

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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## A TREASURE OF PRAISE

A history of the Zion's Harp Hymnal (Part I)

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, with the assistance of his wife, Carol, compiled the history of our beloved Zion's Harp. From the information he gathered, he published **A Treasure of Praise**. This is the first of a series from that work.

### Preface

The Apostolic Christian Church has always appreciated hymn singing as an important part of their worship service. In doing so, the church is in accord with the words of the psalmist, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

Certainly the Zion's Harp songs are vivid confessions of faith and allow the assembly to come before God in true holiness and proper reverence.

Because the Zion's Harp is a hymnal of such measureless depth, and is so esteemed by the brotherhood, the author decided to trace the origins of the hymnal, and record interesting highlights, and related historical data. This account is intended to reflect the many good points and to arouse a clearer understanding of the hymnal's development and content.

As a boy the author can well remember sitting with his father in the Gridley Apostolic Christian congregation and listening to the hymns being sung from the Zion's Harp. Even then, their reverent tone and Godly quality impressed him. Both as a convert and still today, the depth of the lyrics have been tremendous inspiration.

How does one gather information on the Zion's Harp? Firstly, regarding the topic of hymnology, there is a wide array of materials to be found in large metropolitan

libraries. Secondly, scattered materials and booklets by Evangelical Baptists and Apostolic Christians currently exist. The author, drawing materials from both origins, as well as many others, was able to develop a cohesive historical account of the Zion's Harp.

### Part I

#### A Sea of Musical Eloquence

It is a beautiful Sunday morning. The sky is sunny and clear. The springtime air is mild and mellow, and together with nature's fresh, appealing fragrance, it creates an atmosphere that invigorates one's soul and being.

Such a setting is often evident when driving to the house of God on a Lord's Day morning. And while the richness of God's handiwork—in the form of the air, the sky, and the sun—is readily manifest and a delight to behold, yet another wonderful experience awaits the child of God upon entering the sanctuary of the Apostolic Christian Church.

Hymn singing has already begun, and the time soon elapses to nominally four or five minutes prior to the beginning of the morning worship service. At this time, nearly all the people are very orderly seated in their places. It is peaceful, solemn, and quiet. The heart takes on a calm repose as the assembly centers its thoughts on the sublime and the divine—on Almighty God.

Often, at about this time, a beautiful song is sung which succinctly depicts the essence of the day and sets the stage for the ensuing "wining Hymn" and is also known as "Oh, How Lovely Is The Morning." This beautiful song begins in resonant splendor as brothers and sisters in Christ unite their voices in

praise to God—and an obvious joy fills the heart. Not only are thoughts of God conjured up within the mind, but the beauty of the day serves as a poignant reminder of the presence of God's love and power. It is a moment when one is truly glad he is in church on Sunday morning.

Adding to the beauty of the moment is the fact that the singing is done in "a cappella" fashion, that is without accompaniment of musical instruments. The natural beauty of the voices which ripple across the auditorium are blended together in a mellow, four-part harmony and this truly sets the tone for a worship service that is both dignified and eloquent in its simplicity.

The overall atmosphere is one of holiness and reflects the calmness, gentleness, and richness of God. The absence of instrumentation, in this particular instance, tends to symbolize a relationship to God that is best nurtured when lacking the weight and clutter of material things. In this case, the lifting of voices are completely natural as God gave them, and are not necessarily made comely by a material object.

The particular song mentioned is both inspirational and devotional. It goes:

Oh, how lovely is the morning,  
When it is begun with God.  
Joy and thanks our hearts adorning,  
As behooves a child of God.  
Waking after night so fair,  
In the Maker's gentle care,  
Rising without grief or sorrow,  
To a new and joyful morrow.

Then, in verse two:

Let our eyes be raised to heaven,  
Where the sun is shining bright,

And on hill and dale and meadow,  
Is dispensing life and light;  
But far more than sun in space,  
Beams the Saviour's kindly face;  
Truth and kindness, peaceful near-  
ness,  
Shine out in eternal clearness.

The above song, so complete in depth and substance, is an excellent example of the overall beauty of the songs contained in the Zion's Harp. "Oh, How Lovely Is The Morning" has always been a favorite. It is especially cherished on mornings of clear and sunny skies, but equally so perhaps on each and every day. Why? Because a morning is always lovely "when it is begun with God."

(To be continued)

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

Thanksgiving has always been a day set aside to give God thanks after the fall field work has been done and the crops, that He provided, were harvested. We are thankful that the harvesting and field work on our 50 acres is done for this year, and more importantly, that our family was able to take an active part in accomplishing the work. Their experience this fall will enable them to obtain a better realization of what Thanksgiving season was really like to the Pilgrims.

After our hired farmer put in a good effort to harvest the crops, we still had enough time to work the ground, fertilize, and sow winter wheat. A brother donated his time and equipment, drove from one of our neighboring churches, and organized the work. We also had another brother visit us who had just come from doing field work at home. We put him right back to work on the disk. Our maintenance man turned farmer and drove the fertilizer spreader. He and our oldest boy, Mark, also helped sift the wheat and fill the driller. Even our girls became involved. Mary, Debbie, and Karen picked up rocks in the field after it was dragged. We want to thank God and the people who volunteered the time and money to help us. We were happy that the children could be involved.

We are looking forward to a big and wonderful Thanksgiving Day. A number of visiting brethren and their families from Illinois plan

to be with us. It looks like "two tables full." Remember how special it was to have grandma and grandpa come over for Thanksgiving dinner? I hope this same feeling can be experienced by our family.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone. May God bless you with His love.

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"We are learning, O Lord—so slowly—life's true values. Surely Christmas would teach us the unforgettable lesson of the things that matter most—the ties that bind the structure of the family upon which our country and all the world rests; the love that we have for one another which binds Thy whole creation to Thy footstool, Thy throne. We are learning slowly; but, O God, we thank Thee that we are learning."

Peter Marshall

Terry Stoller, who has spent several summers with us in the past, has come to be a permanent resident. The son of Eugene and Minerva Gingrich Stoller of New Haven, Indiana, Terry has six brothers, Doug, Keith, Roger, Wade, Linn, and Larry, and two sisters, Lucette and Rose Ella. Three nieces and four nephews complete the loving family circle. Playing with the family dog was one of Terry's favorite pastimes. Here at the Home, he enjoys walking around and exploring. His ever-present smile indicates a loving background. Birthday time for Terry is May 6.

As of today, a new resident, Velma Hoffman, daughter of Philip J. Hoffman and Rose Endress Hoffman, both deceased, has come to join our family circle. Welcome Velma!

How eagerly we anticipate the activities of the Christmas Season! Surely it is the God-inspired love and good will which makes it all so special.

"Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and to remember what other people have done for you . . . to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world . . . to see what your fellow-men are just as real as you are, and to try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy . . . to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around for a place where

you can sow a few seeds of happiness . . . are you willing to do these things, even for a day?

"Then, you can keep Christmas! Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children . . . to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old . . . to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough . . . to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that the shadow will fall behind you . . ."

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world . . . stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death . . . and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?"

"Then, you can keep Christmas! And, if you keep it for a day, why not always? But you can never keep it alone."

Henry van Dyke

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil . . ." Psalm 23:4. On Nov. 16, Bro. Paul Froelich was called to pass through the valley of death. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Sis. Ida (Emch), Ben Weber, a nephew, who makes his home with them, and the entire Emch family. Truly, we will miss Bro. Paul, as he was an example to the many of us he had taught in Sunday School, as well as a great

### THE SILVER LINING

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pillar of faith. Interment was in Phoenix following the Nov. 19 funeral.

On Nov. 12, Sis. Shirley Roth and Bro. Barry Fleming were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach. Shirley is the daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Lorene. Her grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Fannie Mauer and Sis. Carrie Roth. The grandmothers and aunt Eileen Bauer were able to come from Illinois for the wedding.

Surgery patients were: Sisters Shirley Mohrman, Cathy (Don) Emch, and Julie Hoerr, Herb Mohrman, and Bro. Allan Freed. Sis. Lyda Zollinger had outpatient surgery. Bro. Roy Farney was a medical patient but is home now and doing better at this writing. Sis. Francis Schrenk has been unable to assemble with us due to her health. Bro. Ernie De Mille appreciates the many prayers for his daily strength and health.

We're looking forward to our family of winter visitors, and welcome each of you to visit us.

THOUGHT: "No time is lost waiting upon the Lord." Jo Petty

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON Caroline Kaufman

Once again the calendar is turned to November, and our hearts and minds become filled with a spirit of thanksgiving and love.

Bro. Richard Schupbach joined our congregation to hear the testimonies of our two new converts, Bill Woodruff and Kathleen Knapp. We truly thank our Lord for each one taken into His fold. It is our prayer that each soul is sheltered by His protective arm until He calls us home.

Our valley has been blessed recently with much needed rain. The autumn has definitely arrived. There have been reports of snow in Mt. Lemmon.

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Carlton J. Lanz

##### RUTH

This beautiful story teaches us many worthwhile lessons and serves to show how a gentile woman became one of the ancestors of Christ. The author is unknown. It pictures constancy, industry, and the wisdom of careful choice and alliance. It also teaches how God chastens those whom He selects to receive His blessing. HER FIDELITY: "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to

leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do to me, and more also, if ought but death part thee and me." (Ruth 1:16, 17)

In our Bible, we can find any number of these beautiful, stirring stories which point up the fidelity and sincerity of those pious people whose highest purpose was to serve their God. If we will read about these people with understanding, they can be of help to us in forming our own lives for the better. And to those of us who read this treasured Book, we approach it with affection and reverence; and through its sacred pages God speaks to us. The more we use and know our Bible, the closer we come to Him.

Nearly two thousand years have passed since Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, came in person to this Earth. All mankind around the globe will hear of it and will again observe and celebrate His birth. Certainly, to the Christian, He is the hero of the Bible story. In the Old Testament, He was promised. In the Gospels, He lived among men and women on this earth and brought us the Word of Life. In the latter part of the New Testament, it is promised that He will come again to judge us all in the last days. We must never lose sight of this fact that Jesus is the theme of the Bible, and to know of Him and His great purpose is important. While it is many centuries from the time of His birth, yet pilgrimages numbering in the tens of thousands visit His traditional tomb and many other sacred spots, annually; it is reminiscent of His life's mission as He went from village to village. A sizable group from Rockville, which included others from Switzerland and Rittman, OH, have recently returned from one of these visits.

Births: Nov. 11, a daughter, Alice Jean, to Sis. Joanie and Bro. Steve Hoffman, their first child. The grandparents are Sis. Irma and Bro. Leonard Luginbuhl and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Elsa Hoffman. Nov. 11, a son, Courtney Clinton, to Sis. Erva and Bro. Scott Wheeler, their second son. His grandparents are Sis. Vi and Bro. Ervin Luginbuhl and Mrs. Elois Wheeler. Oct. 26, Michael and LuAnn (Mangold)

Hoffman. The grandparents are Sis. Martha and Bro. Clarence Mangold and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Elsa Hoffman. Oct. 8, a daughter, Christine Louise, to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hany. The grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Hilda Hany (both deceased) and Mrs. Stella Mitchell. A daughter (date not available), Sara Doris, to Mr. and Mrs. Ken Crary. Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Luginbuhl are the maternal grandparents of the infant. Mrs. Crary (whose name was not available at the time of this writing) is the paternal grandmother. Congratulations to all.

Since this issue of the Silver Lining will undoubtedly be delivered near the end of the year, we would take this opportunity to extend our Season's Greetings to all of our readers. I would just add this little verse which lies before me on my desk.

"Whatever else be lost among the years,

Let us keep Christmas:  
Its meaning never, never ends."  
Author Unknown

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA Kathryn Schroeder

Although every day is a day for giving thanks, our heritage has led us to associate the word Thanksgiving with a special day in November. Among the many blessings, the countless blessings, which the Lord has given us, is one which is expressed in these beautiful lines:

Love is a golden gift,  
Priceless and perfect,  
Cherished above  
All life's treasures.

Barbara Burrow

#### God's Love I John

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God, 3:1 . . . God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 4:9. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 4:11.

The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3.

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me: yea, durable riches and right-

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ousness. Proverbs 8:17-18.

Psalms: He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. 33:5.

How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God: therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. 36:7.

Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. 42:8

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. 145:8

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 91:11.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor things present, nor things to come,

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God. Romans 8:38-39.

### Our Love

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity (love) I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling symbol. I Corinthians 13:1.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. St. Matthew 22:37.

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

Psalms: . . . let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. 5:11. I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. 18:1.

Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. St. Matthew 22:39.

Let love be without dissimulation. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. Romans 12:9-10.

I John: For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 3:11 . . . this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, . . . 3:23 . . . for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 4:7 . . . If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. 4:12. There is no fear

in love; but perfect love casteth out fear. 4:18

Bro. Edwin Bahler and family, Remington, IN, visited our congregation in October. As Bro. Ed always has inspiring messages for us in his ministry, we give thanks to the Lord that he comes at frequent intervals.

The first weeks in November were blessed with these visiting ministers: Bros. Charles Sauder, Tremont, IL, and Ernest Graf, Akron, OH.

Our warm expressions of sympathy are extended to Bro. Ted and Sis. Helen Baumgartner in the death of her son, Richard Sorg.

We know that winter is approaching for our winter residents are returning. Each passing week we welcome back dear ones to our community.

### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Jane Leman

Ed. Note: We apologize for the fact that the Bradford news was out of position in the October issue.

Our dear Elder Bro. Dave Kieser came to minister to us, and we were reminded to let our light shine in this dark and sinful world.

Bro. Louie Rumbold spent several weeks in the hospital. Even though he has now returned home, he still needs our prayers.

What a joy it is to report two new converts: Gladys Klumpp (Bro. Ray and Sis. Eunice) and Connie Rumbold (Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta) have heeded God's call.

A thought for today—you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN - URBANA

Charlen Banwart

THE OLD COUNTRY CHURCH

On Christmas mornings long ago,

The church bell's joyous sound  
Awakened all the countryside

For miles and miles around,  
And families came from far and near,

Despite the wintry weather,  
To fill the little country church  
And worship there together,  
How wonderful it was

To be among that congregation  
As friends and neighbors joined  
their hearts

In humble adoration,  
To feel the warmth and unity

Of souls in true accord  
And hear the lovely story

Of the birth of Christ the Lord.  
Eleanor Leah Woods

"Words of Life, the fountain flowing, Purely from the throne above, Life and strength to him imparting, Who accepts the Word of love." (Zion's Harp)

Visiting ministers who recently brought us the Word of Life include Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forest), Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), and Bro. Russell Rapp (Morton).

Bro. Paul Bodine was hospitalized recently. Sis. Wilma Blunier's mother passed away. May we always remember The Best Refuge, "In sorrow and pain Thy trust do retain in Jesus the merciful Saviour." (Zion's Harp)

### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Back in the days when raisins were sold unpackaged, a storekeeper told a little boy he could take a handful of the tasty little treats. When he hesitated, the grocer put his own hand into the box and insisted that the lad take what he had offered him. Later someone asked the boy why he was reluctant to help himself when the man told him to do so. He replied, "His hand is bigger than mine." **Our Daily Bread.** Though the boy's motive was impure, can we not see that for us to hesitate to do our own will, to wait instead for His (that He in all wisdom and experience may with His "bigger" hand give us what is best), brings more joy?

And so, with His almighty hand, our Lord has again poured blessings into our hearts, to their overflowing. Saturday evening, Oct. 21, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka, IL, assisted our Elder Bro. Dale as we and our dear brothers and sisters partook of holy communion. In the hushed stillness of the sanctuary, our thoughts, their words, were all bent toward the unspeakable sacrifice made for each one: "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: . . . But commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:7,8. Bro. Leroy ministered to us also on the following day and shared much with us from the Spirit within. Bro. Jim Rinkenberger from Bluffton, IN, taught us from the Word on a very special Wednesday evening, Oct. 25. Elder



Bro. Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL, with Bro. Dale, instructed us on the suggestions and teachings of the August conference on Sat., Nov. 4. Bro. Edwin also remained with us for Sunday and lent himself, as always, in the Lord's service. Though we only mention our ministers and elders by name, we are thankful for all our visitors and would gladly have everyone come often. Our ministering brothers wives, especially, in their supportive roles, give of themselves and leave us inspired by their examples.

Welcomes and farewells: We are grateful that Bro. Dan Hangartner from Eureka, IL, will be staying in Chicago for some time while he is in school. Perhaps Bro. Dan has mixed feelings in the Lord's decision that he should come to Chicago for school, much as I had when I felt called to come to this area to work 6½ years ago. May he find his stay here a blessed time, as I most certainly have. Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman are the happy parents of Myra Jean, born Nov. 18. Her sisters, Suzanne, 6, and Julie, 4, are her welcoming committee at home. Myra's grandparents are the Phil Gudeman's of Peoria, IL, and the Walter Hari's of Silverton, Oregon. Other newcomers to the area are Paula and Larry Kaspar and their four year old daughter. Paula grew up in Elgin, and we are looking forward to a very special time of getting acquainted.

"When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet again." "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" No. 156, *Hymns of Zion*.

We sang this at the farewell singing (held at Bro. Jake and Sis. Jeanne Plattner's) for John and Penny Alden. They are moving to Florida. We wish them and their daughters, Kaye and Sally, the Lord's presence, guidance, and richest blessings. Plans have changed for Bro. Jim, Sis. Eloise, and darling little Andrew Howell. Instead of the Chicago area, they will be locating downstate close to Jim's job at Caterpillar. 'Twould be harder to say "hello, goodbye" so quickly, except that we know the Lord doeth all things well.

Benny Gudeman, 18 months, young son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Becky Gudeman, broke his leg and is in an extensive cast. His mom says he has adjusted beautifully, but our prayers still reach out to

their family and its situation, which "...worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope..." Romans 5:3,4.

Once again I was privileged to be at a special baptism, this time that of a cousin of mine. I'm sure many unconverted were even moved emotionally by the Spirit in that day. May they know that we must of the Lord be led to do something about conviction and not be hearers only! Almost persuaded is not enough.

We were thankful to attend again the Handicapped Home Benefit in Morton, where many giving and thoughtful hands brought crafts, baked goods, and lunch to a multitude of customers. Our 3½ year old daughter went, too. When we arrived, the parking spaces in front of the fellowship hall were full. Then, after we unloaded, a brother was kind enough to take the car far out and park it, providing a guest service. But Trina couldn't understand: "Why did that man take the car? Why did he take it away from us?" And my answers were not enough for her. Likewise, before we repented, did we not also view the Lord in such a manner, seeing only those supposed "sacrifices," what we'd have to give up, and missing the whole point of the great joy and service Christ will perform in us.

Being at the Benefit also reminded me of the prayers we need to say for others. All have so many more physical and emotional burdens (a broken wrist, a hoarse voice which may nevermore sing, a heart condition acting up, old age, forthcoming or past operations, ones family members outside the fold, a weak mind, a crippled body, a dying marriage, a dying loved one, a nervous problem, sin festering, all these and more Satan has inflicted on us while we live on earth), than I; yet I, too, "need the prayers of those I love." "I need the Prayers" No. 201 *Hymns of Zion*. May we all bear each other up to Him in prayer.

A French pastor comforted an afflicted woman with these words: Dear Sister in Christ, notice that I hold in my hand two stones. They are alike in color and are equally pure. Yet there's a marked contrast between them. One has a dazzling brilliance; the other is quite dull... It's because one has received eighty cuts from the jewlers chisel, and the other only eight! The stone

that has "suffered much" is radiant, but the one that has had little effort expended on it is dim and lustreless. **Our Daily Bread.** "For our light affliction...worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." II Corinthians 4:17.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Knapp  
Judy Bauer

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield). We want to thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

Our hospital medical patients are Bro. Clarence Rudin and Bro. Walter Vogel, who remain in the Carle Hospital, and Elmer Young who is in the Hoopston Hospital. Sis. Laura (Bro. Henry) Hodel was a medical patient but is now home. Sis. Naomi Knapp was also a medical patient but is also home and feeling better. Wesley Knapp was a surgical patient but is now at home, recuperating. We pray that all of the sick will be restored to good health.

Our Bible Class was invited to Princeville on Nov. 5 for Youth Fellowship. We thank God that our youth can meet together with various churches.

A daughter was born to Bro. Randal and Sis. Pattie Martin. Rebekah Marie joins a sister, Christina. The grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Rosie Martin and Bro. Herman and Sis. Arcelia Bauer.

## MEDITATION

Let me be quiet a while upon this holy day  
To walk amidst the scene of Thy nativity,  
As around me roars the tumult of our complex age,  
Refresh my soul in yon divine simplicity.

The trusting heart of Mary waiting patiently;  
The tender deep concern that Joseph showed.  
Their gratitude for just a stable's open door;  
Their first-born child—God's gift on man bestowed!

Rouse my complacent mind. Steep me in quickening love  
With Thee to face the currents of uncertainty.

Let blinding fear give way to  
courage and to faith,  
As light from Bethlehem's ageless  
star we see.  
Let me be quiet a while upon this  
holy day  
To walk amidst the scene of Thy  
nativity!

Marie Hunter Dawson

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**  
Judy Wettstein  
Gay Knapp

"We drink one cup: we break one  
bread;  
One Saviour suffered in our stead."  
ZION'S HARP No. 25

On Nov. 15, we had Communion  
Services. Elder Bros. Josh Bro-  
quard and Perry Zimmerman (For-  
est) were with us as we partook of  
this holy sacrament. We were re-  
minded of the above words, that  
Christ's body was broken for us,  
and that the New Testament is in  
His blood.

The engagement of Bro. Carl  
Schieber to Sis. Mildred Traub  
(Forrest) was made known to us.  
They are planning to be married  
Dec. 3. We wish them God's richest  
blessings.

Bro. Heinz Maurer was a surgi-  
cal patient. We are so happy to  
have him back with us and hope  
that he soon will regain his full  
strength.

Sis. Arlene Banwart gives many  
thanks to all who helped care for  
her children, prayed for her, and  
visited her during her recent hos-  
pitalization. She asks God to bless  
each one.

We sympathize with Glen and  
Sis. Becky Bauman in the loss of  
their infant daughter.

Through repentance and faith in  
the shed blood of Jesus, we are  
blest with a precious key to Heav-  
en. Some time ago, a sister and  
brother in faith were outside with  
their children. The husband warned  
the wife that their youngest child  
had the keys to their truck. Not  
being to concerned, she continued  
to work, but when it was time to  
go, the keys were lost. Though  
they searched diligently, the key  
was not found, and they turned  
home sorrowfully. Often God's  
Holy Spirit warns us. If we do not  
heed His voice, will our "key" also  
be lost when Christ calls us home?

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
Ruth Ann Getz

Each year at this time our na-  
tion sets aside a day of thanksgiv-  
ing in which we make special ef-  
fort to express thankfulness. This  
is good, but how essential it is to  
exercise the heart each day in  
giving thanks and praise unto the  
Lord who has provided so great a  
salvation. Heb. 13:15, 'By Him  
therefore let us offer the sacrifice  
of praise to God continually, that  
is, the fruit of our lips giving  
thanks to His name.'

"Baptized into Thy name most  
holy . . ." Brought into the holy  
brotherhood on Oct. 29 were Bob  
Buckheister and Dave and Jean  
Martin. It is uplifting to the soul  
to observe that here and there men  
are still seeking their Saviour in  
repentance and that the Lord still  
so graciously bestows His peace to  
the purified heart.

Our Senior Bible Class was the  
guest of the Morton Sunday School  
on Oct. 29. May the fellowship pro-  
vided bear forth pleasing fruit to  
the Lord.

Nancy Scheitlin (Bro. Robert and  
Sis. Jean) was joined in marriage to  
Randy Greener, Oct. 13. Randy is  
the son of Mr. and Mrs. James  
Greener of Denver, Colorado. The  
couple will make their home in  
South Elgin where Randy is a Doc-  
tor of Chiropractic Medicine.

Bro. Richard Klopfenstein is co-  
valeiscing in his home following  
knee surgery. We are grateful that  
the Lord has granted returning  
health to Richard.

Very precious is the hour when  
the body of believers come togeth-  
er in Holy Communion, each having  
his own heart rid of sinful guile.  
The breaking of bread and drink-  
ing of the cup (sympolic of Christ's  
body and blood) is an awesome  
blessing to the believer, and is  
greatly to be treasured. Our con-  
gregation experienced this on Nov.  
10. Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley,  
IL) assisted Bro. Herman Kellen-  
berger and Bro. Nathan Steffen in  
this holy rite.

We want to extend a warm wel-  
come to Bro. Leroy and Sis. Bee  
Rocke who are moving to our com-  
munity to assume the responsibili-  
ty of administrator in our Apos-  
tolic Christian Resthaven. There  
has been a need for sometime to  
fill this position, and we are deeply  
grateful to Leroy and Bee for giv-  
ing of themselves to this work.

Luke 15:10, "Likewise, I say un-

to you, there is joy in the presence  
of the angels of God over one sin-  
ner that repenteth." We rejoice al-  
so that Mike Warrack is seeking  
the Lord in repentance. Surely the  
Lord hears the cry of the penitent  
sinner and bestows His grace and  
strength on them.

Elvis and Gail Kellenberger have  
announced the engagement of their  
daughter, Melinda, to Doug Leman,  
son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Marlene  
Leman. No wedding date has been  
set.

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
Melba Mangold

We have had a most beautiful  
fall season, unusually warm and  
dry. We appreciated the beauty as  
well as the fact that the weather  
made it easier for the harvesting  
of the crops.

A m o n g our hospitalized folks  
has been Sis. Mary (Ernest) Fehr  
for surgery. She is home again now.  
Bro. John Hartter had the misfor-  
tune of falling eight feet head-  
first onto a concrete floor while  
working on a house he was build-  
ing. Both wrists were broken, also  
some facial bones were crushed. He  
will need plastic surgery for this  
later on. God surely was with him;  
this could have been even worse.  
Sis. Freda Wartman from the  
"Home" has had surgery but is  
back at the "Home" again. Sis.  
Freda came to Eureka from the  
New Jersey church. She has no  
family here but has always been  
so cheerful and uncomplaining—an  
example to all of us.

Also at the "Home," Sis. Lucy  
(Josh) Kempf had been quite sick  
for some time. She passed away on  
Nov. 13. We sympathize with her  
family, two sons, Bro. Bill and Mar-  
vin, and two daughters, Naomi  
Peters and Sis. Wilma (Ben) Blu-  
nier. She also had quite a number  
of grandchildren and great-grand-  
children. Funeral services were  
conducted by Bro. Vernon Leman  
on Nov. 17.

Simply trusting every day,

Trusting through a stormy way,  
Even when my faith is small,

Trusting Jesus that is all.  
Trusting as the moments fly,

Trusting as the days go by;  
Trusting Him whate'er be-fall,

Trusting Jesus, that is all.

Ira D. Sankey

We hope words such as this can  
be a comfort to Glen and Sis. Becky



Bauman whose little Dawn Marie was unable to live one whole day on earth. But we know she has gone to a better Home. She was born and died Nov. 14. Graveside services were held on Nov. 18. Glen and Becky have one son, Chad, at home with them.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

We praise the Lord for more repentant hearts: Jerry and Donna (Schwind) Kaisner are repenting, and we pray that they will receive much grace.

Bros. Ezra Feller and Perry Zimmerman assisted our Elder Bro. Josh Broquard in serving us communion. We partook of the bread, symbolic of Jesus' body, being broken, that our body may be healed now; and we drank of the cup, symbolic of Jesus' blood, being shed, that we may live eternally.

Sis. Ida Steffen had ear surgery and Sis. Luella Sohn is home from the hospital.

Grant Evan was born to Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary Hartman. He is a brother of Carmen, Mark, and Ryan. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Eli Meiss and Bro. and Sis. Vernon Hartman.

Lana is the name of the new baby of Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young. The little girl has a brother, Bruce, and sisters, Julie and Bonnie.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Dawn Huber were blessed with their second little boy; the new baby is named Timothy Dale, and their other boy is Jason.

We are thankful for the efforts of the visiting ministers recently; Bros. Uriel Gehring, Kenneth Schneider, Bill Kupferschmid, Everett Hari, and Earl Banwart.

Bro. Eli Meiss wishes to thank everyone who in any way remembered him while he was in the Fairbury and Carle Hospitals and since he returned home. He hopes that God will bless everyone.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

Kathryn Steidinger  
Beverly Eisenmann

Sis. Dorothy Bachtold has gone to North Dakota to help care for her new grandson, Michael William Zeigler. He has gladdened the hearts and home of his parents, Sgt. Timothy and Berneice, and brother Matthew. Angela Rae is the new little daughter of Alan and Peggy DeFries, sister to Leslie.

Grandpa and Grandma are Bro. Les and Sis. Edith Zimmerman.

Bro. Ed Bach still remains a hospital patient. Little Andy Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) is in the hospital. Sis. Josiphine Schlatter and Sis. Virginia Hilti have returned home. Sis. Lydia Sohn is also home again after falling and breaking her wrist. Bro. Paul and Sis. Edna Wiegand are now continuing to improve in the hospital. Paul had surgery on his elbow, and Edna continues in traction.

We are happy for two couples who have recently announced their engagements. Sis. Mildred Traub and Bro. Carl Schieber from Congerville have chosen Dec. 3 as the day for their wedding and Ronda Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene) and Randy Stoller (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta) chose Dec. 9 as their wedding day.

Many loved ones gathered with us when Sis. Esther Knapp and Bro. Pete Esslinger (Bern, KS) exchanged wedding vows. Among the many children and grandchildren that attended were ministering Bros. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott) and Roy Wennli (Lamont). Also, Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha) spent the day in our midst and shared God's Word.

Friends and relatives shared the joy with Mike Zimmerman and Jeanette Haberkorn as they were united in marriage by Mike's father, Bro. Perry. Visiting ministers who attended were Bros. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse) and Bill Gudeman (Elgin, IL), who spent the next day with us. Our cups were again filled as they read and spoke God's Word.

Our Sunday School children are preparing for a program in the coming weeks to remind each of us of our Saviour's birth.

### A CRISTIAN'S CHRISTMAS

Bro. Henry Beer

As the fleeting tide of time  
Brings each year upon this earth  
Tidings of God's plan divine,  
Of the Saviour's wondrous birth;  
Listen to the song of love,  
Hear again His gracious plan;  
How His Son from realms above  
Came on earth as mortal man.

Humble was our Saviour's birth,  
Meek and lowly was His life.  
Sin prevailed upon this earth,  
But pure He lived in all its strife.  
They who find in Him their rest  
Ever strive that they might be

With His heav'nly virtues blest,  
Living in humility.

Brightly shone the eastern star  
For the wise men on their way,  
Leading them to Bethlehem,  
Where the infant Saviour lay.  
Still this radiant Star does shine;  
Jesus is Himself this light,  
Leading us with love divine,  
Guiding us in darkest night.

As the wise men brought rich gifts,  
Laying them at Jesus' feet,  
Humbly did they worship Him,  
Sought in Him salvation sweet.  
But rich gifts He does not ask;  
Rather that our hearts we give;  
Serving, loving, heeding Him,  
Evermore in Him to live.

There the shepherds heard with  
joy  
Angels sing the blest refrain:  
"Peace on earth, good will to men,  
Glory to His holy name."  
Jesus is the Shepherd true,  
Leads His flock in righteous ways,  
Fills our hearts with peace and  
love,  
Tunes our hearts to sing His praise.

Ever does His blessed birth  
Kindle righteous hearts anew  
With a flame of love and faith  
In our Lord and Master true.  
Not in feasting or in play,  
But in truth and righteousness  
Should we ever keep this day—  
Day of peace and holiness.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm

Once again, beautiful Christmas  
is just around the corner, and so—

God bless your Christmas wherever  
you are  
And keep your courage bright;  
For the spirit of man is the candle  
of God,  
And it burns on the darkest night.

God bless your Christmas wherever  
you are  
And keep you strong in faith;  
For the Spirit of God is the refuge  
of man  
And the light in his dwelling place.  
Hazel Adams

Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knoblock have recently moved to our community; and it is with great pleasure that we welcome them to our congregation.

We are glad to have Bro. Ira Rokay back with us after having spent some time in the hospital.

Bro. Don Sauder from Roanoke was with us on Wed. Eve., Oct. 18, to assist with the reading of the memorandum. Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bros. Harold Schmidgall, Gridley, IL, and Jim Hoerr, Peoria.

Beautiful faces are they that wear  
The light of a pleasant spirit there;

Beautiful hands are they that do  
Deeds that are noble, good, and  
true;

Beautiful feet are they that go  
Swiftly to lighten another's woe.

McGuffey's Second Reader

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

"When two people stand before God and promise to cherish each other until death separates them, it's not hard to believe that the angels in Heaven hush their songs, and grow silent in wonder, as they listen to those holy vows." Harold S. Martin.

Bro. Keith Zimmerman (Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman of Fairbury) and Sis. Linda Meiss (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge) were married Sept. 24. Sis. Jenny Gramm (Bro. Art and Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Tim Sauder of Roanoke (Bro. Jack and Sis. Marlise) were married Nov. 19. It is often mentioned that there are no earthly ties so tender and no human vows more sacred than those that are made between the bride and groom.

Mrs. Minnie Funk, 86, died Nov. 9. Our sympathy is extended to her son, Nelson of Gridley; her daughter, Eleanor Eft, of Bloomington; her sisters, Emma Dick of Peoria, Clara Dick of Fort Wayne, IN, and Ella Faus of Bluffton, IN.

Our fold has increased since our loving Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, was able to seek and save nine more souls who were lost in sin. Lori Funk, Marge Yergler, Dave Zehr and Jon Zehr were baptized Oct. 22. Mary Schlipf, Sandy Gramm, J. C. Schlipf, Susan Stella, and Curtis Stoller were baptized Nov. 12. We were privileged to have Elder Brothers Orville Ringger from Bluffton, IN, and Roy Sauder from Peoria with us for these happy occasions.

We were also blessed by the visits of ministering Bros. Rod Huber from Valparaiso, IN, Clarence Kachelmuss from Forrest, IL, and Ed Aeschleman from Philadelphia,

PA.

Sis. Lorene Kiefer was in the hospital and is home again.

Sis. Ardean Romersberger and children tell us that during the time of the earthly parting with their husband and daddy, they felt the strength of our many churches. They give a humble "thank you" for the prayers and letters of encouragement and love and feel that we should always be thankful and cherish this brotherhood.

### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Deanna Marti

"Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it." Luke 11:28. This was the theme verse for our "College Weekend" which was held Oct. 28 and 29. Those of us who attended found it true that we truly received a blessing as we heard the Word brought forth by 13 of our ministers. But simply hearing the Word isn't enough to receive God's rich blessings; we must also keep it. So it is with each one of us. We hear God's Word proclaimed every time we assemble together, but the test comes when we leave the church building and live our daily lives. When we have His Word dwelling in our heart, and it is revealed through our thoughts, conversation, and actions, then will He pour out his blessings on us.

We were thankful and blessed to have with us Bro. Merle Kaisner, Fairbury; Bro. Ken Hoerr, Peoria; Bro. Joe Stoller, Princeville; and our Bro. Joe Schrock, Congerville. Bro. Joe and his wife are planning to spend the winter in Sarasota, so we pray that God will watch over them while they are gone, and we look forward to their returning next spring.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### Joann Roecker

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Tami Garber and Sis. Jane Schmidgall as we welcome them into our fellowship. Bro. Ed Hohulin of Goodfield came and shared with us as we heard their testimony on Oct. 21. They were baptized on Oct. 22. How precious it is to hear again the desire and need of the Lord Jesus.

Provings are such a blessing, not only for the convert, but for the members as well. Time is well spent by reflecting back on the time when we first sought and felt the love and peace of our Lord.

Peace remains, come what may.

Sometimes we appear very busy and in a confusing or frustrating situation, but underneath there's a calmness, an inward peace, which all the cares of this world cannot disturb. Amid all the disappointments, ambitions, and troubles of this world, we can have the inward peace of perfect faith in God. He knows in spite of how it appears to others; He still is in complete control of our lives. There is great comfort in knowing God is always there.

Bro. Harold Zeltwanger challenged not only our visiting youth from Bradford, Elgin, and Bloomington-Normal, but the entire congregation on Oct. 29. Speaking from Romans 12, he shared his thoughts on seeking the right adventure. Quality or quantity? We sincerely appreciate his coming and bringing us these thought provoking words. May God richly bless him.

Nov. 4, the annual Chili Supper was held by our young people. All gave compliments on the meal, and it was a time of fellowship for all.

Ryan Michael Rauch arrived on Nov. 9 to bless the home of Bro. Mike and Sis. Michelle. His little sister, Nicole, welcomes him, too. The grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Jerome Rauch and Jack and Sis. Mary Jo Hirstein.

Wed., Nov. 15, Bro. Chris Wiedman and Sis. Mary Kisling were united in marriage. We pray God's richest blessings on these two dear ones.

The handicapped Home had it's sale on Nov. 17. The response was just wonderful.

Our hospital list seems lengthy this month. Our prayers are with these dear ones who must be confined at this time. On the list are Sis. Mary Huette, John and Roxy Rapp, Bro. Jack Krantz, Hollis Roby, Bro. Albert Sauder, Steve Aberle, and Sis. Alma Glaser.

We extend to the family of Sis. Bena Getz our heart-felt sympathy. Sis. Bena died on Nov. 14.

This coming week brings Thanksgiving. How quickly time has flown. When we take this special time to give thanks for all the many blessings God has given to us, may we always be thankful for the freedom of worship, the very special privilege our government has provided for us that we may gather together as one and give thanks and praise to our Lord.



## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin

## PRAYER

How sweet the privilege of prayer,  
When we our cares and sorrows  
share

With Him who understands.

Our Father's house has large  
supplies,

He owns and rules the earth and  
skies,

And bounteous are His hands.

Bro. Henry Beer

Once again, this is the time of year to be thankful and to give thanks for all the blessings God has given us during this past year. Naturally, we thank God for our families, friends, food, and our warm homes, but we do not want to forget the most important gift God gave us which is our salvation—Christ's dying and shedding His blood for our sins.

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;" I Timothy 1:12. The Lord sent Bros. Hartzell Kaisner from Detroit, John Steiner from Oakville, Roy Ehnle from Bradford, Joe Braker from Morton, Ed Kloter from Goodfield, and Leroy Huber from Eureka to minister to us.

This month, Sis. Mary Berchtold and Sis. Connie Triplett were hospitalized. We pray that God will nourish them back to good health soon.

On Oct. 21, the young members held an Old Folks Dinner for the older members and friends in the Peoria congregation. It was a very blessed evening for all of us.

## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

"Each season brings its colors bright, For constant hope and cheer, But Friendship weaves the brightest hues In all we hold most dear." (Author Unknown)

A most blessed weekend was enjoyed by many, Oct. 21-22, when Rodney Wagenbach, Cheryl Herrmann, Lavonne Stoller, and Cynthia Baurer gave their testimonies of their new found faith. All testified that they found that they could no longer walk in the way of the world, and when they sought help from the Lord, they found relief and a most blessed peace. Each one had to go through the "Door," as all of us did, and are

now enjoying God's blessings as Children of God. Bro. Roy Sauder assisted Bro. Dave Kieser and Bro. Joe Stoller in this important work. Parents of the four new converts are: Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Waggenbach; Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Herrmann; Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller; and Bro. Edwin and Sis. Carol Baurer. We all rejoice with the parents and children who are now our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Bro. Nathan Stoller of Bradford and Bro. Ken Hoerr of Peoria were with us for services on Sunday for the baptisms, and we were filled with the inspired Word from God. A story was told about a man, who got a glimpse of both heaven and hell. He was fortunate to awaken and have another chance, from which he took opportunity. He repented, and now, by the grace of God, looks forward to heaven.

The first Sunday in November was a balmy day, and many came to church without coats. Bros. Ken Weerts and Steve Rinckenberger of Cissna Park were our guest ministers. The Bible Class from Cissna was with us and received many warm blessings. A kindly invitation was extended to join God's family, to repent, and to enjoy the precious blessings of faith and grace, God's free gifts.

Two most inspiring evenings were enjoyed when Princeville hosted the A.C.Y.F. Five hundred young people took part in the hymn-singing that most surely pleased God, and those present received a blessing. The songs that were sung passed through our minds the following days. The inspiring words spoken by two able brothers, Steve Rinckenberger and Charles Hemmer, must have made an impression on the tender souls. It did on the older ones. We were thankful, first, to God, and then to all who took part in these blessed evenings.

It is hard to realize that Thanksgiving Day is so near. We have had a very pleasant autumn, with the harvesting all completed and most of the ploughing done. Truly we have many reasons to give thanks again and again.

THANK YOU GOD  
FOR EVERYTHING

Thank you, God, for everything—  
the big things and the small,  
For every good gift comes from  
God—the giver of them all—

And all too often we accept without  
any thanks or praise

The gifts God sends as blessings  
each day in many ways,

And so at this THANKSGIVING  
TIME we offer up a prayer

To thank you, God, for giving us  
a lot more than our share.

Helen Steiner Rice

Notice to Princeville subscribers: January is the month for the collection for the Silver Lining. You can give it to your reporter any time during the month. Thank You.

## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

"O, God, Our help in ages past,  
Our hope in years to be"—

Look down upon this Present

And see our need of Thee . . .

For in this age of unrest,

With danger all around,

We need Thy hand to guide us

To higher, safer ground . . .

We need Thy help and counsel

To make us more aware

That our safety and security

Lie solely in Thy care . . .

And so we pray this Christmas

To feel Thy Presence near

And for Thy all-wise guidance

Throughout the coming year . . .

First, give us understanding

Enough to make us kind,

So we may judge all people

With our heart and not our mind,

Then give us strength and courage

To be honorable and true

And place our trust implicitly

In "Unseen Things" and "You" . . .

And help us when we falter

And renew our faith each day

And forgive our human errors

And hear us when we pray,

And keep us gently humble

In the Greatness of Thy Love

So some day we are fit to dwell

With Thee in Peace above.

Helen Steiner Rice

Sam Hodel (Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret) and Robin Koehler (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Koehler) exchanged wedding vows Oct. 27.

JoAnn Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith) and Roger Beutel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Eunice), Tremont, were united in marriage on Nov. 4.

Bro. Gary Blunier (Bro. Walter and Sis. Miriam) and Sis. Cindy Walker (Mr. and Mrs. Donald Walker) were united in holy matrimony, Nov. 12.



May God bless you as you say  
these vows  
That make you man and wife.  
God send you many joys to share  
Throughout your married life.  
God keep you close together  
Through the years ahead of you.  
And help you find true happiness  
In everything you do.

#### Unknown

We have four new babies to report this month. Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy DeSigne have a little daughter, Darci Lynn. She is their first child. Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane Descarpentire have a new daughter, Lindsey Erin. Brandon and Kersten welcome her home. Andrew William Leman was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Jeanne Leman. He is their first child. Little Troy Daniel Janssen was born to Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen. He is also their first child. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ann Sauder, and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Carl Janssen. May God richly bless these little ones and their families.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Leo, and Bros. Robert Myer and Wendell Gerber, Bluffton. We thank them for their labors of love.

Bro. John Bittner has been hospitalized at Mayo's. Sis. Cindy DeSigne has also been hospitalized.

The Peoria Choir was our visiting choir for the October family sing.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri Janssen on the untimely death of Fred's youngest brother, Joey, who was killed in a van accident.

**A SMILE IS A GIFT THAT YOU CAN GIVE EACH DAY.**

Ed. Note: On Nov. 5, Bro. David (Happy) Hodel visited Leo. We sat beside each other as we ate dinner at the Fellowship Center. I asked Happy how he got his name. He said that just weeks ago he looked in his departed wife's personal diary and read that while in grade school she had written something about "Happy-go-lucky Hodel." He felt that that must be the origin of "Happy." His daughter, Helen Leman (who married my first cousin, Bill), felt that the name came earlier than that. Bro. Happy said that one of the interesting incidents in his life that concerned his name was when Elder Bro. Dave Mangold was making an

announcement from the pulpit about him. He came to his name, said, "Brother . . ." and paused. Should it be "David" or "Happy"? He said "Happy" and went on. From then on it was officially "Happy." I hear him called "Hap" sometimes, but I like "Happy" in more ways than one.

Bro. Happy talked about the Red Books (Gospel Hymns). He got excited when he mentioned how they used to use them in the 1915's and 16's. All other available books were in German. He said, "We really used to sing!" One time Happy was sitting by Bro. Mike Mangold at a singing. The "Red Books" had one song that had only one note for all of the words. Happy asked Bro. Mangold what he thought would happen if he announced it. Bro. Mangold's reply was "The way to find out is to try it and see." He did, and it went O.K.

Yes, I like "Happy" in more ways than one.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi

Dorothy Wagenbach

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;  
Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,  
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,  
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Now it is accomplished! With heart and with mind  
To Thee, my dear Saviour, I now am resigned!

I'll be ever faithful in life and in death,  
Abiding in Jesus unto my last breath.

Zion's Harp—No. 209

What a precious calling; three young souls have surrendered to and have turned from self-will to the love and guidance of our heavenly Father. Earl Koch, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Florence; Scott Sinn, son of Bro. Karl and Sis. Mary Ellen; and Clark Schweigert, son of Willard and Della are now our brethren in faith, sons of our living and omnipotent God.

"I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for

the sheep." St. John 10:9-11.

We thank Bro. Edwin Ringger, Gridley, for adding more blessings to this day as he assisted our Bro. Dan in this work.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss and Bro. Earl Gerber, Forrest, IL, Bro. Steve Rinkenberger and Bro. Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park, IL, and Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, Kansas. There is thankfulness in our hearts because the Lord sent us these added blessings.

We welcome Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge Schaefer and their dear little family to our congregation.

Our prayers and concerns are with our dear ones. Sis. Velda (Karl) Glueck had surgery and is at the Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, IL. We are sorry that she has spent many very sick days; we hope she can soon be restored to good health.

Sis. Esther Schmid and Sis. Emma (Al) Aberle underwent surgery. Both sisters are improving every day. Paul Sauder, son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joan was hospitalized and is home again. Pete Getz fell and was hospitalized and is now residing at the nursing home. May God give courage and patience to each one.

We have sympathy for Bro. Weldon and Sis. Doris Staker and their family as Bro. Weldon's father, Harvey Staker was called out of this life into eternity.

We had three couples start their new homes as husband and wife. Sis. Helen Pflederer and Bro. Herman Laidig were united in holy matrimony on Oct. 25.

JoAnn Sauder and Roger Beutel took their wedding vows at the Roanoke Fellowship Hall on Nov. 4 and will live at Mackinaw, IL.

From this day forward, Nov. 19, a covenant was made between Sis. Lynette Aberle and Bro. Ron Menold. Bro. Dan also spoke to them about their loving responsibilities to each other and to their God. They will be at home on Lee St., Morton, IL. Much happiness and blessings are wished upon these couples and their homes.

Our wish for all the readers of this Silver Lining is that peace and joy will fill their hearts during this Christmas Season and throughout the new year.

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
Valerie Kipfer

During the summer of 1978, Randy Mogler, a nephew of ministering Bro. Carl Wyss, traveled for a time in Europe. He was able to have a visit with Sis. Elma Froelich, who is the granddaughter of Samuel Heinrich Froelich. She wrote the following letter directed to the Apostolic Christian Churches of America. She is over 90 years old and resides in a nursing home built beside the church in Bern, Switzerland. She was active in missionary work in China until 1933, then in Africa, helping in hospitals, schools, and churches. The letter:

"Die Grade unsers Herrn Jesus Christus sei mit euch! (The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.) Romans 16:20

Today I had a loving brother (friend) from America visit me. He belongs to the congregation (Apostolic Christian Church of America) that got established through my grandfather Samuel Heinrich Froelich, and we also belong to this congregation. Here we call ourselves the Evangelical Baptized Christians. I pray to God that our brothers and sisters in the U.S.A. can be a "light and a salt" to their surroundings, and that their lives be spiritually fruitful, that many more people, through them, can be brought to the Lord. May God give us all grace that our lives be effective and impressive to the world around us.

Sister Elma Froelich

Her address is Elma Froelich, Altaersheim Mattenhoh, Konsumm Stasse 27, 3000 Bern, Switzerland.

Ed. Note: Why not write to her? It may be a real experience.

The Lord blessed Bro. Roger and Sis. Linda Ziegenhorn with a daughter, Tiffany Anne, on Oct. 15. David welcomes his baby sister home.

Our monthly hymn singing was held on Oct. 15. We must remember that singing hymns to our Lord is one of the most beautiful forms of prayer.

On Oct. 22, our Bible Class invited the Fairbury Bible Class to spend a day of fellowship with us. Many new friendships were made and old ones renewed.

"Make new friends and keep the old,  
One is silver and the other is gold."  
Author Unknown

We receive so many blessings;

we must remember to live each and every moment as the Lord wishes.

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Connie Troxel  
Teresa Fiechter

We had a blessed evening on Nov. 4 as we heard the conference report. We were reminded of the seriousness of life.

On Nov. 5 we dedicated the new Sunday School addition for the work of the Lord. The afternoon service was the dedication service. Following the service we had open house for all who wanted to view our new addition. We want to thank Bro. Ben Maibach for helping with the conference report and dedication. Also we give a special thank you to all those who visited us at that time.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ben Manz from Junction and Bro. Maurice Frank from Leo.

Sis. Tillie Bahler, who has lived here in Bluffton for a number of years, has passed away. A sincere sympathy is extended to all the family and friends, especially her sister from our congregation, Sis. Leona Gerber (wife of Bro. Obed).

Those that were hospitalized this month were: Kent Gerber (son of Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois), Sis. Mary Moser, Joan Frauhiger (daughter of Bro. Doyle and Sis. Jane), Susie Koehr (daughter of Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Flossie Stoller (wife of Bro. Ray), Sis. Joyce Baumgartner (wife of Bro. Howard), Sis. Marge Baumgartner (wife of Bro. Truman), and Sis. Lucille Frauhiger (wife of Bro. Herb).

Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller were blessed with a little daughter, Bethany Jo.

Dale Aeschliman (son of Walt and Imogene) and Beth Wright were united in marriage on Oct. 21. Mike Sumwalt and Aleda Gehring (daughter of Bro. Claren and Sis. Joyce) were also united in marriage on Nov. 4.

As this again is the Thanksgiving season, we should all be even more mindful of all the blessings the Lord has bestowed on us. This is a poem by Bro. Henry Beer—

The First Thanksgiving Day  
The pilgrims left a foreign strand  
And sailed across the main,  
And landed on New England's  
shore,

That faith they might retain.

Some say the first Thanksgiving  
Day  
The pilgrims did ordain  
Was when they offered thanks and  
praise  
For life and food and grain.

It was a day of gratitude  
When stormy voyage was o'er,  
When they had landed safely there  
On cold New England's shore.

The rolling sea behind them lay,  
Before them, trees of pine.  
With thankful hearts they knelt in  
prayer  
And praised God's help divine.

The pilgrims marked the Plymouth  
Rock  
Where they had knelt to pray.  
And still it stands memorial of  
That first Thanksgiving Day.

### INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman  
Laura Suttor

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. (I Thess. 5:18)

This is the wonderful season to be thankful for all of our blessings whether they be health, shelter, or food; but more importantly, we need to thank God for His Son, the Unspeakable Gift, too wonderful for words.

On the 25th of October, the memorandum was read by Elder Bro. Orvall Ringer from Bluffton and Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville. We thank them for their concern.

Bro. Roy Souder and Bro. Ken Hoerr from Peoria were with us on Oct. 28-29. The messages truly lifted us in the Spirit.

The Bloomington choir brought us many blessings through their singing on Nov. 4-5. Along with them, ministering Bro. Ronald Heiniger brought us God's message. We had a beautiful weekend, making friendships that will last through eternity.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. John Schuch and Bro. Dave Graham. We are grateful for Bro. John's quick recovery. We pray that Bro. Dave's strength will be restored.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. (Col. 3:17)

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**

**Linda Gutwein - Sharon Neuhouser**

Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor) spent a weekend with us. He assisted Bro. Wendell in reading the conference report. We are thankful for those who are willing to proclaim God's Word. May they always feel our support.

On Oct. 19, a baby boy, Colin Braden, was born to Mike and Carla Eshleman, son of Bro. Morris and Sis. Helen. He has a sister, Keely Christine, awaiting him at home.

Hospitalized for surgery was Sis. Sarah Anliker. We pray that God will grant her sufficient Grace for each day.

Little deeds of kindness  
Little words of love,  
Help to make earth happy  
Like the heaven above!

Julia Fletcher Carney

**INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**

**Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank**

Enough thanks cannot be given to our dear ministers who so willingly preach God's word Sunday after Sunday. It seems that God answers our morning prayers even before they're uttered, because our needs are often met through their sermons. Recently, Bros. Corbin Bahler (Rockville, Conn.) and Edwin Bahler (Remington) brought us such important reminders of being a "separate people."

It has been said, "You may be the only Bible some people read." May we all continue to strive to be more Christ-like every day.

**INDIANA, LA CROSSE**

**Grace Heindl - Lois Bucher**

Bros. Art Ringger, Indianapolis, and Floyd Schmidgall, Morris, visited our congregation on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, respectively. It is always appreciated and encouraging to have visiting ministers, and we thank them for their labor of love.

Becky Troxel, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Mary, became the bride of Glen Minich, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Minich, LaPorte, on Oct. 28. We wish them much happiness in their life together.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Lizzie Pfladderer, Mrs. Emma Fritz, and George Pfladderer on the death of their brother, Benjamin, who passed away Nov. 15.

**KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER**

Bro. Samuel Clauss, 89, is the

oldest member in our congregation. He was born on May 30, 1889, the oldest of eleven children, at Fairbury, IL, to Bro. John and Sis. Margaret (Meiss) Clauss. He moved, with his family, to a farm near Remington, IN, in 1904.

On Feb. 14, 1914, Sam was married to Mary Schwarzwaldner. He continued farming until 1920, at which time he began working in a meat market in Wolcott. In 1925, Sam and Mary moved to Chicago where he again worked in a meat market.

Sam and Mary saw their need of being born again, and Sam was baptized on Christmas Day in 1920. There was no church in Chicago when they moved there, so they offered their home, and the first services were held there in February, 1926. Sam was instrumental in establishing the first Apostolic Christian church in Chicago and was very active in its operation and upkeep.

In 1940 they moved to Elgin, IL, and on Mar. 3, 1963, Sis. Mary was called home to her reward. Again God provided for him, and in January, 1966, he was married to Sis. Bertha Heiniger of LaCrosse, IN. During his last years of employment, he did maintenance work.

Since 1974, Sam and Bertha have lived near LaCrosse, IN, but will soon take up residency at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN.

We trust God's presence will be felt there and that His grace will be sufficient for each new day to fill their needs.

**INDIANA, LEO**

**Mrs. Phil Schlatter**

**Mrs. Al Frautschi**

**CHRISTMAS INSTRUCTIONS**

Take time this Christmas to go a little way apart

And with the hands of prayer,  
prepare the house which is  
your heart.

Brush out the dusty fears, brush  
out the cobwebs of your care,  
Till in the house that is your heart,  
it's Christmas everywhere.

Light every window up with love,  
and let your light shine  
through,

So those who walk outside may  
share that blessed light with  
you.

Then will the rooms with joy be

bright, with peace the heart  
be blessed,

And Christ Himself will enter in  
to be your Christmas guest.

Author Unknown

Our Leo congregation was blessed by God's message brought by Bro. Steven Gutwein, Nov. 5.

Sis. Hazel Terrill has been a surgical patient, recipient of His blessing of strength and healing.

The Thanksgiving program was held Sunday P.M., Nov. 19. A Christmas program is planned for December.

It's that time of year when many are giving and sharing. Do you know that one of the hardest things to give away is kindness, for it is usually returned!

Busy shoppers have been crowding the stores and streets. Shop as people will, there are some things money cannot buy.

**MONEY WILL BUY**

A bed but not sleep,  
Books but not brains,  
Food but not appetite,  
Finery but not beauty,  
A house but not a home,  
Medicine but not health,  
Luxuries but not culture,  
Amusements but not happiness,  
A church pew but not Heaven.

(Selected)

But what you cannot buy, you can receive as a gift, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

**INDIANA, MILFORD**

**Sandy Beer**

James Martin Beer II made his arrival on Oct. 3. His happy parents are Jim and Deb. Jared and Joseph welcomed him home. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth.

Jack and Donna Beer became parents of their first daughter on Oct. 29. Carlye LuGene has a little brother, Trenten. The proud grandparents are again Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth.

Kasee Leigh Speicher arrived on Nov. 13 to bring joy to the home of Bro. Ned and Sis. Deb, Dawn, Kerri, and David. The grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Wuethrich (Francesville) and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mim Speicher.

John and Pam Lehman are parents of their first son, Kevin John. He has two sisters, Hiedi and Mi-



chele, to help take care of him. The paternal grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Madine.

Steve and Marcy Haab are glad to announce their new addition, Mark Steven. He came to join his twin sisters, Bobbi and Becki, and Jay on Nov. 17. The grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Esther Haab and Sis. Emma Furrer (Wolcott).

Angela, Brian, and Eric now have a new baby sister. Alison Lynn was born Nov. 18 to Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim. The grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther Rinkenberger (Palaska) and Sis. Mayme Gerst (Burlington).

Elder Bros. Rudy Graff (Akron), and Loren Stoller (Latty) were present on Nov. 5 to carry out the work of ordaining Bro. Jesse Beer as deacon. Bro. Theo Beer has taken the position of retired elder after many years of service.

Hospital patients were Bro. John Hurd (surgical), Sis. Hulda Graf (Bro. Oscar), and Bro. Ronn Beer. We wish them a speedy recovery and much patience in their times of distress. We are so happy to report that Bro. Ronn is now home and will continue his convalescing with the help of a back brace. He sincerely expresses his appreciation for all the love and prayers in his behalf.

After this beautiful harvest and abundance of blessings, we truly are a very unworthy, but a most grateful, people.

"Lord, thou Creator, glorious is Thy Kingdom!" Zion's Harp

#### INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini  
Mildred Clauss

Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke, IL, was our visiting minister on Nov. 5. He assisted Bro. Alfred Bahler in bringing us the report on the brotherhood conference. We are thankful for their love and concerns for the brotherhood.

Two dear souls, Ed Bahler and Dan Kilgus gave their testimonies on Saturday evening, Nov. 10, with baptisms on Sunday. Bro. Orville Ringger from Bluffton and Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville shared this important work with Bro. Alfred Bahler.

Funeral services for Sis. Tillie Bahler were held here on Oct. 31. We were thankful that she could go to rest after a lingering illness.

We extend our sympathy to the

family of Sis. Nina Byers, and we especially pray for her mother, Sis. Marie Schieler, who is a patient in Parkview Haven Nursing Care.

Bro. Jacob Bahler is presently in St. Elizabeth Hospital, and we pray that he will soon be well again.

#### INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marie Heinold

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6, 7.

The blessings of Christian fellowship were surely enjoyed when the Peoria choir visited our little church this month. We also enjoyed the visits of ministering Bros. Ken Hoerr, Karl Westfall, and Don Gudeman. We thank each one so much, and we thank our Father in Heaven from whom all blessings flow.

Bro. Willis Feller's condition is stable at this time, after having open heart surgery on Nov. 14. He is in St. Catherine Hospital, East Chicago, IN.

Bro. John Heinold is confined to his bed at home. His loving daughters help Sis. Tillie care for him.

#### PRAYER

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I asked for— but everything I had hoped for.  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

Author Unknown

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

#### IOWA, BURLINGTON

Mayme Gerst - Judy Gehring

Our guest ministers this past month were Bros. Al Langhofer, Wichita, KS, Byron Stoller, Gridlev, IL, and Walter Anliker, Eureka, IL. May God richly bless each and everyone who came to assemble with us.

Elder Bro. Leroy Huber from Eureka, IL, assisted Bro. Ed Lanz in the reading of the conclusions of the memorandum. The Iowa City and Burlington congregations joined the Oakville brethren.

The Iowa City congregation assembled in their own church for the first time on Nov. 5. Bro. Joe Gerst was voted as the new minister. They will hold services every Sunday. As one brother put it, "Before, we were a group; now we are a congregation."

Sis. Rekie Anliker is hospitalized; Lord willing, she hopes to return home soon.

Last Saturday I went to clean the church, but I had left my key at home. I tried to open the door, but it was locked. It's a terrible feeling when you want to be inside but the door is shut and locked. It made me think of when the door of grace will be forever closed. The song "I Stood Outside the Gate," no. 85, Gospel Hymns, came to me. Can we fully comprehend that we, ourselves, determine our destinies? Shouldn't we want to serve the Lord now and spend eternity with Him who died for us?

#### IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

This is going to be a rather brief report. My husband, Bro. George and myself have been at the V.A. Hospital at Iowa City for the past few days. George is a patient there. Because of his trouble, it is difficult for me to concentrate on writing, but I will do my best. I am asking God to assist in collecting my thoughts.

Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Elder Bro. Joe Braker and Bro. Noah Gerber visited our church recently. They read and explained the memorandum of the church conference. Our Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer did his part in the explanation and reading, too. We are truly grateful to these brothers who, relying on help from the Father, give us, from time to time,



needed help. They give us help in the way of admonitions and courage to travel the heavenly highway. Traveling that highway ultimately will mean a place in heaven.

Paul Pulfer's two daughters, Audrey and Sis. Kathy, who have been living in an apartment here in Iowa City, have been so very kind to us. We shall never forget their thoughtfulness.

Their grandfather, Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer, spent some time recently in the Postville Hospital but has now returned to his home. He is feeling considerably improved as of this writing. We are truly thankful for that news.

We have sighted some snow falling, but the flakes melted away as silently as they fell. Our supply of suet placed in our lawn in various spots has been visited by chickadees, woodpeckers, tufted titmice, nuthatches, and blue jays, reminding us that the birds appreciate this food and that cooler weather has arrived. Each season brings its changes and rewards. The beauty of our autumn was so very lovely; and even after the snow actually remains on the ground, there will be winter beauty to behold. May our daily conduct, too, reflect some hidden spiritual beauty for someone.

### IOWA, IOWA CITY

**Twilla Whipple  
Connie Gerst**

As Thanksgiving time draws near, I realize that we have so many reasons to thank and praise our Heavenly Father for all the rich blessings He bestows on us. We are now assembling in our new church building and have felt the love of God flow so abundantly in our midst.

Just recently our little flock elected Bro. Joe Gerst to serve us in the ministry. May he ever feel the nearness of God and the prayerful support of his congregation as he begins his labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Harvey Heiniger (Burlington), Ed Lanz (Oakville), and Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA). We thank the brethren for their willing service.

Greg Michael has arrived to share the home of Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker. Brian, Renee, Karen, and Janice welcome their baby brother home with great de-

light! We wish them all God's blessings with their new babe.

### IOWA, LESTER

**Alice Metzger**

The farmers in this area reaped a most bountiful harvest this year, and we feel grateful to the One who provides the rain and sunshine. We are also grateful for souls who have turned to repentance while the waters are troubled. Our hearts rejoice to report that Myra Moser, daughter of Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona, and Michelle Messner, who has recently moved here from Winthrop, are our newest converts. We are happy to have Michelle in our midst and also welcome Sis. Jan Dogotch who has moved here from Morris.

We appreciate the visit of Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha, who was our visiting minister, recently.

Our congregation has spent several Thursday evenings listening to the tapes of the recent conference. God has so kindly provided elders to sound the warning. May they never tire of leading their flocks.

A baby girl, Summer Nicole, was born to Nick and Jean Wysong. The grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet Wysong and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson.

Seven-year-old Blake W y s o n g underwent open heart surgery at a Rochester hospital. We are happy to see him back in church and feeling fine. Bro. Jake Metzger is hospitalized, having undergone back surgery. Bro. Ed Gerber had recent surgery and wishes to thank everyone who remembered him with prayers, cards, and gifts of love.

Sis Emilie Knobloch was called to her eternal rest on Oct. 17. She suffered much in her last months, but as much as her health permitted, she kept busy with crafts and articles for the enjoyment of others. She repented at an early age and found peace and contentment in quietly serving God. Survivors include seven brothers and seven sisters (Ernst, Bro. Albert, Dietrich, Bro. Ben, Bro. Wilbert, Bro. Earl, and Adolph; Julia Plattner, Sis. Emma Knobloch, Elizabeth Barker, Lydia Moser, Sis. Pauline Knobloch, Sis. Violet Knobloch, and Wilma Hoogeveen) and many nieces and nephews. All of them sincerely thank everyone who remembered Emilie throughout her lengthy illness. Their thoughtfulness meant so much to her. They also express their appreciation for all

the kindnesses extended to them during her illness and passing. They hope that God will richly reward each one.

### IOWA, OAKVILLE

**Phyllis Siegle**

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. St. Matthew 6:33.

Janet Schmidgall, daughter of Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marion, became our new sister in faith after giving us her testimony and becoming baptized. This important work took place the first weekend in November and Elder Bro. Leroy Huber was present to help our Elder Bro. Ed. Lanz. We wish the rich blessings of our Heavenly Father for Sis. Janet through this most important step in life.

This same weekend we were privileged to hear the conclusion of the recent conference report of our elder brethren. As Elder Bro. Leroy said, "May we put our shoulder to the wheel and be more diligent and obedient to what we have heard." We certainly want to thank him for being with us and extending God's love to us.

The wedding of Bro. Rod Moser and Sis. Naomi Heimer, Taylor, took place Nov. 12. We wish God's blessing for them, and want to welcome Sis. Naomi to our Oakville community. It will be a pleasure to have her in our midst.

In a recent sermon from one of our visiting ministers, we heard the following little story, which is so timely. A little boy had a wagon and was picking up stones, putting them into it. He came to a big one and tried to get it into his wagon, but couldn't succeed. His father, who was resting from his labor under a tree, had been watching the whole ordeal. He said to his son, "Son, have you tried everything to get the big rock into the wagon?" The son said, "Yes, everything!" Then his dad said, "No. you forgot one thing. Did you ask your Father for help?" This is often our situation. May we take this to heart when strain and stress come our way.

We have appreciated all of our visiting ministers who, in God's service, have willingly lent themselves. They were Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka; Bro. Edwin Bahler and Bro. Earl Kilgus, Remington; and Bro. Robert Wal-



der, Congerville.

Have you made your Christmas list? Yes, beyond a doubt! It is Jesus' birthday, too; Did you leave Him out? Make His gifts the first of all! Inasmuch as ye did it to the least of Mine, Ye have given unto me.

**IOWA, PULASKI**  
Mary Jane Knapp  
Ginny Wuthrich

**EACH LIFE  
AFFECTS ANOTHER'S**

We may not always realize that everything we do

Affects not only our lives but touches others, too.

A single happy smile can always brighten up the day

For anyone who happens to be passing by your way,

And a little bit of thoughtfulness that shows someone you care

Creates a ray of sunshine for both of you to share --

Yes, every time you offer someone a helping hand,

Every time you show a friend you care and understand,

Every time you have a kind and gentle word to give

You help someone find beauty in this precious life we live,

For happiness brings happiness, and loving ways bring love,

And giving is the treasure that contentment is made of.

Amanda Bradley

In the recent past we were blest with visits from ministering Bros. Roy Grimm and Kenny Knapp of Taylor, and Carl Wyss of Washington. They do have a treasure to give when they lend themselves to God's service and bring forth His Word in truth and humility.

Hospitalized as medical patients have been Kristy Cruikshank, Brian Knapp, and Aaron Musselman, all of whom are home again.

**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
Mrs. Raymond Anliker  
Becky Banwart

The broader way at first may seem as through a pleasant pasture, But in its path great dangers teem; It ends in dark disaster. In righteous anger God will cast into great agony at least the unrepentant sinner. Therefore, O soul, consider well what there shall be your portion, And choose while yet you live on earth the way of

full salvation. If in the Lord your hopes do rest, then with this treasure you are blest. Woe to the unbelievers. (Zions Harp, The Way and the Reward) Our hearts are thankful that three dear souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Kevin Banwart (son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis), Mark Bruellman (son of Bro. Don and Sis. Verda), and Deb Cook. Mark and Deb have been engaged for some time. God will bless them for taking the most important step in life first.

The past three Monday evenings, we had the privilege of hearing the Conference tapes. May the Elder body be blest for the many concerns they have laid to our hearts. Truly we all have work to do, and if we will abide by the guidelines set forth, the true faith can be preserved. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin, Iowa, with us on Nov. 12. May God bless him for coming.

Kendra Banwart (daughter of Bro. Kens) and Jeff Banwart (son of Benjis) were hospital patients. Sis. Emma Mogler has been "laid up" for several weeks with a fractured ankle. May God abide with those who cannot be up and about.

God blessed the home of Bro. Merlyn and Sis. Judy Metzger with a new daughter, Bridget Sue, born October 27. The grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice Metzger and Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty Zeltwanger of Morris, MN.

**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
Sally Gramm

Fall is a beautiful time here in Yamanashi-ken, when the colorful grape leaves cover the mountains like a golden and brown patchwork quilt, and the persimmon trees add an accent of bright orange fruit against the blue sky. It is a time of harvesting and counting blessings in Japan. We think of the great blessings we have in fellowshiping with others of like faith and mind, as we have been able to do during the recent singings held in homes of Sister Reiko Furuya and Sisters Sally Buetel and Jane Weiss. Many of us were also able to travel to our Tsatsujigaoka church to share in the fellowship and joy of Bro. and Sis. Saburo Utsaki on their 50th wedding anniversary. We must pause to thank God for the blessings

of being pleasantly busy, and comfortably provided with all the food, clothing, and shelter that we need. How fortunate we also are to be blessed with older, wiser Christians in our midst who can encourage and advise us from the storehouse of their own experiences, etched out of pain, tears, and stout faith.

Another very special blessing which we've celebrated recently is the 25th Silver Wedding Anniversary of Bro. Willis and Sis Lois Ehnle, on Nov. 8. How we praise God for the rich blessings He has bestowed on us, in the form of this dedicated couple, for the past 25 years. As I ponder how love steadies and deepens, and hearts grow more open to each other and more selfless, in a good marriage as it progresses, I can't help but compare it to the marriage of the Church and the Lamb. May we, as a church, ever grow more full of love for our dear Bridegroom and Savior, more open to His bidding, and more like He wants us to be, as our years of being united with Him increase, and our knowledge of His Will and His nature deepens.

**JAPAN, TOKYO**  
Yoshio Yamazaki  
Marie Inoue

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night showeth knowledge. Ps. 19:1,2.

It is a very calm and lovely day that the Lord gave us today and we certainly appreciate it. We really thank God for His wonderful handiworks.

We remembered Bro. Saburo and Sis. Shizuko Utsuki's 50th Wedding Anniversary with a short program and carry-in supper on Oct. 29. Bro Willis Ehnle had a short meditation. And Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki presented a scrapbook to them to which the believers and friends of both churches each contributed a page. Bro. Saburo mentioned that they were married when Japan was in a hopeless condition financially. It was unheard of to take off a week for a honeymoon. They came through many hard times and rejoice in the Lord today for their salvation. To their union were born eight children, sons, Haiime, Akira, daughters Kazuko, Sisters Yoshiko and Hiroko, Noboko, and Tomoko who is



employed in New York. One daughter passed away in childhood. They wish to thank all those who remembered them with anniversary cards.

### KANSAS, BERN

#### Esther and Stella Moser

As I write this report, Thanksgiving is upon us, and we give thanks for a bountiful harvest of grains. Huge piles of milo are stored on the streets awaiting shipping cars.

However, by the time this gets to our readers it may be Christmas.

When God the Father sent His Son  
To Mary and to realms below,  
The angel choir sang lullabies.  
The great star cast its majestic glow.  
The shepherds watched the guiding star;  
They journeyed in its heavenly light  
To where the Baby Jesus slept  
In swaddling clothes that holy night.  
The magi came with frankincense,  
With costly gifts of gold and myrrh,  
While Mary held the Father's Gift,  
The King He sent to earth through her.

Author Unknown.

Oct. 29, Bro. Pete Esslinger was united in marriage to Sis. Esther Knapp, Forrest. They will make their home in Sabetha. We wish them much happiness; may the Lord add His blessings.

We enjoyed Bro. Aberle (Sabetha) and family on a recent Sunday as he ministered to us.

It was a blessed evening when Bern assembled with the Sabetha congregation. Elder Bros. Lester Hartter and Gene Martin and Bro. Sam Huber read the Conference report to us. May we heed the teachings and timely warnings so kindly given.

Joann Marie was born Oct. 12 to Carl and Sharon Morris, Columbia, Mo. Jason and Jennifer welcome her. Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer are the maternal grandparents.

Dr. E. A. and Marjorie Whitfield, Escandido, Calif., announce the birth of their first child, Eric

Allen, born Oct. 25. The Maternal grandparents are Bro. Wilhelm and Sis. Julia Metzger.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

#### Jan Kraft

#### THANKS-LIVING

All the words of praise you've spoken

When there was no need to speak,  
All the rush of anger broken  
When you turned the other cheek,  
All the gifts you freely proffered  
With no thought of a return,  
All the gracious friendship offered  
To the lonely old who yearn . . .  
Inasmuch as you are giving  
Of yourself in God's own way  
All your life is a thanks-living,  
Every day, Thanksgiving Day.

Alice Mackenzie Swaim

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski, and Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend. Bro. Earl was able to extend his visit here with his family and be with us for Wednesday night services. For this, we are thankful.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

#### Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Is it possible for one to behold the face of Christ in the Business of Life? In the midst of ringing phones, rushing traffic, difficult marriages, and crying babies, is it possible to look into His face and become like him? To behold the face of Christ is simply to become like Christ. Is this the believers responsibility?

If one stands unveiled to Christ, he also stands unveiled before the world. If a heedless world does not see the love and longing of Jesus Christ in the believer's face, then where must they go, where must they seek refuge? Christians must seek His face for the transformation of their own souls and for the sake of lost men. One must seek a more earnest prayer life to avail the presence of a face of compassion, love, and power to shine forth in the darkening gloom of this world.

### KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Gordon Huber

As another Christmas season draws near, let us never forget the real meaning of Christmas and what our Savior has done for us. Graduating this December will

be DeVore Moyer, son of Bro. Harlan and Sis. Florence Meyer, of Sabetha, Ks.; and Bro. John Baumgartner, son of Leslie and Leora Baumgartner, of Bern, KS. DeVore's major is Accounting and Bro. John's is Agronomy Science. We have truly enjoyed both DeVore and Bro. John in our Manhattan group and will miss them next semester.

We would like to thank our visiting ministers that lent themselves last month: Bros. Loren Strahm and Lloyd Kraft, Gridley, KS.; and Robert Grimm, Goodfield, Ill. Also visiting us were: Bros. Sam Anliker, Lamont, KS.; Lester Hartter, Bern, KS.; and Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS.

### KANSAS, KIOWA

#### Janice Bahr

I Peter 5:1,2. The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the suffering of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.

This past month, we had the blessed privilege of witnessing the ordination of an elder brother for our church here in Kiowa. Since our beloved Elder Bro. Roy Farney, Phoenix, stepped down from the eldership due to health, Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, has been our dear shepherd, although his schedule in the Lord's work was already full. Through God's direction, therefore, a brother was sought out here in Kiowa to take on the duties of elder.

Ministering Bro. Ronald Nelson was ordained the weekend of Oct. 21, and it is our fervent prayer that the Lord will be a constant guide to Bro. Ronald in this great and wonderful task he is undertaking. Elder Bros. Eugent Marti, Lamar, Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, and Sam Anliker, Lamont, were with us on this blessed occasion. Their precious words of love from God's storehouse overflowed our cups of joy.

Ministering Brothers Clarence Yackley, Phoenix, and Glen Funk, Wichita, shared a precious Lord's day with us on the 4th, and we fervently thank them for their beautiful messages of faith. On the 18th and 19th, Elder

Bro. Sam Anliker was again in our midst and, with Bro. Ronald's assistance, expounded the precious memorandum to us. After listening to the timely warnings of our elder and ministering brethren, I just have to say, "Thanks be to God for giving us such a precious faith, for loving us enough to forgive our many failures, and for granting us the grace to be led in His righteous paths."

We have had quite a number of loved ones hospitalized this month, and though several are again able to live in our midst, we pray that they will all be up and about again soon. They include Sisters Lucy Hoffman, Elizabeth Otti, and Lydia Farney, Bro. George Diel, and Cammi Frieden, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Milicent Frieden who had an appendectomy.

It was our appointed time to hold services at the Kiowa Manor this month, and I hope those dear old people received as much of a blessing listening to us as we did singing.

#### KANSAS, LAMONT Susan Emch

Now thank we all our God  
With heart, and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done,  
In whom the world rejoices.  
Who from our mother's arms  
Has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

No. 236 Zions Harp  
Thanksgiving, 1978. It is a time of year to reflect upon the many reasons we have to be thankful. Is it mostly just to thank God for earthly possessions? Or is it more than that? Let us be even more aware of the countless blessings our Heavenly Father bestows upon us. May we never forget the greatest gift of all, that He gave us our Lord who died to bring us our salvation.

Our thanks go to visiting minister Bro. Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski, Iowa, for sharing God's Word with us.

#### KANSAS, SABETHA Mrs. Joe Steiner

Brent and Lisa Meyer are the parents of a son, their first child. He was born Oct. 11, and has been named Jeremy Ray. Sis Vila and Bro. Velmer Meyer are his paternal grandparents.

Bro. Ben and Sis Janice Wysong have a new son, David Jay. He was born Nov. 3, and is welcomed home by one brother and three sisters, Benji, Natalie, Erin, and Rebecca,

Bro Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter are the parents of a girl born Nov. 9. She has been named Kristin Kay. She is welcomed home by her sisters, Connie, Karen, Colleen, Kalynn, and Carla.

The Bern Congregation assembled with us on a Saturday evening to hear the conference letter. Bro. Gene Marti, Bro. Lester Hartter, and Bro. Sam Huber shared in presenting it to us.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Helen Strahm, Sis. Cordelia Locher and Sis. Irene Lehman.

Sis Ollie Strahm, 92, passed away Nov. 13 at the A. C. Home where she was a resident. She is survived by two sons, Arthur and Bro. Reo; and four daughters, Sis. Irene Aberly, Sis. Liseten Aberly, Sis. Vila Meyer, and Leota Montgomery, all of Sabetha. Funeral services were held Nov. 15 by Bro. Sam Huber and John Lehman. Burial was in the Sabetha Cemetery.

Work is progressing on the new addition to the A. C. Rest Home.

#### KANSAS, WICHITA Judy Langhofer

The plan for a regular season of thanksgiving actually originated more than 3400 years ago. The Feast of Tabernacles was a seven-day thanksgiving festival established by the Lord. In the autumn, when all the chief fruits of the ground were gathered in, God planned that His people should stop and give thanks to Him for these material blessings. (Deut. 16:13-15) In the mind of God, thanksgiving was to be more than lip service. It was to be the voluntary expression of His people's heartfelt gratitude for benefits received from the Lord. We are told by the psalmists, "Forget not all his benefits." (Ps 103:2) While the ungrateful person is complaining about all his misfortunes and disappointments, the child of God, who thinks upon the blessings of God, is seeking opportunities to express his thanksgiving to his Heavenly Father.

Bro. Phillip Bowers expresses himself in this respect in the next several paragraphs as he briefly

tells his experiences of the past seven years of his life. Two years ago the Wichita Church was not only privileged to hear his testimony of faith but also to witness his baptism as he was lowered into the waters on a pallet provided by an understanding Christian doctor. The doctor said, "Phillip, your life has just begun." Phillip is carried each Sunday in a wheel chair up a short flight of stairs to the Sunday School where he teaches a class of five students. The students are very cooperative as Phillip teaches from these things he has learned the previous week. He studies the lesson and turns the pages at the dining room table with mechanical aides.

Here is his brief story as he related it to us:

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph 5:20) I have often thought about this verse "give thanks in all things." Seven years ago I thought I had lost everything. Two years ago, when Jesus came into my life and gave me an opportunity to become a child of God, I realized that I had everything for which to be thankful.

At the age of fifteen, a freak sled accident left me near death. My parents were told that I had a one-out-of-twenty chance to live. God gave me that one chance. I didn't know why then, because the next five years I was very bitter, filled with self-pity and the frustration of my new life in a wheel chair, completely dependent upon the help and care of others. Then God showed me his merciful meaning.

The next two years after Christ came into my life I realized more and more what I had to be thankful for. God has granted me grace and strength, daily, through reading the Word, the fellowship of the brethren, and the love and concern of my family. I feel a great blessing has been given to me to be able to have a part in teaching the wonderful Word of God to young children.

Truly the riches of God are never ending, and my praises will forever be ascending. Thanks be to God.

Phillip is now twenty-two years of age. He has a twin sister, Phylis, who has assisted him very faithfully. Also, I might add, the young

people in this church are to be commended for the love they have shown him.

The Wichita Church appreciated the visit of Bro. Clarence Yackley this month. It seems like he belongs here, having lived and ministered here some years ago before his family took up residency in Phoenix, Arizona. He gave us a bit of advice over the pulpit about being thankful that some of us cannot forget and often mention. He said that when you have a flat tire you should not complain because you have a flat tire but that you should be thankful that you have a spare tire.

We welcome to our congregation two new faces; Jim Hunyadi and Chuck Kofton who are doing some medical training at the local hospitals. We also welcome Eddie Fisher from the Ft. Scott congregation who is working here as a carpenter.

We want to express our appreciation to Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson from our area who delivered the minutes of our Brotherhood Conference.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Cathy Knobloch

The bang and rat-tat-tat of guns and tanks can be heard in the distance. The medical staff at the small Rodesian bush hospital continues to move about the compound. They have ministered to the spiritual and physical needs of the local tribes for many years. But warfare is moving closer — so close that the life of everyone is endangered. The warfare escalates and the medical staff is forced to leave Rhodesia.

One of the medical staff from the hospital, Judy Gudeman returned to the United States. Recently Miss Gudeman shared her experiences about Rhodesia with our congregation. How thankful we should be that our country is in a time of peace and we have the freedom to worship without fear of intrusion.

Because of our freedom to worship, we have had many more blessings this month. We extend warm thanks and appreciation to Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) and Bro. Bob Beebe (Bremen) for expounding the Word to us. Bro. Lester Huber, our minister, received a pleasant surprise, recently.

His brothers, sisters, and their families held a surprise family reunion here in Lexington in honor of Lester. May God richly bless all who often travel many miles to worship with us and support our church. I John 1:3, "... truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son, Jesus Christ."

### MICHIGAN, ALTO

Penny Erismann

Bro. Joe Waibel, Bay City, and Bro. Ben Maibach, Detroit, shared with us the scripture of I Timothy, Chapter 3, describing the qualifications of bishops and deacons. Bro. Aaron Steffen has been ordained for this office. Our prayers and love are with him and his wife, Sis. Loretta, knowing the burdens and hardships as well as the rewards that will come with the position.

The reading of the memorandum was also shared with us.

Sis. Lydia Wingeier has been unable to attend services because of ill health.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Knochel

When the month of November is present, it brightly brings to mind the time of Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for! II Thess. 5:18 reads: "In everything give thanks . . .," and it surely enlightens a wide range of countable blessings—blessings we have to brighten every day! May we have that portion of the Thanksgiving spirit in our heart all year long.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Vera Wieland have a new addition to their family, a second son, Troy Marcus, born October 23. (Grandparents: Bro. Roy and Sis. Margaret Wieland and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie Grusy, Congerville.)

May God be with those who have been hospitalized: Sis. Eula Maibach and Bro. Herman Meylan (Sis. Marion). Our prayers reach to them for healing streams of strength.

A thought for today: Do A Good Deed! Lend yourself by prayerful direction as a helping hand in the Lord's service to: visit a lonely heart, add hope to a heavy burden, or cheer a weary soul. Heb. 13:1-3, Gal. 6:7-10, Matt. 25:40.

"A knock at the door! I went to see if it was the Man of Galilee. I'd heard He promised to visit our

town when He from His heavenly Home came down. I vowed I'd gladly welcome Him in, give Him a place in this world of sin. There at the door stood a little child, so dirty she looked, her hair blown wild. Would I come and see her mother, she said. She was very ill and confined to bed! 'Girl, don't you know that I can't today? I'm looking for Christ to come this way.' I turned her away and shut the door to wait for the knock of Christ once more. The day dragged on, and the weary night came without visit from Christ the Light. Displeased and sad, I retired to rest — His promise had been a cruel jest!! But no, as I dreamt, I saw the Lord, and I heard Him speak this solemn word, 'I called today, but you knew Me not. My words of the past you had forgot: Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, to Me it was done. I came unto you in lowly guise, but you couldn't see Me with selfish eyes!' I learned a lesson that tragic day—THAT CHRIST IS ALWAYS PASSING MY WAY!" Author Unknown

### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

Isaiah 58:10 Feed the hungry, Help those in trouble! Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you shall be as bright as the day!

The Detroit church was host to the Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Eastern churches for the Annual World Relief Meeting on Nov. 11. Those in attendance came from Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, and Pennsylvania, as well as from the above states, to learn by hearing and seeing what has and can be done to assist the less fortunate, locally and abroad. Realizing the great needs of the many impoverished peoples in the world moves us to be so grateful for God's bountiful blessings upon us. We are thankful for the church's commitment to relief work.

On Saturday eve. and Sunday, Bros. Jim Hoerr, Peoria, Vernon Leman, Eureka, and Aaron Steffen, Alto, brought us inspired teachings from God's Word.

At this season of Thanksgiving, may we be always mindful of the blessing of the opportunity we have to comfort, encourage, and provide for those who have burdens to bear or are in need.



### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

We are richly blessed this past month with visiting ministers. We received many beautiful and precious teachings. Ministering unto us on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 was Bro. Joe Stoller of Princeville. On Nov. 12, Elder Bros. Paul Fehr of Morris, Leo Moser of Lester, and Harold Messner of Winthrop brought us the messages. We thank all of these brothers for their labor of love.

Our dear Elder Bro. Paul Fehr, because of health reasons, has asked to be relieved of his duties as shepherd of the Minneapolis congregation. The elders decided to grant Bro. Paul a leave of absence until such time that, Lord willing, his health can be restored. We want to thank Bro. Paul for all the years of dedicated service given to us. We have had many precious and joyful experiences together with him and Sis. Anna. Our prayers are with them at this time. In the interim, Bro. Harold Messner will take up the duties as elder of the Minneapolis congregation. We welcome Bro. Harold as he resumes the extra responsibility of shepherding our flock. Each and everyone of us give him and Sis. Gerry our prayerful support.

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

"Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above..." W. D. Cornell. Our friends Jerry and Linda Wulf and Bev. Sauder have found that precious peace and are awaiting baptism. Our prayers are with them and with our two new converts, Roy Koehl (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys) and Verle Sauder (Virgil and Mildred).

Our dear Sis. Rose Greiner passed away on Oct. 21 after a short illness. Four sons, Ken, Richard, Ronald, and Lloyd and two daughters, Delores Weiss and JoAnn Wevley remain. We will miss the quiet and loving presence of Sis. Rose but know she has found rest in the Lord.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl happily welcome their new daughter, Sheila Lynn. She arrived on Nov. 17. The grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sophie and Bro. Ervin and Sis. MaDonna Moser.

Hospital patients have been El-

der Bro. Paul Fehr and Bro. Ferd and Sis. Pauline Tohm.

Bro. Steve Nuest wishes to extend a thank you to all who sent cards and took time to visit him following his accident.

As the Christmas season comes upon us, those of us who have children must impress into their young hearts the real reason why this time of year is so joyous. May each of us take time to tell them the wonderful story of Jesus.

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

A cloud of sorrow fell over our congregation as word came of the accidental death of David, 19, son of Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner. Left to mourn with his parents are Sis. LeAnn and Dean. His untimely death brought a timely warning to our youth; an added awareness of the uncertainty of life.

Elder Bros. Leo Moser, Herman Kellenberger, and Paul Fehr; and ministering Bro. Dennis Werner, Noah Miller, and Carl Feucht shared this day of grief with us.

For each thorn, there's a rosebud . . .  
for each twilight . . . a dawn . . .  
for each trial . . . the strength  
to carry on . . .  
For each stormcloud . . .  
a rainbow . . .  
for each shadow . . . the sun . . .  
for each parting . . . sweet  
memories

when sorrow is done.

Roland, Melva, Dean and LeAnn Messner wish to thank everyone who remembered them with cards, gifts of love, and prayers during the loss of their son and brother and ask that God will richly bless all for their thoughtfulness.

Bro. Alphi Moser and Sis. Pearl were with us Sunday. He told of seeing the Dakota Hills from his home. They are 50 or 60 miles away and seldom visible. Just beyond my mortal eyes is God's beauty, the life we hope for in faith. We have enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. Kieth and Sis. Lois Schmidgall while they worshipped with us. Kieth and Lois are returning to the Morris church after working in our area this past summer and fall. They will be missed by our small congregation.

A daughter was born to Ron and Iris Hay. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Rose Alice Howk.

Bro. Jim Messner wishes to say thanks for your prayers and kindness during his recent recovery.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

#### Janice Braker - Sandra Marti

Our congregation was blessed with the visits of three ministering brethren this past month. We enjoyed Bros. Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, KS, Albert Wuthrich, Pulaskee, IA, and Raymond Roth, Kiowa, KS. We were reminded of those in times past who were bodily persecuted and killed because of their faith. Maybe today we aren't persecuted so much in this way, but Satan is using many different tools to lead us away from God. If we meet every battle with a prayer, God has promised His grace, and with His help we can overcome our enemy.

Bro. Carl Engle and Bro. Lester Braker were hospitalized for a few days, but we're thankful they have been able to assemble with us again. Bro. Fred Braker is currently in the hospital. We pray that he can soon return home, also.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

#### Lena M. Haerr

No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks. St. Ambrose  
In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I Thessalonians 5:18.

Bro. Kenny Knapp told in his sermon how the leaves have fallen, having done their duty for the tree. We, as God's children, should be prepared so that our work is finished for our life's end, as the fallen leaves.

Sis. Rose Haerr fell on Oct. 20 and hurt her back. She was in severe pain for some time.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann helped Bro. Roy give a report from the conference on Oct. 28. It humbled and strengthened us.

Sis. Elizabeth Sutter was in the hospital about ten days and then was able to be home just a few days to attend her daughter's wedding. These problems are hard for Elizabeth, but she trusts in the Lord for refuge and help.

Sis. Naomi Heiner and Bro. Roger Moser (Oakville) were married on Nov. 12. Bro. Gerald Sutter had the first reading and prayer, then Elder Bro. Joe Braker helped Bro. Roy Grimm with the very impressive wedding ceremony. They will live in Oakville. How we will miss

Sis. Naomi! But we wish them God's blessings.

Bros. Clarence Yackley, Phoenix, Russel Wuethrich, Pulaski, and Bill Funk, Garden Grove, brought us many good teachings.

Sis. Emma Haerr (Bro. Robert) was in and out of the hospital several times. We hope that she will soon be well again.

Shelly, daughter of Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruth Haerr, was in the hospital for tests.

Several from Taylor went to Morton to the Home for the Handicapped sale, Nov. 17.

We received word last night that Bro. John Haerr, Taylor, died in a Peoria hospital, Nov. 17. He and Sis. Rose were staying in the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy DeSign in Metamora, IL, while their daughter, Cyndy, was in the hospital with a bloodclot. Our deepest sympathy goes to each one of them.

Bro. Bob's and Sis. Cyndy's new baby, Dara Lyn, was born on Oct. 18, the day after Bro. John died.

#### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY (and Philadelphia, Pa.)

Ed Aeschleman

We are sad to report the passing of our dear brother in faith, Arthur Cook. Bro. Arthur suffered a heart attack in July and initially made headway toward recovery, but, then, he slowly began to weaken. He made good use of the reprieve granted by God, in that it was during this time that he sought God in repentance and found peace for his soul. He was baptized by Elder Bro. John Bahler in his hospital room on Sept. 10. When visiting Bro. Arthur a short time later he was visibly relieved and full of joy to be spiritually free. He confessed the satisfaction he found in being with "church people" and took delight in the new privilege to address the brethren as "Brother" and "Sister." He died at the age of 72 on Oct. 19, survived by his faithful wife, Sis. Minnie, three sisters, and one brother. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. John Bahler at the Leber Funeral Home in Union City on Oct. 23. Interment followed in the Washington cemetery. His presence is sorely missed in our small church. May God console and sustain his dear wife.

Sunday, Nov. 12 was a day of blessing when Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner of the

Croghan, Naumberg, NY, churches visited Union City. The combined Union City and Philadelphia congregations were given abundant food for the spirit. The brothers then read the Brotherhood Conference memorandum and served the Lord's Supper in a solemn ceremony. It was a day filled with the blessings of God, good fellowship, and joy. It was very much appreciated by all.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

It is with great joy and also with sadness and sorrow in our hearts that I write the news article for this month. Last month we wrote that our dear friend Evelyn Farney was an outpatient at a Syracuse hospital. During her illness she answered the call of her Lord and turned to Him for strength and help in her time of need. In answer to her prayers and the prayers of each of us, she was able to find peace with God and man. She returned home from Syracuse a few days and was again admitted to the Lowville Hospital. Because of her serious illness, she was baptized in the chapel of the hospital on Wednesday evening, Oct. 25. She was called from this life on Sunday morning, Oct. 29, at the age of 50. Our prayers and deepest sympathy go to her family—her husband, Urban; her daughters, Mrs. Charles (Bonnie) Cobb of Glenfield, and Cindy, at home; and her son, John, also at home. She also leaves a grandson, Chuckie; her parents, Bro. John and Sis. Berdena Widrick; two sisters, Mrs. Rita Ebersol, Penfield, and Mrs. Betty Nortz, Lowville; and four brothers, Boyce of Castorland; Gilbert and Robert, R.D., Lowville, and Virgil of Croghan. Funeral services were held by Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. Robert Beyer.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Bernard and Sis. Elvera Martin. Elvera's mother was taken from this life after a lengthy illness.

We are thankful that all of our hospital patients have all been able to return to their homes at this writing, and we hope they can soon assemble with us again. They were: Betty Richie, in traction for her back; Bro. Dave Schamback, for major surgery; and Sis. Bessie Farney, a medical patient. Sis. Irene Farney and Minnie Virkler have assembled with us since their

hospitalization. May our merciful God be a constant strength and comfort to each of our loved ones who suffer afflictions of the body.

We have concluded listening to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference. May each of us strive to live faithful to the loving advice, warnings, and counsel of our beloved elder body.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Nina Beyer who was called "home" on Nov. 14 after a lengthy illness.

Bro. Dave Schamback would like to thank all who remembered him in his recent hospital stay—for all prayers offered, the many cards, gifts, and kind deeds rendered.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Corrine Virkler

A Wise man in the Bible once prayed,  
"Search me, O God, and know my heart:  
Try me, and know my thoughts:  
and see  
if there be any wicked way in me,  
and  
lead me in the way everlasting."  
(Psalm 139:23, 24)

Three Sunday evenings were enjoyed listening to tapes of the Conference held at Tremont. Let us heed these teachings which were given to us.

Linda Beyer was a patient for a few days at the Watertown Hospital.

This community and our congregations were saddened by the death of Sis. Nina Beyer of Lowville on Nov. 14. She died in Lowville Hospital where she had been a patient for nearly three months. She was the widow of Bro. Ralph Beyer of Lowville who passed away in 1970. The funeral was held on Nov. 17 with Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington, a first cousin, officiating. He was assisted by Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, Wolcott, Bro. Arthur Bahler, Fairbury, and Bro. Earl Kilgus, Remington, all cousins of Sis. Nina. She is survived by her mother, Sis. Marie Schieler from Indiana; three sons, Peter from Iowa, James from Carthage, and Henry from Lowville; two brothers, Bros. Harold and Herbert, both from Remington; two sisters, Sis. Carolyn (Bernard) Virkler from Castorland, and Sis. Ada (William) Jones from Indiana; five grandchildren and several nieces, nephews, aunts



and cousins. She was born on Nov. 5, 1915, in Remington, a daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Marie Schieler.

The family of Sis. Nina Beyer wishes to give thanks and appreciation to all those who expressed their kindness and assisted in any way.

### OHIO, AKRON Gail Spangler

There's no joy on earth  
Quite so precious to me  
And my heart has no greater  
reward  
Than the wonderful joy  
That comes into my heart  
When I go to the house of the Lord.

Catherine Plumb

Not only at this time of Thanksgiving set aside by our government, but every day may we always reflect upon our many blessings, especially the gift of salvation and the privilege we have of assembling freely as we are able.

Visiting ministers were Bros. Kenneth Sauder and Ben Stavenik (Mansfield) and Bro. Walter Rehk-lau (Toledo). May the Lord bless these dear brothers who serve us so willingly.

Sis. Anna VonGunten is to enter the hospital for tests. May the Lord be with her and give her strength to endure.

Bro. John and Sis. Joye Schamback are the happy parents of Joanna Lyn, born Nov. 1. Jennifer and Jill are thrilled with their new sister. The grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Lois Schamback (Croghan) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery (Rittman).

### OHIO, JUNCTION Gwen Manz

Sunday evening, Oct. 29, we gathered together while Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler and Loren Stoller read the memorandum to us. In the closing prayer, we were reminded that each of us should apply what we heard to our own lives. Before we left, we sang together the appropriate words:

" . . . Oh, watch ye faithful brothers mine,  
While in this pilgrim's dale;  
The mighty word of God divine,  
Your compass, will not fail.

Ye sisters all, start on the way  
In service for the Lord,  
In watchful striving, fervent

prayers,  
You'll find a rich reward . . ."  
Zion's Harp

We want to thank Bro. Alfred and Bro. Loren for their labors on our behalf. We also wish to thank Bro. Bill Gerst from Alto for ministering to us Oct. 22.

Sis. Louise Manz was in the hospital a few days for tests, but she is now back in church with us again. Steve Manz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) has been on crutches from a fall. He seems to be recovering quite well.

We welcome two students who are studying in the area to visit our church often. Bro. Eric Graf from Akron is going to school in Ada, and Ed Graf, a repenting friend from Akron, is living with Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter during the working terms of his co-op program.

Bro. Mark Schlatter (Sis. Juliet) was united in marriage to Sis. Sherri Ifft (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Velma) on Nov. 19. We surely wish them God's grace as they begin to serve the Lord together. Bro. Mark will be leaving our congregation and making Forrest his home church. We are surely going to miss Bro. Mark, but we trust that Almighty God will be with them in their new home on Mirlynbeth Lane, Fairbury, IL 61739.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz moved to a different location in Cecil. Their address remains unchanged. John (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz) and Trish Rose moved to Cecil. Their new address is Box 92, Main Street, Cecil, OH 45821.

Little Larry Robert was born to Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz. He is welcomed home by Marvin and Tony. What a joy it is when God blesses our church with healthy children. Certainly many prayers have already ascended to heaven asking that this little child will grow up to know and serve the Lord!

### OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

'Twas not the angel's message  
That gave the Christmas thought  
Nor yet the gold and incense  
Which the Wise men had brought.  
'Twas not the star that led them  
Upon the unknown way,  
It was the birth of Jesus  
That makes the Christmas day.

Annie Johnson Flint

A minister of the gospel once asked the question, "Why was Jesus born in a stable?" He said, "Because lambs are born there." The Jewish law required a perfect lamb for sin. There was no perfect lamb until Jesus, who was the perfect lamb, was born in a stable and came as a sacrifice to redeem fallen mankind. In what better place than a stable could the perfect lamb have been born?

Bro. Gary Maibach (Rittman) visited our community on Nov. 9 and shared God's precious Word.

Bros. Rudolph Graf and Joseph Ramsier favored us with a visit on Nov. 12 and proclaimed God's precious Word and read the conference letter to us. We thank these dear brothers for their untiring labors of love which they so often share with us.

Bro. Martin Kleshinski was recently hospitalized and submitted to surgery and is now recovering at home. His daughter, Sis. Mary, flew home from Florida to be with him. It was nice to see Mary again.

Bro. Ben Beer had a fall at his home and sustained several broken ribs. Infant twin son, Gale (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty Dotterer), was hospitalized for corrective surgery and is doing well.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks are rejoicing because God has given them a new baby boy which they have named Richard Travis.

It is always a special joy to report the good news that a precious soul has found peace with his Maker. Stanley Sauder (Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella) had repented and was announced for proving on Nov. 12. We truly rejoice with him and wish him much grace.

Yet this is but a foretaste of the  
fullness  
Of the joys to follow in eternity.  
The Lamb's elect shall feed on  
heavenly pastures,  
With waters from life's stream  
supplied shall be.  
Then shall be fully manifest,  
How happy is a lamb of Jesus and  
how blest.

Zion's Harp, Hymn No. 16

### OHIO, RITTMAN Florence Hartzler

The Lord told a man one time:  
"Verily, verily, I say unto thee,  
except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." St. John 3:3. We are thankful that there are souls who wish to be

born again. Connie Kendall is seeking the Lord. Connie's folks are Ted and Sis. Rhea Beery. We pray that she will feel the grace and peace of our Lord.

"... and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace..." (Eph. 6:15)

We heard the gospel of peace and salvation brought to us by our dear Bro. Al Schneider of Rockville. We thank him for his love shown in many good teachings and words through the Holy Spirit.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Burdella Bauman at the passing of her sister, Emma. May she feel God's comforting peace at this time.

"... Suffer the little children to come unto me... for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:14.

How wonderful it would be to have Jesus bless all of the little children born to happy families. A little son, Linden Ray, was born to Randy and Beverly Moore. She has one sister and one brother to welcome him home. Sis. Bertha Bauman is her great-grandmother.

Cheree Marie is the name given to the new daughter of Ken and Annette Lorentz. One brother, Chad, is glad for a new sister. The grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Rowene Howell. A little boy, Shaun David, arrived in the home of Bro. Art and Lynn Riggenbach. He was also welcomed home by four sisters and one brother. His grandparents are Bro. Will and Sis. Martha Riggenbach.

An open house was held on Sunday, Nov. 12, for Bro. Forest and Sis. Helen Hartzler, as they celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. We pray that the Lord will bless them with many more happy years together.

Another Thanksgiving Day is upon us. We should give thanks every day of the year, not only on this holiday. It is a time for the remembrance of our forefathers' pilgrimage to this new country, seeking freedom of religion. After many hardships, trials, and misgivings, they still had something for which to give thanks. Let's not forget to thank God for our freedom of religion, for some day, we, too, may be hunting for this freedom. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto

God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 6:19-20.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehkla

"This new being now arises  
Having died with Christ before;  
What in Adam's fall had perished  
Christ the Saviour did restore.  
Dearest Child, we bid thee welcome  
In our blessed brotherhood;  
From the wild tree thou art grafted  
On this holy tree and root."

The New Birth from  
Above, Zion's Harp

It was a blessed weekend when we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Connie Sancriant. We rejoice that Sis. Connie has dedicated her life in the service of the Lord. Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Loren Stoller were here for this important occasion. They also shared the reading of the Conference Memorandum with us. We thank them for their labors of love.

Robert and Sharon Harris have a daughter, Samantha Elizabeth. Her grandmother is Sis. Frances Laidig.

At the annual business meeting, Bro. Al Weigele was elected as a trustee.

The Sunday School children will soon be learning songs and verses of praise for the coming Christmas program. This is a time of special joy to the children in the giving of thanks to God for His precious gift to mankind, His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### OREGON, PORTLAND Connie Steffen

In the parable of the good Shepherd, we are reminded, "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth..." (St. Luke 15:7) So with great joy we welcome two lambs into the fold. On Nov. 5, Sis. Coreen Lowe and Julie Anderson were raised to a newness of life after giving their testimonies before Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and the Silverton and Portland congregations. We rejoice with them and wish them much Grace in their Pilgrim journey. As one brother mentioned during the time of their repentance, "It is like watching a beautiful flower unfold. We cannot do anything to speed the process or it will be ruined, but the Holy Spirit, gently,

from within, opens them to the Father's will."

After the baptisms, we were richly blessed by having the memorandum of the brotherhood meeting read to us and by partaking of Holy Communion.

Now that we are approaching the Holiday season and are reminded of gifts and decorations, we should really get all decorated. The Bible tells us that we should in a special way. I Peter 3:3, 4 says, "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart—even the ORNAMENT of the meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

Our dear aged Bro. Martin Reuter has not been feeling well for quite a few weeks, but his great desire is to go to church, and the Heavenly Father allowed him to be with us when our elder brother was with us. We pray for all of our dear old members that God will richly bless them and especially be near them in their lonely hours and help them through their times of trials.

#### OREGON, SILVERTON Mary Jane Winkler

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. I Corinthians 11:24-26.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger in our midst on Saturday evening on Nov. 4 to read the memorandum. On Sunday we were thankful that Bro. Carl could minister to us. At noon, we went to Portland for the provings and baptisms of two dear souls. After a time of fellowship, we gathered for holy communion. It surely was a privilege to remember the Lord's Supper; and all of us could truly feel the Lord's presence and love. It brought all of us closer together in unity and love. We want to thank Bro. Carl for his labors of love to us.

We were again reminded, in a recent sermon, how Job suffered and



didn't sin because he kept his faith in God. Even if we have to suffer as Job did, which most of us won't have to, if we can remain true and faithful, nothing else will matter. May we always look to the cross to remember how much Christ suffered for us. He suffered all. May we give our all to Him.

Again, Thanksgiving is drawing near, and we remember how the Pilgrims journeyed to America for freedom of religion and worship. May we always be thankful that we still have the freedom of worship, and may we always renew our vows to Him who redeemed us with His precious blood.

#### TEXAS, ZAPATA Tillie Kellenberger

Again the Lord has granted us the privilege of gathering here from far and near.

Everything is so nice and green; fruit trees are laden with their fruits, and vegetables are being harvested. Everything tastes so good when it is fresh.

We were blessed by the messages brought by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through Bro. Albert Wuthrich, Bro. Phil Sauder, and Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin on the 12th and 13th of November.

Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth left for their home on Thursday, Nov. 14. May God bless and protect them.

There were 53 at our gathering on Sunday, Nov. 12.

We are having a Thanksgiving pot-luck meal after our morning service. It makes us feel the oneness of God in our fellowship.

Anyone coming to the McAllen, TX, area may call Lloyd Hall, 1501 Wisteria, McAllen, TX 78501, telephone 682-0219.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. Heb. 13:15.

#### WEST VIRGINIA, NEW MARTINSVILLE Minnie Weltz

We had a short season of Indian Summer. The hills and valleys have been beautiful with their many colored trees and leaves, but the cooler weather has brought most of the leaves down. We are having much cooler weather at this writing, with frost and light freezes in many places.

Mrs. Kenneth Witschey was a

surgical patient in the Ohio Valley Hospital in Wheeling and is doing nicely, considering the extent of her operation. Howard Riggenbach was a medical patient in the local hospital for several days for tests and observation, but he has returned to his home. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Indermuhle of Sardis were recent guests of Miss Della Witschey at the Nursing Home; she always enjoys their visits. I visited with her on Nov. 15, and she was very busy, quilting. It was her third or fourth quilt that she recently has made.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of Akron, OH, visited here on Nov. 9 and 10 and left for Bradenton, FL, where they will spend several weeks.

Frank Barth of Parkersburg left on Nov. 8 for Zephyrhills, FL, where he will spend the winter months.

Jack Wade of Chattanooga, TN, visited recently with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Wade.

Rebecca Craig of Middlebourne, near New Martinsville, is a patient in the local Nursing Home, and will soon observe her 101st birthday. She is very alert, can carry on a good conversation, and spends much of her time hooking rugs.

The yearly meeting of the Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery Association will be held in the home of Minnie Weltz on Jan. 1, 1979. Yearly reports are given, and plans are made for the all-day meeting in June. The meeting is held under the leadership of Delbert and Kenneth Indermuhle. By the time this is being read, it will be the time to wish one and all a very Merry Christmas and a bright and Happy New Year from all of the folks in the Ohio Valley.

#### MY TRAVELING COMPANION

One day I took a journey  
Some distance from my home;  
They asked on my arrival  
"Did you come all alone?"  
A moments due reflection  
I was inspired to say;  
"My traveling Companion  
Came with me all the way".  
'Tis sweet to feel His presence  
His friendship — I have tried,  
The way is never lonely  
When He is by your side.

When traveling days are ended  
I trust that I can say  
My traveling Companion

Went with me all the way.

Henry Beer

#### A NEIGHBOR'S LIGHT

A light within some country  
home

I often see on journey late;  
And wonder if it's merriment,  
Or pain perhaps, their fate.

If gladness be the answer there,  
Then may it linger still;  
I sigh at thought of sadness as  
I cross my own door sill.

But be it happiness or grief,  
The dear Lord sees it all;  
Remember that He loves us well  
And knows the sparrow's fall.

—Fern Berry

#### REFLECTION

You don't have to tell how you live  
each day—

You don't have to say if you  
work or play,  
A tried, true barometer serves in  
its place

And however you live, it shows  
in your face.

The false, the deceit that you wear  
in your heart

Will not stay inside where they  
first got a start,  
For sinew and blood are a thin veil  
of lace—

What you wear in your heart,  
you wear in your face.

If your life is unselfish, if for others  
you live,

For not what you get, but how  
much you can give,  
If you live close to God in His in-  
finite grace,

You don't have to tell it, it shows  
in your face.

Author Unknown

#### The Sermon ...

(Continued from page 28)

child is to go and about what is  
right and what is wrong?

We set these limits so that the  
child has a structure in which to  
live, and can begin to acquire  
some of the important attitudes  
and approaches to various temp-  
tations and things in the world  
that might confront him. And  
this is done, brethren, by a lot of  
"thou shalt" and "thou shalt  
nots." Isn't it the same in the  
household of faith? The Scrip-  
tures tell us, "Except ye become  
which of us does not begin to set  
some guidelines and limits in very  
concrete terms about how far that

as a little child, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

It is true that every soul which comes into the church comes in as a babe in Christ. No one begins his Christian life grown and mature. No one begins with all the equipment he needs to fight off the snares of the devil. We all come in as babes in Jesus Christ, and all of us need instruction. Beloved, we all need ordinances to help direct us in the way we should go!

Is it not the same with our children? As our children grow and become mature, they begin to face life on their own; they begin to leave home; they begin to go out into the world and rub elbows with others who do not think as they do. Many times they fall back on the detailed, very specific, and very structured guidelines which they have learned at home.

Beloved, without that early adherence to ordinances and regulations in the home, the youngster may be ill-equipped to handle the situations into which he comes. There have been many theories espoused in recent years, and much controversy about how much "structure" versus how much "independence" children should have. Those on one extreme say, "We really cannot set up any stringent hard/fast guidelines for our children. They have to make their own decisions about what is right and what is wrong."

But how, without a solid base on which to build, can a child make good decisions as difficult situations come up in his life?

There is a very important place in the lives of children and in the lives of believers in Jesus Christ for concrete statements about specific things. There are ordinances that create in our minds and hearts an attitude, a way of looking at things, that will cause us to make a right decision as opposed to a wrong one.

In the particular chapter under discussion this afternoon, the Apostle Paul is directing himself to ordinances as they pertain to the church of Jesus Christ. We read about the one concerning the woman's head being covered during prayer and the man's uncovered, and the other about order and behaviour when we come together for the Lord's supper.

These are specific instructions

having to do with particular aspects in our lives as believers. But I see something deeper than specifics. It all hinges on our attitude of heart and mind. We are talking about love; we are talking about respect; we are talking about humility; we are talking about preferring others ahead of ourselves; we are talking about that introspection when we look into our own lives and examine ourselves to find out what manner of people we are.

The exercising of these attitudes, brethren, is nurtured by following the simple ordinances which may seem to be of little importance in our living in Jesus Christ. But they encompass so much more!

Do we get weary and upset? Do we find ourselves concerned that there might be too many things that talk about "touch not," "taste not," "go not," and "look not"? Let us remember, beloved, that these instructions are given that we may profit withal, that we may develop within our minds and hearts a positive attitude toward those things in the world that confront us. This foundation will help us know how to behave as children of God when situations come up that are not specifically treated in the Word of God—and there are many!

I hear, occasionally, something that troubles me, something which sounds noble and true on the surface: "We don't need ordinances and regulations and rules and customs and all of these things. All we need is the Bible." How true this is, but do we realize that there are specifics that are not covered in the Bible in so many words?

In our lives we face experiences and circumstances that we cannot find in the Word of God. We can only hope to find something similar.

Beloved, what the Word of God is trying to produce within our hearts and minds is an attitude—that is the best way I can express it—and this is done by the teachings recorded in it. We read about how believers have acted and the way that the Lord has worked in specific instances. And, as we learn these things, we generalize about other things that may come our way, approaching these things in the power of the Spirit of God.

We talk about the indwelling presence of the Spirit. We talk about the Spirit's ability to teach and instruct us in the way that we should go. How true that is. But what better way could we describe the workings of the Spirit within our hearts and lives than by the attitude with which we approach life's circumstances as they come up?

This is the almost unspeakable power that is working within us. We can't really explain "attitude" other than to say that it's a way of looking at things, a way of making decisions. And, beloved, we have within us the Holy Spirit which produces spiritual attitudes with which to approach life's problems. All of these things work together to make us full grown in Christ Jesus.

We have read together about something else that is important in our lives as Christians, something with which we may have difficulty at times. It concerns our preparation for God's supper. The Scriptures tell us, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." Perhaps we don't spend enough time looking within to determine if the Holy Spirit is really guiding us.

We feel relatively secure. We have a nice church to come to. We have brothers and sisters who love and greet us, and who are concerned about us. We feel comfortable. How quickly we can build a wall in front of those things that are lurking deep down inside us that need our attention. Because we come together like this and feel good, we are happy and rejoice.

But the Word says, "Let a man examine himself." Remember the psalmist when he prayed: "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me..." Ps. 139:23,24. "...cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins..." Ps. 19:12,13.

Beloved, we are called to a life of holiness! Jesus Christ Himself said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." Mt. 5:48. Living as Christians is serious. We have to examine ourselves to be sure that we have within us the



Spirit of Jesus Christ working and operating in all of our life's problems and circumstances.

There is probably no better way to nourish and strengthen that Spirit than to feed ourselves continually on the Word of God; to follow hard after the ordinances and traditions that we know have produced through the years the many good attitudes that are necessary to our living in faith.

There is room, beloved, in the Christian life for obedience. There is room for keeping the commandments. This gets right down to the "nitty gritty," if I can say it that way, of everyday living. We are confronted with decisions that have to be made. So we go to a backlog of experiences to help us make these decisions. We pray and we ask God to help us (and he will), but we need to be making an effort as well.

There is still another thing which I think we ought to consider. Lest we become deceived and think that our salvation hinges on what we do or don't do, think of the Scripture that says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8,9. And other Scriptures ask us why we should be concerned with such things as "touch not" and "taste not," things that in the final analysis do not do honor to God, but to man's pride.

Beloved, there is a balance. As I mentioned earlier, there is repentance, there is faith, and there is obedience. The emphasis of one over the other is not good. But, as we live from day to day, we face circumstances wherein we sometimes need concrete and specific guidance. So let us be thankful for it. May God help us to understand—all of us!

We all need, I think, to examine ourselves more thoroughly and more sincerely, striving to become more and more like the Lord, Jesus Christ.

#### BENEDICTORY REMARKS

By Bro. Dale Eisenmann

Forgive me, dear ones, for adding to the blessed and complete message we have received, but it seems I can't stifle a few thoughts that came to mind while sitting here under the presence of the Holy Spirit.

This afternoon we heard about growing up—growing up spiritually. The parallel between the spiritual life and the physical life is a complete one.

Do you remember back in your youth, your teens, how eager you were to grow up? We were anxious for every birthday, but it was a painful process, wasn't it?

I think of some of the ways in which we sometimes compare young and old — young and old spiritually, not chronologically. Often the old are spoken of in rather careless terms such as staid in their ways, tradition bound, disturbed by change, etc. On the other hand, the young are considered open minded, questioning, and flexible. This attitude is popular today, and it catches on.

Bro. Lenny mentioned so appropriately how, with time in the Lord, we find many of those things which we previously questioned becoming a natural part of us, things which we used to wonder about. For example, we read about coverings. Why is the woman to be covered during prayer and the man uncovered? Why does this Word, divinely given to Paul we believe, say for a man it's a shame to have long hair? Why? And for a woman it is glory. We asked, "Why," didn't we? Who can deny it?

How many of you entertained the thought when you saw the chapter opened this afternoon, "I wonder what Bro. Lenny will have to say about this controversial subject?"

These are very specific rules, divinely given, laid out and preserved through the years, part of the Holy Scriptures; and yet we wonder, question, fret, and trouble ourselves. The Scripture says, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." I Jn. 5:2, 3.

Now I'm thinking of the last phrase, are "not grievous." Are they grievous or aren't they grievous to us?

This is growing up! It is learning to know the fullness of the love of God. In Ephesians we read where Paul was talking of the purpose of the ministry. Sometimes when we think of the pur-

pose of the ministry, we think first of spreading the gospel. Surely, that was the commission given to the disciples the day the Lord ascended: "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mk. 16:15.

However, the purpose here is much broader than that. Paul said that there are apostles, prophets, evangelists, etc. Why? "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ..." Eph. 4:12.

Let me read a few more verses. Listen to them closely. Here are the objectives and the purposes of the ministry: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, who is the head, even Christ..." Eph. 4:13,14,15.

Finally, beloved, we see this faith in our spiritual growing up when the commandments are no longer grievous; when they become natural to us, and when we find ourselves loving them. This is finally knowing the fullness of the love of Christ. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and width, and depth, and height: And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:17,18,19.

That's growing up! It is knowing the full love of God and finding His commandments not grievous. It is no longer wondering, "Why?" but loving the things that God loves. It is wanting to have not even a hint of the presence of evil upon us for, as Paul said "... it is a shame even to speak of those things..." But more and more we want the things which He sees as glory.

As we have heard, there has to be a balance. Surely, the Spirit gave it to us in balanced measure this afternoon. May He seal it in our hearts!

## SERMON BY BRO. LEONARD MEYER

Chicago, Illinois Congregation

Text: I Corinthians II

Often, when we come together and open God's word, we are thrilled as we contemplate the glorious truths of the gospel. Our hearts are awed as we think about the love which God has for us—for the whole world, in fact. He has such love that He sent His Son to die for us, to bear our sins on the tree so that by faith in His name we can have a promise and assurance of a home in heaven with Him.

We glory in this gospel, beloved and we feel ourselves very fortunate to have been privileged to sit under the sound of it, and to be quickened (as we heard this morning) to a more abundant life in Jesus Christ.

Very often the Spirit of God leads and directs us to consider these truths of the gospel: All men are sinners; all have need of a savior; Christ Jesus is that Saviour; and, through repentance and faith in His name, we can have life everlasting. We rejoice in these truths.

However, there are other times when the Spirit of God moves and directs our thoughts to more prosaic matters in our lives as believers. Sometimes we consciously set aside these things and do not consider them because we would rather talk about the truths that pertain to the pure and simple gospel of Jesus Christ, truths which are so beautiful and comforting to our souls.

There are three aspects, beloved, of our salvation. We must be careful not to emphasize any one of those aspects more than another, because all are important if we are to become full grown and mature in Christ Jesus. First is the contriteness of heart and spirit that was mentioned this morning. This is embodied in repentance, and repentance is, of course, a very important part of our salvation.

Another facet of our salvation is the faith which we exercise in

Christ Jesus. We read that faith without works is dead. Faith apart from repentance would also be dead. You see, they go hand in hand. We find ourselves in a contrite spirit, humble in mind and attitude, and we repent; we turn ourselves about and say, "I no longer wish to follow the life that I have been following." Our motivations have changed and our goals are in another direction; at the same time, we recognize that Jesus Christ is the One who died for our sins. We place our trust and faith in Him so that His death becomes our death.

Having exercised repentance and faith, we go on to the third aspect of our salvation which is obedience in our Christian life to the commandments that are in His word. We often read in the epistles, as well as in the words of our Lord Himself, that we are to keep the commandments which He has given. We are to be obedient to the teaching of His word. When the Pharisees and Sadducees came to John to be baptized, he told them to "Bring forth... fruits meet for repentance" (Mt. 3:8.) for their lives had shown that they had made no attempt to be obedient to the teachings of the Lord.

This is very important because we must recognize that living in Jesus Christ is not just the action of a moment, or of a few days, or months, or years. If we are to be Christians, it must be a commitment for life!

After we have repented and exercised our initial faith in Jesus Christ, we must go on with Him in obedience to His word. And sometimes, beloved, as we get older in the Lord, we understand better why the whole of the New Testament has been preserved for us and why there are ordinances, traditions, customs, and rules. Sometimes we question whether there ought to be so many of those

things and we say within our hearts, "Is our faith not sufficient? Is our repentance not sufficient?"

The Apostle Paul opened this chapter by saying, "Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you."

Keep the ordinances!

Oh, beloved, how many of us have had trouble with the ordinances! How many of us have been critical, myself included, and have said within our hearts, "Does not the Spirit of God dwell within my heart? Is not the Spirit able to teach and to instruct? Have we not been freed from the bondage of the law? Why, then, do we have rules and regulations and ordinances?"

And yet we know that we have been admonished in the Word when Jesus Christ said, "Keep my commandments;" "Follow after me;" "Do the things that I do;" "Keep my Word;" and "Be ye perfect even as I am perfect." The Word of God is filled with phrases and discussion about the things that are righteous and good, and the things that are unrighteous and not good.

The Apostle Paul admonished the church at Corinth and said, "Keep the ordinances as I delivered them to you." As we become older in Jesus Christ, as we grow more mature year by year, the attitudes of heart and mind that are intended to be nurtured by the keeping of the ordinances become natural to us. We begin to do those things that are in keeping with the commandments of Jesus Christ almost automatically.

But what about the beloved soul who has just come into the body of the Lord? I would like to make an analogy of such a soul with a child: When a child begins to grow and think for himself,

(Continued on page 25)