

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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This article represents Part 11 of the continuing series: **A CONDENSED OUTLINE OF THE LIFE OF SAMUEL H. FROEHLICH**

"True, as I did not yet grasp and understand correctly what I had said. Indeed I also did not as yet know the Lord Jesus Christ and the necessity for His atonement and redemption, for it was not yet the burden of my load of sin which had driven me to the Savior of Sinners, but merely the conviction, 'Thou must change; otherwise thou canst not become a minister.'

"From then on, with all earnestness and might, I wished to shun sin, which I now recognized as sin, and knew not that it did not lie within my power to overcome a mastery which had for so long bound me with the chains of darkness. But it was as if the Lord, to Whom I had made my vow, had taken me at my word, although it was really He Who had taken me by my hand and with all His goodness drawn me to Him.

"Beginning with this day, the whole scene changed. He never left me. I found rest and peace nowhere. My whole body, indeed, the whole world, became too narrow for me. I sought for something which should fill the endless emptiness which had now arisen in my soul, and I did not find it. I went out into mountain and forest, knelt and prayed and cried out in lonesome places. My whole being was longing, sorrowfulness, and anxiety. I sought the Lord Jesus Christ with ardent fervor and many tears. That was the first period of my awakening.

"The first piece of literature that fell into my hands was Fénélon's 'Religious Works', translated by Claudius. In it, I found for the first time a name for my spiritual condition, for up to this time, I had

been an inexplicable riddle to myself and I did not know what was to become of me. Therefore, it was, in a measure, a consolation to see that others had experienced similar things. Especially did I believe to recognize myself in the 14th chapter of the first part which bears the superscription: 'Concerning the inner workings of God, to bring man back to the true end for which He created us.' As yet I was far from seeking to be represented therein; it was Another Who did lead me, and He led me into an extraordinarily difficult and dark path.

"Now for the first time my suffering began. What I had to go through from then on, in a literal sense, is inexpressible. Everything that fire and water, hammer and sword may bring about is as nothing compared with the unfathomable sea of trouble and misery wherein I must sink. I wept night and day and writhed like a worm in the dust when it is trodden upon. Had I had authority over myself, I would often have taken my life through anguish and despair. But the Lord held me in His hand in such a way that I could not move. The price I paid was a much higher one than this earthly life. Like Job I lay in the dust. In no human being, in no friend could I confide, nor could I reveal myself to anyone. All theological or rationalistic lectures became an abomination to me for I was now in another school.

"All my letters of that time bear the stamp of my inner condition. My sisters feared that I was losing my mind because the tone of my letters was radically different from what it had previously been. They

consisted for the most part of scriptural passages. For a long time I remained in this fiery furnace until at length faith in Jesus Christ the Crucified brought me rest, peace, and light, and made place within me for a new creation.

"From then on, Jesus Christ was the center of my whole life and sphere of activity. However, I was kept constantly under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, for not until now did the struggle against my old nature and against the law of sin, which had dwelt in my very members, become serious. But even with all my new transgressions, the faithfulness of the Lord did not forsake me. Both of these things, my sins and His grace, humbled me greatly.

"That was my last half year in Basel and the second period of my conversion from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. And so after a stay of two years in Basel, I was obliged to return to my home, principally for economic reasons, in October, 1825. Here in my father's house a new school or period in my life began, in which I was to be further trained, developed, strengthened, invigorated, and grounded so that I should not enter as a novice into the important office which preaches atonement.

"Here I applied for the examination as a candidate for the Ministry, which was postponed to the following spring, 1826. At the request of my parents, I preached for the first time in my native Brugg the Sunday before Christmas and met with such general approval that I should have become anxious and afraid if the honor of the Lord had not

counted for more with me than all personal vainglory among men. I did not again preach here until Good Friday, 1826, and that proved to be a veritable Good Friday for me. Instead of expressions of praise, I reaped only ridicule and reproach. It produced an entirely different effect from the praises I had received; it was necessary and wholesome for me.

"Now for two entire years there came over me fiery tribulations that are beyond description. Only He Who knows the heart knows what I suffered. I preached Christ here, there and everywhere in the country. But in every minister who allowed me to preach, I gained a new opponent. With such preparation and forebodings, I approached my examination.

"The principles which I brought to light in the compositions made such an unfavorable impression upon the members of the church council that I failed the examination and was put back a year. The Lord had resolved upon this also for my further testing and purification.

"In the course of this year, oppression and misery often rose to the extreme, both from within and without. I was compelled to preach in September, 1826, in the church of a member of the church council. Among other things, he wrote to my parents who were already troubled and dissatisfied because of my set-back: 'It is bad and dangerous (and this impressed the whole church council at the trial sermon) that your son is not on the right road in regard to his doctrine and teaching, and in all sincerity he should be advised to center upon a better course, if he wishes to be accepted into the Ministry and is to make the proper success of his future calling. On this point I gave him my opinion in a friendly and earnest way. Now it depends upon whether he will give ear to good counsel. In any case, he will do well if he will soon present new sermons composed in a different spirit.' That was the occasion that also in my case the saying should be fulfilled: 'A man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

"From this quarter, too, they now began to urge vehemently upon me that I should preach in a different manner and indeed like others so that I be not excluded from the Ministry entirely. I, however, could

not say a word in answer to this. In the midst of those blows and storms, I had to keep still like a lamb that is led to slaughter, like a sheep that is dumb before its shearer. The Lord, however, amidst all these attacks of the foe, still gave me patience and courage to endure everything—yes, rather death than to abandon the recognized and experienced truth.

"With all this my body was not spared. In that very month of September, 1826, I had a sudden attack of a sharp pain in the chest, so violent that I could hardly draw a breath and for many days seemed near death. That was followed, for an entire year, by cramps in the chest and most difficult respiration. But never did I experience more vividly in my heart the unspeakable friendliness of the Lord Jesus than I did toward the end of the year 1826. Without a doubt, it was to strengthen and prepare me for the ensuing darkness and the storms of opposition."

CHRONOLOGY—BEGINNING IN 1827

The first period in the conversion of S. H. Froehlich was one of awakening (April, 1825); the second, being brought from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God (in October the same year). There was an interim of seven years from the time of his conversion until his baptism in 1832.

On May 27, 1827, Froehlich was confirmed for the Ministry in the Protestant state church after repeated examinations. Of this acceptance, he wrote that it was brought about through no fault of his. After waiting for some time, he became parish administrator of the congregation at Leutwil (Aargau). There was still no thought of a position, and his suffering continued for another year, inwardly and outwardly, until Easter, 1828, when he received an assignment as tutor with a private family near Schaffhausen.

It was not until his transfer to the vicariate of the Probstei Wagenthausen (Thurgau) in August, 1828, that an essential change in him took place. There his spirit became a thing of life and he felt himself to be in his element.

In December, 1828, he accepted a call as vicar to the congregation

at Leutwil. The hand of the Lord was with him and gave his word such power that the testimony of the Crucified Savior pierced the hearts of the hearers like a two-edged sword and called forth a great awakening in the congregation of 1,800 souls. The once poorly attended church was now crowded. The evil one could no longer look on passively. Froehlich was accused of attracting members from neighboring parishes, but he remained for two years without taking fright at the threatenings. The adversaries of the Gospel, however, sought reasons to put away this new preacher who stood in their path.

At Easter, 1830, the church council introduced, in place of the old Heidelberg Catechism, a new rationalistic one for the instruction of the children. After an examination of the book, Froehlich could not persuade himself to use it because, instead of a positive faith in Christ, it laid a foundation for nature- or reason-religion. Because of this and other trumped up charges of arbitrariness, he was haled before the church council on September 27, 1830. He defended himself and held his ground on the basis of his conviction, and was, for the time being, dismissed without a decision from the hearing.

REMOVAL FROM THE PROTESTANT STATE CHURCH

Since two Basel divines, who had been sent privately to investigate and persuade him, could achieve nothing, the church recognized the futility of its efforts. With reference to his removal, Froehlich

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wrote (to his beloved congregation in Leutwil): "My deposal was revealed to me by the church council without further ado on October 22, 1830, and, in fact, so quickly that I had no opportunity to preach a real farewell sermon. Accompanied by many thousand tears and good wishes I went my way on October 25th." A teaching which demanded regeneration through repentance faith, and baptism was bound to call forth opposition from the consistory, which suffered from dead formalism.

On June 4, 1831, Froehlich was called before the district magistrate of Brugg, who gave him the following decisions of the Aargau government:

- a) He is removed from the list of the Aargau clergy;
- b) All churchly functions, i.e., teaching, baptism, holy communion, are strictly forbidden him;
- c) All officers of the Canton, Protestant and Catholic, have received strict orders, if he enters their jurisdiction, to have him arrested and reprimanded and sent back to his home (state church) congregation.

The breach with the state church was thus made final. What should he do now? Submit or assert himself against the whole power of darkness? His inner conviction no longer permitted him to practice infant baptism, at which, according to the old liturgy, the baptismal candidate is addressed by name and asked five questions. These questions the sponsors answer in the name and in the stead of the child. First question: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways? Answer: Yes, I renounce. Second question: Do you believe in God the Father, etc.? Answer: Yes, I believe. Third question: Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Answer: Yes, I believe. Fourth question: Do you believe in the Holy Ghost? Answer: Yes, I believe. Fifth question: Will you be baptized in this Christian faith? Answer: Yes, I will.

Froehlich wrote: "This play with holy things I could no longer carry on in my convictions." For this reason it was no longer possible for him to be a clergyman in the state church. He strove for clarity and unceasingly brought his need and desire to God in prayer.

NEW BEGINNING

Froehlich returned to his paternal home in Brugg where he for a year quietly prepared himself for the work God had appointed for him. It seemed to him that he was being sifted like wheat and like Joseph in prison, was waiting for the Lord's deliverance. But he could not remain inactive, for one cannot stop a living spring.

NOTE: A library of the writings of S. H. Froehlich will be available for purchase either by individual title or in a matched hardcover set of ten volumes. Order forms will be printed in the next issue of the Silver Lining.

NOTICE

LOST: At Bay City church Oct. 16, a navy blue "Northlander" all-weather coat and another blue coat left in its place. If you have this coat, please contact: Mrs. Martha Rezmer, 3750 S. Bern Drive, Bay City, Michigan 48706. Telephone 517-686-8019.

CHILDREN'S HOME

"The Kingdom of Heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one;"

The success of those people depended on how they used their talents. And likewise the success of our spiritual life is also going to depend on how we use our given talents in Christ's work and will.

The two successful servants were humble enough to admit and count their talents and to wisely put them to use to obtain a bigger gain for their Master. The unsuccessful, wicked servant was neglectful for his Master's cause and figured if he buried his talent he wouldn't have to spend any effort to use it and neither would he lose it. However, being selfish and carnally minded, he did not understand the seeming paradox of God's word; that if you really want life eternal, the only way to gain it is to give up your own. And if you try to save and protect the life you want now, you are going to end up losing it. Likewise, for those of us who are concerned for preserving the precious faith, we won't keep it by burying it in the ground and hiding it. The Lord will take it away from us and give it to those

who have been using it to make gain for Him.

The lesson on talent usage in Matthew 25 goes on to describe the works in which the Lord was pleased to have His servants use their talents in. He said as He will stand before all nations separating His true servants from the wicked: "I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." And these works were significant to Christ even though done to the least of His brethren.

It would be easier to try and use our talent in word only, but that doesn't necessarily require self-sacrifice and unselfish love. Even as necessary as it is for brothers to preach and deliver the word of God to the needy hearts (for faith cometh by hearing the word of God), the Lord deleted that from those works that exemplified the talent usage of His true followers. Perhaps it was because telling others about Christ could stem from a selfish desire in some people's minds to do it just to be able to say they witnessed—that they worked for the Lord—instead of being motivated out of a true unselfish love for the sake of the hearer's soul and the glory of God. The Lord wants us to do everything as unto Him and for our neighbor's benefit. Even in James' Epistle it says don't just tell hungry and needy people to have faith and go in peace, do something to help them. "Love not in word but in deed."

Our efforts here to take in strangers, to feed, clothe and help the needy are very feeble in ourselves, but the Lord's grace has been our brotherhood's sufficiency for all those who have been concerned to make this project successful. We are just 2 houses trying to obey God and give a good home to a few children but if we would all personally try (as the Lord wills and leads) to take someone into our own individual homes or hearts, think of the many more thousands that could be helped just from our brotherhood alone.

"Thank you" to all who patiently and understandingly support us in word, deed and prayer.

We have four children in each

house now. Two are 9 and 10 and the other six are teenagers. Some are showing an interest to try and understand the Lord's ways. One of our satisfying experiences has been to go down to one of the teenager's rooms at night and discover them having fallen asleep with their Bible laying open on their chest.

THE HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Kindness isn't sacrifice . . . Or giving alms, my lad . . . It's simply sharing happiness . . . With someone who is sad . . . Kindness is a soothing light . . . That seeks out darkened hearts . . . And makes them flame with new-found hope . . . New joy—and then departs . . . Kindness is a merry song . . . Turned loose upon the air . . . A musical guardian of our joy . . . A foeman of despair . . . Kindness is unselfish thought . . . Unselfish, friendly deed . . . Inspired by the wish to aid . . . Some brother who's in need . . . Kindness is forgetfulness . . . Of our own worldly aims . . . Forgetfulness of all but this . . . Our needy neighbors' claims . . . Kindness is a loving guide . . . That shows us how to live . . . A treasure which, the more we spend . . . The more we have to give."

Our featured resident this month is Doris Hutchison, daughter of Oscar L. and Elsie Rodgers Hutchison. She was born in Dewitt County near Heyworth, Illinois. Both parents are deceased, as are two of her brothers. Five brothers and three sisters, all married, make up Doris' family. To make this happy family complete, there are twenty-two nieces and nephews and 13 great nieces and nephews, which Doris enjoys very much. Besides spending time at the Peoria workshop, Doris loves to read, write and listen to music. Birthday time for Doris is June 18.

Hopefully in the not-too-distant future, our new addition will reach the stage of completion necessary to permit applying for license, which will be one more step toward our goal. Each milestone creates thankfulness anew.

Barb Taylor's surgery was successful, and we are happy to report that she is back with us and doing well.

"A kind word is never lost. It keeps going on and on, from one

person to another, until at last it comes back to you again."

Tucson, Arizona . . . Caroline Kaufman: We are anxiously awaiting the A.C.Y.F. (Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship) weekend when we will joyfully meet our loved ones from Phoenix and California. Last year, in February, Bro. Wendell Gudeman was with us. Our hearts deeply rejoice as he and Bro. Noah Herman encouraged troubled souls who wanted to dedicate their lives to the Lord.

On Feb. 5, we were privileged to attend Phoenix' dedication of their new church. We rejoice and praise God that an Arizona church grew so much that a larger building was needed. There was an overwhelming joy felt as we heard the brothers dedicate the new edifice to the Lord as a place for His work. We join Phoenix in the prayer that the church will be a beautiful oasis in a world of care.

In the past issue, I neglected to include Bro. Harry Sutter's visit to Tucson. We really enjoyed Bro. Harry and his wife. They were able to enjoy the testimony of four of their great nieces and nephews while they were here.

Our congregation has been blessed with visiting ministers. We are pleased to have our Elder Bro. Richard Schubach, Bro. Roy Sauder, Bro. Carl Kinsinger, and Bro. Clarence Yackley worship with us. Every visitor adds a tremendous blessing and warmth to our small church. Our hope is that you will continue to pray for us and that we will continue to grow in the glory of God.

Phoenix, Arizona . . . Julie Hoerr:

Holy Communion services were held Saturday evening, Feb. 4, in our new house of worship. Our privilege (as His children) of taking of the bread and the cup was highlighted by our being served by our retiring Elder Bro. Roy Farney and our new Elder Bro. Richard Schupach. We pray that the Lord will bless our dear Bro. Roy with many years of good health so that he may enjoy the fellowship with those he so faithfully shepherded.

On Feb. 5 our hearts were filled to overflowing with love and joy as Elder Bros. Dave Keiser and Roy Sauder had dedication services for our new edifice and admonished us to remember that the TRUE

CHURCH is the PEOPLE. Truly, words cannot be found to express the blessings and happiness present as our church was filled with those eager to hear God's Word. We can say this was a taste of heaven on earth.

We were happy to have the following ministering brothers with us for this memorable week-end: Deacon Noah Herman (Tucson), Henry Dotterer (Rittman), and Albert Schietlin. A church dinner was later enjoyed by 400. We invite our visitors to return.

Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City) was with us Jan. 22 when we held open house. We give thanks to our dear Lord and all who helped answer our prayers.

The week-end of Jan. 14 and 15 was a special time for Elder Bro. Joe Waibel. He journeyed to Phoenix to assist Elder Bro. Schupbach with the provings and baptisms of two dear souls. Bro. Joe's grandson, Herbert Knochel, Jr., and Jeff Leman became our new brothers in faith. Bro. Herb and Sis. Jeanne Knochel, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Milli Leman are their parents. Jeff's grandparents, Bro. and Sis. Haas of Morton were also here.

Convert Joy Yackley was to have been proved and baptized the same week-end, but during the previous week her dear husband, Al, turned to our Lord in repentance. They now look forward to the time when they can share this precious experience together. Al is the son of ministering Bro. Clarence and our late Sis. Vera.

We thank guest minister Noah Gerber (West Bend) for his timely message Jan. 25.

We are surely enjoying our many winter visitors. Although much of January has been rainy, they seem to find it better than the snow and ice at home.

If God be for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Athens, Alabama . . . Hazel Vibbert: The beginning of the new year has brought a lot of ice and snow. And children out of schools.

Bobby and Sis. Reba McBay are the proud grandparents of Jycklin Marie. The first for Hirmin and Sis. Kathy Holt. Bro. Carl and Sis. Shirley Haggermaker announced the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Sis. Judy, and Bro. David Haggermaker.

My son, Kevin Vibbert and Alice

Rouse plan on being married in the near future.

Bro. John Balin and Sis. Reba McBay have been in the hospital. Both were back in church Sunday. There has been a lot of sickness around.

Visitors have been, Perry and Hazel Virkler (Great Bend, N.Y.), Clarence and Lydia Frankaver (Lamont, Ks.), Lester and Ella Hartler (Bern, Ks.).

Bro. Carl and David Haggermaker got up early in January and went up in the mountains of Tennessee to the George Kelly family and Avie Allen as this was a real special day. Avie gave her testimony and was baptized and became a sister in faith.

Rockville, Connecticut . . . Carlton J. Lanz: TIME IS MARCHING ON. Everything in life runs by time. Whatever man is doing, in the long run, is measured by time. Time engages the attention of everyone of the more than four billion people living on the earth. Whoever we are, wherever we live, in cities with buildings tall, in jungles, or in small villages, time is bearing each one of us to eternity at the same pace. Our Creator, God, has set the timepiece in motion, and only He can stop it. Perhaps no word throughout the world is used so much as the word TIME. Its meaning is far-reaching and deep.

If one lives forty years, do we realize how many seconds that is? 1 billion, 536 million. And if one is able to attain the seventy year life span generally allotted to each of us, he will have accounted for 2.2 billion seconds. Sometime ago I visited one of the nuclear plants here and had a chance to see the clock ticking away the passing of these seconds. The beautiful hymn came to mind which reads thusly, "My lifetime does pass away, Hourly to the grave I hasten," etc. You and I have been born into TIME . . . we did not choose it . . . but we are here. We were born into it . . . In it we are growing old and someday we will pass out of it. King Solomon, ancient preacher, tells us this.

Isn't it amazing how people concern themselves in minimizing the passing of time? Many are inclined to gloss it over thinking to deter its inevitable passing. The prophet Isaiah, in the Old Testament, com-

pared life to the weaver's web. He said: "I have rolled up . . . like a weaver, my life; He will cut me off from the loom." (Is. 38:12)

On Feb. 7, 1978, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan had a daughter, Melinda Jean, their first child. Grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mildred Gerber and Mr. and Mrs. John Ryan of Ellington.

Having undergone surgery, Sis. Frieda Zahner is at her home recuperating. It is good to hear that she is doing well.

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida . . . Caroline Akel: Love is a word which the world uses so lightly, but to the Christian it is the greatest and most abiding power.

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40).

Since love is the foundation, the beginning, and the end of our Christian life, it is obviously something quite serious, which a Christian should not pass over lightly.

"And now abideth faith, hope, and charity (love), these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (Corinthians 13:13)

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Faith serves a very important purpose in our Christian life here on earth. Through faith we are able to "quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." (Ephesians 6:16) We walk by faith while we cannot see with our eyes. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face . . ." (1 Corinthians 13:12). Someday we shall see the evidence of what we now believe in through faith. When we see the things of heaven and "Know even as also I am known," we will be living by sight and no longer by faith in the unseen.

Hope implies an expectation of something yet to come. Hope keeps us going when the road becomes difficult, because we can look ahead to a better land. It encourages us during our trials here on earth. "For we are saved by hope; but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet

hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." (Romans 8:24-25) We are hoping and patiently waiting for the day when we shall be in heaven with our Savior. When we reach heaven, we shall have seen and received what we have patiently waited for, and there shall be nothing yet to hope for.

We shall leave earthly possessions and worldly knowledge behind. We cannot take them to heaven. Even faith and hope, our faithful companions throughout life, will have served their purposes during our life here upon earth. But, love shall endure throughout eternity.

Let us take time in this life to nourish love and use every opportunity to encourage its growth. Time spent in Christian love is truly an eternal investment.

Our congregation was touched by the death of Susanna Cholak. Susanna, a member of our sister church, attended our church with her husband, Lazar. We extend our sympathy to Lazar and their son, Tom, and pray that God will strengthen and guide them through this difficult time.

We have been blessed with many visitors during these winter months. We are thankful for each one who has assembled with us. Among our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern, Kansas), Bro. Henry Grimm (Morton, Illinois), Bro. Bob Pohl (Burlington, Iowa), and Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse, Indiana).

Elections were held in our church. Bro. Burt Aeschliman was elected trustee. Bros. Fred Meyer and Krent Wieland were asked to serve as ushers.

Sarasota, Florida . . . Kathryn Schroeder:

FRIENDSHIP

A friend cannot be known in prosperity, and an enemy cannot be hidden in adversity.

True friends visit us in prosperity only when invited, but in adversity they come without an invitation. —Theophrates

The Book of Job:

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that was come upon him, they came every one from his own place, . . . for they

had made an appointment together to mourn with him and to comfort him . . . they lifted up their voice, and wept, . . . seven days and seven nights, and none spoke a word unto him: for they saw that his grief was very great . . .

Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him . . . Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. . . Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

Happiness is having beloved Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach with us again. Their days here were few; but, with the Lord's consent, they will return again in February. They have always come back.

Our visiting ministers, Arthur Gudeman, LaCrosse, Ind., had an edifying message for all.

The engagement of our friend, Tom Furrer, Wolcott, Ind., has been announced. He is now living in Sarasota. His marriage to Rowena Sheldon, Remington, Ind., is planned to take place in April.

We have rejoiced in our large number of winter visitors. How wonderful to see faces of long ago and to meet new ones from our many churches. There is an instant feeling of harmony and accord with one's fellow beings. Brethren and friends come from near and far to worship with us at the feet of the Lord, Our Father.

Bradford, Illinois . . . Jane Le-man: We thank Bros. Bruce Le-man (Roanoke) and Jerry Kurtz (Oakville) for ministering to us.

At our annual meeting we elected Bros. Loris Stisser and Jordan Elsasser as our new trustees.

A baby boy, Joshua Simon, was born to Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon Elsasser. He has three brothers and two sisters. Sis. Leila Elsasser (Princeville) and Bro. and Sis. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont) are grandparents.

Friends Marvin and Connie (Wettstein) Ehnle welcome their first child, a little girl named Tricia Lynn. Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle are grandparents.

A June wedding is planned by friends Mark Ehnle and Cathy Despain. Mark's parents are minister-

ing Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna.

Sis. Teresa Stoller (Ministering Bro. Nat ad Sis. Martha) and Bro. Brad Gudeman from Elgin, Illinois, are engaged and plan an April wedding. Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman are parents of Brad.

How uplifting and encouraging it has been to have two young men turn to the Lord in repentance—we pray that more hearts can be touched.

Champaign - Urbana, Illinois . . .

Charlen Banwart: In the midst of another harsh winter, we were warmed by the words in Song of Solomon, "For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come . . ." Bro. Frederick Knapp from Congerville read this to us on a recent Sunday visit. Elder Bro. Joe Braker of Morton and Leroy Huber of Eureka also ministered to us in January and we look forward to a Wednesday night visit from Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley. May the Lord bless His servants who labor untiringly for our eternal gain.

Our Bible Class has begun attending ACYF. Since we have only five high school students, we appreciate the time and talent shared by several college students and young members who sing with our group.

Sis. Anne Walder received a B.S. degree in nursing from the University of Illinois and is presently working in the pediatric ward of Carle Hospital in Urbana.

Cissna Park, Illinois . . . Marilyn

Knapp - Judy Bauer: Bros. Dave Wiegand and Virgil Metzger from Champaign visited us on a Wednesday evening. Bros. Arthur Baurer (Princeville), Walter Anliker (Eureka), and Edwin Ringger (Gridley) were here on a Sunday. We thank all these brothers for their inspiring messages.

Sis. Gail Hari, daughter of Bro. Al and Betty, and Bro. Ron Romersberger, son of Bro. William and Sis. Lucille, were married Jan. 22. We wish them God's richest blessings. They will be making their home in Wyoming and attending church in Princeville.

We've had several hospital patients. Sis. Emma Wahl had minor surgery and Bro. Harry Knapp had open heart surgery. They are re-

cuperating at home. Sis. Ollie Feller and Sis. Martha Hari are both medical patients. We pray for their speedy recovery.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bill Feller's family at the passing of his granddaughter, Shirley Feller.

Our congratulations to Mark and Dinah Wilkening. Their first baby, Brandon Marcus, was born during the recent blizzard.

Isaac Steiner is a temporary resident of the Gilman Nursing Home.

PRAYERS ARE THE STAIRS TO GOD

Prayers are the stairs
We must climb every day,
If we would reach God
There is no other way,
For we learn to know God
When we meet Him in prayer
And ask Him to lighten
Our burden of care—
So start in the morning
And, though the way's steep
Climb ever upward
'Til your eyes close in sleep—
For prayers are the stairs
That lead to the Lord,
And to meet Him in prayer
Is the climber's reward.

Helen Steiner Rice

Chicago, Illinois . . . Kathy Schlatter: "Void if detached" say railroad tickets and others. Is it not also true of us believers that if we become detached from Sunday and Wednesday evening services, fellowship with the believers, prayer, and/or the word, we too, are empty?

A dear elderly sister at the Eureka home protested that she played only for herself sometimes when she felt lonely, but finally, after much coaxing, consented to play her harmonica for some Chicago visitors. The sweet blended tones of her harmonica playing "The Unclouded Day" (from the Gospel Hymns) touched her hearers' hearts and opened for them the gates of Heaven in those few bright moments. When the scene was recreated for us at a singing, we were also able to glimpse that hope and glory beyond this world. Truly, as Bro. Dale Eisenmann mentioned in a sermon, the words, "And the Lord giveth the increase," are a blessing and a benediction. That 90 year old sister little knew how far her music would spread in the

hearts of men. When we are cast down in difficult times and situations, we can take heart because the Lord can add to our Christian influence, perhaps provoking thoughts we forgot to say, magnifying the impact of our words. None of us, be we ministers, Sunday School teachers, song leaders, parents brethren and sisters, will ever know quite how far our words in the Lord have spread, will spread. Should we know, it would be too easy to think we had done it all. He alone spreads the Spirit's influence: we are only instruments. Let us stand ready for use.

We were surely blessed that Bro. Bob Pohl, Burlington, Iowa, spent a Wednesday evening with us. We pray that he, in turn, will be blessed for his efforts. Sis. Diane Olson has moved to Phoenix, Arizona very recently. She has lent her talents in many ways, especially in song and in teaching, always well, but humbly. We will miss her broad smile and thoughtful comments, but we know the Lord is with her. We only pray that His guidance will direct her back to us to visit as much as possible. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee; The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." Numbers 6:24-26.

Besides our financial report Jan. 15, we learned that Bro. Dean Knobloch will be our new trustee and Bro. Miklos Bozzay, a new usher. We wish them the support of all of us as well as His guidance. We would also like to thank Bro. Norm Stahl (outgoing trustee) and Bro. Greg Rassi (outgoing usher) for their work, done "heartily, as to the Lord."

Sis. Maria Benko has been hospitalized. We pray that the Lord will give her good recovery.

A correction from the November issue: Brother Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger's baby girl is Robin Jill.

In this winter of many snows, we have often looked in wonder at the delicate white flakes floating down. 'Tis spectacularly beautiful. Yet how quickly the roads, especially, become bleakly gray and dingily brown. We in our robes of white upon the oft-times soiled path of life have a heavy responsibility. We are ever in need of the

white snow of grace to continually come to refresh and cover us.

Whose words do we take for granted every day? We believe the traffic report, we believe the news media, we assume that people in contracts with us will fulfill their part. As a rule, whatever we read in newspapers or magazines, we believe to be true. But do we believe the Word of the Living God wholeheartedly? Have we trusted our eternal destiny to Him, grasping His promise? Oh, why, why, have so many not yet come to Him?

Congerville, Illinois . . . Judy Wettstein - Gay Knapp: We had a most blessed week end Jan. 7 and 8, when three dear souls gave their testimonies and were baptized and now our sisters. Kathy Miller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Betty), Mary Ann Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Lois) Alice Schlipf (Clarence and Lorene). May the Lord ever add His blessings. Elder Bros. Dan Kock and Josh Broquard were here for this important work.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. John Bahler (Rockville, Conn.), Loren Stoller (Latty, Ohio), and Bros. Lloyd Kraft (Gridley, Kansas), Gene Leman (Wolcott, Ind.), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, Miss.). It was stressed how much we should put our trust in God, not in man; today do we really put our whole trust in God everyday or just on Sunday when we are in need.

Our annual business meeting was held on a Monday evening, resulting in brothers assuming new duties.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Jan. 21, Peggy Lynn Knapp (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge) and Randy Gelvey (Mr. and Mrs. George Silvey) were united in marriage at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin performed the ceremony. They are residing in Eureka.

We are so thankful for the ones that were in the hospital and are home recovering nicely. This song came to mind,

Though troubles assail us
Though friends should all fail,
And dangers affright,

And foes all unite
Yet one thing secures us,
Whatever betide,
This promise assures us
"The Lord will provide."

Bro. Dick Hasty, after back surgery is home recovering slowly. We have Bob Williamson and Sis. Carolyn Ott back in church with us, so good to see them back.

Sis. Carolyn would like to thank each and every one who remembered her during her recent surgery. All the prayers, cards, visits, food and help were deeply appreciated by her and her family.

We rejoice that a dear friend has answered the call of our Lord. Steve Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy). May the blessings of grace, love and peace be with him.

Elgin, Illinois . . . Mary Moser:

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole,
I want Thee forever to live in my soul . . .

Five precious souls were taken into the fold on Jan. 15. Our new Sisters in Christ are Pam Steinbis, Candy Weiss (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joyce), Debbie Sauder (Roger and Sis. Gertie), Mary Jane Shambach (Bro. Bill and Sis. Cora), and Carol Leman (Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene). It increaseth our faith to hear their testimonies how God has worked in their hearts. We are thankful for each one who feels the need and sees the value of seeking their soul's salvation while God is yet calling. Ministering Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann from Chicago, Bro. Harold Messner from Winthrop, Bro. Bruce Leman from Roanoke, Bro. Joseph Kaisner from Forrest and Bro. Merle Kaisner from Fairbury brought us many good teachings.

The family of the late Sis. Martha Hugh wishes to thank all those who remembered them with cards, gifts and prayers during the loss of their loved one.

Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger and his wife Della have left for their home in Zapata, Texas. May God watch over each of us and keep us in His care 'til we meet again.

Take my eyes, O Lord, that I may see
The good that is in others—the
sins that are in me.

Take my tongue and guard it, so
that the words I say
Brings no pain or sorrow to any
one today.

Take my hands and use them to do
the good they can,
Loving Thee in service for my fel-
low man.

Take all of me, my Saviour, help
me grow in grace,
And hear: "You were faithful",
when I see Thee face to face.

**Eureka, Illinois . . . Melba Man-
gold:** We are happy to have Bro.
Akito Inoue, his wife, Sis. Marie,
and his mother, Sis. Inoue with us
for a Wednesday evening. Bro.
Inoue, among many teachings, im-
pressed on us the fact that for
those who have always had so many
chances to hear the Word and
know so much of spiritual things,
of us much will be required. Also
we thank Bro. Clarence Kachel-
muss of Forrest for his ministry on
a Sunday morning.

Our dear Sis. Minnie Leman
passed away Jan. 12 in the Eureka
Hospital. Her patience during her
illness was an example to all of us.
We sympathize with her three sis-
ters, Mrs. Barbara Baurer, Sis.
Eliza Leman, Sis. Kathryn Leman,
and two brothers, Bro. Sam and
Bro. David all of Eureka, who sur-
vive. Bro. Leroy Huber held the
services and burial was in the Roa-
noke Church cemetery.

The engagement of Sis. Judy Le-
man, daughter of Bro. Gerald and
Sis. Velma Leman, to Bro. Roy
Braker, son of Bro. Raymond and
Sis. LuEtta Braker of Lamar, Mo.
was announced. March 19 has been
set as their wedding day.

Debbie Fehr, daughter of Sis.
Lula Fehr, and Terry Johnson, son
of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson of
Canton were married Jan. 28. The
wedding was performed by Bro.
Walter Anliker at the home of the
bride. They are living in Washing-
ton.

We are happy to have Bro. Guy
and Sis. Emily (Aberle) Champ as-
sembling with us. They and little
Sarah have moved to Eureka from
Rockville, Conn. We wish them
God's blessings in their new under-
taking.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Le-
man welcome their first child, Holly
Marie, born Jan. 8. Grandparents
are Bro. Milton and Sis. Caroline
Leman, Eureka, and Leland and

Sis. Mary Swadley, East Peoria.
Also Darin Michael was born to Bro.
Richard and Sis. Maribeth Kupfer-
schmid on Jan. 27. He has four bro-
thers and one sister to welcome
him. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and
Sis. Netta Kupferschmid and Bro.
Ed and Sis. Clara (Ebach) Bach
all of Forrest.

A second son, Brian Lee, was
born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda
Vierling on Jan. 31. Grandparents
are Sis. Mildred Endress of Prince-
ville and Bro. Emil and Sis. Pearl
Vierling of Oakville.

Hospitalized this month were Sis.
Dorothy (Gottlieb) Hari, Sis. Ruth
(George) Martin, Sis. Sarah (Lee)
Blunier, all medical, and Bro. Wal-
ter Schumacher (Sis. Salome's hus-
band) for tests.

Bro. Noah and Sis. Hulda Ger-
ber of the Apostolic Christian
Home of Eureka asked that thanks
be given to each one who remem-
bered them with cards, gifts, and
money for their birthdays and at
Christmas time. We cannot thank
each one with a special note, so
may God bless each one of you for
your love to us.

**Fairbury, Illinois . . . Joyce Hu-
ber:** Sis. Nancy Broquard, daugh-
ter of Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione
Broquard was married to Bro.
Wayne Zimmerman of Forrest.
Bro. Wayne's father, Elder Bro.
Perry Zimmerman performed the
wedding ceremony. Also, present
were Sis. Nancy's grandfather, El-
der Bro. Sam Anliker of Kansas,
and uncle, Elder Bro. Josh Bro-
quard; and Wayne's uncle, Bro. Bill
Gudeman of Elgin. We give our
best wishes to the newly married
couple for God's blessings in serv-
ing the Lord together.

We praise the Lord for 6 more
who have turned to the Lord: Mrs.
Mark (Julie) Runyon, daughter
of Bro. and Sis. Richard Walter;
Don Kaisner, son of Bro. and Sis.
Merle Kaisner; Randy Steidinger,
son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Steid-
inger; Christa Huber, daughter of
Bro. and Sis. Jesse Huber; and Mr.
and Mrs. Richard Huber.

Best wishes go to a new mother
and dad, Duane and Barbara Bach,
as God has entrusted a precious
baby to be born to them, named
Jennifer Mae. Grandparents are
Bro. Reuben and Sis. Louise Bach.

Bro. and Sis. Walter Moser will
be observing their Golden Wedding
Anniversary. The former Perseda

Broquart and Walter Moser were
married fifty years ago Feb. 16, and
they will be honored at a family
dinner by their children on Sunday.

At our annual meeting, some po-
sitions were filled where terms
were expiring, and Bro. Vernon
Hartman is now the assistant fun-
eral director, Bro. Robert Kaisner
and Bro. Richard Walter are ush-
ers, Bro. Lloyd Moser a director of
the Fellowship Hall, and Bro. Reu-
ben Bach on collection for the Sil-
ver Lining.

Sis. Martha Maier slipped and
fell, getting a break in her ankle
and is home recovering. Sis. Lydia
Eisenman wishes to thank all who
remembered her during the time of
her surgery and recovery.

Bro. David Kaisner, 90, passed
away. His wife, Anna Schini died
in 1968, and Bro. Dave had been a
resident of the Helen Lewis Smith
Pavilion. Surviving are a son, Ben-
jamin, 2 brothers, Bro. Joseph and
Francis; a granddaughter and a
great grandson.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Soper have
a new baby boy, named Joshua
Michael. Other children are: Twins,
Jamie and Jacqueline; Tracy, Ste-
ven, and Michelle.

We were glad to have visiting
ministers: Bro. Earl Gerber, Bro.
Joe Ramseyer, Bro. Rudy Graf,
Bro. Akito Inoue, and others after
the elder meeting.

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

We are thankful that some of
our loved ones who were in the hos-
pital are able to be home again.
They are Bros. Sam Maier, Harvey
Ifft, and Frank Honegger, and Sis.
Eleanor Honegger, Sis. Lou Ida
Steffen, Sis. Edna Wiegand, and
Lorilei Broquard (Bro. Wayne and
Sis. Roberta). Bro. Oscar Schnei-
der had eye surgery, and Dawn
Koehl (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita)
and Rodney Zimmerman are also
hospital patients.

Bro. Si and Sis. Marie Hohulin
and Robert and Karel Righter wish
to sincerely thank each one who
sent gifts during the long illness of
their grandson and son, Stanley,
and to each one who made the trip
down at the time of his death and
visitation.

We are happy to have Bro. Roy
Metz "back home" again since his
move from the Roanoke Nursing
Home to Fairview Haven at Fair-
bury.

The home of Kenny and Gail Kafer, Kent, and Kevin, was blessed with a little girl—Courtney Lynn. Grandparents are Wayne and Sis. Berniece Cox.

God shared His precious Word to us through our neighboring ministering Bro. Duane Kilgus. We thank him and his family for spending a Sunday with us.

Phyllis Hornbeck, 24, the daughter of Joe and Sis. Pauline Wiegand died unexpectedly at her home in Pontiac. Among those who mourn her passing are several brothers and sisters and her grandmother, Sis. Carrie Wiegand.

There is joy in our midst as we learned about our friends Mark and LaVerne Aberle's decision to repent. Bro. Bill and Sis. Jean are Mark's parents.

Cal Zimmerman (Bro. Les and Sis. Edith) and Ann Trainor have announced their engagement with plans for an April wedding.

We welcome Sis. Nancy Broquard Zimmerman into our fellowship, as she and Bro. Wayne will be making their home in Forrest.

Goodfield, Illinois . . . Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm: "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you."

Our congregation was privileged to host the annual Elder Conference in January. May God bless each Elder as they give of themselves for their flocks, and also help us to be obedient, as they watch for our souls.

We were thankful for the Elders who ministered unto us for our Wednesday evening service: Bro. Paul Fehr (Morris, Minn.), Bro. Herman Kellenberger (Elgin, Ill.), Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, Minn.), and Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern, Ks.).

On Jan. 14, we enjoyed the testimonies of Bruce and Mary Knapp, and Mark Hinrichsen, and on Sunday they became our sister and brothers in faith through baptism and the laying on of hands. We are so happy for them!

A sincere thank you to our dear Bro. Arnold Gerst (Chicago) who ministered unto us on Jan. 29.

Bro. and Sis. Steve and Donna Lou Baner have a new little girl,

Jan. 30. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Wes and Mildred Knapp, and the Richard Baners of Eureka.

We have missed the friendly smile of little Lisa Grimm (Bro. and Sis. Bob and Elna) who has suffered a broncho-pneumonia.

Marcella Schieler (Bob) and Sis. Katie Heinold are hospitalized for tests and observation. We pray that thy will soon be back worshipping with us.

Gridley, Illinois . . . Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein: The wonderful peace that passes understanding has filled the heart of our friend, Kathy Schlipf. Lord willing, she will give her testimony of faith, Sat. Feb. 18, and will bury the old and arise in newness of life as she is baptized on Sunday the 19th.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein are the happy parents of their new son, Neal Edwin. Craig, Chad and Jay welcome their little brother who was born Jan. 10. Neal's grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein of Gridley, and Sis. Edna Klein of Peoria.

The following marriage engagements were announced: Sis. Darleta Marti to Bro. Roger Gramm, both of Gridley; Sis. Mary Alyce Witzig of Gridley to Bro. Darel Hofsess of Peoria; Sis. Nancy Zimmerman of Gridley to Bro. David Wulf of Morris.

We were exhorted and encouraged in our walk of faith on Jan. 25 when Elder Ed Hohulin of Goodfield was here to assist Bro. Edwin in reading the memorandum of the brotherhood conference.

We appreciated the visits of Elder Bro. Orville Ringger of Bluffton and ministering Bro. Harold Gramm of Morris.

Illinois State University . . . Ann Stoller: We are pretty well into the second semester at ISU and really look forward to Thursday nights when we can get together for Bible study. We also appreciate very much the visitors that come to worship with us and encourage many more to come. Our attendance has been much lower than in past years, and we invite everyone to come and fellowship with us as often as possible. Services are held every Thursday evening at 8:00 p.m., usually in Schroeder Hall, room 130, on the ISU campus.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Elmer Witzig of Gridley,

Dan Koch of Tremont, and Ken Hoerr of Peoria. Bible study had to be cancelled on Jan. 26 because of the snowstorm.

Morton, Illinois . . . Judy Springer - Lorna Schrock: For our monthly Sunday evening hymn sing on Jan. 8, we were pleased to have the Prairie Choristers from Roanoke and also a young group from our congregation sing some selections for us. I'm sure all who were present received a blessing from hearing these beautiful hymns.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 11, we were pleased to have Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix) and Bro. Nathan Steffen (Elgin) with us. We thank the brothers for their labors of bringing forth God's Word to us.

Those from our congregation who have been hospitalized the past month included: Sisters Pat Landes, Edith Getz, Irene Farney, and Florence Schmidgall; Bro. Bruce Schoestein, Bro. Bill C. Roecker, and Harold Hoffman.

Our friend, William Seidel, passed away on Jan. 21 at the age of 75 years. He is survived by a son, William, Jr., of Port Charlotte, Fla., and two sisters and a brother from our congregation, Esther and Sis. Margaret Seidel and Bro. Joe. We extend our sympathy to all his family.

Engagements: Sharon K. Armbrust (Carl Armbrust of Manito) to David Farney (Bro. Earl and Sis. Irene, Morton); Cheryl A Sommers (Eugene Sommers, Peoria Heights) to Dennis Kaiser (Bro. Lester and Sis. Irene, Morton); Tobey Yerby (Clifford Yerbys, Morton) to John Hauter (Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley, Morton). Congratulations to these three couples.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Joanie Endress are the parents of their first child, a son named Daniel Robert, born Jan. 15. Grandparents are Sis. Lois Endress, Bradford, and Bro. Robert and Sis. Mabel Belsley, Morton.

Our Morton congregation is purchasing Restmor nursing home and will soon be in charge of its operations. Restmor is a modern 134 bed home located in Morton.

We are currently taking applications for the position of Administrator. Minimum educational requirements prescribed by the State of Illinois are at least 60 hours of college credits.

Anyone who feels they are quali-

fied and has a desire to serve in our Christian home is encouraged to apply. If you have additional questions or wish to obtain an application, you may contact:

Robert Getz
632 Glen Avenue
Morton, Illinois 61550

Peoria, Illinois . . . Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin: On Jan. 15 the open house and dedication service was held for our new addition to the church. The addition included the dining room on the main level, larger baby room facilities, and more room for fellowship. The lower level has not yet been completed. We hosted many visitors from our neighboring churches. Truly this was a blessed day for all, and we hope our addition will bring many more blessings to all who worship in this house of God.

The Sunday School Bible Class held their 9th annual pancake and sausage supper along with a country store where the visitors could purchase bakery goods and crafts. The Bible Class donates money each year to our local retarded children's association. This event was definitely a success.

Congratulations to Bro. Steve and Sis. Chris Schmidgall on their new son, Hans Erich, born Jan. 14. Their daughter, Heidi, welcomed her new brother home. The grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Hunzicker.

Bro. Darrell Hoffess and Sis. Mary Ellen Witzig of Eureka announced their engagement on Jan. 22. On Jan. 29, Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma Dogotch of Morris, Minnesota, announced the engagement of their daughter, Kathy, to Bro. Scott Strahm of Gridley, Kansas.

On Jan. 21, Ellen Meister and Leon Robison were united in marriage at our Fellowship Hall. Parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister. Bro. Rick Plattner and Sis. Mary Hartman were united in marriage on Feb. 12. Their parents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Ella Plattner and Bro. Leroy and Sis. Elsa Hartman. We wish them God's richest blessings in their new walk together.

This month the Peoria congregation was privileged by having Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago, Bro. Merle Bucher of LaCrosse, and Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka in our midst.

Hospitalized this month were

Sis. Ilene Haefli, Sis. Madge O'Moron, Betty Buttrick, Bro. Michael Rieker, Kevin Clatt, Ken Ober, and Walter Bittner.

Our Bro. Fred Hassler was taken from this life to live with his Saviour in heaven. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Princeville, Illinois . . . Ruth Ricketts: We were blessed with a visit by Bro. Sam Anliker of Lamont, Kansas one Wednesday evening recently. Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka also spent the evening with us. Encouraging words were spoken with Phillipians 3 the text for meditation. They were beneficial for all but especially so for our new converts for which we are very thankful. We thank the brothers for their words of inspiration.

Sunday, Jan. 15 was a beautiful sunny day; a new blanket of snow covering the earth and the trees covered with frost made it look like a fairyland glistening in the sun. This was the day Bro. Alpha Hartzler and Sis. Vicki Knobloch had chosen for their wedding day. Bro. Ben Hartzler of Rittman, Ohio and Bro. LeRoy Hartman of Peoria, fathers of the bridal couple shared the pulpit with Bro. Ron Heinegar of Bloomington-Normal, for morning service. Bro. Joe Stoller assisted Bro. Dave Kieser in the marriage service and was a truly impressive ceremony. Christopher and Jodi joined their parents, their new daddy and mother, as they left the sanctuary together and God must have smiled down on this happy family. We wish them all God's richest blessings as they face the future together.

Later that Sunday afternoon the death angel came to claim a dear friend who had suffered severe pain the past few months. Dorothy Streitmatter, wife of Paul, testified that she was not afraid to die for she felt she had been forgiven for her sins and had wanted so much to be baptized but she was too ill. Funeral services were held at the church Jan. 18 with Bros. Joe Stoller, Dave Kieser and Walter Hermann taking part. Comforting words were found in Job 14 and Revelation 7 where Dorothy also found comfort as she sought the Lord. She is survived by her husband, Paul and seven step-children. She was a pleasant person and enjoyed attending our church services and found a comfort there.

She was laid to rest in the Streitmatter cemetery.

We have had several patients in the hospital the past month. Jerry and Louise Martin's little daughter, Marla, was hospitalized a few days with pneumonia; Bro. Robert Wieland had back surgery after several months in misery. He recently returned home and is recovering as well as possible. Bro. Wm. Stahl had open heart surgery and is getting along reasonably well and looking forward to getting home before long. Bro. Herbert (Dick) Gerst is presently in the hospital for tests. Bro. Phillip Muselmann has been receiving treatments in the hospital following a slight stroke and having other complications. Bro. Howard Hermann has been able to come to church after several weeks absence due to a back ailment. He spent several weeks in bed but is now slowly improving. We trust all will quickly recover and that they will feel the Lord's presence during their recuperation.

We are a privileged people each time we can assemble in God's House to hear the word of truth spoken by our dedicated and beloved brothers. Such an evening was afforded us when Bro. Al Langhofer and Sis. Judy of Wichita, Kansas visited us. A number from the Bradford congregation joined us, among them Bro. Nathan Stoller whom we always enjoy having with us. We were reminded how powerful our tongue is; such a tiny member, all muscle, but one that never gets tired. We must be very careful how we use it for it should be used to praise God. Before we speak or act we should stop to think and we will not need to be sorry for something done or spoken we are ashamed of. Follow not the tradition of man but adhere to the commands of our Lord. Scripture concerning the tongue were read from Matthew 15, James 3 and Matthew 11. So many precious thoughts were brought out one cannot contain them all. The Lord showered His blessings down on us and we are thankful to our dear brothers. Closing thoughts were: Be careful what we think; what we say; and what we do, for this may make a difference in the lives of those who observe us.

Bro. Joe felt the following poem fitting for Dorothy and spoke it at the end of the service.

SUNSET

When my days on earth are ending
Ard I face the setting sun;
When the battle's nearly over
And the victory's almost won . . .

I can look back on the pathway
That my weary feet have trod,
And rejoice I took the narrow way
And chose to walk with God.

Tho' mine eyes have never seen
Him
And I hear His voice so tender
As He gently leads me on.

He led sometimes through heart-
break,
Through suffering and through
pain,
As all things work for good to me;
These trials brought me gain.

**Roanoke, Illinois . . . Edith Sau-
der - Mae K. Hodel:**

Is there any pleasure in life here
on earth?
In what lot and measure have we
peace and mirth?
Here where sin prevaileth, fear,
distress and need,
For naught here availeth; death
we all must meet.

Moved to weep with sadness, were
no Saviour here!
Yet I feel His arms so strong,
Joy has come in fulness, since
Christ did appear.
He who comes confessing: "My
Lord and my God!"
And with joy expressing, Blessed
is his lot.

This hymn was a favorite hymn
of our Sis. Elizabeth Unsicker who
passed away at the age of 86. She
is survived by four sisters; Sis. Em-
ma Rocke (Morton), Sis. Minnie
Unsicker and Sis. Alvina McDer-
mott (Peoria), and Sis. Velda
Schlipf.

Congratulations to our dear Sis.
Alice Funk who is 95 years young
and Sis. Ida Wackerle who is 85
years. Sis. Ida was the youngest of
five who celebrated their birthdays
in January at the Apostolic Home
in Roanoke. Both of these dear
sisters assemble with us in church.

We are happy to have a number
of converts at this time. Our dear
friends Julie and Jill Schumacher
(Sis. Jane and Bro. Jerry) and
Cheryl Rocke (Bro. Melvin and Sis.
Mae) have found peace with God

and wish to give their testimony
to the brotherhood.

Sis. Angela Rassi was at Mayo's
for tests. Sis. Minnie Gerber is
hospitalized at this time.

"HELP US TO USE OUR TIME
WISELY."

**Tremont, Illinois . . . Lydia Ras-
si - Mary Jane Leuthold:** Bro. Steve
Rinkenberger and Bro. Carl Wyss
shared the Lord's beautiful teach-
ings with us Jan. 29.

Announcement was made of the
engagement of Sis. Marjorie Kaiser,
daughter of Bro. Melvin and Sis.
Marlene to Bro. Randy Schmidgall,
son of George and Grace Schmid-
gall. We wish them God's rich bless-
ings.

A precious little son, Gregory
Alan, came to live with Bro. Gary
and Sis. Kathy Post, Feb. 4. Grand-
parents are Bro. Emanuel and Sis.
Elsie Sinn and Koert and Norma-
dell Post.

Hospital patients were friend
Dane Huette and convert Karen
Wagenbach. They have recuperated
and are well again. Bro. Ralph Koch
and Sis. Helen Rapp are slowly im-
proving. Let us all remember our
dear ones in our prayers.

Our sympathy to the family of
our dear Sis. Emma Funk, who was
called to her eternal rest. She
leaves one sister, Sis. Pauline
Waldbeser and many nieces and
nephews.

**Washington, Illinois . . . Carole
Kellenberger:** How beautiful are
the feet of them that preach the
gospel of peace and bring glad tid-
ings of good things! Grateful
thanks again to ministering Bros.:
Wendell Gudeman, Andrew Virk-
ler, Bob Pflederer, Henry Grimm,
LeRoy Hartman, Ken Hoerr, Al
Langhofer and Art Baurer.

Sean Leman (Bro. Maurice and
Sis. Carol) was hospitalized for
tests and we're glad to have him
back in our midst.

We enjoyed the hymns of the
Mortonaires at our Jan. Hymn Sing.
How truly beautiful it is when we
blend our voices in praise to the
Lord!

Carpeting is being laid and much
of the decorating and trim is fin-
ished in our church building. We all
feel we will appreciate our own
House of Worship so much and do
so look forward to soon assembling
in it.

**Bluffton, Indiana . . . Connie
Troxel - Teresa Fiechter:** We wel-
come into the family of God five
souls: Sheri Leman, David and
Kathy Bussel, and Milo and Ciara-
bell Baumgartner were taken into
the fold the weekend of Jan. 14 and
15. Elder Bro. David Bertsch of
Leo was present to help in the im-
portant work. Bro. Bertsch re-
minded us Sunday that we must
be pliable as the potter's clay, so
God can mold our lives into a vessel
fit for the Master's use. "As clay
is in the potter's hands, so are ye in
My hands." Jeremiah 18:6.

Our other visiting minister was
Bro. Sam Schlatter of Junction.

On Jan. 8, Sis. Carmon Pfister
(Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb) and Bro.
Mike Bertsch (Bro. Oscar and Sis.
Sylvia) were united in holy matri-
mony. Two became as one as Sis.
Pat Isch (Bro. Joe L. and Sis. Syl-
via) and Bro. Rod Maller (Bro. Bob
and Sis. Gladys) were married on
Feb. 5.

I've never seen the air around,
And yet I breathe the air—
I cannot see the God I love,
But, oh, I know He's there!

We witnessed God's powers dur-
ing the recent blizzard. On Jan. 29
we could not have church because
of closed roads. Families enjoyed
their Sunday worship together.

Good progress is being made in
our church addition and we are
looking forward to an early summer
completion.

Hospital patients: Sis. Della
(Marvin) Steffen, Bro. Frederick
Gerber, Sis. Rose (Eli) Gerber, Sis.
Carrie Gilliom, Bro. Mark Meyer,
Bro. Obed Gerber, and Sis. Lavon
(Rex) Gerber.

Sis. Martha Baumgartner and
Sis. Nova (Henry) Isch passed from
this life into the next.

We have many first-time par-
ents: Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Ger-
ber welcomed little Gwen Maureen,
Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen
have a new baby girl, Jennifer Ma-
rie, Kevin and Sarah (Kaehr) Beat-
ty are the parents of Jessica Lyn,
and Bruce and Mary (Kaehr) Ra-
ber have a new daughter, Tonya
Michelle.

Bro. Pat and Sis. Judy Dubach
have a new bundle of love, Joshua
Dee, and Bro. Harold and Sis. Vio-
let Meyer have a new son, Brian
Jacob.

May all God's blessings come to you,
 And may He hear you when you pray—
 May all God's love be in your heart
 To bring you joy from day to day to day.

Bremen, Indiana . . . Marian Germann: When troubles seem to assail us, and all seems hopeless, we have the promise that, "The Lord is righteous in all his works." Prov. 147:17.

God has blessed two families in our congregation with new additions to their families. We welcome Bradley Langhofer into our church family with his parents, Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla. Welcoming Bradley home are Billy Joe and Craig. The other new arrival is Bruce Phillip Feldman. He's welcomed home by his parents, Bro. J. N. and Sis. Karen. Annette, Sarah, Jeff, and Joyce also enjoy their new brother. May God bless these families.

Our annual business meeting was held last month. We pray for God's blessing on those who are concerned with the physical duties of our church.

We do not wish to neglect our sick. God's hand of care has been on many and continues to be there. Our prayers go out especially to Sis. Marge Mangold. May God bless her and Bro. Mike and their family.

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Francesville, Indiana . . . Linda Gutwein - Sharon Neihouser: Jan. 8 was the wedding day of Sis. Kathie Huber (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol) and Bro. Hisato Inoue (Sis. Tamino) of Tokyo. Many visiting ministers spent the week-end with us. We wish them God's blessings.

Our dear Sis. Helen Huber passed away on Jan. 14, and funeral services were held Jan. 17 by the local ministers. She will be greatly missed as she faithfully taught Sunday School for 20 years, helped write the Silver Lining news, and cleaned the church. She is survived by four brothers, Bros. Lester, Wayne, Bill, and Wilbur; and four sisters, Sis. Viola, Sis. Lois Ann, Hazel and Alberta. May God comfort the family in the loss of their loved one.

God has blessed the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Arlene Metzger with a little girl, Alivia Joleen. Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman are the grandparents. This is their first child.

Bro. Perry and Sis. Sally Neihouser have been in Houston, Texas, where Perry had eye surgery. We hope and pray that physical sight can be restored. So far, all is going well.

Rod and Brenda Werner were blessed with a boy, Matthew Lyn. He has 1 sister, Regina. Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Wuethrich are the grandparents.

LaCrosse, Indiana . . . Grace Hei-nold - Lois Bucher: "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." On Jan. 15, Sis. Mary Lynn Feller and Bro. Randy Massner were united in holy matrimony. We wish them many blessings in their life together. Their parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma, Mediapolis, Ia. Our visiting ministers for the day were Bros. Ezra Feller, Roy Grimm, Bob Meyer, and Marvin Steiglitz.

Our hospital patients were Art Luthi, Linda Albrecht, Fern Antrim, Melinda Heinold, and Bros. Sam Clauss and Bill Frank, for various illnesses, tests and surgery. We hope all will enjoy good health again.

We have certainly been made aware again of the power of our almighty God during the severe snow storms in the last couple weeks. In spite of the hardships that have been encountered, we have many reasons for which to thank and praise Him.

Leo, Indiana . . . Mrs. Phil Schlatter - Mrs. Al Frautschi: Greg and Lela Leman have moved from Bluffton to our community temporarily. Their present part time help at the Children's Home is appreciated.

Lester Stoller is spending an interesting and enlightening few weeks in the needy country of India.

Sunday, Feb. 5, was an especially blessed Sabbath Day as Bro. Wendell Gudeman of Francesville and Bro. Dave Bertsch conducted baptismal services for Lynn Steiglitz followed by communion services.

Think about it. If we would enter heaven, we must be fitted for

heaven. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

To talk with God, no breath is lost.
 Talk on.

To walk with God, no strength is lost. Walk on.

To wait on God, no time is lost.
 Wait on.

To decide for God, no soul is lost.
 DECIDE NOW!

Anonymous

Milord, Indiana . . . Sandy Beer:
 We certainly welcome little Kevin August Funk, born Jan. 18 to Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy Funk. Kelly and Kourtney have recently moved here with their parents from Roanoke. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Martha Bowald and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Funk.

Several office changes were made at our annual business meeting. Bros. Fred and Lee Beer will be replacing Sunday School teachers Bros. Ned Speicher and Dale Strausheim. Bro. Dan Beer will be the upcoming superintendent with Bro. Clint Bucher as assistant superintendent. Our new trustee is Bro. Bob Beer, who will assist Bros. Nelson Beer and Ray Haab. Silver Lining newswriters are Sis. Paula Haab and Sis. Sandy Beer, replacing Sis. Colleen Beer and Sis. Linda Beer.

We thank Bros. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, and Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, for ministering to us.

Many plans were cancelled, and we were unable to assemble Jan. 29 as we found ourselves buried in snow. Many of our aged members were unable to recall a winter storm of such a great intensity, covering such a vast area. We assembled the Wed. eve after the blizzard to thank God for sparing us and our community from tragedy during this harsh storm. We had an interesting sermon which included the many references to "snow" in the Bible.

"Nature is painting for us, day after day, pictures of infinite beauty if only we have eyes to see them."
 John Ruskin

Isn't it wonderful how God can make the barren trees and weedy fence rows glisten into a new radiant masterpiece. We have been blessed with several crisp mornings of beauty and splendor as the sun glistens off the frosted trees and sparkling snow.

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all."

Remington, Indiana . . . Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss: Bro. Sam Kilgus has returned home after two surgeries and eight weeks in the hospital.

Our dear Sis. Lillie Frey has been admitted to the hospital again. At this writing Bro. Jake Bahler is scheduled for surgery at an Indianapolis hospital. We wish them both God's healing blessings.

Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Eraker are parents of Rena Nichole. She was welcomed home by her three sisters.

"Showers of Blessings" were ours the week-end of Jan. 21-22. On Saturday evening we heard the testimony of Phil and Diane Isabel. Diane's parents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Marie Schieler. On Sunday they made their covenant with God in the baptismal waters. In the evening "Showers of Blessings" continued as we partook of Communion. Bro. Wendell Anliker was with us the entire weekend. On Sunday evening Bro. Ed Frank came to assist Bro. Wendell and our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler in the Communion service. Thank you brothers for giving us your love and time.

Valparaiso, Indiana . . . Marie Hienold:

Forget each kindness that you do
as soon as you have done it.
Forget the praise that falls to you
the moment you have won it;
Remember every kindness done to
you
whate'er it measure.
Remember praise by others won
and

pass it on with pleasure.

Thanks to our visiting ministers this past month, Bros. Ed Frank, Steve Gutwein, Merle Bucher, and Todd Feller.

Our annual meeting was held Jan. 29, with thankful hearts for the remodeling and work done in the past year.

KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

John Heinold, the son of Fred and Emma (Stortz) Heinold, was born Aug. 15, 1889, near the small town of Goodfield, Illinois. He farmed with his father until age 21, and at-

tended Willowby school in Claytonville, Illinois. For sometime he worked at hedge pulling and the moving of buildings. Bro. John commented that he always enjoyed his work.

Aug. 6, 1913, he and Tillie Hitz (daughter of Gottlieb and Anna Hitz) were married at Watseka, Illinois, and started farming at Goodwine, Illinois.

Four years later they answered the call of their Lord to repent and both were baptised at Cissna park church. Bro. John said, "I'm so thankful I could repent when young. It keeps one from a lot of trouble, and there's much more enjoyment in life; I always love to go to church."

In 1921, John and Tillie purchased a farm in Kouts, Indiana, where most of his family had settled. Later they moved to a farm in LaCrosse, Indiana, and were one of the first families to assemble in the first church there. Bro. John also helped move and assemble the church taken down at Cissna Park, Illinois, and rebuilt at LaCrosse, Indiana.

Their move to Valparaiso was in 1955, where they now reside. Both Bro. John and Sis. Tillie gave much of themselves to start the Valparaiso Church which is now in its 16th year.

This couple will celebrate their 65 years together this coming August, our Lord willing. Bro. John will be 89 years young, and Tillie 85.

Five girls and three boys blessed this union. Their eldest son passed away 35 years ago at age 22. They have faith he is with the Lord. Twenty-three grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren bring much happiness to these grandparents.

I asked Bro. John how he would encourage a young person today? He said, "Just be honest with everyone and yourself." He also spoke of his closeness to a wonderful mother and said she was a good giver.

This couple says they have had many heartaches and tears mingled with much happiness; the Lord has been good to them. When you start the day with a prayer of thankfulness and ask the Lord's blessings for His guidance—He gives the nourishment for body and soul.

Wolcott, Indiana . . . Laurel Widmer:

The camel at the close of day
Kneels down upon the sandy plain
To have his burden lifted off
And rest again.

Our souls should go then to our
knees

When daylight draweth to a close
And let the master lift the load
And grant repose.

Else how can we tomorrow meet
With all tomorrow's work to do
If our burdens all the night
We carry through?
The camel kneels at break of day
To have his guide replace his load,
Then rises up again to take
The desert road.

So should we kneel at morning's
dawn

That God may give us daily care
Assured that He no load too great
Will make us bear.

Bros. Joe Waibel and Andy Virkler visited the Wolcott and Remington congregations for evening services on Jan. 10.

Bro. Don Furrer suffered a fall and needed surgery as a result. He is back on his feet and among us again, for which we are all thankful. Bro. Don was still in the hospital and unable to get home during our January blizzard. He became a hospital volunteer for the duration of the blizzard. So for the hospital, at least, his injury was a blessing in disguise.

Sis. Nancy Kyburg was also hospitalized for surgery. We trust she will soon be with us again.

Jim Furrer (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Eileen) announced his engagement to Rowena Sheldon. They plan a summer wedding.

Burlington, Iowa . . . M a y m e Gerst - Judy Gehring: FROM A CHILD THOU HAST KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS. 2 Timothy 3:15.

The role of parents is one of the most important in life. We thank God every time we see parents bringing their children to Sunday School and church. The Bible reads, Train up a child in the way he should go when he is young and he

will not depart from it. Truly the greatest heritage parents can give their children is to bring them up in a CHRISTIAN HOME, teaching them the word of GOD, and being a TRUE CHRISTIAN example. We have some who drive quite a distance to do that. Surely God will bless them.

Only a CHILD, but he is learning
EACH DAY
From what THEIR PARENTS DO
and what they SAY;
So teach them GOD'S WORD, for
it surely will PAY,
And LIVE CHRIST before THEM
to SHOW THEM the WAY.

We thank our visiting ministers for bringing us THE WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE. Bros. Sam Anliker, Lamont, Bill Gerst, Alto, Simon Wagonbach, Tremont, and John Steiner, Oakville. May God bless them for their untiring efforts.

We extend our sympathy to Eli and Marge Streeter in the loss of his father. Marge is the former Marge Hodel, daughter of Sis. Ruth Reiman.

As it was election time again, Bro. Bill Oberman succeeded Bro. Kenneth Scheitlin. Bros. Paul Wagler and Marvin Woodward were put in as cemetery trustees, a first time for that office. Sis. Judy Gehring succeeded Sis. Edna Pohl as reporter for the Silver Lining. May God guide them in these important offices.

Bro. Gus Scheitlin, father of Bro. Kenneth, has been quite ill at the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family, especially his daughter, Mildred, who has been living with him and so lovingly helped care for him.

TODAY

Build a little fence of trust
Around today;
Fill the space with loving deeds,
And therein stay.
Look not through the sheltering
bars
Upon tomorrow;
God will help thee bear what comes
Of joy or sorrow.

Garden Grove, Iowa . . . Verle Funk: The home of Bro. Don and Sis. Willa Clark has been blessed with the arrival of a new daughter, Sara Jean. Sara is welcomed by one sister, Dawn Rae, and a brother,

David.

We're happy to welcome Sis. Margene (Metzger) Peasley to our congregation. Margene is the bride of Bro. David Peasley. We pray that they will enjoy God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Bro. Louis Peasley and his wife, Kathy, have moved back to Minneapolis. We miss them, but wish them well.

Our most recent visiting ministers were Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester), Harvey Heining (Oakville), and Cleo Rinckenberger and Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski). We really appreciated those messengers of God's Word.

We are all very grateful to be able to assemble in our new church building. There are still a number of things to be finished, but we're so happy to be able to use it before it is completed. Again, we are very thankful to our dear brothers, sisters, and friends who have helped in so many ways to make this possible.

Elgin, Iowa . . . Eleanor Butikofer: Snow mantles all the country side, and as far as the eye can see, it affords a thrilling view.

GOD'S PROMISES

The world lies white, serene and still
From frozen brook to wind swept hill,
While high above, a silver star
In silence spreads its light afar.
The snow falls gently all around
Upon this place far from town
Where downy bird and things that creep
Are bedding down to rest and sleep.
They have the courage to endure
And trust that makes them feel secure;
For birds still sing through wind
and cold
In spite of snow and winter's sting—
And we know that God has
promised . . . spring!

Two souls have passed into eternity since I wrote my last column. They are our dear friend Mary Pulfer and Bro. Fred Martie. Mary was born in Switzerland on the first day of September in 1886 and passed away at the Palmer Memorial Hospital, West Union, Ia., on the fourth day of January, 1978. She was a year and a half old when she came to America with her par-

ents in 1888. Mary was one of a family of thirteen of whom only three brothers and one sister still live. They are Sis. Lena, Bro. Ed, and friend George. There are also nieces and nephews who will miss her. Mary helped out in many homes and will be remembered as being a very willing helper. She spent about two years at the Good Samaritan Home and will be missed by many of us.

Bro. Fred Martie passed away at the Palmer Memorial Hospital on the 27th of January. He had been in poor health for a number of years, being afflicted with arthritis, and had been a patient at the Good Samaritan Home at West Union for over a year and a half. In his younger years he worked diligently for quite some time trapping gophers for farmers who appreciated his success in this project. Bro. Fred also mowed lawns and so forth. Later he made his home with his sister, Sis. Lydia, and Bro. Elmer Butikofer, when his health did not permit him to go about as usual. When his physical condition called for special care, he was taken to the Good Samaritan Home.

His main past-time was reading the Bible. We will miss him now that we cannot visit him. We should endeavor to visit our shut-ins more frequently than we have in the past. I am speaking for myself and my husband, George.

Our congregation feels very thankful that the publication of the Silver Lining is continuing.

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Our grandfather Schneider, when speaking about spiritual things, used to say that it was well worth the time and labor to work to gain entrance into the heavenly home.

Fred was born on the 15th of October in 1902. His parents were Sis. Louisa and Bro. Lori Marti. He is survived by his three sisters, namely Marie (Mrs. Ole Reirson), Celia (Mrs. Joe Wareder), and Sis. Lydia (Mrs. Elmer Butikofer).

The workers at the Home made mention of the fact that Fred always seemed very appreciative of what ever was done for him.

Bro. Jacob Gehring submitted to a corneal transplant in Sept. of '77 at the University Hospital at Iowa City. The doctors agree that so far it has been a success, and this is much to be grateful for.

George Schupbach is a patient at Schortz Hospital at Waterloo, Ia., having had a knee operation. The reports have been encouraging in his behalf.

Lester, Iowa . . . Alice Metzger - Joyce Knobloch: Our congregation was saddened by the passing from this life of Bro. Ernest Knobloch on Jan. 28. He was born in Germany on Sept. 7, 1885, and came to this country with his parents at the age of four. There was no church building, and a few families met at their homes for services on Sunday. The church was built in 1892, and when a kitchen addition was built in 1907, Bro. Ernest was one of the men who took a team and wagon to Rock Valley to get the lumber and supplies for the project. He preached the Word for fifty years before his retirement several years ago. He had remained active until the time of his death and was well known in the community by young and old. Survivors include his sons, Bro. Clarence, Bradford; Otto, Larchwood; Carl and Bro. Ezra, Alvord; and daughters, Sis. Freida (Ed) Gerber and Clara, Rock Rapids, Elsie (Andy) Leuthold, Larchwood, and Nettie (Ervin) Banwart, West Bend. Also 31 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and two brothers, Bros. Jacob and Emil and Sis. Carrie Metzger. The family is grateful to all for prayers and deeds of love and kindness in the loss of their father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Among the many who attended the funeral were Elder Bro. Joe Braker, Morton, Bro. Alpha Moser, Morris, and Elder Bro. Dave Keiser, Princeville who all shared in the service with Elder Bro. Leo Moser.

Grateful to be home after a stay in the hospital are Bros. Freddie Metzger and Ed Gerber. There has been an outbreak of flu but most have been able to combat it without hospitalization.

On Jan. 26 a baby girl, Valerie Marie, was born to Leroy and Louella Kellenberger. She has two brothers and grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger. On Feb. 6, a baby boy was born to Dan and Lola Deragisch. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Lucy Knobloch. We were unable to learn the name of the little lad at this time.

We have discontinued our mid-week services for a few weeks and

hope to resume them when warmer wather returns.

Oakville, Iowa . . . Phyllis Siegle:

Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.

We express our sympathy to Sisters-in-faith, Bernice Frank, and Marian Schmidgall who lost their brother in death rather suddenly. He was Bro. Calvin Moser from Morris Minn.

Jan. 15 was the wedding day of Bro. Randy Massner and Sis. Mary Lynn Feller. "his union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus; We walk the path of life, while cheer and trust increases. Where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord not lightly rent apart." Bro. Randy is the son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma. Sis. Mary Lynn is the daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Mary Ann from La-Crosse. We welcome Sis. Mary Lynn to the Oakville community.

Friends Douglas Heining and Tari Lea Hardin were united in marriage on Jan. 21. We pray God's blessings on this young couple as they share their future together. Doug is the son of ministering Bro. Harvie and Sis. Leola, and Tari is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hardin, Oakville.

Our dear friend Lorna Schulz gave her testimony and was baptized and taken into the fold. May God richly bless her on her spiritual pathway. It is so wonderful when God takes the fear of death from us and plants His precious pearl of peace in our hearts. Elder Bro. Roy Grimm assisted Elder Bro. Ed Lanz in this important work.

We thank Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and Bro. Simon Wagenbach for visiting us and we appreciate the edifying messages brought by them.

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

How heart warming to have a husband and wife come to The Inn for the refuge of their souls. The week-end of Jan. 14, Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Paul Fehr were with us for the proving and baptism of Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy Metzger. Parents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger (West Bend), and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger (Morris, Minn.). Ministering Bro. Harold Gramm was also with us.

We welcome these two dear souls into the fold, and as we were reminded; "Now that we've found The Inn, let's stay by the Inn Keeper and be obedient unto Him."

Once again God has relieved a weary soul of his earthly pain and cares. Funeral services were held Feb. 2 for Bro. Levi Banwart. Local ministers officiated. Bro. Levi, son of Fred and Katie, was born June 15, 1912, at Lamar, Missouri. He grew up here until 1935, then moved to West Bend. In 1938 he was united in marriage to Edna Schneider. They farmed near West Bend until Bro. Levi's health failed, then moved into town. Sis. Edna wishes to express her appreciation for all kind deeds done during Bro. Levi's illness and at the time of his death. Truly our hearts oft sigh for the nobler, higher treasures laid up for us in the skies.

God has blessed our congregation with three little babies. Sam and Jane Martin (Fort Dodge) are happy first-time parents of a little son, Samuel Richard. Son Lee Joel, was born to Joel and Teresa Kellenberger. Grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Edith Kellenberger and Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Perkins. A daughter, Pamela Kay, was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman. Grandparents are Bro. Harley and Sis. Adele Bruellman and Bro. Victor and Sis. Marilyn Banwart.

Sis. Mabel Zaugg, Bro. Ken Banwart, Tommy Fehr (son of Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb), and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt have been hospitalized. May God's Healing Hand be with our hospital patients and with the many who have the flu.

The engagement has been announced of John Bruellman (son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) to Cindy Harms (dau. of Albert Harms of Algona). May God be with them.

On Saturday, the 26th of November, the West Bend Bible Class, along with their teachers & wives, boarded a bus to Sabetha, Kansas, for the week-end. Little did we realize what a blessing we would derive from the fellowship and the hospitality we enjoyed while we were there. We want to express our gratitude to the Sabetha children and their parents, their Sunday School teachers—also their ministers for their kind message to us as we worshipped together on Sunday. We have reason to be thankful for the memories we share.

May God richly bless them for the taste of these greater joys He has to share.

Shioda, Japan . . . Willis R. Ehnlé:

This is going to be a good year. Think how much of it is left in which to work for the Lord and our fellowman. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my little ones, ye have done it unto me."

I remember my mother saying, "It isn't what you say, it's how you say it," or words to that effect. The Bible teaches us, "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

Bitterness is not from God. Consider Christ's example on the cross.

Lois and I were eating lunch with a friend in a fine restaurant in Tokyo, to which he had invited us. We were asked if we cared for any alcoholic drink before our meal, so I explained that we do not drink because some people drink too much and do terrible things. My friend asked me not to say that. His family is in the rice wine business and he explained that if I talk like that people won't buy their rice wine. We must be careful that the profit or loss is not the predominant determining factor in making decisions. It is written in Proverbs 20:1 that "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whomsoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

Seldom is discipline appreciated by those who need it most.

As a group of believers, being human, we no doubt have many failures. However, when we visit each other's homes, even for the first time, and can feel we have "come home", it is not a failure but a success—one of the successes we would do well to hold on to.

Bern, Kansas . . . Esther and Stella Moser:

THE UNFAILING FRIEND

When my heart is sad and lonely,
And I'm filled with dark despair,
I just turn my eyes toward heaven
And pray a little prayer.
I tell Jesus all about it

For He knows my every care;
When I cannot tell another soul—
I just go to God in prayer.
He will never leave me friendless,
And He's never far away,
God is just as close to me
As the spot where I kneel to pray.

Nanette and Terry Farwell wel-

comed their first child, Erika Jill, born Feb. 5. Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mavis Meyer now have seven granddaughters, all under three years of age (also two grandsons).

Our guest ministers were Bro. Noah Gerber, West Bend, and Bro. James Ramseyer, Bay City. Visitors are always welcome.

On Feb. 5, Bro. Dennis Esslinger and Sis. Gertrude Messner were united in marriage at Winthrop. We extend our good wishes. May the Lord add His blessing as they make their home in Bern. We welcome Sis. Gertie into our congregation and hope she can feel at home here.

We have much flu and sickness in our community. Bern schools closed for a short time, because so many pupils and teachers were absent.

Kansas State University . . .

Cynthia Meyer: As another semester starts at Kansas State University, we hope and pray that God will be with us as He has been in the past. We have one new student this semester; Sis. Cynthia Meyer, from Sabetha.

We want to thank Bros. Alpha Strahm (Bern) and Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, Mich.) for ministering unto us. We certainly appreciate their efforts.

In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart shall fear,
And safe is such confiding,
For nothing changes here.
The storm may roar without me,
My heart may low be laid;
But God is round about me,
And can I be dismayed?

Fort Scott, Kansas . . . Aleta

Banwart: "Precious Jewels, Precious Jewels . . ." was carried out throughout a recent program. Our little "Jewels" glowed and sparkled while saying their pieces and singing songs. The older class told about the different jewels found in the scriptures. (Pearl—"Again the Kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.")

We would like to thank our visiting ministers Bro. John Lehman and Elder Bro. Lester Harter, Bern, Ks., for their blessed teachings of the Scriptures. We always welcome any visitors.

While visiting Sis. Carrie Massner and family, Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, became very ill requiring hospitalization and surgery. Bro. Sam was able to return home about three weeks later.

Our annual Business meeting was held Jan. 25. The following were elected: Trustees—Bros. Lyle Flischer, Jim Bahr, and Harold Kraft; Ushers—Bros. Don Banwart and Harold Kraft; Custodian—Bro. Harvey Smith; Food Committee—Sisters Marie Zaugg, Ida Sinn, and Lucille Schurter; Sunday School—Bros. John Sinn and Harvey Smith and Sisters Wanda Kraft, Sondra Sinn, Ruth Bahr, and Aleta Banwart; Silver Lining Reporter—Sis. Janet Kraft.

"I am the vine, Ye are the branches; He that abideth in Me, and I in Him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without Me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

I'm only a little branch,
I live by a life not mine,
For the sap that flows through
my tendrils small
Is the life blood of the Vine.
No power indeed have I
The fruit of myself to bear,
But since I am part of the living
Vine,
It's fruitfulness I share.

Kiowa, Kansas . . . Janice Frieden: I recently read a story about a humble, consecrated pastor whose young son had become very ill. After undergoing many exhaustive tests the boy was found to have a terminal illness. The minister was shocked by the news, and, though he knew that his son knew Christ as his Savior, and that death would usher him into Glory, he wondered how to inform one in the bloom of youth that he soon would die. After earnestly seeking the direction of the Holy Spirit, he went with a heavy heart through the hospital ward to the boy's bedside. First he read a passage of Scripture and had a time of prayer with his dear child. Then he gently told him that the doctor could promise him only a few more days to live. "Are you afraid to meet Jesus, my boy?" asked his devout father. Blinking away a few tears, the little fellow said bravely, "No, not if He's like you, Dad!" How those words thrilled the minister's heart. The boy had seen Christ living in his Dad, and did not dread meeting

the Savior whom his father had so accurately portrayed. Do our lives portray Christ living in us to our children, our friends, our brothers and sisters in faith? How fervently we, as children of God, pray so!!

Bro. Richard Guthrie, and Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel were hospital patients this past month, but we are thankful that they are all home, and Bro. Richard is able to be in our midst again. Due to the flu that is sweeping this area, many of our loved ones in faith have been unable to worship with us, though they were not hospitalized. It is our fervent prayer that the Lord will grant each one strength so that they may be among us again soon.

Our annual meeting was held one evening this month, and as I think about the elections, I feel thankful. Why? Because no matter what task the Lord might give us to do, (and each of us has a task in the Lord's work) if we put our whole heart into it, and do it happily in His name, we will be blessed beyond measure.

"Praise The Lord!" fully expresses our feelings of the weekend of Jan. 21-22 when we had the pleasure of witnessing the testimony and baptism of Amy Allenbach, daughter of ministering Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lois Allenbach. It so renews and uplifts those who have lived in the Lord to hear the humble sincerity of a new convert, and we rejoice to welcome Amy as our new Sister in Faith. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, and ministering Bro. Max Reimschisel, Wichita, were in our midst for the weekend; and their messages of faith and love filled our already full cups of blessings to overflowing.

Lamont, Kansas . . . Susan Emch:

As we are now in the deep of winter, it seems a miracle that in a few short months this earth will contain seeds that will decay and then spring forth and bear fruit.

We are thankful that friend Jill Luthi, daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Joann, has turned to the Lord in repentance.

We were privileged to host the Sunday School superintendents and elders from the Kansas churches and Lamar, Mo., for a meeting concerning future plans of Sunday School gatherings.

Sabetha, Kansas . . . Mrs. Joe Steiner: Visiting ministers have been Bro. Noah Gerber, West

Bend, and Bro. Jim Ramseyer, Bay City. We always appreciate when brothers take the time to visit us and bring us the Word of Life.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard and their family. They have purchased a farm in this community and have moved here from Francesville. May the Lord bless them in their move.

In our business meeting recently Bro. Walter Strahm was elected to serve two years as trustee to finish out the term of Bro. Paul Strahm who has resigned. Bro. John Aberle was elected to a three year term.

Bro. Jay Kellenberger was re-elected to serve as usher.

Bro. Eli Meyer was re-elected as trustee of the Fellowship Hall.

There has been much sickness in the community this winter. Many have had the flu and other illnesses, with some spending time in the hospitals. It has been a very cold winter but not too much snow. I'm sure we will all be ready for spring to arrive.

Wichita, Kansas . . . Glennis Allenbach: February being the time for Valentines Day and love being the subject, I am including some thoughts in that direction. The Bible tells us that love must govern all other gifts or they have no value.

Following are some thoughts on love, expressed in different ways:

Fed with love and understanding, life's blossoms open a little more each day.

Devotion is deeper than days and years, and loyalty goes beyond actions and words. Love is real and cannot fail.

The heart has its own memory, like the mind; in it are enshrined precious keepsakes.

Love makes all things new again.

Worship is our love for God and the highway to salvation.

John 15:12: This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.

Alto, Michigan . . . Mrs. Ronald Erisemann: "It was that immortal night when a caring God reached gently down to lay His Supreme Gift, His only begotten Son upon the hay." This was the message given by our Sunday School children for the 1977 December Christmas Program. What a joy it is for

us to watch these little children get up with such excitement and eagerness to tell the good news of Christ's birth.

Jim and Judy Blough are the proud parents of their second child, a little girl, Laura Grace, born Dec. 10. Also, Bro. Ron and Sis. Penny Erisemann welcome home their first little daughter, Summer Lee, born Jan. 21.

Elections were held in Alto with the following results: Sunday School teachers, Bro. Wally Gerst and Sis. Joyleen Blough; Trustee, Bro. Ron Erisemann; World Relief Committee, Sis. Judy Gerst.

Bay City, Michigan . . . Carolyn Schamback: Thank God for a refuge from the storm, a warm home to protect from the winter's cold blasts, and His Son to protect from a spiritual cold.

Tim, Kyle, and Jason Jones have a brand-new baby sister at their house, sure to be well-loved. Parents are Cliff and Sis. Kathy Jones; grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Millie Hodder.

We thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington) for visiting us this month and sharing again the beautiful truth, the Word of God.

Detroit, Michigan . . . Bonnie Popp:

MARY "BABA" SIROVEY

She is gone now, and I find myself staring at this piece of paper, trying unsuccessfully to put my feelings into words; but it is getting later and later.

I am puzzled. Is it possible? How can it be?

Have I seen the face of God or the face of Mary "Baba" Sirovey?

She passed away quietly and without pain—

A wonderful lady whom I shall not see again.

She was blind, but I would look into her eyes, and, oh! the beauty I would see.

Was it the beauty of God, or that of Mary "Baba" Sirovey?

She died in a nursing home on a dark Wednesday morning.

One last breath and it was over, but her face was smiling—

The same smile that could light up a room; and I wonder if possibly

I had seen the smile of God or was

it the smile of Mary "Baba" Sirovey?

The bed and chair are empty and so cold appearing without her. I've known her for only a few short months, but I realize that she will be in my memory forever. Her lips were like velvet when she kissed me so gently. Was it the kiss of God or the kiss of Mary "Baba" Sirovey?

Her life ended in room 35 at 6:27 a.m., and it almost seemed that the sun would not shine that day.

But the clouds parted when she left for the mortuary, and she was bathed in warmth all the way.

She was 97 years old and her white hair grew in tufts of endearing disarray.

Was this witness the purity of God or the halo of Mary "Baba" Sirovey?

I can stop writing now for I have found the answers to my questions. Undoubtedly it is so simple. I've been blessed. I have seen God in the face of Mary "Baba" Sirovey.

Grateful were we to have in our midst Elder Bro. Andy Virkler, Bro. Jim Ramseyer, and Bro. Don Manz. Their visits have been some weeks back, but we feel blessed to have had them with us.

In unity of spirit among the Detroit brethren, Bro. Mark Bahr has been called into the ministry of our Lord. We were reminded at this time that each of us must support our ministers, elders—and each other—if the church is to grow. May God bless Bro. Mark, Sis. Bev, and their young family as they enter this Service together.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Sis. Lorene and Doug will be in their Florida home for several months. We always miss them when they are apart from us and look forward to their return.

There are times when our mothers in faith cannot assemble with us due to ill health, poor weather, etc. Sis. Lucille Maibach Sis. Katharina Koprince, Sis. Katharina Bartoff and Sis. Katineni Facsko (who resides in a nursing home) have all been loving examples of sisters who have served the Lord many years. We are thankful for their presence and their light, each in her own special way.

We are mindful of some in our midst who are ill or in the hospital. At the time of this writing, Sis. Ann Wieland had minor surgery: Sis. Perseda Wieland and Sis. Joan Varga are to undergo surgery. Sis. Elaine Burgos is able to assemble with us quite often, and we know it is the Lord strengthening her. We pray a very special blessing upon each dear one.

We are happy that Marsha Albritton has made known her desire to turn to the Lord in repentance and we pray for God's grace and favor upon her.

Morris, Minnesota . . . Corrine Schmidgall - Lois Schmidgall: We are thankful and happy that two dear souls have turned from the world, and have answered the Lord's call. They are Dennis and Judy Wulf. May God be with them and give them peace that passeth all understanding. Our prayers are that more would be moved to seek their souls salvation before it is too late.

A daughter, Lisa Faye, was born on Jan. 12 to Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda Schmidgall. She has four sisters and one brother to welcome her home.

Our hospital patients were Dennis Wulf, Timothy Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois), and Brian Nohl (Kenny and Jacki). Sis. Janice Nohl (Dewayne) and Rose Greiner (Otto) all are out again. There has been lots of flu around along with all the snow and cold.

Bro. Calvin Moser was taken unexpectedly from this life. Funeral services were held Jan. 12. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Sis. Stella, his four brothers, Bros. Ervin, David of Morris, Albert of Willmar, and Bro. Richard of Canoke, Ill., and two sisters, (Sis. Bernice) Mrs. Ernie Frank and (Sis. Marion) Mrs. Hartzell Schmidgall of Oakville, Iowa.

Our friend Lydia (Hohulin) Rinkenberger, age 84, passed away on Jan. 19 after being ill more than five months. She is survived by her husband, Albert E., four sons and four daughters. Also surviving her are four sisters and two brothers. Our sympathy goes out to all her family.

Bob Feuchtenberger and Gwen Vantries were married on Jan. 14. Bob is the son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Emma. Gwen is the daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Vantries of Cyrus.

On Jan. 28 Roy Nohl (Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley) and Ginger Loher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Loher, were united in marriage. We wish both couples God's Blessings as they start their homes together.

God has so directed two couples to become engaged. They are Bro. Davis Wulf (Bro. Leonard and Sis. Violet) to Sis. Nancy Zimmerman (Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen) of Gridley, Illinois. Also Sis. Kathy Dogotch (Bro. Leo and Sis. Thelma) to Bro. Scott Strahm (Bro. Loren and Sis. Liseten) of Gridley, Kansas. We wish them all God's Blessings.

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

LOVE

LOVE . . . is patient and kind; love is not jealous or conceited, or proud or provoked; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is pleased with the truth. Love never gives up; its faith, hope and patience never fails.

We rejoice with Sis. Gertie and Bro. Denny Esslinger. Many brothers and sisters, members and friends gathered together on a beautiful winter Sunday, Feb. 5 to witness their marriage vows. Our Elder Bro. Harold officiated for this sacred event. May God bless them in their Bern, Kansas, home.

There has been a great deal of illness in our small congregation. Bro. Marlyn Messner had back surgery, Bro. Ray Messner, arm surgery, Bro. Roland Messner underwent eye surgery, and Sis. Viola (Don) Messner was hospitalized for tests. Ryan, son of Bro. and Sis. Stan Messner, and Michelle, daughter of Bro. and Sis. John Messner were hospitalized for treatment. Several were absent from services because of flu.

Lamar, Missouri . . . Janice Braker - Sandra Marti: We were blessed this past month with visits from Bro. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, and Bro. Vernon Leman, Eureka. We certainly appreciate the efforts put forth by all of our ministering brethren and encourage them. Bro. Vernon also showed slides and explained some of the World Relief projects. It surely humbles us to

see the conditions others are living in—and to think that we complain!

Our dear Sis. Marie Marti has again been hospitalized this past month. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of those who spend long hours in the hospital. Sis. Edna Frieden had the misfortune of slipping on the ice and breaking an arm.

Again we can feel that God has drawn two dear souls together. The engagement of Bro. Roy Braker, son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Lu-Etta) to Sis. Judy Leman (daughter of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman, Eureka) has been announced. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 22. Bro. Ray Luthi was put in for trustee. Sunday School teachers elected were Bros. Gene Banwart, Ray Luthi and Sis. Vera Frieden.

A phone has been installed in our church. Maybe you would like to add the number to your ministers' book: AC417-682-5919.

Taylor, Missouri . . . Lena M. Haerr: Be strong, and of good courage; dread not, nor be dismayed.

1 Chronicles 22:13

We had our annual business meeting Jan. 18. We are thankful for Bro. Roy Grimm's exhortations and want to do all we can to be found worthy when our life here is over. Bro. Wm. Cotrell's time expired, and Bro. Ron Joos was put in as trustee. Bro. Leroy Yackley's time expired, and Bro. Jon Knapp was put in as trustee for the Fellowship Hall.

We are so thankful that 9-year-old Shannon's (son of Bro. and Sis. Norman and Sally Haerr) life was spared when he was in a farm accident Jan. 21.

After much snow and cold weather, we'll all be ready for Spring.

Thought: Religion without the Savior is like a lamp without oil.

Union City, New Jersey - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania . . . Ed Aeschleman: Editor's Note: Bro. Ed wrote this column while in the hospital for tests. Thank you for your faithfulness, Bro. Ed.

Due to extremely poor weather conditions, the Union City church was closed for two consecutive Sundays and the Philadelphia church for one Sunday during January.

When the nourishing Word of God and the fellowship of the Saints is denied us, even for a short time, we can appreciate more than ever the blessed privilege and freedom of worship which we often take for granted.

God heard the prayers of many and brought Sis. Marie Walsh safely back to our Union City congregation from an extended visit in Europe.

We are happy to again have Sis. Becky Gram of Gridley in our Union City congregation. She is in the area on a temporary assignment with her company.

Bro. Glen Greenbank recently returned home to Akron after spending several weeks with us in Philadelphia. He was attending a training school with his company. We all enjoyed Bro. Glen's visit, and were sorry to see him leave.

Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler visited the Philadelphia congregation on Sunday, Jan. 22. We thank Bro. Corbin for lending himself to bring us the holy Word. We thank them both for the effort they made to visit us under very poor weather conditions.

A pleasant Christmas gift for the Union City congregation was the presence of Sis. Emily Schoenheber who is confined to a rest home. She had not been able to attend church for many weeks. Emily's son, Dr. Louis, was able to arrange the Christmas Day visit for his mother.

With heavy hearts and a great sense of loss, we must report that Bro. David and Sis. Carolyn Roberts and their two-year-old son, David, will shortly move from their present home in Quakertown, Pa., to the Bluffton, Ind. area. Bro. David was baptized at Union City on Apr. 1, 1973. On May 6 of the same year, he and Sis. Carolyn (Gerber) were married in Bluffton and came to make their home in Quakertown, Pa. That is about 40 miles north of Philadelphia, where Bro. David was born. Their coming increased the number of member families living in the Philadelphia area to seven, for which we all rejoiced and thanked God. On Mar. 31, 1974, Bro. David was appointed to the ministry to serve the Union City and Philadelphia churches. Since then he has lent himself unselfishly to the Lord's service, traveling thousands of miles to keep schedules between the two churches which

are more than 100 miles apart. "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace . . ." Their service of love didn't end there. They opened their home virtually every week-end to visiting brethren, offering quarters, nourishment, Godly love, and hospitality—holding nothing back. "For I was an hungered and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me to drink, I was a stranger and ye took me in." So it is easy to see how much we will miss this family. We ask that God's promised blessing will rest upon them for the service they offered here, and for the continued efforts they will make in their new home. The remaining three families here humbly request the prayerful petition of all readers of this news for God-given grace and faith for us who carry on here at Philadelphia. "And to all the church of Philadelphia write . . . I know thy words, behold I have set before thee an open door, and no man shall shut it; for thou hast a little strength and hast kept my word and hast not denied my name."

Croghan, New York . . . Alice G. Virkler:

Oh, think of the home over there,
By the side of the river of light.
Where the saints, all immortal and
fair,
Are robed in their garments of
white.

Oh, think of the friends over there,
Who before us the journey have
trod,
Of the songs that they breathe on
the air,
In their home in the palace of God.

The comforting words of this beautiful hymn were sung at funeral services for a dear brother-in-faith on Jan. 17. Bro. Herman Farney was born Dec. 1, 1890, in Kirschnerville, son of John C. and Katherine Kempf Farney, and was called from this earthly life on Jan. 14, 1978. He worked at the J. P. Lewis Company about 20 years and was later a self-employed carpenter. He was a beloved brother in the church, serving on the Brotherhood Aid Fund for many years, and will be greatly missed by young and old alike. Elder Bros. Rudy Graf and John Bahler, and Bro. Corbin Bahler, were with us for the funeral services. These dear

brothers spoke many comforting words for his dear sister, Katie, who lived with Bro. Herman in their home at Croghan. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Katie and the nieces and nephews. Sis. Katie would like to thank the loved ones who comforted her during the time of bereavement, the dear brothers who came for the services, and the ones who remembered her during her hospitalization and recuperation at home only a few days before Bro. Herman's passing.

Several loved ones have been hospitalized — medical patients were Sis. Irene Farney, Sis. Katie Farney, Sis. Barb Virkler, and Art Wooschlager. At this writing, Sis. Rita Petzoldt is a surgical patient.

An open house was held on Sunday, Feb. 5, 1978, for the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Arthur and Lucy Wooschlager. They were married on Feb. 5, 1928, and operated a dairy farm until July, 1962. They have two sons, Lowaine and Elwin, both of Lowville, and three grandchildren. A son, Calison, died at two years of age. Congratulations and best wishes go to Art and Lucy.

Naumburg, New York . . . Corinne Virkler: We have again this January experienced some severe blizzards, with huge drifts of snow. On a Sunday in January, church was dismissed after lunch due to the stormy weather.

Sis. Natalie Herzig and Roy Sturtze are both in the Carthage Area Hospital for operations. We are glad to report they are both doing fine. On Jan. 29, Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Eleanor Herzig were blessed with a little baby girl. She has been named Lor' Jeane. She has two brothers, Matthew, 5, and Mark, 3½, and a sister, Amber, 2, to welcome her home.

Sis. Barbara Bachman would like to thank everyone for all their cards and nice things that were done for her on her 100th birthday, Dec. 15, they were all enjoyed and appreciated.

Akron, Ohio . . . Gail Spangler: On Sunday, Jan. 10, Elder Bro. Joseph Ramsier (Rittman) and our Elder Bro. Rudy read and meditated on the memorandum from the August conference. May we each one strive to walk closer to the Lord and support our Elders

and ministers in the decisions that were made at the conference. They are surely God-inspired and are for our souls' welfare.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Ron Steiner and Gary Maibach, both from Rittman.

Our annual elections were held Jan. 29. Bro. Glen Greenbank was elected to be an usher, Bro. John Palitto as trustee for the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home in Rittman, and Sis. Esther Fritz for kitchen committee. New Sunday School teachers will be Sis. Janice Greenbank and Bro. Ned Spangler.

Bro. Charles Novatny had surgery recently. We trust the Lord will strengthen him each day, if it is His will. Other shut-ins have been Bro. Stanley and Ann Francis, Sis. Rose Pamer, Sis. Elizabeth Heib, and Sis. Mary Baumgartner, who just last Sunday was able to assemble with us again.

Sis. Janet Graf wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, deeds of kindness, gifts, cards, etc., since her accident Sept. 7. "May God bless each of you," is her prayer.

Junction, Ohio . . . Gwen Manz:

Sis. Elizabeth Spangler suffered a stroke a few days after the January blizzard which left her paralyzed on the right side. She has diligently worked with the afflicted limbs and has regained partial movement in them. She and Bro. Oliver are presently living with their son, Bro. James and family.

We were unable to attend church on a Thursday and a Sunday due to the blizzard, but many of us gathered in the home of Bro. Eli Manz on Jan. 29 where we could hear the Word of God. We appreciate being able to go to church when possible.

Latty, Ohio . . . Karen Klopfenstein: Our annual meeting was held Jan. 1. The following Sunday School teachers were elected: Bros. Phil Grant and Ray Stoller, and Sis. Renee Sinn. Trustee is Bro. Justus Stoller, World Relief Sewing, Sis. Iva Stoller.

My lifetime doth pass away; Hourly to the grave I hasten,
And I know each fleeting day my allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or late.

Tarry not, it will not wait!

Bro. Archie Delong was relieved

of his earthly pain. He was laid to rest on Jan. 21. Those surviving are his wife (Sis. Bena), a daughter (Eloise Arend), nine grandchildren, and a brother (William). His son (Eugene preceded him in death. May Sis. Bena be comforted in her time of sorrow.

The dedication for our new addition is planned for Mar. 19.

Bro. Robin Stoller (Sis. Joanne) was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy.

Mansfield, Ohio . . . Lucille Groh:

BUT AS FOR ME, MY PRAYER IS UNTO THEE, O LORD, IN AN ACCEPTABLE TIME: O GOD, IN THE MULTITUDE OF THY MERCY HEAR ME, IN THE TRUTH OF THY SALVATION.

Loving prayers and good wishes are extended to our shut-ins. The following dear ones have been hospitalized since the last writing: Sisters Anna Hoffman and Catherine Tooker and Bro. Robert Sauder; also, our dear friend Donald Sauder. It was good to see Bro. Richard Banks in church again. He has been absent for a lengthy time due to a heart attack.

Sis. Eileen and friend Bruce Jones are the happy parents of a baby boy named Donald Bruce. Little Donald's sister, Holly, is also happy to have a new brother. Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Sabo Domka are Donald's grandparents.

The Lord has been good to us and answered our prayers for protection through the violent blizzard that struck our area. Many were without electricity and some had to be evacuated to places for warmth and shelter. One family had but a few sticks of wood left to burn and no electricity. Unbeknown to them, the Lord was working in the heart of a neighbor. Just as the wood was about gone, the neighbor pulled up to their house with a horse and wagon with a load of wood. That family's prayer was heard. Perhaps some of you heard of the man in our community who had been trapped in a semi truck for five days under a 20-foot snow drift. He ate and drank snow and kept wrapped up in a blanket to survive. Fortunately, they found him alive, and when questioned he said he prayed a lot. Another family was marooned. In the fierce blinding snow several men in snowmobiles drove to the farm home and attached a rope to the snowmobile.

They walked to the house. Strapping a crippled child to the back of one man, they made their way back to the snowmobile by feeling along the rope that they had earlier tied to the snowmobile. God truly was with them and brought them all out safely.

Rittman, Ohio . . . Mary Jane Winkler - Margaret Winkler: "The Sunday school is our delight, we love it more and more . . ." Again our Sunday school has reconvened after a few weeks of vacation. May we all learn more about the love of God and may we all be blessed through the hearing of His Word.

"Repent ye therefore for the Kingdom of God is at hand . . ." We have two dear souls who are seeking the Lord in repentance. Martha Zollinger and Shirley Miller felt the need of turning to the Lord. Martha is the daughter of Sis. Marie Ritzman (Akron) and the wife of friend Carl. Shirley is the wife of friend Randy who is also seeking his repentance.

May the Lord comfort and sustain Sis. Matilda Saurer in the loss of her dear husband, Merle.

Jan. 21 Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall in their honor. Many relatives and friends shared their joy. May the Lord continue to bless them with many years together.

Several from our congregation have been hospitalized, but have returned home. They are Debbie Maibach, Ralph Rupp, and Irene (Beery) Bratcher. Alan Beery cut his little finger in a saw and had to have stitches. We pray that all may continue to improve.

Visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Ernest Graf (Akron) and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis). May the Lord bless them for their efforts of love.

Sadness has entered our community at the death of our dear Bro. Bernie Hilty. He had been sick for a long time and was an example to all of us in patience and love and in accepting that which was the Lord's will in his life. May the Lord comfort his parents, Bro. Herb and Sis. Ruth, his brothers, Sam, Roscoe, and Frank, and his sisters, Rosemary, Sis. Miriam Brake, and Sis. Martha Steele.

Bro. Bernie will have a new body

in Heaven where he will experience no pain or suffering but love, joy, and peace. May the family take comfort in this.

Sardis, Ohio . . . Joyce Indermuhle: "By the breath of God frost is given." Job 37:10

Take time out in your day to look for the beauty of winter. Let us not see only the complications it brings, but marvel at our Father's handiwork. When we are forced to stay in, let us take the opportunity to become closer to God by reading and meditating upon God's word. When our plans are upset by the onset of a snowstorm, we need to remember Paul's words to the Thesalonians, "In **everything** give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I was recently reminded of a teaching in Genesis 8:22, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Therefore do not wish any part of the year away, but in every day give God the glory.

Toledo, Ohio . . . Josephine Rehk-lau: Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Joseph Ramsier shared the memorandum of the conference held at Rittman, Ohio with us. Our shepherds are sincerely concerned about our spiritual welfare.

We are placed here in this life for one purpose, although men certainly have lost sight of it. We are here to praise God and work out our soul's salvation.

We rejoice to hear that our dear friend, David Beard, has found peace in heart through repentance and grace from God. He, too, is looking forward to having his name written in heaven in the Book of Life.

While the waters are troubled, we pray that others will step in to be healed.

At the annual business meeting, Bros. Richard Fetter and Glen Whittaker were elected trustees.

Portland, Oregon . . . Connie Stefan: Spring is arriving in the Pacific Northwest. We have some flowers and shrubs blooming now, and the songs of birds can be heard in the trees. Spring—the time of renewing; and now would probably be a good time to renew all the good thoughts we should

have for everyone, especially those of the Household of Faith. This should make us especially grateful for all the Lord has done for us. We recently heard the tapes of the brotherhood conference, and even though we were not "right there" we could feel the love and concern of our Elder brothers. How thankful we should be that God has given us faithful brethren to watch over the flocks.

We appreciate having been able to blacktop the second half of our parking lot at church and (through the gifts of brethren) paint and carpet our assembly room.

We greatly appreciate the anonymous gift of Bibles and Zion's Hymn Books given to us. May the Lord richly bless the giver for their gift. Thank you.

Silverton, Oregon . . . Mildred Dietrich: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Our small congregation had the special privilege to sit and listen to our Elder brethren speak to us by way of the conference tape. Let us take heed to the warnings of the dangers that are ever present and remember to obey them that have the rule over us.

His word obey and warning take; His wisdom will prevail.

For if we know and heed it not, It is of no avail.

Our annual election was held. Bro. Art Metz, Sisters Judy Knecht and Dorothy Dietrich were elected Sunday school teachers. Bro. Ray Cooper will be our new trustee. We wish them God's guidance and special blessings.

A blessed evening of fellowship and song was enjoyed by parents and children when a weiner roast was held at Silver Falls State Park.

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

Our weather has been very cold and snowy for several weeks and there is still no hope for better weather for a few days. The zero mark has never been reached, but the snow in places has been two and three feet deep, more in places where drifting occurred. A very high wind on Jan. 26 caused much damage.

There was an explosion and fire here at Mobay Chemical Company

on Jan. 21. Three men were killed instantly. One man who had both legs blown off his body, died two days later; another man who was severely burned is in a Pittsburg hospital and may not recover. Officials say it may take months to determine the real cause of the tragedy.

Clarence William Berger, 79 son of the late William and Emma Berger, former residents of Limestone Ridge, passed away on Feb. 6 at his home here following a several month's illness. He is survived by his widow, two brothers and two sisters. Services and interment took place on Feb. 9

Harold Witschey, senior member of Witschey's market, was a patient in a hospital in Huntington, W. Va., for several days but came home much improved.

Elza Ritz was hospitalized in the local hospital on Jan. 18 for four days and Chauncey Wade was a patient for two days in January.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, O., are spending several weeks in Bradenton, Florida.

Miss Della Witschey is having a good year, able to do a few things to help pass the time. She enjoys company and enjoys working jig saw puzzles. She will have a birthday on Mar. 16; address, c/o Lewis Wetzel Nursing Home, New Martinsville, W. Va. 26155

Zapata, Texas . . . Tillie Kellenberger: We certainly have been blessed with visitors from many churches and have been privileged to have these ministers and Elders proclaim God's word to us: Elder Bros. Paul Fehr (Morris, Minn.), Herman Kellenberger (Elgin, Ill.), Joseph Waibel (Bay City, Mich.), and Ed Hohulin (Goodfield); Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Carrol Gerber (Bluffton), and Leland Hirschey (Castorland, N. Y.).

Bro. Nathan Kellenberger spent a few days in the hospital. We're happy to hear that he is to come home today.

Bro. Carl Engle and Sis. Louise have been on the sick list, too, and are on the mend. We hope to have them back to worship with us soon.

Sermon . . .

(Continued From Page 24)

they went, probably on foot, but posts. That was the system for delivery of mail, and they were sent forth. I don't know in what manner

they went out into all the corners of that country, and I doubt if any city or any group missed the invitation to come.

There is one parallel already, beloved ones. One of the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, one of the last things He said before He left this world, was that the gospel should be proclaimed to all nations, that it should be published abroad. I wonder what corner you would have to be hiding in today to not know that Jesus Christ has come and lived. There may yet be some, but they are few. But surely there is no hideout in America. How can any soul in this land be without that awareness. The invitation goes on.

The information that Jesus Christ has lived and died and rose again is public knowledge.

So, the invitation to the Feast of the Passover went into the corners of Israel. The posts delivered their message, but do you remember, dear ones, what we read about the variation of response? It told us here that there were some who came willingly. They accepted the invitation and they came to Jerusalem, but it said in certain places in ". . . Manasseh and even unto Zebulun: . . . they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them." 2 Chronicles 30:10.

Now isn't that just like it was in the time of Noah? Noah was sending out an invitation. Noah was sending out a warning. He was telling the people it was going to rain. He was telling them it was going to flood. "You have to make yourselves ready," he told them as he was building the ark, and he believed it. Here is another similar situation. Today we are proclaiming that this world is moving on a collision course. It is going to end and it is all going to crash. But there were those who laughed in Noah's time. They said, "It never rained before, that funny old man. There must be something wrong with him." So it was when the invitation to go to Jerusalem went out. There were those who laughed, but then there were others who came.

Beloved ones, notice the difference among those who came when they finally gathered for the worship feast. Many of them were not cleansed. They were not properly prepared although they had obeyed to a certain extent. They went to

Jerusalem . . . they followed that simple commandment but they had not cleansed their hearts. Their hearts were not yet right with God. They should not have been there as a part of the worship group, if their hearts were not right.

But Hezekiah saw their condition and he understood. He pleaded with God in their behalf and he asked God to forgive them and to cleanse their hearts and it says that they came then, confessing. Beloved ones, God was pleased with His people and He blessed them and there was a seven-day feast in Jerusalem. There was such a self-cleansing . . . such a reconciliation . . . such a joy among those people when they had come and could see with their eyes that it was worthwhile . . . that God was with them!

They took counsel and wanted seven more days, and they kept them—fourteen days of rejoicing. It says, "There was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem." 2 Chronicles 30:26.

But in the meantime, there were still those back home with no blessing . . . no reconciliation . . . no peace.

Now we come to the Pool of Bethesda and here we also find a distinction among the people. There were those who, when the water was troubled from time to time, were either able by themselves to be the first to come into the water and be healed or who had someone to help them. But one poor hopeless soul who had an infirmity for thirty-eight years lay near that pool waiting for his chance, and it seemed that it would never come. Then Jesus came by and, beloved ones, I believe that poor man was the first one whom Jesus saw. He understood his situation even though He questioned him and the man explained. Jesus understood it all as soon as He came.

I believe it is the same way for every dear friend. There is a parallel here, beloved ones, not that they have a physical incapacity to do what God requires, but I believe there is some kind of hindrance . . . some kind of stumbling block that stands in the way of every dear friend. And these are varied.

In some cases, there may be something in the background that they feel could never be tolerated . . . they could never bear exposing

such a thing. If only they could realize and understand, beloved ones, that we were all sinners. If you would line up a group of individuals (we would never do this, of course) who have been converted, and could take a look at a list of the sins they had fallen into, what a great similarity you would find. The same kind of things may be lurking in the dark heart of any sinner. Yet that is something Satan will take and use to hold them back.

In other cases, there may be the fear that they just wouldn't be able to do certain things they see the brethren do. I remember one friend who was wavering as he was called. He wanted to make a beginning and yet he was being pulled back by Satan. This young man said, "I don't know how I could ever speak a prayer aloud." That was a wall in front of him. Satan was using that to hold him back. But when he gave in, the wall broke down.

We could go on and on, beloved ones. Each one has something that Satan is holding before him. This impotent man, because of his infirmity, couldn't make any progress. Thirty-eight years he had an infirmity. How many years do our friends go on because of something standing in their way?

But, beloved ones, when Jesus comes along, He knows what is standing in our way. He is able to reduce it to nothing, just as he looked upon that impotent man, and said, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk." John 5:8. So also can He remove **WHATEVER** may be a stumbling block in the life of ANY friend.

We said this morning that the only way the Word is going to work in people's hearts is if they believe it. The only way it is going to be of help, is if they look into the mirror and see that it fits them. Then it can have an effect. But if they apply it to somebody else, then it has all been in vain.

Now we turn to the Words of the Lord Jesus when He spoke of the will of God and His great desire to do that will. He said, "The Son can do nothing of himself . . ." John 5:19. He said, ". . . the Father raiseth up the dead . . ." John 5:21, and He spoke here of His mission to go forth and proclaim life unto mankind. He said, "He that heareth My Word, and believeth

on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24.

Then He goes on to say, "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God . . ." John 5:25. What does that mean, beloved ones, "The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God"? Do you think He is referring to those who are out there in the cemetery—the acres and acres of cemeteries throughout the land? Do you think that is what He is referring to? "The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God." Who is He talking about? Who are these dead that shall hear and live? Is any sinner really willing to acknowledge that he is dead? That is what God is talking about here; that is what Jesus is referring to. As long as we live in sin, we are dead.

But it is so helpful to us when God uses the examples of nature and the common things of life that we might be able to understand.

In the fall season of the year, plants go into a dormant state. Crops have brought forth their seed. Look out and see the trees—they are losing their leaves and, in a very short time, all but those that are evergreen will look dead. You will have to peel a little bark or something to see if there is any life, but it will look dead. Take one of the seeds, whether it be from corn or wheat or any other plant that has been born this year, and look at it. Does anything look more dead than a dried shriveled seed? This is the very example which the Lord Jesus used. Oh, I hope everyone can understand it.

Jesus said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24. That is the most basic precept in the plan of God that you can find—unless there is death, there will not be life. There is no wavering from that, beloved ones. There is no way around it. There is no way that a man can be transformed, reconciled to God, without first dying.

A sinner is already dead, but he doesn't acknowledge it. He doesn't see it. He is full of life and he sees many years before him and he wants to fill them.

You see, mankind is racing against time to try to enjoy all the

aspects of life possible, trying to put down the things that are not pleasant and concentrating on the things that are enjoyable, entertainment and the things that occupy our thoughts. But so temporary is their joy.

Look about us. There is the matter of gaining wealth, of being able to do more with it, of being able to point to it and be satisfied. It is a race, isn't it, that this world is involved in? Yet they are dead. Isn't it ironic? All who are sinners are dead. There is no life in them; there is no hope. You see a lot of movement; you see a lot of action, but in the eyes of God it is nothing, just spinning wheels and going nowhere.

The grain must go into the ground and die. Take a seed, beloved ones; take your pick of any seed you want. Put it on a dry shelf somewhere. Will anything ever happen? It will stay just as it is year after year.

It is amazing how long a seed will remain just as it is. It is given a hull, a coating; it is protected; it can lie dormant for many, many years, and there it stays. That is exactly the condition of every friend who has not turned to God—he is like a seed on a shelf that doesn't change; he just stays as he is.

Yet inside both is the potential for life; and if the seed is put into the ground, watered and given opportunity, and if the friend will believe on the Word with faith, confessing sin as the Word prescribed, that seed or friend that has been ever so dormant for so long, can become beautiful and bring forth fruit.

Where do we fit among the various categories beloved ones? Are we like those who came to Jerusalem and were so greatly blessed, who had their hearts cleansed and could rejoice and have peace? Are we like the impotent man when he rose up and walked and carried his bed and praised God? Are we like those who have gone from death to life through the process of repentance and conversion by belief in Jesus Christ and the power of His blood? Or, are we among those who are still back home in Manasseh mocking? Are we like the impotent man when he lay helpless for thirty-eight years? Are we like the seed that is still on the shelf, dormant and hopeless?

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SERMON BY BRO. DALE R. EISENMANN

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Text: 2 Chronicles 30 and John 5:1-30.

We find something in common, beloved ones, in these two portions of Scripture which we have read together. In each we find a great contrast between quite different states of the hearts of man

In the forereading, we read about the children of Israel at one of their times of great restlessness, one of the times when they had strayed far from the heart of God. Then as we read on, we see how, by the call of God and the command of the king, they were led to come to Jerusalem. They celebrated the feast there, leaving their state of disobedience, and they were reconciled. They came back to the heart of God.

Then we read about the Pool of Bethesda and we see the contrast between illness and health. We find a man with thirty-eight years of illness—an apparently hopeless situation—and we find him restored.

In the words of the Lord Jesus Christ, which we read together here toward the latter portion of this chapter, we are shown great contrast between life and death, between the state of being dormant, being dead in the spirit, and then the tremendous contrast of being quickened, being made alive. Finally, the Scripture points toward the last transformation which is going to take place. It is one which is going to occur for every soul that has ever lived, and that is the resurrection. It says here, "... all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28,29.

So we see the contrasts, beloved ones, which have come forth from the chapters we opened at random this morning, and we also find parallels.

We hope and pray that as we spend a few minutes now, we trust being led by the Spirit to consider these events and these words of the Lord, that each one of us who are gathered together in the house of God will think about how he fits into these various categories. Let us try very hard, beloved ones, to think very seriously about that.

The Word of God is a mirror. When we look into a mirror, it is for a purpose. It is to see whether or not we are in order; whether or not, in the case of the physical mirror, we have our tie on straight, or our hair is combed correctly. We can see it very plainly. If it isn't in order, it is obviously out of place. But we only see, beloved ones, if we are willing to look directly into that mirror and acknowledge what is there. So may it be that all of us who are assembled here together this morning will put forth that effort.

You know, we often talk about having the right attitude before we worship and having the soil—the heart—prepared so that the seed can be received. I believe what this really means is that we have to open our hearts and let God speak to us as individuals. We must not be thinking about one or the other across the way, and hoping that they hear what is being said. We must not be thinking about yesterday's concern, or tomorrow's plan. So, beloved ones, let each one of us now, as we consider the experience in the lives of the children of Israel and as we consider what happened at Bethesda and the words of Jesus, think about himself

Where do you fit into the picture? Beloved ones, the children of Israel had strayed far from the heart of God. They had gone so far as to set up places to burn incense for idol worship in the Holy City itself, Jerusalem. It tells us here that it had been many, many

years since there had been an observance of the Feast of the Passover in the way that God ordained that it should be.

In order for the Feast of the Passover to be celebrated properly, the people were to come from all the corners of the country of Israel and gather in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the Holy City. That was a great thing to those people. In the time of captivity, when they were barred from their Holy City, there were faithful men, Daniel was one of them, who wanted to obey the commandment of God that they should worship in Jerusalem. Even though Daniel couldn't go there, when he stood up to pray, he looked toward Jerusalem and he felt a blessing in doing that. Not since the time of Solomon had Israel fulfilled the observance of the Feast of the Passover properly, and I don't know how many years there were between the reign of Solomon and Hezekiah, but I believe it was quite a few.

Now, dear ones, Hezekiah, the King of the people, was a man of God. His people were fortunate to have as their leader a man of God. What an important thing it is! His story confirms that when a man comes into power where there has been an evil person, great changes can take place in just a few years' time.

Nations want their freedom of movement, and freedom to worship. It takes only one evil leader, coming into power to greatly change things. Little wonder that the Word admonishes us that we ought to pray for our government and for our leaders so that we might have freedom of worship.

The children of Israel were blessed when Hezekiah became their king. He sent forth an invitation that all Israel should come together once again and observe the Feast properly. He sent out the

(Continued On Page 22)