

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 28

DECEMBER 1977

NUMBER 2

FOR A BLESSED NEW YEAR . . .
Read, Meditate from the Bible

T H E B I B L E

We, however, shall not live by what we see. We live not by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. We are no longer of this world. Today we are here; tomorrow we may not be here any more. Therefore we should not be anxious about visible things, for that is the way the heathen live. We should not plague ourselves with earthly anxieties, "What shall we eat, what shall we drink, etc." We are in the hands of the Lord. How should He not know how we fare? It no more depends on having much; it depends on God's blessing.

We are here to have fellowship with God. God's Word is true, and it extends into all eternity. When a believing person looks into the Word of God, he looks into a pleasure garden in which there are trees which daily bear their fruits for such people who are so poor that they hope daily in the goodness of the Lord. To them this pleasure garden is open, wide open, wide open, so that they may go in and enjoy the fruits of life.

God carries us in His hand. Should He not know how we are? God bears all things in His arms. He knows what we need. But it is a life of faith in this world and not a life of seeing. So we should rejoice and take the key, which is faith, and go into the garden, which is the Bible. There the hungry soul finds the overflowing fullness of the riches and goodness of God.

Bro. S. H. Froelich

A Book of Books. Thousands of years ago it was said, **Of making many books, there is no end.** If it was true then, how much more true is it in these days, when the printing press is pouring forth a ceaseless stream of books. Yet among all the books ever written, the Bible is by far the most precious. This Book contains:

The mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, doom of sinners, and happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy; its precepts are binding; its histories are true; and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise; believe it to be safe; and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be open at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its contents.

Submitted from Alto, Mich.

CHILDREN'S HOME

"Peace on earth, good will toward men." These were the words of the angels describing our Lord's mission on this earth as they announced His birth. We try to impress our children with this important thought by visiting some of our older folk and distributing good gifts. All the children are getting anxious for Christmas to arrive. We would like to thank everyone who contributed gifts to help make this an enjoyable Christmas for them.

We are still growing. We have recently received 2 more boys. One is 16 and the other 14. We trust and hope that the Lord will gradually continue to bring them to us according to His wisdom and as He sees we have the capabilities to take care of them.

We really appreciate everyone who sincerely prays for us, because it truly helps. Without Him, none of us can do anything.

HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The quiet observance of Christ's birth is like finding refuge in the center of the storm, where there is a calm. Then as we move on into the New Year, we might well live each day as we would climb a mountain. Frequent glances at the summit serve as inspiration to remind us of our goal, but it is well to observe the vista from each vantage point as we steadily climb. Keeping beauty in the soul as we climb makes the summit a fitting climax.

Though he was born in Forrest, Ill. Frank Kyburz came to our Home for the Handicapped from Idaville, Indiana, where he had been living with his brother, Ben, in April, 1975. His parents, who are deceased, were Samuel and Lena Honegger Kyburz. Several brothers and sisters live here and in Indiana. Attending workshop and doing odd jobs around our Home keep Frank pretty well occupied. His consistent willingness to be helpful and his ready smile make him a friend to all.

Benefit day has passed. The day was a beautiful one, and many were in attendance. We thank those upon whom the whole responsibility lay, those who furnished items for sale, those who contributed in any way, and those who gave of themselves to make it a success. May

God bless you richly for your part.

Find out what God would have you do

And do that little well,
For what is great and what is small
'Tis only He can tell.

Phoenix, Arizona . . . Julie Hoerr:

Elder Bros. John Bahler (Rockville), Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Carl Kinsinger (Altadena) shared their time and spiritual wisdom with our Arizona churches on Dec. 2, 3, 4 as we undertook the responsibility of seeking God's direction for a new shepherd. Elder Bro. Ray Farney has sought retirement for health reasons. Truly the Lord did richly bless our flock and elder brethren as the duty of shepherd (I Peter Ch. 5) was laid upon Bro. Richard Schupbach. We pray God's blessings on Bro. Schupbach and his helpmate, Sis. Barbara. We also say thank you, too, and wish God's blessings on Bro. Roy and Sis. Minnie Farney for their many years of watching over the flocks. We trust God will richly bless our visiting elders for their timely messages and for sharing their time with us.

Three dear souls have found peace and are now awaiting baptism. They are Herbie Knochel, Jeff Leman, and Joyce Yackley.

Bro. Harry Roth was hospitalized in November. Bro. Ted Knochel and Sis. Linda Zollinger were hospitalized for studies.

On Nov. 27 elder Bro. Roy Farney and Sis. Minnie were honored at a reception for their 42nd anniversary, hosted by their children, Bob and Janet Farney and Sis. Roberta and Bro. Conrad Gerst (Oakville). We pray they will have many more happy years together.

We welcome Bro. Dennis and Sis. April Miller into our fold and trust they will feel very much at home with us.

We are looking forward to having the Christmas Story Dec. 21 when our Sunday School Christmas program will be presented.

Sarasota, Florida . . . Kathryn Schroeder: St. Luke: "And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard

it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all of these things, and pondered them in her heart."

A happy observance was held Nov. 20, the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Reiman. A choice meal was served, and a lovely cake given by Sis. Minnie Nuest graced the dessert table. There was additional happiness on this occasion brought by the presence of Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach. Bro. Ben's beautiful benediction, with his sermons and prayer, gave joy to this day and to the previous Wed. evening services.

Bro. Carl Kipfer, a retired minister from Bluffton, Ind., visited us one recent week.

We were a fortunate congregation to hear two outstanding sermons: Dec. 4, Bro. Joe Schrock returned to his winter home on Fisherman's Cove, Sarasota; Bro. Art Ringger (who is a young brother ministering to a young and growing church in Indianapolis) made his first visit to Florida. We ask the Lord to grant us future visits.

Bloomington - Normal, Illinois . . .

Jean O'Shea - Paula Knapp: "God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) Our Annual World Relief Clothing drive was held on Sat., Nov. 5.

On Wednesday evenings, Nov. 9 and 16, Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) was at our church. We heard the tapes from the Conference. May we all strive to be not only hearers, but also doers.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann were blessed with their first child, Andrew Scott. Andrew is the grandchild of Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Hoffman and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Kaufmann, all of Cissna Park.

Sis. Candice Nussbaum and Bro. David Huber were united in holy matrimony on Nov. 20. The parents are Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum, and Bro. and Sis. Wayne Huber (Francesville). The Morton Mixed Choir came and shared their God-given talent with us on the evening of Nov. 20.

Friday, Dec. 2, we had services at the Home for the Handicapped in Morton.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Rose Huette in the loss of his mother, Sis. Anna Huette.

Bro. John and Sis. Rose Huette celebrated their 25th Anniversary on Dec. 7. Calvin and Lisa are their children.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Charles Marti, Elmer Bucher, Wendell Gudeman, Bob Pohl, Todd Feller, Nate Stoller, Joe Stoller, Merle Bucher, and Rod Huber.

Bradford, Illinois . . . Jane Le-man:

Almost two thousand years ago
The holy Child was born,
And still today we think of Him
On every Christmas morn.

And if we really love that Child,
We should His will obey—
Not only during Christmas time,
But every single day!

Our Sunday School students are practicing pieces and songs for our annual Christmas program.

Bro. Alfred Hausmann is entering the hospital to have more tendon repair done on his hand.

We thank our visiting ministers Bro. Don Manz (Junction) and Bro. Clifford Grimm (West Bend).

Champaign - Urbana, Illinois . . . Charlen Banwart: "The blessed story of the Christ, the Babe at Bethlehem" was told through word and song by our children at the Sunday School Christmas program, Dec. 19.

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." This is especially true at the holiday season when we will willingly give of our time and talents to sing carols at area nursing homes and distribute charity baskets to the needy.

Our visitors the past month included the Goodfield choir and ministering Bros. Leroy Hartman, Edwin Bahler, and Steve Rinkenberger.

Chicago, Illinois . . . Kathy Schlatter: A saint is a person whose life makes it easier to believe in God—even after he dies.

"Praise ye the Lord . . . Praise Him for His mighty acts . . ." Psalms 150:1, 2. We were blessed to have Bro. Tom Leman from Elgin, Ill., minister unto us at our Wed. evening Thanksgiving service. We gladly welcome Bro. Mark and Sis. Gail (Zeltwanger) Bailin from Bremen, Indiana. They have

worshipped with us intermittently since summer, but now they are living in Chicago, much closer to their work and to us.

Sis. Jahala J. Roth, of Goodfield, Ill., and Bro. Mark Gerst from Chicago are engaged to be married. She is the daughter of Sis. Corrine. Mark's parents are Bro. Arnie and Sis. Mary Gerst, Chicago. Both are living in the Bloomington - Normal area. Sis. J. is presently attending Illinois State University, planning to graduate in May. We wish them the Lord's richest bountiful blessings as they prepare for marriage in the Lord's name.

The song in our Christmas program which seems to express the whole of which Christmas is only the beginning is "The Babe of Bethlehem." We are thankful that the Lord inspired the song to be written. Even as a child, I remember how that song "had more to it" and seemed to be more complete. Being involved in Christmas programs myself now, I have a glimpse of what my Sunday School teachers had to go through with us. May the Lord bless them now and in all eternity for their efforts and prayerful concerns.

Our dear Sis. Verna Stedman is once again hospitalized. We pray the Lord will give her added strength and courage each day and hour anew.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; He shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore. Psalms 121:7,8.

Cissna Park, Illinois . . . Marilyn Knapp - Judy Bauer: We have received many blessings this past month through our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Eugene Marti (Lamar), Bro. John Bahler (Rockville), Bro. Robert Beebe (Bremen), Bro. Robert Walder (Congerville), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse), and Bro. Raymond Roth (Kiowa). We thank them for their service in our behalf.

The engagement of Sis. Barb Hoffman (Bro. Henry and Sis. Helen) to Bro. Mark Gerber (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen) of Bluffton was announced. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Roy Hari returned from Mexico where he had been undergoing treatment. Since then he has entered Paxton Hospital.

Derric Ray, infant son of Dean and Rita Eisenmann, was a surgical patient. Bro. Wayne Hauptli was in the hospital for tests. Sis. Janet Hari remains a hospital patient.

We rejoice with Clara Kaufmann who has found peace with God. We are thankful for more who have come into repentance.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Louella Jacob are leaving us to make their home in Florida. They will be missed in our congregation.

We have had a very blessed Christmas but should remember:

Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.

Congerville, Illinois . . . Sharon McClure - Judy Wettstein: We spent our time well last month listening to the tapes of the Conference. We will be wise to follow the teachings set forth in God's holy word.

We rejoice with Kelly Hasty, who has turned to the Lord in repentance. (Parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Katie).

We were privileged on Nov. 27 to have as visiting ministers Bros. Dale Moore, Elgin, Ia., and Noah Gerber, West Bend. Our hearts were truly blessed by the messages that the Lord inspired them to bring to us.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Tim Zimmerman (son of Bro. Orville and Sis. Lula) to Sis. Barb Kraft (daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine of Gridley, Kansas).

We have been blessed with the

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor-News Correspondent: El Souder.

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Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo. Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, Ind. 46741.

Second class postage paid at Grabill, Indiana 46741.

The subscription rate is \$3.00 per year.

Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address (including zip No.).

unitin gof two souls in marriage, Bro. Steve Schick (son of Bro. John and Sis. Dolly) to Sis. Ann Roth (daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline).

We are happy that Sis. Carolyn Ott is back assembling with us again after surgery.

Eureka, Illinois . . . Cathryn Wettstein - Salone Schmacher:

Saturday evening, Nov. 12, we gathered in our house of worship to hear the reports from the Brotherhood Conference. Bro. Dale Eisenman from Chicago helped in this. We heard how our elders are trying to keep order in the church and to hold to the Bible truths which have been ours through the many years past. We realize they have many problems that come to their attention, and it does lie heavily on their shoulders. So now it is up to each member to try to be more obedient. With God's grace and strength, it can be done, so we can keep the precious Faith that has been handed down from our forefathers.

Saturday evening, Nov. 19, we again gathered in our house of worship, this time to hear the testimonies of three friends: Sharon Littlejohn, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Helen Belsley; Susan and Janet Schmidgall, daughters of Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgall. Bro. Joe Braker from Morton helped Bro. Leroy and Bro. Walter in this work. The next day they were baptized and are now sisters in our church.

Our recent visitors were Bros. Dale Eisenman, Chicago; Joe Braker, Morton; Raymond Roth, Burlington, Okla.; Elmer Hartter, Milford, Ind.; and Harold Emch, Girard, Ohio.

We have three more converts: Tina Fehr (Robert Fehr's wife), Tammy Fehr (Duane Fehr's wife), and Lori Leman (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Roy and Wanda Leman).

Sis. Elizabeth Hodel was in Eureka Hospital a few days but has now gone to her son Robert's home. Melvin Martin is a patient in Eureka Hospital. Sis. Ladine Henriksen was a surgical patient recently. Sis. Anna Miller is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital. Sis. Edna Martin fell and broke her wrist and is in Eureka Hospital. Dean Zimmerman is a surgical patient in Eureka Hospital.

Sis. Priscilla Fehr, 88 years old, passed away at the "Home" Dec.

3 after being a patient for 2½ yrs. Surviving are one sister, Amelia Fehr of Peoria, and some nieces and nephews. Bro. Leroy Huber had the services and burial was in the Roanoke church cemetery.

Sis. Anna Huette, age 83, passed away Dec. 6 at the "Home". She was taken to Fairbury for funeral services, as this was her former home.

Bro. and Sis. Jesse and Laura Getz are thankful for all of the gifts, cards, and flowers given to them on their 50th wedding anniversary by their relatives (especially their children), neighbors, and friends. Such wonderful events will always be remembered.

Gospel stands for:

God's
Own
Son
Provides
Eternal
Life.

Elgin, Illinois . . . Mary Moser:

On Oct. 30 the engagement of Bro. Chuck Kellenberger, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marilyn, and Sis. Debbie Steffen, daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Wava, was made known. We wish them God's grace and richest blessings as they plan their future life together.

Our Elgin congregation had the blessed opportunity to partake of holy communion. The following Sunday Bro. Nathan Steffen taught us "thou shouldst set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city". Titus 1:5. May we support our elder brethren in prayer for the unity and preservation of our precious faith. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler, Josh Broquard and Dale Eisenmann assisted in this solemn work. Ministering Bro. Walt Steffen of Milford, Ind. and Bro. Gath Steffen of Portland, Oregon, were also here.

Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman from the Forrest congregation assisted our elders in reading the memorandum on Nov. 30. We are also thankful for the teachings of Bro. Earl Gerber of Forrest and Bro. Harvey Grimm of Bern, Kansas, who visited us the past month.

Michelle Ann, by adoption, is now the daughter of Gordon and Carol Braun. She has two brothers, Ron and Bill. Her birthdate is Mar. 3, 1975. Gordon is the son of Sis. Cecilia and the late Bro. Herman

Braun, Sr.

Hospital patients this past month have been: Sis. Marilyn Steffen, Sis. Dorothy Kellenberger, Bro. Charlie Graf. Lester Batt, and Bro. Bill Gudeman.

Fairbury, Illinois . . . Joyce Huber: Sis. Nancy Broquard is engaged to be married to Bro. Wayne Zimmerman of Forrest. Nancy is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Donald Broquard, and Wayne is the son of Bro. and Sis. Perry Zimmerman. We know God has planned for them to be together and will bless them.

Sis. Anna Hertlein is in the hospital in Champaign. Bro. Chet Maier was hospitalized.

Sis. Anna Huette, 83, passed away at the nursing home at Eureka. Her husband, Bro. Chris passed away in 1972. Surviving are 7 children: Sis. Betty Schweigert, Bro. Lyle, Bro. Marvin, Chris, Bro. Arthur, Herbert, Bro. John; 3 sisters. Sis. Mary Yentes, Sis. Esther Kaeb, Sis. Clara Neukomm.

Christmas—we think of God giving His son to be born and Jesus giving His life for us. God is love, and Love gives up and gives in, Love works wonders; Love overcomes evil. Many Love activities are being planned for Christmas.

Our Sunday School classes will be presenting a Christmas program telling the loving Christmas Story.

Forrest, Illinois . . . Kathryn Steidinger - Beverly Eisenmann:

IN CHRIST WHO WAS BORN AT
CHRISTMAS ALL MEN MAY
LIVE AGAIN

This is a blessed time of year when mankind is reminded of the Saviour's birth and we look forward to our Sunday School bringing forth the old, old story in word and song. Many gifts will be given, but none can compare with the gift of salvation that Jesus gives to all that ask for it.

Elder Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman have had several interesting events happen recently in their family. His parents, Bro. Louis and Sis. Louise, observed their 64th wedding anniversary. Bro. Louis has been confined to his home for quite some time, but we enjoy meeting and visiting with Sis. Louise, as she most always assembles with us. Their son-in-law and daughter, Bro. Terry and Sis.

Sharon Adams, along with Shawna and Jennifer, were blessed with a baby girl, Kelli Jo. Their son, Bro. Wayne, and Sis. Nancy Broquard (Bro. Don and Sis. Ione) have announced their engagement with plans for a wedding in February.

During 1977 there were eight souls added to the fold, also eight homes welcomed a new baby into their family circles, and five of our loved aged ones were laid to rest.

Recent visiting bros. who shared God's word with us were Gene Lehman and Vernon Schwab from Wolcott, and Noah Gerber of the West Bend congregation.

Sis. Leona Ricketts had to return to the hospital for more skin grafting. She is now home. Her granddaughter, Amy Ricketts, spent several days in the hospital with a virus, and Sis. Hulda Honegger has again been in for several weeks. Also our aged Bro. Roy Metz, who lives at the Home in Roanoke, spent several days at a Peoria hospital.

Goodfield, Illinois . . . Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm:

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD
IS COME
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER
KING
LET EVERY HEART PREPARE
HIM ROOM
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE
SING!

In this most beautiful and joyous season of Christmas Time, we pray that every heart would prepare HIM room, and be able to realize Peace and Joy in its fullness, as we celebrate our dear Saviour's birth.

Our best wishes to Sis. Jae Roth, (Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth) whose engagement to Bro. Mark Gerst (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Marjorie) of the Chicago congregation was made known to us.

Although much improved, our Bro. John Rokey remains hospitalized in Peoria, following surgery.

Our Bro. Chris Hohulin, who also submitted to surgery, was able to return home Dec. 5. We are thankful to God for His healing power.

We extend our sincere sympathy to our dear Bro. Sam Heiniger in the passing of his daughter, Mary Kuenzi.

Gridley, Illinois . . . Perry Klopfenstein: Our community was sad-

dened by the sudden death of Sis. Helen Funk, 63, who met with a fatal automobile accident on Nov. 21. Her abrupt and unexpected end came in a head-on collision a few miles from Gridley, when an oncoming car veered into her lane.

Her passing perhaps tends to symbolize the importance of our being constantly ready to meet our Lord when the death angel summons. Our lives here on earth are clouded with uncertainty. It is beyond our scope of mortality to comprehend the future. Yet, we know who holds the future, and we are wise to live close to our Lord each day, and even to await His glorious appearing. We have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

Sis. Helen, as she lay on her hospital bed in her final moments, could confess this closeness to God. As her husband, along with our elder, kept a vigil with her during those waning moments of her life, she was asked if she was at peace with God, to which she confidently sighed, "Oh, yes."

She is survived by her husband of 36 years, Bro. Amos; three sisters, Katherine Hoerr, Peoria, Laura Koehl, Dunlap, and Edna Kahler, Morton; and three brothers, Louis Dietz, Bradford, Walter Dietz, Lafayette, and Elmer Dietz, Denver City, Texas.

Several from our church have recently been hospitalized: Bro. Rudy Miller, Sisters Mary Martin and Lillian Witzig, and Ed Burgess.

On the weekend of Dec. 10 we were blessed with the testimonies and baptism of Paul Klopfenstein and Chris Gramm. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen of Elgin was here to assist in this important work. To witness the peace and comfort God has given to these new ones in Christ gives each of us a new zeal to go onward in faith, serving our Lord each day.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Illinois State University . . . Ann Stoller: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2:10, 11.

The ISU Christmas program, which was supposed to be held at

the Gridley Fellowship Hall on Thursday, Dec. 8, was cancelled because of bad weather. We were all very disappointed, knowing we would have received many blessings through the songs and inspirational message.

ISU will not be having Bible study on Thursday, Dec. 15, through Jan. 5, because of semester break, but will resume meeting again on Jan. 12. Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley will be taking over the duties of Bro. Joe Schrock, who will be in Sarasota for the winter.

ISU students have enjoyed the inspired Word of God spoken through Bros. Fred Knapp, Joe Schrock, Nathan Steffen, and Bob Walder.

Morton, Illinois . . . Judy Springer - Lorna Schrock: Bro. Walter Gerber passed away on Nov. 2 at the age of 71. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Elizabeth; a daughter, Mrs. Gary (Marge) Polson of Peoria; and a son, Glenn, of Morton. We extend our sympathy to them.

On Nov. 5 our young people sponsored a chili supper at the Fellowship Hall. Following the supper, we enjoyed an evening of singing. The proceeds of this event are going to the Apostolic Christian Children's Home.

Sis. Cindy Wiegand and Bro. Randy Schmidgall were united in marriage on Nov. 6. Their parents are Bro. and Sis. Dan Wiegand, Jr., Goodfield, and Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Schmidgall, Morton.

A daughter was born to Robert and Cara Oertle on Nov. 7. This is their first child and was named Tiffany Lynn. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Oertle and Bro. Harold Zimmerman.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 9, we had the reading of the memorandum. Assisting our Elder Bro. Joe were Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, and Ed Ringger, Gridley. We are thankful to God for the elder brothers who have such a care and concern for us all. May we heed the many warnings and teachings that are brought forth in such love.

Sheri Roeschley and James Arnold were married Nov. 12 at our Fellowship Hall. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Dorothy Roeschley, and Robert Arnold and Yvonne McElhatten.

Our Sunday evening Hymn Sing was held Nov. 13. Two of our own

groups. The Gracenotes and Mortonaires, sang several selections. Joining the Mortonaires were their sons. It was a blessed evening.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 7, Bro. Vernon Leman of Eureka ministered unto us. We thank him for the inspiring message brought forth.

Sis. Eleanor Geyer and Bro. Francis Rother were hospital patients but have now returned home again, for which we are thankful.

A daughter was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Heiniger on Dec. 1. She was named Erin Dawn and has two sisters, Wendi and Lori. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Verena Heiniger, and Bro. Joe and Sis. Millie Zimmerman.

Peoria, Illinois . . . Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Through faith, prayer, and trust in our Lord, some of our young members have chosen their life's partners. Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elsa Hartman have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Mary Ann, to Bro. Rick Plattner, son of Bro. Pete and Sis. Ella Plattner. They are planning a Feb. 12 wedding.

Bill and Sis. Joyce Waible have announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Debby, to Bro. Carl Hoerr II, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hoerr. Their wedding is planned for Mar. 5.

Tim Rocke, son of Norman and Sis. Emma Rocke, was married to Sue Steinhauser on Nov. 19.

This month the Peoria congregation was privileged to have Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke minister to us in sermon and in reading the memorandum. It is always uplifting, humbling, and chastising to be refreshed with the many thoughts brought out in the memorandum. We were also blessed in having Bro. Bob Walter of Congerville minister to us.

Our Sis. Emily Schumacher, Sis. Bertha Frank, Sis. Martha Altorfer, Sis. Elsie Hess, Sis. Marie Schafer, Sis. Mary Ann Herman, Sis. Clara Huber, and Bro. Otto Hoerr have been hospitalized. We wish them God's blessings in a quick recovery.

Princeville, Illinois . . . Ruth Ricketts: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The snow is falling, adding to the eight inches on the ground, making a winter wonderland. How beautiful everything looks—so pure and white. As we are nearing the season when we celebrate the birth of our Saviour we seem to feel more love among everyone. For a day or so, anyway, the world pauses to think of that night so long ago when He was born in a lowly manger. How thankful we are to have the precious faith. We think every day about what the dear Lord has done for us.

How good it was to find the Silver Lining in our mailboxes again. We thank those who have taken over the tremendous task and commend them for going on with this precious publication. It seems that when we don't have something for a time it becomes more precious to us and we appreciate it more. Then, too, many times after a loved one who has dedicated his life for others is gone, it is only then that we realize how much he has done. We trust Bro. Henry will reap his reward.

The first Sunday in November we had many precious teachings brought forth by our guest ministers, Bros. John Steiner of Oakville and Jim Ringger of Bradford. We must be very careful not to get carried away with the things of this world, for Satan is so prevalent we can easily be deceived. Don't rely upon self, but adhere to Scriptural teachings. Take up your cross and follow Jesus. Strive daily to do His will.

On Nov. 12 four precious souls gave their testimonies of their new found faith and peace in their hearts. We heard stirring experiences and were truly renewed in our own faith. Bro. Roy Souder of Peoria helped Bro. Dave Kieser in directing their conversations. They all said they felt lost and knew they couldn't go on in this condition, for they had no promise for the future. One said he had attended other churches. When he came to ours he could see something in the members he didn't have and could feel the deep love for everyone. He knows now what it means to have peace of heart. Another said she was so troubled and couldn't find rest until she decided to

live for the Lord. She then, too, could find that peace that passeth all understanding. Another wondered if the rapture had come when she arrived at work one morning and didn't see the cars of two Sisters who worked with her. Then she was deeply troubled by a dream and decided to follow Jesus. Now she, too, is a very happy girl. One very young girl, still in school, was too troubled and didn't find relief until she decided to repent. She now is a light to those around her. How thankful we are for these dear souls. Many, many young people were present, as well as relatives and friends, on Sunday for the baptisms of Dana Regier, son of Dick and Helen Regier; Cindy Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia; Jeanne Leuthold, son of Bro. John and Sis. Shirley; and Nancy Martin, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Janet. We welcome these dear ones into the fold where they will enjoy the blessings from the Lord.

Bro. Josh Broquard was present with us Sunday. Again we heard many timely teachings. A solemn evening was spent when Bro. Joe Stoller was ordained deacon of our church with the laying on of hands by the three Elders, Bro. Dave Kieser, Roy Sauder, and Josh Broquard.

The following afternoon, Bro. Dana Regier had the misfortune of getting his foot in an auger. The guardian angel was at his side, and he was not seriously injured. After being on crutches for a few days he has recovered, for which we are thankful. He said he could feel the power of prayer from his loved ones.

Otto and Eleanor Baer became grandparents twice when their son Edward and wife Connie were blessed with a son, Keith Edward, on Nov. 5. His other grandparents are Kent and Martha Smith.

Nov. 15, a tiny son, Byron Rolland, was born to Bro. Rolland and Sis. Linda Baer Joos. Because he was so tiny he had to remain in the hospital about three weeks but is doing nicely. He has a little sister Denise at home. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Caroline Joos.

On Nov. 19 two of our dear friends, Erik Givens, son of Al and Bertha, and Deborah Martin, daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Janet, were united in marriage at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. Bro.

Dave Kieser performed the impressive ceremony before many witnesses. We wish them many blessings as they have joined heart and hands. May they look to God for their help when needed. We are always glad to see them in our assembly.

Bro. Leroy Huber of Eureka was our guest minister Thanksgiving Day, and reminded us of the many things we have to be thankful for. It was a blessed day. We were happy for a number of visitors from various places, among them some of our former residents: Sisters Vera and Elda Martin, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter, Gloria, Katrine and Jeff, Jr., who now live in Florida, and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Josephine Martin and their daughters of Phoenix, Arizona. It is always good to have them back home.

Another blessed day was enjoyed by many Nov. 27 when Bro. LeRoy Hartman of Peoria spent the day with us. We heard stirring messages with love and obedience to God as the central themes. The friends had the truth laid before them. They were plainly told of the many signs being fulfilled before the return of our Lord, when He will come to gather up His chosen ones. We wonder how they can listen to such words and then not take advantage of the grace offered. We can only pray that God will continue to knock at their heart's door until they open and let Him in.

God has worked in the hearts of two of our dear souls, and they have faith to believe they are to be joined together as husband and wife. Bro. Alpha Hartzler, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara of Rittman, Ohio, and Sis. Vicki Hartman Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elsa Hartman of Peoria, have announced their engagement. Everyone is rejoicing with them and wish them well as they plan their future together. They are planning a January wedding.

One of our dear friends is lying very ill in the hospital and covets the prayers of dear ones who are concerned about her. She says she has no fear of dying, for she says she has peace in her heart and is ready to meet her Maker. Dorothy Streitmatter is the wife of Paul Streitmatter. When she was able, she enjoyed assembling with us.

Sis. Lillian Stahl has a cast on a finger which was caught in a win-

dow that came down on it. It is improving slowly.

Sis. Marie Menold is recovering nicely from recent surgery and hopes to get home from the hospital soon.

Our friend, Wayne Scholl, who had open heart surgery, is making a good recovery. We are thankful he can worship with us again. He said that he could feel many people were praying for him.

Sis. Esther Herrmann sustained a broken bone in her neck as a result of a fall in her home. She is making satisfactory recovery at home after being flat on her back for six weeks. We are always thankful for His healing power and trust that the prayers of concerned ones are a blessing to the afflicted.

Teachers and children in Sunday School are busy preparing for the program they will be presenting for Christmas.

Somehow not only for Christmas
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to make you glad.

**Roanoke, Illinois . . . Edith Sauder
- Mae K. Hodel:**

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will
Receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

Our dear friends Debra Byrd (Bro. Jim and Sis. Leota) and Kenneth Roth (Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth) were united in holy matrimony in our Fellowship Hall. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new life together.

The engagement of Bro. Don Leman (Don and Sis. Pearl) and Sis. Coleen Beer (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley), Milford, Ind., was made known.

The announcement of the coming marriage of our dear friends Donna Schwind (Bro. Walt and Sis. Mary) and Gerald Kaisner (Bro. Merle and Sis. Gladys), Fairbury, was made known.

The engagement of our dear

friend, Jane Martin (Lewis and James Kiddy), was also made known.

We have three new little sunbeams. A daughter, Kim Marie Yordy, was born to our dear friends, Larry and Edith Yordy. Little Scott welcomes her home. A son, Jason Michael, was born to Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Kathy Hodel. Jill and Jeff welcome him into their family. A son was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber. He is their first child and has been named Byron Lynn.

Sis. Margaret Hodel, Sis. Angela Rassi and Sis. Naomi Moser are home from the hospital. Bro. Aaron Bertsch was hospitalized for tests, but is home again. Sis. Alice Funk, who is 95 years old, is hospitalized with pneumonia. Sis. Nancy Gingrich is hospitalized because of injuries sustained in an accident due to slippery road conditions. May God keep them in His loving care.

**JOY TO ALL THIS CHRIST-
MASTIME!**

**Tremont, Illinois . . . Lydia Rassi
- Mary Jane Leuthold:**

God's love is the Christmas spirit;
God's grace is the Christmas cheer;
God's peace is the Christmas blessing,
May they stay with you all year!

We have been blessed with several ministering brethren: Nate Stoller, Bradford, and Art Bauer, Princeville. We thank the brothers for their gifts to us.

May the Lord be with Sis. Helen (Elton) Rapp who was a hospital patient. Our prayers are with her. May she be comforted by them.

Sis. Anna Huette was taken to her eternal rest Dec. 6. We extend our sympathy to her daughter, Sis. Betty (Les) Schweigert, her six sons, and her three sisters.

Three precious little baby girls to love have arrived at the homes of our loved ones. Tricia Lynn, born November 17, is the daughter of Brother Jerry and Sister Kathy Zuecher. Grandparents are Brother Ernest and Sister Freida Schaefer, Bro. Curt and Sis. June Zuecher. Little Sarah Gail, born Nov. 22, came to live with John and Gail Renner. Grandparents are Bro. Elton and Sis. Helen Rapp and Mr. and Mrs. George Renner. Baby Christy Dee, born Nov. 24 to Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder will

also be loved by her sister Carol. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice Beutal, Bro. Willis and Sis. Pauline Sauder. May the Lord bless them and help all parents to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Kristen A. Miller, daughter of the W. W. Millers, Tremont, to James Gichwind, son of the Aaron Gichwinds, Mackinaw. We extend our best wishes to them and would wish them many blessings.

Washington, Illinois . . . Carol Kellenberger: Winter forced many of us to take time out from this busy holiday season and spend time in our homes with our families. We cherish these quiet times and pray the warmth of Christ will be felt, though the weather is cold.

Bros. Roy Sauder and Joe Braker were with us to expound on the Conference report. How thankful we are to be reminded of those things that will help us walk closer to our Lord.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Marvin Schmidgall, Edmund Kloter, Willis Wiegand, Joe Zimmerman, Henry Grimm, Jim Hoerr and Dave Kieser.

Bro. Steve Schick (Bro. John and Sis. Dolly) and Sis. Ann Roth (Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline), Congerville, were married Dec. 4. We warmly welcome Sis. Ann to our congregation and wish them God's blessings.

Our congregation and many visitors enjoyed the Christmas Story brought to us by the Sunday School. Christ was born of the virgin Mary that night long ago. Will He come again some Silent Night? Will you be ready?

Bluffton, Indiana . . . Connie Troxel - Teresa Fiechter:

Our thoughts oft return to the day long ago
When heaven looked down on the grief and the woe
Of a world so estranged from the Father above
That He sent His dear Son in his infinite love.

Then the Father whose love is as wide as the sea
Looked down on the world He so longed to make free;

So with plan of redemption, the world to reclaim,
The Son of the Highest, the dearest One came.

Winter snows have come early this year demonstrating God's powers as we all marvel at the rows of sparkling icicles and the very whiteness of untouched snow.

The angels in heaven must be rejoicing as we have over 40 converts now in Bluffton. Besides these babes in Christ, we also have many small bundles of love arriving recently, to their parents' delight. Sis. Michelle and Bro. Mike Rauch have a new baby, Nicole Elaine. Sis. Ann and Bro. Bob Meyer, Jr., are the proud parents of little Aimee Melissa. Kristen Elizabeth was welcomed home by her brother Jason and parents Kay and Warren Rauhe of Indianapolis. Kendall and Sandy Ringger have a new little boy, Jeremy.

Wayne Maller suffered a heart attack while shoveling snow and was buried here Dec. 8. We offer sympathy to his family.

In the spirit of Christian love, Nov. 13, Bro. Gary Maller (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Deloris) took Sis. Kari Leman (Wallace and Sis. Marilyn) to be his wedded wife. Nov. 12, Mark Kaehr (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria) and Renee Bebout were joined as man and wife. Bro. Carl Kipfer and Sis. Nova Steffen were united in marriage Nov. 16.

"And the two shall become as one . . ." Bro. Lonnie Bertsch (Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian) and Sis. Becky Gilliom (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Marie) vowed their lives to each other Nov. 20. Dec. 4, Bro. Chuck Geisel (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Marcia Neuenchwander (Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred) were united in holy matrimony. On a snowy Dec. 11 in Milford, Bro. Rick Fiechter (Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary) claimed Beth Beer of Milford (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley) as his bride.

Thanks to ministering Bros. Maurice Frank of Leo and Lenny Meyer of Chicago for sharing God's word with us Nov. 20. The Thanksgiving Day message brought to us by Bro. Art Ringger of Indianapolis truly made us count our blessings. "Men as trees by their fruits are known" was part of the message told us by Elder Bros. John Bahler of Rockville, Loren Stoller of Latty, and Leo Moser of Lester, Iowa,

as our spiritual cups were filled to overflowing.

Hospital patients are Bro. Obed Gerber, Bro. Ray and Sis. Ida Gerber, Bro. Cliff Heyerly, Sis. Katie Maller, Bro. Clarence Steffen, Sis. Mari Moser, Bro. Olen Geisel, and Sis. Lucille (Walter) Kaehr, as well as Sis. Rose (Eli) Gerber, who wishes to give special thanks for the kindness and prayers of others.

Sis. Pat Isch (Bro. Joe and Sis. Sylvia Isch) and Bro. Rod Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys) are planning a February wedding. Sis. Barb Maller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys) and Bro. Gary Schwartz (Bro. Howard and Sis. Beulah) are engaged. Sis. Barb Hoffman (Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen) of Cissna Park and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Helen) plan to be married this Spring.

Merry Christmas to one and all—
May God's love shine in your heart brightly at this joyous season!

Bremen, Indiana . . . Marian Germann: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save His people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21) This promise that was given to us has been and is what our faith and hope relies on. May our prayer be that all would believe in Jesus and His great love for us now during the remembrance of His birth and throughout the coming new year.

The Bremen choir was privileged to sing many praises to God in Francesville in November. We thank them for the love and hospitality they gave us.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh." Even though the weather was cold, God warmed our hearts as many were able to witness the marriage of Bro. Chris Kaehr and Sis. Alberta Schini in Remington. Alberta's parents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Amelia Schini. Chris' parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Kaehr. May God's richest blessing be upon Bro. Chris and Sis. Alberta.

Thanksgiving was a truly thankful and blessed day for Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Meister as they celebrated the birth of their daughter, Katherine Ann. Paternal grandparents are Elmer and Edith Meister.

"Therefore, my beloved breth-

ren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. . ."

Francesville, Indiana . . . Helen Huber - Sharon Neihofer: We were privileged to have visiting ministers from Wolcott, Bros. Vernon Schwab and Gene Lehman, and also from Bremen, Bros. Earl Zeltwanger and Bob Bebee. The Bremen choir came to visit, and we thank them. We all certainly enjoyed a blessed day. Also Bro. Bob Grimm from Goodfield spent Sunday with us.

On Nov. 20, Sis. Candy Nussbaum (Bloomington), daughter of Bro. Alden and Sis. Tillie, was united in holy matrimony to Bro. Dave Huber, son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol. On Nov. 27, Sis. Connie Wuethrich, daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola, was united in holy matrimony to Bro. Steve Beer (Milford), son of Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary Ann. Visiting ministers to spend the day were Bros. Harold Emch (Girard), Jess Beer and Theo Beer (Milford), and Vernon Leman (Eureka).

On the sick list this month is Sis. Helen Huber who has not been able to assemble with us. We wish her much grace and strength for each day.

On Wed. eve, Nov. 23, a Thanksgiving program was held. The next morning we assembled for a Thanksgiving service. On Wed. eve., Nov. 30, Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) came to assist Bro. Wenzell in reading the memorandum. may we heed the warnings that were given to us in love by our elders.

Indianapolis, Indiana . . . Pam Frank: We welcome Sis. Diane (Graf) Horn, taken up recently, into the family of God. Mary Lou (Clauss) Dexter was also announced for peace and wishes to be baptized soon.

Bro. Richard and Sis. RaNae Aberle had a daughter (Sara) born on Nov. 29. We certainly had much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

We thank all of the ministers who have visited us and shared the Word of God.

LaCrosse, Indiana . . . Grace Heind - Carolyn Levy: Bros. Joe Ramsier, Rittman, and Loren Stoller, Latty, helped Elder Bro. Ed

Frank with the provings and baptisms of two dear souls, Jacki Jacobs (Mr. and Mrs. Norm Jacobs). and Tom Troxel (Bro. Phil and Sis. Mary). We heartily welcome them as a sister and brother in faith. The brothers also shared the Memorandum with us and gave us many timely warnings.

We miss our dear Sis. Henrietta Heiniger who is staying in Leo at the present time because of ill health.

Bro. Lester Nueist had surgery but is home again. Glen Gudeman (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) is in the hospital and also had surgery.

On Dec. 4, Sis. Denise Feller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Gregg Gramm, Morris, (Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila) were united in marriage. Many visitors were present for the occasion, including ministering Bros. Ezra Feller, Roy Grimm, Harold Gramm, Bob Grimm, Elmer Witzig and Floyd Schmidgall.

A PATIENTS PRAYER

Thank God for faithful doctors
Who treat all mankind's ills;
At times must be by surgery,
Sometimes with drugs or pills.
Remember, Lord, the nurses,
R.N.s and L.P.N.s,
Kindhearted and devoted
To ease their patients' pains.

If just a cup of water
In a disciple's name
Deeds in "Your Book of Heaven"
Exceeds our "Hall of Fame",
May all Thy constant servants
Who work from shore to shore
And render deeds of kindness,
Be blest forevermore.

Leo, Indiana . . . Mrs. Phillip Schletter - Mrs. Albert Frautschi:
Our Christmas program and church family dinner was held Sunday evening, Dec. 18.

Christmas, 1977, has come and gone. Many gifts were lovingly given and gratefully received. How many, though, paused to reflect upon His gift which cannot be bought or earned, but only received. Lynn, Renee, and Marlise Stieglitz, son and daughters of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joan, have decided to accept His gift of salvation. Wise men still seek Him! "To live without Him is forfeiting the only real and lasting joy that is offered to mankind and is also sealing your

destiny for all eternity in the regions of the lost."

Two weddings recently took place at our Fellowship Center. Beth Souder and Larry Hullinger were married Nov. 6. Parents are the Dwight Souders' and the Henry Hullingers'.

Pamela Bertsch, daughter of Bro. David Bertsch and Sis. Marie Bertsch, exchanged vows, Dec. 3 with Thomas Brown, son of Mr. Wm. Brown, Bryan, Ohio, and the late Mrs. Brown.

Recently hospitalized and released are Jerry Krugh, Nancy Klopfenstein, Lowell Lantz, and little Brooke Diane Souder.

Hospital patients at the present writing are Aaron Schwartz and Artemas Levy.

A warm welcome is extended to Edward and Connie Frautschi and family, Heather, Stephanie, and Christopher, who moved here from California.

Funeral services were held for Mr. Frank Widner, Tuesday, Dec. 6. One daughter and two sons survive.

Heaven-sent bundles of joy are:
A boy, Kurt William, born Sept. 24 to John and Linda (Tonner) Klopfenstein.

A daughter, Rebecca Sue, to Douglas and Sue (Schock) Kellenberger, Oct. 26.

A son, Robert Jerrod, to Robert and Janice (Bahler) Pfister on Dec. 20.

May the New Year find us closer to Him.

"Another year I enter
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its path alone!
But I have heard a whisper;
I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee
And I will give the rest!"

anonymous

Milford, Indiana . . . Coleen Beer:

Give me a faithful heart,
Likeness to Thee,
That each departing day
Henceforth may see;
Some work of love begun,
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wandering sought and won,
Something for Thee.

We have been blessed by messages brought to us through visiting Bros. Rudolph Graf (Akron,

Ohio). Loren Stoller (Latty, Ohio), and Gene Marti (Lamar, Missouri).

Bro. Steve Beer (Bro. Carlton and Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Connie Wuethrich (Bro. Rich and Sis. Nola), Francesville, were united in marriage on Nov. 27.

The engagement of Sis. Colleen Beer (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley) to Bro. Don Lehman (Don and Sis. Pearl) of Roanoke was made known.

Lynn and Teresa Hively are the happy parents of Rachel Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Levi and Sis. Katherine Beer.

Our prayers go out for loved ones in the hospital. They are Sis. Emma Krauter and Sis. Wanda Weiser.

We share the sorrow of John and Mayadine Lehman, whose son, Bill, passed away.

Remington, Indiana . . . Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss:

Christmas is a love story;

It is written in our hearts.

May the glory of the story

Fill your heart with Joy all year.

The weekend of Nov. 12 and 13 was a blessed one when Wolcott's and our congregation hosted the World Relief meeting. On Sunday, Bros. Merrill Laukhof of Latty, Ben Hartzler of Rittman, and Bill Gerst of Alto, Mich., were our guest ministers.

The next Sunday Bros. Henry Grimm of Morton and Charles Sauder of Tremont favored us with a visit.

On Sun., Nov. 27, Bro. Alfred Bahler performed the wedding ceremony of Sis. Alberta Schini and Bro. Chris Kaehr of Bremen. Visiting ministers that day included Bros. Earl and Harold Zeltwanger and Robert Beebe of Bremen, and Bros. Ed Alt and Steve Rinckenberger of Cissna Park.

This past Sunday (Dec. 4) Bros. Carl Westphal and Steve Gutwein of Francesville brought us timely messages. Thanks to all of our brothers for their willing service.

Bro. Sam Kilgus, our retired minister, is a hospital patient having undergone surgery.

Sis. Lillie Frey also is a hospital patient for observation.

Our friends Phil and Diane (Schieler) Isabel were announced as having peace and desiring baptism.

Valparaiso, Indiana . . . Marie Heinold:

O Come Let Us Adore Him!

The Christmas season is here again, as we hurry around with our long shopping lists. I like to remember what someone said. "The best thing to spend on children is time."

The Valparaiso church was invited to share the memorandum with LaCrosse on Nov. 12. We give thanks to Wolcott for the service here Nov. 20 when our minister was gone.

We are looking forward to our Christmas program, Christmas caroling, and families being together. A Christian Home—this is what life is all about!

Wolcott, Indiana . . . Lauiel Widmer: After a slow transition through fall, winter has once again arrived. Our area, like many others, has received record snowfalls. Although the snow is very inconvenient for us, God made it beautiful so we wouldn't mind it much.

Bro. Karl Westfall spent the weekend of Nov. 6 with us. We were happy to have him share the day.

The annual World Relief meeting was held in the Wolcott-Remington area on Nov. 12. There was a good attendance from many states. Even though our contributions cannot make a big inroad in feeding and clothing the poor of this world, the Lord will bless what we can do for them. Visiting ministers for this weekend were Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto), Don Manz (Junction), and Ken Souder (Mansfield). On Sunday there was a carry-in supper at the White County 4-H building for all who attended the meeting.

Thanksgiving Day services were held on Thanksgiving Day. We can't be thankful enough for what we have.

Burlington, Iowa . . . Edna Pohl - Mayme Gerst: On the eve of a new year we are embarking on a new way for the Silver Lining. God be with our Elders in this work-filled undertaking, especially Bro. Dave Bertsch, and our editor, Bro. Ed Souder. We fully trust the Lord will be with them in this new beginning. Bro. Henry began a good work that has blossomed into a full time work of love,

whereby we in faith can keep in touch.

In October our congregation enjoyed the visit and blessed teachings of Bro. Ben Fehr, Roanoke, Ill. We sat up and took notice anew of God's Word through His able servant. God bless all who proclaim His truths to the saving of souls.

Bro. Fred Knapp of Congerville, Ill., was also a welcome ministering brother in our midst the month of Nov., bringing forth more of God's teachings. May the Lord provide ministers to preach the truth until His coming. We have great need to hear and obey the Word as we see the evils about us. God's judgement is drawing ever closer, telling us to believe and be saved.

On the evening of Dec. 3 we assembled in the Lord's house with the Oakville congregation joining us to hear the testimony of our friend Tom Broeg. A year ago he came with friends and learned of the Lord and His wondrous love for lost souls. Through learning and coming to the blessed peace in the Lord, many young brothers of our various churches befriended Tom and unfolded him with love and understanding. His testimony was touching, considering the hard times he endured in his time. Sunday after services he was baptized in the Lord's death to arise to a new life in Him.

Supper was served after the laying on of hands in prayer. Those from a distance could be on their homeward way, as roads were getting icy. We trust the Lord brought them all safely to their abode.

Several are hospitalized who assemble with us at times.

Elgin, Iowa: For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

CHRISTMAS IS

It's the warm, cheery greeting
For friends that we meet.
Christmas is cookies and candy
cane treats;
Christmas is children
With faces aglow.
It's tissue and seals
And bright colored string.
Yes, Christmas is this
But, oh, it's much more
Than tinsel and trees
And gifts in a store.

Christmas is angels
 Drawing nigh to the earth
 To tell the good news
 Of the dear Saviour's birth.
 Christmas is God's Son
 Sent down from above
 The real meaning of Christmas
 Can only mean **love**.
 This is when the Christ Child is
 close.

Snow and cold weather appeared earlier than usual in these parts. We've had about 8" to 10" of snow-fall.

The white blanket covering our fields, meadows and roadsides is really beautiful, and the wild bird feeding at this time is truly rewarding.

Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington gave us our Thanksgiving message, which we enjoyed.

Trudy Pulfer, daughter of Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer, and Albert Hanson have chosen the 26th day of Dec. as their wedding day. May God bless them abundantly.

We are happy that the following who were recently in the hospital are home again. They were Sis. Beulah Butikofer, Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Sandy Butikofer. Sis. Edna Gehring is in the hospital at this time of writing.

Meg Kathleen is the name Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer chose for their new baby girl. The older daughter's name is Amy Christine. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart of West Bend, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Mildren Butikofer of Elgin.

We are looking forward to the presentation of the S.S. Christmas program.

WHEN THE LITTLE ONES SING

At every Christmas Season
 Our eyes grow strangely dim
 When all the smaller children
 Sing the dear "Cradle Hymn."

Some voices are uncertain
 And some sing high, some low,
 But the round uplifted faces
 Are radiantly aglow.

This is the loveliest moment,
 We know with one accord,
 When the little ones, the least ones,
 Sing of the little Lord.

THOUGHT

The light that shines from the
 humble manger is strong enough

to lighten our way to the end of
 our days.

Lester, Iowa . . . Alice Metzger - Joyce Knobloch: The miracle of Christmas becomes more precious every year as we observe and celebrate the anniversary of Jesus birth. He lived a perfect life and sacrificed it for you and me. We can only attempt to repay this debt of love by living for Him.

We are thankful to the ministers and brethren for the blessings brought to us on Dec. 4 when the World Relief Committee held their meeting here. Ministers who attended were Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, and Bros. Floyd Weiland, Detroit; Loren Strahm, Gridley, Kansas; Vernon Lehman, Eureka; and James Hoerr, Peoria. We were the hearers of many good teachings. On Thanksgiving Day we were grateful to have Bro. Roger Aberle minister to us.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Emily Knobloch, Sis. Verna Moser, Tina Moser, Bro. Ed Gerber, and Bro. Chuck Leuthold, who has literally had his hand reconstructed after getting it mangled in a combine. Calvin Knobloch is home after spending five weeks in the hospital. He fell down a silo chute. All are most grateful for prayers and kindnesses shown to them.

Brent Allen is the new boy born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch on Nov. 16. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold. Jerilyn Kay was born on Nov. 25 to Bro. Larry and Sis. Sheryl Knobloch. Sis. Iola Knobloch is the grandmother. On Dec. 4 Michael Lambert was born to Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knobloch.

Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger were able to observe and enjoy their 70th wedding anniversary on Nov. 17 with a family dinner. Many callers came to express their love.

Oakville, Iowa:

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

I wish I were:
 big enough to honestly admit all my shortcomings,
 brilliant enough to accept flattery without it making me arrogant,
 tall enough to tower over deceit,

strong enough to treasure love,
 brave enough to welcome criticism,
 compassionate enough to understand human frailties,
 wise enough to recognize my mistakes,
 humble enough to be thoughtful of my neighbor
 and righteous enough to be devoted to the LOVE OF GOD.

Bro. Dave Miller and family have our sympathy upon the passing away of his sister, Sis. Anna Miller, who had been living at the Apostolic Christian Home, Peoria, Ill. She was 72.

We met with our neighboring congregation, Burlington, for the reading and deliberation of the report of the last conference. It moves our hearts when we see the concern and love that our elders have for the church and for our most precious faith. If we are obedient and heed the timely warnings, then surely we will find joy in living for our Lord, and will also help to lighten the load of our Elder brethren. May God give our Elders courage and faith to do God's will in caring for His sheep. After such a very blessed day and evening together, Elder Bro. Lester Hartter selected hymn No. 213 "Zion's Harp", which has few words, but expressed our deepest heartfelt feelings.

It was truly a blessing to us all having Elder Bro. Lester Hartter and his beloved wife, Sis. Ella in our community. We are thankful he was willing to assist our Elder Bro. Ed with the weighty work that was fulfilled that weekend. Also, if one considers the miles covered by our visitors, we can be thankful if they arrive and then can return home safely again.

How often we are inspired by a child's faith! A sister in faith said when driving on the highway which was made treacherous by one of our recent snows, her little boy spoke up and said, "I know what I'd do, I'd pray." Then she said he bowed his little head and folded his hands.

Iowa City, Iowa . . . Connie Gerst - Twila Whipple: We were privileged to have with us several visiting ministers. They were Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA), Fred Knapp (Congerville), and Earl Gerber (Forrest). We are thankful

for brothers that speak the truth and exhort us to remember our salvation daily.

Christmas is always a time of rejoicing in our Saviour's birth into this world; but more important, we must remember to strive aright so we can rejoice even more at His second coming, which is drawing nigh.

We are always thankful for the many visitors who have supported our small group. If you plan to be in our area and would like to inquire about our meetings, feel free to contact Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker: address. 3310 Shamrock, Iowa City 52242; phone, 319-338-0925.

West Bend, Iowa . . . Mrs. Raymond Anliker - Becky Banwart:

As we near this Christmas Season, may we feel in our hearts God's perfect peace; just as it was felt in that stable so many years ago. But let us not forget, "'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man, who walked in Galilee; 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free."

We are thankful when visiting ministers are among us. May God bless Bro. Carl Hartman (Sabetha) for his visit and labor of love.

The engagement was announced of Harriet Mogler (daughter of Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma) to Bruce Metzger (son of Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice) of Lester, Ia. Also announced was the engagement of Larry Bruellman (son of Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele) to Treasa Frazee (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Frazee) of Algona, Ia. We wish both couples the blessings of God in this important undertaking.

Wanda Metzger, daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice, was a hospital patient. Bro. Levi Banwart, who was a hospital patient, has been transferred to Clear View Manor Nursing Home. May God continue to heal.

Shioda, Japan . . . Willis R. Ehnle: That high school boy who came to see me asked for an Old Testament, saying that he had read the New Testament which I gave him. He also wanted to be baptized, notwithstanding, he has never attended our church services; and he also wants to adhere to a number of other gods which they have in their home. He was surprised that the God of Christianity

requires that you turn your back on other gods. I invited him to church, but so far he hasn't come. It may well be that he does not understand why he should be inconvenienced by coming to church when all he wants to do is become a Christian. Yet Christ said, "If any man will come after me, let him first deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23

Have you decided where in your vegetable garden you will put your first planting of sweet corn next spring? I have and am having a very enjoyable time thinking about it. Joyful anticipation is very important in life, especially when it motivates us to greater effort. This is also true in regard to entering heaven, and I am certain we will not be disappointed if we are faithful. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." I Cor. 2:9

To be content with little of this world's goods, and to be cheerful, plus a willingness to be a servant, are treasures we should not easily give up. "Having food and raiment let us therewith be content. Rejoice always. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet."

Bern, Kansas . . . Esther and Stella Moser: Christmas will soon be here. The Sunday School children are starting to sing Christmas carols: old, but ever new, ever beautiful.

Made known to us was the engagement of Bro. Dennis Esslinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene) to Gertrude Messner, Winthrop. Her parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie. A January wedding is planned.

Recent guest ministers were Bros. Ben Wysong and Carl Hartman, Sabetha.

Edwin Strahm (Bro. Alphonie and Sis. Mamie) was hospitalized a few days when he pretty well cut up his left hand with a power saw in shop at school. Our friend Bertha Leichti is still a hospital patient and is now getting therapy treatment. Hopefully, she will soon be able to be moved to the A.C. Home. Bertha worked at the Home for many years doing the laundry.

The annual food and crafts sale at the A.C. Home was again a

worthwhile project, much enjoyed by the residents who had worked on the crafts during the year.

Once again, as the year draws to a close, the reporters extend seasons greetings to our readers. May the Lord add His blessing.

Gridley, Kansas . . . Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr: Christmas very seldom falls on Sunday. How joyful and refreshed our Christmas spirits can feel when it does happen. To be able to worship freely is surely an expression of true Christmas celebration—for Christ is most certainly worthy of worship.

A great spiritual fulfillment and blessing were received when we heard of the experience of Bro. Sandor Bako, Akron. He was forced to spend a period of his life in concentration camps. The sentence was given to Sandor because of his choice to live a life for God.

What blissful joy when two hearts are bound together. On Nov. 11, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Barbara, to Bro. Tim Zimmerman from Congerville.

When burdened with care, He'll lighten your load. The feeling of peace with God was expressed by our friend, Shella Stovall. The desire to give her testimony was announced Nov. 11.

A farewell singing was given for Dana and Mary (Kraft) Burdick. The couple plans to leave our presence for the armed service. Dana will presently be stationed in San Antonio, Tx.

Fort Scott, Kansas . . . Aleta and Don Banwart: We would like to extend our sympathies to our Sis. Carrie Massner over the tragic death of Bro. Dale Massner, Oakville; also to Bro. Emil Banwart over the death of his brother, Bro. Oscar Banwart, Lamar. May the Lord comfort their loved ones.

Bro. Danny and Sis. Dorothy Sinn welcomed a new grandchild into their family. Brenda Kay, daughter of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Ruby Grimm, Sabetha, was born Oct. 7. She has a brother, Darin.

On Oct. 8 and 9, the Sunday Schools from Bern, Kiowa, Gridley, Lamar, Kansas City, Sabetha, and Wichita gathered here for a weekend. Guest Minister was Bro. Ronald Allenbach, Kiowa. We were able to use the facilities of the local col-

lege for the delicious meals and for our Sat. evening gathering.

Other guest ministers have been: Bro. Alphie Strahm, Bern; Bro. John Lehman, Bern; and Bro. Kenneth Knapp, Taylor, Mo.

In an effort to learn our Zion's Harp songs correctly, our October singing, held in the home of Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart, was spent learning some beautiful hymns and enjoying the ones we already knew. Our November singing was held in Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart's home.

Elder Bros. Samuel Anliker, Lamont, and Raymond Banwart read and discussed the letter of the Annual Brotherhood Conference.

Sis. Ella Banwart was in the hospital, but is now home.

"Silent Night, Holy Night . . ." was heard as our Sunday School and young group caroled our three nursing homes and homes of our members and friends. Our caroling was concluded at the home of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller, where we enjoyed a chili supper.

Also visiting was Bro. Al Scheitlin from Elgin, Ill. Although he is retiring from the pulpit, he was persuaded by our home ministers to preach the gospel to us. It is a real blessing to know that one really never completely retires from the service of the Lord if called upon to further HIS GOSPEL.

Kansas State University . . .

Brenda Tucker: The Christmas Season is a festive season when all express love to one another in remembrance of our Lord's birth. As Christians, we can enjoy and celebrate this beautiful season, not only at Christmas, but every day of our lives. We should always be willing to give: to God, to our loved ones and friends, and to every person with whom we come in contact. Let us strive to be continually giving of the love that God has placed in our hearts.

Graduating this December is Darin Marti, son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mary Marti, of Springfield, Mo. His major is finance. With a small group we truly enjoy the fellowship that is shared on campus. As each one graduates there is an empty spot in our group, but our hearts will always hold the memories.

Visiting ministers have been: Bros. Roy Wernli and Sam Anliker,

Lamont, Ks.; Loren Strahm and Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, Ks.; Max Reimschisle, Wichita, Ks.; Lester Hartter and John Lehman, Bern, Ks.; and Ben Wysong, Roger Aberle, Joe Aberle, and Sam Huber, Sabetha, Ks.

Kiowa, Kansas . . . Janice Frieden: Just recently I heard a story that sounded so much like many of us today: There was a man walking a tight rope across Niagra Falls. The crowd watching this daring stunt cheered and cheered, so he crossed the rope again, only this time he pushed a wheel barrow in front of him. After he successfully made the crossing, he looked at the crowd and said, "How many of you think I could push this wheel barrow across with a man in it?" One man jumped up and said, "I believe you can," upon which the great artist said, "Okay, you can be first!" Can you guess what the man in the audience did then? He sat down. He believed, but only up to a point. He didn't believe enough to commit his life to the skill of the artist. Jesus said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you." Oh, let's have that faith as a grain of mustard seed, and commit our way to Him! His promise is sure, and He'll never let us down.

We were saddened to hear that our Bro. John Schrock, who has been residing in the Kiowa Manor, fell and broke his hip. At this point he hasn't been able to have surgery. Sis. Bea Diel, also, was hospitalized again for surgery on her leg. She has suffered many operations, and we pray God's grace will help her endure this burden again.

We had the blessed privilege of gathering for Thanksgiving Services the 24th. As a nation, a community, a church, a person, we truly have a lot to be thankful for, and may we not only be thankful on just this one day a year, but on every day. On Dec. 3, Elder Bro. Sam Anliker joined us, and with the aid of ministering Bro. Ronald Nelson, brought us the memorandum. May we always be grateful for our Elder brothers, who, through fervent prayer, try to keep our faith according to Scriptural teaching. Satan is trying so hard to

destroy it. May we always be humble enough to look at our lives, and by these teachings try to live as God would want us to.

The World Relief workers met at Newton this past week to bundle the articles that go to the needy. Few were able to go from here due to such a busy time, but those who did go received a blessing.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Glen Meyer, who passed away this month. Bros. Ronald Ellenbach and Ronald Nelson officiated at services held here. It is our prayer that the Holy Scripture will be a comfort to the family.

Praise be to God, the day of Grace is still open, and souls are still being called! Our dear friend, Sandra (Ott) Hamilton, daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Nelda Ott, has, through a true repentance and confession, now found peace with her Lord who gave "His all" for all of us.

Lamont, Kansas . . . Susan Emch:

We are grateful to Bro. Al Langhofer, Wichita, for sharing God's Word with us.

We appreciate the efforts of our Elder Bros. Sam Anliker and Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, who shared the conference report with us. We enjoyed a blessed evening assembly with the Gridley congregation for this event.

On Sunday evening, Nov. 27, we assembled at Gridley to hear Bro. Sandor Bako, Akron, Ohio, tell of his experience in Hungary. Several gathered with us from the Wichita and Ft. Scott congregations.

We enjoyed the Gridley congregation assembling with us on Dec. 5.

We are looking forward to assembling in our new church before Christmas.

Several spent the day working at Newton for World Relief. A blessing it is to help those in need, as our Saviour was truly a help unto us in our time of need.

As the Christmas Season is here, may we ask ourselves the question, Have we any room for Jesus? May it not be said of us that there is no room in our heart for Christ!

Sabetha, Kansas . . . Mrs. Joe Steiner:

Our song of praise to God ascend,
And with the angels' voices blend.

The day of gladness now is here; Sing Hallelujah with good cheer. Hallelujah!

We thank Bro. Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, for ministering unto us recently.

If the Lord is willing, we will join the Bern congregation to hear the report of the recent conference. We are expecting Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, and Bro. Leo Moser, Lester, to help Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern, in the deliberations.

Sis. Elizabeth Marti is recuperating after having suffered a broken hip.

Bro. Ben Aberle has returned home from St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City where he had more surgery.

Wichita, Kansas . . . Glenis Allenbach: "This little light of mine, I'm 'gonna' let it shine"—we were reminded of this last Sunday, how our life can be a light to others in many different ways. With this in mind, I'd like to relate something that happened to me in Rochester during my husband's stay in connection with the Mayo Clinic. I stayed at a guesthouse and a little elderly lady took the room next to mine. Some time before, she had suffered a stroke which caused loss of most of her hearing. She often became confused when speaking. I felt compassion toward her and knew it was my Christian duty to help her. Her husband was in the hospital, and she was "on her own" for the first time in many months. I do not tell this for any glory, but **only** to show that our actions can be a light to others.

I spent quite a bit of time with her because she was lonely and really needed help. She would take my arm like a little child and go anywhere with me. I often felt bad because I had not witnessed to her through conversation, as it was so hard to make her understand. Then one evening she came to my door to ask for something and before leaving, said, "You're religious, aren't you?" This was a tremendous blessing to me. She often called me "darlin" and the morning we left, she got up very early just to help open the doors and say goodbye. She was a dear person, but I did not see her light shine. So I pray for her; it's the most I can do.

On the weekend of Nov. 12 and

13 we were blessed to have the Men's Choir from Gridley, Illinois. We felt joy as we witnessed the expressions on the faces of the men as they sang praises to the Saviour. Also visiting with them were Elder Bro. Ed Ringger and Bro. Byron Stoller who so willingly lent themselves in the ministry of God's word. Also with us to share the weekend was Bro. Roy Wernli of the Lamont congregation.

Bringing the word to us on Dec. 4 was Bro. Ronnie Allenbach of Kiowa. He was here to assist our brethren as we had invited several of the young members from the Princeville and Tremont, Ill., churches and many from the Kansas churches.

Lexington, Kentucky . . . Cathy Knobloch: It seems as if we have barely adjusted to hot summer days when suddenly we realize that Thanksgiving has already passed and Christmas is on its way. How time flies!

Thanksgiving always brings to mind Ephesians 5:20. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ." One of our young teens related to me an interesting incident about this verse. An active girl, Angie, was playing with some friends when she slipped and fell, hitting and scraping her nose severely on a telephone pole. That night for devotions she read Ephesians 5:20. She said she lay in bed for a long time trying to understand how she could ever be thankful for a very swollen, sore nose! Finally she gave up and went and asked her mother. Her mother replied that she should be thankful that God provided her with a nose in the first place, and that she still had one! Immediately Angie gave thanks and continued to give thanks. Do we give thanks **always** for all things great and small in our lives?

Our congregation remembered Thanksgiving by sharing together a delicious potluck meal. The time of fellowship together was also used to thank God and give special acknowledgement to each family which was present. Praise God for strong family bonds when divorce and the ERA movement are eroding the family unit.

With Christmas approaching, Sunday School children are busy

learning songs and verses to present a Christmas program in honor of Jesus. The ladies' group has worked diligently in preparing Christmas boxes for our friends overseas, the elderly, and prisoners. "Laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

We have had many visitors the past month and wish to thank them for sharing in our worship. Many of you from the Midwest travel to Florida during the winter season. We would like to encourage you to make Lexington a rest stop as you travel. Our services begin at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning at 308 Locust Ave., Lexington, Ky.

Alto, Michigan . . . Mrs. Ronald Erismann: We were privileged to witness the union of Bro. Wesley Daniels (Bay City) and Sis. Susan Root, Wednesday night, Nov. 23. The memorandum was read by Bro. Joe Waibel and Bro. Ben Maibach who also served the Holy Communion supper. We're always thankful for their services.

Bay City, Michigan . . . Carolyn Schambach: "Away In A Manger" seems to be the favorite song, and the "Baby Jesus" story the favorite book of our little ones just now. Hopefully, we adults can keep our perspective as well, remembering what Christmas is all about!

Bro. Wes Daniels and Sis. Sue Root were married in Alto on Nov. 23. They are making their home here, and we welcome Sis. Sue to our congregation!

We rejoice to receive into the family of God two new converts, Sis. Gail Wackerle (Bro. Wallace) and Bro. Scott Wieland (Bro. Don). It's reassuring to see the Lord is still calling souls to Him.

Hospitalized this month were Sisters Marian Meylan, Margaret Ruegesegger and Doris Knockel. Bro. Bob Williams was injured at work, but fortunately is recovering well. We pray God will heal all our dear ones soon.

LOST: At Bay City Church, Nov. 9, a navy blue "Northlander" all-weather coat was taken by mistake and another blue coat left in its place. If you have this coat, please contact: Mrs. Ed Meister, 77 Bay Side Park, Bay City, MI 48706.

Detroit, Michigan . . . Bonnie Popp: "Christmas is love come down to earth."

As we in the Detroit family prepare for this Christmas season, we are ever mindful of God's love to all men.

This is a special time for us as, God willing, we will worship for the last time in our present church building and hope to assemble on Dec. 18 for our first service in our new church.

We shared in a special prayer and service on Thanksgiving Day as we laid the corner stone in the new church. Within the cornerstone were sealed precious articles of faith. This was a time of memories in recalling all that has taken place since the beginning of the Detroit assembly. Our Elder ministers and members of the committees who have worked so diligently participated. I am sure God has a special blessing for all who have contributed their time and effort in the work involved in this move.

We in Detroit pray that:

The love that sent the Saviour

To bring His promised peace—
The gladness of the angels

Whose praises never cease—
The faith of those three wise men
Who traveled by a star—

May all these Christmas blessings
Be yours, where e'er you are.

Hancock, Minnesota . . . Corrine Schmidgall - Lois Schmidgall:

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop and Bro. Duane Metzger of West Bend. We want to thank the brothers for their visits and for lending themselves to speak God's Word.

God is still calling souls, as a dear young soul has found grace to repent. Gary Schmidgall (son of Bro. Gene and Dorothy) has turned to the Lord. We are happy for him. May God give him understanding and answer his prayers. We only hope many more will turn to our dear Lord before it is forever too late.

Hospital patients were Sis. Esther Koehl (Bro. Charles), Lisa Wehking (Virgil and Susie), Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald), Bro. Don Luthi who had surgery in Minneapolis Hospital, Sis. Nancy Knobloch (Bro. Jack), Sis. Gladys Koehl (Bro. Ernest), and

our Elder Bro. Paul Fehr, Sr., who is in Minneapolis Hospital having tests. Our prayers are that they can all be restored to good health again.

The wedding of Bro. Greg Gramm and Sis. Denise Feller of LaCrosse, Indiana, was solemnized on Dec. 4. Parents of the couple are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ila Gramm and Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen Feller of LaCrosse. May God bless them as they start their new home together.

A daughter, Alison Maree, was born on Nov. 30 to Bro. Len and Bev Minke. Grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner.

Christmas is fast approaching, when we will commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. A blessed event it is. Our Sunday School children have been practicing singing the beautiful carols, so if the Lord is willing, they will present the Christmas Story in word and song on Sunday evening, Dec. 18.

Winthrop, Minnesota . . . Delores Messerli - Marcelle Dapper:

God gave us salvation, gave us His love—

Sent down His Son from Heaven above.

God gave us Jesus—what more could He give?

He sent a Redeemer that sinners might live.

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

Christmas is a time of giving, and the best gift of all God could give us is salvation. It includes pardon for sin and a new life that lasts forever. This wonderful offer could never have been made if Jesus had not been born. His sinless human life, His death on the cross and His resurrection made possible our salvation from sin's guilt and power. By believing on Him we can receive complete forgiveness, assurance of heaven, and power to overcome sin. There's nothing better God could give to hopeless condemned sinners.

Our Sunday School is making preparation to give their program in honor of our Saviour's birth.

The engagement of Sis. Gertrude to Bro. Dennis Esslinger of Bern, Kan., was announced. The parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Julia

Messner and Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger. A February wedding is planned.

The old year draws to a close, and the world seems to sing with the Psalmist, "You have crowned the year with your goodness."

Lamar, Missouri . . . Becky Hohulin - Janice Braker: Isn't Christmas a wonderful time of the year? The world seems to pause just a moment and discover once again the joys to be found in giving and sharing. This year, as we joyfully give our tokens of love, whether large or small, let's think back to that little manger where lay the Christ child—for this is where the "spirit of Christmas" began.

On Nov. 19. Elder Bros. Sam Anliker and Eugene Marti were here to share with us the minutes of the last Brotherhood Conference. We wish to thank them for the efforts they put forth to bring this to us. It certainly seems to help us onward when we can sit down with our dear shepherds and listen to their kindly advice.

Our dear Sis. Emma Lanz was in the hospital once more for surgery. It seems such a while since she was able to assemble with us, but we hope she will be able to soon. May God grant her and all of us the courage to face "only one day at a time!"

Taylor, Missouri . . . Lena M. Haerr: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High." Psalm 92:1

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God. Those who praise the Lord in spite of their trials change burdens into blessings.

Bros. Ed Ringger, Gridley, and Roy Grimm explained the conference reports to us. May we all take it to heart and do better each day.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Art Baurer, Princeville; Arnie Gerst, Chicago; and Nate Steffen, Elgin. We welcome and are thankful for visitors. Sis. Elizabeth Sutter entered the hospital Dec. 5 for tests. We wish her the best for soul and body.

Croghan, New York . . . Alice Virkler:

We talk and sing of "Peace on Earth"

When Christmas time draws near,
But then how quickly we forget
Throughout the entire year.

We must let Christ into our heart. . .
Then we will have new birth;
We must keep Love within our hearts
To keep real Peace on Earth.

Our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 18.

On Sunday, Dec. 11, we were privileged to attend two important events in the lives of dear ones in faith. In the afternoon an open house was held in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Seth and Sis. Olivia Schulz. They were married in 1927 and are the parents of six children: Mrs. Florence Storms, Syracuse; Louise, California; Mariam, a resident of the Home in Morton; Niles, R.D., Lowville; Grant, New Bremen; and a son, Leon, who is deceased. They also have ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In the evening we were privileged to assemble with the Naumburg congregation to celebrate the 100th birthday of a dear sister-in-faith, Barbara Bachman. (More about this in the Naumburg news.)

Sis. Pearl Lehman, Sis. Barbara Virkler, and Gwen Herzig have been able to assemble with us again after hospital stays and recuperation at home for several weeks. Sis. Celia Virkler and Judy Virkler were hospital patients a few days for medical treatment. At this writing, Sis. Esther Ulrich is a patient in Watertown Hospital as a result of a broken hip.

Naumburg, New York . . . Corinne Virkler:

To me is given boundless mercy.
A gift that I did not deserve;
Such wondrous love,
It is so marvelous,
That such for me should be reserved.

This is in honor of our dear elder Sis. Barbara Bachman, who was 100 years old on Dec. 15. She is a dear sister and we rejoice in her active and spiritual life, as she is able to assemble with us every Sunday. We had a reception for her in the church dining room on Sun-

day evening, Dec. 11, with the Croghan congregation assembling with us; also many of her relatives and friends attended. She was married on Christmas Day in 1902 to Joseph Bachman who passed away Aug. 1, 1954. They were baptized on Christmas Day, 1904, 73 years ago. She has one daughter, Mrs. Norman (Alice) Lehman with whom she resides. She has seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. They also had a son, Frederick who passed away in 1923 at the age of 13.

Sis. Ivah Poling has returned home from the hospital.

Union City, New Jersey - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania . . . Ed Aeschliman: Ministering Bro. Ernest Graff, with others from Akron and Gridley, Ill., visited Union City and Philadelphia churches on Nov. 2. We are grateful to God for sending His servants to us from time to time.

It was a joy to again see the face of our dear Sis. Marie Walsh at the Union City church. Sis. Marie has been in Vermont for several months as a result of her domestic aid work.

Ministering Bro. Paul Gasser, Akron, served the Philadelphia church on Sunday, Nov. 27. We had visitors from Rittman and Rockville, and were happy to receive Bro. Glen Greenbank from Akron who will be in our area for three weeks while attending a training course sponsored by his employer.

Thanksgiving Day services in Philadelphia were held in the home of Bro. David and Sis. Carolyn Roberts, followed by a delightful turkey dinner for the five families gathered there. We were very thankful indeed for the wonderful Lord-given day.

Akron, Ohio . . . Gail Spangler:

"A Christian now baptized, to me much grace is given." On Sunday, Nov. 20, we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new brother in Christ, Eric Graf. It was a wonderful day for all who were privileged to be there. Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) assisted Elder Bro. Rudy Graf. Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman) spent the day with us also. We were truly thankful that Bro. Eric's mother, Sis. Janet, was well enough to assemble with us.

We rejoice with our dear friends

Bob and Barbara Ritzman as they are seeking the Lord in repentance. It is such an inspiration to all believers to know the Lord is still calling. Bob and Barb are the son and daughter-in-law of Sis. Marie and the late ministering Bro. Forrest.

Our annual Christmas program is planned for Dec. 11. It is always such a joy to hear the children sing about the Child who changed the world. As these dear children grow to the age of accountability, it is our prayer that they might remember that "'tis not the manger but the cross that sets the spirit free."

Junction, Ohio . . . Gwen Manz:

The cold weather has arrived and with it we have snow, snow and more snow. Driving is often hazardous but how wonderful to feel the protecting hand of our Heavenly Father as we cautiously go from place to place. And spiritually we are thankful for His hand over us as we travel life's pathway.

May the Lord bless the brothers who lend themselves in preaching the Word. Our visitors included Bros. Eugene Fetter (Toledo), Ernest Graf (Akron), Marfin Schmid (Bay City), Edwin Bahler (Remington), and Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest).

Sis. Carolyn Spangler was hospitalized recently for surgery, and Sis. Kate Manz is now in the hospital.

Latty, Ohio . . . Karen Klopfenstein:

We enjoyed a special Wednesday service when Bro. Ernie and Sis. Louise Graf were here. May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

On Nov. 19, Bro. Ed Frank (La-Crosse) helped Bro. Loren in serving Holy Communion. It is always a solemn time when we can reflect over the Lord's suffering and death. We were again reminded that we should partake of the Lord's table only if we are fit to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven.

Bro. Larry Weninger was chosen to minister the true word of Life. May Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce feel the prayerful support of all the brethren.

Bro. Art Gudeman was our visiting minister on Thanksgiving. We appreciate his visits and labor of love.

On Dec. 2, Katy Rebecca arrived

to bring joy to the home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vicki Laukhuf. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Marge. Trent Alan is the newborn son of Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvne and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein.

Mansfield Ohio . . . Lucille Groh: AND THEY CAME WITH HASTE. AND FOND MARY, AND JOSEPH AND THE BABE LYING IN A MANGER . . . AND WHEN THEY WERE COME INTO THE HOUSE, THEY SAW THE YOUNG CHILD WITH MARY HIS MOTHER, AND FELL DOWN AND WORSHIPED HIM.

The first ones to arrive after the birth of our Saviour were the shepherds. They found Him in a manger. The Wisemen came much later and found that the baby had grown to be a "young child," lodging now in a "house". The Jewish shepherds led the procession to the manger, for salvation is first to be offered to Israel. Later the Gentile wisemen arrived to also worship the new born King. The order of these events is prophetic. Although Israel was first to be offered the blessings of salvation, their rejection of the Messiah resulted in the gift of grace being extended to all men. For Israel's fall was "the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles."

Bro. Larry and Sis. Darlene Enderle are truly happy parents this Christmas. On Thanksgiving Day the Lord gave them a precious gift, that of a little daughter, Kimberly Sue. Kimberly also has two sweet brothers, Brant and Jason to love her.

Sis. Francis Beer is now recuperating at home after having a fall and breaking both arms; she would like to thank everyone who remembered her with cards, gifts, prayers and love which she has so appreciated. Bro. Joe Beer is also able to assemble with us again after having been ill.

Our dear beloved sister, Barbara Schneider, age 82, was called home by the Master on Dec. 4. She was born in Austria, Hungary, and lived here since 1909. Sis. Barbara was a wonderful example of a loving, humble, and meek sister in Christ. Although she never said much, her face always radiated the love of

Christ in her smile. Even in death she had that God-given smile. We extend to her two sisters, Katie Sauder and Theresa Schneider, our love and sympathy.

Rittman, Ohio . . . Marlene Dotterer: Four precious bundles from heaven arrived in the past month. A boy, Paul Joseph, was born to convert Randy and Shirley Miller. Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl (Eckert) Beery announce the addition of their son, Matthew Charles. A daughter, Shannon Carol, is welcomed by Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Joan (Miller) Indermuhle. A boy, Eldon Robert, arrived in the family of Bro. Dean and Sis. Janet (Schlatter) Hartzler. May each person provide a good example for these little ones that they might preserve our church as they grow up.

Friends. Daryl Bauman and Ivy Landis, are engaged and plan an April wedding. Daryl is the son of Bro. Herbert and Sis. Bernice. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Elizabeth are Ivy's parents. The engagement of Bro. Alpha Hartzler and Sis. Victoria Knobloch, both of Princeville, has been announced. Parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Clara Hartzler of Rittman and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elsa Hartman of Peoria. We wish these couples God's richest blessings as they plan their lives together.

"I will restore health unto thee." This is the promise God offers to those who've been ill. Medical patients were Elaine McCreary, Sis. Louise Spangler, and Bro. David Steiner (Sis. Carole). Sis. Joan Indermuhle, Sis. Marian Steiner, Sis. Mary Winkler, and Jeannette Woyat submitted to surgery. Little Cheryl Hartzler met with an accident at home, breaking her thumb. Sis. Deloris Bauman met with an accident, losing part of a finger. Debbie Howard was hospitalized following a minor auto accident.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Janet Maibach in the death of her father, John Schorle.

Sardis, Ohio . . . Joyce Indermuhle: Our hearts are saddened as our dear Bro. John Figel, Jr., met with a serious car accident on Dec. 5, 1977. His condition required immediate surgery and his condition is now stable. Let us all continue to pray that his life will be spared. We don't know why such

things happen, but we must never fail to put our complete trust in God. May this help our dear friends realize the importance of being ready to meet our maker.

Bro. Delbert Indermuhle wishes to thank all beloved brethren and friends from far and near for the prayers, visits, cards, and gifts during and since his stay in the hospital. We are all very thankful that God has given him the strength to return to work and to once again minister unto us.

May God richly bless Bro. Gary Maibach from Rittman. He brought us wonderful words of life.

In this New Year's season let us prayerfully review our past year and strengthen our covenant with God. We rejoice that with the coming new year more of our children are ready to begin Sunday School. How happy we are that the need arises to start a new class. We now have four classes with a total of seventeen students. May the Lord continue to inspire those who teach our youth.

Portland, Oregon . . . Connie Steffen: Our dear friend, Anna Reuter Miller, passed away at Oregon City, Ore., Nov. 12. She was born Dec. 20, 1897, in Tremont, Illinois. She is survived by two brothers, Bro. Martin Reuter, Oregon City, Ore., and George Reuter, Warren, Wisconsin, and one sister, Sis. Susan Zeller of Peoria, Illinois. We were happy to know she longed to meet her Lord, and she told how she felt His nearness in her hours of suffering.

We held our Sunday School elections in November. Re-elected to the primary class was Sis. Marilyn Groom, with Sis. Pearl Miller as substitute. Sis. Debbie Hodel was elected for intermediate, with Sis. Amy Lehman as substitute. Bro. Jeff Groom will continue as Bible class teacher.

New Martinsville, West Virginia . . . Minnie Weltz - Della Witschey:

At this writing we are having very cold, wintry weather with some snow and low temperatures. Schools have been closed at times. With the coal strike on, many men are out of work.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, Ohio, visited here in November for several days with the Barth families.

Many relatives from out of town attended the funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Isinghood on Nov. 12.

John Figel, Jr., of Sardis, O., was badly injured in a car wreck on Dec. 5. He underwent three operations in the local hospital. At this writing his condition is stable, and his many relatives and friends are praying for his recovery. He was going to work. Another employee of the same company was coming out of the plant, lost control of his car, and slammed into John's car, totaling it and causing severe injuries to John and himself.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wade (son Jerry and daughter Jacque) visited with friends in Bluefield, W. Va., on Thanksgiving and then went on to Durham, N.C., for a two day visit.

Miss Della Witschey remains in fairly good health and enjoys company, letters and cards. She quilted a quilt for a friend recently. This reporter visited with her, and she is looking forward to receiving the Silver Lining again.

James L. Wade of Cleveland, O., recently spent several days here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade.

Mary Ann Brothers is recovering nicely from a bone fracture in her leg.

Moving? Let us know both old and new addresses.

Bro. Waibel . . .

(Continued from page 20)

without ANY hope whatsoever . . . that God would accept us.

Now why would God accept a sinner who had sinned? We know what the commandments of God are. We know that all sin leads into death . . . that's what the Word speaks of here. So if we have sinned and we have done wrong, which we all have, as the Word of God teaches, there is none whatsoever that is good...really good. You know goodness, the goodness that God talks about, is **good**. If you talk to a chemist and give him a glass of water, unless it was pure water, he couldn't call it pure. It wouldn't take much to contaminate that water. It would have to be pure before he could say it is pure.

So, loved ones, as it is with the

heart. The Apostle Paul said, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." Romans 7:19. Paul did not want to do evil, so what was he going to do? He said, "Praise ye to God for the Lord Jesus Christ that He did the Father's will." Jesus did everything the Father required and became the perfect one. There is no other creature, no other man, no other person who came upon this earth about whom it could be said that he was a perfect one. Jesus was willing to leave His heavenly home, come into this world and bear all the iniquities and sins of the entire world upon Himself when He hung upon that cross.

No wonder (when Jesus was there in the garden praying to His Heavenly Father, and the tears and sweat drops were as blood drops flowing from His brow) He prayed, "Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt." Mark 14:36. It was not the death of the body . . . it was not the suffering of the body, but the real reason for His agony was the taking upon Himself, the Innocent One, your sins and my sins.

I don't believe, in our weakness, we can appreciate it all. We can hear the story over and over again. We heard it in Sunday School when we were children . . . we read it many times, but we cannot fully appreciate just how great and marvelous this was . . . that God would send His own Son. And God loved His Son.

We read that when He was hanging on the cross, darkness came over the whole earth. Even the Heavenly Father could not look upon the agony of His only beloved Son. Finally, the Son bowed His head and said, "It is finished." John 19:30. The veil of the temple was rent in twain, and now Jesus had come upon this earth to fulfill it all, ". . . that whosoever believeth in him (the Lord Jesus Christ) should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

This is what the apostle speaks about here: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle (in which we live) were dissolved, we have . . . an house not made with hands," (2 Cor. 5:1), that God will provide.

In First Corinthians in the 15th chapter, it tells us about the resurrection. It tells about how God provides a new body . . . a spiritual body, and that we shall dwell incorruptable in that spiritual home in the heavens above where there shall be no more night, no more sorrow, no more grief, no more tears—as the Lord had intended from the very beginning. Then Satan came and destroyed it by causing the first parents to commit sin. It is this disobedience and unfaithfulness that still condemns mankind today.

The apostle continues here: Believers come . . . have the confidence of those who believe and those who experienced a conversion . . . have a newness of life as those who were baptized into the likeness of Jesus' death and arose into a new life, a new beginning. It's through your repentance, confession, and faith in Jesus Christ that the old life becomes dead and the page is torn out of the book. God casts our sins into the Sea of Forgetfulness and doesn't hold it against us anymore. This is what God wants to do with the human being.

Another reformation: Not sewing on new patches on old cloth . . . or . . . putting new wine in old bottles. The Lord provides a **new** bottle for the new wine, and this is why we have such a precious faith.

This is what moves us to rejoice in our faith and to sing. We praise God with song because we are happy . . . we thank Him and praise Him!

There are those who cannot praise God, who are not happy and even become somewhat angry when they hear the Gospel or hear the singing of the beautiful hymns of praise and honor to God, because they are in the dark. They are separated from God, not understanding that God wants to bring them into the fold . . . not understanding the wonderful way of salvation.

"Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight.)" 2 Cor. 5:6,7. Yes, we are absent from that heavenly home while we are here in the body. We know that. But we walk by faith. We believe that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28. Some of us will have to suffer more . . . bear a heavier

cross . . . meet more problems in life; but when it is all over, God has worked it out in our lives and brought us to that good end.

The apostle says, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8. We know that we look forward to the time when our body will be laid aside and we will be with the Lord.

But, it says, ". . . we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him." 2 Cor. 5:9. When I repented, it came to me that I had gone too far. I had been too disobedient, and I had gone too far out into the world. This was the evil one speaking; it was not the Lord. Because of the Word: ". . . with God all things are possible." Matt. 19:26. The Lord can redeem to the uttermost. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow . . ." (Isaiah 1:18) through the righteousness in His Son, Jesus Christ. This righteousness He will impute unto all who come with a contrite and repentant heart.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10. We need not fear, beloved ones,
 . . . if we are humble
 . . . if we hold fast to each other
 . . . if we rejoice in each other's fellowship

. . . if we strengthen each other through the Word and Spirit, then we need not fear. God will give us sufficient grace. He will give us sufficient strength that we might overcome and rest in peace and joy in the Lord.

Because he said, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . ." 2 Cor. 5:11. We persuade men. The apostle went forth in city after city seeking to persuade men concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus. It must have been marvelous in those days. We read about many coming . . . many heard the Word and came to the Lord. Sometimes I feel that possibly our children and our friends take too many things for granted. We take for granted so many of these blessings that we have today: the privilege we had this morning to gather from near and far in this place of

worship; the privilege we have had from childhood on up to have had believing parents, to have faithful brothers and sisters around us. We take these things too much for granted.

Think of all the countless people who have never, never had such privileges. I often have to think about it. Going out into the countries of Asia and seeing the millions of people who have all sorts of worship: worshipping beasts, worshipping their ancestors—all pitiful, beloved ones. You have to think: Why? Why should this be so? Again it takes us back to the Word of God, to the very beginning, because men did not believe . . . men did not fear God . . . men did not worship God with an upright and contrite heart. God finally rejected them.

I often have to think about the heritage we give children. Now you know we all like to see that our children get along well. When we leave this earth, we usually have a will made out so that our children will share in what we have. This is the heritage; this is what the children will inherit from their parents. But there is another heritage that we receive from our parents. It wasn't in lands, property, or money, but it was this faith. It seems to me, loved ones, I have often thought of it, that when friends and children reject all these blessings—this heritage—it is just like you inherited a beautiful piece of land and inherited money with it, and then squandered it in riotous living and just threw it all away; it would be almost unredeemable.

This is the way it is with this heritage that our parents give us and that we have received from our youth up. I'm speaking now to those who have come within the sound of God's Word. What are you going to do with this heritage? Are you just going to waste it and leave it lay and do nothing? This is the question that the Lord Jesus will ask on that Great Day. He will say, "What have you done with so great a salvation?" I believe the Lord has a place for all those poor people back in India that don't know . . . that never heard. But He will certainly question you and me who have heard . . . who have known . . . who have received this wonderful heritage of the Holy Gospel; and God will ask, "What have you done with so great a sal-

vation?"

So it won't be a question of sin, it will be a question of neglect of something precious that we have received.

Then he goes on to tell us about the inescapable judgment and about the promises in Christ Jesus. For he says, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead." 2 Cor. 5:14. I believe the apostle, in another place, writes that God imputed all men under sin, even the Jews. The Jews thought that because they were descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, their racial heritage would have something to do with their salvation. They told the Lord Jesus, "We're Abraham's seed." But the Lord Jesus told them, "ALL must repent."

When Peter preached the first sermon at Pentacost—when the Lord baptized the church with the Holy Spirit—he preached that: **MEN EVERYWHERE MUST REPENT**, God imputed all men, understood ALL men have failed, Jew or Gentile, bond or free. Whatever the race or nationality, all have come under the same condemnation. This is a blessing, isn't it? Because . . . "God is no respecter of persons." Acts 10:34.

It doesn't make any difference whether our parents are rich or poor, whether they are prominent or not prominent, what race or nationality they are. If we can come with a contrite heart unto God and accept this wonderful way of salvation which the Lord imputed unto all those who would believe, then, dear ones, we are a fortunate people . . . then comes into fulfillment what God's love REALLY means unto His creation of all mankind.

Then he says, "He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack." 2 Cor. 8:15. That's the way it was, loved ones, with the ten virgins. There were five of them that had no oil in their lamps; but the other five who had sufficient, could not give any of theirs. That is the way it will be on Judgment Day. We will have to go there with our OWN oil. If we haven't got it, we will be locked out. For the bridegroom will surely come, and we must be prepared.

So may the Lord add His blessings again this morning to His wonderful Word of Life.

CHARLES WALTER
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SERMON BY BRO. JOE H. WAIBEL

(Elder of the Bay City Congregation)

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5

We have oftentimes, dear ones, read these words together, and have heard many times about how we have only an earthly tabernacle in which we do dwell. But this body, even as the apostle points out here, is even as a tent . . . something that is very temporal. We know, as we dwell in this body, that the body will someday deteriorate and fade away and the remains will be buried again in the good earth from which God in heaven created man. We read in the very beginning that God created man from the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul.

It is a wonderful thing to contemplate somewhat upon the human being. The Psalmist said, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Ps. 139:14. There is no creature upon this earth that requires as much to live and to sustain themselves, and requires as much to be happy and to live a life in this world that is commendable and good, than the human being. Of all the creatures on earth, the human being has the ability to love and to hate . . . the ability to rejoice . . . the ability to weep. When we consider the human being we have to realize that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made."

Yet we know that as we have no continuing city within us—this living soul has a longing. It contemplates that there is a way or a place where we might continue to live because life is a PRECIOUS thing. We cherish life. It would not be natural if we did not. Because we cherish life, we do everything we can to sustain this body in good health, hoping we might live and enjoy life.

But we all know that this is a temporal thing. We pass through this life—whether it be good or bad—and then we will have to ap-

pear before our Lord. It is this thing which gnaws at the heart of the human being because God made him a living soul. He made him in the likeness of God. God has a love and a desire that the human being might have a living hope within his heart, and that again he would be reunited with his God. This is God's will.

It is not God's will that anyone should perish without hope. It is not God's will that we should appear before the judgement seat of God unprepared. But because of hardness of heart, we read in the Word of God, Israel failed. Even after God so miraculously called them and brought them out (even when they were in slavery in Egypt), brought them miraculously into the promised land after they had experienced all these things, the apostle writes, why did they fail? Because of the hard heart of unbelief.

Now unbelief is not only rejecting God as the Psalmist wrote. "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Ps. 53:1. Certainly all men are not fools. The average man **believes** there is a God, but he does **not believe** unto salvation. There is another way to believe; it is to believe unto salvation, to believe God is a righteous God and that He will bring us before the judgement seat of Christ. Everyone will have to give an account of what he has done—either good or bad.

Faith, if it is a living faith, makes us tremble. The Psalmist says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10

We heard in the testimony of these dear souls who have found this way of salvation, that they had thought of this for a long time. Why? They were fearful. There was a longing in their hearts and they were not prepared to meet their Saviour. This is what we pray for. This is the judgement of God

when He touches their hearts and brings them into conviction and crushes their hearts so that they can repent.

I remember reading an old verse of poetry, probably written in the first or second century. I can't remember the words exactly, but the man prayed to God that God would break his hard heart. Have you ever thought of that? Have our friends ever thought of weeping because their hearts were broken because they feared their God? This is a broken heart that is pleasing in the sight of God—a heart that becomes fearful and is not able to go any further in crying to God out of that broken, and contrite spirit.

We read about God's righteousness at the time when Moses received the commandment from God there on Mount Sinai. How the earth trembled and the fire raged! It was a fearful sight—the Living God came to appear unto Moses. When Moses appeared from that mountain, he had to cover his face. The people could not look upon him. If even a beast had touched that mountain, it would have died. How fearful it was to come into the presence of our Living God.

The Apostle Paul writes, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:31.

I believe in these days in which we live, when there is so much going on in the world, so many entertaining features, so many things that attract the human mind—be it education or whatever it may be—that man is somewhat hardened, you might say or unconcious, of this fearful God—the God that created man and the God that can take his life, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye." I Cor. 15:52. For our life is just on a little thread; we may be here today and gone tomorrow. It is a fearful thing, beloved ones, to go out of

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