

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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### SICKNESS ERADICATED?

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

"If you had the necessary faith, you would not need to be ill—you could be well and healthy." These words, spoken to someone who has a headache or who is suffering from cancer, as the case may be, stir up all kinds of emotions.

One of those aroused emotions may be anger—"How dare anyone accuse me of being ill because of my supposed lack of faith." However, anger does not solve the problem, and one must temper his feelings with a more mild, resigned attitude.

Another aroused emotion may be frustration—"What shall I do and how shall I restore peace to my troubled soul, inasmuch as I do not know exactly how to answer this charge, and I do recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ and his early disciples healed many people who were ill and afflicted, and even raised the dead on a few occasions?" This question to oneself may go unanswered except to occasionally hear that those who advocate healing have gone astray or that they no longer abide in the same doctrine which we embrace, or that they have become a heretic, which means about the same thing. This explanation does not alleviate the frustration.

One more aroused emotion is that of self-doubt—"Is my faith really false, inadequate and non-effectual?" This can really upset one's peace of heart and mind, the peace which Christ has promised us when He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27.

The matter of God healing physical infirmities is plainly taught in the Scriptures. Even in the Old

Testament we find Scriptures such as, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases." Psalm 103:2, 3.

In the New Testament, instances of healing abound, as well as Scriptures which teach of healing for the body as well as for the soul. The miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ speak for themselves, and the early disciples were empowered to heal. In Acts the third chapter, a man who was lame from his mother's womb was told by Peter, "... Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk," verse 6. The man was healed, although no mention is made of him having faith himself—yet it is a striking example of healing by the power of Christ. In this case, Peter had the gift of healing such as is mentioned in I Corinthians 12:9, "... to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit."

James writes, "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up . . ." Chapter 5, verse 15, which certainly sounds like healing for the body in rather definite terms, although it does not say in all cases, an observation which might be considered unfair by those who believe healing should take place in all cases where there is true faith.

That's not all that Scriptures inform us about healing, however. The Apostle Paul wrote, "... There was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure," II Cor. 12:7. He writes of it again in Galatians 4:13, "Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached

the gospel unto you at the first." He then identifies the infirmity in verse 15, "... for I bear you record, that if it had been possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me." We might raise the question as to why he did not have the faith to be healed of his eye affliction, and the answer is found in II Cor. 12:9, where the Lord, speaking to Paul, said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Paul asserts that the power of Christ would rest upon him, not by being healed but by not being healed. The specific need in this case for not being healed was to keep Paul from being exalted over a wonderful spiritual experience he had as outlined in II Cor. 12:1-5. This is the same Paul who was instrumental in healing a cripple at Lystra. Paul "... said with a loud voice, stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked." Acts 14:10. At least we know now that God does not always heal if there is faith, irrespective of whether or not it is His will. We are also reminded that it is more important to avoid exaltation than it is to be healed.

Paul was not the only earnest believer who had physical infirmities which were not healed. Writing of Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:26, 27, "For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye heard that he had been sick. For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow." Paul anticipated that his companion in la-

bour might well have died and he would have consequently had sorrow upon sorrow as he was badly in need of his brother's assistance. Epaphroditus was sick nigh unto death, and it isn't likely that he became sick instantaneously and then was promptly healed when he took the time to exercise faith. Actually, Paul and Apophroditus met this illness much as you and I would, by praying and beseeching God to heal, knowing and believing that there is provision in the atonement for the healing of and redemption of the body, but leaving the outcome ultimately in God's hands where it belongs.

A certain person once told me that she had been healed of some infirmity at a Christian healing meeting but that on another occasion when she went to be healed of a badly burned arm which had been carefully bandaged by a doctor, her condition was worsened when the person claiming to have the gift of healing handled her arm roughly. There would be no reason to doubt that some people are healed by virtue of the "gift of healing," that others are healed by virtue of their own personal faith, and that others are healed by virtue of calling for an elder or minister and asking for prayer. This does not mean that we should lose our peace if we are not healed.

We must not think that claims for absolute and unmistakable healing are a monopoly of the Christian religion. This is one of the main public relation tools of Sokagakkai, a militant Buddhist sect which has arisen in Japan since World War II. All of their claims, however, may be nothing more than claims. Anyone can make claims and put other people on the spot, if we let them do so. Definite instances of healing by faith are more convincing than mere words. Doctors are sometimes dumbfounded to find that a patient has been freed of an infirmity in a manner for which there is no medical explanation. It would be my understanding, however, that any healing done in Buddhist circles would be by the power of Satan who is quite adept at duplicating the miracles of God.

Now, how should we answer someone who tells us if we had the faith we wouldn't be sick? Your response might well be, "I am not opposed to being healed and am trusting in Christ for healing." Re-

member, the person advocating healing, himself, can do no more than that. The important thing is that you not become discouraged in case you are not healed, as if it were because of lack of faith. You might also respond, "Faithful men like Paul and Epaphroditus had their physical infirmities so I must not be too surprised if I also have a physical infirmity."

As to how to pray for healing, I would be led to pray a humble request in the mighty and powerful name of the Lord Jesus Christ that the sickness be removed. Some of you will want to add, "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done," Luke 22:42, although some claim this weakens the faith being exercised in the prayer. Therefore, it is all right to follow Paul's example where, as it is written, "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me," II Cor. 12:8. There is no indication that he prayed, "Not my will but thine be done," although the end result was God's will, not Paul's will, and he had to submit to God's will whether or not he had included that in his prayer. The fact that he prayed the same request three times should encourage us to keep on praying in accordance with Christ's teaching about being persistent in prayer, Luke 11:8, "I say unto you, though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth." This concerned a request to a neighbor for bread to serve a guest, and the lesson is to be earnest and persistent in prayer.

Let us not be against healing by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, we are very much in favor of it, but we must recognize that the ultimate in healing will take place when we receive our glorified bodies. Meanwhile, we pray for healing, and we ask for prayer for healing; but we do not demand healing, nor do we use the issue to disturb the unity of our brotherhood. We read in Revelation 21:4, "... And there shall be no more death ..." That is when the healing, redeeming power of the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ is to be fully consummated. Until then, even those who proclaim healing the loudest, may get sick and die.

Sickness eradicated? Yes, but not until we cross over.

## A TREASURE OF PRAISE A History of the Zion's Harp Hymnal (continued)

### German Hymnology

Back in the time of the early church, Augustine, the Bishop of Hippo, gave his definition of a hymn: "Hymns are praises to God with singing, hymns are songs containing praises to God. If there be praise, and not praise to God, it is not a hymn. If there be praise, and praise of God, and it is not sung, it is not a hymn. It is necessary, therefore, if it be a hymn, that it have these three things: praise, praise of God, and that it be sung."

German hymnology is regarded as the most prolific of any nation. German hymns outnumber those of any other language. Germany is regarded as the home of choral music, and a large number of musicians throughout Europe and North America are of German origin.

By the turn of the century, 100,000 German hymns were in existence. Since that time 10,000 have become popular, and 1,000 are classified as immortal, according to the Dictionary of Hymnology.

The church hymn, in the strict sense of the word, as a popular religious lyric in praise of God to be sung by the congregation in public worship, was born in the German Reformation and has been extensively promoted ever since by the evangelical church in Germany. To be sure, this practice has been carried across the seas and church hymn-singing is practiced, not only in the Apostolic Christian Church, but in all Protestant church bodies.

Prior to the Reformation, Latin

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hymns and sequences were used in worship, but only by priests and choristers, not by the people, who could understand them no better than the Latin psalms and Latin mass.

Along with the general topic of hymns, it is interesting to note that many subsequent Protestant bodies did not at first approve using original hymns in public worship. A person as notable as Conrad Grebel, an early leader of the Anabaptists, deplored the practice of singing in church assemblies. In his Programmatic Letters of 1524 he outlined his strong views in this regard. While this indeed seems absurd, one must realize that this man, during his youth, had been used to the chanting of priests and choristers of the Catholic service, and was totally unfamiliar with the beautiful congregational singing we know and love today.

Thus, the Reformation of the 16th century taught or revived the primitive idea of the priesthood of all believers and introduced the language of the people into public worship, both in sermon and song. The latter is practiced today as the brethren of the Apostolic Christian Church sing during each service from the beautiful **Zion's Harp**.

#### G. M. Mangold

The most prolific author who wrote specifically for the **Zion's Harp** was G. M. Mangold, a member of the Evangelical Baptist Church in Switzerland. This was the parent church of the Apostolic Christian Church.

As mentioned earlier, there is some doubt as to the authenticity of G. M. Mangold—whether he is George Michael Mangold or G. Martin Mangold. Most brethren and relatives in the United States think that it is George Michael Mangold. For this reason, the substance of our reference will proceed on the basis that he is indeed George Michael Mangold.

G. M. Mangold wrote no less than 26 hymns, and possibly as many as 29 for the **Zion's Harp**. He allegedly received his commission to collect songs for this church hymnal from Bro. S. H. Froehlich. The songs he personally authored reflect deep and abiding reverence for God, and clearly portray inspiring spiritual truths that are essential to the Christian faith.

One of the songs he wrote that today is often sung is No. 52, "Re-

pent Ye." It goes:

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;  
Heed the word of God today!  
Haste and flee His condemnation;  
Seek the straight and narrow way.  
Evil are the worldly pleasures  
Leading to eternal fire;  
Seek the everlasting treasure;  
Ere the day of grace expire.

Certainly as one reflects back, he can well remember the many times this song has followed a bristling sermon in which the minister pleaded for the wayward sinner to change his ways. It seems that this song, when sung in such a context, is always appropriate and touching. There is no doubt that it has helped place strong conviction on the hearts of many listeners.

Some of Mangold's other popular hymns are "Up And Strive", No. 21, "The Sermon On The Mount", No. 54, "The Union Of Hearts", No. 79, "The Faithful Shepherd, Jesus Christ", No. 116, "Lord, Thou Creator", No. 118, and "Praise Ye The Lord", No. 208.

G. M. Mangold has the unique distinction of having written a hymn text while being held in prison—apparently for his faith in Christ. The song, "Now and Then", No. 191, was written while he was in prison at Mosbach, in Baden, Germany. Lacking paper, he scrawled on the wall of his cell. Obviously, at such a time of great duress, his soul was inspired to pour out his love, trust, and faith in the Almighty.

Perhaps verse two best depicts what was on his heart as he languished behind bars, forsaken of men, but not by God.

Oh, love Him, all that are the covenant's children  
Who unto sin and worldly lust  
have died.  
And in His cruel death, with Him,  
the Conquerer,  
Are buried by baptism's bath applied.  
He gave in love His life and blood  
so precious  
To ransom us from guilt and sinful debt.  
He raised us up unto a life of newness  
By His great love and grace we  
here are kept.

It is quit evident that G. M.

Mangold had a great love in his heart for the Lord as he wrote these many hymns. This is not only reflected in the above passages, but in the lyrics of all his songs.

Bro. Mangold was born December 25, 1822 at Chateau Calins in Alsace-Lorraine. He was 19 years younger than S. H. Froehlich, and was obviously very much influenced by him. He was 31 when he received his commission to begin gathering hymns for the "Neue Zionsharfe".

He died at age 72 and is buried in Fairbury, Illinois. He is the father of the late Bro. Michael Mangold, long a respected elder and church leader of Roanoke, Illinois, and the grandfather of the late elder, Bro. David Mangold of Roanoke.

(to be continued)

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

#### Doug Kellenberger

In Psalm 68:5, we read that God is a father of the fatherless. In verse 6 we see that He places the lonely people into families and that He brings out those which are bound with emotional and psychological, as well as sinful, chains. He is a friend and a helper to the poor and needy. Psalm 69:33 says, "For the Lord heareth the poor." Psalm 72:4 says, "He shall save the children of the needy."

The rich have everything going for them and need no-one to help them, but the poor and oppressed are helpless and need someone to give them justice. That is why they are so potentially responsive to the Good News about Jesus Christ; and, therefore, we should be giving them a chance to learn of it. In fact, these are the ones to whom Jesus said the Gospel was preached. Luke 4:18.

By understanding God's compassion toward these needy people, we at the children's home are even more encouraged to continue this project. In fact, the Lord has opened many doors for us to continue. He has provided us with four more children. He has provided us with Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Aberle from Forrest, IL, as houseparents, and He also provided Bro. Robert (Sis. Sue) Cockburn from Milford, IN, as our administrator.

We have had a number of calls recently for prospective placement of children. The four children men-



tioned above (all from one family) are in our east home with Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie. Their names are: Chuck, John, Bertha, and Thelma—ages 7, 8, 10, and 11. The children are all enrolled in school, and Debbie now has some company to wait with her for the bus down at the end of our long lane.

We have been busy this winter with some simple building projects. One is a shelter for the children awaiting the school bus. Another is a plastic lean-to adjacent to our chicken house. It will serve as a greenhouse to grow some early spring flowers and vegetables for selling later in the season. It is another project in which to get the children involved in order to teach them responsibility and how to earn and save money.

Thank you dear brothers and sisters for praying for our needs over the past months. The Lord has answered and provided for us, but our needs, as well as yours, still "need each other's prayers." We also thank everyone who has contributed money and goods.

#### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The earth continues to pull one beautiful blanket of sparkling snow after another up to its chin, wrapping the quiet countryside in a chill. Snowcapped fences and rabbit tracks embroider the landscape. February is with us, when experts tell us the air is actually denser than in summer, giving it more force. As the weather permits, we think of friends and try to devise ways of spending time with them.

Our residents also need friendship. One often thinks of Christ's teaching (Luke 6:32-36) to do good unto them who are not necessarily able to return the favor.

God, my life's Creator,  
Grant me Grace and favor  
Not to live in vain . . .  
Zion's Harp, No. 167

Psalm 90:12 reads, ". . . so teach us to number our days, that we apply our hearts unto wisdom . . ."

Twenty-four hours are given us each day. How meaningful that time becomes when we realize that each minute must be accounted for One Great Day!

This month it is our pleasure to introduce to you Kent Alan Knobloch, son of Robert and Marvel Mo-

ser Knobloch of Morton, IL. Sisters Cathy, Kay, Carla, and Chris complete this lovely family. Plans are being made, however, for a wedding in a few months, when eldest daughter, Cathy, is to be married to Randy Suttor of Bremen, IN, bringing into the family Kent's first brother, something which he is eagerly anticipating.

Some of Kent's special activities are: bike riding, latch-hook rug making, collecting pencils, and being active and involved in being a fireman.

Having Kent as a part of the Home's family is an advantage to all of us.

The theme of valentines is evident around the Home and in the daily mail. How nice that residents are remembered with love.

The snowbanks caused by our near-record snowfall settled just a bit during the past few days, for the first time this winter. Soon the moderating weather will permit the resumption of more activities for the residents. Visitors, too, are welcome and beneficial.

If thou wouldst work for God, it must be now;  
If thou wouldst win the garland for thy brow,  
Redeem the time.

With His reward  
He comes. He tarries not; His day is near;  
When men least look for Him, will He be here;  
Prepare for Him!  
H. Bonar

#### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Julie Hoerr

The door of your heart doesn't have a knob on it, it must be opened from the inside; only we can open it for our Lord. This was one of the precious teachings we received from our beloved Elder Bros. Roy Sauder (Peoria) and Ezra Feller (Cissna Park). Other timely teachings were brought to us by Bro. Robert Grimm (Goodfield) and Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forest).

Though our winter started out quite wet and chilly, we have enjoyed our dear winter visitors who found the weather better than back east. We are now enjoying sunshine and robins! May we ever be grateful to the Lord for this blessing.

Bro. Nathan Grimm, who is win-

tering here, was a surgical patient in mid-February. Little Crystal, foster daughter of Bro. and Sis. Glen Martin, was hospitalized. Sis. Lois Elsasser remains housebound, due to bronchitis.

We certainly appreciate the visits of you dear folks. It's especially nice to see Bro. Eldon and Sis. Tillie Nussbaum, and we pray Bro. Eldon may continue to be blessed with increasing health and strength.

GOD HAS FOR YOU . . .  
A LIGHT for every shadow,  
A PLAN for every tomorrow,  
A KEY for every problem,  
A BALM for every sorrow.

Author Unknown

Note to Subscribers: March is collection month for Phoenix.

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON Caroline Kaufman Kathleen Knapp

As it is every winter, this one being no exception, Tucson has been abundantly blessed with visiting ministers, brothers, sisters, and friends. Elder Bro. Roy Sauder from Peoria arrived here Jan. 20 and has been assisting our ministering brothers which have worshipped with us, including Elder Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest; Deacon Bro. Bob Grimm, Goodfield; and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler of Remington. We truly appreciate their unselfish service to us.

Many of our prayers are with our Sis. Clara Lorenz as she begins her new life at the Eureka Nursing Home. This is also so with Sis. Tillie Aldrich who is now able to assemble with us once again after her hospitalization and convalescence.

With great joy, we announce the conviction of Paul Knobloch. Truly, he needs our prayers and love as he seeks peace with His Lord.

Along with being enriched with many winter visitors, Tucson has also enjoyed multiple fellowship suppers, through which we were able to partake of both physical and spiritual sustenance. This has been the month of our third Annual 60 and Over Supper, and our fourth Annual Pancake Supper.

After the discouraging weather that we have experienced this past month, we are truly rejoicing in the beautiful climate and sunsets that the Lord has blessed us with this past week. Truly the Lord will

provide if we will but wait, patiently.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Carol MacDonald - Shirley Witzig

We, out on the west coast, wish to thank Bro. Ezra Feller from Cissna Park and Bro. Robert Grimm from Goodfield for so willingly sharing God's Word with us. Our cups overflowed as we were fed at God's rich table of spiritual blessings. We enjoyed a full day of fellowship, ending with an evening service after a church supper.

May we please God in using His Word in our lives. "But He said (Christ), Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the Word of God, and keep it." Luke 11:28.

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

Winter is with us. In one of our cold spells of dismal wintry weather, a young man, somewhat disgusted with the elements of nature, said, "I hate this; I love the warm weather." From conversations and comments it was evident that he spoke for many. The cold weather brings on many hardships. We are confronted with many problems such as freeze-ups, bursted water pipes, troublesome cars, and many other discomforts and plagues. However, all this will pass at God's established time. The prophet in Jeremiah 10:12 tells us, "He made the earth by His power." So we can see that God's hand is in all this, and we are to adjust ourselves to His will.

Two new ministers were chosen to serve in the ministry here at Rockville. Upon prayerful consideration, a vote was cast and held in concealment while two visiting elders, Bros. Rudolph Graf and Joe Ramsier of Akron and Rittman, OH, respectively, joined our elder Bro. John Bahler in substantiating the count. Bro. Lee Bahler and Bro. Dan Stoller were chosen. The congregation unanimously gave its support.

Bro. Wally Carlson and Sis. Judy Moser were united in holy matrimony at the church on February 4. After returning from their honeymoon in Florida, they are residing in Ellington, CT. Both are employed at Moser Dairy. They have our blessings. May God's Spirit dwell in their home and lives.

On Jan. 16, a son, Russell John, was born to Bro. Peter and Sis. Vergene Hany. He is their fourth

son. The grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Martha Schneider and Bro. Arnold and Sis. Hilda Hany, both deceased.

Sis. Emily (Alfred) Schneider received many good wishes and gifts as she observed her nintieth birthday on Feb. 2. She enjoys her family and is in good health.

#### FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

John and Caroline Hejja

Christian fellowship is such a precious part of our lives. When most non-Christians meet with friends they often go together only to eat, drink, and play. We have an opportunity for fellowship which has a deeper purpose and outcome. We should be a help to each other on our journey to heaven. There should be no lonely Christians, because each true Christian is part of the large family of God and not alone. We should meet together to praise God and to learn of His wondrous ways. We should encourage each other.

It is good to have Christian friends who will take our needs before God in their prayers. We can help each other better if we know each other better. Therefore, it is important to meet with brethren during church services and, also, as it is possible, during the week in our homes. When a person has the Holy Spirit, it is a joy to meet another who has the same Spirit within. Then, there is a harmony and a bond of fellowship even if they have never met before.

It is truly a great miracle that we can travel to other lands which are different in culture and language and still feel the same love in Christ. The Bible says that "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all." Ephesians 4:4-6. The fact that this Christian faith and love transcends barriers of customs and languages and remains strong shows us that there is a deep truth in these words.

We are thankful for the many visitors who spend time with us during the winter. We appreciate each one who comes to fellowship and worship with us. Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, IN; Elder Joe Braker, Morton, IL; Wendell Gerber, Bluffton, IN; Henry Grimm, Morton, IL; Roy Lugin-

buhl, Rockville, CT; and Henry Beer, Milford, IN.

#### FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Kathryn Schroeder

St. John

"... Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 10:7. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. 10:9.

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. 10:11. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. 10:14.

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." 10:16.

Saturday evening, Feb. 3, Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Alfred Bahler, Wolcott, IN, led four young converts, Michael Siladie, Jim Furrer and his wife Rowena, and Sharon Rocke through their testimonies, wherein they testified as to their abiding faith in and love for God. Through their belief in and love for His Son Jesus Christ, they rejoice in their hope for eternal life. Sunday, Feb. 4, in "raiment white," one by one, each in turn shed the old life as they emerged from the cleansing water of baptism before a joyful congregation of more than four hundred people.

Following the baptisms, a supper was served to Sarasota residents and close family friends.

Alan and Sharon Maibach welcome their first child, Courtney Ann, born prematurely Dec. 9. At this writing, after spending ten days at home, she is again hospitalized due to spinal meningitis. Thanks to God, she appears to be gaining and now weighs six pounds and eight ounces. Her parents and grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach and the Karl Zum-machs, deeply appreciate all the prayers and concern expressed.

Jan. 28, Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL, read the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference to our congregation.

This has been a blessed and joyous period due to the presence of many visiting ministers. In addition to those before named were Bros. Phil Sauder, Roy Ehnle, Henry Grimm (Cissna Park, Bradford, and Morton, IL), Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis), Bro. Leland Hir-

schey (Naumburg, NY), Bros. Henry Beer and Elmer Hartter (Milford, IN), Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Harry Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale).

Thomas Merton, American poet and religious writer, noted the lack of spirituality today in people in the world and urged them to pursue an internal spiritual life. In his book *Contemplation In a World of Action*, he wrote: "He who attempts to act and do things for others without deepening his own self-understanding, freedom, integrity and capacity to love will not have anything to give others."

#### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Klumpp were blessed with a baby boy, Bryan Karl. The grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Ann Hartter (Eureka) and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Eunice Klumpp.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Dave Kieser's being with us for Wednesday evening services and our annual business meeting. Bro. Alfred Hausmann was elected trustee, and Bro. Duane Elsasser was elected usher.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized recently. Jeff Wagenbach (son of Si and Sis. Lavonne) was a surgical patient. Bro. Sam Kieser was struck by a car while in Florida and was hospitalized for a leg injury. Bro. LeRoy Streitmatter is in a Rochester, MN, hospital recovering from knee surgery. His wife, Sis. Esther, fell while walking to her hotel room and was hospitalized with a broken kneecap. Bro. George Kieser is in the hospital recovering from heart surgery.

We were richly blessed when Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington) spent a Sunday ministering to us. We were reminded of the importance of praying for our loved ones who are sick, but also that God's will should be done.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Loris and Sis. Lottie Stisser as his sister, Verla Massieon, passed away, recently.

#### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

"There are three kinds of givers—the flint, the sponge, and the honeycomb. To get anything out of a flint you must hammer it, and then you get only chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you

must squeeze it, and the more you squeeze it the more you get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. Some people are stingy and hard as flint; they give nothing away if they can help it. Others are good natured; they yield to pressure, and the more they are pressed, the more they will give. But, thank God, there are still others who delight in giving without being asked, and it is givers of this kind—cheerful givers—that the Lord loves." from *Flashes of Truth* by James Duff.

We thank our Lord for our many ministering and elder brethren who are such "honeycomb givers." Particularly, we are grateful at this time for Bro. Bill Gerst of Alto, MI, who visited us on a Wednesday evening when the Chicago area was a rather snowy place to be. We were uplifted by his coming and his preaching of the Word.

When a father was asked about his sons, he seemed downcast. But a brother told him just to keep on hoping and praying. Sunday, Jan. 28, Illinois weather was not auspicious, but there was a glow in our church. Merle Hodel, originally from Roanoke, told us in his testimony how he had "come home." In simple, humble, sometimes painful words, he told how he, the "Prodigal Son" (as we all once were), was brought to his knees. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann was then able to baptize him in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and seal within him the Spirit we all need to guide us to our heavenly home. Surely we were again reminded of the omnipotent power of prayer—often the prayers of "those we love." Merle's parents and close relatives (though bad weather prevented many from attending) were able to share our blessed day. His beloved wife, Gayle, and children, Martin and Michelle, belong to us, too, though officially I've neglected to welcome them to Chicago before.

"Patience is the willingness to await God's time without questioning His love." (Hadley) Bro. Steve Lau and Sis. Marlene Plattner have found the work of patience and love in their lives a special experience, as their engagement was announced Sunday, Jan. 28. As He wills, they hope to be married Sunday, Apr. 1. We rejoice in the work of the Lord!

I once read in a column of a woman's attempt to welcome various kinds of birds into the houses she

had for them in her yard. Instead, sparrows moved into every birdhouse. But she wrote that, when she thought about it, God looks after the sparrows, so why shouldn't she? We, too, may become disgruntled with the tasks which seem as lowly and disappointing as taking care of sparrows. Yet it is our toil, given and guided by Him. Dare we do it less than heartily?

We do not see the whole picture. But we would murmur? We and our daughter, 3½ at the time, were treating ourselves to a special meal. We ordered for ourselves, and then for Trina we ordered a child's portion of spaghetti. After the waiter left, she asked what she was getting? We told her "Spaghetti." But she was incensed: "That's not what you said! What am I having to eat?" We told her we had no idea what she was talking about. Finally, she said, "Child's port—, child's port—, what's that?" Have we not caught ourselves protesting to our Lord sometimes in just such a manner? I must confess I have.

Children teach us many lessons. In Sunday School one Sunday, I noticed that the attention of the Bible class was not at all on the song we were singing. Yet in the midst of them was one of my precocious first-graders reading, but struggling to keep up with both the singing and the reading, intent on his self-appointed task. Is it not often true that when we finally can do something—and it comes easily after a while—we no longer hold it so worthwhile, perhaps? Christian, walk carefully.

#### KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Ed. Note: Sis. Kathy asked if the following part of her writing would be appropriate as a Know Each Other Better. Aunts who read it will agree with our decision to publish it.

I have been a very privileged person. I have twenty-one aunts and six great-aunts I have known well. One great-aunt has been a gentle listener and wise mentor. Another was ever-active, always serving others, a warm Christian and special example. A third, a recognized seamstress, gave me sewing pointers and other help, as well as always welcoming our company. Three others have been, and I hope will continue to be, a source of family stories and roots.

Of my aunts, several have been nurses. A number, for many years



single, lavished on us nieces and nephews special gifts, trips, mementoes, and extra love. One aunt worked in a nursing home. She made me an afghan I will long treasure. Another, widowed in recent years, is a foster mother for tiny newborns. I aspired to be like one aunt who travelled and actively served others through a variety of activities and service. Three have had children with special physical and mental problems. Their love for their "afflicted" children has nevertheless been what I remember most vividly.

One lived close to the high school and welcomed my coming over when I would be staying late for school activities. Another, a special favorite of my husband's, opened heart and home to him those weekends of our engagement. (He still speaks fondly of her cooking.) Many are craftswomen. Many are organizers of family-oriented get-togethers and projects.

One aunt, typically involved in church and community activities, welcomed us when we knocked (rather timidly) at midnight one Saturday night with an enthusiastic hug and kiss and, "Oh, good, I was so afraid you wouldn't come anymore tonight." She and other aunts who live farther away have hosted us for longer periods of time, always graciously, always comfortably.

All my aunts are hardworkers. very loving people. Each has had sorrow and trials to overcome—and we know not what lies ahead.

May the Lord bless them, each one, for those special memories they gave me. May He guide and protect and convict. For they are all my aunts—but not all are yet my sisters.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Judy Bauer  
Mary Anderson

This has been a joyous month for us. Arlan Rudin testified that he has repented and will, with God's grace, serve Him the remaining days of his life. We were thankful to witness his baptism and to greet him as a brother in Christ.

Marilyn and Barbara Walder, daughters of Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy, and David Bauer, son of Bro. Herman and Sis. Arcelia, have found peace with God and man. They are awaiting baptism.

Sis. Arvella Yergler had surgery. We're thankful that she is

home now. Sis. Martha Hari was a medical patient. She is now a resident of the Hawthorne Lodge, 715 E. Raymond Road, Watseka, IL 60970. Sis. Sylvia Knapp was in the hospital for tests. Sis. Lil Feller had eye surgery. She is recuperating at home.

Sis. Minnie Farney, 89, passed away Jan. 27. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Sophie Funk, of East Lynn. Sis. Minnie had been living at the Eureka Home for several years.

Our kindergarten class heard the story of Jesus calming the storm. While the children worked on their coloring project, the teacher talked with several of them. "Don't you think Jesus helps us, too, when we're afraid?" she asked.

One little boy was very positive with his answer. "He will! I tell you, He will!" I think we can learn from these little ones. There was no doubt at all in his mind. His faith in Jesus is very strong. We, too, should put our faith in Jesus, never doubting for a minute that He will help us.

With the joys of this past month, we have also had trials. Church was cancelled one Sunday because of snow. Twice we went home at noon because of blowing and drifting. We had church one Wednesday evening in the past four. I think through all this each of us is more aware of how blessed we are that we are allowed by our government to worship freely. We realize a little better through this experience how sorely we need the meditation around God's Word and the fellowship with His children.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Gay Knapp  
Pat Rinkenberger

"We share our mutual woes, Our mutual burdens bear;  
And often for each other flows The sympathizing tear."

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

Bro. John Rocke, of the Eureka Home, passed away Saturday, Jan. 13. We extend our sympathy to all relatives and acquaintances, and especially to his wife, Sis. Ida, and daughter, Lorene Schlipf. In the funeral service a little story was told of the last time Bro. John attended Congerville Church. The services were over, and all the brethren encouraged him to come out; but he would come only after

he had read the entire hymn, "The Solid Rock." May we all be grounded on this Rock, Jesus Christ.

Sis. Erma Miller and Bro. Richard Hasty were both surgical patients this month. We are so grateful to God that they are both home, recovering. Our congregation has been richly blessed with three visiting ministers: Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadina, CA), Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

Bro. Charles Rinkenberger has been selected to represent our congregation at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home.

On Jan. 1, Julie Ann was welcomed into the home of Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen (Harterter) Zimmerman. Matthew and Becky welcome her home.

We wish God's richest blessings to Bro. Steve Knapp and Sis. Lori Lemman (Eureka) who were united in Marriage on Jan. 21.

#### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

The heart begins to yearn for spring as February draws to a close. We have the faith that God will again warm the earth, even though we are still confronted with an abundance of snow. We, in the Elgin area, received our first heavy snow on Nov. 20, and the ground has had a constant heavy cover since. Our local paper recently printed that the total number of inches that fell in Elgin was 94.

Esther Batt wishes to express a "thank you" for all the love she received in the form of gifts, cards, and prayers extended to her at the time of the death of her husband, Lester.

The Lord has shown His mercy by calling home our beloved Sis. Adeline Graf. Adeline had been a long-term patient at a local nursing home, and her mortal body suffered much. We will miss her, but, truly, we must be grateful when the Lord can release the spirit from the body and the spirit can fly away home. Adeline passed away January 24 at age 87. She was born Sept. 29, 1891, in Kansas, the daughter of Julius and Caroline Eickert Leuthold. She was the wife of Bro. Charles.

Brandon Schock (small son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan) was a surgical patient this past month. We are happy to report that he has recuperated. Hospitalized at this

time are Ed Moser for surgery and Bro. Charles Graf with a fractured vertebra.

Walter and Sandra Schubert rejoice in the birth of their son, Michael Arthur, born Feb. 17. To welcome him is Matthew, his older brother, and the grandparents, Mrs. Julia Schubert and Bro. Arthur and Sis. Alma Schmidt.

Sis. Bertha Weichert has left our community to live in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. We pray that the Lord will go with her and be her comforter and guide.

We sincerely thank Bro. Maurice Frank (Leo, IN) and Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN) for coming to our community this past month. It warms our hearts and strengthens our spirits to sit under the sound of God inspired messages such as these brothers brought us. May the Lord richly bless them for their labor.

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

An unknown author has said, "Humility is an elusive thing, when you think you have it, you've lost it." There can be food for thought in just one line.

A son, Jacob Robert, was born to Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr on Jan. 18. His little sister Mindy completes the happy family. The grandparents are Ernest and Ida Pfaffman of Peoria and Bro. Ernest and Sis. Mary Fehr of Eureka.

On Jan. 21, Sis. Lori Leman and Bro. Steve Knapp were united in holy matrimony by Bro. Leroy Huber. We wish them the best and pray God will be with them in their life together. They are living in Eureka. Their parents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Wanda Leman of Eureka and Bro. Gerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp now of Taylor, MO. Ministering brothers with us that day were Bros. Kenny Knapp of Taylor, Fred Knapp of Congerville, and Carl Wyss of Washington. We thank Bro. Kenny for his message in the morning and invite them all back.

A number of our dear ones have been in the hospital: Sis. Laura (Bro. Wayne) Kupferschmid, Bro. Harry Rocke, Sis. Mina (Bro. Walter) Anliker, and little Brenda Stoller, daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Ida Stoller. They are all home again. Sis. Anna Baer is still in the hospital at this time.

We have two more couples who have chosen to walk through life together. Sis. Susan Schmidgall

and Bro. Dale Zimmerman, whose engagement was announced on Jan. 28, are planning an April wedding. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Gladys Schmidgal and Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman, all of Eureka. On Feb. 10, we heard of the engagement of Sis. Shirley Knepp and Bro. Terry Leman; they are planning a spring wedding. Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Freda Knepp and Bro. Milton and Sis. Caroline Leman, all of Eureka. We wish both of these couples God's rich blessings.

We are again asking God to guide a young couple as they walk life's pathway together. Bro. Jake Wettstein and Sis. Mary Beth Blunier were married on Jan. 28 by Bro. Leroy. Their parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier and Harold and Loretta Wettstein, all of Eureka.

We enjoyed having Bro. Harold Schmidgal and Bro. Byron Stoller of Gridley, along with their families, spend Sunday Feb. 10 with us. We thank the brothers for their labor in our behalf and hope we can take heed to the seed that was sown.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

DiAnn Lynn Traub, daughter of John and Sis. Bonnie Traub, was married to Charles Leman, son of Bro. and Sis. Robert Leman. We wish them God's blessings as they establish a home together at rural Fairbury.

Samuel Walter, 78, passed away at Fairview Haven where he was a resident. He married Sis. Ruth (Schlipf), and she survives. Also surviving are a daughter, Sis. Eleanor Honegger; three sons, Arthur, Bro. Richard, and Willard; and 13 grandchildren.

Bro. Jacob Stortz, 92, passed away at Fairview Haven where he also was a resident. He married Sis. Martha (Germann), and she survives. Also surviving are a brother, Edward of Oregon, and nieces and nephews.

We praise the Lord that Tillie Maier is confessing faith for salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Norma and Wayne Fehr have given their testimonies of their faith in Jesus, and we welcome them.

The new baby room is being completed and ready for use. It makes a nice addition to our church building. We needed more room, and

the new accommodations handle the growing need for this area.

### ILLINOIS, FORREST Beverly Eisenmann Jan Bachtold

We always enjoy and appreciate the efforts of our visiting ministers. Sharing the Word with us recently were Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Anrie Gerst from Chicago.

Feb. 11 was the wedding day of Sis. Kathy Steidinger and Bro. Wendell Dotterer from Rittman. The parents of the couple are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer. Sharing in this happy occasion were Bros. Eugene Fetter from Toledo, Bill Schlatter from Junction, and Duane Kilgus from Fairbury. We certainly will miss Sis. Kathy and want to wish them God's guidance and blessings as they begin their life together.

LaRae Steffen (Ray and Sis. Doris) and Pete Walter have announced their engagement with plans for a June wedding.

With us for the funeral of Sis. Julie Honegger were Bros. Jim Hoerr and Leroy Hartman from Peoria. The family wishes to thank all who remembered them during their loss.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Eleanor Honegger whose father, Bro. Sam Walter, passed away, recently.

The 27th of Jan. was the day Charles Leman and DiAnn Traub were united in marriage by Bro. Art Bahler of Fairbury. The parents of the couple are Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman and John and Sis. Bonnie Traub of Fairbury.

Bro. Fred Leman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna) has been hospitalized since a car-bus accident. Although it will take time for the broken bones to heal, we are thankful that God spared him from more serious injury. Other hospital patients have been Ben Traub, Sis. Anita Sohn, Bro. Wayne Drayer, Sis. Carrie Wiegand, and Bro. Ivan Steidinger.

We are so happy to have our former Elder Bro. Henry Kilgus and his wife, Sis. Lydia, living in our community again. For the past couple of years they have lived in Bloomington with their daughter, Alice. Now, they are residing at Fairview Haven.

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.



**EASTER GLORY**

By Bro. Henry Kipfer

There was a glorious dawn  
On that first Easter Day,  
For Jesus who arose  
From the tomb wherein He lay.  
He was glorified at last,  
And paved for us the way,  
And proved that for all trials  
God, in Heaven, will repay.

**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

Verna Hartter - Elna Grimm

We wish God's blessings upon two engaged couples in our congregation: Sis. Molly Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene) to Bro. Noel Davis (Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davis) and Pam Wuthrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice, Morton) to Mike Heinold (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Geri Hinrichsen are new parents of a little girl, Teri Denise, born on Feb. 8. The grandparents are Roy and Sis. Corrine Roth and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene.

Rochelle Marie is the new daughter of Bro. Glen and Sis. Beverly Joos. She was born on Feb. 10, and her grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Clem Joos and Bro. Howard and Sis. Vera Heinold.

A number of our dear ones have met with misfortune recently. Sherry Mullins suffered a broken left elbow in a fall. Bro. Noel Davis received a head injury while assisting a stranded motorist. Sis. Pam Wiegand (Bro. Art) was hospitalized for a time with pneumonia. Suffering a fractured rib in a fall at home was Sis. Norma Bauman (Bro. Lou). Also having fallen was Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Bro. Hans), and she is wearing a cast on her right leg. We are happy to report that all of those mentioned above are back worshipping with us. However, Bro. Oliver Fehr remains hospitalized following knee surgery, and our thoughts and prayers are with him.

May we say "thank you" to Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago, for his recent visit and ministering.

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**

Mrs. Perry Klopfenstein

"He doesn't say life will be painless—  
That we'll never grow tired, or grieve,  
But He promises rest for the weary

And comfort to all who believe."

Phyllis D. Robbins

Those who were especially close to him and loved him will deeply feel the void left by his departure from this life, but underneath are God's everlasting arms and His precious comfort. Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Emil Schlipf who passed away at his home on Feb. 13, the day before his 80th birthday. His wife, Sis. Ella; his son, Bro. Enid; his daughter, Sis. Elma Fleming; his sister, Sis. Sophia Schlipf; and his three grandchildren survive. We can take courage and even rejoice to think that, as the ministering brother said, "Bro. Emil is now underneath the altar of God with a host of saints awaiting that glorious day when the Lord will gather His own from the four corners of the earth and there will be a great reunion."

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome another dear soul into the family of God. Through the sorrow of repentance and the death and burial of our carnal man, we can arise a new creature in close fellowship with Almighty God and become one of His adopted children. Our new sister, Julie Kiefer, has made this blessed experience, and we witnessed her baptism on Feb. 4.

Sis. Verena Kuerth had the misfortune of falling and breaking her ankle. She was in the hospital and then at the Meadows Mennonite Home. She hopes to be back to her own home soon.

Derek and Cory Moore, grandsons of Bro. Walter and Sis. Esther Kaupp, were in the hospital, also.

We always appreciate our visiting ministers and the gifts God has given them for the benefit of His church. Bro. Fred Knapp of Congerville, Bro. Ron Heiningger of Bloomington, and Bro. Leroy Hartman of Peoria were with us this month.

**ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY**

Deanna Marti

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. II Corinthians 5:1. What a wonderful promise this is. Many times I wonder how unconverted people can go on living without purpose, without a hope of life eternal. But those of us who

have turned our lives over to God are so fortunate to know that, if we stay true, we will have an eternal house in Heaven.

School has again resumed for many after the much appreciated Christmas break. It was good to see everyone again and to share and exchange the experiences all of us had. We were all excited to hear of the engagement of our president, Bro. Keith Knapp, to Sis. Kay Walters, both from Cissna Park. We wish them God's blessings.

We again want to thank our visiting brothers who came to minister to us. They were Bro. Elmer Witzig, Gridley; Bro. Ron Heiningger, Bloomington; Bro. Harold Schmidgall, Gridley; Bro. Jim Hoerr, Peoria; and Bro. Art Baurer, Princeville.

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

Mary Sue Rieker - Diane Hohulin

Our Bible Class held their annual Pancake and Sausage Supper at the Fellowship Hall on Jan. 27. Although the weather was cold and blistering, the students had a very good turn-out. The students donate the proceeds to the Peoria Area Retarded Citizens and will have a Christmas party for the Retarded Citizens at Christmas time.

On Jan. 31, Bro. Dave Kieser from Princeville visited our congregation. We were very happy to have Bro. Dave with us.

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death." Psalms 48:14. Three dear souls passed away this month. On Feb. 11, Sis. Emma Rapp went to be with the Lord, and on Jan. 20, Sis. Clara Kahler was called to her heavenly home. Ada Hutchinson, the mother of Sis. Dorothy Sutter, passed away on Jan. 30. We extend our sympathy to their families.

This month, several of our brethren and friends were hospitalized. They were: Sis. Betty Binkele, Sis. Emma Hoerr, Sis. Marian Hemmer, Sis. Connie Triplet, Sis. Eunice Kammerer, Sis. Anna Baer, Barbie Ferrero, Agnus Siebenthal, Bro. George Rauhaus, and Bro. Walt Hess. We pray God will heal and take care of each one, according to their needs.

Sis. Alvena McDermott wishes to express her thanks for all the cards and prayers during her illness.

Katie Michele was born to Ron

and Barb Rocke on Dec. 15. She had a little brother, Dusty, waiting for her at home. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schwindenman and the paternal grandparents are Norm and Sis. Emma Rocke.

### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Ruth Ricketts

Kindness is the only language that the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

As I write this, we are feeling the throes of winter and are anxiously looking forward to spring weather. We have experienced a most severe winter with very cold temperatures. Much snow and wind made traveling very hazardous and at times impossible; yet, with all the inconvenience, it has been beautiful. Everywhere we look there is a mantle of white.

On Jan. 27, the death angel came to claim a very dear sister, Nellie Woertz. She had not been well for several years, yet she lived alone and came to church, even though she was hardly able to do so. She was born May 26, 1895, to Fred and Katherine Wieland Streitmatter and married Harry Woertz in 1916. After two years of marriage, her husband died, leaving an infant daughter. Surviving are her daughter, Virginia King; an adopted son, Larry; a foster son, Carlyle Allwardt; and one sister, Sis. Lucy Woertz. Her home was an inn for many, for she enjoyed entertaining friends who dropped in to see her.

Feb. 4 was a cold, sunny, winter day, but we received many warm blessings from visitors from various places and had loving fellowship with them. Our guest ministers were Bros. Russell Wuthrich of Pulaski, IA; Carl Wyss of Washington, IL; and Charles Sauder of Tremont. The texts were Matt 25 and Ephesians 6. We enjoyed their timely messages. It was mentioned that we should put on the whole armor of God and be examples, first at home to our families, then at work or wherever we are. We should abstain from all appearance of evil. By restraint, we can lead happy and sin-free lives, but we must be constantly alert to the danger around us. We thank our visitors and ask the Lord to bless them.

We have had several hospital patients the past few weeks. Sis. Natalie Feucht and Naomi Frank were in for observation and are

both at home recovering from their afflictions. Bro. Rodney Wagenbach has spent several weeks receiving treatments for leukemia. At present, he is able to be up part of the time and is looking forward to going home soon.

Sis. Esther Martin has undergone major surgery and is showing satisfactory improvement. She, too, is looking forward to going home soon. We often think of our shut-ins and pray the Lord will be very near them during their trying hours so they, with trust and courage, may look forward to better days. Sis. Emma Asal, who worships with us, although she has now lost her sight and can no longer see, has asked me to thank everyone for the many, many kindnesses bestowed upon her. Everyone is so good to her and she said she can never repay all the good deeds her friends and loved ones do for her.

Several of our young couples have been blessed with new babies, which are a blessing. A tiny boy was born Jan. 17 to Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller. He had to remain in the hospital a few weeks. He was named Douglas Alan. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller and Bro. Burton and Sis. Martha Streitmatter.

On Jan. 23, Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna Gehrig were made happy with a son, Joel Robert. He has two sisters, Julie and Janna, who were thrilled with a brother. The grandparents are Robert and Helen Gehrig and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Knobloch.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Menold also had a son, Derek Matthew, born Jan. 22. Kara and Ryan welcomed their brother, as did grandparents Bro. Leonard and Sis. Marie Menold and Eunice Smith.

On Feb. 12, a daughter, Jessica Dawn, was born to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Brenda Herrmann. The grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann and Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier of Mansfield.

A daughter, Marla Dawn, was born Feb. 15 to Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Knobloch and Bro. Levi and Sis. Faye Pfister.

Our sympathy is extended to Lydia Stisser in the death of her daughter, Verla Massien.

Sunday, Feb. 11, Proverbs 3:5, 6 was read: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto

thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Following the morning services, the engagement of Bro. Dan Maher and Sis. Cheryl Kemf was made known. The parents are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Maher of Princeville and Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice Kempf of Roanoke. We wish these two young people the Lord's blessings and guidance as they plan their future together.

### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

"For what is your life? It is even as a vapor, that appeareth for a little time and then vanisheth away." (James 4)

Marie A. Schafer, 73, passed away Jan. 25. She is survived by five sisters: Sis. Lydia, Minnie, Caroline, Frieda (all from Roanoke), and Emma Frank (Morton). She loved to care for little children.

Sis. Ida Wackerle passed away at the AC Home where she had made her home for the last three and one-half years. Short memorial services were held here. Funeral services were held in Bay City, MI, where she had lived most of her life as the wife of ministering Bro. Henry Wackerle. She is survived by two sons, Robert and Bro. Frank of Bay City; one daughter, Mrs. Elaine Bahler, Anderson, IN; one sister, Sis. Fannie Zimmerman; and three brothers, William Yergler, Watseka, and Sam and Henry, Cissna Park.

Bro. Joe Zimmerman, Sr., 86, died Feb. 8 at the AC Home in Roanoke. His funeral services were held on his sixty-second wedding anniversary. His wife, Anna, passed away in June. He is survived by two sons, Bro. Joe, Jr., Morton, and Richard, Roanoke; two daughters, Kathryn King, Eureka, and Sis. Lois Getz, Morton; and one sister, Sis. Ida Rocke, Eureka. Bro. Joe served as minister for 31 years in Roanoke and for two years in Congerville (before moving to Roanoke). He was also a song leader and superintendent of the summer Bible school. He visited the sick and served as deacon the last few years before he retired from the ministry. He was the first resident in the AC Home. "Farewell, Bro. Joe." The J. C. Zimmerman family wishes to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness shown to them in this



time of sorrow.

The engagement of Bro. Dan Maher (Mr. and Mrs. Charles Maher, Peoria) and Sis. Cheryl Kempf (Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alice) was made known, Feb. 11. Also, the engagement of Bro. Dennis Martin (Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen) and Sis. Coreen Lowe of the Portland, OR, congregation was made known, Feb. 11. We wish both of these couples God's blessings.

**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
Lydia Rassi  
Dorothy Waggenbach

**THANK GOD FOR  
LITTLE THINGS**

Thank you, God, for little things  
that often come our way—

The things we take for granted  
but don't mention when we  
pray—

The unexpected courtesy,  
the thoughtful, kindly deed—

A hand reached out to help us  
in the time of sudden need—

Oh, Make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces

That come to us with "sweet  
surprise"

from never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

As was brought out by one of our ministers, we should be thankful for the little things—like a warm home in this cold weather. Even being deprived of going to church on Sunday, due to inclement weather, made us more appreciative the next time we could assemble.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Clara Kahler. Her funeral was held in the Peoria Church and burial was in our church cemetery.

After much suffering, Bertha Strunk was called out of this life. Our ministers conducted the funeral services on Jan. 26 at the Davis Mortuary with burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery. Our sympathy goes out to all the family.

Peter Getz was laid to rest on Feb. 5. Our ministers conducted the services at Davis Mortuary with burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery. May God comfort all those that have lost loved ones.

A sweet baby boy, Phillip Nathan, was born Jan. 25 to Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi. He has two brothers, John and Michael, to welcome him home. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Herb and

Sis. Jane Gramm (Gridley), and the paternal grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi (Tremont).

A sweet little girl was born to Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeanette Beutel on Feb. 8. Welcoming home Diana Rose are Teresa, Jennifer, Marcia, and Steven. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach (Tremont). The paternal grandfather is Bro. Wm. Beutel (Tremont).

Another bundle from heaven blessed the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch on Feb. 13. She was named Sarah Jane and has a sister, Jamie, and a brother, Joel. The maternal grandparents are Clarkey Holden (E. Peoria) and Donald Holden (N. Pekin). The paternal grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Francis Koch (Tremont).

Jim Hutchison was called out of this life after a lingering illness. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Doris Hutchison (Home for the Handicapped) and Beverly Staker of Groveland.

**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
Linda Ziegenhorn

January has been a month of snow and cold. We even had to cancel church on a Sunday because of the snow and blowing. God never cancels His love and strength. He is always there.

Weakness can bring us closer to God. Once we admit our shortcomings, we can ask Him to replace them with His strength. The Lord is waiting for our trust. We can give Him our weakness, our problems, and our weariness. He is ready to make His power available. We have only to ask.

On Jan. 21, the Evangel Quartet from Gridley sang at our monthly hymn sing. It was truly a blessing to listen to them. God sends his love and strength to us in so many ways.

We have only to open our hearts to let His love surround us. God is everywhere if we will just listen.

**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**

**Joni Gerber - Shari Kaehr**

Our prayers have gone out to our loved ones who were in the hospital this month. Hospitalized were Bro. Herman Aschliman (husband of Sis. Nina), Sis. Aldine Moser, Sis. Marjorie Troxel, Sis. Katie Gerber, Rick and Sis. Doris Fiechter (Rick is the son of Sis. Doris

and Bro. Melvin), Bro. John Moser (husband of Sis. Mary), Bro. Tom Neuenschwander (husband of Sis. Sue), Sis. Dorothy Geisel (wife of Bro. Jim), Bro. Calvin Rauch, Andrew Bertsch (two-month-old son of Bro. Allen and Sis. Terri), and Stacy Stoller (four-year-old daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy).

On Jan. 21, our congregation was privileged to witness Bro. Gene Longenberger and Sis. Joni Fiechter promise their lives to each other in marriage. Sis. Peg Neuenschwander and Bro. Jeff Yergler exchanged their vows and were joined as one-in-Christ on Feb. 4.

We thank Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal) for delivering a sincere message to our congregation. May his efforts be truly blessed.

A precious baby girl was born to Randy and Marilyn Reinhard, named Amy Susan. The grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Virgene Reinhard. Sarah Joy was the name given to Dave and Myra Zoll's new bundle. The happy grandparents are Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Margaret Gerber. Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene welcomed their first daughter, Miriam Jean. Floyd and Cindy Kipfer are first-time parents of a little boy, Aaron Richard. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sandy Kipfer are the grandparents. On Feb. 9, Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller welcomed their first child, Andrew Joseph. Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane Habegger are the happy parents of their first-born daughter, Leah Ann.

Four dear souls in our community have passed away into eternal rest. Esther Smith died unexpectedly. She was the mother of Bro. Dave Smith. John Gerber is survived by a daughter, MaryAnn Swearington, and five brothers, Bro. Lewis, Bro. Henry, Bro. Roy, Lawrence, and Norman. Fanny Kipfer, wife of David Kipfer, has been laid to rest, also. Two sons, Bro. Art and Don, one daughter, Mrs. Lloyd (Pauline) Fiechter, and two sisters, Sis. Lydia Liechty and Sis. Elizabeth Hirschey, survive. Sis. Ida Gerber, widow of Bro. Aaron Gerber, has passed on to meet her Savior. Four sons, Bro. Ralph, Harold, Virgil, and Lyle are surviving family members. We sympathize with these families. May God grant them his tender comfort.

I cannot always understand,  
The way God leadeth me,

The why, and when and wherefore  
Is oft a mystery.

But I can trust His wisdom,  
I know His way is best,  
His heart knows no unkindness,  
And on His love I rest.

Author Unknown

### INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman

That if thou shalt confess with  
thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and  
shalt believe in thine heart that  
God hath raised him from the dead,  
thou shalt be saved. (Romans  
10:9)

Our new convert, Jennifer Steele  
(Sis. Mary Ann and Bro. Tom),  
has found peace with the Lord. We  
are very happy for her. Bro. Carl  
Zeltwanger was our only hospital  
patient this month. Our prayers  
have been answered, as he is home  
and quickly recovering.

God keep you in His loving care  
Watch over you each day  
And send the special blessing  
Of returning health your way.

Author Unknown

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein

Sharon Neihouser

A son, Brandon Eric, was born  
to Allen and Janice Pelsy on Jan.  
22. The grandparents are Vernon  
and Sis. Evelyn Pelsy. May God  
bless their family. "And he gave  
some, apostles; and some, prophets;  
and some, evangelists; and some,  
pastors and teachers. For the per-  
fecting of the saints, for the work  
of the ministry, for the edifying  
of the body of Christ." Ephesians  
4:11-12. On Wednesday evening,  
Jan. 31, our annual business meet-  
ing was held. May we give our full  
support to those who carry out the  
various duties in the church.

Bro. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse)  
visited us on Wednesday evening,  
Feb. 7. We thank him, his family,  
and those who came with him for  
sharing the precious Word with  
us.

Bro. Al Getz is hospitalized at  
this time, and we pray that God's  
Grace will be sufficient for him  
each day. Sis. Maxine Gutwein and  
Bro. Jerry Gutwein were also hos-  
pitalized for ear surgery, but we  
are happy that they can again as-  
semble with us.

Feb. 18 was the wedding day of  
Sis. Lorene Pfladderer (Bro. Bob  
and Sis. Norma) and Bro. Brian

Furrer (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan)  
of Wolcott. Visiting ministers were  
Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) and  
Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) who  
shared with the life-giving Word.  
We wish them God's richest bless-  
ings as they walk life's pathway to-  
gether. We will miss Sis. Lorene in  
our congregation; but we know our  
loss will be Wolcott's gain.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

"I have no greater joy than to  
hear that my children walk in  
truth." (3rd John 1:4) This truly  
sums up the feelings parents must  
have for their children. What a  
joyous occasion to sit with them  
during their testimony and feel  
how God has changed and purified  
their heart. Our convert, Dee Neu-  
enschwander (Bro. Chuck and Sis.  
Doris), was baptized and wel-  
comed into the family of God. We  
are always so thankful for every  
sinner who seek's God's grace and  
can find peace. To be called a child  
of God is the highest calling ever  
given to anyone, and truly the  
greatest honor. We are thankful to  
our dear Bros. Alfred Bahler and  
Orville Ringger for their assist-  
ance. We welcome our visitors and  
hope they return soon.

### INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Grace Heinold - Lois Bucher

We were blessed to hear the  
provings of Tricia Bucher (Bro.  
Merle and Sis. Leona) and Scott  
Frank (Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah).  
They were then baptized, and we  
are so happy to welcome them into  
the fold as our sister and brother.  
Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty)  
was here to assist Bro. Ed in this  
work. Bro. Loren spoke of our own  
"Book of Life." "What is being  
written in the chapters of our own  
book? To give of ourselves is the  
greatest thing we can do." Bro.  
Ray Sinn was also here for this  
happy occasion. The supper fol-  
lowing at the church and the fel-  
lowship were very much enjoyed.

Those hospitalized: Sis. Ida  
Nuest, Bro. Ed Wittmer, Lance  
Bucher, Art Luthi, and Bro. Ed  
Frank. Art Luthi remains in the  
hospital as of this writing.

The engagement of Dean Bucher  
and Patty Paarlberg has been an-  
nounced by her parents, Mr. and  
Mrs. Wayne Paarlberg. Dean is the  
son of Sis. Gwen. The wedding date  
has been set for Sept. 2.

On Jan. 21, church was cancelled

because of snow; it was also can-  
celled the following Wednesday  
evening. It makes one realize how  
long the time gets when we cannot  
gather to worship. The freedom  
of worship we enjoy as Americans  
is more precious than we can know.

### INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Mrs. Al Frautschi

We're made up of two kinds, the  
Whosoever Wills and the Whoso-  
ever Won'ts. We are happy to re-  
port that two young people, Jayne  
Heller, daughter of Bro. O. W. and  
Sis. Helen Maxfield, and Bonnie  
Klopfenstein, daughter of Bro. Wm.  
and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein, have  
decided to say, "I will" to His call.  
For God so loved the world that  
He gave his only begotten Son  
that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish, but have ever-  
lasting life. John 3:16.

March weddings are in the plans  
of two young couples. Diana Gar-  
man, daughter of Louis and Sis.  
Ruth Garman is engaged to wed  
Roger Strite. Betty Dix, daughter  
of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Dix, is be-  
trothed to Jeff Stieglitz, son of  
Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emmajean  
Stieglitz. Best wishes are extended  
to both couples.

Sympathy is shared to Bro. Al  
Frautschi in the passing of his  
sister, Sis. Josephine Reinech, To-  
ledo. Our loss is her gain.

The writer and husband have  
been presented with a new grand-  
son, Stuart Elliot, born to Frede-  
rick and Sharon (Schlatter) Hep-  
ler, Feb. 19. The God-given joy  
of parenthood is a beautiful privi-  
lege; it's also an awesome respon-  
sibility. Those whose children are  
grown are aware that the forma-  
tive years pass quickly and that,  
"By the time you get your diploma  
in parenthood, you're out of a job!"

Can we too often identify with  
the following lines:

I knelt to pray when day was done,  
And prayed, "O Lord, bless  
EVERYONE:

Lift from each saddened heart the  
pain,

And let the sick be well again."

And then I woke another day  
And carelessly went on my way.  
The whole day long I did not try  
To wipe a tear from any eye;  
I did not try to share the load  
Of any brother on my road;  
I did not even go to see  
The sick man just next door to me.



Yet once again when day was done  
I prayed, "O Lord, bless EVERY-  
ONE."

But as I prayed, into my ear  
There came a voice that whispered  
clear:

"Pause, thoughtless one, before you  
pray,  
Whom have you tried to bless  
today?

God's sweetest blessings always go  
By hands that serve Him here  
below."

And then I hid my face, and cried,  
"Forgive me, I've not even tried.  
Let me but see another day  
And help me live the way I pray."  
Whitney Montgomery

### INDIANA, MILFORD

Connie Beer  
Sandy Beer

When He cometh, when He cometh  
to make up His jewels,  
All His jewels, precious jewels,  
His loved and His own.

He will gather, He will gather the  
gems for His Kingdom;  
All the pure ones, all the bright  
ones, His loved and His own.

Little children, little children, who  
loved their Redeemer,  
Are the jewels, precious jewels,  
His loved and His own.  
Jewels, W. O. Cushing

We rejoice with Carol and Alvin  
Haab in the precious addition to  
their family. Kelly Marie was born  
on Jan. 19. She has a happy big  
brother, Matt. The grandparents  
are Erma Chambers and Bro. Oli-  
ver and Sis. Emma Haab.

Kari Ann Beer made her arri-  
val Jan. 28 to brighten the home  
of Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat. Holly  
Jean welcomed the little one home.  
The proud grandparents are Bro.  
Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner (Ro-  
anoke) and Bro. Carlton and Sis.  
MaryAnn Beer.

Many of us received bountiful  
blessings from having the La-  
Crosse young group with us for a  
weekend. Their fellowship was en-  
joyable and uplifting.

Bro. Charles Weisser, who had  
been ill for the past four years,  
passed on to his eternal reward in  
his home on Jan. 27. We extend our  
sympathy to his family, especial-  
ly his widow, Sis. Wanda. May we  
all trust in His promises as Bro.  
Charles did.

Several of our loved ones were

hospitalized these past weeks and  
are now recuperating in their  
homes. They are Bro. Andy Kam-  
merer and Sis. Aldine Riemschisel,  
who underwent surgery, and Sis.  
Naomi Beer (Bro. Theo).

Those who are hospitalized at  
the present are Irene Best, Walter  
Wuthrich, Bro. John Wuthrich,  
and Sis. Hulda Graff. Our Sisters  
Inez Brooks and Emma Krauter  
have been unable to worship with  
us because of their health.

Jesus knows thy sorrow, knows  
thine every care;  
Knows thy deep contrition, Hears  
thy feeblest prayers;  
Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him  
all thy grief;  
Cast on Him thy burden, He will  
bring relief.

Jesus knows thy conflict, Hears  
thy burdened sigh;  
When thy heart is wounded, Hears  
thy plaintive cry;  
He thy soul will strengthen, Over-  
come thy fears;  
He will send thee comfort, Wipe  
away thy tears.  
"Jesus Knows Thy Sorrow",  
Hymns of Zion

### INDIANA, PURDUE UNIVERSITY (Lafayette)

Candy Wuethrich

We appreciate, so much, the  
the ministers who come and share  
the Word with us at our Thursday  
evening Purdue services. Bro. Gene  
Lehman worshipped with us at our  
new meeting place for this semes-  
ter. Our services are now being  
held at the Temple Israel, which is  
located at 620 Cumberland Avenue,  
West Lafayette. We invite all to  
come and worship with us.

Congratulations to Stan Virkler  
and Beth Bahler and to Raynl Ger-  
ber and Jinny Gutwein on their re-  
cent engagements. We wish them  
the Lord's guidance. Many loved  
ones attended the wedding of Lor-  
ene Pfladderer and Brian Furrer  
on February 18. May God bless  
them as they travel life's pathway  
together.

### INDIANA, REMINGTON Libby Bahler

Amid the din of earthly strife,  
Amid the busy crowd,  
The whispers of eternal life  
Are lost in clamors loud;

When lo! I find a healing balm,  
The world grows dim to me;  
My spirit rests in sudden calm  
With Him of Galilee.

I linger near Him in the throng,  
And listen to His voice;  
I feel my weary soul grow strong,  
My saddened heart rejoice.  
Amid the storms that darkly frown  
I hear His call to me,  
And lay my heavy burden down  
With Him of Galilee.

—H.W. Hawkes

When we find ourselves becoming  
overly involved with this temporal  
world, when the dust of this life  
clings to our garment and weights  
us down, then do we cry with Dav-  
id, ". . . renew a right spirit with-  
in me . . ." and ". . . restore unto  
me the joy of thy salvation . . ."?  
Ps. 51:10, 12. And God is faithful  
to hear and help us in striving af-  
ter that which is holy and eternal.

On Jan. 21, the engagement of  
Sis. Beth Bahler (Bro. Edwin and  
Sis. Lois Bahler) and Bro. Stan  
Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Max-  
ine Virkler) was announced. Hav-  
ing found peace with God and man,  
it was announced that Charleen  
Bahler will be baptized. Sis. Marie  
Schini has taken up new residence  
at the Parkview Haven Retirement  
Home in Francesville. We wish her  
many blessings in her new home.

### INDIANA, VALPARAISO Susie and Marie Heinold

Abraham Lincoln on the BIBLE:

All the good from the Saviour of  
the world is communicated  
through this Book. All things de-  
sirable to man are contained in it.

We were blessed with many vis-  
itors and enjoyable fellowship  
when Elder Bro. Wendell Gude-  
man and other loved ones from  
Francesville came to spend a Sun-  
day with us.

The January record-breaking  
snow storms kept us home with no  
church service for two Sundays.  
Today, as I write this report, Val-  
paraiso is a winter wonderland:  
trees white with ice; snow-banks  
ten feet high; and front doors in-  
accessible. Little four-year-old Eliz-  
abeth said, "It'll go away." And  
we are looking forward to sun-  
shine and spring.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Evelyn Ames whose father, Willis Alt, passed away January 18. He suffered with a brain tumor for more than a year.

### A LOVING FAMILY

There's nothing like a family to set a heart aglow:

A mom and dad and little ones, so much a joy to know,  
A peaceful home where laughter lives and children there abide.  
Oh, nothing else can ever match the love that lives inside.

There's nothing like a family at the close of day—

The evening meal, then happy hours, and little hearts that pray;

A fireside bright, the books and games—it seems that angels keep

A loving vigil round the beds where precious children sleep.

Somehow it seems that love doth dwell in understanding souls,  
While hurts and problems disappear and each would seek his goal;

Whatever else, it matters not while minds are bright and free,  
And GOD is ever present in a loving family.

Garnett A. Schultz

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Laurel Widmer

Winter seems to bring with it an increase in the number of injuries. Bro. Nathan Lehman and Bro. Ed Kyburz were hospitalized this month. Both are now out and about once more. We are thankful that their injuries were not more serious. Sis. Vi Kyburz wishes to extend love and special appreciation to all the loved ones at the Fairbury church for the special deeds, concern, and love following her fall at the cemetery on Jan. 22. She asks that God will bless all.

Love is the greatest, and it has been given to Bro. Brian Furrer and Sis. Lorene Pfladderer who were united in holy matrimony on Feb. 18. We welcome Sis. Lorene to our congregation and wish both of them a happy life together. Gary and Debbie Royer are the parents of a new baby girl, Dana Yvonne. The maternal grandparents are

Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller.

### IOWA, BURLINGTON

Mayme Gerst - Judy Gehring

Sis. Mindy Taeger and Bro. LaVerne Salek were baptized Jan. 21. Bro. Ed Lanz came to fulfill their wishes, and we welcome them into the fold.

Our church held its semi-annual business meeting. Bro. Milo Weisinger was elected trustee and Bro. Robert Pohl secretary-treasurer, both for five-year terms.

Last Sunday, we had our monthly singing. This was started 15 years ago last January. The first singing had about 35 in attendance, the following about 15. The time is 7:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month, and it lasts one hour. Everyone is welcome.

Two precious gifts that we can possess in this world are love and fellowship. They far outweigh silver and gold. Without these gifts, we would be, of all men, most miserable.

God, in His infinite love towards mankind, even after the fall of man, sent the most precious gift he had, His Son. Through Him, we are drawn into the fellowship of God's Spirit.

When the love of God dwells in our hearts, it moves us to love others. Our hearts certainly bubbled over with love when we were accepted into the fold of Jesus, as a lamb.

If we have the pure love, we will have no ill feeling towards any brother or sister. It is impossible to have the love of God in our hearts and have accusations and ill feelings toward brothers and sisters. If we cannot love our brother and sister whom we see, how can we say we love God whom we do not see? I John 4:20.

In the church, we assemble together to feed on His living Word and greet one another in the spirit of love. When we recess for lunch, we have fellowship and communion with one another while we eat. Therefore, we experience a two-fold blessing which binds our hearts together in true love and fellowship.

### IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

This morning, as I view the outdoors through the living room

window, I am reminded of the poet Lowell who penned these words:

The snow had begun in the evening  
And busily all the night  
Had been heaping field and highway  
With whiteness deep and wide.

The air is crisp and the mercury tobaggoned to twelve below zero during the night. The sun, however, is out, and we can be thankful for that; for, when the sky is blue and the clouds are few, it seems easier to think positively. The half-dozen gold finches and numerous purple finches present quite an interesting scene as they flit in and out of the feeding stations. The pheasants are having a difficult time securing their sustenance since the snow arrived.

Speaking of wild life, a herd of 25 deer appeared in one of our fields not long ago. They seem to find some shelter from the winds in one of our hollows among a dense tree area. We are looking forward to the spring-time season when the backbone of the winter will be broken.

I'm happy to be able to report that Bro. Geo. Butikofer, my husband, is feeling much better. Hopefully, he will be able to return to his home in a few weeks.

Bro. Ed. Pulfer has not been feeling well and has been in the hospital for a few days in West Union. He is to enter the hospital at LaCrosse, WS, where surgery is to be performed. Hopefully, God will bless the treatment so that he will be feeling much better again. We know that our Father in heaven never makes any mistakes; and if we pray that His will be done, all will be well.

Sis. Lena Schupbach has not been able to attend church services for some time and has been feeling quite weak, spending most of her time in bed. However, she gets up for most of her meals. Her one-hundredth birthday will be the 10th of March. She was eight years old when she, in company with her parents and her brothers Fred, Will, and Albert, came to Elgin from Sardis, OH.

Her father, Bro. Frederick, was one of our ministers for many years. Sis. Lena has seen many



changes, in many aspects. Her mode of living and manner of making a living have changed many times in her lifetime. Her faith is very important to her.

## PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

IOWA, IOWA CITY  
Connie Gerst

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation; Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures, Leading to eternal fire;

Seek the everlasting treasure, Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp, Hymn 52

Our congregation rejoices that Fred Eberhardt, who has been living and working in our area the past few months, answered the call and has made his beginning in living for our Lord and Saviour. Fred is the son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Ruby of Oakville. We also welcome convert Kevin Anliker, son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise of West Bend. Kevin is now a student at the university here in Iowa City. How encouraging it is to have converts in our midst. Their willingness to do the Lord's will should be a reminder to all of us that we must never lose our first love that we had when we repented.

May God richly bless all our visitors for coming to worship with us. Among them this past month have been ministering Brothers

Walter Herman (Princeville), Nathan Stoller (Bradford), and Jerry Kuntz (Oakville).

IOWA, LESTER  
Alice Metzger

In an impressive and soul-stirring service, Polly Moser and Mavis Wulf erected a covenant with God and were immersed in baptismal waters. Following the consecration prayer, we rejoiced to greet them as sisters in the Lord. Elder Bro. Harold Messner, Winthrop, assisted Elder Bro. Leo Moser in the provings and baptisms. Bro. Leroy Messner also ministered to us during this blessed weekend. We are so thankful to report a new convert. Harlan Wulf, son of Bro. Jake and Sis. Alice, has turned his back on the world of sin and asked Jesus to help him begin a new life.

Two baby girls were born recently. On Feb. 8, Mary Sue was born to Jim and Linda Moser. She has a brother and sister to welcome her, and the grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger and Otto Moser. On Feb. 10, Tera Jean was born to Dan and Lola Deragisch. She has a brother, and the grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Lucy Knobloch and Doris Deragisch.

Several have been in the hospital for various ailments. Those we know of are Bro. Ade Moser, Bro. Alvin Leuthold, Bro. Emil Knobloch, Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch, Sis. Carrie Metzger, Harold Metzger, and Sonja Feucht.

We have experienced a very harsh winter and are looking forward to the miracle of spring and the Easter season. Anyone who believes in the resurrection and repents of his (or her) past has the opportunity to embrace a rebirth of his soul.

IOWA, OAKVILLE  
Phyllis Siegle

Mike Schumacher and Keith Lanz are our new brothers in faith. Bro. Mike is the son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Elizabeth and Bro. Keith, the son of Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan.

The announcement of the engagement of Bro. Kenny Lanz and Sis. Janet Schmidgall was made to our congregation. Bro. Kenny is the son of Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan, and Sis. Janet is the daughter of Bro. Hartzel and Sis.

Marion. Zion Harps No. 79—When pure and upright hearts, by flames of love ignited, are by the bond of faith more firmly yet united. The light of hope beams forth in radiance far and nigh, invited us to partake the blessings from on high.

## MARCH

Is this the blust'ry, wint'ry month a'whizzing in my ear,

Whose frosty winds make promises that spring will soon be here?

I think I see a bit of green besprinklin Nature's floors, And buds of leaves upon her trees, birds flying through her doors.

Yes, March has come to bring us hope of future skies more bright—

The breath of spring and summer's robes sprinkled by God's sunlight.

—A.M. Hoffman

They that know God will be humble;

They that know themselves cannot be proud.

Unknown

IOWA, PULASKI  
Mary Jane Knapp  
Ginny Wuthrich

Our oldest Sister, Minnie Getz, celebrated her 93rd birthday in January. She attends church as often as weather permits and always looks forward to the next time she can be with those she loves. We wish all could have the desire and eagerness to go to church that this faithful sister has.

In late November, Sis. Emma Webber left her home in Pella to visit relatives in Ohio and then spend the holidays with her daughter in Virginia. We welcome her back to our flock and hope that she isn't too disappointed that the weather hasn't been as favorable here.

Bro. Bernard Schear has spent some time in the hospital because of surgery. We hope that he will be able to be up and about soon.

As we endure the chill and snow of this long winter, let us not grow weary and let our lights grow dim,

ADDRESS CHANGED?  
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

## SHINING LIGHTS

A Christian life lived in the Lord  
Does the best sermon preach;  
And often more than pleading  
words  
Will into hearts of sinners  
reach.

Whatever you do, wherever you  
go,  
Remember God does all things  
see.  
However you stand, whenever you  
speak,  
Does it all with Him agree?

If it does, then you do have  
A bright and shining light,  
And one He can depend upon  
Through the dark and stormy  
night.

No one on earth can comprehend  
How dark this world would be,  
Were it not for shining lights  
Scattered about that all can  
see.

The darker the night of sin be-  
comes,  
The brighter your lamp will  
glow.  
But should you e'er extinguish it,  
This, too, will plainly show.

Brother and sister, wherever you  
are,  
Keep your lamp from growing  
dim.  
Through daily trimming and con-  
stant care,  
Those in darkness may then  
find Him.

Bro. Henry Kipfer

## IOWA, WEST BEND

Mrs. Raymond Anliker  
Becky Banwart

We were thankful to have Bro. Carl Feucht of Lester, IA, minister to us. May God bless him for his efforts.

On Jan. 28, the marriage of Deb Cook and Mark Bruellman was solemnized by Bro. Noah Gerber. Mark is the son of Bro. Don and Sis. Verda. The Apostolic Christian Fellowship Center was used for this wedding and reception as well as the wedding reception held Feb. 10 for Cindy Harms and John E. Bruellman. John is the son of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evie. We wish both couples God's blessings

as they take this important step in life.

Dan and Brenda Banwart became first-time parents as God blessed them with their little daughter, Michelle Larraine. She arrived on Feb. 5. The grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty Banwart.

Our hospital patients were: Paul Zaugg (son of Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly), Sis. Della Metzger, and Sis. Florence Banwart.

The engagement of Diana Harmon to Eric Mogler (son of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Lilly) has been made known. Also announced was the engagement of Joan Bruellman to Jim Wirtz. The parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Verda Bruellman and Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz. May God direct and bless the future plans of each one.

## JAPAN, SHIODA

Sally Beutel

This past Sunday we partook of a very rare and special blessing here in our Shioda church. Our song leader blew the pitch, and a beautiful Zion's Harp melody rose into the air. The melody was familiar, but to any American who was listening the words were quite new, for they were the soft, gentle sounds of the Japanese language! Yet, the meaning was intact, thanks to the painstaking efforts of many of our Japanese brothers and sisters who worked long, laborous hours in translating the English lyrics into Japanese. After a great deal of effort, we have successfully compiled fifty of our dearly-loved Zion's Harp hymns and will now be using them in our services. What a joy it was to lift our voices in song, knowing that our dear brothers and sisters in America will be singing the same songs in the same spirit as we. How wonderful it is to be united in heart, though we may be separated by many, many miles.

We were glad to welcome Bro. Willis Ehnlé and Bro. Tony Ehnlé back to Japan. We're also looking forward to the visitors who will be coming shortly. We pray for their safe journey and that they will have a pleasant, blessed time while here with us.

I have been busy teaching school since my return from America. Lately our school has been having some problems with student be-

havior after school hours. It is interesting to note that Japanese parents feel it is the teachers' responsibility to see to it that students do not drink, smoke, or go to discos. I am reminded of the Biblical admonition, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. Christians, let us take seriously our responsibilities as parents. We hear so much about "freedom" these days and are often told to allow our children freedom of choice and room for self-discovery and development as individuals. It is certainly true that these things should be taken into consideration, but we need to be careful not to mistake "slavery to self and passion" for freedom. As Christian parents, it is up to us to see that our children have a coherent idea of right and wrong and a clear-cut knowledge of God's values so that they can adequately appraise the situations they encounter, making wise decisions.

## JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki  
Marie Inoue

I read John 13: 1-16 this morning, and I learned much Lord's teachings. Especially 14-16 verses really influenced me a lot. We Christians should give everyone many more good examples everyday. Jesus Christ washes the disciples' feet even when He is their master, Himself.

Last Sunday morning when I taught the Sunday School children I said, "Everyone, I should apologize to you because my love is not enough for you all. If I had given you enough love some of you children would help me when I clean up the room, put song books away, etc." Then soon after that, children said, "I want help you sometime." I really thanked God that the Lord touched their hearts so soon. I was really encouraged a lot. Children do not always listen to what the parents say, but they always imitate their deep, good or bad. So we adults should have more responsibility toward making all children be good.

The translating committee for Zion's Harp hymnal has now completed 50 songs. Several gathered last Sunday evening to help bind them in a temporary booklet.



### KANSAS, BERN Esther and Stella Moser

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her fame,  
From everlasting Thou art God  
To endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guide while life shall  
last,  
And our eternal home.

Isaac Watts

Sincere sympathy is extended to Merrian Strahm (Clayton), Joan Edelman (Fred), Sis. Marjorie Edelman (Morris), and Sis. Helen Meyer (Leroy) in the tragic death of their brother, Leroy Menold, 32. Also surviving are his wife and four small children.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Jacob Wenger in the passing of his brother, Alphie Wenger, La Mesa, CA. Memorial services and burial were held in Sabetha.

We rejoice that Edwin Strahm (Bro. Alphie and Sis. Mamie) has heeded the tender call of the Lord.

Nicklaus Moser, small son of James and Anne Moser, had a short hospital stay for hernia surgery.

Bro. Steve Hartter has a walking cast for a broken bone in his foot due to a shop accident. A heavy object dropped on his instep. The cast makes for hard walking in our over-abundance of snow and ice.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Jan Kraft

January was the month for our annual business meeting. Bro. Harold Kraft was elected for another three-year term to the Board of Trustees. It was voted that ministering brothers could serve in Sunday School. Bro. Charles Sinn was elected to teach the Bible Class. Sis. Gail Robb was put in for the kindergarten class and Sis. Teresa Behr for grades one to three. Sis. Pearl Miller was elected for a three-year term on the food committee. Two new ushers were put in, Bro. Don Banwart and Stephen Fischer. It was also voted to record the sermons on cassettes for our shut-ins. A comment was, "It makes my day seem much shorter to hear these." May this truly be a blessing for them.

Hospitalized patients were Bro. Emil Banwart (for tests and observation) and Sis. Jan Kraft (for minor surgery).

Sis. Lydia Hawkins passed away Feb. 13. We extend our sincere sympathy to her family. May the dear Lord be with them in their hour of sorrow.

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and wife here this month. We thank him for helping Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart in reading the memorandum.

### KANSAS, GRIDLEY Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Our annual election was held Feb. 11. The following were elected or re-elected: Bro. Rudy Bahr, Board of Trustees; Bro. Eldon Metzger, Building Aid Board and Jr. High Bible Class; Bro. Albert Grimm, Personal Property Board; Bro. Ivan Beyer, Cemetery Board; Bro. Tim Zimmerman, Cemetery Board and Sr. High Bible Class; Bro. Albert Edelman, Sunday School Superintendent; Sis. Vola Young, Pre-school and Kindergarten; and Sis. Julie Strahm, Silver Lining Reporter.

Is it hard for you to identify with a multitude of other believers, and realize that together you make up the Church? Can you see your church as an "INN" for nurturing and feeding the babes who are born into the family of God? An obstetrician is concerned, after delivery of an infant, with the nurturing of the child to further growth and maturity. Likewise, in the Church, the spiritual offspring must have help after "birth" to grow and mature in the Lord. So, dear believers, let us not forget the nurturing.

### KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

As a child of God, are you ever rebellious or discontented with your lot? Sometimes it seems hard not to be when Satan throws us one of his curves and shatters our peace of mind. I read a short story recently that didn't give the author's name but shows how the sweets of life also hold some stings: While examining a clover blossom, a little boy was stung on the hand by a bee. He ran screaming to his mother and shouted, "I hate them bees!" She did what she could to ease his pain and then

gave him some bread and honey. As he eagerly devoured it, she said, "You really like that, don't you?" "Yeah, I love it," he gulped. Then she explained that the same kind of bee that had stung him produces the delicious honey he was eating. May it always be, when life stings us to the point of rebellion or discontent, that we can humbly say as the Scriptures do in Romans 8:28, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."

We are very thankful that Sis. Esther Hodel, who has been absent from our midst for such a long while, is again able to worship with us. We truly hope our dear Sis. Laverne Roth, who was hospitalized for many trying tests, will soon be again in our midst. We miss her very much.

Our annual business meeting was held, and, as each of us begin our new work in the Lord's service, may we always keep the precious words of I Corinthians 15:58 in mind: Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

It was our appointed time to hold services at the Manor this month. As we sang those beautiful hymns and listened to the precious message of God's love from the Bible, this thought occurred: Should God grant us to live until our sunset years, may His precious words and hymns of faith grow still dearer to us as they have for many of the dear elderly ones we worship with at the home.

February 18 marked the 60th anniversary date of Bro. George and Sis. Bea Diel. We know that throughout those 60 years together there has been much pain and sorrow, but also much happiness and joy. Through it all, they have stayed true to their God, and true to each other. May God richly bless them and grant them many more years of caring for and sharing with each other, if it be His holy will.

### KANSAS, LAMONT Susan Emch

Mary Lynn Wernli, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty, gave her testimony on Saturday evening

the 20th of January and was baptized the 21st. We wish her much grace and blessings in her new walk of life. Visiting ministers to share the Word of Life with us were: Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha; Bros. Lloyd Kraft and Loren Strahm, Gridley; and Bro. Al Langhofer, Wichita.

The Gridley congregation assembled with us on Saturday evening, Feb. 3, when Elder Brother Gene Marti, Lamar, assisted our Elder Brother Sam Anliker in reading the Conference memorandum. May we all be willing to abide by their loving admonitions and teachings. Bro. Gene Marti spent Sunday with us bringing us the holy Word of Life and helping Bro. Sam Anliker in the most weighty work of ordaining Bro. Bill Emch a minister in our church. We pray that God will bless Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan in this new responsibility in serving the Lord. We thank Bro. Gene for the inspiring messages and efforts put forth.

The words of the Zion's Harp song 207, v. 8, are very fitting to me:

Give faithful servants ever  
Who have but one endeavor,  
Thy gospel to proclaim;  
Who heed thy spirit holy  
And strive and labor soley,  
O, Lord, to glorify they name.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene Anliker had the misfortune of losing their dairy barn from fire. It was a total loss. They moved their cows to Bro. Lloyd Luthi's and are using his facilities until they can rebuild.

### KANSAS, SABETHA

Mrs. Joe Steiner

Elder Bros. Gene Marti and Lester Hartter assisted Bro. Sam Huber in the provings and baptisms of two dear souls. We welcome Ramona Meyer and Noah Steiner as a sister and a brother in the Lord. May the Lord be with them always. Also present with us that weekend was Bro. Roy Wernli, Lamont. We thank him for his presence and for his ministry on that Sunday.

We also appreciated the efforts put forth by Bro. Richard Aberle, Indianapolis, when he and his family were here.

Hospitalized in the past month or two were Bros. Noah Steiner,

Joe Aberle, and John Aberle (all were surgical patients), and David Wysong, little son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Janice Wysong. Sis. Louise Hartman also was a hospital patient, but she has again returned to her home.

### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Judy Bahr

A fresh layer of soft, freshly fallen snow is a beautiful sight. Snow makes everything look so pure and clean. It hides all the blemishes that are created by the world. Isn't it wonderful that we can be washed in Jesus' blood and become as white as snow?

We wish to thank ministering Bros. Alpha Strahm, Bern, KS, and Roger Aberle and Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS, for lending themselves to us. It is so up-lifting to be able to go to church right here on campus during the week and hear the true Word of Life.

### KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

Brant Robertson is a young man whom most of you have never met, but he is your brother in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was recently baptized in a bath tub at Wesley Hospital, Wichita, KS, after giving a testimony of conviction and belief. The doctors give him a short time to live. To visit him is an experience of a special kind. His expressions are those of joy and gratefulness. To witness his spirit is to weep. Our young members are drawn to his bedside because he shows such deep appreciation. It is true that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. I Peter 5:5. He has a desire to recover by next summer so that he can assemble with his brothers and sisters in Christ, most of whom he has not met. He would welcome your prayers and also your cards. Address: Brent Robertson, Wesley Hospital, Wichita, KS.

We would like to express our thankfulness to visitors who took the time while traveling to stop to visit our Wichita congregation. Last Sunday we were pleased to meet the family of Jim Hunyadi who is a medical student in our area. His parents, with their daughter and her husband, Eugene Bako, were traveling to visit friends in California. Their home

is in Akron, OH. Eugene shared stories of his childhood in Hungary that are not easily forgotten: stories of persecution—as a child in school being spit upon, mocked, slapped, and having his ears twisted until they bled. This was all because he came from a Christian family who would not bear arms and go to war to kill. We also heard similar stories from a young Nigerian who visited us for the first time last Sunday. He said that during the Civil War in Nigeria in 1968, if you were a Christian and refused to bear arms, you were probably killed. He said his brother disappeared, and they never heard from him again. Does this sound far removed from us in America? How firm is that foundation we are standing on? What is it made of? Perhaps time will tell.

Our Elder Brother Sam and Sis. Clara from Lamont, KS, spent an evening with our congregation. The general theme of his sermon was "watch and pray." He said they are like twins and cannot be separated. I recently heard of a Christian woman who left Germany for America after World War II to escape the war torn area and left behind her beloved friend who was an invalid. They had an agreement that the one who could work would work doubly hard, and the one in the wheel chair would pray doubly hard. That had to be a profitable agreement.

We are pleased to have Sis. Elsie Lambert assembling with us again after being confined with foot problems. Sis. Ruth Yackley has been staying with her mother in Kiowa, KS, and she also has been missed here. Bro. Harvey Farney and Sis. Ann returned safely from an extended trip to the west coast. Spring is just around the corner for Kansas, and it will be welcome after a cold and long winter.

### MICHIGAN, ALTO

Penny Erismann

"O blessed peace! sweet born of heaven! That bids our trouble cease; O precious word divinely given, "In me ye shall have peace!"  
(In Me Ye Shall Have Peace)

We rejoice with Marvin Blough and Jane Grawberg in expressing their peace with God and man, We

look forward to their testimonies in the near future. We want to thank our visiting minister, Bro. Sam Schlatter, Junction, and his family for sharing a Sunday with us.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**  
**Patsy Knochel**

I am going to a city  
Where the street of gold are laid,  
Where the tree of life is blooming,  
And the roses never fade.  
Loved ones gone to be with

Jesus . . .  
(Where the Roses Never Fade)

We always wish to bestow this hope within our hearts in the passing away of those who have gathered together with our congregation. Bro. William (Butch) Freidinger, who was staying in a nursing home, has passed away. Though not able to assemble with us in his later days, brethren often went to his home of stay to share with him in reading, singing hymns, and praying.

Sis. Ida Wackerle, who was a part of our congregation for many years, had been staying in the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, IL. She has now passed on her way; funeral services were here in Bay City. We surely missed Ida in the past few years.

Funeral services were also held for a dear friend of many, Floyd Roesse. We sincerely extend sympathy to the family and many friends.

We offer thanks to ministering Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington) for traveling to be with us on a Sunday.

We surely are in the midst of a cold winter, many times against our favor! This brings to mind that although it is so cold without, let's try to keep the heart warm and full of love within as an act of obedience to Christ.

Hospitalized have been Sis. Aldine Wackerly, Bro. Glenn Ruegger, and Bro. Howard Wieland.

**MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**  
**Carol Virkler**

**MAY GOD SMILE ON YOUR  
NEW BABY**

So fresh from heaven,  
So sweet, so new—

God must be smiling  
Down on you,  
So innocent,  
So fair, so mild,  
O would the world  
Were like a child!  
May God, who loves all little ones,  
Look down on you and bless  
Your precious baby  
With a life of happiness.  
And as you guide those little feet  
Upon the paths of love,  
May God be ever near you  
And direct you from above.

Author Unknown

We congratulate Doug and Sue Messner on the birth of their first child, a darling baby girl. Nichole Elaine was born on Jan. 26. Her grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger of Lester and Elder Bro. Harold and Sis. Gerry Messner of Winthrop.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl**

A story is told of a king who went into his garden one morning and found everything withered and dying. He asked the oak that stood near the gate what the trouble was. He found it was sick of life and determined to die because it was not tall and beautiful like the pine. The pine was all out of heart because it could not bear grapes like the vine. The vine was going to throw its life away because it could not stand erect and have fruit as fine as the peach tree. The geranium was fretting because it was not tall and fragrant like the lilac; and so on through the garden. Coming to a heart's-ease, he found its bright face lifted as cheery as every. "Well, heart's-ease, I'm glad, amidst all this discouragement, to find one brave little flower. You do not seem to be the least disheartened." "No, I am not of much account, but I thought that if you wanted an oak, or a pine, or a peach tree, or a lilac, you would have planted one; but as I knew you wanted a heart's-ease, I am determined to be the best little heart's-ease that I can."

Author Unknown

"Others may do a greater work,  
But you have your part to do;  
And no one in all God's heritage  
Can do it as well as you."  
Cindy Lynn brought joy to the

home of Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl on January 19. Brother Jon welcomes her home. The grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie Nohl and Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia Mogler of Lester.

We rejoice with Delores Sauder (Virgil and Mildred) as she has turned to the Lord in repentance. May many others heed the call before the door of grace be forever closed.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ernest Koehl, Bro. Ben Greiner, and Sis. Sophie Nohl (Lawrence).

In 1978, eleven babies were born, and there were eight baptisms, six weddings, and four deaths.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**

**Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem**

Prayer unlocks the heart in the morning and locks us in at night.

Our small congregation enjoyed a most blessed weekend. Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and ministering Bros. Noah Miller (Mpls., MN) and Alphi Moser (Morris, MN) came to share with us. On Saturday evening we heard the testimonies of our two dear friends, Ruth and Nancy Messner. Earlier in the evening, Nancy received a call from her uncle in Texas, Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger. She said it was just like he was here, talking to her. Following Sunday afternoon services, these two souls were baptized and became children of God, achieving the highest standing offered to mankind. God gives the head to understand; the heart to believe; the tongue to confess; and, as we repent, the conversion.

In the evening we heard the conclusion of the Brotherhood Conference. Let us ever heed the warnings of our beloved shepherds who walk the walls of Zion, remembering that God gave them the ability to see farther ahead.

It was announced that Denise, daughter of Bro. Darrell and Sis. Darlene Schmidt, received peace with God and man and awaits baptism. We have many dear friends for whom we pray that they will follow the Christian way. The saddest words of tongue and pen are these four words, "It might have been."

Ann Messner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Julia) had ear surgery. Sis. Lois (Marlyn) Messner had foot sur-



gery.

Darold Thiem, helpmate of Sis. Marj, returned home after a lengthy stay in the hospital where he was recovering from a heart attack. They wish to thank all of those who remembered him.

Bro. Raymond Messner would like to thank all of those who remembered him during his recent hospital stay—for all the prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls, and visits. He asks God to bless everyone.

Bro. Kenneth (Boots) Messner and family (Sis. Margaret, Brad and Kyle) wish to thank everyone who helped them with prayers and financial support during the time of their disaster. Their home burned. They had many tearful hours, but they cannot thank God enough that no harm came to their family. Bro. Kenneth says that his thoughts go to Job 1: 21, 22, and with the help of His Lord and God they will again rebuild their earthly home.

#### MISSOURI, LAMAR

##### Janice Braker - Sandra Marti

Strive aright when God in mercy  
His compassion turns to you,  
That your soul so long o'erburdened,  
Freed from sin might live  
anew.

Zions Harp, 47

We truly rejoice with our dear ones who have chosen to "strive aright." Our new converts and parents are Hildegard Stefen (Bro. Willie and Sis. Hilda), Jamie Marti (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mary), Helen Waldbuesser (Bill and Ella), Schelli Marti (Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine), Martha Braker (Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta), and Loretta (Lori) and Lawrence Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn).

Bro. Alfred and Sis. Charlotte Banwart are the happy parents of Ulista Kathryn, born Feb. 5. She has an older brother, Jonathan, to welcome her home. The grandparents are Sis. Caroline Banwart and Bro. Amos and Sis. Ruth Meyer (Fairbury).

The home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Janice Braker has been blest with a little girl, Kristen Jay, born Feb. 12. Robin and Phil anxiously waited at home. Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker and Sis. Mabel Springer (Fort Scott) are the happy grandparents.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Judy Braker, a surgical patient, and Bro. Ray Luthi, who in-

jured has hand at work. We are thankful that they could return home.

#### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

##### Stephanie Gerber - Loida Hodel

"Come now, and let us reason together saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow . . ." Isaiah 1:18.

With the snow and cold temperatures we are experiencing, we find it so easy to complain; but when we take stock and remember who is the head of our great universe, we feel so small and somewhat in the category of the Children of Israel during their 40 years of travel to the Promised Land.

Our "needs" have been met, as was theirs, and even the adverse weather conditions afford some real blessings if we look for them: snow affords nitrogen for the soil and an insulation for winter crops; a beautiful white blanket covers the bare earth; new friendships are formed as families and neighbors become reacquainted as we are "slowed down" and have time to count our blessings; and a real lesson in humility reveals the power of God.

Tiny snowflakes besnarl and even shut down industry and activities in our large cities. Bro. Kenny Knapp reminded us that a few snowflakes are not hard to sweep away, but as the snow accumulates, it becomes harder and harder to move. Comparing this to sin, if it is left unconfessed, it becomes harder and harder to escape from it.

We give a sincere welcome to our new family, Bro. Gerry and Sis. Nancy Knapp, who have moved to the Shelbyville, MO, area. We trust that the Lord will bless their step and that "The Little White Church on the Levee" will become "home" to them, as it has to many of us.

On Feb. 4, the engagement of Bro. Elwood Yackley (Sis. Clara and the late Bro. Perry) and Sis. Trudie Knapp (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lou Ann) was announced. May God bless this couple and their families.

Our 1979 business meeting was held Jan. 31. The newly elected officers are as follows: Bro. Donald Hoerr, replacing Bro. Richard Sutter as church trustee; Bro. James Sutter, replacing Bro. Mike Knapp

on the Fellowship Hall Committee; Bro. Kent Heimer, replacing Bro. Marvin Weigand on the World Relief Committee; and Sis. Elaine Hoerr, Bible Class Fund, replacing Sis. Ruth Cottrell. Bro. Robert Hoerr will be in charge of the Aid treasury which his father, Bro. John, so faithfully took care of for many years. Sisters Emma Dee Hoerr, Joann Weigand, and Lois Sutter were selected to take charge of our newly organized Food Committee. It was decided to divide our third and fourth grade Sunday School classes, and Sis. Kathy Haab was elected to teach the new class. Sisters Stephanie Gerber and Loida Hodel are replacing Sis. Lena Haerr as Silver Lining reporters. A big "thank you" to each one who is retiring. We trust the new officers will receive a real blessing in helping to carry on these important duties. To conclude our meeting, we all joined in singing "Unity", No. 237 in the Zions Harp.

Sis. Lena Haerr spent several weeks in Peoria getting acquainted with her new grandson. Daniel Irvin Schafer was born Feb. 2 to Sis. Lauretta and Bro. Bruce. Allen, Craig, and Laurie are happy to have a new brother.

Mrs. Lydia Decker, "Grandma" to Bro. Mike and Sis. Cheryl Stratton, passed away on Jan. 26 at the age of 95. "Those who fear God need not fear death." Our Daily Bread.

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

##### Ed Aeschleman

We are happy to have Sis. Marie Walch back in our Union City congregation after spending several weeks in Switzerland. We thank God for hearing and answering our prayers for her safe journey.

Richard Diggleman (son of Bro. John and Sis. Mary) has been assigned by his company to a tour of duty in Seoul, South Korea. Richard and his wife, Helga, presently live in Rochester, NY. They will move to Seoul within the next few weeks. Our prayers for Gods protection will accompany them.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Sis. Katie Farney observed her 90th birthday on Sunday, Janu-

ary 28. An open house was held in her honor at her home in the afternoon and was attended by many of her neighbors, family, and friends. She was born on January 28, 1889, the youngest daughter of John C. Farney and Katherine Kempf. Katie resides in her own home in Croghan. She enjoys moderate health and is able to do her own housework and assemble with us each Sunday. Her smile and words of love and encouragement are a lift to both old and young.

Our hospital medical patients during the past month were Urban Farney and Minnie Virkler. Sis. Lois Schamback was hospitalized several days for surgery on her foot. She has a walking cast. Our thoughts and prayers go out for each of our loved ones who are hospitalized, are confined to homes, or are in nursing homes. May each one of them be comforted by this thought and the merciful love of our God.

#### NEW YORK, NAUMBURG

##### Rachel Snyder

Our dear Bro. Elmer Taube passed away January 30 at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Minnie, two daughters, Mrs. Nute (Ruth) Millnity and Mrs. Vincent (Mary) Gayliard, and two sons, Ralph and Harold.

We are so thankful that Wilson Merz could see the need of repenting. He was baptized Sunday, January 21, in the extended care facility of the Lowville Hospital by Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner.

Sis. Barbara Bachman wishes to express her sincere thanks to everyone for their beautiful cards, gifts, and good wishes that she received for her 101st birthday on December 5. She asks that God will bless all of you.

#### OHIO, AKRON

##### Gail Spangler

We are thankful to have Bro. Ellsworth Graf and Sis. Katherine Novatny able to assemble with us again. They appreciate very much the prayers, cards, and deeds of kindness shown them during their hospitalization and their recuperation at home. While Sis. Katherine was in the hospital, she and Bro. Charles celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We offer our congratulations to them both, and

may the Lord continue to shower His blessings on them.

Sis. Rose Pamer has suffered a heart attack but seems to be coming along fairly well. Our prayers are with her and Bro. Paul.

We had a number of visitors on Sunday, Feb. 4. Among them was ministering Bro. Merrill Laukauf. The Lord surely worked through him to provide us with very inspiring messages.

Our annual elections were held in January. Our new Sunday School Superintendent is Bro. Leon Graf with Bro. Ron Palitto as his assistant. Bro. Steve Pamer was elected as trustee and Bro. Jeff Graf as usher. Sis. Rose Luginbuhl and Sis. Gail Spangler are filling the non-elected positions of primary teachers. It is our prayer that God will bless the labors of these brethren.

#### OHIO, JUNCTION

##### Lester Manz

Our newest arrival in the Junction church is little Rebecca Anne, born to Joe and LeAnne Rose. The grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty Manz.

Hospitalized this month was Steve Manz, son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz. It is nice to be able to report that he has recovered quit well and is able to be in church again.

On January 21, the engagements of Bro. John Rufener to Sis. Emily Manz and Bro. Lester Manz to Sis. Karen Klopfenstein were announced. Bro. John is the son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener from Mansfield, and Sis. Karen is the daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Klopfenstein from Latty. Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz are the parents of Sis. Emily and myself. We surely thank God for answering our prayers and rely on His guidance and blessings as we plan our lives together.

Ed. Note: It is interesting that the Junction reporter is marrying the Latty reporter and that his sister's engagement was announced at the same time as his.

#### OHIO, LATTY

##### Karen Klopfenstein - Susie Sinn

Ross Alan came to gladden the home of Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller. His playmates are Neil and Trent. Bro. Alvin and Sis. Ellen Klopfenstein and Bro. Russell and

Sis. Melvene Stoller are the thrilling grandparents.

"Those who walk by faith in Him seldom find the pathway dim." Unknown. We are thankful that our friend Annette Hackenjoos (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorine) has turned her back on the world and is following in our precious Saviour's ways. May she be a true light as she continues her schooling.

First-time parents are Bro. Daryl and Sis. Cindy Schieler. Jeremy Lynn was born Feb. 1. The grandparents are Bill and Sis. Elsie Rager and Sis. Marilyn Schieler (Wolcott).

Larry Gerber, son of Bro. Jim and Marge, had surgery for internal injuries from sledding.

May the Lord bless Bro. Art Gudeman (La Crosse) for his labor of love which he shared with us on Feb. 11.

"There is beauty all around when there's love at home." **Hymns of Zion.** On Jan. 22, the engagement was announced of Sis. Karen Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary) to Bro. Lester Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz).

Ed note: Sis. Karen is the Latty reporter.

#### OHIO, MANSFIELD

##### Lucille Groh

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you". Matthew 6:33. It was with much joy that we heard of the engagement of Bro. John Ruffner to Sis. Emily Manz (Junction) on January 21. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina are John's parents, and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz are Emily's parents. We are happy that they have realized how important it is to have Christ as the center of their lives before taking the step of marriage.

We also rejoice with Scott Sauter (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue) and Julie Morganstern who plan a July wedding. We wish them much happiness.

In need of our prayers are: Bro. Ben Stavenik, who recently suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized; Bro. Ed Beer (surgery); Sis. Catherine Morrison (surgery); Sis. Joyce Ramsier; Jenny Banks (hospitalized); and Traci Oesch (broken arm). They are now all recuperating at home.

Loving sympathy is extended to Bro. Byron Rice in the loss of his brother.

Our dear Sis. Esther Streitmater Sabo, 73, was called home to glory on February 9. She has been ill for many months, and her faithful husband, Joe, cared for her so lovingly. We know the Lord will comfort and help fill the vacant chair. Surviving beside her husband are three sisters, Sis. Martha Streitmater, Peoria, Sis. Sarah Steffen, Fairbury, and Lydia Nolan, Mansfield.

Yes, we'll meet again in the morning

In the dawn of a fairer day;  
When the night of watching and waiting

With its darkness has passed away.  
Where our precious ones now are dwelling

Free from toil and from every care  
With their garments spotless shining

Like the robes that the angels wear.

When our pilgrimage is completed  
And our footsteps no longer roam  
By the pearly gates gladly waiting  
They will give us a welcome home.

George Root

#### OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler

"I now have found the firm foundation where ever more my anchor grounds!" *Zion's Harp* No. 221. These words have been sung many times, but they seem to be so much more special at the time of baptism, so we sang this song after our two dear friends were baptized into the fold and are now know as Bro. Dan Stoller and Bro. Jim Rufener. "It lay there ere the world's creation, where else, but in my Savior's wounds? Foundation which unmoved shall stay, when earth and heaven pass away." Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor, and Bro. Rudy Graf, Akron, assisted our home elder, Bro. Joe Ramsier, in this most precious work. We want to thank Bro. Roy, Bro. Rudy, and also Bro. Ken Indermuhle, Sardis, for bringing forth the Word of Life from the Good Book.

Following serious illness and then surgery, Bro. Harvey Gasser is again able to worship with us. Bro. Robert Beery twice had surgery, and, although is able to be home, he must still have treat-

ments at Cleveland. We pray the Lord will be near these dear ones as they bear these afflictions.

True love from God was shown to our loved ones as they were united in marriage at Forrest, IL, on Feb. 11; these two are now known as Bro. Wendall and Sis. Kathy Dotterer. We want to welcome Sis. Kathy to our Rittman church. May the Lord be with them and bless their home.

On February 11, an open house was held at the Apostolic Christian Home for Bro. Fred and Sis. Ella Widmer who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are both in their nineties and enjoy moderate health.

A new baby was born to Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and is named Kara Lynn. One sister, Kimberly, welcomes her, too. The grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice Bauman, and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler. First-time parents are Daryl and Ivy Bauman with the arrival of a daughter, Jamie Marie. The grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Elizabeth Landis and Bro. Herb and Sis. Bernice Bauman.

A boy, their second, was born to Ricky and Kathy Garrison. Little Nathan Allen was welcomed by brother Michael. The grandparents are Kenneth and Lillian Rupp.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller have a new baby, a son, named Seth David. Brian and Eric are glad for a little brother. The grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bertha Gasser and Glen and Sis. Ella Miller.

#### GOD'S FINAL CALL

Someday you'll hear God's final call to you

To take His offer of salvation true—

This could be it, my friend, if you but knew;  
God's final call.

How can you live another day in sin,

Thinking some day with Christ you will begin ?

O will you hear, above the world's loud din,

God's final call.

If you reject God's final call of grace,

You'll have no chance your footsteps to retrace—

All hope will then be gone, and doom you'll face:

O hear His call, O hear His call!

John W. Peterson

#### OHIO, TOLEDO

Josephine Rehkla

Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. St. John 14: 1-3.

These are words of comfort when a redeemed soul passes from this life into eternity. Sis. Josephine Reineck departed this life on Feb. 6, and we believe she has a place prepared for her in the Father's house.

Surviving are: husband, Homer R.; daughters, Mrs. Marjorie Lubiatowski and Mrs. Diane Hughes; sons, Robert and Donald; sisters, Mrs. Elsie Troxel and Emily Frautschi; and brothers, Albert, Arthur C., and Carl Frautschi.

Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Rudolph Graf were with us for the memorial services.

At our annual membership meeting, Bro. Walter Rager was elected as a trustee.

In the Sunday School, we have Sis. Sharon Rager for the beginner's class and Sis. Marilyn Fetter for the pre-school class. We pray that God will bless them in this service.

Bro. R. D. and Sis. Sue Hilton have a son. They have named him Jarrod Christopher.

Karen Labadie has been in the hospital for surgery. We are happy to hear that she is making a good recovery.

Beth Fetty from Rittman is attending the University of Toledo. We welcome her into our fellowship.

#### OREGON, SILVERTON

Mary Jane Winkler

We were privileged to be able to hear the tapes of the Conference. It surely was a blessing to hear of the love and unity among our brethren. We have much to do to keep the commandments of God as brought forth at the Conference.



May we all strive to the end that, when our life is over, we can enter the beautiful mansions above which are prepared for the true and faithful.

Verse six in hymn No. 89 in the **Zions Harp** was brought to our attention:

"I thirst," He cries in pain,  
For there is no distress,  
Which Christ, the Friend of Man,  
Endured not at His death.

What a beautiful and comforting thought to know that Christ endured all things for us. There is no temptation or trial which comes to us that Christ didn't endure. And He was victorious! May we lean on Christ's strength so that we may also be victorious over all of our temptations.

Our dear aged Sis. Margaret Wanner has been ill. She was in the hospital for a short stay but is again home and up and about. She is feeling much better, and we are thankful that she can again assemble with us. God surely is good!

#### PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

(See New Jersey, Union City)

#### TEXAS, ZAPATA Tillie Kellenberger

May God grant a special blessing to the brothers that have given of themselves to bring us God's Word: Elder Bro. Paul Fehr, Morris, MN; Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger, Elgin, IL; Elder Bro. Lester Harter, Bern, KS; Bro. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, IN; Bro. Harry Sutter, Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and Bro. Jim Hoerr, Peoria, IL.

We have been blessed with many visitors, some visiting their parents who are wintering here.

Although we haven't had the warmest weather during January, we haven't had to endure the snow and ice which have been reported in so many places this winter.

We are experiencing spring weather, and our beautiful birds have a clear melody to their song.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Anna Fehr had quite a surprise when they arrived home on Saturday after spending a day in McAllen, TX. We had a very strong wind-storm, and the wind caught the back end of their mobile home roof and

lifted it completely off. Through the cooperation of many brothers, they had a new roof in two days.

There will be a miscellaneous shower Feb. 12 for Sandy Nohl who will be the bride of Rick Norman on Feb. 24.

## SILVER THREADS

### THANK HIM

Bro. Tim Sauder (Roanoke)  
When you think the Lord's been  
far away,

—A distant light—  
You're the one who chose to stray  
Into the night;  
And looking back to early days  
Where He's brought you  
from  
Darkness to His holy ways,  
Remember all He's done.

His power sailed you through  
troubled seas—  
Not by your strength within . . .  
Get down upon your wand'ring  
knees  
And thank Him.

Feel the joy, taste the peace,  
Know the truth;  
Cherish the love and sweet release,  
Breaking through,  
Free from death, free from fears. . .  
Security!  
Doubting not His blood and tears,  
He'll set you free.

If you'll believe with all of  
your heart,  
These gifts He'll freely give;  
Just get down upon your  
seeking knees  
And ask Him. . . and seek Him.

Now, you've learned to wait on God,  
His blessings,  
In patience meek, His power divine  
Confessing;  
Don't run ahead, or fall behind—  
Stay in stride . . .  
Through lonely tears and joyful  
years,  
He'll be your guide.

Walking hand in hand with the  
Lord  
The steps to Heaven you'll  
climb;  
Then, get down upon your  
humble knees  
And thank Him—  
Yes, get down upon your  
grateful knees  
And thank Him . . . and praise  
Him . . . and thank Him.

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley

### A HAPPY DAY

Today will be a happy day  
If, first, you find some time to  
pray,  
If, first, alone you go apart  
From worldly things, and in your  
heart  
And then to God you leave the rest.  
For God will take the hate and  
fear  
Of yesterday and yesteryear,  
And in their place, He'll make you  
feel  
The light and love He would re-  
veal—  
Yes, this will be a happy day  
If, friend, right now you'll stop  
and pray.

Author Unknown

### OTHERS

Lord, help me live from day to day  
In such a self-forgetful way,  
That even when I kneel to pray,  
My prayer shall be for—others.  
Help me in all the work I do,  
To ever be sincere and true,  
And know that all I'd do for you  
Must needs be done for—others.  
And when my work on earth is  
done,  
And my new work in Heaven's  
begun,  
May I forget the crown I've won,  
While thinking still of—others.

—Charles D. Meigs

### BETTER, WISER and HAPPIER

Do you wish the world were  
better?  
Let me tell you what to do;  
Set a watch upon your actions,  
Keep them always straight and  
true;  
Rid your mind of selfish motives;  
Let your thoughts be clean and  
high,  
You can make a little Eden  
Of the sphere you occupy.  
Do you wish the world were wiser?  
Well, suppose you make a start,  
By accumulating wisdom  
In the scrapbook of your heart;

Do not waste one page of folly;  
Live to learn and learn to live.  
If you want to give men know-  
ledge

You must get it, ere you give.  
Do you wish the world were  
happy?

Then remember day by day  
Just to scatter seeds of kindness  
As you pass along the way;  
For the pleasures of the many  
May be oft-times traced to one,  
As the hand that plants an acorn  
Shelters armies from the sun.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

### GOD'S PROMISE

Joseph . . . was sold for a serv-  
ant . . . he was laid in iron: until  
the time that his word came: the  
word fo the Lord tried him. Ps.  
105:17-19

God could have kept Daniel out  
of the lion's den. He could have  
kept Paul and Silas out of jail.  
He could have kept the three He-  
brews out of the fiery furnace. But  
God never promised to keep us out  
of the hard places. What He has  
promised is to go with us through  
every hard place and to bring us  
through victoriously. Selected—  
From Fellowship News.

What I know of God encourages  
me to trust Him in all I do not  
know. (Author Unknown)

### THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS

Awake my soul and see  
Signs and wonders in the sky!  
As scripture does fortell  
Christ's advent is drawing nigh.  
Prayers through all the earth re-  
sound,  
Waiting for the joyful sound,  
When He comes from heaven  
above  
Showing His eternal love.

In the twinkling of an eye  
Shall the glorious advent be—  
Redeemed of earth shall rise  
And His nail scarred body see.  
Saints shall lay their armour down,  
Each exchange it for a crown,  
Saved by Jesus they shall stand  
In the holy happy land.

Though joyful be the day  
And our hearts are moved to  
yearn  
For souls still lost in sin  
And who hail not His return  
Prayer and pleading be our lot

For the souls who know Him not.  
May they fall at Jesus feet,  
Find in Him salvation sweet

Hail the coming of the King;  
Sainted dead again shall rise,  
And with the living saints  
Meet together in the skies  
When earth's destined time is run,  
And our labors are all done,  
Saved of all the earth shall meet  
Bowing prostrate at His feet.

Bro. Henry Beer  
May be sung to the tune of  
"There's Music in the Air."

### TO A NEW BORN CHILD OF GOD

Dear Friend of mine in love sincere  
I write these lines to you;  
My heart is filled with love and  
cheer  
Whenever I think of you.

Although we may live far apart  
Upon this spacious land  
And seldom see your pleasant  
face  
Or press your welcome hand—

Yet we have heard such wondrous  
news  
Of you, dear friend of mine,  
That you have turned your heart  
and soul  
To Jesus Christ, Divine.

Ah what a joy it does create  
In many aching heart  
To see the friends and children  
dear  
From sinful ways depart.

Dear Friend the choice which you  
have made  
Is very nice indeed,  
For nothing on this earth is  
worth  
The promise you receive.

What must it be when once the  
time  
To leave this earth has come  
To know that Christ will share  
with us  
His everlasting Home.

Dear Friend we gladly share with  
you  
God's blessing, rich and good,  
And welcome you with all our  
heart  
Into our Brotherhood.

Oh we rejoice with you, dear  
Friend

For what you found today,  
And hope from now on you may  
go  
Rejoicing on your way.

How sweet the joy no tongue can  
tell  
That in our heart was given  
To know and feel that Christ  
above  
Has all our sins forgiven.

Oh let us thank our Saviour dear  
As long as life is given,  
For he has promised to prepare  
A place for us in Heaven.

But don't forget each day anew  
That you must watch and pray,  
For Satan's host will try His  
best  
To draw your heart away.

His wrath is fierce, his anger  
great  
Against us one and all  
Who have escaped deadly sin  
And his enticing call.

But trust the Lord, and ask his  
help—  
He will gladly help you through;  
He won't forsake his children  
dear—  
He's loving, kind and true.

As you journey through this  
world,  
This wish I share with you:  
That Jesus Christ our Shepherd  
dear  
Protect and comfort you.

Dear Friend, the days and hour  
will come  
Of sorrow, grief and woe,  
And clouds will hover 'round your  
head  
As through this life you go.

So when the gloomy times appear,  
Remember God above  
Is sending these things from  
above  
As tokens of his love.

His thoughts are always kind and  
good,  
His help is ever near;  
If we but stay in love and truth  
Whenever we are near.

He lets such times come over us  
To prove our love to Him  
And that we never may forget  
To call upon His name.

And don't forget that Christ above  
Has work for us to do,  
That we should try with all our  
heart  
Each day and year anew  
To be a bright and shining light  
Upon this land of strife  
That we may help some weary  
friend  
To everlasting life.  
So let us do whatever we can  
For Christ, our dearest Friend  
Who did so much that we may  
have  
Joys that will never end.

So may our Saviour kind and true  
Help you to do His will,  
And may He be a rod and staff  
To you in every ill.

Oh may we journey hand in hand  
In love and unity,  
And may He keep us pure and  
free  
From all iniquity

And when the Lord at last will  
come  
To call our soul away,  
May He find us one and all  
Faithful in every way.

How shall it be, when He will call  
"Come hither now ye blest—  
Receive the crown which you have  
won  
And everlasting rest!"

The love of God takes care of me  
At home, at school, at work or  
play—  
Wherever I may go or stay  
These words I always seem to see:  
"The love of God takes care of  
me."  
Its easier to do right things  
When something in me sings and  
sings,  
For it's here I hear as well as see  
"The love of God takes care of me."

I often listen for that song  
When something tempts me to do  
wrong,  
For I'm as safe as I can be  
If love is taking care of me;  
When all about me is the night,  
If clouds are dark or stars are  
bright,  
Across the sky I seem to see  
"The love of God takes care of  
me."  
If someone else is lone and sad,  
It always helps to make him glad  
To say "Don't let yourself be blue—

The love of God takes care of you."  
When Jesus said that God takes  
care  
To number every little hair  
I'm sure He meant that large or  
small  
The love of God takes care of all.  
Author Unknown

#### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

In Genesis the world was made by  
God's creative hand,  
In Exodus the Hebrews marched to  
gain the promised land,  
Leviticus contains the Law, holy,  
and just, and good,  
Numbers records the tribes en-  
rolled, all sons of Abraham's  
blood.  
Moses in Deuteronomy recounts  
God's mighty deed's,  
Brave Joshua into Canaan's land  
the host of Israel leads.  
In Judges their rebellion oft pro-  
vokes the Lord to smite,  
But Ruth records the faith of one  
well pleasing in His sight.  
In First and Second Samuel of  
Jesse's son we read,  
Ten tribes in First and Second  
Kings revolted from his seed.  
In First and Second Chronicles see  
Judah captive made,  
But Ezra leads a remnant back by  
princely Cyrus' aid.  
The city walls of Zion Nehemiah  
builds again,  
Whilst Esther saves her people  
from the plots of wicked men.  
In Job we read how faith will live  
beneath affliction's rod,  
And David's Psalms are precious  
songs to every child of God.  
The Proverbs like a goodly string  
of choicest pearls appear,  
Ecclesiastes teaches man how vain  
are all things here.  
The mystic Song of Solomon exalts  
sweet Sharon's Rose,  
Whilst Christ the Savior and the  
King the rapt Isaiah shows,  
The warning Jeremiah apostate  
Israel scorns,  
His plaintive Lamentations their  
awful downfall mourns.  
Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of  
dazzling mysteries,  
Whilst king and empires yet to  
come Daniel in visions sees.  
Of judgement and of mercy Hosea  
loves to tell,  
Joel describes the blessed days  
when God with man shall  
dwell.  
While Obediah prophesies of  
Edom's final fall.  
Jonah enshrines a wondrous type  
of Christ, our Risen Lord,

Micah pronounces Judah lost, lost  
but again restored.  
Nahum declares on Nineveh just  
judgment shall be poured.  
A view of Chaldaea's coming doom  
Habakkuk's visions give.  
Next, Zephaniah warns the Jews  
to turn, repent, and live.  
Haggai wrote to those who saw the  
Temple built again,  
And Zechariah prophesied of  
Christ's triumphant reign.  
Malachi was the last who touched  
the high prophetic chord;  
Its final notes sublimely show the  
Coming of the Lord.  
Matthew and Mark and Luke and  
John the holy Gospels wrote,  
Describing how the Saviour died,  
His life and all He taught.  
Acts proves how God the Apostles  
owned with signs in every  
place;  
St. Paul, in Romans, teaches us  
how man is saved by grace.  
The Apostle, in Corinthians, in-  
structs, exhorts, reproves.  
Galatians shows that faith in  
Christ alone the Father loves.  
Ephesians and Phillipians tell what  
Christians ought to be;  
Colossians bids us live to God and  
for eternity.  
In Thessalonians we are taught the  
Lord will come from Heaven.  
In Timothy and Titus a bishop's  
rule is given.  
Philemon marks a Christian's love,  
which only Christians know;  
Hebrew's reveals the Gospel pre-  
figured by the Law.  
James teaches without holiness  
faith is but vain and dead.  
St. Peter points the narrow way in  
which the saints are led.  
John in his three Epistles on love  
delights to dwell,  
St. Jude gives awful warnings of  
judgment, wrath and hell.  
The Revelation prophesies of that  
tremendous day  
When Christ, and Christ alone,  
shall be the trembling sinner's  
stay.

Publisher Unknown

#### DEAR LOST ONES

Submitted by Bro. Samuel Anliker  
in 1964

This was written after Karrole  
found peace and forgiveness of sin,  
and before baptism. Her coming  
from another doctrine makes this  
plea all the more touching and  
meaningful.

Once, long ago, a man walked  
on this earth. He came to tell of a



kingdom open to all men, regardless of race, financial status or education. This kingdom He taught would last for all eternity, for He was Lord and King of it. He spent His thirty-two and a half years of earthly life carefully and simply, instructing us how we can enter this perfect kingdom. He dedicated His life to one of simplicity, seeking no gold or silver, desiring no position of high exaltation, and wishing no comforts for His dust-made body, but rather consecrating His life to a way of perfection, humility, sacrifice and love. This man was the great God's son, Jesus Christ.

As He walked the roads of the world, He daily gathered around His presence souls desiring the gem of happiness. In their hearts, He cultivated the seeds of faith, hope and love. At last, His life on earth neared completion. He was accused of blasphemy, summoned before Pontius Pilate, and was sentenced the sentence of a common criminal, the scorn of the cross. As He died on the cross, He humbly and willingly accepted His sentence, for the love of mankind. Taking His cross, He embraced it and meekly grasped it as the will of His Holy Father.

His cross was indeed the heaviest in all history, for each splinter was sine of man . . . the sins of you and me, sins we had committed against Him. Only love for us, who hurt Him, was in His heart. All He wanted was the lost ones of the world to come unto Him and find peace.

In such agony, He could think only of us, His loved ones, and longed to console us in our desolation. His compassion did not terminate at this point, but rather soared to new heights. When hanging on the cross, He earnestly entreated His heavenly Father, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." He pleaded with His Father, so that we might live.

Dear Friends, come unto Him so that you might live. Fear not that your sins are too great, for God is a great King, capable of forgiving all. Think not that you are too unimportant, for no child is so small that he does not warrant the protection of His watchful eye. No one is too diseased that he cannot find strength in His care. Each plea fills us with solace in His compassion.

The road that leads to heaven is

rocky and steep, one filled with little thorns and blooming roses, to act as guide posts for the weary traveler. The person who decides to take the path must put aside all former roadmaps and pick up the one with no detours or short cuts, The Bible. In this book of golden wisdom, one finds all proper high-ways for reaching the throne of God safely and swiftly. In this book, one reads of the Master's commands, life of promises, and here one finds solace for the anguish-filled heart and strength for his weary body. More important than all these, he learns of the love that calls him forth out of a world of chaos into a world of glory . . . So, putting down my smutty books of romance, dances, parties and vice, I picked up this great book of God and found romance, adventure and mystery to a degree I never knew could exist. I found inspiration and courage to walk along the heavenly road, when I was tempted to turn off a side-path leading me back to my former life.

To make the soul live forever, one must crucify the flesh, a crucifixion that can only be done by the help of God. As Jesus cried on the cross of Calvary, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," so did I.

The life of a Christian is a beautiful one. Where there is sorrow, there are joys to overshadow them. Where there is warfare, there is also peace to quiet fears. Where there are injustices done, there is charity to soften the agonies. Where there are problems, there is faith and hope to help solve them. Where there is hate bestowed upon the followers of Christ there is Christ's love to console him. When one falls in love with Christ, one falls out of love with the world and looks for higher ground on which to walk.

One of the most precious gifts I received from God was the ability to speak with Him. When I was lonely, I could lie on my bed and just talk to Him. Sometimes I had many things to tell Him. Then sometimes I just sat and thought, but everyday I felt the words coming from my mouth were words prompted by the longing in my heart. Books of prayers I did not need, just my inner faith and peace in knowing that He was there listening to all I said, whether important or not. By these daily dis-

sertations, He became my friend, with whom I could share my most secret thoughts and desires. The happiness and knowledge of this came from the fact that I knew He cared. The privilege of prayer is a great power, one capable of defeating armies of enemies, healing the longings of the hopeful, resting the weary, constructing mansions of glory, creating hearts with singing, and making peace with God. Prayer is like a magic wand. When used with the right intentions, it can erase all traces of care, for prayer is speaking with the Creator of all, who answers all, with love.

Free your soul of your burden. Open it up to God, and find rest for your weary heart. These worldly things for which your flesh so eagerly craves do not bring happiness. Think, and carefully examine yourself. Money can purchase tickets to operas, ballets, theaters; it can buy cigarettes and alcohol, can offer you such activities as pool, gambling, offices, lusts, but only the love of God can bring happiness. God is love.

I know, because for twenty years I roamed the world, up hill and down, seeking pleasure where it is to be found. . . In taverns and dance halls but none was there. In greed or lust—it was not there. Frustrated and depressed, I turned toward Home to seek rest, and on my way, I stumbled on a sign, marked Calvary. There I saw a man hanging on a cross, with love written on His face with blood. Closing my eyes, I took a step toward Him and kissed His feet, and He bending His wounded head toward me, so His thorny crown pierced my heart, said, **Welcome home, my child.**

Loosing myself in Him, I found a joy no pen can tell. Sunlight seems to flood my path. In finding this crucified King, I found a haven for my lonely heart and a happiness that makes me want to sing, mid tears and trials. I was a great sinner, but He took mercy on my soul and filled it with joy.

Christ wants you also. Do not remain one of His lost ones, but come unto Him and be found as I was. Don the robe of Jesus, and taste of a joy you never knew could exist. Consecrate your life to Him, and heed His invitation to come and follow. Speak to Him daily of your heart's desires, and thrill as you hear His gentle words. Walk with Him, talk with Him,

and let Him become your friend. Take up your cross, as Jesus did, and find peace and happiness.

An unworthy servant of Christ,  
Karrole Pomodoro

### The Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

cerned, we should not permit difficulties, sorrows, or struggles to discourage us or to drive us into despair. We cannot help, perhaps, having moments of discouragement; but we should not permit them to cause us to despair or to give up. This would serve the enemy of our soul.

Let us trust God and believe Him as Paul did. Consider again Paul's situation and circumstances. He was a prisoner, perhaps manacled and bound. The weather and the limitations of the physical strength of the ship had become so adverse that those who had charge of the ship had completely given up hope. The sky, apparently, was nearly dark. The sun could not be observed. The stars and the moon could not be observed. It seemed like a hopeless situation.

We should find comfort and courage from this, dear ones all. In this terrifying situation, the light of God shone through for Paul. The light of God will shine through for us, no matter how difficult life becomes, if we cling to Him and believe Him.

Consider also the faith of Paul. "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Acts 27:25. The men who had charge of the ship, who were experienced seamen, gave up. It seems as if Paul, with less knowledge and ability, would have feared all the more.

However, Paul permitted his faith and his trust in God to lift him above the seemingly impossible situation. He believed God. He took Him at His Word, believing that it would be as He told him.

Let us also believe God. God has told us that if we are faithful to Him, He will be faithful to us. He will not permit any more to be laid on us than He will give us grace to bear. He will stand by us until the end.

Do we believe God when the hours of darkness envelop us? Does our faith wane and become weak, and do we look for other sources of strength for power or comfort?

We should not. We should believe, with Paul, the God of all creation; believe the One who has brought us this far and who will sustain us to life's end.

There are many more wonderful examples. There are more examples and teachings in this chapter than we can consider in our limited time.

There was a point during this stormy journey when the experienced seamen had lowered a lifeboat and were preparing to enter it and to cast off. Paul told the soldiers that God had revealed to him that unless all would abide with the ship, they could not be saved. They believed the God who spoke through Paul. The soldiers cut the ropes of the boat and the seamen stayed with the ship.

We can also learn from this, dear ones all. We should not try to run from our difficulties. We should not try to work our way from under whatever cross God would see fit to lay upon us. Instead, we should thank God for the cross, for those difficulties which come our way, believing that they are meant for our good.

No harm came to any individual soul here. We should note that. They lost many earthly possessions. Before they came to the land, they had to pitch many things overboard which normally would seem valuable.

Likewise, we have to get along without some things. We have to lay aside some things which the world might consider valuable. We have to do this for our spiritual and eternal good. We should not be afraid or hesitant to deny ourselves those things which the world values but which God may consider an abomination. The Word tells us that some things which are highly esteemed among men are an abomination in the sight of God.

We need to diligently search for anything in our lives which, though of value to men, would be an abomination in the eyes of a holy God; and we need to lay it aside and to get along without it. God will help us to do this.

The matter of the ship could also be likened to and compared with the church. When we come into the faith through true repentance and conversion, we become children of God, part of the holy church. Then

this ship and the church bear a real similarity. A remarkable comparison can be made.

Those on the ship were on a journey and we are on a journey. The ship was meant to bear them to their destination, and they were supposed to stay in it until the ship was removed from them. We are in the church and the church is meant to help us, to encourage and sustain us; sometimes it comforts us and sometimes it restrains us and it is for our spiritual good.

Sometimes, when difficulty befalls souls, there is a tendency to cast about and to look for something better, for something easier or more comfortable. We should learn from this example that there is nothing better. The church for us is the one in which we were converted and found peace, in which we were baptized after making our vows, and in which we were prayed over in receiving the Holy Spirit.

We should not consider, as a solution to our numerous problems and difficulties, that leaving this ship, so to speak, or looking for something better would be a possible solution. It should be unthinkable to us for we believed when we came into the church that we could work out our soul's salvation here, and there is nothing over the months or years or decades which should ever change this.

Let us cling to God who has been so good to us. Let us serve Him faithfully as Paul did. Let us believe Him, as Paul did, even under seemingly impossible circumstances. Though we may not be spared every cross or difficulty, our lives will be blessed with peace and spiritual rewards, and heaven shall be our home.

We live in a time when there is much seeking for satisfaction, pleasure, and happiness. Men and women seem to believe that they have a right to happiness. We do not discourage the seeking for and pursuing of a happy state of mind and a happy life. But we hold before us all the fact that the greatest degree of happiness can be obtained by serving God.

True happiness will be obtained in direct proportion to the degree in which we are willing to surrender our lives to this good and great God. We will not regret having done so either here or in the hereafter.



## SERMON BY ELDER BRO. DANIEL KOCH OF TREMONT, IL

Text. Acts 27:23-44

There are a number of applications which can be made from the Scripture which we have before us. These verses tell of a physical journey to Rome which can be compared with our journey to the Promised Land.

The trip to Rome was for a definite purpose. The men who controlled the ship were to deliver prisoners to Rome including the Apostle Paul. Paul was to be brought before Ceaser and, almost surely, God's purpose was that Paul would reach Rome and that there he would spread the true and living Word.

There are many things which we can learn from the life of Paul. We might think that the life of a man so close to God would be almost free of struggle and hardship. I believe that the life and example of Paul has a very useful purpose in its application to those of us who have placed our hands to the plow, so to speak, and have chosen the Lord as our God.

We who have become His children continue to face many difficulties and struggles; it is here that the life of Paul can speak to us and teach us.

Paul, as we well know, was a very zealous man. He counted his own life of comparatively little value compared with those things which can be obtained in the Lord. He was such a dedicated servant of God that he was given a glimpse of the third heaven. It could be said of Paul, as it was of one of old, that he was given a new heart (a new mind) and that he was filled with the Spirit of God.

It might seem that one who was so close to God would be relatively free from the struggles of life. We might think that such a one could automatically rise above trouble and that his way would be rather smooth. But it appears from this account and from others that the opposite was true. Surely God had a reason and purpose for this, for after Paul had dedicated his life to God, opposition imme-

diately rose up in front of him in various forms. The enemy of his soul wanted to discourage him and to destroy him if he could.

Various evil men of the day were used by the enemy of his soul (and of ours) to discourage and, if possible, to destroy this useful vessel of the Lord. As we well know, Paul was accused, beaten, and imprisoned. Even though he spoke with boldness and with courage, he often acknowledged that he felt weak and was fearful. Yet he continued on.

Before this voyage began, Paul was taken prisoner and was given the opportunity to testify about his faith before many people. His life was held in balance, one might say, and he knew that those who had taken him captive could free him, take his life, or cruelly torment him (whatever their will might be); yet Paul very earnestly and forthrightly stood for his God. Paul endured and embraced these things so that he might have a good resurrection.

Concerning the journey to Rome, God did not make the way smooth and easy for Paul. No doubt there was a purpose for this also. God did want and did enable Paul to reach the shores and the city of Rome, but it was not accomplished in a very comfortable manner.

We have read together of the terrible storm that overtook the ship; the preceding verses told of many days and nights when neither the sun nor the stars were visible to mortal eyes. We are told that the occupants of this ship gave up all hope. Think of it!

Things were so dreadful and so difficult that they gave up all hope. That is about where we began to read. Paul, in spite of the seemingly hopeless situation and the circumstances which surrounded him, was in prayer to God.

Through an angel, God revealed His will to Paul who then told the other occupants of the ship that they should be of good cheer. Though the ship would be lost,

their lives would be saved. Paul further said, "I believe God, that it shall be (done) even as it was told me." Acts 27:25.

Now let us consider this: even though God opened the way, it was not a smooth way according to man's thinking. For, as we have read together, the ship was broken into pieces and they barely escaped. Some swam to the limits of their physical strength. Some, clinging to boards and pieces of the ship, finally made their way to land. It was a time of struggle, a time of difficulty.

In the next chapter we can read that when they finally reached land, even though they were befriended by the people of the island, Paul was bitten by a poisonous serpent. One difficulty followed another. But, as we well know, God saved him from the viper's bite. The barbarous people of the land viewed with awe the mighty power that was shown in saving Paul from the bite of the poisonous serpent.

Paul's life was one of hardship and struggle, but was also one of victory and the manifestation of the power of God.

Though we don't suffer personal and literal shipwreck, are not bitten by poisonous serpents, and have not been cast into prison or beaten by evil people, there are things which cause us much difficulty, sorrow, struggle, and perplexity.

We need to consider the life of Paul. God used difficulties to shape and form Paul into a very, very useful vessel. If Paul's life had been one of ease, one without any resistance whatsoever, very likely Paul would have become complacent. His life might have been one of casualness. He might have sought the satisfactions and the comforts of this world and depended less upon God. His struggles helped Paul to become the useful servant that he was.

Insofar as our own lives are con-  
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