

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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### A Condensed Outline of THE LIFE OF SAMUEL H. FROELICH

In the early 1840's, the young congregations founded by Samuel Heinrich Froehlich (\*the fellowship title "Brother" is generally omitted for the sake of brevity) were assailed by dissension from within, in addition to the persecution they were constantly suffering from without. One leader gathered to himself those who fell away from sound teaching and wished to associate with groups outside the membership who had not a clear grasp of the baptismal truth and were not convinced that baptism was necessary. Another faction held that the promises of the covenant in baptism were wholly one-sided, that God gave promises but that no vow of obedience was required on man's part. The dissidence had not only caused general laxity in church discipline, but had threatened the very life of the "new" church.

These false teachings attacked the very root of the faith. It was therefore necessary that strong and incisive teaching from the Word of God be brought forth to overcome such fatal opposition. These sermons used the sword of the Word in the struggle to a successful end so that the truth was maintained. Many of the apostates came back upon their painful disenchantment, while others remained excommunicated.

Froehlich's activities fell in the time when freedom of faith and conscience was dawning upon the nations of nominal christendom (Revelations 3:8).

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

Froehlich believed this to be the "then" in the Saviour's parable: "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins which . . . went forth to meet the bridegroom." (Matthew 25:1, ff) The candlestick was again being set in its place on the continent of Europe where the light had flickered out for the descendants of those who in by-gone centuries had been true witnesses.

Froehlich knew whereof he spoke concerning the established state church of which he had been a part and, by the grace of God, saw the light of the truth. He appeared at a time when so-called christendom had fallen into degeneracy and the State Protestant and Catholic Churches dominated the governments of Europe, to teach the true Gospel of Jesus Christ as it had been taught by the apostles. He had been planted, so to speak, in the very soil of the Protestant State Church, and although his conversion did occur while he was still therein, this church had not brought it about; in other words, though he was no longer of the Protestant State Church, he found himself still in it. Thus it became the field of his missionary effort. In this labor, the mission of bringing the Gospel into the field of the great false churches of false Christianity, which, since the beginning of the fourth century had been elevated to the position of state religion, he was a pioneer.

#### EARLY LIFE AND CONVERSION

Samuel Heinrich Froehlich was the son of a sexton, descended from a Huguenot (French Protestants of the 16th and 17th centuries) family, by the name of DeJoyeaux,

a French word meaning "the joyful", who lived in France. When Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes under which the Huguenots were permitted to live in France, and after St. Bartholomew's Night (August 24, 1572) when many thousands of Protestants were massacred, the remaining families fled in all directions. The DeJoyeau family sought refuge in Switzerland where the name was later translated into "Froehlich" (joyful).

In a letter to the English Continental Society of London (England), written in November, 1831 (after his expulsion from the state church), making application for an assignment as an itinerant preacher in the Rhine Country, Froehlich gave a detailed account of his awakening and conversion. It is believed that inasmuch as what Froehlich received from the Lord was by revelation, this account, besides being helpful to souls among us seeking God, who feel heavily the burden of their sins and their separation from Him, may enable souls outside the activities of our congregations, who are entirely unfamiliar with the teaching and to whom this would be a new message, to understand the fullest extent what conversion by reconciliation and regeneration means.

Further, it is hoped that this account may set aright those who confess having gone through conversion, as to any benefit to be expected from the so-called theological education, to better prepare them to work for the Lord. It is also hoped that it may make clear that one must be accepted by Christ as well as to accept Him, and that there is no such acceptance by Him without conversion and baptism.

In the letter mentioned above, Froehlich wrote, in part:

"As to my outward circumstances, I was born July 4, 1803, in Brugg, a small municipal city of the Swiss Canton of Aargau. From my youth, the idea of devoting myself to the ministry was made so much a matter of course by my parents that I never considered anything else, although I did not in the slightest degree feel the great importance and responsibility of the vocation, and still less did I realize what was required to fulfill the duties of the office which preaches reconciliation. I was to learn it much more in the way of a trade than as a profession.

"Accordingly, I was instructed in the necessary rudiments for this purpose in the school of my native city up to my 17th year, and was advanced to the extent that upon my removal to Zurich on New Year's Day, 1820, I was not only at once taken into the Collegium Humanitatis, but also, contrary to custom, after a year's course, promoted to the Gymnasium Carolinum.

"According to the practice there, in the following years I progressed class by class and pursued my studies mechanically, without spirit or life; indeed, without any real interest—however, not without absorbing the principles of theology and rationalism from Dr. Schult-hess and others, although quite unnoticed and unconscious thereof. When I came home on vacation with my head full of fancies, I caused my God-fearing mother, who is now dead, many a fear and even paraded with bare-faced fluency the glories of the new teaching that there was no devil, no hell, etc.

"In the four years of my stay at Zurich, I advanced thus far that I should enter the actual class of theology, but I preferred to go to Basel to study theology in the newly organized university under the still famous name of DeWette, and others. That was in the latter part of the year 1823.

"In the meantime the might of SIN and the power of DEATH had grown up hand in hand with UN-BELIEF, since it cannot fail that where the head of the old serpent rises, its members also rise and, of necessity, stir. I became enwrapped and entangled in such a horror of sin that I shudder now when I

think of it, and the saddest of all was that, in accordance with my very principles, I could pass over it so lightly and so easily quiet and deceive myself, that I could even formally say to myself, "That which I am doing is not sin."

"O woe unto me, if God had been a man or had dealt with me as a man! He would have shattered me as a potter's vessel. Nevertheless, at one time during this period I preached on Psalm 51:10, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God . . .,' from which I now comprehend what all the so-called beautiful sermons of the Rationalists amount to. Fortunately, this was my first and last sermon in this state of ignorance.

"Soon after, I went to Basel. However, the hour of my enlightenment and release from the dominion of darkness had not yet come. Even deeper was I destined to fall into the depths of Satan. For fully another year and a half I lived without God and without the knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ and of myself. What Schult-hess began in Zurich was completed by DeWette in Basel. I became utterly carried away by the idealism with which he treated the scriptures. I thought this was the true way and was sorry only that I did not have the wings to follow him in his flight. I honored him almost as a god. I felt no need of the LIVING GOD and had no thought of conversion from my sins.

"During my stay in Zurich I also entirely neglected prayer, even the mechanical prayer learned from childhood seemed ridiculous. In Basel, 'Witschel's Morning and Evening Sacrifice' appealed to my taste, not so much for the sake of prayer, but because it appealed to my idealism, and—with all my sins—I wished to be pious. For that purpose those were the right 'sacrifices' that cost nothing. My benighted spirit had by way of Basel the opportunity to cultivate and develop itself more. There were among the students some who belonged to the Community of Brethren. These were distasteful to me from their very name, without knowing any other cause. It was a blind zeal like that of Saul. I became a scoffer, a slanderer, and a blasphemer.

"On my transfer to Basel, I was commended by the State Rector of my native city to the courtesy of one of his friends in Basel, Pastor

P. (Froehlich never divulges the identity of Pastor P. in any of his writings.) He received me in a very friendly manner and introduced me into a society of long standing composed of young students who met every Thursday evening to read and discuss the Greek New Testament. Most of these students were inclined toward the Community of Brethren. For this very reason I felt uncomfortable among them and in everything became an opponent. When they finally decided to begin and close the hour with song and prayer, I became angry and stayed away, and also made others desert them so that gradually the class was almost disbanded, until after my conversion when it was again brought to renewed life and blessing.

"Nevertheless, the True God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ was not alone in His exceeding patience and longsuffering in bearing with me in this time of my blindness, for this beloved Pastor P. was tireless in his endurance with me. As often as I visited with him (which was not very frequently), he greeted me with the question, 'Well, how are things going in the most important matter of all?' what he meant by this and what the most important matter of all was, I could not imagine. Each time I became embarrassed and still did not wish to let him notice it.

"Once, however, when he asked me again as to the most important matter of all, I could not help but ask him the counter-question—what he meant by it. The esteemed pastor almost laughed at the question, but he composed himself,

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grasped the opportunity, and began to preach to me of repentance to God, knowledge of one's self, faith in Christ, etc. But he preached to deaf ears. I understood not a word of all he said. His sermon seemed in part foolish to me, in part vexatious.

"Yet I was honest enough to write down at home in my diary the main thought which stayed with me, and as it still stands there under the date April 6, 1824, namely: 'Through the knowledge of God, man comes to the knowledge of self; that is the truth which Christ taught us and to which we arrive only through repentance.' But that was all; and besides, I do not know whether I wrote it correctly or not, for the sinner does not attain to self-knowledge through knowledge of God, but much more the reverse: 'Through the knowledge of self, one comes to the knowledge of God,' (John 16:8):

'And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.'

"From that day on, however, a whole year passed before I felt the slightest trace of the knowledge of self, and from the above it is clear that if the grace of God wished to make something of me to His glory, it certainly had in me the greatest of all sinners, a fit object in whom to manifest, even in me, the greatest riches of the patience and pity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that I in turn should have pity toward my brethren in the flesh who still wander in error along the course of this world and after the prince of darkness. Finally, it pleased God well to awaken me from the sleep of death. He passed by me and saw me lying in my blood. He said to me as I thus lay in my blood, 'Thou shalt live!' (Ezekial 16:6).

"It was in the month of April, 1825, when I was spending my Easter vacation in Brugg. All the circumstances are as fresh in my mind today as if they had happened yesterday. I cannot, however, recall that there were many previous preparations or any special circumstances to work towards it. A very soft voice, which was neither terrifying nor depressing, but nevertheless very convincing and penetrating, spoke in the depth of my soul, 'It cannot remain thus with thee. Thou must change!' And at the same time before the hidden

God and with uplifted hands I solemnly gave a vow of fidelity that from now on it must be different with me."

This article represents Part I of the continuing series "A Condensed Outline of the Life of Samuel H. Froehlich".

NOTE: A library of writings and meditations of S. H. Froehlich will be available for purchase in the near future. Watch for information in future issues of the Silver Lining.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

The New Year has begun and the success or failure of the last year's efforts are under scrutiny by this world's business people, and because the April 15 deadline is approaching and since the world is so financially and materially oriented, many people are making their finances and take the best advantage of income tax breaks; at the same time, they are surveying business procedures and inventory to determine where they can better cut costs and wasted time to improve next year's returns.

If it is so important to inventory and examine our efforts to succeed upon the earth, then would not the same spiritual examination be necessary to make sure we were succeeding to Heaven? In light of the fact that some of the once saved virgins let their oil (Holy Spirit) run out, and that Paul told Timothy: "in the last days men shall have a form of godliness, but deny the power (Holy Spirit) and Grace) thereof," we should take inventory that our spiritual life does not fall into that category. Therefore, the encouraging admonitions are written: "Watch and pray; first cast out the beam from your own eye; examine yourself to see if you are in the faith; endeavor to emphasize the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, faith and the love of God and leave not the other undone; cast aside the weights that so easily beset us; seek those things (spiritual) which are above; Be fervent in the spirit serving the Lord; humble yourself in the sight of God, for He giveth grace (which saves us) to the humble."

The children's home has been in operation for a year now and we also have to examine our oper-

ation. We have made mistakes but have learned. We are young but have had many judgments to make and the Lord has been faithful to guide and correct us. We have been weary but also refreshed, disappointed but also encouraged. And by God's grace are still being blessed and protected and provided for. We really appreciate Him and the many things we have learned and experienced by Him since our doors have been opened. Thank you to everyone who supports and prays for us. God bless all our dear brethren in the world!

Since Christmas we have welcomed another new resident. She is 16-year-old Debbie Zuerec. This brings our family total to nine. We thank God for each new arrival.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Now are with us the silent days of inward living—those times that can so profitably be spent in meditative peace. While without the fields are white with snowy silences, within there is welcome warmth of hearth and home. Now, if ever, should our summer dreams come true, while our hands fulfill long delayed aspirations. And now while we yet must tread a few more wintry miles until the earth awakens to Spring, our faith can renew its hold on God and Truth. Indeed the silent winter can be the soul's time of refreshing.

A cloud of sadness prevails at the Home because of the passing of our Dwight. Though we will miss his cheerful presence among us, yet we recognize that our Heavenly Father knows best. Dwight Allen Schmeckpeper, 16, was the son of Walter L. and Lavina Knapp Schmeckpeper of Steger, Illinois. Surviving beside his parents are one brother, Jeff, at home; three sisters, Mrs. Nancy Bunn of Lansing, and Marlene and Marsha, both at home; and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Schmeckpeper, also of Steger.

Humble gratitude is felt by all of us at the Home for the many kindnesses and gifts enjoyed here all during the Holiday Season. May each kindness bring a blessing to the giver as well.

"This day is mine . . . I only hope that I can fill each golden hour . . . with deeds that help to



cheer some lonely heart . . . I trust that somehow I may have the power to comfort souls who may be tired and sad . . . to make some fellow toiler glad . . . to help to bear a fellow traveller's load . . . along life's dusty, long and well-worn road . . . this day is mine."

#### Phoenix, Arizona . . . Julie Hoerr:

Many of our Phoenix congregation journeyed to Tucson on Dec. 18 to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Phoenix) and Sis. Carolyn Zeltwanger (Tucson) in a beautiful ceremony performed by Deacon Bro. Noah Herman. Bro. Albert Zeltwanger (Latty), and Bro. John and Betty Kaufman are their parents. The happy couple will reside in Tucson. We pray God's rich blessing on them.

In our yearly business meeting, Bro. Ed Zollinger was elected trustee, and Bro. Leon Baumgartner was elected to the duties of usher.

We are looking forward to the provings and baptisms of Joy Yackley (Alto), Jeff Leman, and Herbie Knochel on Jan. 14 and 15.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Alice (Glen) Baumgartner in the passing of her mother.

Our friend, Ella (Edward) Herman, was hospitalized for hip surgery. We are grateful to report that the Lord has blessed her with a satisfactory recovery. Your prayers for Bro. Ernest DeMille will be appreciated, as will your prayers for Sis. Martha in her labor of love of caring for him. We're feeling better; it's nice to see him and Sis. Ada in church. Sis. Lois Elsasser is hospitalized for studies and would appreciate your prayers. How wonderful it is to walk With Jesus every day,  
Letting Him choose the path  
And indicate the way—  
And when the walk is ended  
To hear Him say,  
"Dear child you know  
I promised to go with you  
All the way."

**Tucson, Arizona . . . Caroline Kaufman:** The Lord richly blessed us with visits from Bros. John Bahler, Ben Maibach, and Carl Kensinger. All of us enjoyed visiting with them as well as enjoying their sermons. Our thoughts and prayers of love and support are with our new Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and his wife, Sis. Barbara. May the Lord be with them

as they lead our congregations.

We are pleased to note that Jay Bertsch is recovering satisfactorily. We are looking forward to him in church again.

We also want to thank Bro. Clarence Yackley for sharing the word of God with us.

What God has joined together; let no man put asunder.

With these words, Sis. Caroline Zeltwanger became the bride of Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Phoenix, Az.). Parents of the couple are Bro. Al Zeltwanger (Latty, Ohio), and Bro. John Kaufman (Phoenix, Az.). The sun shining brightly outside added special warmth to the many prayers of God's blessing on the marriage.

**Rockville, Connecticut . . . Carlton J. Lanz:** The year 1977 is now history. It has gone the way of others throughout the centuries past. Time is fleeting so swiftly. A common question we often ask is, "Where has the time gone?" Some have pleasant memories and others the opposite. Many people make new resolutions each year hoping for better things to come, and never keep them. It is a little different story with the Christian; he takes inventory of his past and hopes, with effort, to improve his standing with his Maker. This lifts his hopes higher.

Since Christmas has been celebrated so recently throughout the nation and world, we would briefly mention here that our Sunday School children, from the Bible Class to the smallest classes, recited verses and blended their voices in singing carols and hymns in reverence to the Saviour, Jesus Christ's, name. Through these beautiful programs these youthful children were taught to realize the purpose of His coming here to earth.

Since there was an absence of Silver Lining being printed, many readers expressed their disappointment, hoping for its return. When they were informed that it is again, after much effort, being printed and will continue, they expressed their gratitude and were pleased. I am told that many of our readers read it from cover to cover. This is the beginning of my seventeenth year of reporting for the S.L. in Rockville. (Editor's note: Thanks for being so faithful, Carlton.)

Our annual business meeting

was held on the second Sunday in January. Several brothers have the same offices they previously held. One of the main topics on the agenda was a sizeable sum proposed to be given to our hospital toward a new wing that the Rockville General Hospital wants to add to its present structure. We are supporting the project.

**Fort Lauderdale, Florida . . . Caroline Akel:** It is a New Year, and throughout the country many people have given much thought to New Year's resolutions—considering what changes they plan to make in their own lives. Many of these good intentions last only a short time—men are often too quick in forsaking the promises they have made to themselves.

Christians have a wealth of Heavenly promises to draw from throughout the entire year. Not our own planning but God's guidance, leads us in a better life. In this New Year, rather than creating a whole list of promises to ourselves, each Christian should resolve to give up more of his own will and self-direction so that we may lean more completely upon God's promises and guidance. He will never fail us but will fulfill every promise He has made to us.

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." Peter 1:3 & 4.

We enjoyed a blessed evening of fellowship while the Sunday School presented its Christmas program. The younger children recited their pieces; the older Sunday School group read scripture verses foretelling the birth of our Savior followed by the New Testament verses showing fulfillment of the prophecies; then the young members sang several Christmas songs. This was followed with singing by the entire congregation.

Winter is a very encouraging time of year for members of the Florida churches as we meet and greet the many brethren who visit from the northern states. Some we look forward to meeting each year; others visit only occasionally, but

each is welcomed.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who share God's Word with us. Among them were Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, Rockville; Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington.

**Sarasota, Florida . . . Kathryn Schroeder:**

Trumpets of Morning

J. D. Freeman

The year is beginning, shining and new,

Yet to be lived in, God made it for you,

You are the child of His secret acclaim

The world as it spins is inscribed with your name;

Time was devised for your way-faring.

The trumpets of morning now are declaring

This is your moment—only believe it,

Whatever your heart's hope, you can achieve it.

Sleeper, awake. The year is beginning,

Yourself and the world are yours for the winning.

Ecclesiastes 3:11, 14

"He hath made everything beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

"I know that, whatever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."

Our congregation is filled with joy that Bro. Phil Sauder, Cissna Park, is with us, jointly occupying the pulpit for the winter months.

We thank our visiting ministers for their sermons of guidance: Bros. Joseph Zimmerman, Morton; Eugene Fetter, Toledo; and Edwin Bahler, Remington.

**Bloomington - Normal, Illinois . . . Holly Stahl -- Jean O'Shea:** We enjoyed hearing the old, familiar but inspiring, story of Jesus' humble birth at our annual Christmas program held Dec. 11. Many from our congregation sang Christmas carols to the residents of several area rest homes on Saturday eve, Dec. 17. The small children who attended seemed to bring a special

joy and delight to the elderly people. So often those in nursing homes express their interest in the youngsters who visit the homes. Perhaps in them the elderly folks can almost catch a glimpse of Jesus Himself. In their innocence the children can uplift the lonely heart and even renew the spirit of one who waits in hope and faith for the reunion with his Lord.

We were thankful for God's word which Bro. Byron Stoller of Gridley shared with us on Christmas Day.

It was a real joy to be able to sit in the stillness of our church on New Year's Eve and reflect upon the multitude of miracles and blessings that God has imparted unto us during 1977. What better thing could we do to end another year than to count our blessings and just praise Him for His grace and mercy? It is truly overwhelming and humbling when we stop and reflect on God's goodness and acts of love towards us. May we strive to better ourselves as Christians and walk as children who are pleasing in His sight.

"O, Savior might I thus as Thee,  
Like-minded, pure, and humble be!  
With Thee, O Lord, I'll walk aright,  
A child and servant in Thy light!"

**Bradford, Illinois . . . Jane Le-man:** On Christmas Day we enjoyed two visiting ministers: Bros. Don Manz (Junction) and Walter Herrman (Princeville).

Bro. Carl Hancher had hip surgery at Mayo's and is now home recuperating.

Sis. Julia Ehnle, mother of our ministering Bro. Roy, is grateful to all who remembered her at Christmas.

**Chicago, Illinois . . . Kathy Schlatter:** Albert Einstein, who is most famous for the theory of relativity, is said to have enjoyed a joke, and often poked fun at the Nazi professors, 100 of whom in a book had condemned his theory. "Were I wrong," he said, "one professor would have been quite enough."

Similarly, we may remember the words of Gamaliel in Acts 5, advising the council about the work of the apostles: "And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this council or this work be of men, it will come

to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God." Acts 5:38, 39. When the Spirit of God is revealed, as in the Christ and in His Word, millions upon millions cannot deny or withstand the power thereof. Were it of Satan, one person would be enough.

Though Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schreny have both been hospitalized, they are now recovering. A group from our church sang Christmas songs at their home and then went to Sis. Margaret Fisher's as well. Caroling is a special spiritually uplifting privilege of the season. The many children who were with us gave us a new perspective once again, as they did in the Sunday School program. Even the smallest strive to learn their pieces; and the oldest try to do their best. May we do as well with our own responsibilities.

Sis. Verna Stedman has been able to worship with us again, for which we are very thankful. She and Morris wish to express their deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, and support they received from many loved ones.

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalms 34:19  
Bro. Dale Eisenmann reminded us yesterday of the lives of Job and of Paul and the parallels between them. Both men were respected in their society. For even their afflictions and thorns, they praised the Lord that they might not be exalted in pride, but rather be found faithful at His deliverance.

**Cissna Park, Illinois . . . Marilyn Knapp - Judy Bauer:** As we start the New Year may God grant us the grace to spend more of our hours, not for our selfish interests, but in praying and reading God's word. We must surely thank and praise God for His care and protection in the past year.

Our Sunday school program was held Dec. 21 in the evening. It was a blessed evening to hear the children express in word and song the Christmas story.

On Christmas Day Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse) was with us and proclaimed God's word. Bro. Robert Beebe (Bremen) was with us on Wednesday evening. On Sunday Bros. Joe Kaisner and Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) brought us the

message and Bro. Zimmerman also helped read the memorandum. We thank them for their services.

We are saddened by the death of Bro. Raymond Hari who passed away Dec. 22 at the age of 62. Services were held Monday with Bro. Ed Alt officiating and Bro. Roy Wieland (Bay City) added a message. Burial was at the church cemetery. Survivors include: his wife, Sis. Emily; three sons, Roger and Bro. Daryle of Cissna Park, and Earl of Richton Park; his parents, Bro. and Sis. Albert Hari of Peoria; two brothers and four sisters. We extend our sympathy to this dear family. His family wishes to thank all for their expressions of sympathy.

Sis. Jan (Daryle) Hari has been transferred to the hospital in Valparaiso, Ind. Sis. Laura (Henry) Hodel is a hospital patient and is scheduled for surgery. Bro. Harry Knapp was in the hospital for tests and will be returning for surgery. Melinda Knapp, daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp, had dental surgery and was an over night patient at the hospital.

We are happy to have another sister added to the fold. Sis. Clara Kaufman has given her testimony and was baptized on Wednesday evening. She is 81 years old and we are glad she can live for the Lord in her last years of life.

Our annual meeting was held Jan. 4. Bro. Gerry Farney was elected trustee and Sis. Joan Waldbuser, Sunday School teacher.

Yearly report for 1977. Weddings - 1, Deaths 6, Baptisms - 10. We now have 292 members.

**Congerville, Illinois . . . Judy Wettstein - Gay Knapp:**

A Thought for the New Year  
Give us through the coming year  
Quietness of mind,  
Teach us to be patient  
And always to be kind;  
Give us reassurance  
When everything goes wrong,  
So our faith remains unflinching  
And our hope and courage strong;  
And show us that in quietness  
We can feel your presence near,  
Filling us with joy and peace  
Throughout the coming year.

All of us enjoyed hearing the Christmas story Dec. 14. Our program was titled "In Flesh Now Appearing." When we think about

how He came into this world in such a humble way, and about all He has done for us, we truly realize Christ is the greatest gift.

"Where two join hand and heart, We find a threefold cord, not lightly rent apart." Sis. Mardell Crusy (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie) and Glen Ott (Jake and Sis. Margaret) were united in bonds of holy matrimony on Dec. 11 by Elder Bro. LeRoy Huber. May the Lord Bless and be with them in their new home.

Even the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner that repents and we all rejoice with Sis. Doris as her husband, Bob Williamson, has turned his heart unto the Lord. Truly we can say the waters are troubled. We pray that the Lord will give grace to him and that he may find true peace with his God.

Those hospitalized this month are Bob Williamson, Bro. Richard Hasty, and Jamie Funk (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley). May God restore them with reasonable health.

Summary for 1977: 4 births, 3 deaths, 6 baptisms, 4 weddings, 2 new families.

**Elgin, Illinois . . . Mary Moser:**

"I am going to a city, where roses never fade." Funeral services were held for Sis. Martha Hugh on Jan. 5. We have faith to believe she is home with God and that her earthly cares are ended.

Fred Schifferer was taken unexpectedly from this life on Dec. 22. We extend our sympathy to his wife Louise and their family.

We are thankful for the teachings of ministering Bro. Perry Zimmerman of Forrest, Bro. Charles Sauder of Tremont and Bro. Earl Banwart of West Bend, Iowa.

Bro. Chuck Kellenberger and Sis. Debbie Steffen were united in holy matrimony on Jan. 8. May God's love and blessings be with them. Ministering Bro. Marvin Schmidgall from Eureka, and Bro. Willis Wiegand from Goodfield were here for the wedding.

This past year our Elgin congregation was blessed with 42 visiting ministers. 7 precious souls were added to the fold and 7 more are repenting. There were 7 deaths in our church this past year.

"What does the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8.

**Eureka, Illinois . . . Cathryn Wettstein - Salome Schumacher:**

As we are beginning a new year again may we all be striving to do a little better in serving our Lord and Maker as we see and realize how everything is being fulfilled as the Bible predicts. We don't know how long any of us will be living as we think of the beautiful song—"We Are Going Down the Valley One By One."

We were privileged to have one visitor. It was Bro. John Wagler from Huntsville, Alabama.

Birth—A son, Matthew Michael, to Bro. and Sis. Mike and Kari Schmidgall, born Dec. 21. He has a brother to entertain him. Our oldest resident in the "Home", Bro. Andrew Schumacher, age 94, passed away Dec. 21. His wife, Sis. Emma, survives, along with several sons and daughters.

On Dec. 29 another pilgrim went "Home". She was Sis. Olivia Bittner, age 90. She was also a resident of the "Home" and was the last one of her family. Bro. Leroy Huber had her funeral service.

Sis. Minnie Leman is a medical patient in Eureka Hospital. Bro. Art and Sis. Jane Anliker, Children of Bro. Walter and Sis. Wilhelmina Anliker, were in the hospital a few days.

Our newest residents in the "Home" are Sis. Elizabeth Hodel, Eureka; Charles and Barbara Bauer, Cissna Park; and Sis. Lena Aberle. Tremont.

Sis. Margaret Schumacher wishes to thank each and every one who thought of her through prayer, gifts, cards, and money which she received during her recent illness and at Christmas time. May God bless each one. She is feeling much better again.

Wedding—Joyce Rocke and Bruce Huber were married Jan 1. She is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Norman and Doris Rocke. He is the son of Bro. and Sis. Reuben Huber of Fairbury. They will be living in Switzerland for a short time.

Summary of 1977 is— 10 deaths, 2 weddings, 19 baptisms, 12 converts who are awaiting baptism, 12 births (7 boys and 5 girls).

I have a special message from the children and grandchildren of Bro. Alph and Sis. Lena Leman.

Recently our dear parents were suddenly taken from this life. It is hard to express our feelings of



thanks to all who comforted us with cards, memorial gifts, food, deeds and many encouraging words. We appreciated every thought and prayer.

A special, special thank you to all who taped Dad a sermon. He built a miniature model of our Eureka church which you can see at the Home For The Aged, placed there as a remembrance to those he loved and to those who loved him. With tears of thankfulness he expressed these feelings to his daughter the day they were both taken from us.

We all the more realize that God gives and takes in His own time and way, and man can say nothing.

**Fairbury, Illinois . . . Joyce Huber:** We praise the Lord. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Stoller have turned to the Lord in repentance.

Sis. Nancy Broquard, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Donald Broquard, is engaged to Bro. Wayne Zimmerman, son of Elder Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman.

Susan Fehr, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Fehr, gave her testimony of her faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and was added to the fold.

Starting the New Year, Bruce Huber, son of Bro. and Sis. Reuben Huber, and Joyce Rocke were married New Year's Day and began a new life together. The newlyweds will be at home in LeLocle, Switzerland.

We enjoyed having visiting ministers, Bros. Earl Banwart and Ed Kloter.

Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln Roth are parents of twin girls, Erica Dianne and Kathryn Elizabeth. The twins have a sister, Wendy. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Roth.

Bro. Elmer Aberle, 56, passed away. His wife, Sis. Shirley, survives. Also surviving are: his mother, Sis. Lydia Aberle at the Eureka Home; 2 daughters, Sharon Hobart and Janeen Snearly; 3 sons, Merle, Jacob, and Dwane; 5 sisters, Elizabeth Culkin, Sis. Ann Maurer, Sis. Rose Huette, Lois Aberle, and Sis. Leota Byrd; 4 brothers, Bro. William, Reuben, Harold, and Ezra; and 10 grandchildren.

Bro. George Saathoff, 88, passed away after a brief illness. He married Rachel Steidinger in 1919 and she survives. Also surviving are: 4 daughters, Velda Swigart, Connie Haag, Mary Streitmatter, and

Barbara Hurt; a son, Bro. George; 21 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Mary Streib lived a long and healthy life, and passed away at age 94. Her husband Henry passed away in 1965. Surviving are: a daughter, Sis. Leona Ricketts; a son, Bro. William; a brother, Edward; 7 grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren.

We are sorry that Sis. Ella Scharlach, Sis. Ida Bahler, Rhonda Hartman, and Bro. Dave Kaisner were hospitalized.

In the year if 1977 we have had 11 baptisms, 9 additional testimonies of those who were added to the fold, 1 wedding in church and 2 weddings at the Fellowship Hall, 12 babies born, and 9 funerals.

Thank you note of the family of Sisters Anna Huette, Esther Kaeb and Clara Neukomm: A very special thank you to all the friends and relatives who helped and shared in our time of sorrow.

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

There is joy in two homes with the arrival of two little boys—Kevin James joins Alan, Amy, Brian, Julie, and Sara in Bro. Nick and Sis. Jean Rickett's home. Bro. Meredith and Sis. Leona Ricketts are Grandparents. Ron and Sis. Linda Kinder, Tory and Aaron, welcome Seth Ronald. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Wilma Bachtold.

Bro. Mark Steffen (Bro. Dave and Sis. Emma Lu, Gridley) and Sis. Kanda Knapp (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Laura) are living in Fairbury since their wedding. Here to share the blessings of their wedding day, and also to share the blessings of God's Word with all of us, were Elder Bros. Ed Ringger (Gridley) and Leroy Huber (Eureka). Also present were ministering Bros. Harold Schmidtgall (Gridley) and Willis Wiegand (Goodfield).

Our friends Lori Rieger (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Mary Ann) and Warren Cox have announced their engagement, with plans for a May wedding. Scott Zimmerman (Maurice and Joy) and Sheryl Westforth plan to be married Apr. 1.

We appreciate the willingness of God's servants to explain the scriptures to us as the Holy Spirit directs them whether they be visitors or "home" ministers. Those visiting us recently were Bros. Merrill

Laukhuf (Latty), Art Bahler (Fairbury), and on Christmas Day, Bro. Bill Kupferschmid (Bloomington) and Marle Kaisner (Fairbury).

As the old year has passed and a new one began, we find that life goes on the same with blessings and joys and also sickness and sorrow among our loved ones.

Sis. Hulda (Kilgus) Honegger was relieved of all sickness and pain when she could pass from time to eternity. Survivors include her husband, Bro. Frank, and their children, James Joan Glendenning and Velma Koehl, along with several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sis. Leona Ricketts is able to assemble with us again and wishes to sincerely thank all those who remembered her during her recent hospital stays. Other hospital patients were Bro. Ray Wenger, Sis. Ida Kaisner, Renee (Edward) Wenger, Sis. Emma Ifft, Sis. Nettie Kupferschmid, and Helen Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam). Sis. Wilma Bachtold slipped on the ice and fractured a bone in her wrist.

Connie Steffen (Ray and Sis. Doris) and Dawn and Diane Koehl (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita) have felt the need to repent and live for the Lord. We rejoice with them as they begin the New Year in their new walk of life.

**Goodfield, Illinois . . . Elna Grimm - Vtrna Hartter:**

I turned an ancient poet's book  
And found upon the page,  
"Stone walls do not a prison make  
Or iron bars a cage."

Yes, that is true, and something more,

You will find where'er you roam  
That marble floors and gilded walls  
Can never make a home.

But everywhere that love abides,  
And friendship is a guest

Is surely home, and home sweet home,

For there the soul can rest.

This we wish for Bro. and Sis. Brian and Jacki Huber—that they will have a home where love abides, and where friendship is a guest. Sister Jacki Grimm (Bro. and Sis. Bob and Elna, Goodfield) was married to Brother Brian Huber (Bro. and Sis. Wayne and Carol, Francesville) on Dec. 11th.

Our visiting ministers were

Bros. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville; Loren Stoller, Princeville; Roy Grimm, Taylor; and Ezra Feller Cissna Park.

Dwight Schmeckpeper, 16 year old son of Walter and Lavina Schmeckpeper, Steger, IL, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 28th at the Morton Home for the Handicapped. His funeral was at the Otto and Argo Funeral Home in Eureka on Saturday, Dec. 31st. Bro. Bob Grimm, Goodfield, had the services.

We're looking forward to hearing the testimonies of 3 dear friends, Mark Hinrichsen (son of Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene) and Bruce and Mary Knapp on Saturday, Jan. 14th.

**Gridley, IL, Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein:** "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die."

We were saddened by the sudden death of our dear friend, Ruth Burgess, 62. She passed away Dec. 27th. Our deep sympathy is extended to her husband, Edward, her sons, Bro. Kenneth and James, her daughter, Mrs. Melba Hohulin and her three brothers, two sisters and six grandchildren who survive.

The special joys of parenthood are being realized in the homes of those who have been blessed with new babies. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Annette Kaupp are the parents of their second son, Norman Lyle, who was born Dec. 22. Grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Kaupp of Gridley and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Sutter of Normal.

Eric Stephen Schilf was born Jan. 7 and is the first son of his happy parents, Bro. Enid and Sis. Lila Schlipf. Eric has two sisters, Shelley and Sheila. Grandparents are Bro. Emil and Sis. Louise Schlipf and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Hany, all of Gridley.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller are the parents of their first child, Rachel Jean. She was born Jan. 7. Rachel's grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller of Gridley and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Grimm of Taylor, Miss.

Our hospital patients were: Bro. Willis Gramm, Bro. Emil Schlipf and Bro. Rudy Miller.

On Christmas Day we appreciated the visits of ministering brothers

Tom Leman of Elgin, IL., and Lynn Klopfenstein of Landersville, Ala.

**Morton, Illinois . . . Lorna Schrock - Judy Springer:** We welcome three new members into our beloved fellowship. The second week-end in December, Phil Witzig (Sis. Dorothy and Bro. Bert) and Ben Pflederer (Sis. Elie and Bro. Bob) gave their testimonies and were baptized. Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago assisted our elder, Bro. Joe Braker. Also with us for the week-end was Bro. Maurice Frank, Leo, Indiana.

On Wed. eve, Jan. 4, Lena Behrends Aberle was proved and baptized. She is the widow of the late Ed Aberle.

Our prayers for these dear souls is for the Lord's continued guidance and grace.

Other visiting ministers for the month were: Bros. Walt Anliker, Eureka; Ron Heininger, Bloomington; and Joe Aberle, Sabetha.

Our annual Sunday School Christmas Program was held Sunday evening, Dec. 11. It was heartwarming to see and hear these youngsters and teenagers tell, through song and verse, the old story of Christ's humble coming into the world. The following Sunday the entire church divided into several groups to go Christmas caroling to our shut-ins and several area nursing homes. A great blessing was derived by all.

Funeral services for Sis. Emma Dec. 14. She was a daughter of Sam and Mary Musselman Kaufman. Survivors include: one brother, Bro. Dan Kaufman; and four sisters, Sis. Elizabeth, Miss Ida, Sis. Marie (Chris) Hauter, and Bena (Hollis) Roby, all of Morton.

On Dec. 21, John Frank, Jr., 66, passed away. He was the son of John and Ann Waldbeser Frank, Sr. His wife, the former Esther Kaufman, survives along with two sons and two daughters.

Bro. William B. Hauter, 84, also left this life in the old year. He was the son of Benjamin and Louise Voeltel Hauter and was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Laura Miles Hauter. One son, Bro. Ed and one daughter, Miss Margaret, survive; also three sisters, Sis. Ida Bauman, Sis. Ann Hauter, and Sis. LaVerne (Bro. Alvin) Heininger; and two brothers, Arthur and Ben, all of Morton.

Our sincere sympathy is extend-

ed to the families of these loved ones knowing that death brings pain and sorrow to those left behind.

Four new babies brought happiness to their homes in December. Sis. Lynn and John Harper are the parents of a baby girl, Jill Elizabeth, Born Dec. 15. Six-year-old Joel welcomes her home. Sis. Maxine and Bro. Herman Schmidt, and Dorothy and John Harper, missionaries to Indonesia, are the baby's grandparents.

Luke Edward, born on Dec. 18 to Sis. Cheryl and Bro. Mark Wuthrich, delighted his 2½ year old sister, Marti with his arrival. Grandparents are Sis. Polly and Bro. Roy Schrock (Congerville), and Sis. Eunice and Bro. Jim Wuthrich.

Sis. Lorna and Bro. Don Schrock are parents of a new baby boy, Stephen Edward, born on Dec. 23. Fifteen year old Sis. Susie and eleven year old Randy warmly welcomed him home. Sis. Rose Steffen, Elgin, and Sis. Lil and Bro. Jesse Schrock are the new baby's grandparents.

On Dec. 27, Jason Robert was born to Sis. Jane and Bro. Phil Price. Proud grandparents are Sis. Emma and Bro. Chris Knapp, and Sis. Katherine and Bro. Glenn Price of Milford, Ind. Jason's 2½ year old brother Jeremy is thrilled with his new baby brother.

The engagement of Myra Bangasser and Robert Pfister has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Bangasser. Robert is the son of Sis. Fay and Bro. Levi Pfister.

Those hospitalized this past month are Bro. Harry Getz, Bro. Vernon Schumacher, Henry Huette, Sis. Ruth Domnick, Sis. Mary Wuthrich, Sis. Grace Ziegler, Mrs. Lucille Pflederer Farley, and Mrs. Norma (Don) Getz.

**Peoria, Illinois . . . Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin:**

When January days begin,  
The New Year season enters in.  
The New Year comes with hope  
and cheer,

With needed blessings for the year.  
We trust in providential hand  
To bless our hearts and home and  
land.

It is the all-important year—  
All will be well if He is near.



This last month the Peoria congregation was privileged to witness the provings and baptisms of five souls: Tim Hoerr (son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Virginia), Jeff Hoerr (son of Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy), Jill and Bob Gangloff (daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Honegger), and Linda Unsicker (daughter of Bro. Mel and Sis. Carolee).

We were thankful for visiting ministers. The way was opened for Bros. Alfred Baylor of Wolcott, and Dave Kieser of Princeville to spend separate Sundays with us.

Bro. Otto Hoerr and Bro. Harold Koehl were taken from this life to live with their Lord in Heaven. We wish to extend our sympathy to their families.

Hospitalized were: Joe Moser, Kevin Clatt, Doris Wiegand, Bro. Les Huber, Bro. Jonas Ball, Sis. Lena Eberle, Sis. Edna Kline, and Sis. Mayme Streitmatter. Our prayers are with those who are in sickness and sorrow, hoping God's blessings and strength will be with them.

**Princeville, Illinois . . . Ruth Ricketts:** "If we pause to think—We'll have cause to thank."

We had lots of bad weather during December, with much snow and wind, blocking roads and making driving hazardous. We had several very severe cold spells that makes us appreciate it when it warms up again.

Christmas Day was sunny, but very cold and we enjoyed the warmth inside the sanctuary. Many loved ones were visiting relatives here from various congregations and it was a joy to meet and greet them. What warmth there is in a Christian greeting.

We were sorry to hear that our dear Bro. William Stahl was taken to the hospital early Christmas morning following a heart attack. He was very sick for several days, but we are thankful to report that he is feeling much better now. We were glad to have Sis. Nellie Woertz worship with us recently. She has been unable to be out for some time, and we sincerely hope she will regain her strength so she can be with us again. Our dear converted friend, Dorothy Streitmatter is presently at the Parkhill Medical Center after spending several weeks in the hospital receiving treatments. She covets the prayers of her loved ones, for she is very

ill and needs the prayers of those she loves. There have been many sick folks the past few weeks, and we look forward to better weather when health can improve. Perhaps one doesn't appreciate the blessing of good health until they become ill for a few days.

New Year's Day—a new day, a new week, a new month, and a new year! What a privilege we have to be able to go to the house of worship whenever we desire and hear the truth spoken by humble brothers. A fitting chapter, Isaiah 11, was read and gave us much food for thought. We do not know what the new year holds in store for us, yet we can go forward with anticipation for many blessings, for we have been promised in the Word of God that we will never be forsaken if we only trust in the one true God. He is ever at our side to help in whatever need we may have. We need only to ask for His help, and He will provide.

We had a new mantle of snow New Year's Day, and we can all try to keep this year clean and white. We are very thankful that several souls have begun the new year by seeking their Lord in repentance. May He be ever near them to guide them, and may He continue to call souls while the door of Grace is still open.

We have had joy and sorrow in the past year. We have had nine souls added to the fold: six sisters and three brothers in faith. There have been six marriages: four couples of friends and two members. Four boys and four girls were born and seven were taken in death: three beloved sisters, one brother, two friends and a tiny infant son.

Sis. Mary Leuthold, who had hip surgery several weeks ago, is convalescing in the Eureka Church Home and is hoping to get home again before long. Bro. Silas and Sis. Mary wish to thank everyone who remembered them for their prayers, many cards of good wishes, and generous gifts.

Sis. Frieda Streitmatter, who has been quite ill, is showing some improvement and enjoys the mail she receives. She wishes to thank everyone for the prayers, visits, gifts, and cards she received for Christmas and for her birthday which falls on Christmas Day. She was 94 on this day. We wish her

God's blessed nearness during her shut in days.

Sis. Elise (Lizzie) Stahl and family are very grateful to those who extended gifts, cards, visits and deeds of love and sacrifice to them.

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

The years race by in furious procession,  
Making each hour a priceless possession.

Bro. Andy Schumacher (94 years old) passed away. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Emma (Steffen). They celebrated their 71st anniversary in October. Also surviving are two sons, Melvin and William; three daughters, Elizabeth Leonard, Velda Ficht, and Marguerite Eilers; and two sisters, Sis. Anna Schumacher and Sis. Elizabeth Hodel. Bro. Andy and Sis. Emma lived long enough to witness their son Melvin and his wife celebrate their 50th anniversary.

May God bless the marriage of our dear friends Susan (Mangold) and Bernard Milligan. Their parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Helen Mangold and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Milligan.

Bro. Curtis and Sis. Denise (Leman) Knepp are the happy parents of Gretchen Lynn. She is their first child.

Joan (Bertchi) Blakely, Sis. Charlene (Kupferschmidt) Monk, and Bro. Warren Hodel were hospitalized this month and are home again.

Bro. Dennis Martin has moved to Portland, Oregon. His address is 626 Southeast 162nd St., Portland, Ore. 97215.

Bro. Don and Sis. Charlene Monk and Bro. Charles and Sis. Jean Kupferschmid have an unusual thank you. They ask that the Lord will bless and reward all who showed their love and kindness during Charlene's surgery. They are so grateful to all who shared in the benefit supper, donated food, and worked so diligently to make it a success—especially the Rudy Hoffman family.

#### PRAYER

The day begins in prayer for me.  
I turn to God on bended knee  
And ask Him for my daily bread.  
And to prepare the path I'll tread.

And as I walk throughout the day  
A whispered prayer I often say,  
That God will call more to the fold  
To feel His blessings manifold.

The Christian has a hope, you see,  
To be with Christ eternally;  
And if he prays with fervent  
prayer,  
Christ will help him to get there.

My head at mealtimes I do bow  
To thank the Lord and Saviour  
now;  
And ask Him once again for grace  
To help me in this earthly race.

And when the day is done, you see,  
I turn to God on bended knee,  
And thank Him for all He's done,  
For sending Jesus Christ His son.  
Tim A Hohulin

**Tremont, Illinois . . . Lydia Rassi**  
- **Mary Jane Leuthold:** We bid  
farewell to Bro. Orval, Sis. Doris,  
Sharon and Sis. Diane Rocke. They  
moved to Sarasota, Florida. We  
wish them God's blessings in their  
new home.

Sister Betty (Les) Schweigert  
required surgery this past month.  
She is home again and is on the way  
to recovery. Bro. Elmer Kaeb had  
some skin grafting done. He wishes  
to extend his sincere thanks to all  
for cards, gifts and prayers. Bro.  
Ralph Koch had to have major sur-  
gery. He is home again and improv-  
ing each day.

Bros. John Steiner, Oakville, and  
Harold Zeltwanger, Bremen, spent  
Christmas Sunday in our midst. We  
thank them for proclaiming the  
Christmas message to us.

Friends Kristen Miller and  
James Gschwind joined hands and  
hearts Jan. 14. We wish them  
many blessings in their new-found  
home.

The following thoughts were  
given to us by one of our sisters.  
As the New Year is greeting us and  
the old one is left behind, it makes  
us all pause for a moment to re-  
view our past. As we face 1978 it  
really does humble us to think of  
the countless times we could have  
done better. Each of us is again  
starting a new leaf in our Book of  
Life. When we study our last year's  
records, do we find ourself balanc-  
ing too light? When all goes well,  
we as a rule are not concerned about  
our ledger. If the Lord has differ-  
ent plans in mind for us (which

each of us would hate to face) we  
would earnestly review the ledger  
and plead with our Supreme  
Physician for more time to balance  
the records. The things in life one  
feels are so important are quite of-  
ten really nothing. It may be the  
small unnoticeable things of life  
that we should have the desire to  
cling to. Oh, just to be able to get  
out of bed in the morning to see  
the sun rise with the family! If  
you are a mother, take time to  
watch the sun set with your child.  
Then when they are retired for the  
night, you will be given strength  
to clean up the so-called mess after  
them. If you are a father, when was  
the last time you took time to read  
your child a story? If he is too old  
for that, then let him know you  
have time to hear him. Even if  
you are not a parent, you have sim-  
ilar problems. Perhaps you have a  
dear old mother or father, and the  
busy life has robbed you of your  
precious moments with them.

We are all given a new challenge  
—a new year—to strive for a bet-  
ter record in the ledger of life. We  
have a chance to balance it, with  
God's help and grace. Not one of us  
has to go empty handed. We have  
to wonder where the old year went,  
just as the sun sets. Looking to the  
new year, as the sun rises, how  
long will it last? It is our Master  
who holds the key!

**Washington, Illinois . . . Carole**  
**Kellenberger:** While working on  
our new church building, one broth-  
er was inspired to write the follow-  
ing:

#### AN ALTAR

As we build this house of worship  
In humble service unto God,  
An altar has been provided  
Since we turned the ground-break-  
ing sod.

Upon a firm foundation  
And concrete floor so wide,  
Whosoever will may bring offerings  
Of labor, working side by side.

We kindle the fire of charity  
With a warm and cheerful glow;  
Some framing high in the rafters,  
Some sawing and raising them from  
below.

These rafters pointing upward  
Clasp each other as though aware  
That this altar when completed,  
Shall be a house of prayer.

There are crosses in this frame-  
work,  
Side by side and row on row;  
Each signifying an offering or sac-  
rifice,  
As we see the building grow.  
We grasp the saw, hammer,  
level,  
Trowel, transit, square, marker,  
line,  
Aware that we are as these instru-  
ments  
In the hands of the Master-BUILDER,  
divine.  
The altar, as the law of old,  
Is a shadow of what shall be;  
As it is covered and enclosed,  
The finished house of worship we  
may see.

We consecrate each offering,  
And may our diligence increase,  
That we may present this church  
to God  
In true order and in peace.

Once again, young and old from  
our congregation enjoyed a night  
of Christmas caroling. What a  
blessing we all felt!

Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth Kellen-  
berger are the parents of a son,  
born Dec. 5, 1977. Grandparents  
are Bro. Gene and Sis. Velma Kel-  
lenberger and Sis. Edna Klein all of  
the Peoria congregation. His name  
is Christian David.

Our humble appreciation to the  
following ministers who continue  
to assist our Bro. Carl Wyss: Bros.  
Walter Herrmann, Bruce Leman,  
Don Sauder, Simon Wagenbach,  
Ron Heiniger, Marvin Schmidgall,  
Joe Aberle, Edwin Ringger, Fred  
Knapp and Leroy Huber.

**Bluffton, Indiana . . . Connie**  
**Troxel - Teresa Fiechter:** Bro.  
Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr were  
blessed with a son, Brady D. Grand-  
parents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Nao-  
mi Kaehr and Bro. Floyd and Sis.  
Gladys Gerber. Mike and Cindy  
Lynch have a daughter Kari Shan-  
non. Wally and Sis. Marilyn Leman  
are grandparents.

Many thanks to Bro. Dave Rob-  
erts for bringinb us the Christmas  
message.

The hospital patients this month  
were Bro. Clarence Steffen, Sis.  
Martha Baumgartner, Bro. Lyle  
Kaehr, Sis. Justine Gerber (Mrs.  
Don), Bro. Calvin Rauch, and Sis.  
Nova Isch.

John Leyse, Bro. Mike Leyse's  
father passed away. Sis. Mary

Krummen, 98, who was the oldest sister here at Bluffton and had served the Lord for 82 years, passed away.

As 1977 came to a close, our Bluffton congregation had the following report: 28 baptisms, 20 marriages, 17 deaths, and 39 births.

It may be the last of the years  
quickly flying;

It may be the year when the  
Master will come,  
When the land of the holy, for  
which we are sighing,  
Will burst into view—the  
Father's glad home!

**Bremen, Indiana . . . Marian Ger-**  
**mann:** "Let us hear the conclusion  
of the whole matter: Fear God, and  
keep his commandments: for this  
is the whole duty of man. For God  
shall bring every work into judge-  
ment, with every secret thing,  
whether it be good, or whether it  
be evil." Eccl. 12:13-14.

These verses leave us little to  
say. Our lives are an open book to  
God. Are our lives able to show  
God's love?

We would like to thank all our  
visitors and ministering brethren  
for their love and fellowship during  
the past holiday season.

On Jan. 8, the engagement of  
Sis. Pam Johnson and Bro. Louis  
Gerber was announced. Pam's par-  
ents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Connie  
and Bro. Lou and Sis. Emma Lou  
are Louis' parents. We pray for  
God's love and guidance for Pam  
and Louis.

We extend a sincere welcome to  
Bro. Dave Gramm from Gridley,  
Ill. We hope Dave will enjoy fel-  
lowshipping with us. May God bless  
Dave richly.

"The Lord is good to all: and his  
tender mercies are over all his  
works." Psa. 145:9.

**Francesville, Indiana . . . Linda**  
**Gutwein - Sharon Neihouser:** Dec.  
11 was the wedding day of Sis.  
Jackie Grimm (Bro. Bob and Sis.  
Elna) of Goodfield and Bro. Brian  
Huber (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol).  
We wish them God's blessings as  
they begin their life together.

On Dec. 18 a Sunday School  
Christmas Program was held when  
the children told us in verse and  
song of the birth of our Lord and  
Saviour. Also in the eve., many  
went Christmas caroling to shut-  
ins.

Bro. John and Sis. Bev Huber  
were blest with a son, Nathan  
Louis. Jason is happy for a brother.  
Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mildren Hu-  
ber are the grandparents. Bro. Ken  
and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich were blest  
with a girl, Heather Marie. Bro.  
Chris Lee and Sis. Ruth Wuethrich  
are the first-time grandparents.

Many gathered together New  
Year's Eve for a service and pro-  
gram. It was a blessing to be in the  
House of God as the year ended  
and then to gather again in the  
morning to start a new year.

On New Year's Day Rebecca and  
Timothy Reinhard (Bro. Dan and  
Sis. Delores) gave their testimonies  
and were baptized. We were privi-  
leged to have visiting Bros. Dave  
Roberts (Union City), Vernon  
Schwab (Wolcott), and Akito In-  
oue (Tokyo) with us. We will miss  
Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Rein-  
hard and their family as they move  
to Sabetha, Kansas. We wish them  
God's blessings.

Sis. Marie Inoue and her children  
and Sis. Tamino and Bro. Hisato  
Inoue arrived here Dec. 7 to spend  
time with relatives and friends.  
Bro. Akito joined his family on  
Dec. 30.

**Indianapolis, Indiana . . . Lynn**  
**Klopfenstein -- Pam Frank - Mar-**  
**cia Gutwein:** Winter months, with  
their chilling coldness, are definite-  
ly here but warmth and love radiate  
the inside.

We wish our new convert, Dee  
Neuenschwander (son of Bro.  
Chuck and Sis. Doris) God's rich  
blessings and grace, as he starts  
his journey.

Sis. Mary (Clauss) Dexter was  
baptized and welcomed into the  
fold, and we hope that our convert,  
Vicky Bellis, can soon experience  
the same rite.

Our prayers and thanks are ex-  
tended to Elder Bros. Ed Ringger  
and Alfred Bahler for sharing the  
memorandum and baptism ser-  
vices with us. We thank our visitors  
who gathered with us and encour-  
age all to come back.

We were sorry to lose two won-  
derful couples who were an asset to  
our congregation. Bro. Keith and  
Sis. Kathy Steffen and boys moved  
to Bloomington, Ill., and Bro. Pat  
and Sis. Judy Dubach and Jennifer  
reside in Ossian, Ind. Their absence  
has been felt by all, but we know  
God will continue to bless and keep  
them.

Michael Edwin was born to Bro.  
Artie and Sis. LeAnn Bucher on  
Dec. 15. They now have three sons.

**LaCrosse, Indiana . . . Carolyn**  
**Levy - Grace Heinold:**

Be gentle to the souls in need  
And help the weak in word and  
deed;

If Jesus really lives in you  
His voice will guide in all you do.

Just look about and you will find  
A chance to comfort and be kind;  
Then serve as Christians ought to  
do.

Remember, Christ depends on you.

Our annual Christmas Sunday  
School program was held Dec. 18  
commemorating the birth of Christ.

Bro. Wm. Schlatter, Junction,  
gave us all much food for thought  
on Christmas Day.

Our hospital patient was Art  
(Em) Luthi who had major sur-  
gery. We welcome back Sis. Hen-  
rietta Heiniger who is staying with  
Sis. Martha Peters.

**Leo, Indiana . . . Mrs. Phil Schlatter - Mrs. Al Frautschi:** Could we  
consider this resolution for the  
year:

I will do the best I can  
With what I have

Where I am

Today—as unto the Lord—

After some recent hospital  
stays, Bro. Aaron Schwartz has  
moved to Glenacres Nursing Home,  
Fort Wayne. May the following  
words bring comfort to all the sick,  
the sad, the lonely:

God understands the way you take,  
He knows the trials of each day;  
And sympathizing, lends an ear  
To hear you e'en before you pray.

He is with those who trust His love,  
He holds them by the hand to  
guide;

What need to fear or be dismayed,  
With His dear Presence by your  
side!

—Selected

Maybe you are not of those for  
whom the present days are long.  
Perhaps you are busy with a grow-  
ing family. If so, you may enjoy  
this bit of verse discovered in a  
busy mother's kitchen, just above  
the sink:



Lord, hold my hand,  
 Guide my feet,  
 Bridle my tongue  
 And keep me sweet.

Sis. Dean Stoller delightedly said that she and Bro. Ernie are now grandparents. Their son, Ernie Dave and his wife, Janice, are parents of a son, Jarrod Ryon. A first grandchild is thrilling to all of the family.

**Milford, Indiana . . . Coleen Beer - Linda Beer:** "Therefore shall ye lay up these MY WORDS in your heart . . . and ye SHALL TEACH THEM YOUR CHILDREN, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou riseth up." Duet 11:18, 19. We thank our visiting ministers this past month—Bros. Rudy Graff, Loren Stoller, Gene Marti, and Ray Sinn. We were inspired and encouraged to guide our children and direct them in God's way, not fearing the future, but trusting and knowing God will provide if we seek His wisdom and are quiet and wait so we can hear His instruction to us.

O Christian, remember, you bear  
 His dear name,  
 Your life is for others to view;  
 A living example, men praise you  
 or blame,  
 And measure your Saviour by  
 you.

We had our annual business meeting, and two new reporters have been elected. They are Sandy Beer and Paula Haab.

Dec. 11 Sis. Beth Beer (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Rick Feichter (Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary), of Bluffton, were united in marriage. They are residing at Bluffton; we wish them many blessings.

Marie Kaiser, age 79, passed away Dec. 1. She was born in Mansfield. Sis. Eleanor Beer, Bob, Ben, and Harold of Milford. and Sis. Harriet Hoerr of Peoria are the children surviving, as well as a brother, Joe Von Bergen, South Bend.

Bro. Eli Gerber, age 77, was laid to rest Dec. 24, leaving his widow, Sis. Mary (Graff), and sons, Dean, Valparaiso, and Glen, Marian, Ohio. May God help fill the emptiness

they feel.

Bro. Walt Steffen was a medical patient, but we are thankful he again is filling his place as one of our ministers.

WHEN YOU POINT YOUR FINGER AT ANOTHER, THE OTHER 3 POINT AT YOU.

**Purdue University . . . Luann Bahler:** As the new year starts, so starts another semester at Purdue. It is so good to have the students back again. We would also like to welcome those that are taking the Ag course. They are Bro. Jim Fiechter (Bluffton); Mike Fiechter (Bluffton); Steve Fiechter (Bluffton); Fred Wyss (Washington); and Lee Klopfenstein (Latty). It is always nice to have a few more here and get to know each other better.

The Purdue Christmas program was held Dec. 15. It was really heartwarming to see so many come from a distance to hear the singing and listen again to the Christmas Story that was read to us by Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville). It is a story that is heard many times and is more beautiful each time.

We are looking forward to the New Year and pray even more earnestly for those who are still outside of the fold, for we are one year closer to eternity.

**Remington, Indiana . . . Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss:** Caleb A. was born on Dec. 8 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Dorene Bahler. He has a sister, Stelle Anna. His grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall of Phoenix, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Bahler, from here.

Sis. Lilly Frey has been hospitalized, but is now improved and dismissed to the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Loren and Sis. Wilma Wilson.

Bro. Jacob Bahler is presently a hospital patient, but is now doing well and hopes to be dismissed soon.

Bro. Sam Kilgus has been a patient at Jasper County Hospital since Nov. 20. He has undergone two surgeries and has been in intensive care for several weeks. However, at this time he is somewhat improved. We pray that God will grant him a measure of health for his remaining days.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

**Valparaiso, Indiana . . . Marie Heindol:**

While starting out the new year,  
 Why not do it right?  
 Give your heart to our Dear Lord,  
 Before the door shuts tight!

He is the new beginning,  
 For a life that never ends;  
 If you will just but open up  
 And let our Savior in.

No, friend, you'll never be sorry,  
 Once you've heeded to His call;  
 He'll give you strength and needed  
 grace,  
 To make it through it all.

So go now, friend, don't tarry—  
 Repent and start anew;  
 And you'll find that all God's words  
 Are so loving and so true!!

These thoughts we give you from the heart of Ken Susdorf who this past year has taken his most important step in life.

Our friend, Willis Feller, has also found peace with his Creator, surrendering himself into His service some weeks past. Willis became critically ill with a heart attack. At that time he gave a testimony and was baptized in the I. C. unit. Since, he has been able to return home and is slowly improving.

On Dec. 28, Lavina Schmeckpepper received word that her son, Dwight (who lived in the A. C. Home for the Handicapped) passed away suddenly with pneumonia. We know it was a blessing for Dwight, but a shock for his family. The love of God shown through brothers and sisters in faith is so powerful. Dwight's two sisters have confessed the need for repentance and want to live for Jesus. We pray for both, Marcia living at home in Steger, Ill., and Nancy (Mrs. Terry Bunn) from Lansing, Ill.

We are grateful for the visits of Bros. Akito Inoue and family, Ed Frank, and Carol Gerber and their inspired messages.

**Wolcott, Indiana . . . Laurel Widmer:** Another year has come and gone. The new year brings memories of the passing one. There are thoughts of things we said or did, and those we left undone. We don't know what lies ahead for us in this year—only that God leads. We learn from our past mistakes. The

new year will also bring joy and sorrow, trials and triumphs. Each of us will be touched by new life and death. To gain the most from life we must live as though we knew there would be no tomorrow . . . no second chance. We should "Take no thought for the morrow, for the morrow will take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof."

"I shall pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do, let me do it now. For I shall not pass this way again."

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Nancy Kyburg and Sis. Josephine Farney. We trust that they will soon be home and feeling well again.

It's a girl! Natalie Noel was born on Jan. 8, 1978, to Gary and Debbie Royer. The happy grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller.

**Elgin, Iowa . . . Eleanor Butikofer:** As we begin a new year, it is interesting for us to review what has transpired in the year we just left behind. There are some thoughts of happiness and some of sorrow and regret. This following thought seems quite apropos:

I have no yesterdays,  
Time took them away;  
Tomorrow may not be—  
But I have today!

This urges us to give heed to the present and its pressing duties, knowing that it is fidelity to the present will of God that prepares us for the fidelity in the future.

Due to a severe snow storm we were forced to forego our church services last Sunday. We still have huge snow drifts around the church. The snow presents a beautiful picture as the sun's rays bring to view, as it were, diamonds of many hues.

Our wildlife seems to appreciate the seeds, grain, nuts, suet and so forth which is placed at their disposal. After nightfall we sight rabbits at some of the bird stations coming for their portions, and in the morning there are innumerable tracks of various animals.

Clothes were sorted and packed and a quilt tied at the recent World Relief meeting held at Sis. Marie

Butikofer's home.

Bro. John and Sis. Janette Schupbach are the happy parents of a new baby boy. Nathan Jay is the name they have chosen for their third child. Jill and Greg are the two older children. Grandparents are Bro. Oral and Sis. Rose Steiner. Oakville, and George and Mildred Schupbach, Elgin.

Melissa Jean is the name chosen by Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Sandy Butikofer for their baby girl who arrived on the 24th day of Dec. The grandparents are Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer and Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart, West Bend.

Two weddings took place in December, one on the 26th and the other on the 31st. Trudy Pulfer (daughter of Paul and Sis. Evelyn) and Albert Hanson (son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Hanson) were married at the home of Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer by our Elder Paul Butikofer. They are living on a farm located about six miles east of Elgin. May they always feel the nearness of our dear Saviour and God, our Creator. We wish them the best of everything.

David Metzger (son of Ervin and Sis. Ruth Metzger) and Carolyn Davidhizer (daughter of Mrs. LaVerne Schneider) were married in Iowa City. They will make their home in Elgin. Our best wishes for much happiness is being extended to them. May God always bless them.

Into all our lives, in many simple and familiar ways. God infuses an element of joy from the unexpected surprises of life which brighten our days and fill our eyes with light. He drops this added sweetness into His children's cup and makes it run over. The success we are not counting on, the blessing we were not hoping for, the strain of music we hear in the midst of drudgery, the beautiful morning sunrises, the sunset glory we see as we pass to or from our daily business, the unsought word of encouragement or expression of sympathy, the sentence that meant for us more than a writer or speaker thought . . . these plus what your experience can supply, are instances of what I mean.

I just learned by way of telephone that our dear friend Mary Pulfer is in the hospital, gravely ill.

**Iowa City, Iowa . . . Connie Gerst - Twila Whipple:** Visiting ministers have been Bros. Dave Kieser (Princeville), Joe Braker (Morton), and Bob Pohl (Burlington). At the beginning of the new year, we have been reminded of the many works of faith that every child of God must perform.

Dec. 26 marked the wedding date of Trudy Pulfer and Albert Hanson. Trudy's parents are Paul and Sis. Evelyn. We wish Trudy and Albert many blessings in their marriage. We will certainly miss Trudy, as she has been with us for over four years. She will now be making her home in Elgin, Iowa.

**Lester, Iowa . . . Alice Metzger - Joyce Knobloch:** We have experienced several winter storms already, and our landscape is covered with beautiful white snow as we begin this new year. In our church the year of 1977 brought 22 new babies, three baptisms and one death. We are thankful we are permitted to share each others joys and sorrows.

On Dec. 18, Bro. Russell Wuthrich, Pulaski, and Bro. Wm. Funk, Garden Grove, were among our visitors here for the marriage of Sis. Margene Metzger and Bro. Dave Peasley, Garden Grove. We miss Sis. Margene but know God will bless her and her loved one in Garden Grove. She is the daughter of Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna.

On Christmas Day, Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha, and Bro. Virgil Metzger, Champaign, were our visiting ministers. On Jan. 8, Bro. Nathan Stoller, Bradford, was with us. We are thankful they were directed into our midst.

Recent hospital patients have been Sis. Lydia Mogler, Bro. Jake Knobloch, Jim Gerber, Kim Feucht (daughter of Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Sandy), and Ryan Heyer (son of Jean and Gary Heyer). All are now home and doing fine, for which we are grateful.

Jack Metzger, son of Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice, recently graduated from South Dakota University with a degree in dairy manufacturing. He has begun work in a milk processing plant in Waterloo, Iowa.

**Oakville, Iowa . . . Phyllis Siegle:**

On Sunday evening, Dec. 18, the Sunday School participated in a Christmas program. It was inspiring to see the zeal and interest

shown by even the smallest children in helping to portray the true meaning of Christmas.

A daughter, Megan Marie, was born to Bro. Adolphus and Sis. Bertha Lee Massner. She is also welcomed home by three brothers, David, Derek, and Doran, and two sisters, Mara and Dana. Happy grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bertha Wagenbach.

Sis. Edna Wiegand is thankful for the love and kindness shown her while she was in the hospital. She asks the Lord's blessing upon all of you.

Our congregation held its annual business meeting with the following members being elected to the respective offices: Bro. Myron Schulz, trustee; Bros. Virgil Massner and Dan Anliker, cemetery committee. May they find the Spirit's guidance in their new duties.

We were happy to have ministering brothers here for both Christmas and New Year's services. Bro. Duane Metzger and family (West Bend) spent Christmas Day with us, and Bro. Bill Gerst and family (Alto) spent New Year's Day in our presence. We were pleased New Year's Day was on the Lord's Day, knowing that there was no better way to start the new year than in prayer and supplication for grace and strength in the days that lie before us. Bro. Bill reminded us how very blessed we are to have "Son Shine" if we only seek!

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz in the proving and baptism of friends, Dean Massner (son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Ada); Bryan Wiegand (son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois); Bruce Frank (son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Clara); and Ron Massner (son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma). It was uplifting and inspiring as they so earnestly told us they were fully resigned to forsake the world and follow the Lord. The peace that only God can give was a great joy, as expressed by each one. We wish them much grace and joy in the Lord. Also we want to thank Elder Bro. Sam for his love and kind understanding. There was truly food for all our souls, not only for our friends who became our dear brothers in faith.

We also thank Bro. Urial Gehring for being with us and expounding God's Word.

**Pulaski, Iowa . . . Janice Rinkenberger - Mary Jane Knapp:** On

Nov. 19 and 20 we were richly blessed by the visit and reading of the memorandum by our Elder Bro. Leo Moser, assisted by Elder Bros. Paul Fehr and Ed Lanz. Are we really thankful enough for the time and effort these faithful servants put forth, or do we take it all for granted as being part of their responsibility?

Aaron Jay Musselman was welcomed into the home of Bro. Roger and Sis. Nancy on Nov. 27. He has three brothers to help share this happiness.

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

What a precious privilege to assemble together in the House of God and be filled with the true and inspired Word of Life. May God bless Bro. Dale Moore and Elder Bro. Sam Anliker for ministering to us.

Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg are the parents of a baby girl, Karen Outi, born Dec. 21. Grandparents are Bro. Oscar and Sis. Frances Zaugg, and Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise Anliker.

Bro. Marvin Fehr and Sis. Lyla Metzger have been elected as incoming Sunday School teachers. May God's grace and guidance be theirs.

Bob Gress, son of Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie, has announced his engagement to Sue Dusbabek of Waterville, Minn. We wish them God's nearness.

Our hospital patients were: Sis. Ellen Zaugg, Bro. Fahey Gress, and Bro. Levi Banwart (he since has been transferred to Clear View Manor).

**Bern, Kansas . . . Esther and Stella Moser**

God hath made all things beautiful—

He gave us the rainbow  
With its beautiful hues,  
The flowers in summer,  
The starlight and dews.  
He gave us the birds  
With a happy song;  
He gave us the sunshine  
To help us along.  
But more than these gifts  
That He gives from above,  
The most beautiful thing  
He gives is His love.

Our joy bundle almost made it for Christmas. Lina Lorene was

born Dec. 22 to Bro. Dale and Sis. Shelby Strahm. Lisa is the first grandchild of Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer, Sabetha. Bro. Ephriam is the paternal grandfather.

Our good wishes are extended to David Hertzell and Marcia Kellenberger who were united in marriage Dec. 31. Parents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. Denny Kellenberger. They plan to make their home in Manhattan.

At our annual election Bro. Morris Edelman was re-elected as trustee. He serves along with Bros. Eldon Plattner and Leonard Baumgartner. Bro. Arden Stoller was elected to help with the public address system.

On Dec. 10 the Sabetha congregation assembled with us to hear the report on the brotherhood conference. Elder Bro. Gene Marti assisted Elder Bro. Lester Hartter. May we follow more closely the Christian guide-lines. We thank the brothers for their time and effort.

**Gridley, Kansas . . . Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr:** Are you A Happy Christian? After one becomes a Christian there is a responsibility and privilege given to us to live our life for Christ—a change of desires and appetites from the things of the world to the things of Christ. Are you experiencing this change? Don't fear to drink of God's Joy Fountain. You'll never drink it dry!

Our joy was full to be able to assemble with our neighboring church, Lamont, in their newly completed structure. We certainly wish to share with them the abundant blessings and love shown from fellow Christians across the land. May each be a recipient of Spiritual fulfillment. May God's blessings go to each and every soul.

**Kiowa, Kansas . . . Janice Frieden:** A discouraged minister had the following strange dream. He thought he was standing on the top of a great granite rock, trying to break it with a pickaxe. Hour after hour he worked with no result. At last he said "It is useless; I will stop." Suddenly a man stood by him and asked, "Were you not allotted this task? And if so, why are you going to abandon it?" "My work is vain; I can make no impression on the granite." Then the stranger solemnly replied: "That



is nothing to you; your duty is to pick, whether the rock yields or no. The work is yours, the results are in other hands; work on." In his dream he saw himself setting himself anew to his labor, and at his first blow the rock flew into hundreds of pieces. This was only a dream, but it proved a valuable and never forgotten lesson to the minister, and a means of comfort and cheer to his soul.

After reading the above story, I felt encouraged to "work on" and hoped many others would too; because, praise be to God, the results "are" in "His" hands.

We enjoyed several blessed occasions of fellowship this past month: our monthly singing and Bible study; caroling for loved ones in Burlington and Kiowa; our Sunday School Christmas Program; welcoming in the New Year (although a day early); and holding services at the Kiowa Manor, as was our appointed time. A busy month? Yes, but one filled with happiness and joy. We could gather freely in true Christian fellowship. By doing so, we could show our deep love, honor, and praise to our Lord for all of His marvelous gifts.

Stan and Judy Tucker were granted a precious baby girl by the name of Brooke Kimiler this month. Paternal grandparents are Dale and Sis. Marie Tucker, and maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Allen. Brooke has an older brother, Matthew, to welcome her home.

What can we say when the Lord calls a dear one in faith to go home? We are saddened at our loss, but happy that they will suffer no more pain or tribulation here on earth. These were our thoughts when our dear Bro. John Schrock fell asleep in Jesus just recently. Our sincere sympathy goes to his family along with the hope that God's Word and abiding love will ever be a comfort to them.

**Lamont, Kansas . . . Susan Emsch:** We are now in another new year and we pray for God's guidance so that we might follow the straight and narrow path of life.

We were recently reminded of all that has been done for us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when we partook of Holy Communion.

We are now assembling in our new church and feel that we truly have many reasons to be thankful.

Bro. Max Remcheisel, Wichita, ministered unto us. We are thankful that God can give through servants that lend themselves to Him, for who could know the need of each heart but our Heavenly Father.

Our annual election was held recently, and Sis. Debbie Frieden and Bro. Bill Emch are new Sunday School teachers. Bro. John Wernli was elected to serve as usher.

**Sabetha, Kansas - Mrs. Joe Steiner:**

To thy saints while here below,  
With new year's new mercies come;  
But the happiest year they know  
Is the last, which leads them home.

Our youth gave their annual Sunday School program on the Sunday before Christmas. It is always a pleasure to watch and listen to "our future church."

Bro. Sam Huber has been in the Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott where he has had surgery. We pray he will soon be able to return home.

Bro. Paul Strahm is in the St. Francis Hospital in Topeka where he will undergo surgery. May the Lord be with him and give him a speedy recovery.

Sis. Louise Hartman has been in the hospital, both here and in Topeka. She has recovered sufficiently so she can again assemble with us.

We again have mid-week services, alternating with Bern, on Wednesday evening at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.

**Wichita, Kansas . . . Glenis Alenbach - Barbara Wernli:** We were again reminded to continue the "Know Each Other Better" articles and of the witness they carry.

I feel you can see a wonderful Christian witness in others by a word or phrase they often use or even their attitude most often shown.

Following are some short examples.

Our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, often uses the word "precious" in relation to the Word and our faith. I feel he holds it so; his life reflects it.

A dear sister, Sophia Kircher, in her Christmas greeting, told us that her three favorite phrases from the Bible are "loving kindness," "tender mercies" and "wonderous grace". She adds, "Aren't they beautiful?" Her life reflects this in the loss of her husband and two sons. I'm sure she's found the priceless meaning of "take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there."

In response to something I wrote her while I was away, a dear sister, Judy Langhofer, answered that her one desire is "to stand before the Lord washed of all unrighteousness." I believe her life reflects this wish.

There is a hymn, "One Day at a Time," that is one of my husband's favorites. The words are like a prayer for him in his adversities. This has had to be his philosophy; his life shows this.

I recall when, some years back, Elder Bro. Noah Schrock visited our church. His opening words were that his one message was to preach only "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." We can say his life reflected this.

The Bible gives us the understanding that if we are a Christian **our light will shine.**

Our "mirror of life" should have a Christian reflection!

I will close with this thought. What have I learned, how have I grown as a Christian this past year? Two such things stand out to me; to conquer mountains, you've got to climb a few; be thankful for all things, even adversities, because good comes from them. I guess that's the hardest lesson to date for me. I hope my life reflects these.

On Dec. 21 we had our annual Christmas program. The teachers are deserving of our thanks and our prayers as they labor to teach the gospel to those who are as yet unconverted. We also enjoyed the share hour in which there was opportunity given for any to share their love to the congregation. Mary Langhofer (Bro. Al and Sis. Judy) to Bro. Bruce Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily) of the Princeville congregation has been announced. We wish them the Lord's blessings and guidance as they begin the Zionward walk together. They plan to be united on Mar. 26.

**Bay City, Michigan . . . Carolyn Schamback:** Truly the angels in Heaven rejoiced this past week-end, as we did, when five souls were added to God's family. We welcome new brother Dale Wieland (Bro. Lawrence), and Sisters Lynn Kimmerly, Tammy Pashak (Bro. Dean), Beth Ramseyer (Bro. Jim), and Marsha Wieland (Bro. Merle). Our souls are renewed and refreshed when we can hear their testimonies and vows.

With the sick; Sis. Lena Wieland and Bro. Don Wieland were both hospitalized. We ask for God's care in their recovery.

Sis. Ella Rechsteiner, 70, passed away this week. She was born in Switzerland but has lived here most of her life. Sis. Ella had four daughters and ten sons. She worked hard all of her life (she had her "spot" every Sunday, washing dishes), and we're thankful that she now can find a heavenly rest. She surely deserves one.

**Detroit, Michigan . . . Bonnie Popp:** "Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation."

And so it is for Terri Martin and Nella Varga with whom we rejoice. The week-end of Jan. 15 we welcomed them into the fold. May God bless them in their youth and hold them close.

Elder Bro. Akito Inoue was able to be with us for this blessed week-end, and we are grateful to God that He was able to bring him to us. Our prayers are with our brethren in Japan when they are with us and when we are apart.

We are glad that Harvey Novak is out of the hospital and may soon be able to assemble with us.

Jan. 29 was the day that Sis. Cindy Maibach and Bro. Tom Hitz were joined hand in hand and heart in heart. "These souls betrothed before Thee stand; Thy blessing we implore; Unite Thou them in heart and hand, and guide them evermore."

May we extend a welcome to all who visit the Detroit area to worship with us in our new church. Our new address is: 29575 Wentworth Ave., Livonia, Michigan.

**Minneapolis, Minnesota . . . Josephine Esterling:** 1978—We begin a new year in the Lord and our church has some new statistics. Our church continues to grow in num-

ber with 24 families in attendance: 31 members; 32 children in Sunday School; 1 new convert; 2 new births; no deaths.

As we grow in number we are also reminded to grow spiritually. 2nd Petter 3:18 says to us: "Grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Sunday Dec. 18 the children of the church presented their Christmas program in honor of the blessed Jesus birthday. After the program children and parents together spent the remainder of the afternoon caroling to shut-ins.

We all shared in the blessings of preparing food boxes for needy families at this Christmas time. Perhaps this way of having the children help is a good way to help teach them a true meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to give His life for our sins so we could have the gift of eternal life. Let us give of our abundance, time, and talents to help the needy and hungry. Maybe some act of kindness will lead some soul to know Him and accept the gift of eternal life.

Bro. Lenard J. Meyer from the Chicago church visited us on Jan. 1.

Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Vera Schmidt want to thank everyone who remembered them on their 25th wedding anniversary.

**Morris, Minnesota . . . Corrine Schmidgall - Lois Schmidgall:** It's hard to believe that once again we start a new year! Our prayer is that God may lead us each and every day, not knowing just what each day may hold, but believing that whatever may come is God's will.

Those hospitalized were: Sis. Diane Schmidgall (Bro. Mike), Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald), Brent Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy), Timothy Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois).

We were blessed through God's Words and thank the visiting ministers for sharing it and giving of themselves. Those who visited us were Bro. Ken Lawson of Minneapolis and Bro. Leo Moser of Lester, Iowa.

Our prayers are that God will direct the couples who have recently announced their engagements as they start their future plans together. They are: Karen Schmidgall (Sis. Mabel) to Philip Messner (Bro. Don and Sis. Viola) of Win-

throp; Kathy Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi) to Steve Backman of Donnelly; Cindy Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi) to Rick Schmidgall of Morton, Ill.; Linda Ebnet of Benson, Minn., to Jerry Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Vi).

On the week-end of Jan. 7 and 8 we witnessed the proving and baptism of our dear friend Beverly Minke (Bro. Len). We pray that God will continue with her as she now has made a new beginning.

We have resumed our Wednesday evening services. Anyone who may be in the Morris area during the week is welcome to worship with us.

**Winthrop, Minnesota . . . Delores Messlerli - Marcelle Dapper:** It was the year 1968 that our church, on the edge of the city of Winthrop, was dedicated. We are so thankful to God for it is a haven of rest where faithful Brothers and Sisters and friends can gather to hear God's precious word. Since that time we have been bountifully blessed as many friends have come to know the Lord, for which we give God the credit.

Though it was cold outside with very little snow on the ground, our hearts were warmed as Christmas Day service was a beautiful day where God's house was filled with members and friends alike eagerly wanting to hear the message of our Saviour's birth and mission: to be born of virgin birth and then to die for the sins of the whole world.

O the peace I find in Jesus,  
Peace no power on earth can shake,  
Peace that makes the Lord so  
precious,  
Peace that none from me can take.

Then came the announcement that our friend Jill Nelson, daughter of Alvin and Sis. Donnabell has found peace with God and man. Just as the miracle of the virgin birth of our Saviour Jesus, so is the miracle of rebirth of a soul who is transformed from a sinner to a child of God.

"Forgetting those things which are behind, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ." Phil. 3:13, 14. As the New Year dawned and we were privileged to be in God's house, we were reminded that what is in the past we cannot change.

We should strive more diligently in the faith of our Lord and Saviour, so that, if He should come in the year 1978, we might be found worthy to be taken up in the clouds of heaven, forever to be with the Lord.

**Lamar, Missouri . . . Becky Hohulin - Janice Braker:**

If everybody brightened up the corner where they're standing  
By being more considerate and a little less demanding,  
This dark old world would very soon eclipse the "evening star"  
If everybody BRIGHTENED UP THE CORNER WHERE THEY ARE!

Helen Steiner Rice

As a new year begins to unfold before us, I'm sure it is everyone's prayer to try to do better than he has in the past—to maybe brighten up the darkness in someone's life. Let's let our light shine.

It is so good to see Sis. Emma Lanz once more assembling with us after her recent surgery. She wishes to express her thanks to all who remembered her with cards and prayers.

On Dec. 18 we gathered to hear once again the wonderful story of our Lord's humble birth. We would like to thank the Sunday School classes and teachers for the efforts they put forth in bringing us this program.

Eli Banwart was a hospital patient for knee surgery, but is now home convalescing. Our congregation was saddened by the sudden passing of his beloved wife, Lizzie Banwart. We certainly pray that God will comfort these sorrowing ones.

On Dec. 3, Terry Braker and Janel Rutledge were united in marriage. Terry is the son of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker. May they find much happiness in their life together.

Ben and Becky Marti are the parents of a new baby girl, Jennifer Nichole, born Dec. 28. Jennifer has a sister, Kenya, to welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti, and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita Sinn of Ft. Scott. Congratulations and may God bless your little family.

**Taylor, Missouri . . . Lena M. Haerr:** "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not

worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." (Rom. 8:18)

Sis. Elizabeth Sutter returned home after surgery and 8 days later returned to the hospital. She is in much pain, and I know she would cherish your prayers.

Jim and Sally Gottman moved to Wisconsin. We miss them Sally is the daughter of Gene and Irene Riney.

We enjoyed visiting ministers on Christmas Day: Bros. Bob Pohl, Burlington; Ken Dietz, Bradford; Ben Wysong, Sabetha; and Arnie Gerst, Chicago.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Webel are the parents of a baby girl, named Erica Lynn.

Nothing costs so much as caring—except not caring.

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

Our weather has been quite reasonable since the beginning of winter—not much snow, very cold at times, and not much rainfall.

The annual meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association was held on Monday evening, Jan. 2, 1978, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elza Ritz. Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Indermuhle, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Indermuhle and two children, and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Miller of the Sardis church attended. Also a goodly number of local folks attended. Several items were discussed. The annual all day meeting at the country church will be held on June 25. Further announcements will be made later.

A group of the World Relief workers from the Sardis Church came on Dec. 20 and sang carols in many homes. They also went to the Lewis Wetzel Nursing Home and sang for the patients there. Thanks for coming.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Barth were visitors at the clinic in Cleveland, O., on Jan. 4. Mrs. Barth may undergo surgery there later.

Mrs. Elza Ritz and Mr. and Mrs. Willam Murdock spent Christmas with the William Murdocks' Jr. in Huntington.

Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Williams of Akron, O., and Mr. and Mrs. Don Williams of Medina, O., are spending several days in Bradenton Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Crane of Durham, N.C., James Wade of Cleveland, O., and Mark Wade (who is in

the Air Force in Sumter, S.C.), spent the holidays here as guests of Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Witschey of Pittsburg, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Witschey of Parkersburg, and Dan Witschey of Houston, Texas, were holiday guests of the Witschey families.

Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Brothers of Mt. Vernon, O., were the guests of Minnie Weltz and Mary Ann Brothers on New Years.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Witschey and family of Charleston, W. Va., visited here the first of December with the Witschey families.

Mary Ann Brothers has recovered very nicely from her injuries she received on Sept. 3 while in the swing on the sun porch. She was not hospitalized but had to be taken to the hospital five times for X-rays and check-ups.

**Naumberg, New York . . . Corinne Virkler:** Bro. Leland Hirschey has been hospitalized for surgery at the Lewis Co. Hospital. Bro. Ronald Herzig was a patient in the Lewis Co. Hospital and in traction for a back injury. Sis. Dorothy Herzig is a patient in the intensive care unit at the Lewis Co. Hospital. Bro. Raymond Stockburger and his sister Elizabeth have left to spend the winter in Florida.

**Akron, Ohio . . . Gail Spangler:** Our Sunday School Christmas program was held Dec. 11. What a joy it was to hear the students sing of the birth of our dear Saviour. From the nursery class to the teenagers and young members, they did a wonderful job. Bro. Harold Emch (Girard) was with us for the evening.

Quite a number of Sunday school students and adults went caroling on Dec. 21. The girls from the Sunday School classes fixed boxes of fruit and plates of candy and cookies to be given to the shut-ins for whom we caroled.

On Jan. 1, Bro. Rudy announced that our dear friends, Jeff and Charlotte Graf and Bob and Barbe Ritzman, have peace with God and man. We look forward to hearing their testimony and witnessing their baptism in the near future.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Roy Luginbuhl (Rockville), Henry Dotterer and Gary Maibach (Rittman), and Elder Bro. Ben



Maibach (Detroit) who spent the evening of Jan. 1 with us. To all of our visitors, we say thank you and please come again.

**Girard, Ohio . . . Kathryn Emch:**

As the New Year starts we want to say a special "thank you" to the ministers of the Ohio churches who helped us during this past year. Your visits were truly appreciated.

Jan. 1 we were blessed with a visit from Bro. Sam Schlatter from Junction and Bro. Eugene Fetter from Toledo. Thanks to all who accompanied them.

**Junction, Ohio . . . Gwen Manz:**

Follow me, the Saviour calleth;  
Come to me, I am the Way!  
What is lacking I will give you;  
Trust in me and watch and pray!  
Follow me in true submission;  
I have borne all your transgression;;  
Learn of me, both great and small,  
Meekly, humbly hear my call.

We are so thankful the Lord is still calling souls to follow Him. May there be many more who would hear and heed His call.

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller ministered to us on Jan. 2 when we had our annual meeting. Bro. David Manz will continue as our secretary-treasurer, and Bro. Paul Manz is our new trustee.

**Latty, Ohio . . . Karen Klopfenstein:**

God's gifts are many  
Both large and small,  
But a precious baby  
Is the sweetest gift of all.

Bro. Philip and Sis. Gloria Grant welcome their third child. Shelli Lynn, born Dec. 12. Amy and Brad are thrilled to have a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Delores and Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter from Bluffton.

On Dec. 15, Jeremy Scott was born to Bro. Dick and Ilene Whitman. Grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Louise Rager.

On Jan. 2, a precious little son was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein. Jay Ryan is the grandson of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein and Mrs. Kathryn Waltz.

Bro. Archie Delong (Sis. Bena) was submitted to major surgery.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

On Christmas, visiting minister, Walter Reklau, spent the day with us.

**Mansfield, Ohio . . . Lucille Groh:**

"Happy is he that hath . . . God . . . for his help, whose hope is in the Lord, his God." Ps. 146:5. In this way the Bible tells us how we can be sure of a year filled with 365 days of gladness and blessing. If you place your trust in God through faith in His Son, this will be the happiest year you have ever known.

Many different groups from our church shared the joys of the Christmas season by singing carols and sharing with shut-ins and misfortunate ones. Our Sunday School also presented its annual Christmas program and expressed their love for our dear Saviour.

Bro. Claire and Sis. Beverly Keever are the happy parents of a new baby daughter, Stephanie. Bro. James and Sis. Clara Sabo Zimmer are Stephanie's grandparents.

Loved ones hospitalized since our last report have been: Bro. Richard Banks, who was stricken with a severe heart attack; Bro. Robert Sauder who sustained injuries due to a head on car accident; and our dear friend, Robert Oesch, who was admitted for hospitalization because of a severe case of flu.

The following poem seems so fitting as we start the new year:

Just for today, my Saviour,  
Tomorrow is not mine;  
Just for today, I ask Thee  
For light and help divine;  
Tomorrow's care I must not bear  
The future is all thine.

Today I bring my measure  
To Thee, that Thou might'st fill  
And bless it, Lord, and teach me  
To trust and to be still.  
Today I'd be, my God, for Thee  
And do Thy holy will.

Just for today, my Saviour,  
For ere the morrow break  
Thy voice may call me unto Thee,  
And I shall no more walk  
The desert path with need of faith,  
But face to face shall talk.

And if I have enough, Lord,  
Today, why should I grieve  
Because of what I have not,  
And may not need to have.

Each day, I pray Thee, have Thy way,  
And I will trust Thy love.

**Rittman, Ohio . . . Marlene Dotterer:** "Man does not live by bread alone, but by being faithful in prayer, responding to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, taking up the cross and following the living Christ, finding and doing the loving will of God, now and eternally."

How thankful we are that there are still souls following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. On New Year's Day we welcomed Emanuel and Helen Babin and their daughter, Beverly, into the fold as brother and Sisters. What a blessing it was to sit by and listen to their testimonies of faith. We thank Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf (Akron) and Ben Maibach (Detroit) for so willingly giving of their services on this day.

We are happy to report that Dale Gasser has answered the call of the Lord and has turned to Him in repentance. Dale is the son of Bro. Glen Gasser; Janet is his wife. May he feel the Lord's guidance in all things.

"Until death do us part . . ." So vowed Bro. Stanley Kinkler and Sis. Margaret Beery as they began their lives together in the Lord. Parents of the couple are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler and Bro. Karl and Sis. Ruth Beery. Sharing in this blessed day were visiting brothers, Eugene Pamer (Akron) and Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield).

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is grown he will not depart from it." This is the challenge to each of the couples who were blessed with babies. Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay (Endress) Nieman welcome a boy, Dana Lee. A son, Jerry William, was born to Joe and Sis. Karen (Maibach) Riggensbach. Benjamin and Linda (Humphries) Maibach announce the arrival of their son, Benjamin Robert. A girl, Sacha Allison, is the new arrival in John and Karen McClintock) Beery's family. Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori (Graf) Rufener welcome their first-born, Heidi Rose. John Michael is the name given to the first child of convert Dale and Janet (Cecil) Gasser.

Several from our congregation have submitted to surgery. Dear Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier had a hip replacement and is recuperating at

home. Joe Dotterer and Glen Miller are also recovering from surgeries. Following an accident on the farm, Richard Bauman was hospitalized for several days.

**Sardis, Ohio . . . Joyce Indermuhle :** "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers . . ."

We wish to thank all those who remembered us with prayers, visits, cards, and gifts of love during my stay in the hospital and at home. We never know what God has in store for us but we have His promise that He will not put more upon us than we are able to bear. When an accident happened and our faith was put to a crucial test, what a consolation we have in our Lord Jesus and the brotherhood. We who are the least in faith were truly strengthened and uplifted because of the multitude of prayers that ascended to the Father heart on our behalf. I was brought through the shadow of death to a miraculous recovery by the graciousness of Almighty God and the petitions to God by so many brothers and sisters. We were strengthened in faith to God and united in faith and love in our beloved church. May God richly reward each one of you for your concerns. Your least in Faith, Bro. and Sis. John and Paula Figel and family.

Isn't the love of God something wonderful? We rejoice to have dear Bro. John back in our midst. God has performed another miracle as Delmos and Greta Figel welcome home their first child, Sandra Eileen. Delmos is the son of Sis. Rosella and John Figel. When God bestows upon us a precious bundle to treat with love and care, let us strive daily to share with our children the way to salvation.

**Toledo, Ohio . . . Josephine Reklau:** My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk upright.

This reflects the life of our dear

Bro. Emmanuel Fetter who departed this life into heavenly rest Dec. 14. Surviving are several brothers and sisters. Our elder, Bro. Ben Maibach, was with us for this solemn occasion.

We were very thankful that Sis. Josephine Reineck is able to worship with us again.

The Sunday School Christmas Program of song and verse carried the joyful message of "O Come Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord."

**Union City, New Jersey - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania . . . Ed Aeschliman:** Sunday, Dec. 18, was a blessed day when elder Bros. John Bahler and Rudolph Graf and ministering Bro. Corbin Bahler visited Union City. The combined Union City and Philadelphia congregations were richly fed through the word inspired by the Holy Spirit after which holy communion was served. We also enjoyed meeting Sis. Becky Gramm of Gridley, Ill., who will be in the N.J. area for several weeks on an assignment with her company.

A Christmas program was held on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the Philadelphia church with 6 small children participating with verse and song. Two older children read from the word. It was an inspiring day for all.

It was with added joy that Sis. Emily Schoenleber could attend Christmas Sunday services in Union City after being confined to her home for many weeks.

Sis. Anna Tschudin is feeling much better after a brief illness and we are thankful that she has been able to attend services regularly in Union City.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Nancy Aeschleman announce the engagement of their daughter, Janice Ann, to Ensign Donald Wilt of Norton, Ohio. Our prayers are that the Lord will add His blessings and go with them.

**Zapata, Texas . . . Tillie Kellenberger:** Our hearts are overflowing with what the Lord has accomplished in this faraway place. A new church has been built by the love and gifts of many brethren throughout this land of ours. May it be dedicated to His glory and honor, and be a haven for many who are traveling this South Texas area.

Ministers serving us have been

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) and Bro. Elmer Schenk (Alto, Mich.). Bro. Jim Leman of Roanoke, Ill., brought an inspiring message on Christmas Day.

We had 26 children in our Sunday School on Christmas Day. Attendance at church was 105.

Our dedication date is set for Feb. 19, 1978, and the Open House date is Feb. 12, 1978. We welcome all who may be coming this way to worship with us.

Bro. Nathan Kellenberger observed his 83rd birthday on Nov. 26. Bro. Nathan is our oldest brother. Sis. Bertha Moser observed her 78th birthday on Jan. 1. We wish them God's blessings.

Our weather was lovely and warm all fall except for about 10 days.

**Kellenberger . . .**

Continued from page 24

principles, "A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me." John 16:16. After He was crucified and laid in the tomb, they didn't see Him. Then after a few days, they saw Him again, and fulfilled that promise.

So, beloved ones, this is the faith we need to have. This is what He told His disciples just before He ascended to heaven, after He had met with them on several different occasions and had given them further instructions.

Then He told them in His last commandment, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Preach repentance for the remission of sins. Now, do we get the full impact of that statement—repentance for the remission of sins? **Now** without repentance, bringing forth the fruits meet for repentance, there is no forgiveness of sins. It is just that simple. It is just that clear.

Then He said, "Go . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 28:19.

We know that in this world and time, there are all kinds of movements going on . . . to some people, they seem good. But, beloved ones, let us never forget, Jesus Christ spoke to adults when He told

them to repent—to believe—because little children cannot believe. They are innocent . . . they have the promise of God: "Suffer the little children, and forbid them not to come unto Me: for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Matthew 19:14. He said that we should be like as they are . . . so humble . . . so sincere . . . so filled with love and devotion.

There are movements wherein children who have not even experienced what accountable sin really is, are told they should believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and they can be saved. They haven't been lost yet. It is accountable sin that separates man from God. Sin is that awful gulf that Jesus Christ, the Lord, bridged for you and me, beloved ones, when He died there upon the cross and shed His blood for those who would believe and obey His Word.

"Of sin, because they believe not on me." John 16:9. Now we want to make this clear and plain, beloved ones, that it is sin that separates man from God. As I mentioned before, perhaps the greatest sin is that we do not believe on the only begotten Son of God. Now some people might have different ideas. Some people might think that murder would be the biggest sin, or robbery. Maybe those would be the biggest sins in some lives. But, beloved ones, by repentance & faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, those sins can be wiped away. They can become white as snow. So they are not the worst sins. They are terrible and gruesome sins. But, beloved ones, if we do not believe on Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and obey His Word, for such there is no forgiveness.

So we want to encourage you, beloved friends. I want to believe that you are here because you enjoy being among God's people . . . that you enjoy hearing His Word . . . that you enjoy hearing it in its truth and in the power of God's Spirit . . . that you don't want to hear anything else . . . that you don't want to hear some watered-down gospel. Otherwise, you wouldn't be here, because the world is full of lukewarmness.

It reads here, "of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more." John 16:10. We read in the fifth chapter of Matthew where the Lord Jesus said, "Blessed are they which do hunger

and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6. This is the righteousness that He was speaking of. This righteousness can be found only in Jesus Christ when we believe, repent and become converted, confessing our sins, and making restitution for our wrong doing. It is not our own righteousness.

Let's get this straight: ". . . all our righteousnesses," the Bible tells us, "are as filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6.

We know that there are a lot of people in this world who do a tremendous amount of good. They perhaps give hundreds of thousands of dollars for charity to help the sick, the unfortunate, the maimed, whatever it might be, but that will never suffice, beloved ones, to pay the price for the redemption of our soul.

The blood of Jesus Christ alone cleanseth us from all sins and all unrighteousness.

He said here, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will shew you things to come." John 16:12,13. The Spirit of Truth will come and will guide us into all truth and into all righteousness, if we obey that good Spirit. So, beloved ones, we trust that God will make everyone of us feel that He has spoken to our hearts and that we will do something about it. Let those of us who have become children of God, serve Him more faithfully and more sincerely, denying ourselves the things of this world, and be overcomers.

You know, only the overcomers have been give the promise of life eternal with God in Heaven. To the overcomers of sin, Satan, and the world, this Spirit of Truth, beloved ones, is a mystery. It is a mystery how it works in a person's heart when he yields himself to the Lord, humbling himself under His mighty Hand and crying to Him, "Help me!" "Lord, help me do what you want me to do so that I don't have to go to hell when I die!" Then the Spirit of Truth will come and it will guide us into all truth.

Our hearts and minds were once so prone to enjoy things that

this world had to offer—all at once, that desire is changed. It was a mystery. It happened, beloved ones, because we humbled ourselves under the mighty Hand of God and prayed and cried out to Him for help . . . the only source of help for a sinner in distress!

So we want to encourage all who have become children of God. He gave us the Spirit in its fullness when we experienced a complete conversion—a change of heart, mind, soul, desire and everything. The Spirit of Truth comes into our heart and takes over, and we continually plead and pray that God will give us a full measure of this Holy Spirit to lead us and to guide us each day to serve Him more faithfully and more sincerely.

And all of you beloved friends who are yet without the fold, we also want to encourage you. In any case, do not delay because we do not know when the Lord Jesus will come again. He told us here that He is going to come again. We know that He appeared to His disciples, His faithful followers, after He had been resurrected from the grave. But we are now looking for Him to come again to receive us unto Himself as a holy bride.

If we want to be as a holy bride, we need to deny ourselves everything, beloved ones, that this world has to offer and allow ourselves to be clothed with the beauty of God's holiness.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."  
John 15:7

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."  
Mark 11:24

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."  
Romans 8:28

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."  
Psalms 37:4, 5

Always remember, Jesus loves you.



# SILVER THREADS

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tested in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalm 12:6

For Thou, O God, hast proved us; Thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.

Psalm 66:10

A portion of each Silver Lining will be devoted to presenting Silver Threads—a beautiful thought or message woven in poetry.

## THE IDEAL HOME

An Ideal Home cannot be built  
with  
Compass, Rule or Square,  
An Ideal Home cannot exist,  
Without our Jesus there.

The place you find just filled with  
love,  
No matter where you roam,  
Where Jesus Christ does reign  
supreme,  
There—Is th Ideal Home.

## THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

The New Year has come  
As he annals record,  
What an opportune time,  
'Tis the year of our Lord.  
Awake, O my soul,  
This year is not mine!  
For His is the day,  
And each moment of time.  
If life be my portion,  
And health be my lot,  
Improve every minute  
And squander them not.  
Shall striving for riches  
Or honor or fame,  
Shall transient possessions  
Become my soul's aim?  
A higher objective  
My soul would pursue  
For things everlasting  
More blessed and true.  
My soul's meditations,  
My life may He bless;  
He came to give all,  
Ought I then give Him less?  
It is the Lord's year,  
If I'm granted to live  
What privilege my all  
In His service to give.  
For faithful endeavor  
I give Him my word.  
By His grace I shall make it  
A year for my Lord.

Bro. Henry Beer

## CONSOLATION

There is never a day so dreary  
But God can make it bright,  
And unto the soul that trusts Him,  
He gives songs in the night,  
There is never a path so hidden,  
But God can lead the way,  
If we seek for the Spirit's guidance  
And patiently wait and pray.

There is never a cross so heavy  
But the nail-scarred hands are  
there  
Outstretched in tender compassion  
The burden to help us bear.  
There is never a heart so broken,  
But the loving Lord can heal.  
The heart that was pierced on  
Calvary  
Doth still for His loved ones feel.

There is never a life so darkened,  
So hopeless and unblessed,  
But may be filled with the light of  
God  
And enter His promised rest.  
There is never a sin or sorrow,  
There is never a care or loss,  
But that we may bring to Jesus  
And leave at the foot of the cross.

—Author Unknown

## WORDS

A careless word may kindle strife  
A cruel word may wreck a life  
A bitter word may hate instill  
A brutal word may smite and kill  
A gracious word may smooth the  
way  
A joyous word may light the day  
A timely word may lessen stress  
A loving word may heal and bless

## A GOOD FRIEND

One day a gentle knocking  
Upon my door did sound;  
As I went forth to answer,  
A Stranger there I found  
Who greeted very kindly,  
And asked in friendly tone  
If I could spare a lodging

For Him within my home.  
I looked at Him and wondered  
What sort the man might be;  
I felt for Him a fondness,  
So good and kind looked He.  
So gentle and so loving,  
Full of humility,  
And yet withal possessing  
A certain majesty.

I could not well refuse Him  
And said with timid voice:  
"Come in, my Friend, and  
welcome!"  
Which caused Him to rejoice.  
Directly then He offered  
To be my truest friend,  
In all my tribulations  
A helping hand to lend.

He then asked for a chamber  
Wherein He might abide  
Within the inmost recess,  
My thoughts and steps to guide.  
On this request I answered:  
"I have just such a room,  
But it is in disorder,  
Is dark and full of gloom."

I felt ashamed to open  
That long neglected room;  
My Guest how'er insisted  
That inside He must come.  
O how disgraced and humbled  
I now began to feel  
Because of the disorder  
To my Guest I must reveal.

I could not help admitting  
How sorry was my plight,  
With all the great confusion  
Which greeted now His sight.  
I told Him how so often  
I had started in to clean  
This dark and dust chamber,  
Alas! 'Twas all in vain.

And hardly could I tarry,  
But looked with troubled heart  
For Him to lose His patience  
And say, "I must depart."  
O yes, my sad condition  
It burdened me with fears,

Filled my heart with contrition.  
My eyes with woeful tears.

But He said, full of kindness:  
"Your plight is sad indeed,  
I would bring for you disaster  
Should no one intercede.  
Cheer up, dear heart, and trust me,  
I've come to offer aid,  
And under my direction  
All trouble soon will fade."  
"For all your sinful living  
Which causes you to grieve,  
The penalty I've suffered  
If you will but believe.  
For look, here are the tokens  
Upon my hands and feet,  
What I for you have suffered  
Your ransom to complete.

O then my hard heart melted,  
O how my tears did flow,  
When He showed me such kindness,  
Consoled and loved me so!  
I scarcely could believe it,  
Yet I could see, 'tis true.  
And when in faith I grasped it,  
Joyful and glad I grew.

And in that little chamber  
A wondrous change took place,  
When my belov'd Guest entered  
With all His love and grace.  
The dark and gruesome contents  
He did remove in haste,  
While three bright, cheery windows  
Into the walls He placed.

The room became so cheerful,  
So pure and clean and white,  
Just like a hallowed temple  
So festive and so bright.  
And as a High Priest holy  
My Friend within shall dwell.  
How great my joy and comfort  
My tongue can never tell!

And of His gifts and favors  
So much I could relate,  
When I was weak and faulty  
How He did intercede.  
How He advised and helped me  
Whene'er I felt distressed,  
And how from morn till evening  
He comforted and blessed.

And to this day this precious  
True Friend with me abides,  
And He shall tarry with me  
Whatever may betide.  
And when my house shall crumble  
A mansion He'll prepare  
Wherein eternal glory  
My Friend with me shall share.

And this is but a foretaste  
Of what is yet to come.

For in those heav'nly regions  
Where stands my future home,  
Prevail such joy and pleasure  
As ne'er an eye has seen,  
No human heart can measure  
Such peace and rest serene.

Upon His throne of glory  
My Friend shall reign with might,  
And shine with greater splendor  
Than even sun so bright.  
There will I kneel and worship  
My Friend upon the throne,  
With all the saints and blessed  
For all that He has done.

And now, my dear companions,  
Have you found this dear Friend?  
Is He perhaps still knocking?  
Your welcome now extend.  
You never will regret it  
If you admit Him now,  
For grace and peace and blessing  
On you He will bestow.

Translated from the Swiss  
by Ernest Graf, Sr.

#### A SONG BY BROTHER GEISTLICH

Can be sung to Melody 73 or 171—  
Zions Harp

1. My parting hour is nearing  
swiftly,  
As many friends have gone before.  
Soon shall the thorny path be  
finished  
Which leads to rest on yonder  
shore.

2. My angel oft-times comes and  
whispers  
That my allotted days are few;  
That I must haste with prayer  
and watching  
If yonder goal I wish to view.

3. And should the night of death  
approaching  
Awaken fear or dread in me,  
I'll trust and look to him with  
courage,  
Who promise me the victory.

4. O Jesus, Lord of my salvation,  
Let death not find me unprepared!  
But lead me by thy hand of  
mercy  
Where peace and rest to me are  
shared.

5. O Thou, who over death hast  
triumphed,  
Give me the Vict'ry over death!  
When helplessly I sink, give

power  
To hold Thee fast in my last  
breath.

6. Thus gently rests the weary  
Pilgrim,  
From every burden, toil, and care,  
Till he awakes on that blest  
morning  
To rise in glory, bright and fair.  
—Translated by Bro. Graf  
His Last Week

From peaceful Galilee up to  
Jerusalem  
The Savior turned His face and  
thither went His way.  
The vision of a cross upon a lonely  
hill  
Stood out in bold relief against  
that coming day.

Up to the sacrificial feast He  
needs must go,  
For heaven will a paschal lamb  
provide.  
Farewell to kindred ties in pleasant  
Galilee,  
For He must keep this feast what-  
ever may betide.

Then Jesus with the loved dis-  
ciple band  
Descended from the mount of  
Olives on the way.  
Steadfastly to Jerusalem He set  
His face,  
And rode upon a colt in lowly,  
meek array.

The loved disciples, children,  
people all  
Cried out with waving palms,  
"Hosanna to the King.  
Hosanna to the King who cometh  
in God's name,  
Hosanna in the highest," His  
praises they did sing.

Though oft He went unto the  
Paschal feast,  
Yet now He went e'en as the Lord  
had willed.  
The altar is prepared, the sacred  
hour draws nigh;  
How is He straightened till it all  
shall be fulfilled!

And as the time drew nigh He  
showed His power divine:  
The fig tree is accursed and with-  
ered in one day;  
For henceforth shall no fruit on  
thee be borne.  
They marvel all who chance to pass  
that way.

# REPENTANCE:

## God's Way Of Salvation

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judeah, and saying, 'Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand . . . Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, and they were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.'"

Matthew 3:16

Of late there is a doctrine which is acquiring more and more attention. The teachers of this unscriptural doctrine seek to teach that all men will eventually be saved and become heirs of eternal life by just believing that Jesus is the Son of God. The Scriptural passage at the head of this writing tells us most assuredly that men must also repent, which means carrying Godly sorrow for one's sins, and that through this period of repentance we turn away from sin and cease to live therein.

Repentance brings about a change of heart and mind so that once being pardoned from our sin, we find grace through Him to abandon sin in our lives. John the Baptist also speaks of confessing their sins. If we search the scriptures we will find that confession is one phase of this work of grace which finally will lead us to full salvation. We must not forget that repentance and confession are two necessary requirements, and to fulfill these, we must have faith in

God and believe that the word of God is true.

When I think of the time I sought salvation, I must confess that it was the knowledge which was dwelling in me from hearing the word in Sunday School and Church services. I also must give my good Christian parents much of the credit, for it was from their untiring efforts that I acquired this knowledge and fear of God, which led me to turn to God in prayer and to Jesus and my soul's salvation. It is this doctrine which has brought peace and happiness to my life, and I hope and pray the true ministers of the Gospel will never leave or cease to preach it. It brings about an unconditional surrender to God from sin.

Through faith, repentance, and confession the new child of God is born. Only along these scriptural lines should souls be added to the fold, through baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Thus can we be adopted into the family of the saints and become a new born child of God, and a member of the church and body of Christ. Such a soul is indeed born anew of water and spirit. In a truly converted soul, it is evident that he has a new Master for he is willing to be obedient to God's teachings. Only through obedience can one become a full-grown man or woman in Christ Jesus. Such a new-born soul recognizes his Mas-

ter's voice and will not follow the voice of the stranger.

How needful it is in our time that the soul can be fully established and not follow the throng, even though they say, "Here is Christ, and there is Christ", we are taught not to follow them.

It is a wholesome and scriptural teaching that we should be a separate people. In so doing we are taught, "Ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty God." The first Psalm has one of its wonderful teachings in several of its last verses. "The Ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the Ungodly shall perish." We must remember the psalmist spoke these words before the coming of the just One. How much more should they apply to the church of our day.

I hope and pray that the true church of God can remain true and pure; only then can it be an incentive to sin-sick and lost souls to turn from their erring ways and live in Jesus Christ. Let us then, all together of God's redeemed and elect, strive earnestly by His grace to be true lights and pillars of the church of the living God, and in so doing make our own calling and election sure.

Submitted by: Elder Bro.  
Theo Beer



## SERMON BY BRO. HERMAN KELLENBERGER

614 Addison St., Elgin, Illinois

**Text: 2 Kings 5 and John 16**

"... and your joy no man taketh from you." John 16:22. Beloved ones, how, then, would we lose this joy? Because we know that sometimes unfortunate souls allow themselves to become ensnared of the evil one, Satan, the enemy of our soul, or of the lust of the flesh, or of the pride of life, or whatever it might be, they lose this joy. They lose this joy because of their own carelessness in prayer and in reading the Holy Word. Not only do they lack in reading the Word, but also in applying it to their lives because this Word of God points out from the very beginning, even as we read here of Gehazi, what terrible things can come over us because of sin.

It is because of sin that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour, into this world to suffer, to die and to shed His precious blood for US.

When we turned unto Him and yielded and surrendered ourselves unto Him and became obedient unto His Word, our hearts were FILLED with a joy and peace and love—a love toward God and a love, not only for His people, but a love for all mankind, even as Jesus loved us before we loved Him.

So, beloved ones, the Word teaches us from the very beginning how displeased God is when man disobeys His Holy Word and His commandments, as we were taught concerning Adam and Eve. We like to blame Satan for all the misfortunes that befall us. But, you know, sometimes it is our own fault. We can't blame Satan for everything. It is because we yield ourselves again to the things that we had once left behind and turned away from as we mentioned: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. The Bible tells us that "God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." I Peter 5:5.

Brothers and sisters, let all of us who have experienced this wonderful JOY and PEACE in our hearts guard it with all diligence. Let us every day anew, pray unto God with ALL our heart and with ALL our soul for His help and His strength.

There is nothing in all the world that is as precious as this joy that we receive from God when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and, in obedience to His Word, repent for our sins and confess them.

We were glad to get rid of those things that troubled us... that were a burden to our heart. We were glad that the Bible told us that we should confess our sins. When we unburdened our hearts, beloved ones, and kept on praying and asking God for forgiveness, He, in love and mercy, did forgive us.

Now, perhaps, sometimes we thought we had to wait a little bit too long. We became a little bit impatient and we would have liked to have had God answer that prayer a little quicker. I know that sometimes we are inclined that way, but, beloved ones, God knows everything. He knows the end from the beginning and when He saw that we really meant what we said... what we prayed for... and what we promised Him, that if He would forgive us our sins we would be true and faithful to Him as long as we lived, then God saw that it was time to forgive us our sins, and He forgave us our sins.

It doesn't come to everybody exactly the same way, does it? Sometimes this brings confusion. Young people, especially, are inclined to visit with each other and share with each other how they received peace. Then because the one who is seeking peace doesn't find it just that way, well, Satan is there and he brings a little doubt into his mind and heart.

Beloved ones, let us not forget this: God knows just exactly how

to reveal to us when He is satisfied, when He has forgiven us our sins. He knows just exactly the right way to do it. Very, very seldom do two people receive peace the same way.

I know it took me quite a while before I could even grasp it. that God could be satisfied, that He could forgive my sins, knowing what a terrible sinner I was.

Now we read here in the ninth verse, "of sin, because they believe not on me." John 16:9. You know, that is the biggest sin, I believe, that human beings can be guilty of. After they hear the Word of God... the precious Word of God... the life-giving Word... the Word filled with promises—eternal promises, they neglect, reject, and refuse to believe on Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Now, I think there are some of you dear friends back there who believe in Jesus. But you know, there are different ways to believe. There is a human belief in what we hear or what we see. Then there is that faith that God gives that is a belief unto salvation. That's the difference.

We must seek God in faith believing that He sent His Son to this earth to suffer that shameful and noble death upon the cross... to die there upon the cross... to die there and to shed His holy and precious blood. The payment... the propitiation... whatever you want to call it, His blood paid for our sins... His blood atoned for our sins. This is what we have to believe and if we say we believe and don't obey, we are only deceiving ourselves. We have to obey and the Word of God reveals that if we believe, we shall repent for our sins.

I think now of the little while before the Lord Jesus ascended to heaven. This is after He died and after He had risen. He spoke here of this, beloved ones, to His dis-