

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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### ADAIR

Ministering Bro. Kenneth Knapp (and wife, Phyllis)

When I was asked to write for the Silver Lining, only one thing came to my mind. It is the harvest season in the grain fields; the Lord gathers in His harvest, too. May all of us be included in His harvest! The following is written in memory of our son who was "harvested" at an early age.

Twenty years ago on Aug. 8, 1958, God blessed our union of hearts with our first born, a son, Adair Lynn. We did not fully realize the greatness of this miracle and blessing from God, because we were not yet Christians. However, remembering the faith of our parents and the example that they set, the first place we took Adair was to church.

He quickly grew and developed into a young boy. We enjoyed his first words and steps in life. Soon the time came to start Sunday School and to learn about Jesus and the gift of eternal life. Then came school. He learned of the things that are necessary in this life to help him grow into manhood and take his place in society.

Our family grew and so did the children. We felt the need of bringing our children up in a Christian home. By the grace of God, we turned to the Lord in repentance. We realized that it was His love that sought us. It was a totally new life when the Lord entered into our hearts and gave us the peace that passeth all understanding. We then saw the miracle of life in ourselves and in our children. It is beautiful. God created man in His own image and breathes life into each living soul. It became very apparent to us that we should walk the Christian way of life and set a good example for our children.

I didn't know much about Jesus, but I was able to find absolute peace and hope of eternal life. I had the privilege of teaching Sunday School, with Adair in my class. I taught the children that Jesus loves them. Adair loved the song, "Jesus Loves Me."

Adair had a love for farming, but he believed that the opportunities were limited where we lived (central Illinois). After much prayer, my wife, our children, and myself decided to move to the Taylor, MO, area. Deuteronomy 11:11-14 was revealed to us.

A year after we moved, Adair graduated from high school, and we started our life-long dream of farming together. It was a privilege to see Adair grow from a child, to a teen-ager, to a grown man. Yes, there were trials, but we learned, together, of love and patience. As he matured, we saw him grow to manhood. He was willing to help when need. He was kind to others and obedient to us, his parents.

On Aug. 1, we spent the day together. We looked forward to harvesting the crops together. As Adair left that evening, we told him, "Goodbye." We had no idea that tomorrow was his day of harvest.

Adair was a part-time construction worker. They were building a river bridge. He fell from it and sustained severe head injuries. He was taken to the Columbia Medical Center. I took the Bible and knelt beside Adair's bed. I prayed to God that when I opened the Bible that He would show me a sign of my son's spiritual condition. I had to know this to continue life. The Bible opened to St. John 4:47-53.

We were given no hope for life for our son, but my wife and I believed that since God was able to save us in our sinful condition and was able to create the heavens and the earth, it would be a small matter to save our son. With that in mind, we asked that the life-support machine be removed from our Adair. We felt that if God wanted him to live, he would; if not, in the life to come.

Adair died on Aug. 8, 1978, his twentieth birthday.

Our hopes, our plans, our dreams of being together on earth were shattered. My wife and I learned that our plans are not always God's plans. We must accept His plans as they are fulfilled in our lives each day. We believe that what God does is well done, and that He does only what is good for His children. We can't understand now, but sometime, in that better land, we will understand.

As we now often go to Adair's grave, we think of his life as the setting of the sun. After the sun sets, its glow can be seen long afterward. It is this glow that we now see of our beloved son. Yes, we miss him on Sundays. He always sat on the back bench. Just a few months ago I looked at Adair and thought that, if something happened to me, he would be well able to take my responsibilities in life. I felt that the Lord would want that.

As we kissed Adair farewell, only God knew how much we loved him.

But how thankful we are for the twenty years when we were able to enjoy him and rear him from a child to a man.

## THE CHURCH—GOD'S SANCTUARY

Submitted by Elder Bro. Theo Beer

Ed. Note: The staff of the Milford, IN, newspaper asked for an explanation of our faith. The following has been submitted by the ministry of the church and was published in the paper.

The Head of the Church, as taught by the Bible, is the Lord Jesus Christ. The ministry of the church is to preach the Word as taught in the Bible and to believe in practicing the commandments of God. We believe the example of a perfect life set by Christ, the Son of God, and that His sacrificial death is sufficient to atone for the sins of all people. We embrace the doctrine of faith in His shed blood and repentance toward God, thereby receiving forgiveness and peace of God; when born anew we are accepted into the family of God and baptized according to our faith in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

As a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, we grow in grace and the knowledge of His will unto all good works. The believer is always ready to lend a helping hand to his fellow man. We believe in humbleness toward God and a Godly walk of life, in all honesty and sincerity.

Our church door is open to all people, and we welcome any one to worship with us and share the love of God as we praise His Name in word and song. We feel that children are a heritage of the Lord and that we should teach them His ways and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Our Sunday school classes are for children of all ages and are taught by born-again teachers.

In Jesus Name,

The ministry of the church  
of Milford

## A TREASURE OF PRAISE THE HISTORY OF THE ZION'S HARP HYMNAL

The Zion's Harp hymnal has cut through a wide swath of time. While it's true that distribution of the official, bound copies of the book we now recognize commenced only in the middle of the 19th century in Europe, fragments of the hymnal's contents, both the hymns and the musical composition, date as far back as the 15th century before the inception of the Protestant

Reformation, which began in 1517.

The Zion's Harp, as known today, was first printed during the years 1853-54 on the request of Bro. S. H. Froehlich in Switzerland. Up until this time, various booklets and compilations of hymns had been used in one form or another in the meetings of the Evangelical Baptists.

To obtain a more general understanding of the actual beginning of this beloved and cherished hymnal, one must go back to the early stages of the 19th century.

On November 11, 1764, a little baby girl was born in the Russian town of Riga. This Latvian city today has a population of over 600,000. The girl's name was Juliane von Kruedener. She was the daughter of Herman von Vietinghoff, a Russian imperial privy councilor, a man of rationalistic views and a leading freemason, and of his wife, Anna Ulrica, a strict Lutheran.

After a fashionable education she married at age 17 to Baron von Kruedener on September 23, 1782. He was then the first Russian minister at the court of Courland. The marriage proved to be an unhappy one, since the husband was conscientious and retiring, while the wife was restless, flirtatious, and given to frequenting the cosmopolitan fashion centers of the world.

Her husband died on June 14, 1802. Meanwhile, the Baroness took to the task of writing a novel. It took her two years to complete. It was published in 1804, and was highly regarded. This tended to confirm that she was a very capable individual, well-educated, and talented in the art of communication. Her personality, too, was such that people easily attracted to her.

She lived a free lifestyle and eventually found herself far from God. During a sojourn in Riga in the summer of 1804, Juliana experienced conversion, an occurrence which nothing in her past life seemed to make probable. Her ex-her life profound. In language we can readily understand, she experienced a "true repentance".

Yet, from this time forth, a seemingly unwholesome, nervous "religiosity" came to be the dominant element in her character, and through its extravagance, reflected a cloudy mysticism like that of the Chiliasts of Baden, Alsace, and

Wuerttemberg with whom she cultivated relations of intimacy.

An interesting footnote to the history of Baroness Juliane von Kruedener is that she attempted to convert the czar of Russia. In 1815 she was granted an audience with Czar Alexander which lasted for three hours at Heilbronn. So captivating was this woman that he became a constant "guest" at her Bible classes in Heidelberg and Paris. Before long, however, Alexander turned away from his new friend whose persisting associations with unsalutary elements rendered him distrustful.

Her repentance, having occurred at the outset of the 19th century came about at a time in which theological change and maneuvering still lingered in Europe. It was a time when the Reformed churches were continuing to be threatened by "pietistic" and "anabaptist" groups, who were opposed to a dead orthodoxy. Essentially, the authority and influence of the Protestant State Churches were on the wane—they had been since the early 17th century.

Replacing them, to a degree, was the further development of the "free church", which among other things challenged the concept of the union of church and state. The free church also encouraged the doctrines of sanctity, repentance, adult baptism, coming out from the world and living a life of holiness, and a literal interpretation of the Bible.

In any event, Frau Kruedener's conversion and subsequent experiences were such that she felt the need to be an active worker in the Lord's vineyard. As a matter of fact, she became an "evangelist", at least according to her view of what she felt an evangelist was.

Obviously, in 19th century Europe the fact of a woman evangelist carried with it quite a social stigma. Indeed today, and justifiably so, the notion of a woman minister carries with it the same stigma. Even so, Frau Kruedener was actively engaged in the work of an "evangelist", social stigma notwithstanding. In this realm, she faced twofold opposition because of her actions. First, she conducted religious meetings outside the legally sanctioned Reformed Church. Secondly, she presented herself as a woman minister. Both were an anathema at that time. In spite of this she had many devout fol-

lowers, not only among the peasantry, but in the intellectual community as well. One influential supporter was Friedrich Lachenal, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics at the University of Basel.

Frau Kruedener traveled extensively throughout Switzerland conducting Bible study sessions and worship meetings. She personally financed many projects to aid this work. One such project was the collection and printing of hymns to be used in her church and Bible meetings.

Why was it necessary to collect new hymns? First, in the context of religion in those days, the relationship between the established and legally sanctioned state Protestant churches and those outside this church (i.e. the "free churches") was a partisan and combative one in the most literal sense. In most cases, organized opposition and blatant disobedience to the will of the state church was often met with force and persecution, and if not, at least harassment was prevalent. This situation was nothing new in Europe, for a similar dispute arose three hundred years earlier between Ulrich Zwingli, an avowed Protestant and a leader of the original Protestant Reformation (but a firm supporter of the statechurch concept) and Conrad Grebel, a noted leader of the often ill-fated Anabaptist movement.

Several public debates took place between these men who held to differing religious views. In fact, these differing views still lingered centuries later in the time of Frau Kruedener, and in large part still exist today.

Thus, in this context of strife and conflict, the use of a hymnal of the established state church outside one of their official services was prohibited. As a result, it became necessary for those holding their own "independent" religious meetings to print hymnals to be used in these meetings, which in essence were considered outside the official sanction of the state church and consequently illegal. Frau Kruedener saw this need, and along with her followers, acted accordingly. So, with the recognition of a need for hymns, the gathering of special hymns which eventually found their way into the **Zion's Harp** began. By 1817, the great need for songs to be used in "outside" religious meetings led Frau

Kruedener to publish a small hymnal. It was small indeed and could hardly be considered a hymnal according to today's standards. Three songs were chosen at the outset. They were printed on two sheets and 500 copies of this "hymnal" were made. This effort was financed by Frau Kruedener and the collection bore no title. Working with her on this initial project was Johann Jacob Vetter (1789-1871).

From this first effort, Vetter later compiled some hymns into a publication entitled **Begginger Buchlein**. It was named for the Swiss village of Begginger. The exact publishing date is not known.

In time, a hymnal called the **Christliche Harmonika** was completed by Johann Vetter. This was an extended version of the **Begginger Buchlein** and the first to contain melodies. It is assumed that Vetter wrote some of the songs included in this publication. The exact publication is not known, but records indicate that by 1828, D. F. Spitteler printed the 5th edition.

The 5th edition of the **Harmonika** (1828) was published together with a group of hymns collected and admired by S. H. Froehlich. Further, by this time, Froehlich made another collection of hymns that he later published along with those already bound with the **Harmonika**. This volume bore no title. According to the late author Herman Ruegger, it was simply called a collection of "hymns for meetings of believers." This volume was printed in four editions between 1828 and 1853 by Karl Weuterich-Guardard in Zurich, Switzerland.

During 1852-53, a new version of this hymnal was printed and named **Neue Zionsharfe**. It was printed separately from the **Harmonika**, but 182 hymns of the latter were included. G. M. Mangold, a member of Froehlich's Evangelical Baptist Church, had been commissioned to compile this edition of the hymnal. Sources indicate that Froehlich himself gave the commission.

Uncertainty exists as to who G. M. Mangold really is. This man authored more hymn texts for the **Zion's Harp** than any other man. Yet, no definitive proof can be registered if this man is George Michael Mangold, or G. Martin Mangold. However, most people think it is the former.

Since 1854, several editions of

the **Zion's Harp** have been published, both in Europe and the United States.

In the decade of the 1920's, the **Zion's Harp** was translated from the German to the English language. This was somewhat controversial at that time because a large share of the membership were either from Europe or had close ties to that continent. Nonetheless, the monumental task of translation took place.

Bro. Henry Beer, an Apostolic Christian minister from Milford, Indiana played an instrumental role in this effort. As a young boy in faith in 1921, he thought it would be beneficial to translate these songs into English. After translating a few songs on his own, he sought and received encouragement from some of the older brethren to continue on. Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr., of Akron, Ohio especially encouraged translation into English according to Bro. Beer.

Among the first hymns that Bro. Beer translated were No. 47, "Strive Aright," No. 164, "The Image of Christ," and No. 89, "The Seven Words of Jesus On The Cross."

On completing the translation of these hymns, Bro. Beer officially sought and received the sanction of the church leadership to translate the remaining hymns into English. Several other brothers were assigned to help with this herculean task. They included Bro. Ernest Graf, Sr., Akron, Ohio; Bro. Edward Grimm, Elgin, Iowa; Bro. Amos Hartzler, Rittman, Ohio; Bro. Noah Hartzler, Rittman, Ohio; Bro. William Stettner, El-

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gin, Illinois; Bro. Jake Stettner, Elgin, Illinois.

This was a large task and took considerable time. Each brother was given approximately 50 songs to work on. The two Stettners worked as a team. The **Zion's Harp** was thus published in the English language in 1924.

In 1958, the **Zion's Harp** was revised to include music with every text, thus eliminating leafing back and forth between the text and the music.

In order to set in motion a plan to revise the **Zion's Harp Hymnal**, a somewhat lengthy and deliberative process took place. In the late forties and early fifties there existed feeling among certain brethren that a revision was needed to improve the hymnal, and make it more practical.

By 1954, Bro. Raymond Gerber, a song leader of the Bluffton, Indiana congregation, and others, favored the idea of placing music to each song, thus making it easier for the song leaders to lead the congregation. This idea was representative of many brethren across the churches.

As a first move, Bro. Gerber posed the suggestion to Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton who immediately concurred. His favorable response gave much courage to those brethren concerned with the need for a revision, and ultimately provided the momentum to initiate the project.

Bro. Gerber then discussed the proposed project with his close associate, Bro. John Baumgartner, also a song leader in the large Bluffton congregation. On the basis of their visits, and their discussions with other brethren, they decided it might be well to call a meeting of song leaders from various congregations for the purpose of discussing the need and plausibility of a revision. Invited along with many song leaders was ministering Bro. Henry Beer of Milford, Indiana. Although the latter was a minister, it was felt he was well qualified in the field of music. Also, his enthusiasm and poetic credentials would be helpful.

Word was thus sent to many song leaders to attend a conclave in Cissna Park, Illinois on September 10, 1954. They were advised to bring their ministers or any other brethren they wished. Cissna Park was chosen because of its central

location. Approximately 110 brethren attended the meeting.

A presentation was made regarding a proposed hymnal revision. This was followed by a lengthy discussion. About 99% of those in attendance favored a revision. This left only the question as to "how to proceed." Bro. Sam Wieland of Bay City, Michigan made a motion that Bro. John Baumgartner, Elias Souder, Eli Gerber, and Raymond Gerber transmit the consensus of the meeting to the elders. The motion was seconded by Bro. Henry Rapp of Morton, Illinois. The motion carried.

The proposal for a major revision of the **Zion's Harp** was presented to the Elder Body at the Annual Conference in October, 1954 at Elgin, Illinois. At this meeting, the elders requested that a more in-depth proposal be submitted at the following year's conference.

At the 1955 Annual Conference, it was advised that further work and review was needed, and that consideration of proposed changes would be deferred to a future date.

The revision committee met with the Elder Body at the 1956 Annual Conference in Morton, Illinois. Subsequently, the matter of a revision was permitted to be brought before the plenary session of the conference. On hearing the basic concepts of a revision, the general conference favored improvements in the hymnal.

A committee of elders was appointed to oversee the developments of a revision: Elder Bros. Philip Beyer of Croghan, New York, William Stetner of Elgin, Illinois, and Rudolph Graf, Jr. of Akron, Ohio. Elder Bros. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton and Theo Beer of Milford, Indiana also served in an advisory capacity.

A church-wide referendum was held and the brotherhood voted in favor of the revision.

Serving on the Song Book Committee (or revision committee) were Bros. Raymond Gerber, Eli Gerber, and John Baumgartner, Bluffton, Fred Gutwein, Francesville, Henry Beer, Milford, Eli Souder, Leo, IN, and Jesse Gerber, Latty, OH. With the exception of Bro. Beer, who was a minister, all were song leaders in their local congregations.

The task of supplying melodies for all the hymn texts was long and arduous. These brethren applied themselves with diligence and often

toiled at night, many times burning the "midnight oil." Prior to publication, the revision committee met with the aforementioned elders regarding the approval or disapproval of each song. In 1958, editions of the revised hymnal were distributed to the churches.

By 1976, several new faces appeared on the Song Book Committee. Bro. Daryl Stoller, Latty, Ohio; Bro. Henry Souder, Leo; and Bro. Jay Kipfer, Bluffton, Indiana replaced Bros. Jesse Gerber, Eli Souder, and John Baumgartner, all of whom had passed on to their reward.

This committee continues to meet several times each year—usually in Ft. Wayne, Indiana—to discuss matters relevant to the **Zion's Harp**.

The Silver Lining (Volume 9, No. 1) described the 1958 revised hymnal, "The new book will have a melody with every song, and every song will be on a single opening to eliminate leafing over. The first three or four stanzas will be placed in the staff. There will be some 50 new melodies.

"The book will be 5½ by 7½ inches in size with rounded corners, covered with black sturdite, printed on 40 pound paper. The price will be \$1.75 for white edge, and \$2.20 for gold edge."

The printing of the new hymnal was done by the Berne Witness Company of Berne, Indiana. Since 1958, one revision has taken place.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

The winter is here, and everything is dormant. But just as there still is life and power inside the dormant tree, there is life and power inside our seemingly dormant homes and amongst the staff as we see the Lord working in our children to pull them out of their difficulties. One of our girls expressed the reason for her misbehavior. It was "to get attention." She said she didn't get it from her dad when she was young. We cannot be too critical of these children. Their problem stems from a reason far deeper than what shows in the misbehavior. After we finished talking about her problem, the girl said, "I feel a good tingling inside me. I know we're not alone in this room. It feels like someone is

covering me." Our Father and Jesus are wonderful and caring persons!

Our oldest girl is doing very well in school. She is president of her junior achievement group, is involved in the school yearbook, and is doing very well emotionally and scholastically. She has expressed a desire to go to college.

The most prevalent reason for the misbehavior of today's children is the lack of discipline and security from their parents. One of our children related that her friend in school has everything he wants from his parents, but is still not happy. When people talk about his parents, this friend just pretends not to hear, because he doesn't have anything to say about them. They are never around to give him the security of their care. Children want the security of knowing that they will be disciplined for wrong and also the security of knowing that they will always be loved. When we fail to give them this discipline and security, we foster, in them, a terrible fear and anxiety. One of the children told me she appreciated being disciplined because it shows that we care. She also said she needs our love. Our little Rachael also said, "Mommy, please don't leave me."

Our dear God shows the true Fatherly example to His children. He gives us the promise that He will never leave us, but that we must walk in His ways and believe in Him for our strength and salvation. He lets us know that it's His good pleasure to give us the kingdom, and that He will do everything to get us there, if we let Him. He is always present in time of need. At the same time, he chastises and disciplines when we sin and err, but he does it to help us and says He will forgive if we humble ourselves and admit our wrong and turn from it.

We thank everyone who has let the Lord work in their lives and pray for and support us. We thank all visitors for coming to see us. We are still in need of an administrator and feel that the Lord will provide. Please pray for us . . . and all mankind.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Though God in His infinite wisdom withholds what the new year may hold for us, we need not be

concerned for a whole year ahead. We need only follow His guidelines for one day at a time. The importance of each day was told in part by an unknown author as follows:

"Through this toilsome world, alas!  
Once and only once I pass;  
If a kindness I may show,  
If a good deed I may do  
To a suffering fellow man,  
Let me do it while I can.  
No delay, for it is plain  
I shall not pass this way again."

If the lofty goal of man and nation could be Peace, what a nice place this world would be! We know that the greatest battle for Peace need not be fought on the earth's battlefields. It must be won in man's own heart.

One cannot view the beauty of the current fifteen-inch snowfall without wondering whether nature comes close to giving us a hint of heaven's magnificence. Using man's puny efforts to cope with keeping necessary roads open and sidewalks cleaned for vital traffic only affirms our faith that there is a God who holds the universe in the palm of His hand. And we are utterly thankful that it is so.

Our resident, David Metz, came to live at our Home on Sept. 2, 1978. He is the son of Ludwig and Persida Honegger Metz. David's father is deceased, but David's mother lives at 501 South Center in Forrest, Illinois. David has brothers, Christian, Benjamin, William, and Arthur; and sisters, Ruth, Esther Gerber, and Elizabeth Johnson. Eleven nieces and ten nephews complete this nice family. In the few short months David has been here, he has endeared himself to one and all. Being always willing to lend a helping hand and a word of encouragement and cheer, he is a shining example of Christian love. Birthday time for him is Nov. 20.

The confinement caused by inclement weather makes these winter days a bit long for some of the residents. How a letter or two would help cheer their days! Perhaps during these winter days, some of our readers would have the time to send a cheerful word to a resident, even though you might not know them well. They would appreciate it so very much. It might even be a project for a Sunday School class.

Ecc. 4:9, 10 reads: "Two are better than one; because they have a

good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow . . ."

Helen Keller is quoted as saying: "True happiness is best attained through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

Permit us to express heartfelt gratitude to each one who has helped shoulder our responsibilities here at the Home in any way during the past year. Indeed, the burden becomes lighter to the extent of your help.

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

On Jan. 6, ministering Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto) shared many precious teachings with us, one of which reminded us: No matter what our physical infirmities are here on earth, they will all be shed at the gates of heaven!

"To break Thy bread we now have gathered, In covenant to drink Thy wine; As brethren we unite together, That unto death we might be Thine." Zion's Harp No. 25. Jan. 6 we were blessed when Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Deacon Bro. Noah Herman served us the Holy Sacrament of Communion.

Our annual business meeting was held on Dec. 3. Those elected were: Trustee, Bro. Clarence Beyrer; Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Kenneth Schmidgall; Assistant Superintendent, Bro. Doug Schmidgall; and Usher, Bro. Jim Beres.

Several of our congregation remain unable to assemble with us due to their health. Sisters Lois Elsassner and Evelyn Hoerr, Bro. Ernest De Mille, and Herb Mohrman truly feel the prayers sent heavenward in their behalf.

Although Arizona has recently weathered the second flood of the year, we have been blessed with many winter visitors. Truly, it is our joy to meet and greet so many of our dear brethren.

THOUGHT: The only weapon intended to conquer is the Word of God. It is the sword of the Spirit. Jo Petty

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

Caroline Kaufman  
Cathy Knapp

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." Psalms 127:3

Born to Bro. and Sis. Curtis and Carolyn Kaufman on December 24

was Carrie Rose. Carrie's grandfathers are Bro. Albert Zeltwanger of Latty, OH, and Bro. John Kaufman of Phoenix, AZ.

We deeply rejoice over the repentance of Paul Knoblach. We pray for grace and strength for Paul so that he may continue in this important step.

Our weather has been unusually cloudy, rainy, and cool. We hope for a little more sunshine for our winter visitors to enjoy.

### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Carol MacDonald - Shirley Witzig

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." St. John 13:35. How thankful we are for the fellowship of visiting brothers and sisters in Christ!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Bill Dotterer from the Phoenix congregation and Bro. Willis Ehnlé from Japan. We thank them for their loving service.

We wish the Lord's care and blessings for Sis. Doris Hecker. She has been unable to assemble with us for awhile.

### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

#### THE ANGEL OF PATIENCE

To weary hearts, to mourning homes,

God's meekest Angel gently comes;

No power has he to gnomist pain,

To give us back our lost again;  
And yet in tenderest love, our dear

And Heavenly Father sends him here.

There's quiet in that Angel's glance.

There's rest in his still countenance!

He mocks no grief with idle cheers,  
Nor wounds with words the mourner's ear;

But ills and woes he may not cure  
He kindly trains us to endure.

Angel of Patience! sent to calm  
Our feverish brows with cooling palm;

To lay the storms of hope and fear,  
And reconcile life's smile and tear;

The throbs of wounded pride to still,

And make our own our Father's will!

O thou who mournest on the way,  
With longings for the close of day;

He walks with thee, that Angel kind,

And gently whispers, "Be resigned:

Bear up, bear on, the end shall tell  
The dear Lord ordereth all things well."

Author Unknown

Funeral services for Bro. John F. Feldman, 73, were held at the church with Elder Bro. John Bahler conducting the services. He was assisted by Bros. Albert Schneider and Corbin Bahler. Bro. John was taken from this life, suddenly, near breakfast time. He had come into his house from shovelling snow; he complained of not feeling well. He was urged to lie down, and only a few minutes later he passed away. He leaves his wife, Sis. Flora, and three daughters—Sisters Harriet Farney, Lois Bahler, and Arline Bahler. Buriel was in Ellington Cemetery.

Death came to Sis. Lena Limberger, 93, after a long illness. Her funeral was likewise at the church. Burial was in Ellington. Names of her family survivors appeared in the last issue of the Silver Lining.

For many years she was a faithful reader of the Silver Lining until she reached the time when her vision went bad. A time comes to us all when we have to meet with reality.

Included here, taken from the "Martyr's Mirror" is a prayer said by a young woman just before she went to her martyred death:

"O Lord of heaven and earth, who has made all things out of nothing, who hast given me members after the image of Thy Son, I hope to offer them up now for Thy holy name; for Thou art the Lord, before whom every knee must bow, both in Heaven and upon earth; hear my prayer and let my incense be acceptable before Thee. Take not Thy grace from me, and purify my mouth, that Thy name may be praised thereby."

### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

John and Caroline Hejja

"Truly, the light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun." Eccl. 11:7.

In Florida we enjoy the sun all year 'round. We are thankful for the many winter visitors who come

to enjoy the warm weather. It is a blessing to meet and fellowship with them.

In the sun, as in all nature, we behold the power and majesty of God. He created these things, and they are under His control. "Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. He hath also stablished them for ever and ever; he hath made a decree which shall not pass." Psalm 148:3, 6.

The brightness of Christ is like the sunshine. He never changes, but shines upon the whole world. All who look up to the Son can see the light and feel His wonderful warmth. "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:45.

The Ft. Lauderdale congregation rejoiced with our Sis. Brenda Beer as she was joined in holy matrimony to Bro. Linn Stoller on Dec. 31. This is in agreement with God's plan from the beginning of time! "And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." Genesis 2:18.

We also shared grief as the Death Angel took two people from our midst. Charles Akel, our father, passed away on Christmas Day. His funeral service was Dec. 28 in our church. We, along with our mother, Louise Akel, would like to thank all who sent cards and expressed loving words of sympathy. Again, we were saddened as we heard of the death of Sis. Olga Laubscher. Olga, along with her sister, Ida, has assembled with us each winter. She will be missed by the members of the Ft. Lauderdale congregation, and we pray that God will strengthen and provide comfort to Ida and the many loved ones whom Olga leaves behind.

The Lord provided a special word for us through His ministers who visited with us this month. Recent visiting ministers were Bro. Al Schneider, Rockville, CT; Bro. Marshall Heinold, Washington, IL; Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT; and Bro. Leland Hirschey, Naumburg, NY.

### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kathryn Schroeder

#### ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,

In working or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.  
Hymns of Zion

## PRAYER

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
Forgive our foolish ways!  
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,  
In purer lives Thy service find,  
In deeper reverence, praise.  
Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and  
stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace.

Whittier

We were truly blessed with many visiting ministers in Dec. and Jan.: Elder Bros. W. Leroy Huber, Eureka, IL; Wendell Gude- man, Francesville, IN; Bros. Earl Kilgus, Remington, IN; James Le- man, Roanoke, IL; Marshall Hein- old, Washington, IL; Edwin Bah- ler, Remington; Cleo Rinkenber- ger, Pulaski, IA; Henry Beer, Mil- ford, IN; and Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN.

Our beloved minister, Bro. Doug Sabo, with his wife, Sis. Linda and children, braved the cold of the north for a two weeks' vacation in Mansfield, OH, where they visited parents and relatives during the Christmas season. They found Flor- ida beautiful on their return. We do not want to be misleading, for central Florida has cold "snaps" touching freezing. But soon the beneficence of the sun's rays dis- sipates the chill winds, and the glorious days return.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Debbie Lit- tle report that they had a "White Christmas." There was a reminis- cent suggestion of a "Br-r-r" in their voices. They were in Ohio, and visited with Rob's mother, Mrs. Judith Little, in Bloomington, IN. The north winds did blow and there was snow, snow, snow! "How beau- tiful was Florida when we re- turned; the sun was shining and e v e r y t h i n g was wonderously green," reported Rob.

## ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON

Holly Stahl

On Dec. 12 and 13 the Elder Con- ference was held in Bloomington. We were glad to have so many of our elders here with us. It really gave me a feeling of confidence to know that our leaders were gath- ering together in prayer and spir- itual discussions on our behalf. I am so thankful that our elders are

striving to keep our church puri- fied and growing, for this is surely the will of God for His children. A church that tells of God's plan of salvation for sinners is truly the completion of His will. I thank God that I heard the gospel from the pulpit in our church and that I, along with so many other lost souls, came to know Jesus as my Saviour.

This is our House of Prayer but  
more

It is a door  
Leading beyond our trivialities  
To precious mysteries,  
Beyond the bonds and bounds of  
sense  
To the eternal confidence.

This is the place where we have  
heard God's Word;

With power  
His will has gripped our hearts, and  
many an hour  
Spent in search sincere  
Has opened windows to a surer  
view

Of what our God would have us do.  
Thomas John Carlisle

Let us try to edify our brothers, sisters, and friends in some way so that our church may continue to grow in love and in truth!

We are happy to have our broth- er Alden Nussbaum at home again after so many weeks in the hospi- tal. I know he has felt our prayers and is grateful to be home. We're also glad to have Sis. Sue Kupfer- schmidt at church with us after being hospitalized.

## ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

We thank Sis. Jane Leman for her time and efforts during the past few years as our reporter.

On a recent Wednesday evening, our hearts were warmed by the words of Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Japan). We also enjoyed having Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) with us for Christmas Day services. Sunday services were canceled Jan. 14 because of the blizzard con- ditions. Even though many of us had taped sermons to listen to, we cer- tainly missed meeting and greet- ing one another.

On Dec. 10, Bro. Carl and Sis. Velma Hancher celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. May they be blessed with many more years in which to serve the Lord together.

Bro. Louie Rumbold wishes to thank everyone for prayers, cards, visits, and other deeds of kindness while he was in the hospital and since returning home. We are hap- py to have Louie among us in church again as well as Sis. Mar- garet Fanner who was a surgical patient.

We are thankful for our new converts, Kathy Kieser (Bro. Da- vid and Sis. Shirley) and Valerie McCarthy.

A daughter, Julie Marie, is the first child of Bro. Darel and Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess. The grand- parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Witzig (Gridley) and Alice Hofsess.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN -  
URBANA

Charlen Banwart

On a snowy winter evening in January, Sue Herriot and Bill Blun- nier gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized the follow- ing day. Bro. Bill told of visiting the cemetery and seeing a grave marker with the name William Blun- nier on it. This startled him, and upon his inquiry he found that this was the grave of an uncle of his. He began to wonder what his destination would be if he was the one buried there. Bill felt this was God's way of calling him one more time to repent. Sis. Sue told that she had been searching for some time and felt that it was God's will that she join our church, even though she had been brought up in another faith.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin was here for the provings and baptisms. Ministering Bros. Everett Hari (Bloomington), Ed Alt (Cissna Park), and Art Bahler (Fairbury) were with us for services, recently.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder have moved to our community where both of them will be attend- ing the University of Illinois. We welcome them to our congregation.

We have gained much from lis- tening to the tapes of the Brother- hood Conference. May we each ". . . earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered un- to the saints." (Jude 3).

Steve and Randi Blunier's two- week-old daughter, Jessica, was hospitalized for a bacterial infec- tion. Our daughter, Krista, had an appendectomy. How fortunate we are that God has blessed us with dedicated doctors and nurses.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

How do we think when we sing "The 23rd Psalm" (212, Zion's Harp) or hear it read: "Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want" or "If only the Lord were my Shepherd, I should not want"? It makes all the difference in life—and in death.

The Lord God Al(1)mighty: Though it is said that "a man can do anything he sets his mind to," only God can truly do anything, and through Him we are given our only power. In a very special testimony, we were reminded how our omnipotent Lord God holds each little thread of our lives, so that how we meet, where we come together, where much of our life is spent, what sometimes must happen until we can find His saving grace, are all sewn together very precisely by His hands. Sara Adams had an extra-special testimony Sunday, Dec. 31, because she speaks very little English and our understanding of her testimony was by translation from her Hungarian. But our understanding of her spirit and love and humility was by the Spirit's inspiration. Our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann then baptized her, and we were privileged to meet our new, dear sister in faith.

Elder Bro. Don Sauder from Roanoke, IL, included us in his plans for Sunday, Jan. 7. We are grateful for his presence with us and the Lord's ministry through him. Our superintendent mentioned at a Sunday School meeting that he hoped to spend "Sunday School" next Sunday in Jerusalem. Though we were thrilled for him and his wife, it was a joy to realize that we are not required to journey to Jerusalem to know Him and hear His words.

Jenny Gerst, daughter of Bro. Arnie and Sis. Marj, will be studying in Brighton, England, through an Illinois State University program. She will be there through the end of March, her address being:

Jenny Gerst  
Room 208  
1/2 Persival Terrace  
Brighton, Sussex  
England BN2 1 FA

We wish her the Lord's blessings as she experiences new places and people in Brighton and in her travels after the end of March in various parts of Europe.

Our thoughts are often with

those still sick and physically afflicted. To Esther Millim and her Husband, John, we extend sympathy on the death of her older sister, Sis. Marie Huette of Morton. We also, in deep sorrow, pray that Sis. Ida Laubscher and her family may be comforted, knowing that our dear Sis. Olga is at peace and rest. Though the funeral was in Cissna Park, we must say a few words about Sis. Olga who spent over thirty-five years in Chicago working faithfully at her job, supporting the church and its brethren (her father had been an elder brother). She was a special sister in faith, ever cheerful, ever concerned and interested in the individuals of the church. A Hungarian sister remembers both Sis. Ida and Sis. Olga as outstanding in showing the love of Christ. When this sister knew very little English and was unconverted, these two in their smile, handshake, and spirit conveyed their joy in meeting her and her family. Sis. Olga showed humility, patience in affliction, gratitude for the tiniest favor, and above all, devotion to the Lord. Now she is in His arms and we are sad, but we rejoice in her victory.

We have had much snow, as have many areas. One once mentioned that he had often scuffed the dirt of an anthill and watched the ants scurry vigorously, trying to recover. This person speculated that God must see much the same scene when He drops a great amount of snow in an area. Perhaps He is more pleased with His ants, however, for they trust the instincts He has given them. And we anxious human beings seem to struggle against the emptiness inside, neglecting to turn to Him who created us for the filling of that void. God will provide food for our souls as He does our bodies.

In an at-home Sunday School lesson with my daughter (due to the weather), I came across this poem, which struck me in its simplicity, humility, and innocence—it's so childlike.

## I'M WALKING JESUS' WAY

Jesus is my special friend!  
I love Him more each day.  
And when I think about Him,  
I like to think and pray.

I always try to please Him.  
I work for Him each day.  
I am His little helper,  
I'm walking Jesus' way.

It makes me pause to consider and pray, asking for grace to walk more humbly and more perfectly in Jesus' way.

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Judy Bauer

Mary Anderson

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14. Bro. Robert Beebe, Bremen, was our guest minister at Christmas. We thank him for serving us with spiritual food at that time.

It brought joy to our hearts when it was announced that Arlyn Rudin, son of Alvin and Dorothy had peace with his Lord and Saviour.

Our annual meeting was conducted on Jan. 3. We wish God's blessings and guidance for all those who have been chosen to serve our congregation.

Beginning time for our Sunday morning worship service has been changed from 10:30 to 10:15, with singing starting at 10:00.

The end of 1978 found our congregation with 288 members. Thirteen funerals were conducted by our ministers during the year. There were eight baptisms and two wedding ceremonies.

A son, Timothy Lee, was born on Jan. 10 to Sis. Sharon and Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann. He is welcomed home by Steven and Pamela. The grandparents are Sis. Lydia Eisenmann of Fairbury and Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder. The great-grandfather is Bro. John Koehl of Fairbury.

We were saddened by the passing of Sis. Olga Laubscher, 66, of Chicago. Services for Sis. Olga were conducted at our church by Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chicago on Jan. 15. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Ida of Chicago, and two brothers, Bro. Ben and Arthur of Cissna Park. The family is remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Sis. Kay Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy) to Bro. Keith Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Verena).

Recent hospital patients were: Sis. Lillie Waldbeser (Joe), surgical, and Jim Bauer (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta), medical. We are happy to report that both have been dismissed and are able to be out again.

The family of Janet Hari wishes



to extend a sincere thank you for the many expressions of love shown them this past year and over the holiday season. They wish that God will bless all of you.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE**

**Gay Knapp  
Pat Rinkenberger**

“ . . . Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:3.

On Wed., Dec. 20, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton), and Joshua Broquard for the reading of the memorandum. How fortunate we are to have a church that is concerned with Godly order and unity.

Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf (Akron), Joseph Ramsier (Rittman), and Edward Frank (LaCrosse) were also with us on Jan. 10. We were reminded that God is not touched by man's wisdom, but by a sincere and humble heart.

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16.

Jody Ifft, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley, was hospitalized last month. We are glad that she is home again. Sis. Norma Stahl was also a hospital patient.

Life left to God  
Will bring a greater yield  
Of golden harvest and of ripened field  
Than all the weary plannings of the soul  
Can force to be, or strength of will control;  
Oh, trust a Power that must bring good from all,  
And leave thy life to God!

Author Unknown

Summary for 1978: Marriages, 5; births, 5; baptisms, 8; deaths, 0; and new families, 0.

**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**

**Ruth Ann Getz**

The cold and chill of winter is all about us here in the midwest. Snow is everywhere in great abundance. It is inescapable, and it unmistakably alters our lives. Yet it is beautiful, and when it reduces the hustle and bustle of our lives to quiet evenings at home, we find that we can even rejoice in this. It provides us much time we may not otherwise have to think of others and to pray for them.

Dec. 27 marks the birth of Jason

Allen who has been born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schefferer. Another new life has been created by God, and truly that is a miracle. To welcome him are Rodney, Paul, Andrew, and April.

The engagement of our Sis. Julie Tobler (Merle and Sis. Madeline) and Bro. Dan Koch, Jr., (Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol, Tremont) was made known to our congregation on Dec. 31. There is tremendous strength created in the church when two young lives who have committed their lives to the Lord and seek His direction can then join their lives together in a “three fold cord.” We rejoice with them.

A member of our brethren and friends have been hospitalized this past month. The Word tells us in Matt. 25:36, “Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison and ye came unto me.” And so when we minister to one another we can do it as unto the Lord. What a privilege we have! Among those hospitalized were: Sis. Lydia Reber, Bro. Charles Graf, Bro. Earl Moser, Bro. Lyle Kellenberger, Arlie Rein, and Greg Gudeman.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger have gone to spend the winter in Zapata, TX. We pray for their protection for both soul and body during their absence.

Our sympathy goes out to Esther Griener Batt in the death of her husband, Lester. Lester passed away Jan. 16 in his home. He was born June 18, 1918, in Elgin where he has lived all of his life. May the Lord bless Esther for all the tender loving care she bestowed on her husband. May He draw her to Him with cords of compassionate love.

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**

**Melba Mangold**

Dec. 17 we enjoyed listening to the Sunday School classes tell and sing about the birth of our Savior. It is good to listen to these old songs that always seem new. If only the whole world could really know the real and complete meaning of Christmas.

Bro. August Barth who had lived in one of the duplex homes at the Home passed away on Dec. 31. Services and burial were in Tremont, his former home. His family wishes to thank all who remembered him during his illness. They appreciated the many acts of kind-

ness rendered at his death.

The engagement of Sis. Pat Stoller and Bro. Marvin Fischer of Roanoke was announced on Jan. 5. They are planning a March wedding. We are happy for them and wish them God's blessings. Their parents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Wilma of Eureka and the late Bro. Sam and Sis. Ida Fischer of Roanoke.

We are sorry that Sis. Lena (Bro. Dan) Wiegand is again in the hospital. She was home for awhile but had to return to the hospital. Bro. Andy Martin has been in the hospital but is back at the Home.

Bro. John Rocke of the Home passed away on Jan. 13. His funeral was held in Congerville, his home church.

During the past year ten souls were added to the fold; nine new babies were born; there were five weddings of members, two of friends; and we had six deaths, two of them being infants. Joy mingled with sorrow is the way of life.

We received lots of snow on Sat., Jan. 13, but it was decided to have church on Sunday, anyhow. Most of the people in town could get there, but the country roads were almost completely closed. Going to church is one of the many blessings we take for granted; sometimes it takes the thought of not being able to be there to make us realize how we could miss it. And even more than missing it, think how much we need the Word and fellowship that help us start another week.

Glen, Sis. Becky, and Chad Bauman would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, money, gifts of food and the love shown them in the loss of their little daughter and sister, Dawn. They ask that God bless each and everyone of you.

**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Joyce Huber**

Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber will be observing their 25th wedding anniversary Jan. 30.

Ernest and Katherine (Obergefel) Grace had their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 28. They are the parents of one son, Leroy, and one daughter, Rosemary Stockle.

Bro. and Sis. George Broquard will be observing their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, Feb. 18. Bro. George and Sis. Clara (Sutter) were married 50 years ago,

Feb. 9. They are parents of three boys and three girls: Bro. Donald, twins, Bro. Wayne and Bro. Duane, Sis. Elaine Wieland, Sis. Susanne Bahler, and Sis. Carol Wieland.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy Stoller were blessed with a baby girl, Kimberly Marie. Other children are Bryan, Kevin, and Darcy. The grandparents are Sis. Ernestine Stoller and Alton and Sis. Sally Schieler. Kimberly's middle name, Marie, is the same as the middle name of both grandmothers.

Sis. Gertie Moser reached four score years, having her 80th birthday, Jan. 23. Phil Sohn reached 85 years on Jan. 14.

Bro. Alfred Bahler ministered to us on New Year's Day.

We are sorry for those hospitalized: Sis. Salome Zimmerman, Bro. Walter Moser, Bro. John Koehl, Bro. Herb Fehr, Bro. Reuben Bach, Bro. Donald Kaisner, Bro. Jacob Stortz, and Bro. Amos Meyer.

Appointments made at the annual meeting were: Trustee, Bro. Warren Zehr; Ushers, Bros. Dave Kaeb and Chris Steffen; Property Aid, Bros. Dick Wiegand and Lyle Huette; Officers for Business Meeting, Bros. Dale Stoller and Ralph Bahler; Board of Fairview Haven, Bro. John Hartman; and Board of Fellowship Hall, Bros. Carlos Meiss and Bud Kelson.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Kathryn Steidinger  
Beverly Eisenmann**

We are happy to tell of the birth of two baby boys. Chad Michael joined the family of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman on Dec. 29. His brothers are Erik and Arlen, and the grandparents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Helen Leman and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Drayer were called and told the good news that a little boy was born on Jan. 3 and that they were chosen to adopt him. They have named him Jerod Wayne. Carl and Sis. Dorothy Bachtold, along with Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Louise Manz (Junction), welcome a new grandson into their families.

Visiting ministers who served us are Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington) and Dave Wiegand (Champaign). Our community had a snow storm on Jan. 4, and we were unable to assemble for church services. It made us realize the blessings we can enjoy when we can gather together and hear the Word

and have blessed fellowship together.

Bro. Joe Kaisner, who has faithfully served in the ministry for nearly 30 years, has asked to be relieved of his duties. He will soon observe his 80th birthday. Even though he was still able to preach the Word sincerely, he has other handicaps which make it difficult for him. We appreciate all of his efforts and shall remember how often he spoke with a trembling voice and with tear-filled eyes as he lovingly preached the Word.

Bro. Gene Metz was chosen as our new Sunday School superintendent, and Bro. Wayne Honegger replaces Bro. Virgil Koehl as a trustee.

Sis. Julia Honegger, who resided in Peoria for many years, passed away and was brought home to Forrest for funeral services and burial. Survivors include three brothers (Bros. Frank, Paul, and Sam) and five sisters (Sisters Ella, Nathalia, Kathryn, Percida, and Addie).

There are several from our congregation that have spent time in the hospital. Karen (Leman) Huette is a patient. Bro. Oscar Schneider had a stroke and is in Champaign for therapy. Bro. John Koehl had pneumonia but is back home at Fairview Haven. Also, home again are Darin Metz (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol), Bro. Dan Schlatter, Bro. Bill Kupferschmid, and Joe Kilgus (John and Barb). Bro. Ernie Gerber wishes to thank everyone who has remembered him with cards, gifts, and prayers. He is now residing at the Roanoke Home but comes to visit us often.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Aberle and Jeffrey have left our community to help with the duties at the Children's Home. We greatly miss them but ask God's blessings on them.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm**

If you look for beauty  
Don't look afar,  
The most lasting beauty  
Is right where you are.  
Don't search distant countries  
Beneath foreign skies  
And miss all that's lovely  
In front of your eyes.

If you'd search for gladness  
With beauty to give,  
'Tis not somewhere else  
But it's right where you live.

You've but to accept it,  
To take time to see  
One moment of beauty  
That life offers free.

If you'd value beauty  
Do pause on your way  
To notice the sunshine  
God lends everyday.  
A tree in the winter  
A cloud in the sky,  
Or maybe a rainbow,  
A bird that can fly.

The world holds a beauty  
And yet 'tis so near.  
Don't search in the distance,  
You'll find it right here.  
The things all around you,  
One bright shining star . . .  
The beauties most lasting  
All right where you are.

Garnett Ann Schultz

A baby girl, Melinda Kay, was born to Lester and Helen Bauman, R.R., Eureka, on Dec. 18. The grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman, Goodfield, and Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Waggenbach, Tremont.

Our hospital patients this month have been Sis. Emma Beetschen, Sara Kieser (daughter of Bro. and Sis. Alfred and Marie), and Sis. Pam Wiegand (Art).

The engagement of Bro. Sam Hohulin, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold and Carol, Goodfield, and Sis. Cindy Grusy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grusy, R.R., Eureka, has been made known. They are planning a March wedding.

We are pleased to have Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, minister to us on Wed. evening, Jan. 10.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

**Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein**

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you . . . Let not your heart be troubled . . ." John 14:27. Our hearts were encouraged and renewed as Elder Bro. Orville Ringger ministered to us on a recent Wednesday evening. He so wonderfully pointed out that our Lord and Savior wants us to be happy and to have peace in our life here on earth. We have so many reasons to rejoice and be glad in Him. Jesus said that He came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly. He desires that our joy might be full. Bro. Orville also recited a beautiful poem which asks what we would do if Jesus would come to our house today. Would we change our activities? how we speak? what

we listen to? or what we read? Many of us may answer, "Yes." And yet at the conclusion we are reminded that Jesus is with us in the Spirit, always. He knows not only what we do and say but even what we are thinking. What a privilege it is to walk in nearness with Him. May we seek to grow more like Him every day.

Our other visiting ministers were: Elder Bro. Joe Braker of Morton, Bro. Tom Leman of Elgin, and Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein of Landersville, AL.

On two consecutive weekends we were inspired by the provings and baptisms of five dear souls. We welcome Bro. Elmer, Sis. Marjorie, their son, Bro. Steve Schlipf, Bro. Jeff Gramm, and Bro. David Meiss into the brotherhood and wish them God's rich grace in their new walk of faith.

"People today seem to have the idea that we must mingle with and become like the world in order to win it, and yet when a man falls into a deep pit, no one ever dreams of jumping down into the well (alongside him) to get him out! Instead, he stays way up at the top, and from there lets down a ladder of rope, and lifts him up." Harold S. Martin.

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### Joann Roecker

Once again we begin a new year. All the holiday trimmings are carefully packed away and we begin our usual routines. Usually at New Year's we reflect back over our "old" year and more or less take happy and precious "items" in our inventory and some unhappy and trying times, too. Events and people change from year to year, but isn't it wonderful that God never changes? His love surpasses all. The best part of starting this new year is knowing that our Savior is walking with us each day.

Bro. Rudy and Sis. LaVina Kilgus sent me the following note to share with you, and it seems so fitting with our new year ahead.

Another year we are about to enter,  
its history unknown;  
Oh how my feet would tremble  
to tread its path alone!  
My presence shall go with thee,  
and I will give thee rest.

They also want to thank all of the dear ones who remembered them while they were hospitalized

and since they're home. All their kindnesses will be remembered.

We are having an abundance of snow this year! The children delight in "snow-play" and sleds. Adults are "delighting" in their shovels. This task at times can be a real chore, but the task can also become a blessing if we aid someone unable to clear their own way. I'm sure that some would think shoveling is a small example, but often the small gesture sheds the greater light. Oh, that through an act of kindness our light would shine brightly for Him.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Randall Jon Suttor, Bremen, IN, to Sis. Cathy Knobloch. Bro. Randall's parents are Bro. and Sis. Ed Suttor, Bremen. Sis. Cathy is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. Robert Knobloch. We pray God's blessings for this young couple.

We have been richly blessed to have the following visiting Ministering Brothers: Jim Hoerr, Ken Hoerr, Peoria; Glen Funk, Wichita; Paul Butikofer, Elgin, Iowa; Ben Maibach, Detroit; Ronald Nelson, Kiowa; and Richard Schupbach, Phoenix. We feel very privileged to have had these brothers come and share God's Word with us.

We sincerely extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Lydia Miller. Services were held for Sis. Lydia on Dec. 4.

Always, a cheerful smile and an encouraging word were received from Sis. Mary Huetter. Sis. Mary, after being ill for several months, went to be with the Lord on Dec. 15. She leaves many warm and fond memories behind. I have to think of the lyrics, "Precious memories, how they linger." Our love and sympathy goes to her family. Though she is gone, we think of her often.

Sis. Mary L. Welk was called to eternal rest on Dec. 7. She was residing at Restmor. Three sisters survive, Sis. Katie Belsley at Restmor and Sis. Ida and Sis. Ann Welk at home. The family sincerely thanks everyone for their prayers, love, and kindness shown during her illness and passing. May God richly reward each one. We extend out sympathy to this family at this time.

Jan. 3, Sis. Mary "Marie" Huetter, after living 93 years, was laid to rest. She died at Restmor. We pray God's blessings on her family. They

express their gratitude for everyone's kindness shown during her illness and passing.

Sis. Alama Glaser wishes to thank everyone for their many acts of kindness and prayers. She is now home recovering from surgery. We pray that God will strengthen her, daily.

Those who have been in the hospital since the last writing were: Bro. Sam J. Getz, Bro. Harry Wick, Henry Huetter, Sis. Lois Hauter, and Sis. Verene Heininger.

### ILLINOIS, PEORIA

#### Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin

Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. II Corinthians 8:4-5. The Lord directed the Spirit through our visiting ministers to bring forth the teachings of God's Word. Bro. Noah Herman from Tucson, Bro. Lynn Klopfenstein from Landersville, and Bro. Jim Funk from Tucson were present with us this month.

We were privileged to welcome a young couple into the fold. Tom and Debby (Messerli) Baker have found the peace of God and were baptized on Jan. 14. Her parents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Miriam Messerli.

Gone to rest and his reward,  
Faithful servant of the Lord,  
Weary pilgrim of earth's shore,  
Now at rest for evermore.

Fairer tribute there is none:  
Just to know his work well done.  
Gone to dwell in mansions fair.  
Just asleep in Jesus' care.

Bro. Henry Beer

Three dear souls were called to their heavenly home. Sis. Mayme Erkert passed away on Jan. 3. We express our sympathy to the Erkert family. Alma Swadley passed away on Jan. 11. We express our sympathy to her family, Leland and Sis. Mary Swadley and Florine Zimmerman. On Jan. 15 Sis. Julia Honegger passed away. Our sympathy goes out to her family in Forrest and Fairbury.

Several of our brethren and friends were hospitalized this month. They are Roy Sauer, June Buttrick; Sis. Alvena McDermott,

Sis. Louise Baurer, Sis. Wilhelmine Baurer, Sis. Martha Langjahr, and Diane Honegger.

Joshua and Jesse Hoerr welcomed home their new baby sister, Melinda. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr. The grandparents are Bro. Max and Sis. Katie Hoerr and Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille Herman.

Bro. Jack and Sis. Laura Koehl are the happy grandparents of a precious baby grandson, Andrew Alan. On Dec. 12, Andrew was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch. Sara welcomes her new brother home.

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

#### Ruth Ricketts

Happiness is thinking of others first, yourself last, and God always.

Christmas is past, but we have so many precious memories of events that occurred during the holiday season. The blessings of the groups of carolers who brought joy to many homes; the thrill of the children in Sunday School who told of the Saviour's birth in recitation and song; the many family gatherings when loved ones came from far and near—these are all precious memories.

It was so nice as we gathered Christmas morning to see so many families together. The story of the birth of Jesus was again reviewed. It is a story that never grows old.

Sis. Emma Asal has been able to worship with us, but her eyesight is now completely gone; yet, she still displays her smile. She said that many beloved friends continued to remember her again during the Christmas season with beautiful cards, gifts, and visits. Words are inadequate to express her humble thanks for all remembrances. She and Sis. Eleanor ask that God will bless all of you.

The engagement of Bro. Gary Herr, son of Elmer and Marjory Herr of Burlington, OK, and Sis. Cindy Baer, daughter of Otto and Eleanor Baer, was made known on Dec. 24. Bro. Gary attended church in Gridley, KS, and recently moved to our vicinity. They plan to be married on Feb. 25.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Marie Seidel have announced the engagement of their daughter, Karen, to Brian Fletcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher of Wyoming, IL. No wedding date has been set. We wish both of these couples the Lord's richest blessings as they plan their

futures together.

Bro. Willis Ehnle of Japan has been visiting relatives and friends in our vicinity the past few weeks and has been our guest minister on several occasions. The last day of the year was a very stormy one on the outside, but inside we were warmly blessed with inspired words from God. We were vividly reminded of Christ's suffering for us. His close followers, too, had to suffer for their faith's sake. Sometimes we too are made to suffer, some times for our spiritual welfare. There are two kinds of sufferings: self imposed, and those over which we have no control. It is good if we can suffer patiently for Christ's sake, for He will help carry our burdens, great and small, and all can help each other by holding each other up through prayer.

Due to inclement weather, blizzard conditions, no services held on New Years Eve. Each of us could enjoy the comfort of our homes, be thankful for the blessings of the past year, and look forward to the future with faith and hope, trusting in our Almighty Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Willis was willing again to share with us the first Sunday in the New Year. It was a sunny, bright winter day with much snow all around; truly a winter wonderland to behold. Unity of families and of the brotherhood was stressed during the morning worship. The relationship of Father and Son is so important. Friends were so kindly invited again to taste of God's goodness and His wonderful plan of salvation. In the afternoon, Hebrews 13 was the text for meditation, and many teachings were brought out. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Much was spoken of angels, Godly beings, several of which have been sent from heaven to this earth to proclaim messages to humble beings. We must be kind to all people and be an example to all. Watch for covetousness and be content with what we have; we should not covet what someone else possesses. We must live our life so that we will all be able to cross Jordan and be with God and Jesus in that beautiful land that awaits all the true and faithful. We thank Bro. Willis for his stirring messages.

Our annual business meeting was held the first Wednesday even-

ing in January. It was a bitter cold night, but a goodly number were present to hear the various reports and take part in selecting brothers for various positions—trustee, usher, etc. May the Lord give His guidance to those who have accepted positions for our welfare.

At the time of this writing, we have two of our dear sisters in the hospital receiving treatments. Bro. Rod Wagenbach and Sis. Helen Schick have been hospitalized for the past few days. We pray that the Lord will be near them during their shut-in days. May they feel the prayers of their loved ones as we remember them in prayer.

Bro. Willis Ehnle and his son Bro. Tony were to leave for Japan Jan. 13, but a winter snowstorm and blizzard prevented their leaving. Sunday morning dawned clear and bright with the sun shining on the new fallen snow, making it sparkle like a million diamonds. The temperature was -10 and traffic was paralyzed, so there were no church services. Perhaps as each family spent the day together they could find special blessings by being together and beholding God's greatness.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner welcomed a son, Kirk Andrew, Jan. 5. Chad and Clint welcomed their new brother, as did grandparents Ed and Sis. Mary Ann Plattner of Forrest and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Lucille Rumbold of Princeville.

My sincere thanks go to all of you who generously contributed to the Silver Lining during our collection month of January.

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

#### Edith Sauder · Mae K. Hodel

The Sunday School Christmas program was Dec. 17. The little tots sang their praises with much enthusiasm and gave their recitations about the dear Saviour's birth. Grades three through eight and the Bible class presented the Christmas story in song.

In the year just ended, we had 19 marriages, 20 births, six deaths, and 18 baptisms.

We have three new babies to report this month. Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder have their second son, Tyler Jay. Zachary welcomed him home.

Joshua Gene is the first son of Gene and Kathy Hodel. He has a little sister, Janella.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane DesCar-

pentrie have named their first son Grant Raymond. May God bless these little ones and their parents.

Dennis Rocke (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mae) and Eva Schick (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schick), Morton, have announced their engagement. They are planning a March 4 wedding.

Bro. Marvin Fischer and Sis. Pat Stoller (Eureka) are also planning a March 4 wedding. May God bestow His blessings on both of these dear couples.

Occupying the pulpit were these visiting ministers: Bro. Art Baurer, Bro. Walt Hermann. Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville), and Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin). We thank them for their labors of love.

**"STAND STILL AND CONSIDER THE WONDROUS WORKS OF GOD."** (Job 37:14)

This morning we had the opportunity to do just that as a new white carpet of snow was laid upon the earth. High winds drifted the snow in unusual peaks and drifts causing us all to slow down our pace. I had to think, as I walked through the deep drifts of beautiful snow, how much easier it is if there are footsteps to follow. Likewise, if we have Christ's footsteps to follow in our spiritual life, it is much easier to keep on the narrow path.

Church services were canceled because of the snowstorm, Jan. 14.

The following is a closing thought spoken by Bro. Gene Bertschi on Dec. 31, 1978. You have to determine in your own mind what the Good Book says, and you can't do that by leaving the Book closed. YOU have to open it. YOU have to read it. YOU have to see what's in it, because it was left for YOU and God will do with YOU as YOU have lived here in this life."

### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi

Dorothy Waggenbach

Bro. Dave Keiser, with Bro. Dan, instructed us on the teachings of the conference held last August. We are a blessed people to be guided by such fatherly and loving shepherds. There were added blessings brought to us in this month by visiting ministers Bro. Harold Zeltwanger, Bro. Noah Herman, Bro. Jim Funk, Bro. Steve Rinkenberger, Bro. Vernon Wettstein, Bro. John Steiner, and Bro. Vernon Leman.

Donnie Schweigert, son of Will-

ard and Della, had the misfortune of falling and breaking three toes. He is wearing a walking cast. Gregg Sauder, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna, had an appendectomy and has recovered nicely. Bro. Dale Kaufmann had a touch of pneumonia. He had many shut-in days but has returned to work again. Kevin Sauder, son of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary, was hospitalized and is well again. Keith Michel, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Helen, had a ruptured appendix. He has recovered after many sick days. Keith Michel wishes to thank each one of you for remembering him with cards, gifts, and visits. Your kindness meant so much to him.

Sis. Velda (Karl) Glueck has been able to join our fellowship again. Sis. Velda and Bro. Karl wish to thank each one for their prayers, cards, visits, and concern for her. It is all so much appreciated.

Bro. John Moser has been attending services again. Bro. John and Sis. Lila want to thank everyone for prayers, gifts, cards, and visits while Bro. John was in the hospital and since returning home.

We express sympathy to the family of Bro. Fred Rowell who passed out of this life into eternity Dec. 29 at the age of 81. The family of Fred Rowell wishes to thank everyone for the food, flowers, cards, memorials, and acts of kindness extended to them during the loss of their father. They gave a special thank you to the church ministers and ladies for serving dinner.

Our warm expressions of sympathy go to Bro. Elmer, Sis. Darlene Kaeb and family, and Sis. Darlene's sister and brothers in the death of their father, Bro. August Barth. The family of Bro. August Barth wishes to give thanks for all assistance and kindness shown at his passing.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Dan Koch, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol, to Sis. Julie Tobler, daughter of Sis. Madelyn and Merle, Elgin, IL. They plan to be married Mar. 11. Our best wishes and prayers go to this dear brother and sister.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Dorothy Meister were blessed on Dec. 26 by the birth of their son, Matthew John. He was welcomed home by brother Michael and sisters Sarah and Rebekah. The grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gertrude Hödel and

Leola Lockhart, Peoria, IL.

### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

Linda Ziegenhorn

Our church is growing! With joy in our hearts we welcome Bro. Jim and Sis. Eloise Howell and little Andrew into our congregation. Also, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Funk are making Washington their new home. And John and Ellen Cox, who were recently married in Burlington, IA, have moved to the area and are making Washington their church. John and Ellen have heard the call and are turning their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice at the wonderful blessings of the Lord!

We never like to say good-bye, but we must to Bro. Doug Schock as he leaves us to move to Lester, IA. We will miss him. We wish him the Lord's blessings in his new home.

On Dec. 6, we were directed and taught and reminded of the way in which we should pattern our lives when we gathered to hear the reading of the memorandum. It makes us all want to strive that much more to live a life as pleasing to the Lord as we possibly can.

We had our Christmas caroling evening on Dec. 10. We went to several different places, singing, and then returned to the church for fellowship and refreshments. In all the planning and decorating involved with Christmas, let us not forget the true meaning of the day.

Our shut-ins for the month are Bro. Henry Simon and Bro. John Schick. We are glad that they both are able to assemble with us again.

Recently a minister said in conclusion to an inspiring sermon on repentance: "When I was a young friend, I was sitting in a group of 500 to 600 young Sunday School students at an annual Camp Mack gathering. At the close of the day, a brother ended his prayer like this, 'Dear Lord, if you must take a soul today from among this gathering, please take mine, I am ready.' " Are we ready?

### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Joni Gerber - Shari Kaehr

"God is in every tomorrow. Therefore I live for today, Certain of finding at sunrise, Guidance and strength for the way; Power for each moment of weakness,

Hope for each moment of pain,  
Comfort for every sorrow,  
Sunshine and joy after rain."

Author Unknown

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our hospital patients this month and loved ones close to them. Jared Heyerly, two-year-old son of Bro. Herb and Sis. Peg, underwent major surgery on January 2. Also hospitalized were Sis. Justine Baumgartner (wife of Bro. Paul), Sis. Lucille Kaehr (wife of Bro. Walter), and Ester Smith, mother of Bro. Dave Smith.

In the past month, God has richly blessed many families with their precious new babies. Bro. Rod and Sis. Pat Maller gladly welcomed little Elise Michele into their lives. Jack and Sis. Carla Girod welcomed home their second daughter, Bobbi ann. Clinton Jensen is the first-born son of Dave and Kris Troxel. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Elsie Troxel. Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Isch were blessed with a second son, Bryce Alan. A son, Tracy Lynn, brings much happiness to his parents, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy Bedwell. Steve and Sis. Arlene Stump are the happy first-time parents of a baby boy named Gregg Lewis. Gregg's grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Ida Aeschliman. On Jan. 16, Bro. Rich and Sis. Beth Fiechter were blessed with their first bundle of joy, little Todd Michael.

On Jan. 14, we rejoiced at the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Darryl Gerber (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara) to Sis. Ginny Gutwein (Bro. Edison and Sis. Chris Ann) from Francesville.

We thank ministering brothers Max Reimchisel (Wichita, KS) and Walter Rehklau (Toledo, OH) for delivering God's Word to us. Let us never stop clinging to His Word and to our precious faith.

### INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (II Cor. 4:3, 4)

I'm sure that this past year has been a real experience for each one of us. We have all been up and down at times, but this has helped us build a stronger faith. We pray

that God will be alive in us through the new year.

To share the New Year's weekend with us, ministering Bro. Al Langhofer from Wichita, KS, was able to be here. We thank him for spending some time with us.

The engagement of Bro. Randy Suttor from Bremen and Sis. Cathy Knobloch, originally from Morton, was announced. Cathy is now living in Lexington, KY. A June wedding has been planned.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Linda Meister. We are happy to have her back in our midst.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein

Sharon Neihouser

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2:11. Many gathered on Dec. 21 for an evening of caroling to shut-ins to spread the good tidings of great joy. A Sunday School program was held on Dec. 24. The children told us in verse and song of the birth of our Saviour. May we remember that it is not the manger but the cross that sets the sinner free. Then on Christmas morning we were again privileged to assemble in the house of God and be reminded of the holy birth of our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein were blest with a little girl, Sara Katherine, on Dec. 20. This bundle of joy is welcomed home by a brother, Kevin. May God richly bless their family circle. The grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Norma Pfladderer and Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne Gutwein.

We were happy to have Bros. Lester Huber (Lexington) and Earl Kilgus (Remington) with us for our New Year's Eve service and program. In what better place could we be than the House of God to see the old year out and the new year come in?

The engagement of Sis. Jinny Gutwein (Bro. Edison and Sis. Chrisann) to Bro. Darryl Gerber (Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara) of Bluffton was announced. May God bless their lives together.

Sis. Ellen Gutwein and Bro. Al Getz were hospitalized, but we are happy that they have returned home.

### INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Grace Heinold - Lois Bucher

On Dec. 18 a large group, young

and old, enjoyed Christmas caroling to many who are shut-in in the hospital, nursing homes, and in their own homes. We trust their hearts were gladdened when hearing of the Saviour's birth.

We were privileged and thankful to have Bro. Art Ringger as our visiting minister on Dec. 24, and Bros. Bill Schlatter and Gene Lehmann on Christmas Day. Also, Bros. Larry Wenninger and Duane Metzger were with us on Dec. 31 and New Year's Day. We were reminded that perhaps it would be advisable for all to take inventory of our lives in the past year and strive to do better in this new year.

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.

(Hymns of Zion)

Bro. Sam Clauss has been hospitalized for several weeks. We are happy to report that he is improving and hopes to go home soon.

### INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Al Frautschi

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Some people are sitting on the premises instead of standing on the promises. Author Unknown

Our church extends a hearty welcome to the Douglas Aberle family. They are the new house parents for the Children's Home. Bro. Doug says that he thinks he is going to enjoy becoming a Hoosier. Sis. Connie is fitting in very well. Little Jeff seems to take it all in stride.

After a turkey dinner, the Christmas Sunday School program was held at the Fellowship Center on Dec. 17. We are thankful for our Fellowship Center where we can have such events.

Many of our young people attended the wedding of Bro. Linn Stoller (Leo) and Sis. Brenda Beer in Florida on Dec. 31. Linn is a student at Purdue U.

Sis. Connie Frautschi (Bro. Ed) was released from the hospital on Christmas morning after a bout with several virus'. She returned about a week later for an operation. She is doing very well at home.

Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein (Bro. Bill) was at Mayo's for a check-up. She, also, is doing very well.

Courage is fear that has said its prayers. (from Daily Bread)

**INDIANA, MILFORD**

**Connie Beer  
Sandy Beer**

Just one thing, O Master, I ask  
today,  
Now that the old year has passed  
away,  
And a promising new year,  
through grace of Thine,  
With all the dreams of youth is  
mine—  
Just one thing I ask as I onward go,  
That I'll walk with Thee—not too  
fast, nor slow;  
Just one thing I ask, and nothing  
more,  
Not to linger behind, nor run  
before.

O Master! This is my only plea—  
Take hold of my life and pilot me.  
Author Unknown

As it was election time again,  
Bros. Willard Schieler and Don Le-  
man will be replacing Sunday  
School teachers Bros. Dan Beer and  
Clint Bucher. Our new trustee is  
Bro. Maurice Beer. Sis. Linda Beer  
will be our new church secretary,  
replacing Sis. Deb Speicher. Sis.  
Connie Beer succeeded Sis. Paula  
Haab as reporter for the Silver Lin-  
ing. May God guide them in these  
important offices.

We appreciate Bro. Ray Sinn's  
coming and ministering to us.

It is a blessing that Bro. Walt  
Steffen is again serving us on the  
pulpit after undergoing surgery.

Bro. Maurice Beer had an un-  
fortunate accident when a snow  
blade fell and crushed several toes.

Again we must remember His  
promises—" . . . I will be with thee;  
I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.  
Be strong and of good courage . . ."  
Joshua 1:5, 6.

**NEW YEAR PRAYER**

Lord, Thou hast given me a clean  
new year.  
Help me to keep its pages pure,  
unspoiled;  
To write upon its scroll but kindly  
thoughts,  
With no unsightly blots to have  
it soiled.  
Let me not mar. in thought or  
word or deed,  
This page, so white, so pure, un-  
sullied, fair.  
Help me to know that when I stand  
in need  
Of help from Thee, Thou'rt  
always standing there.  
When duty calls me, Lord, let  
pleasure wait.

Let me fulfill my calling. Let  
Thy will,  
Not mine, be done. Oh, let me ever  
hear

Thy calm, approving voice, Thy  
guidance still.

Lead me, dear Lord, in paths of  
peacefulness

But if, perchance, Thy paths  
should ever lie

O'er mountain trails, though they  
be rough and bleak,

Then may I answer, "Master,  
here am I."

—I. S. Ellis

**INDIANA - PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY**

**Candy Wuethrich**

As we begin our spring semester  
at Purdue, we welcome Bro. Brian  
Wiegand (Oakville, IA), Scott Le-  
man (Francesville), Jerry Bahler  
(Wolcott), and Dave Fiechter  
(Bluffton). They are attending the  
Agriculture Short Course during  
the first eight weeks of this sem-  
ester. We would also like to wel-  
come Mr. and Mrs. Greg Leman  
and daughter back into the Lafay-  
ette area while Greg is taking  
classes at Purdue.

We give sincere best wishes and  
congratulations to Sis. Jinny Gut-  
wein (Francesville) and Bro. Dar-  
ryl Gerber (Bluffton) on the an-  
nouncement of their engagement.  
May God richly bless their lives  
together.

The Purdue services are being  
held at a new location this semes-  
ter. There will be someone at the  
old location (Christian Ministry  
Center on State Street, to guide  
you to our new location. The serv-  
ices are held at the same time,  
7:30, every other Thursday even-  
ing. We heartily welcome each of  
you to come and worship with us.

**INDIANA, REMINGTON**

**Libby Bahler**

"I look not back; God knows the  
fruitless efforts, the wasted hours,  
the regrets; I leave them all with  
Him who blots the record, and  
graciously forgives, and then for-  
gets." —A. J. Flint

May we as our Lord's disciples  
look to each new day as it is given  
to us, and, as the Apostle Paul, may  
we strive to " . . . die daily . . ."  
(I Cor. 15:31) that Christ may live  
in us.

Our visiting ministers were El-  
der Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City)  
on the 31st of December and Elder

Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Frances-  
ville) on January 7. Bro. Wendell  
assisted Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler  
in a most precious work—bringing  
a new lamb into the fold. We wit-  
nessed Sis. Annette Mathew's vows  
early Sunday morning and her bap-  
tism in the afternoon. With joy and  
with a feeling of responsibility, we  
welcome her, trusting that the  
Lord will continue His work in  
her heart if she abides faithfully.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Elsie Kilgus  
have a new residence at Parkview  
Haven Retirement Home in Fran-  
cesville. Their steadfastness and  
love for the church will be greatly  
missed in our congregation. Sis.  
Anna Beckley suffered a stroke  
while in her home on Dec. 29. She  
is presently at St. Elizabeth Hospi-  
tal in Lafayette. As far as the  
heavens are above the earth, are  
the Lord's ways above ours. What  
ever betide, He takes care of His  
own.

The following Sunday School  
teachers were elected at our annual  
meeting: Bro. Stan Virkler, 3rd,  
4th, and 5th grades; Sis. Arleta  
Waibel, 1st and 2nd grades; and  
Sis. Libby Bahler, kindergarten.  
With God's help, we trust that His  
Word will continue to be planted in  
the hearts of the children.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**

**Marie Heinold**

Lord, I would ask for a holy year,  
Spent in Thy perfect will;  
Help me to walk in Thy very  
steps—

Help me to please Thee still.

Lord, I would ask for a year of  
love;

Oh, let me love Thee best!

Give me the love that faileth not  
Under the harvest test.

A. B. Simpson

A wish for the New Year re-  
ceived by a loved one that I'd like  
to share is, "Let me see Thee more  
clearly, love Thee more dearly,  
follow Thee more sincerely, that I  
may say with calm assurance  
' . . . even so, Lord Jesus, come!'"

We were grateful to Bros. Merle  
Bucher and Robert Beebe for their  
visits this past month. We also  
thank their companions for coming.

Our annual meeting was held  
Jan. 10. There is a special need  
for each one to accept responsi-  
bility. Accepting that responsi-  
bility brings special blessings.

Another thought sent to me that I'd like to share is, "God gives His very best to those who leave the choice with Him."

### IOWA, ELGIN

#### Eleanor Butikofer

Once again we find ourselves on the threshold of a new year. May God give us grateful hearts for all the blessings of the past, and may we endeavor to fill each new day with goodness. Gratitude consists of a watchful and minute attention to the multitude of God's gifts taken one by one. He loves us and cares for us, even to the least event and smallest need of life. God is glorified not by our groans, but by our thanksgivings.

The snow has been blowing past our windows today; it has been a typical winter day in this part of the world. To behold the vast outdoors bedecked in the beautiful white cover makes one feel like bowing in awe and saying to God, "Thank you for this beauty." The wild birds in their lovely plumage of red, blue, grey, yellow, black, and white add much to the wonder of the outdoors. The feeding stations have been scenes of much activity since our sub-zero temperatures have arrived. The most rare bird seen outside our living room window was a pileated woodpecker. It's quite a large bird; it measures about seventeen inches. It was most interesting to view this bird.

### EARLY RISERS:

Abraham rose early to stand before the Lord (Genesis 19:27). Jacob rose early to worship the Lord (Genesis 28:18). Moses rose early to give God's message to Pharaoh (Exodus 8:20). Moses rose early to build an altar to God (Exodus 24:4). Moses rose early to meet God at Sinai (Exodus 34:4). Joshua rose early to capture Jericho. (Joshua 6:12). Joshua rose early to take Ai (Joshua 8:10). The Son of God rose early to go to a solitary place to pray (Mark 1:35). The people rose early to go to hear Him (Luke 21:38).

Bro. Uriel Gehring from Burlington was our visiting minister since our last report. He conducted a Wednesday evening service for us. We appreciated his coming and his interpretation of the Scriptures.

Sis. Marie Butikofer is home from the hospital and was able to assemble with us at our church service. It's nice to see her again.

Her sister, Sis. Lena Schupbach, has not been able to assemble with us for some time. Her 100th birthday will be in March.

Our annual voting took place recently. Our Sunday School teachers are as follows: Bro. Wm. Butikofer, Bible class; Bro. Lonnie Butikofer, Junior Bible class; Sis. Elizabeth Moore, Intermediate class; Sis. Joy Frieden, Beginners and first grade; Song leader, Bro. Al Butikofer; Ushers, Bro. Floyd Frieden and Bro. Tim Butikofer; Secretary, Bro. Dale Moore; Treasurer, Bro. Jake Gehring; and Trustees, Bro. Floyd Frieden, Bro. John Schupbach, and Bro. Tim Butikofer.

My husband's health (Bro. George) has improved very much, and we are very thankful.

All sunny skies would be too bright  
All morning hours mean too much  
light,

All laughing days too gay a strain;  
There must be clouds, and night  
and rain,

And shut in days, to make us see  
The beauty of life's tapestry.

Author unknown

### THINK OR WORRY:

You can think about your problems or you can worry about them, and there is a vast difference between the two. Worrying is thinking that has turned toxic. It is jarring music that goes 'round and 'round and never comes to climax or conclusion. Thinking works its way through problems to conclusions and decisions; worry leaves you in a state of animation. When you worry, you go over the same ground uselessly and come out the same place you started. Thinking makes progress from one place to another; worry remains static. The problem of life is to change worry into thinking, and anxiety into creative action.

Author Unknown

What life means to us is determined not so much by what life brings to us as by the attitude we bring to life; not so much by what happens to us as by our reaction to what happens. Mark Twain wrote, "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles but most of them have never happened."

### IOWA, IOWA CITY

#### Connie Gerst

As I am sitting here writing, I happened to notice the intricate

designs the frost has made on our windows. Even tho the cold weather is not always pleasant, we can still see the beauty of God's creation if we just take a moment to stop and look.

We have been richly blessed through the words God has granted our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Ed Lanz (Oakville), Uriel Gehring and Harvey Heininger (Burlington), and Bill Gerst (Alto). Isn't it wonderful how our Heavenly Father can see each one's needs, and, through His divine inspiration, we can be spiritually fed, time and time again?

### IOWA, LESTER

#### Alice Metzger

An inspiring and blessed weekend was ours on Jan. 6 and 7 when Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Elder Bro. Harold Messner, and Bro. Virgil Metzger were among our many visitors to witness the provings and baptism of seven dear souls. Those whom we now embrace as brothers and sisters-in-faith are Rodney Mogler (Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie), Tom Knobloch (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Irene), Rick Moser (Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna), Sue Ann Knobloch (Bro. Gus and Sis. Florence), Ida Metzger (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Ella), and Esther and Beth Feucht (Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha). We rejoice with the dear young members and their parents and pray for our many friends who are so precious to us.

On Christmas Day, our visiting minister was Bro. Noah Miller, and our minister for New Year's Day was Bro. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville. We are thankful for their visits and ask a special blessing for Bro. Jon who had so recently taken up the duties of minister.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Martha Feucht and her family. Ernst A. Feucht passed away Jan. 5, and his funeral services were held Jan. 8. Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend, and Elder Bro. Leo Moser conducted the services. Besides Sis. Martha, he is survived by four sons and five daughters. The sons are Dale, Gary, Lyle, and Loren. The daughters are Mary Lou Schact, Laura Pelkola, LeAnn Ransom, and Donna and Rosella Feucht. There are also five grandchildren, nine brothers, and four sisters. Sis. Martha and the relatives wish to thank everyone who



sent cards, food, memorials and gifts of love during his illness and death.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Diane Stickling became parents of a baby boy, Drendon Paul, on Dec. 27. He has a brother and sister, and the grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold and Bro. Herman and Sis. Evelyn Stickling. On Jan. 9, Mike and Kathy Moser became parents of Jesse Louis. The paternal grandparents are Lou and Tina Moser.

Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch was hospitalized for surgery but is home and getting along fine. Bro. Jake Metzger is taking therapy treatments after surgery and a lengthy stay in the hospital; he wishes to thank everyone for visits, cards, prayers and kindnesses offered during his stay in the hospital.

We miss Sis. Karen Knobloch since she has moved to the Oakville area.

Our church has grown in the past year as we have 15 new babies, eight girls and seven boys. There were 18 converts and seven baptisms, and we rejoice with those involved. We also mourn, for we had two deaths. God has been merciful.

### IOWA, OAKVILLE

#### Phyllis Siegle

Blessed is the man who digs a well from which another may draw faith.

Author Unknown

May our loving heavenly Father bless your holy marriage and fill your cups to overflowing with His spirit so that you may love unselfishly, constantly, and loyally. May He open your eyes to the best in each other, and let patience reign supreme in your hearts. Let forgiveness be the cornerstone of your union, and may understanding be the mortar of your years.

Author Unknown

Sis. Kathy Lanz and Bro. Curtis Frank were united in marriage by Kathy's father, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz. Bro. Curtis' parents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Bernice.

In the evening of this same day, our Sunday School children presented their Christmas program, which was enjoyed by all. May they all keep in their hearts the story of Christ as it was related to us. We want to thank our teachers for their efforts and love.

We were grateful to have Bro.

Arnie Gerst from Chicago minister to us. Our thanks are extended to him and his family for their visit.

We gathered together for several evenings to listen to tapes from the Conference of our elder brethren. The messages were very timely.

As Cindy Massner and Bill Marshall are engaged and plan to establish a home, we wish them well. Home is where the heart is, where those we love abide: and through our joys or sorrows, they are always by our side. The outside world may weary us even though we do our best, but love is always waiting when we turn toward home for rest. Author Unknown. Parents of the couple are Sis. Phyllis and the late Bro. Bill Massner and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Marshall, Wapello.

No church services were held on Jan. 14 due to a real winter blizzard. My Bible was opened to Psalm 104—the reign of Jehovah over Nature's Forces—how appropriate!

Bro. Robert and Sis. Edna Kuntz were blessed with a baby boy, named Trent Edward. What excitement Trent brought to his parents as he was born during the bad January blizzard. Chad will be very happy to have a little brother to play with. The grandparents are Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sarah Gerst and Sis. Ruth and the late Bro. Roy Kuntz.

### IOWA, PULASKI

#### Mary Jane Knapp

#### Ginny Wuthrich

So quickly it seems, another year has passed and a new year is upon us. Have we accomplished anything in the past year that REALLY counts? If our striving has been only for material gain, then the year has been spent in vain; we never again will have that time for God's service. As a clean, fresh blanket of snow covered the ground New Year's day, one had to stop and think what better way could there be to start the new year than with a clean, fresh heart prepared to strive harder to serve God more fully in the coming year. For those who haven't yet surrendered to God, don't take the chance and say, "Next year."

Danny Wiegand has been hospitalized for surgery but is home again recuperating rapidly.

### TAKE TIME TO BE KIND

Kindness is a virtue  
given by the Lord,  
It pays dividends in happiness  
and joy is its reward . . .  
For, if you practice kindness  
in all you say and do,  
The Lord will wrap His kindness  
around your heart and you . . .  
And wrapped within His kindness  
you are sheltered and secure,  
And under His direction  
your way is safe and sure.

Helen Steiner Rice

### IOWA, WEST BEND

#### Mrs. Raymond Anliker

#### Becky Banwart

There were several special occasions that gave us reason to gather in the house of worship last month. On Dec. 16, Elder Bros. Leo Moser and Harold Messner were with us to read the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference. We thank these brothers for their concern for our souls. On New Year's Eve, we were privileged to have Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) minister to us. May God bless him for making himself available to our congregation.

A short summary of our 1978 activities: 3 baptisms, 5 deaths, 8 marriages, and 15 births.

Our congregation is having a farewell pot luck supper Jan. 21 for Wayne and Marilyn Schellhammer who will be moving to Washington, IL. We will miss them. Wayne assisted his father with many funerals at our church. We wish them God's blessings as they leave us.

Our hospital patients for this month were Sam Mogler, Charlene Fehr (Bro. Larry, Sis. Carol), Bro. Melvin Fehr, and Sis. Edith Kellenberger. All, at present, are assembling with us, except Sam Mogler, who is still a shut-in.

Our congregation rejoices with the four souls who have harkened to the call of the Lord. We pray that more will answer His call now that the waters are troubled. May God take these souls and mold them to be obedient children of His and lead them day by day in their new walk of life. They are: Kevin Anliker (Bro. Ray, Sis. Louise), Leonard Anliker (Ruben, Louisa Anliker, Lester), Helen Anliker (Bro. Ernie, Sis. Ella Metzger, Lester), and Sharolyn Metzger (Bro. Arnold, Sis. Alice). We now have 10 converts, and we pray

that they will feel the grace of our Lord, and His perfect peace!

### JAPAN, SHIODA

Sally Beutel

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

We recently commemorated the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What great love God showed us when He sent His only Son to earth for us.

We had our Christmas program in kindergarten Dec. 22 Sunday, Dec. 24, was an eventful day. Sunday afternoon our Sunday School children had their Christmas program. Several of us went caroling to an old folks' home after the program. Then we gathered at church and had a potluck supper together. After the supper we caroled at several homes. God loves us so very much; it is wonderful when we can do things for others and share His love.

We are happy that Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie Inoue have safely returned to Japan after an enjoyable visit in the States. Sis. Sally Gramm has also returned from her visit to the States. We are thankful that God granted them safe journeys. Our Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle is now visiting in the States. We pray God's blessings upon him. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and ministering Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki have come to our church at Shioda in Bro. Willis' absence. May God richly bless them for their labors of love.

We are thankful that God has again provided according to His will. Sis. Evelyn Blunier, Eureka, plans to come to Japan next summer to teach in our kindergarten. We wish Sis. Evelyn God's rich blessings in this work.

May God's rich love, peace, and blessing abide with all of us during this new year.

### KANSAS, BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

When I consider thy Heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? Psalm 8:34.

Recently, Harlan Wittmer had a close brush with death as he was buried in a sewer-trench cave-in where he was working with another man. Two things saved his

life, firstly, and above all, the ever protecting arm of the Lord, and, secondly, quick digging by many willing hands. Harlan wasn't breathing when uncovered. He was rushed to the hospital, and after a few days was able to go home. The other man walked away, unhurt.

We have two precious little joy-bundles to report. Lori Renae was born Dec. 21 to Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman. Natalie, Kristen, and Timothy welcome her into the home. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Leola and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott).

Ember May arrived Jan. 4 to make her home with James and Anne Moser. A little brother, Nicklaus, welcomes her. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Reuben and Sis. Stella.

At our annual meeting, Bro. Allen Rokey was elected as trustee. He serves with Bros. Morris Edelman and Eldon Plattner. Bro. Leroy Meyer is our new world Relief representative. Bro. Curtis Strahm will help with the address system.

Ben Wittmer, 80, passed away Jan. 4 at a nursing home in Sabetha. Our ministers conducted services on Jan. 6, with burial in the church cemetery. Survivors include two sisters, Mayme Strahm (Dan) and Sis. Lucy Hartter.

Our only guest minister was Bro. Wayne Miller, Fort Scott.

A thought for the New Year:  
In this wavering world of unbelief,  
we are filled with doubt, and  
questioning fear—

Oh, give us faith in things unseen,  
Se we may feel Thy Presence near.

H. S. Rice

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Jan Kraft

On Dec. 17 the Sunday School brought the story of the birth of Jesus Christ. They tell it with such eager hearts.

### THE SAVIOUR IS BORN

In a manger on a peaceful night,  
When stars above were shining  
bright,

Jesus into this world was born  
At Bethlehem, on Christmas morn.  
This little child did rapture bring  
And caused the Heavenly Host to sing.

The wise men found Him from afar,  
Led by a bright and guiding star.  
King Herod the little child had  
sought

After the news to him was brought.  
He wished to harm this child so  
fine,

But God was watching all the time.  
His fate on earth was sorrow and  
woe,

Due to many who despised Him so.  
To be a Saviour was His calling  
As sin on earth became appalling.  
He was beloved by many also,  
Who followed wherever He did go.  
He had a loving disposition,  
And blest them on His earthly  
mission.

Though many ages have gone by  
Since Jesus came for all to die,  
He does the contrite sinner hear  
And to His own is very near.

Bro. Henry Kipfer, Latty

And we are glad that Jesus came to die for all. On Jan. 14 Judy Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) gave her testimony and told of her desire to live a life for God. How thankful we are that Christ paid the price to make this possible.

We were richly blessed with the Word of God in the past month. Visiting with us were ministering Bros. Sam Huber and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Earl Banwart (West Bend). Thank you, brothers, for sharing some time with us.

Bro. Elden Schurter has been in the hospital since Christmas and is now recovering from surgery. We are praying for a speedy recovery and that God will comfort him during this time.

David Charles was born to John and Paula Read on Dec. 28. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Have you ever wondered why the Jews have such a hatred for Christ, when in the beginning they were allowed to actually behold Him here on earth? It has been a mystery to me that the Jews find it so difficult to believe that Christ is the promised Messiah. Just recently I read a book with the answer to why the Jews have been deceived in this matter. I would like to share what I read.

Judith came from a devout Jewish family. Her grandfather was one of the Jewish Rabbis. The Rabbis are "Watchmen" to the Jews, as we think of our elders as being "Watchmen" to us as Christians. The Rabbis counsel together and search the Old Testament diligently to help the Jews live a life more

pleasing to God. One day Judith asked her grandfather, "Who is Jesus? What kind of a man was he? Where and what has happened to him?" The misled ("wise"?) Rabbi's answer was this: "The glorious hope of all the true sons of Israel has lived and still lives in our hearts that, someday, Jehovah God will send His anointed one, the true Messiah, to free us from all our oppressors and will reign together with His people over the whole earth. At one time, a Jew, the son of a poor carpenter of Nazareth, came and claimed to be the Messiah whom God sent. His name was Jesus. (At this point, most of the Jews make the mistake of rejecting Christ as the true Messiah.) Some of the Jews were deceived and honored him as the Son of God. His followers waited day after day for him to proclaim Himself as King over all Israel. But our 'wise' men of our time, back then, saw through His teachings and His influence over the people. ((Christ, in our Holy Bible refers to these "wise" men in this manner in Matt. 23:27: "Woe unto you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.") They counseled together and decided to put an end to Him before He was allowed to gather large numbers and destroy our gorgeous temple and the city of Jerusalem. Fearing that the 'impostor's' masses of people might rise against them, the Council sought to arrest this Jesus at night. Jesus did not seem to be afraid, though; he counted, evidently, on the support and protection of his followers. (Remember how He told his disciples that they would desert Him?) One of his disciples who was discontented with his leader betrayed him and led the officers to Jesus' secret place in the Garden of Gethsemane. His followers fled and hid themselves. A fatal mistake was made after His death on the cross. The Council allowed his disciples to take his body from the cross and bury it in a tomb in his garden. One night the disciples succeeded in frightening our guards so badly that they were paralyzed with fear. (How devil-inspired can humans get?) When they came to, they found the corpse gone. No-body knows to this day what hap-

pened to it. (I do—do you?) His followers spread the news that He had risen from the dead and that they had even seen Him ascending into heaven as the Son of God. Of course, this is just clever deceit, and no one of the wise and circumspect today have believed it. (This is blaspheme unto death.) There is a book today that His followers claim contains His teachings. Those who read it call themselves Christians, but how can they be followers of a true Messiah when they fight and hate so—especially those of the European countries? (How cleverly this deceit traps many. Were Hitler and Stalin Christians just because they weren't Jews?) There have been times when they have killed Jews by the thousands in Russia. All this was done by followers of this Jesus, the Christians, the Gentiles." (Prov. 6:16-19 tells us that there are seven things that the Lord hates and are an abomination to Him. Two of these are a lying tongue and a false witness that speaketh lies. Could a lie be greater than this?)

The Holy Spirit clearly shows us how sincerely wrong the Jews are in their perverted reasoning, but all of this helps me to understand why it is so difficult for the Jews to develop repentent hearts and believe that they destroyed the Son of God, the True Promised Messiah who had already been sent to Israel. Does it not seem expedient to you that we, as Christians, must put on the armour of faith and love and strive to more diligently serve our God? The love of God must be shown today to such a deceived nation.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Vicki Beyer to Randy Paxson has been announced by her parents. Vicki is the daughter of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer.

#### KANSAS - MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

Blessed be God, even the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

II Corinthians 1:3, 4

Sis. Anna Lou Hattox is slowly recovering from a severe fall at work, and yet her concern for the well being of the others in our small group is still felt. We certainly wish her God's comfort and strength for recovery.

Bill and Carol Stover are now parents of two dear little girls. Mandi's birth should have been included in the November news.

Sis. Jeanette Truel has completed her schooling in Kansas City and has returned to Rockville, CT. We will miss her and extend thanks for her loving support to our group. May the Lord guide and direct her as she seeks employment.

We thank Bro. Max Reimschisel for coming from Wichita to share God's messages of faith with us.

It appears that the time is coming for us to establish a permanent place of worship in Kansas City. We ask your prayers that the Lord will direct us.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Eric D. Huber

This semester has been delayed one day due to snow; nevertheless, we pray God will bless each day so that we may abound in the work of the Lord and that we may wisely utilize our time.

"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."  
Zion's Harp No. 236

We are extremely thankful that gifts of love have been bestowed upon three friends who have found it rewarding to dedicate their lives to Christ. Judy Bahr, Romona Meyer, and Marg Wernli, who are attending KSU, have become Sisters in Christ this month. We pray God will always richly bless and keep them.

#### KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

A brand new year! And what is it going to bring? We don't know, as God doesn't wish us to know the future; but as long as our lives and faith are placed confidently in His hands, we have no need to worry or to fear what the future may bring. This was so true for two of our beloved brothers

who fell asleep in the arms of their loving Savior this past month. Bro. John Kraft passed away on January 10, and Bro. Pete Farney died just a day later on January 11. Ministering Bros. Ronald Allenbach and Raymond Roth officiated at services for Bro. John, and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and Ministering Bro. Raymond Roth at services for Bro. Pete. Ministering Bro. Joe Aberle, Sabetha, had the prayer at the cemetery. We extend our deepest sympathy and love to the families of our two beloved brothers. We pray that God will grant them comfort in the knowledge that Bro. John and Bro. Pete are now at perfect peace. Most wonderful of all, they are forever with their precious Lord.

Our dear Sister, Esther Hodel, has had a seige of illness just recently and has been unable to be in our midst. We truly hope she will be up and around very soon and will be able to worship with us again.

Many people are touched by the trusting faith of children, so I would like to relate an incident that occurred recently. Just before Christmas, a group of our carolers started out for Burlington in a van loaned to them by a friend. The group was to carol in Burlington and then return to Kiowa by a certain time to meet with others for caroling in Kiowa. Well, everything was going fine, and there was only one home left before the trip back to Kiowa. After caroling for the dear ones there, everyone returned to the van, but it refused to start. The driver tried again and again, and help was even called, but to no avail. Then a woman in the group quietly leaned her head against the seat, and silently prayed for the Lord's help. But after several tries, the van still refused to start, and the driver decided to quit after one last try. The woman again bowed her head and silently prayed more fervently, and the van sprung to life. Aloud the woman said, "Praise the Lord!". A child sitting in the next seat back said simply, "I saw that you were praying, and I prayed. 'God, please answer this prayer'" (and He did). Praise God for such trusting faith. If only we, as adults, could have the faith of a child, how much happier we would be.

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

### KANSAS, LAMONT Susan Emch

God has two dwellings: One in heaven, and the other in a submissive and thankful heart. Each of us has had many reasons to be thankful throughout the past year. May we in this new year pray for grace and strength for each new day.

Congratulations and best wishes to Beverly Beyer and John Gilligan of Emporia, Kansas, who exchanged wedding vows on Dec. 15, 1978. Their parents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Mary Isch and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gilligan of Emporia.

Our hospital patient was Jason Burnham, son of Bro. Max and Sis. Kathy, for surgery. Our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker was a medical patient. We are thankful to the Lord that they are again assembling in our midst.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Schrader of our congregation and Bro. Vernon Schwab of Wolcott, IN, in the passing of their father's wife, Edna Schwab. For some time, Sam and Edna have made their home at the Madison Manor, due to failing health. We thank Bro. Vernon for spending Sunday with us and ministering the Word. Truly, the message heard was through the inspiration of the Lord.

We rejoice with convert Mary Lynn Wernli, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty; she has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 4. Those elected to new positions are as follows: Trustee on Church Board—Bro. Lloyd Luthi; Sunday School teacher for Primary Class—Sis. Susan Emch; Silver Lining Reporter—Sis. Mary Isch; and Food committee—Sis. Dorothy Schrader.

The ground is covered with a new layer as I write the news. We were unable to have services on Jan. 14 due to drifting snow and hazardous roads. We will all the more appreciate the blessing of being able to gather around the Word of Life with all of our loved ones.

May our Heavenly Father abide with us all, and may we all grow in love and faith.

### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Cathy Knobloch

The little boy stood on the sidewalk. Hesitantly he glanced

around at his surroundings. The tears began to flow—he was lost! A kindly woman stopped to comfort the child. "Do you know which direction is home?", she asked.

"No", he replied. In a quivering voice, he poured out his dilemma. "My house is by a big church and on top of the big church is a big cross. Lady, if you'll just show me the cross I know I can find my way home!"

Ask yourself. Am I wandering around lost in this life because I have taken my eyes off the cross? THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS HOME.

The past month included precious fellowship as several former residents of Lexington returned to visit us. Doug and Sis. Brenda Suttor spent time with us. Also, Bro. Dan Steffen returned for a weekend, along with Christian friends from Bluffton and Leo. May the Lord bless them for their willingness to support our congregation.

The announcement of the engagement of Sis. Cathy Knobloch and Bro. Randy Suttor (Bremen) was made known. The parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marvel Knobloch (Morton) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline Suttor, Jr. (Bremen). What a joy to know that this union rests in the hands of the Lord! Ed. note: Sis. Cathy is your Lexington reporter.

### MICHIGAN, ALTO Penny Erisman

The message of life, hope, and salvation was proclaimed in song and verse by our small children, boys and girls, and young men and women at our annual Christmas program, Dec. 17.

We want to thank Bro. Mark Barr (Detroit) and his family for visiting us and sharing God's Word with us.

### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Patsy Knochel

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year for Thee.  
Another year of service,  
Of witness for Thy love;  
Another year of training  
For holier work above.

Hymns of Zion

The Lord has blessed us through

the electing of new servants for another year to work in the necessary duties of the church. Surely God will bless a willing heart for work done in His care and service. Those elected were: Secretary, Bro. Eli Schlatter; Trustee, Bro. Fredrick Munsel; Treasurer, Bro. Jerry Wieland; Sunday School teachers, Bro. Lee Schambach, Bro. Brace Wieland, and Sis. Sue Ruegsegger; and Cook, Sis. Helen Meylan. It is important that all of us feel that we have a duty, a willingness to pray for others, for the presence of God's Spirit to work thru them.

Ministering Bro. Don Gudeman and family (LaCross) spent a Sunday with us over the holidays.

Sis. Florence Wieland has had surgery. Sis. Ella Wackerle and Bro. Ralph Ramseyer (Sis. Lillian) were also hospitalized. "For I will restore health unto thee . . ." Jeremiah 30:17. I really feel its never a loss just to take a minute and add a strengthening note to one who is ill.

#### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

As we approach the new year, may each of us remember to go the way just one step at a time.

The future veiled before us lies,  
The path is hidden from our eyes,  
And Jesus leads, while faith He tries,  
Just one step at a time.

The road He takes we need not know,  
But follow in the steps that glow,  
And trust in Him as on we go  
Just one step at a time.

We need not fear what lies ahead,  
Nor anxious he, nor filled with dread;  
The saints before were safely led  
Just one step at a time.

John W. Peterson

We in Detroit wish each reader  
God's blessings in this new year.

These souls betrothed before Thee stand;  
Thy blessing we implore;  
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,  
And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion, No. 286

This was the prayer in our

hearts as we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Debbie Knochel and Bro. Kent Oberman. December 31 was their wedding day. Sis. Deb will be moving from Detroit, and the new couple will attend the Burlington church. Our love and prayers go with them in their new life together.

We were grateful to have Bro. Willis Ehnle with us during his time in the states. All who were present were touched by the message, and we pray for his future journeys here and back to Japan, as the Lord wills.

We remember dear Sis. Kay Novak and Sis. Katharina Bartolf who were in the hospital this month. Sis. Kay underwent surgery, and Sis. Katie was hospitalized for tests.

#### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Virkler

#### MY NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Dear Lord, before this year is born

I give it to Thy hand,  
Content to walk by faith what paths

I cannot understand.

Of bitter loss, or gain,  
Or very crown of happiness,  
Should sorrow come, or pain.

Or Lord, if all unknown to me  
Thine angel hovers near  
To call me to that farther shore  
Before another year,

It matters not—my hand in Thine,  
Thy light upon my face,  
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,  
Thy love and saving grace!

I only ask—loose not my hand,  
Grip fast my soul, and be  
My light of life upon the path  
Till—blind no more—I see!  
Author Unknown

Summary of 1978: 3 births, 1 baptism, 1 new convert. We welcomed two new families but were sorry to have three families move away, which gives us at the start of the new year a total of 30 members and 21 children in Sunday School.

It seems like only yesterday that a group from our congregation went to sing Christmas Carols and visit with our dear Sister, Carrie Schmidgall. Now she is gone—

Sister Carrie went to be with the Lord on Dec. 29, 1978. She was 89 years old and was living with her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Esther and Linus Lienemann of St. Paul. We extend our sympathy to her family.

#### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

Miobi had come to a village where the people were doing nothing else but moan and wail. The fires were not lit, the goats were not milked, because all the villagers were expecting to be eaten shortly by the Monster on the Top of the Mountain.

This monster had the head of a crocodile and the body of a hippopotamus and a tail like a very fat snake, and smoke came from his fiery breath.

But Miobi said, "I will go up the mountain and challenge the monster." As the boy climbed and came nearer, the monster looked definitely smaller. "This is very curious indeed," he said. "The further I run away from the monster, the larger it seems, and the nearer I am to it, the smaller it seems." When the boy reached the cave, he found no monster, but a quiet little thing as small as a frog, which purred; and he brought it home as a pet.

When the villagers saw him return, they wanted to make a hero of him for killing the monster, but he explained just what had happened and how he had brought the monster home as a pet.

The monster said, "I have many names. Some call me famine, and some pestilence; and the most pitiable of humans give me their own names." It yawned and added, "But most people call me What-Might-Happen." Author Unknown

As we face the new year, we all have fears as well as bright expectations. If we can have a firm faith in Jesus' promise ("Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20), our fears won't get out of proportion.

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know, he holds the future,  
And life is worth the living, just because He lives."

W. J. Gaither

Two families welcome new little girls. Dawn Kaye was born Dec. 27 to Bro. Arnold and Sis. Sharon Koehl, and Michelle Kaye is the first child of Bob and Gwen Feuchtenberger, born Jan. 6.

Funeral services for Sis. Carrie Schmidgall were held Jan. 1. Sis. Carrie had been living in St. Paul, MN. She is survived by four sons and nine daughters. Her husband, Bro. Charley, passed away in 1941.

We thank Bro. Noah Miller of Minneapolis for holding the services for Sis. Carrie. We also thank Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis) for a recent visit. William and Lillie Luthi wish to thank their many friends and relatives for their Christmas greetings. Due to ill health and arthritis, it was difficult for them to write at Christmas time, but they wish all a blessed new year.

Bill Feuchtenberger and family offer a sincere "thank you" to their wonderful relatives and friends for their many acts of love shown to them during the illness and passing of Bill's wife, Bernice. The words "thank you" only begin to convey their appreciation to those who remembered them with greetings during the holidays when their hearts were especially heavy with loneliness. They extend a special thanks to the friend in Chicago who informed them of the Silver Lining. They pray that God will richly bless each one with his help from above.

#### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem**

As 1979 begins, we as believers in Christ ponder what may lie ahead in this new year. For some, the road ahead may be easy and smooth, but for many it will pass through valleys of disappointment, anxiety, and sorrow. Whatever may be our lot and portion, the passage of scripture in Phil. 3 should be our goal, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth toward the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." As believers in Christ, we understand this. Whatever 1979 brings, we have the indwelling Holy Spirit to grant us the light of understanding and comfort we need. But we must turn our lives over to Him.

All you may need, He will provide,  
God will take care of you

Nothing you ask will be denied,  
God will take care of you.

C. D. Martin

We were saddened to receive a call during our services at about 11:15 on Sunday, Jan. 14, telling us that Bro. Kenneth Messner's home was burning. About an hour later we received word that it had completely burned. Bro. Ken lives in Hutchinson, MN, about 25 miles north of Winthrop. We had temperatures of 22 below zero during the night with a high of 10 below during the day. Our prayer is that God's comfort will be near Bro. Ken and his family during this time of tragedy.

The family of Sis. Carrie Schmidgall wishes to express their thanks to those who sent cards of sympathy in the loss of their mother. Funeral services were at Morris. Sis. Sophia Miller of our congregation is her daughter.

Todd Messner, son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. CarolAnn, had knee surgery. Bro. Raymond Messner returned to his home on Jan. 14 after a lengthy stay at a Minneapolis hospital. Bro. LeRoy Messner had foot surgery at a Mankato Clinic and is home, recuperating.

#### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY (See Kansas, Kansas City)

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Janice Braker - Sandra Marti**

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 9. Our newly elected trustee is Bro. Virgil Frieden. Bro. William Stefan, Jr., Sis. Judy Braker, and Sis. Vera Luthi (substitute) were chosen to serve as Sunday School teachers. We wish them God's guidance in their new duties.

As we gathered in Sunday School last Sunday morning, we sang "Whiter Than Snow" (Hymns of Zion). As I looked out over the fields so beautifully covered with snow, a thought came to me. Have we been washed with Christ's blood, and are our lives as white and unspotted as they should be?

Tim Braker, son of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker, and Terri Locke were united in marriage on Nov. 24. We wish them much happiness and God's blessings.

Gary and Lu Fanning are parents of Kyla Marie, born Jan. 1. Matthew welcomes her home. The grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti. Billy and Pam

Green are parents of their first child, Eric Kay, born Jan. 12. His grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Cecile Braker. Babies are surely one of God's miracles!

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

**Lena M. Haerr**

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings. I Peter 4, 12, 13.

We take with solemn thankfulness  
Our burden up, nor ask it less,  
And count it joy that even we  
May suffer, serve, or wait for Thee,  
Whose will be done!

J. G. Whittier

Our Sunday School program was given Dec. 17. We were thankful to hear the Christmas story in words and songs by our youth.

Elder Bro. Sam Anlicher, Lamont, helped our Elder Bro. Roy Grimm in hearing the testimonies of three dear friends, Jan. 5. Baptisms were Jan. 6. Those who are now a part of the fold are Sis. Pam, her husband, Bro. Steve Kiefauber, and Bro. Scott Hoerr, son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma. What a blessed weekend during which we were able to witness such miracles and feel God's nearness and love!

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Kenny Dietz, Bradford, Arnie Gerst, Chicago, Sam Huber, Sabetha, Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, and Bill Gerst, Alto.

We had so much snow and temperatures so low that we had no services on Jan. 14. But several families who could get out gathered in homes. What a blessedness there is in fellowship!

Bro. Don and Sis. Judy Feller and family are moving to Morton, IL, today, Jan. 17. How we will miss them. We wish the best for them, soul and body.

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

**Ed Aeschleman**

We were sorry to hear that our dear friend, Bess Merz, in Philadelphia was injured in an auto accident, confining her to her home for a number of days. Her husband, Ben, was driving and was spared serious injury. By this

time, Bess has mostly recovered, and we are grateful and thankful to God.

Bro. John and Sister Kathy Clough's new baby (reported last month without a name) was named Kevin Hans.

We were pleasantly surprised and thankful to God when Bro. Dave and Sis. Carolyn Roberts of Bluffton and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Helen Kloter of Rockville visited our Philadelphia church on Sunday, Dec. 31. We enjoyed the good fellowship and considered it a wonderful way to end the old year.

### NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Joyce Ann Martin, daughter of Bro. Bernard and Sis. Elvera, Lowville, was married to Dean E. Greenwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Greenwood, of Copenhagen, on December 9. May God's blessings be with this young couple as they begin their new home together.

At this writing, Urban Farney is a patient at Lewis County General Hospital.

We assembled with the Naumberg congregation on Sunday when our elder brothers were attending the elder meeting in Illinois. We are thankful for God's protection over them on their journey to the conference and again in their journey home.

### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

Rachel Snyder

The little plans I tried  
To carry through have failed,  
I will not sorrow.  
I'll pause a little while,  
Dear God,  
And try, again tomorrow.

Author Unknown

With God's help and the help of the congregation I will do what I can to bring the news to the Silver Lining. If I should make errors, please excuse me. We wish to give many thanks to Sister Corine Virkler for the faithful work she has done for the Silver Lining. May God always bless her.

It is so nice to see another new precious face in our midst. Henry and Barb Beyer have another boy. His name is John Christian. He has a little brother, Jerry, to welcome him. His grandparents are

the late Bro. and Sis. Ralph and Nina Beyer.

Bro. Elmer Taube has been transferred from the Carthage Area Hospital to its extended care part.

Also, Wilson Menz has been transferred from the Lowville General Hospital to its extended care part.

Andrew Virkler has been taken from Bender's Home for the Aged to the Lowville General Hospital.

Andrew Virkler's wife, Emma, is still in the Lowville Hospital.

Bro. Earl Rohr of Naumburg passed away Dec. 20 at age 92. His funeral was Dec. 23 at the Naumburg church. He is survived by his wife, Rachel, and many neices and nephews.

Sis. Rachel Rohr fell at her home the day of Bro. Earl's death and was taken to the Lowville General Hospital. She has since been transferred to Bender's Home for the Aged.

### OHIO, AKRON

Gail Spangler

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee. Isaiah 26:3. Ed Graf (Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy) and Tina Graf (Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet) have found peace with God and man and are looking forward to giving their testimonies and being baptised.

We are so thankful the Lord has sent a new family to our congregation. Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich and their darling little daughter, Anita, have moved to the Akron area.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Elmer Graf, Sr., Bro. Ellsworth Graf, and Sis. Mary Stanoyevic. May they all feel God's nearness and be healed if it is His will. Sis. VonGunten and Sis. Marie Dakovich are both able to assemble with us again, for which we are very thankful.

Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier assisted our Elder Bro. Rudy in reading the memorandum from the conference to us on January 7. A dear sister in our church recently mentioned how much easier life is made when we strive to follow the guidelines set for us by our elder brethren, who are surely inspired by God.

### OHIO, JUNCTION

Lester Manz

Little Samuel Benjamin is the newest addition to our church. He is the second son of Bro. Don and Sis. Connie Manz. The grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Audrey Ehnlé of Bradford, and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

On January 1, our Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us for services which were followed by our annual meeting. Offices filled were: Sunday School teachers, Bro. Eli Manz and Sis. Karen Schlatter; trustee, Bro. Tim Schlatter; ushers, Bros. Ken and Lester Manz; kitchen committee, Sis. Esther Schlatter; and World Relief Committee, Sis. Emily Manz.

Sis. Hulda Manz fell and fractured her thumb. We're thankful, though, that she still gets around well and has been able to regularly worship with us.

Bro. Henry Manz and his family wish to sincerely thank all who remembered him with cards and prayers during his recent hospitalization, his eighty-sixth birthday, and at Christmas.

### OHIO, LATTY

Karen Klopfenstein - Susie Sinn

We were privileged to have Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) minister to us. May the Lord reward him for his efforts.

Those who have been in the hospital are Mike Stoller, Bro. Justus Stoller, Sis. Nettie Ringger, and Sis. Nellie Sinn. May the Lord return good health to them.

May God bless the precious little soul that was entrusted into the care of Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam Stoller. Welcoming Aaron James home are Angie, Andy, and grandparents, Bro. Louis and Sis. Mildred.

On January 13, Dennis Rager and Rhonda Hyman were united in marriage. Dennis' parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. June. We hope that they will have a happy married life together.

Bro. Rod Laukhuf and Sis. Sharon Keipor were elected to be Sunday School teachers, Bro. Robert Laukhuf to be trustee, and Sis. Ann Plummer to represent World Relief sewing.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Emma Stoller in the death of her son, Harry Heinold. May she be comforted in this time of sorrow.

We were thankful to have Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumberg) and

Bro. Norbert Steiner (Croghan) and their wives stop in and visit us on the way home from the elder conference. We heard many edifying teachings during that weekend.

### OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

Precious Jesus, Thou my portion  
Naught on earth so dear as thou!  
Never can I keep my silence  
Urged by love, to Thee I bow,  
Love that draws me, Thee to own  
Love that loves thee, Lord alone;  
Love by which, to Thee united  
Heart and spirit are requited.

Zion's Harp

Truly, our new brother, Stanley Sauder, (Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella), can join in praise with the writer of the above hymn and say, "Precious Jesus, Thou my portion." Bro. Stanley gave his testimony of love for his Saviour on Jan. 13 and was baptized on Jan. 14 by Elder Brothers Rudolph Graf and Joseph Ramsier. We all wish him God's richest blessings. It is such a beautiful life, walking hand in hand with our Lord. Only those who have experienced this rebirth can tell the story.

Bro. Douglas and Sis. Linda Sabo (Sarasota) spent the holidays here visiting relatives. We thank Bro. Doug for sharing God's precious Word with us.

Loving prayers and sympathy are extended to Sis. Katherine Bocka in the recent loss of her sister.

At this writing, we are all saddened and loving prayers have been said for Bro. Ben Stavenik who has suffered a heart attack and has been in the hospital. Bro. Ben has been a faithful minister of the gospel, and we know that the Lord will be near him and give strength for each new day.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard are the happy parents of a new baby boy, Joel Edward.

Jeff Ramsier was recently hospitalized. While he was welding, a piece of hot welding material flew into his ear and burned a hole in it. Bro. Dick Sauder was also recently injured and received burns on his face when a stove exploded. We are thankful that both are recovering satisfactorily.

Sis. Martha Streitmater has moved to the Apostolic Christian Home in Peoria, IL. We will all miss her

kind smile and friendly ways. Mansfield's loss is Peoria's gain. Martha's new address is A/C Home, 7023 N. E. Skyline Drive, Peoria, IL 61614. We wish her much happiness in her new home.

A dear Christian mother said to me one day. "Do you know how my grandmother found the Lord? Do you know what convicted her? Knee patches!" Because this dear lady was not of believers, she did not realize one should kneel and pray. Her husband had been in contact with Apostolic Christian believers and had been asked to attend church services. Out of curiosity he went, and after that first church meeting he began to be a different man. One of the things which he did was to kneel and pray at his bedside. His dear wife became very, very upset and tried in every way possible to stop him from going to church and praying. After a stormy session, one Sunday, his wife decided to go and see for herself just what this faith was like. However, before leaving home she opened the Bible, and her eyes fell upon the following passage of scripture found in Philippians 2:10, 11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." This really struck her, and, closing the Bible, she started for church, which was then held in a home in Europe. About the first thing that struck her eyes was the dear old minister sitting in a chair. Although he was dressed cleanly and neatly, he wore faded trousers . . . and on his knees were patches! It struck her that that man has patches because he must pray a lot! In the course of time, she was lead to the Lord through His love, and she repented, as did her husband. They became followers of Jesus.

There's no weapon half so mighty  
As the intercessors bear;  
Nor a broader field of service  
Than the ministry of prayer-

Author Unknown

The 23rd Psalm has been a source of comfort to myriads of people in life and in death. Consider the following outline, and allow the Psalm to become a source of life and comfort to you, regardless of

your circumstances and surroundings.

The Lord is my Shepherd—Perfect Salvation.

I shall not want—Perfect Satisfaction.

He maketh me to lie in green pastures—Perfect Rest.

He Leadeth me beside the still waters—Perfect Refreshment.

He restoreth my soul—Perfect Restoration.

He leadeth me in paths of righteousness—Perfect Guidance.

I will fear no evil—Perfect Protection.

Thou art with me—Perfect Company.

Thy rod and Thy staff—Perfect Comfort.

Thou preparest a table—Perfect Provision.

Thou anointest my head—Perfect Consecration.

My cup runneth over—Perfect Joy.  
Goodness and mercy shall follow me—Perfect Care.

I dwell . . . forever—Perfect Destiny.

Author Unknown

### OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

"Farewell, my morning dawns, the Master calleth me, I must go and meet him." These may have been the last words spoken by our dear Sis. Addie Grossenbacher, as she went on to a better life. After spending her last years in nursing homes, she passed away at age 87 at the Apostolic Christian Home. Her funeral was held Wednesday, Dec. 27. Our sympathy is extended to her family: sons Vernon, Joseph, and Lewis; daughters Minnie Sweigart, Lucille Ebie, Ruth Aebi, and Geneva Joyce; one brother, seventeen grandchildren, and twenty four great-grandchildren.

"Blessed are little children." A little girl, Karen Joan, was born to Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Dotterer and is welcomed home by Tim, Tom, Kathy, and Susie. The grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Mildred Christian and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer. Her great-grandmother is Sis. Bertha Bauman.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Amos 3:3. Two dear ones of like-faith recently announced their engagement, Bro. Wendall Dotterer and Sis. Kathy



Steidinger, Forrest, IL. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger. We pray that the Lord will bless them as they plan their lives together. Also announcing their engagement are Steve Zollinger and Sue Smith. The parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith, Sr., Wadsworth.

Many have felt the healing power of Christ as Sis. Judy Schar, Bro. Dale Everhard, and Bro. Harvey Gasser submitted to surgery. Sis. Louise Rake was in the hospital due to a slight stroke.

The telephone number at the church is 216-925-7172; the number at the Fellowship Hall is 216-925-7171; and the number at the Apostolic Christian Home is 216-927-1010.

At our annual business meeting, we elected the following: Bro. Robert Widmer, Trustee; Bro. Tim Maibach, Usher; Bro. Karl Beery, Fellowship Hall Director; Bro. Ralph Weber and Bro. Alvin Steiner, Apostolic Christian Home Directors; and Sis. Marjorie Zollinger, Kitchen Help. We want to thank those, whose terms expired, for their love and help during the last four years of service. May the Lord bless each one!

Peter lent a boat to save Him from the press;  
Martha lent her home with genuine kindness.  
One man lent a colt, another lent a room;  
Some threw down their clothes, and Joseph lent a tomb.  
Simon lent his strength the cruel cross to bear;  
Mary spices brought His body to prepare.  
What have I to lend? No boat!  
No house! No lands!  
Yet, Lord, I gladly send the toil of heart and hands.

Author Unknown

### OHIO, SARDIS Joyce Indermuhle

When number 166 in the Zion's Harp was selected a few Sunday mornings ago, I thought it was sort of an inappropriate selection. It was a miserable day outside with six inches of snow, and the roads were at their worst. But this beautiful hymn takes in much more than the physical beauty of the morning.

"Oh how lovely is the morning,  
When it is begun with God . . ."

And surely our days should begin with God, in prayer. With such a wonderful beginning, how could our mornings be anything but lovely.

Then, as we sang the fourth verse, I appreciated even more the reason for singing that beautiful hymn.

"This day also He will guide us,  
In our work His help provide,  
And on wisdom's ways He'll lead us,

Standing ever by our side,  
That on this whole blessed day,  
No mishap can come our way;  
And that under His rich blessing  
Night will find us sweetly resting."

Thus, we were given the promise that God would protect us, letting no mishap come our way. Sure enough, night came and found this reporter safe at home and sweetly resting. Let us always remember, lest we take any of the credit ourselves, that we had the very Best of Help. Thanks be to God!

### OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

St. Luke 15:10

We also rejoice that Douglas Harmon through repentance has found peace and is looking forward to becoming a member of the family of God. To have peace in heart and mind is a joy beyond expression.

It is our prayer that other precious souls would earnestly seek their soul's salvation while God in His infinite compassion is extending His Grace to salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and his wife, Sis. Lorene, were with us Sunday, Jan. 7. We had a blessed day together.

Sis. Mary Harmon is in the hospital and appears to be recovering satisfactorily from a cataract operation. We wish her a good recovery.

Ed. note: Sis. Josephine Reineck passed away on Feb. 7.

### OREGON, SILVERTON Mary Jane Winkler

It is hard to believe that Christmas is over and that the New Year is here. Time passes so swiftly—almost as if it has wings. Soon it may be eternity for us. Are we ready? Have we prepared our souls? May we all strive to dedicate our lives to Him so that when eternity comes for us we will be ready to meet our Lord with a joyous heart. Hymn 253 in the Zion's Harp conveys the same thought:

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

Tarry not, it will not wait!

Live thou as thy wish will be  
To have lived when thou expirest.  
Treasures which have come to thee,

Fame and wealth which thou desirest,

Will not make thy death more sweet,

For they are not thine to keep.

But a pure and loving heart,  
Conscience free from condemnation

Can repose and peace impart,  
And in death give consolation.

All who are renewed in heart  
Can with joyfulness depart.

But when in thy last distress,  
Helpless friends around thee gather,

Then this heart of righteousness  
Yields thee comfort from the Father.

Judgement brings no fear nor fright,

For the Lord is thy delight.

Our Sunday School had their Christmas program on the day before Christmas. It was truly wonderful to hear the children from the youngest to the oldest recite their parts. May none of us ever forget the true meaning of Christmas—the birth of our dear Lord and Saviour.

End of year report: we had one birth, no deaths, one brother moved to California, and one family moved to Silverton.

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

**TEXAS, ZAPATA**  
**Tillie Kellenberger**

Silent Night, Holy Night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and  
Child,  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in Heavenly peace.

Hymns of Zion No. 42

Our Sunday School children and  
visiting children sang Christmas  
carols for us before afternoon  
services. It is touching to hear lit-  
tle voices sing these sacred hymns.

The Christmas message was  
brought forth through the inspira-  
tion of the Holy Spirit by Elder  
Bro. Ed Hohulin and Bro. Elmer  
Schrenk.

We all joined in partaking of a  
delicious Christmas pot-luck din-  
ner after the morning service on  
Christmas Day.

Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger and  
Sis. Margeret of Altadena spent  
Dec. 30 with us. Bro. Carl brought  
us many good teachings and timely  
warnings.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl  
of McAllen, TX, and Mr. and Mrs.  
Charles Norman of Weslaco, TX,  
want to announce the engagement  
of their daughter, Sandy, to Rick  
Norman. The wedding date is Feb.  
24.

The new church phone number  
is 512-765-6436.

**WEST VIRGINIA,**  
**NEW MARTINSVILLE**

**Minnie Wertz - Della Witschey**

At this writing, we are having  
real winter weather—not too much  
snow, but rain and sleet which  
make hard driving and problems  
for the young and old.

The annual meeting of the Ap-  
ostolic Christian Church Cemetery  
Association was held in the home  
of Minnie Wertz on January 1,  
1979. Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Inder-  
muhle and Kenneth Indermuhle  
of the Sardis Church were in atten-  
dance along with several local res-  
idents. Plans were made for the  
upkeep of the church and grounds  
at the country church. The annual  
meeting will be held again this  
year on the last Sunday in June.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Wade vis-  
ited with relatives in Daytona  
Beach and the Miami area on New  
Year's Day

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Giles and fam-  
ily of Alfred, NY, spent the holi-  
days here with her parents, Mr.

and Mrs. Howard Riggenbach, and  
Bonnie.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Moser vis-  
ited recently with relatives in Se-  
bring, FL.

James L. Wade of Cleveland,  
OH, visited with his parents, Mr.  
and Mrs. C. O. Wade during the  
holidays.

Eph Wells, husband of Ruth  
Wells, has been able to return home  
after a stay in the local hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. William Murdock  
visited with their son Tim and wife  
in Atlanta, GA, at Christmas time.  
They also visited their son Billy  
and family in Huntington, W. VA.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corliss  
(Betty Froelich) are spending the  
winter months in Texas.

Miss Della Witschey was a pa-  
tient in the local hospital for a  
few days in December. She was  
able to return to the Home and  
had a very good Christmas. She  
had many visitors.

## SILVER THREADS

### REACHING THE HARBOR

The stormy sea  
shook its waves  
As the clouds billowed over  
And the winds looked grave.

The thunder rumbled  
And shook the sky  
As the lightening crackling  
And snapping zigged by.

I stood in the harbor  
overlooking the sea  
And watched the waves cap  
as they rolled furiously!

And then on the horizon  
from every direction  
I saw tiny ships  
dotting the ocean.

Out in the tempest  
and battling the storm  
They were racing for harbor  
their shelter and home!

Holding my breath  
I feared as they came  
That they wouldn't all make it  
while the winds were yet tame!

Closer and closer  
a few of them drew  
Nearing the harbor  
As the sea wilder grew!

Oh for the safety  
of each little ship!  
I wanted them all  
in the harbor's calm grip!!

I sighed with relief  
as one trembling ship entered  
And slowly calmed down  
from the storm it had rendered

As each added ship  
sputtered safe into port  
I felt a real gladness  
and sweet peace in my heart.

Suddenly I thought  
of our Father above  
And how His son was sent  
Because of His love!!

Then how He must watch  
us here below  
Fighting and battling  
our terrible foe.

And how with relief  
He must gladly sigh  
When one dear soul  
will the enemy deny!

And enter safely  
into the fold  
To be guarded and protected  
by our dear Lord.

How the Angels all sing  
And gladly do cry  
For each soul's name  
which is entered on High!

Then why are so many ships  
still lost at sea  
Battling and fighting  
so furiously?

If only they'd spot  
the harbor's calm shore  
And draw ever nearer  
to be safe evermore!

Sis. Wendy S. Gutwein

**The Sermon...** (Cont. from pg. 28)  
if you love Me, you will love them  
and treasure them; you will keep  
them in your heart, and not forget  
them when you go to your work,  
or in whatever you do."

You're interested in your work,  
naturally; but whenever there is  
a question of morals, go back  
to the Bible, and live by that Word.  
Don't deviate from it to try to jus-  
tify the flesh or to make more pro-  
gress with your material things,  
but keep the commandments of  
the Lord first and foremost in  
your life. Jesus said that whoever  
does that really loves Him.

Dear brothers, sisters, and  
friends, you have the command-  
ments of the Lord in this Book.  
John wrote: "In the beginning was  
the Word, and the Word was with  
God, and the Word was God." Jn.  
1:1.

Probably each one of you has the

Word of God in your bedroom. Here Philip says, "Show us the Father." We read in the Scriptures that this is the Father. This Word is God, right here before us. Have you friends ever thought of that? You don't have to wonder where God is. He is right here and in your homes, because this is the mind of God. This Bible is God's thought. It is His convictions.

The church is not a democracy; guided by the Word, it is a theocracy. The Bible is God's theory. It is God's will. It doesn't change and we can't change it, even if we wanted to which God forbid that any of us would desire.

There is no other way to live in harmony with our fellow men and with our souls than to be in compliance with the Word.

What a miserable thing it is to try to live for ourselves. No man, as was mentioned last night, really walks alone. Let's face it. Let's be really honest. Nobody really walks alone. If anyone did, there would be such misery in his life that we can hardly comprehend it. As God's children, we live for one another and for the Lord. We live with concern for one another. If we don't have that concern, we do not love God.

Jesus commanded that we love one another; that is how we prove that we love God. If we say that we love God and can't get along with our brother or our neighbor down the street, we are only kidding ourselves, Jesus said.

We are not really loving God when we can't get along with our fellow men. This does not mean that we don't have our little different thinking. But when we do not see eye to eye and differ to the point that we feel animosity and hatred, have variance in our lives, and are not at peace with each other, we are only kidding ourselves if we say, "I'm a child of God." Because, we are not.

Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." Jn. 14:21.

What is the result of that, brethren? Here again, I am referring to this one verse and I'll probably just stay with it: ". . . he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father . . ." Jn. 14:21. There is the reaction of God: "He that loveth me shall be loved of my Father." Tremendous!

What more do we want? We might speak of many desires in this life, but we really and truly want to have the Father's guidance and have His watchful eye over us. We want to believe that God is observing us and is satisfied with us. We really want to.

Finally, if we want to "go a little way down the road," we want to believe that we will be accepted of the Father. Well, we won't be accepted unless God loves us. It isn't that God doesn't love us in our unconverted state, but we want Him to love us as his children and as heirs to His Kingdom!

We want to have the relationship and the feeling that when we die and are gone from this earth, He will take us to be with Him. The Scripture is full of that promise to the believer when he dies. That is a wonderful thing. Still, let's not kid ourselves, because, if God isn't satisfied with us, He won't have His arms wrapped around us when we die. Maybe that sounds hard, but that's the way it is. We can't expect to be embraced by the Father when this life is over, unless we embrace Him—unless we are one of His and we are in close relationship with Him.

If we love Him, if we keep His commandments and keep them close to our hearts, we will be loving the Father. And he who loves the Father, will be loved by the Father.

We look at our lives and we say, "Lord, how could we ever . . . how could we ever be appreciated by the heart of God?" Because we see our lives, each one of us would have to say, "How could God ever really care for me, for my life, my life style, the things that I do? How could He ever really love me?"

Well, we are not going to earn our way to heaven's door. None of us is going to have anything that he can say merits his entrance into heaven. No one can say, "I've earned my way there." We can go to heaven because of the infinite love of God!

Now, we're coming back to it. We will be loved of the Father, if we love Him. (Keep the commandments.) "And I will love Him . . ." Jn. 14:21. Jesus, the Son of God who came as a babe in Bethlehem's manger, said, "And I will love him." One song writer wrote:

When Jesus, the Saviour, was here upon earth,  
He walked 'mongst the children of men.

When He took the little children,  
As lambs to His fold,  
Oh! I'd like to have been with Him then!

In our minds we would like to see Jesus. Jesus said, ". . . I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." Jn. 14:21. This same Jesus will embrace us.

Now we're through with that verse, but isn't that all encompassing, brethren? It's tremendous; the magnitude of it goes beyond us! I close with that thought.

God help us, brethren, not to sit complacently year by year, month by month, week by week, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment and just take this whole thing for granted, wasting our time. We quoted the Psalmist in our prayer, or I'm not mistaken, and I appreciate it so much because I need it. I guess it's self-discipline every time we read.

"So teach us (Lord) to number our days . . ." Psa. 90:12. Make a mark by them or, as we mentioned in our prayer, drive a stake each day; not a physical stake as a surveyor uses, far from that, but a spiritual stake. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psa. 118:24

Taking every day, making the most of it, sounds easy. I sound as though I have learned how to do this. Brethren, I haven't learned any more than you have. And, dear friend, I haven't learned any more than you have. But we're talking to ourselves this morning.

God help us to discipline our lives so that we will use them to the honor and the glory of God because that is what we want to see. Some day we want to see the honor and glory of God; but that blessing will only be given to those who love His Name and who serve Him, to those who tremble at His Word. It will be given to those who take it so seriously that when they open the Bible and it says to do this and that, they say, "That will I do, because God said to do it." When the Bible says to not do something, they will say, "I will not do it, because the Bible says not to do it."

It takes discipline. God will help us.

## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. ALFRED BAHLER OF WOLCOTT, IN

**Text:** Psalm 103 and John 14:6-21

There is a lot to think about in these words. We cannot comprehend the depth of the last verse: "He that hath my commandments . . ." Jn. 14:21. Who among us here today doesn't have the commandments of the Lord?

Ask yourself that question. Because, finally, it becomes a personal thing with each of us.

We love the church; it's a united body. We come from different home backgrounds and have different family heritages and lineages, but we come together and we are bound together in the Spirit of the Lord.

Brethren, who among us can say that he doesn't have the commandments of the Lord? I want you to be honest. Jesus said, "I am . . . the truth." Jn. 14:6. Jesus wants us to think truthfully and honestly. He is the three: the Way, the Truth and the Life. That is a very, very commonly quoted phrase: "I am the way, the truth, and the life."

Jesus wants us to be truthful. But Jesus said, "He that hath my commandments . . ." Jn. 14:21. We all have them. We all should know what God wants of us. I find, in visiting with people, that we don't understand. It amazes me a little bit, but I guess we forget. We forget and also we don't always see everything clearly.

We can learn a lot from each other. As we talk with some of our dear friends, we sometimes find that they do not know what to do or how to begin to serve the Lord—how to start the walk of faith.

Basically, beloved, we know that God wants us to be obedient to Him and He wants us to walk in conformity with His Word, which, I guess, is one and the same. But as we sit here this morning, we have to say to ourselves, honestly, "I know the commandments of the Lord. I know what God wants me to do."

The verse goes a step further and says, ". . . and keepeth them." Jn. 14:21. It refers to those who

hold them dear to their hearts, who treasure them. I thought of this, beloved brethren, as we read: "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn. 14:6. He then began to clarify His relationship with the Father. He said, "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him." Jn. 14:7.

But Philip, in his lack of faith and his lack of being able to grasp it all, said, "Lord, shew us the Father." Jn. 14:8. (Each one of us is a Philip in this respect.) Jesus had been with Philip a long time and He had told him of His relationship with His Father in heaven.

Think how Jesus must have felt. It is a little as though one of us had told his child over and over, "Look; you're my son and I love you. I really want to do everything for you." Then the child would walk up and say, "Dad, prove to me that you care for me." After we had talked to him for fifteen or twenty years, he would come and say, "Dad, prove to me that you really love me."

After we had bent over backward and tried to do a lot for our children, tried to make them feel at home and let them know that there is nothing that we wouldn't do for them, how would we feel if our children would say, "Dad, prove it"? We might turn to our wives (husbands and wives, you know what I mean) and say, "We have failed somewhere. Somehow, they haven't gotten the message."

That's how Jesus must have felt when Philip asked Him to show them the Father so that they might believe, understand completely, and have no doubt in their minds anymore.

Jesus said something like this: "Philip, have I been with you this long, all this period of time, and yet thou believest not and hast to ask me, 'Show me the Father?' Philip, is that really how you feel? Do you have such a lack of understanding that you have to ask

me that? Do you have to ask and to demand that you see the Father? Philip, something is the matter." In essence, this is what he is saying. I am adding a little bit to help us understand it.

Brethren, that's almost how I feel our friends must be. Again, I don't want you to go away from the morning's services (hope you stay with us all day) feeling that "He really put me down," because I don't mean to do that. I am trying to jar your thoughts; trying to get you to stop and think.

What's the matter? Do we have to demand some miracle? The coming of Jesus, which we talk about especially at this time of the year, is miracle enough, the miracle of the birth of Jesus and the coming of the promised Messiah. That is enough to dispel any doubts from our minds.

But it is not that way. Maybe I don't look at it right, but when the Sunday school children present their program to you, the church, probably one of them will open to St. Luke's gospel and read the second chapter which tells of the birth of Jesus. We'll be sitting here and might think, "So many, many times I've heard of Jesus' birth," and kind of say to ourselves, "Well, I just hope they don't read the whole chapter." That's a little bit the way we are. We don't appreciate fully the miracle of all this.

Is it just me or are we talking on the same wave length? I think we are. This is just the way we are. I've gotten away from the Scripture here, but, brethren, I'm trying to get us to stop and think; and I'm talking to myself. We sit and it gets monotonous to us and we just take it in stride. But we dare not do this.

When Jesus was here upon earth, He said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." Jn. 14:21. That's the way to prove that you love Him. Jesus said, though not exactly in these words, "When you have access to My commandments,

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