't make it on my own,
So take my hand and hold it tight,
For I can't walk alone!

Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart opened their home for supper and fellowship to the Sunday School children. The young members and the Sunday School children enjoyed the Christian fellowship.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you."

Graveside services were held at the Evergreen Cemetery, Ft. Scott, on Feb. 8th for our beloved Sis. Mary Massner Huber of Sabetha. "Open thy Merciful Arms" was sung by the Ft. Scott choir followed by a prayer given by Bro. John Lehman, Bern. Family and friends then returned to the church where a supper had been prepared.

Survivors include: The beloved husband, Bro. Samuel, three sons, Bro. Gordan, Bro. Eric, all of Sabetha, and David of Houston, Tex. One daughter, Sis. Karen (Martin) Beyer, Sabetha. Her mother, Sis. Carrie L. Massner, Ft. Scott; five sisters, Sis. Pearl (Wayne) Miller, Sis. Lillian (Lyle) Fischer, Sis. Ethel (Harvey) Smith, (all of Ft. Scott), Sis. Emma (Robert) Hoerr, Sis. Ruthie (Louis) Hoerr, both of Taylor, Mo.; two brothers, Roy Massner, Houston, Tex., Ray Massner, Prescott, Ariz.

May God ease and comfort the many hearts of those made sorrowful over the separation from Sis. Mary. And may we ever look forward to that day when we can be reunited with her forever in heaven.

The family of Sis. Mary Huber express their deep appreciation for the many expressions of love shown them. God Bless You.

Diana Kraft and Sis. Janet Kraft, daughters of Bro. Harold and Sis. Wanda, have been hospitalized for tests. Sis. Lydia Hawkins remains in the hospital with a heart ailment. Sis. Emma Bahr has been transferred from the hospital to the Sabetha Home for continued nursing care. We shall miss her pleasant smile and cheerfulness. Bro. Gus Sinn has been to the K. U. Medical Center for tests.

NAUMBERG NY

Betty Virkler

We are all thankful that we have survived the **Blizzard of 77**. Having lived in the North country for all our lives, this was our first experience of being snowed in for a whole week. We were unable to leave our homes and use the roads for a week's time. We had a well-stocked freezer and extra wood to use in our fireplace to extend our oil, but many people really had hard times, with running out of food and oil and not being able to get out of their homes. There were drifts of 35 feet high reported in some areas, such as Barnes Corners and Copenhagen. We had snow shoveled from our ranch style house, which is 60 ft. long, as high as a man's shoulder all the way across it. Some of the people had as many as 53 people to feed and provide shelter for, in their homes, and hundreds were sheltered in fire halls etc.

The United States Marines were at Ft. Drum for winter training. They came to the rescue of local residents with their Amtracs and other vehicles. We were able to assist one amtrac with five women and two soldiers, who sought us out to warm themselves, after a trip from Ft. Drum to Carthage. They became almost frozen by the time they reached our home, so we gave them coffee and cocoa, and warmed them up a bit . . . so they could continue taking the women workers home (that had been trapped at Ft. Drum for five days without seeing their husbands or children). Many thousands of gallons of milk were dumped each day by our local farmers. I heard one elderly gentleman tell on a radio interview, he had not seen his pigs in five days and was crying and telling how he had crawled on his stomach with grain bags, but experiencing pains in his chest each time had to give it up. Later, we heard how some of his pigs were found dead and the rest were starving.

Many barn roofs caved in, also trapping herds of cattle. Several schools were damaged in nearby areas by roofs caving in. We have been declared a disaster area by President Carter, and large snow removal equipment has been moved in to assist in cleaning up. Food

stamps are being issued to people who need them.

We held our annual church supper in Naumberg, with Croghan church sharing this fellowship with us. We had a good turnout considering our weather conditions. I guess we were all just glad to get out!

We enjoyed having double service with Croghan church this Sunday (Feb. 13), and expect to go to Croghan for double service there next Sunday.

OAKVILLE IA

Phyllis Siegle

Forenoon and afternoon and
night—

And day is gone.

So short a span of time there is
"Twixt dawn and evensong.

Youth—Middle life—Old age,

And life is past,

So live each day that God shall say,
"Well done", at last!

Bro. John and Sis. Lena Wegman plan to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Feb. 21, Lord willing. We are happy for them, that they could share their companionship for this number of years. They have seen youth, middle life, and now old age, and a mixture of joy and pain. As often as we visit them, one can always feel that their trust is in our Living God. May the Lord be near them until they can hear the words, **Come; well done, faithful servant.**

At our annual business meeting, the following brothers were elected as trustees: Galen Metzger, Harold Massner and Jack Larson. Bro. Dale Frank was elected on the Cemetery Committee, and Sis. Norma Massner for the Sister's Committee.

"We would like to thank all who remembered us in prayers and for all the deeds of kindness and cards during the loss of my father." Bro. Jerry Kuntz and family.

CHICAGO IL

"We wish to thank everyone for the words of encouragement, gifts, and prayers for our beloved husband and father during his illness and since he has gone to his eternal rest." Sis. Aldenne Schurter and family.

DALE WILGAND
206 EAST BULLOCK
EUREKA ILL 61530

GRIDLEY KS

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Here in our small congregation we feel we have been extremely blessed with visiting ministers. We truly rejoice and thank God for moving the hearts of these brethren in spending time with us. Sincere thanks to (Bros.) Roger Aberle, Sabetha; Jim Ramseyer, Bay City; Ronald Nelson, Kiowa; John Lehman, Bern. Feb. 19 and 20, we were privileged to host many from the congregations of Kansas, along with Taylor and Lamar, for a blessed week-end of fellowship together. Truly we can count it an undeserved favor from God, when we are still allowed to travel abroad and find fellowship with those of like faith.

The engagement of Roselle Beyer to John Dick has been announced by her parents, Vernon and Rosemarie Beyer. Roselle and John plan a summer wedding.

Several were hospitalized for various reasons, but have been restored to favorably good health. Our friend, Steve Beyer, for surgery. Justin Somerhalder (small son of Randall and Karen), and Darren Isch (small son of Sis. Janice and Dale)—Both were hospitalized, due to illness.

Our annual election was held in February. The following were elected to fill offices: (Bros.) Albert Edelman, Church Board of Trustees; Ephraim Young, Building Aid Board; Ivan Beyer, Personal Property Aid Board; Rudy Bahr,

Cemetery Board; Scott Strahm, Jr.-Sr. High Sunday School; Eldon Metzger, Sunday School superintendent; Rudy Bahr, Intermediate teacher; (Sisters) Mara Jean Edelman, Preschool and Kindergarten teacher; Julie Strahm, Silver Lining Reporter; Bro. Roy Bahr, Song Leader. May each one be given God's grace to work and labor for Him until His coming.

A card shower was certainly appreciated and enjoyed by Bro. Felder Young, Feb. 7, for his 89th birthday . . . "We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to family and friends who participated in the card shower given for Bro. Jacob Beyer on Jan. 29 for his 95th birthday." Sis. Bertha and father, Bro. Jacob Beyer.

GOD'S GARDEN WAY

Henry Souder Jr.

Adam, the first man, and his wife Eve were at home in a garden. Near the end of the scriptures, we peer into perfect loveliness. Then, the whole heaven and the whole earth are 100% perfect. Beautiful, a garden of dreams made real with all His promises come true.

In between, there are gardens. They blossom, beautiful with the fruits of everlasting life. The word of God, the mustard seed, is cast into a garden . . . in a garden, the Son of Man pours out His soul. This is the garden of Gethsemane. The Son of God rises triumphant in Joseph's garden.

God is wonderful. In His sight, 1000 years are as but yesterday. Man's heart became sinful. God's view desires a heart that is holy, happy, wholly fitted for joyous, everlasting ages. That is the garden of the heart.

Jesus told us, a mustard seed is the smallest of all the seeds. We, of ourself, could never change. When we are humble and recognize the word for its true worth, God hears and acts.

The seed is different from all

about in the heart. It is Light, and we were darkness. Sin had claimed the garden. The seed in almighty power grows against all that was known and loved. The cross crucifies self. Faith sees the unseen. God's way of life grows, till all is a beautiful garden, fit for the Upper Garden. The heart knows His promise.

There was a garden of Gethsemane. It is deep, amazing. We unburden because of His being burdened in that garden. The whole world crushed His heart. Here death began. Listen! "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death . . ." Travail, our real trouble! He is sore amazed. The One who had perfect control at all times! At the temptation . . . in the thunder-lit highway . . . at the sad exit of Judas, who went out and it was night.

Look into the face of Jesus. (The pain and sorrow are written in words). Our pain, our sorrow. Ah how He loved. His dear features were drawn for us. The tears, those tears! down His cheeks . . . Ours! Love, pure and holy, pressed in deepening pain. He had our des-

tiny there. Our win which would have been our loss forever and forever.

Look at how God places the resurrection. The apostles with great power gave witness of the resurrection.

He lives! He's alive, real, a true friend . . . a gracious Treasure. It was in a garden. This one was Joseph's of Arimathea. Were there palms? Sweet blossoms? Sweet breezes? It was springtime. Now for us it is springtime. When the women came, it was a beautiful dawning. His light was touching in a rhapsody of color. The birds sing at dawn. The earth is bathed in brilliant hue. All the way's a garden sweet. Being baptized in Him, that is real true happiness.

Becoming alive is real. Our people and our treasures live. We reside in the forever begun now. We are going to see, to be at home with our living Christ. Ahead is His joy, and pure; unbroken blue, sadness past, together on and on.

How wonderful to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. It's real.