

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 30

NOVEMBER 1979

NUMBER 1

THANKSGIVING

THAT'S GRATITUDE

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

When times were hard and people had scarcely enough to eat, a certain man was very fortunate. He received a gold coin from a friend with which he was to purchase food for himself and his family. The man was so overjoyed that he went down the street tossing the coin into the air on his way to the grocery store. Unfortunately, he failed to catch the coin on one of those flips into the air above his head. To his chagrin, the coin rolled into a nearby manhole. As the man leaned over the manhole and peered through the grating which served as a cover, he observed that the coin had gone far beyond retrieval, into the water in the sewer. He thought for a moment, and then said, "I'm thankful, dear God, that I still have my appetite." That's gratitude. This may be just a story, but we get the point.

At Thanksgiving time, we go through the formality of giving thanks to God for the harvest, but it is quite different to have a deep sense of gratitude toward God unless we have experienced a crop failure. Then the contrast between a good harvest and a poor harvest becomes very apparent. However, it is the duty of a child of God, and all others, too, as far as possible, to give thanks with a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude. We should be thankful for a good harvest, even if we haven't experienced a poor harvest; for health, even though we haven't experienced serious illness; for earthly possessions, even though we have never been a pauper; and, most of all, for eternal salvation in the

FORGET NOT ALL OF HIS BENEFITS

Elder Bro. Theo Beer

Again we are approaching Thanksgiving Day, when the people of our country observe a special day of giving thanks. Let us count our blessings, which spring from Him as their source.

Let us give thanks, always, for His mercies, for our sins pardoned and buried in the sea of oblivion, for His wonderful grace that is bestowed on all who will believe, for the comfort and guidance of His precious Holy Spirit which dwells in the hearts and bosoms of all reconciled souls, and for a better life after this short life is over.

Let us review our own lives and remind ourselves again of all His benefits to us. How patiently He led us on the way, and how manifold were His gifts, both spiritual and temporal, bestowed on us, His children.

Lord Jesus Christ, even though we have never experienced the torment of hell.

Someone has said that even though we lose all our earthly possessions it's still not so terrible. If we lose our health, we have suffered quite a loss; but if we lose our soul's salvation, we've lost everything.

People who are truly thankful don't complain, and I question whether a truly thankful heart can criticize others. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:18.

In days of old, the priests and the Levites expressed the praise and thanks for the people of God. Today, however, in the new dispensation of grace, it is the privilege of every child of God to kneel in the presence of the Father and to thank and praise Him for His gifts of love to all.

Daniel loved to kneel in the presence of his God, three times a day, to praise and give Him thanks. King David's heart overflowed with thanks. In Psalm 103, he spoke: Bless the Lord Oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits, Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thy diseases, Who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.

In Christ's earthly ministry, He taught that man ought always to pray, and in everything to give thanks. On the basis of these examples from God's Word, we as children of God are instructed to make prayer and praise a happy and blessed habit of our daily lives. So let us conclude with the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 105:

O give thanks unto the Lord,
call upon His name.
Make known His deeds among the
People,
Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto
Him
And talk ye of all His wondrous
works.

The three essentials for happiness are: something to do, someone to love, something to hope for.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

It's that time of the year again, and our wooded area is just beautiful. In addition to colorful leaves, this time of the year brings costumes; and our activities last Friday night brought just that. Helen and Jane packed five separate bags with napkins, tissues, plus other things and distributed them to groups of children so that each could make their own Halloween costume. Their imaginative minds were very productive, and the results were very interesting. Along with autumn comes pumpkins, and our two boys, John and Jerry, have theirs ready for tonight's Cub Scout carving contest.

Last Saturday, Gary helped me butcher rabbits, and the meat tasted delicious. This year's garden is all plowed, and, with the help of all the children, the potatoes are dug. With Thanksgiving vacation approaching, most of the kids are looking forward to going home with their families. A two-day teachers' workshop, next week, affords the children a little vacation, and we have planned a long weekend of camping at Turkey Run. We are looking forward to the beautiful scenery and rugged hiking trails.

This is also Thanksgiving season, and a special day is set aside in America for the people to give thanks. However, for the Christian, in all things (and that means everyday), we are to give thanks. In fact, according to I Thess. 5:18, if we do not give thanks in everything, we are not in the will of God.

We have many reasons to thank Him for everything we went through this past month. We thank Him that all things have worked for our good to purify us and cause us to walk more "in the light." The circumstances He led us through demonstrated His best interest for us all. Praise be to our Holy Lord.

We thank everyone who upholds us with prayer and a positive attitude. We are also thankful for those who support us with donations.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The birds have left their roofless dwellings and have taken wing. The fall season tells that the earth is filled with the knowledge of the

glory of the Lord. Memory, being the guardian of treasured happenings, reminds us of the flowering of the springtime, the maturity of summer, and the ripeness of autumn. Now October's countenance is very beautiful, from its dawning to its dusk, when darkness falls from the wings of night as softly as a feather wafting downward. This season speaks of achievement. Rather than completion, it embodies in itself, and in winter's sleep, the beginning of another year. Autumn is like a door—gold on the autumn-side and silver on the other. What a blessing that man cannot control time! The sun rises when it is ready to rise and sets when it is ready to set, and the moon keeps its appointed rounds. Nature has a steadiness that man has not been able to disturb. May we never destroy its wonder.

It is our pleasure to welcome Edna Haynes as a newcomer to our family. Coming from Peoria, she had lived with her mother, Mrs. Dorothea Haynes, until coming here. Her father, the late Glen Haynes, is deceased. One sister, Judith, completes her family. Fried chicken, carrots, and chocolate pie are her favorite foods. Shopping, listening to the radio, and coloring are among her favorite pastimes. Birthday time for Edna is March 23.

By the time you read this, Benefit Day will have come and gone. To the many dear ones who have helped with this project, in any way, we say thank you, most sincerely. We believe that all was done "as unto the Lord" and will merit a rich blessing.

In this fall season's amazing garden of beauty, thoughtfully-thankful hearts involuntarily want to repeat with the Psalmist, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name." Psalm 103:1.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4. Another scripture was fulfilled before our very eyes as Dorothy Kraft became our sister in faith and was baptized with the laying on of the hands, Sept. 30. This was a special event for all of us, as Sis. Dorothy has been hospitalized different times, always wanting this parti-

cular desire granted unto her and her loved ones. In addition to her husband, Richard, and her daughters, Kelly and Karen, ministering Bro. Lloyd Kraft and Sis. Nadine were here from Gridley, KS, to witness this special event.

The weekend of Sept. 22 and 23, our Sunday School and young folks journeyed to California for fellowship with the Altadena Church. We give our thanks for a blessed time.

Paul Doolittle and Richard Kraft were both hospitalized for surgical procedures. Sis. Della Martin pulled a ligament in her ankle and was on crutches shortly after school started.

On September 27, a little girl was born to Judy and Ken Clayborn. She answers to Darlene Irene. Little sisters are Stephanie and Andra, and grandpa and grandma are Bro. Glen and Sis. Alice Baumgartner.

Wendy Klopfenstein, seven-year-old daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Lou Ann, suffered a compound fracture of her arm when she fell from playground equipment. She required surgery and a brief hospital stay. We pray for God's healing touch, that she may soon be free of her cast.

We are grateful to ministering Bros. Lloyd Kraft and Loren Knapp for sharing God's Word and their time with us. We look forward to their return.

NOTE: Starting November 4, our morning services will be starting earlier—10:00 singing and 10:15 services. Our afternoon services will remain at 12:30 singing and 12:45 services.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

USPS 496780

Editor-News Correspondent: Ed Souder.

Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, IN 46741.

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741.

The subscription rate is \$5.00 per year.

Send zip no. with address. Remember to send change of address (including zip no.)

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Carolyn Kaufman-Kathy Woodruff
THANKSGIVING

"What have I got to be thankful for?"

The beggar exposed his pegs.
"Should I be thankful because the Lord
Has taken away my legs?"

"What have I got to be thankful for?"

Came a woman's despairing cry—
"My husband's sick and my children starve. . .
For this did the Saviour die?"

"What have they got to be thankful for?"

I mused as I walked away,
And the answer came as I saw a crone
Kneel down in a church to pray.

She was hungry, cold, and her clothes were rags,

But faith made her old eyes burn—

Faith! That's the thing to be thankful for. . .

If mortals would only learn.

Nick Kenny

The Lord truly blesses us so much every day, that many times we begin to take for granted all of the rich blessings we receive. One such blessing is our precious faith that the Lord gives us: "Faith of our fathers living still," as the songwriter wrote. Too often, Satan prods us only to complain of the crosses we bear, and to neglect to praise Him for the many, many blessings He sends us every day. So with Thanksgiving so very near, maybe all of us can try to be a little more thankful and a little less critical of our daily crosses that we bear.

We in Tucson have been truly blessed this summer, and have had many opportunities for rich fellowship. Elder Bro. Richard Schubach and his wife, Barbara, were down from our Phoenix church to enjoy a Sunday of worship with us. That same weekend, our young group traveled to California for a weekend of fellowship with the Altadena and Phoenix young groups.

Two of the founders of our Tucson church have just returned to us after spending their summer vacations in the Midwest. Bro. Jay Bertsch has returned from Indiana,

and Sis. Martha Blessman has just returned from spending the summer with her daughter in Wisconsin.

Our Sunday School picnic was held this month. Truly, our little church is growing larger every year. We are still blessed with exceptionally warm weather here in Tucson, and are looking forward to the beautiful winter that the Lord so graciously gives us each year. However, we are still mindful of our friends and relatives in the East and Midwest as they prepare for the winter months ahead. Our prayers are with them all.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Carol Mac Donald - Shirley Witzig

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever." (Psalm 118:1)

How thankful we are that our Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! This is especially true in these latter days when the world is in such confusion. But if we keep our eyes, heart, and mind on the Lord Jesus Christ, He will show us the way! Another thing we should continually be thankful for is His Word. We should also be thankful for the freedom we have in this country to gather together under the sound of it. As it says in Psalm 119, verse 105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." So let us thank the Lord for His guidance through His precious Word!

In September, we were hosts for a Youth Fellowship weekend with the Tucson and Phoenix churches. The love and friendship felt in our gatherings has surely been a special gift from God, and we thank Him for it!

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Carlton J. Lanz

THE INCOMPARABLE

Standing under the canopy of the heavens, we are all akin. We are next-door neighbors as well. Everyone of us, no matter where we behold this celestial constellation of stars studded in the blue above, see the same light. Our small earth then shrinks, and we behold the limitless universe, each star and planet in its course, the same yesterday, today, and forever, so far as we know.

No intelligent person can afford

to be anything but reverent and humble under the starry night. Many centuries ago, the Psalmist felt this way as he viewed the stars and exclaimed: "What is man that Thou art mindful of him?" The beauty and wonder of it all reduces any conceit in us into nothingness. We look or gaze in amazement. These are the same stars and planets that billions of other human beings have beheld and seen centuries before us.

Great telescopes have revealed still greater wonders than the eye of man has ever suspected, and soon we shall have a new instrument that will reveal newer discoveries, far greater and beyond the imagination. How can anyone disbelieve in the one Superior Mind over all when he is privileged to look into the face of the studded sky of stars? There is no displacement there. Order and continuity of events parade before one's eyes. Over and over again the line comes to me: "What is man that Thou art mindful of him?" This was partly taken from an old edition of a news sheet with the writer unknown and with some additions, and points out, only slightly, the majesty and greatness of the Creator God.

God's bounty to us, of beauty as well as of material things, brings us to our knees in grateful thanksgiving. The Thanksgiving tradition established by our forebearers reminds us that the harvest season offers another opportunity for humble thanks to Almighty God for His many blessings to America and to each of her citizens. Truly, branches of the apple trees are touching the ground with their heavy burden of ripe fruit. The wheatfields, as reported, keep the barrels filled, year after year, in steady rhyme.

In one of our local newspapers, it was reported that if all of our wheat in storage was loaded on trucks, from bumper to bumper, they would span 1200 miles. This would seem solid evidence for humble thanks to Almighty God for His many blessings to America and to each of her citizens. It was the goodness of Sarah Hale that brought this day, Thanksgiving, before our nation.

Note: Bro. Daniel Virkler was rushed to Mt. Sinai Hospital, having been shot in the lower chest by one of two armed robbers. He

was at the dairy store where he is manager. The time was around 8:50 on a Saturday. His father, Bro. Kenneth, gave me a note which said that he dropped to his knees praying, that he felt ready, but loved life and wished to be spared for the sake of his wife and three small children. Prayers are made, and with it is hoped that he will recover with no ill effects.

We enjoyed many blessed hours in the past several weeks when several visiting brethren in the ministry spent time here with us at Rockville. They were Bro. Aaron Steffen of Alto, MI, Bro. Simon Wagonbach of Tremont, Bros. Ed Kloter and Roy Weiland of Bay City, MI, and Bro. Harold Sutter of Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
John and Caroline Hejja

Soon America celebrates another Thanksgiving Day. For the Christian, offering thanks to God for His many blessings is something which should occur daily, not just on one day out of the year. Thankfulness to God glorifies His name and is accepted by Him as a sacrifice and form of praise, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrew 13:15. "Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 100:4-5.

How important is thankfulness to God? In Hebrews 1:18, the ungodly and unrighteous are spoken of: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." The preceding verses enumerate the actions of these people which God considered unrighteous. We read in verse 21, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; . . ."

God has given much to us. We have so many things in our daily life which are gifts from God—homes, families, food, fellowship, etc. Being thankful to God for these things does not come naturally for an unrighteous or sinful man. Let us be different, recognizing where our blessings come

from and praising God for them. Even when we do not seem to have an abundance of material goods, we can be thankful, knowing that God in His wisdom gives each what He knows is best for him. We should always be thankful to God for His priceless gift of salvation. "But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs." Psalm 69:29-31.

We appreciated the messages brought to us by visiting ministering brethren this month, Bro. Lawson, Minneapolis, Bro. Lenny Meyer, Chicago, and Bro. Al Schneider, Rockville.

A piece of land has been cleared just behind our present church parking lot on which to begin construction of our new fellowship hall.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Elda Martin

Again, we want to mention an additional location for church services, beginning Dec. 2, 1979, at the Port Charlotte-Punta Gorda Board of Realtors, 577 South East Harper, Charlotte Harbor, FL. Anyone needing further information should contact Bro. Doug Sabo, Nokomis, FL. Phone: 813-966-2343.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sis. Marie Martin in the loss of her mother, Sis. Alice Funk.

Bro. Dan Kurchev is in the hospital for surgery. We pray that he may have a full and successful recovery and soon be able to assemble with us again.

Kathy Martin, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Aldine Martin, was married to Gary Hinegardner in Bloomington, IL. They have now moved to Sarasota to begin their new life together.

We were thankful, again, to have Bro. Ed Bahler, Remington, IN, with us to feed us from God's Word.

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL
Holly Stahl

I observed a farmyard scene with more than casual interest this week. It was a childhood memory that first caught my eye, and then a greater insight held my attention. A farmer was turning a small calf out to pasture for what was

apparently the first time. The calf's pen was small and the pasture must have seemed a huge new world. He trotted off, stiff-legged at first, and then broke into a wild run, stopping only to kick his legs high into the air in obvious joy. "Set free," I mused. "The little creature has been set free for the first time."

As I drove away from the happy scene, I caught myself thinking of that little calf and what joy there was in being set free. I remembered then, with thanksgiving, my own freedom and what great joy there was for me when I experienced it for the first time. Freedom from sin to serve Christ—that was true freedom for me for the first time in my life.

Later that evening, the words of a writer came to my mind, and I read the Bible verse that had inspired his song. "Naphthali is a doe set free: he giveth goodly words." Gen. 49:21. This verse reminded the writer of what each Christian should be and caused him to pen these words at the beginning of his song: "A doe set free is the picture of being loosed from the bondage of selfishness into the freedom of God's spirit. But this freedom is given for a purpose that all we do might be a beautiful statement of the truth . . ." by John Fischer.

It's true. We are most free and happy of all people on earth because of Christ. But I felt a greater responsibility as I recognized the importance of being an example to an ever worsening world. As that little calf was a caricature of happiness to me, so I should be a pure reflection of the love and peace and joy that is inspired in me by Christ Jesus. And as Naphthali gave "goodly words," so we must as Christians . . . be ready always to give an answer to every man for the hope that is in us . . . I Pet. 3:15. We must be witnesses for Christ in word and deed, for that's the responsibility that comes with freedom.

This month, we've been blessed and spiritually fed by many visiting ministers: Bro. Jim Leman from Roanoke, Bro. Steve Rinckenberger from Cissna Park, Bro. Marshall Heinold from Washington, and our own Elder Bro. Don Koch.

We also spent a joyful weekend with Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman from Francesville, and Bro. Rod

Huber from Valparaiso as they attended worship services and the wedding service of Sis. Tianne Nussbaum and Bro. Jerry Overmeyer here in Bloomington. Tianne and Jerry were married Oct. 21.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

Sis. Carol Heinz was a recent surgical patient. We hope she will have a speedy recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Eunice Klumpp who has been unable to assemble with us. May God fill her hours with His presence.

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who have found it worthwhile to visit our congregation. Those who have served us recently are Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington), and Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley).

This season is a good time to think about what our home and loved ones mean to us, and then be thankful. Thomas Dreier says, "If you want health and happiness, start right now to give thanks to those who love and serve you. Tell those at home how appreciative you are of what they are doing for you. When you awaken in the morning, start giving thanks and keep at it throughout the day. Why, you will find yourself a magnet that will attract health and happiness. Wealth of the mind and spirit will flow upon you."

(The poem "O Dear Friend, Won't You Come In?" published in the September issue was written by Bro. Dan Guingrich, not Bro. Dave Guinrich.)

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Charlen Banwart

THANKSGIVING

We thank thee, Father, for the
care
That did not come to try us;
The burden that we did not bear,
The trouble that passed by us;
The task we did not fail to do,
The hurt we did not cherish;
The friend who did not prove
untrue,
The joy that did not perish.
We thank thee for the blinding
storm
That did not lose its swelling;
And for the sudden blight of harm

That came not nigh our dwelling.
We thank thee for the dart unsped,
The bitter word unspoken,
The grave unmade, the tear unshed,
The heart-tie still unbroken.

The Treasure Chest

Ministering brothers who have recently visited our congregation are: Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Todd Feller and Bro. Merle Bucher (LaCrosse), and Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington). We thank them and their families for coming.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Yesterday, we were singing, just a few of us sisters, prior to our supper in a Christian home. The song was "Mansions Over the Hilltop," No. 27 in the Heavenly Highway Hymns book. The chorus goes, "And someday yonder we will never more wander, But walk the streets that are purest gold." I think we all experience varied incidents of life so that we do not always think of those streets of gold. Heaven sometimes seems closer and more real; at other times our earthly eyes only dimly perceive it. But a truly golden time of heavenly upreach is the holy time of partaking of the communion cup, the blood and body of Christ. Saturday evening, Sept. 29, Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont, KS, assisted our Elder Bro. Dale in this most solemn sacrament, reminding us and renewing us: we are "redeemed . . . from the hands of the enemy." Psalm 106:10.

Bro. Joe Zimmerman, Morton, IL, ministered unto us on Sunday, the 30th, as did Bro. Sam. We are so grateful for brothers willing to be spokesmen for the Word of God. We also enjoyed, on that day, a few songs from the Sunday School and a meal together with our beloved friends and brethren. We are truly blessed materially, but it is for our spiritual gifts that we plead and pray and thank, that we may have and share ever more abundantly.

For several Wednesday evenings, we have listened to the tapes of the conference held in Fairbury this past August. It is most precious to hear these words, spoken for our spiritual welfare. These, our shepherds, have fulfilled their responsibilities, as always, to be the "watchmen" on the towers, sound-

ing the alarm lest any should fall, unwarned, into the enemy's path. We have the responsibility now to not only be good listeners but also obedient doers.

Bro. Dave Wegman has lost his grandfather, Bro. Emanuel Jacobs of Morton, IL. To him we extend our deep sympathies, but we rejoice that he has treasured memories and the hope of meeting in heaven. To those relatives of Helen Storrer, a sister, two brothers, and dear inlaws, we apologize for our mistakes. Again we extend our right hand of love and sympathy to Bro. Jim and Sis. Martie Grivet, Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schrenk, and Reuben Schrenk.

'Tis a question often asked: are you a stepping stone or a stumbling block? Have you even thought of the differences that exist? A stepping stone allows someone to get a foothold; a stumbling block is too jagged or too smooth. There is a difference in their steadiness, too. A stumbling block has a wobble, likely to tip someone off, dislocating not only itself, but perhaps even causing an avalanche. A stepping stone hugs close to solid ground, being anchored. Do we have enough love, not looking to offense? Are we too sure of ourselves, too proud, or too tolerant, condoning evil? Do we struggle to stay on the narrow and straight pathway, or do we search out new activities and new ways? Are we enchanted by every new kind of doctrine? Remember, all it takes is one stumbling block on a path.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson

As Thanksgiving draws near, we naturally think of the many things for which we are thankful. If we have been sick and God has restored our health, we're very aware of it and praise Him. If the harvest has been good, we thank God. Some may have been out of work for a time and now are working again. They are thankful. All of us who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb are surely thankful for our salvation. We thank God daily for the "big things" like food, clothing, and shelter. But what about the "little things?" I think, if we follow the suggestions in this poem, we will find our blessings seem to multiply and we have less time or inclination to grumble.

LITTLE THINGS

Sing out in praise of "little things,"
 The patter of the rain,
 The fragile beauty of the frost
 Upon a window pan;
 The cheerful warbling of a bird,
 The whisper of a breeze,
 The dew-kissed petals of a rose
 What lovely things are these!
 Sing out in praise of "little things,"
 A rainbow in the sky,
 Sunrise in the morning mist,
 A shining star on high.
 Sing out, O world, in praise of these
 For each one is a gift —
 The "little thing" designed by God
 To give our hearts a lift!
 Elizabeth Gerus

Our congregation has had reason in the past month to be thankful for visiting ministers. Bros. Roy Grimm (Taylor), Todd Feller (La-Crosse), Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka), and William Hodel (Roanoke) shared God's Word with us. May God bless them for their willingness to be used in His vineyard.

Sis. Anna Hari was a medical patient but is home now. Because of her illness, Bro. Joe Hari returned to the nursing home in Watseka. Bro. Bill Feller was a surgical patient. We're happy to report that he is home. Sis. Irene Hauptli is also a surgical patient. We pray that she will soon be feeling better.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Gay Knapp - Pat Rinkenberger

A chapter completed,
 A page turned,
 A life well-lived,
 A rest well-earned.

Our dear Sis. Ida Nussbaum passed away on Sept. 29. We express our sympathy to her daughter, Sis. Pauline Roth, and her family. May they find peace in the knowledge that their loved one has completed but one chapter in the book of eternal life.

On Oct. 7, Sis. Sue Roth, daughter of Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline, was united in marriage to Bro. Rick Wiegand of Goodfield, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla. We wish for Rick and Sue a blessed life together in the Lord. We surely will miss her in our congregation.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis), and Bro. Ron Heiniger

(Bloomington).

Bro. Carl Schieber, Sis. Cordelia Zimmerman, and Sis. Kathryn Miller were hospital patients. We pray that the Lord will grant health where it is His will.

At this thanksgiving time we are again humbled as we consider our blessings from above.

"So now again thou hast to us a blessing given.
 Our handiwork is blest by thy good word from heaven.
 Thou blassest food and drink,
 our needs to satisfy.
 Therefore we give Thee thanks;
 our song shall rise on high."
 Zion's Harp No. 13

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Ruth Ann Getz

My heart is warmed when I reflect on the words of the author:

"My Lord, an offering do I bring;
 My heart I give to Thee.
 I gladly give this heart of mine,
 Which Thou dost ask of me."
 Zion's Harp No. 163

And four of our recent converts were able to sing this praise to their Lord as they arose out of the waters of baptism. We are grateful that souls still long to be reconciled to their Saviour, that they can feel victorious over sin through the shed blood, and that they can be gathered into the household of faith. The four benefactors of God's grace and mercy are Carole Steffen, Julie Schrock, Christine Schrock, and Loyd Kellenberger.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin have been blessed with the addition of Benjamin Carl to their family. Benjamin, born Sept. 28, is welcomed by Ann, Renee, and Tony. Sis. Florence Martin, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Martha Griener (Morris) are the grandparents.

For many months our friend Gordon Roger has lain on his hospital bed following an automobile accident which has rendered him a permanent quadrapelegic (paralyzed from the neck to the toes). Gordon also has a hole in his neck called a fistula which persists in spite of repeated surgery to close it. This prevents Gordon from eating and drinking normally, and has forced him to take nourishment in the form of a pink liquid draining from a bag (on an intravenous pole) through a tube into his stomach.

For two years Gordon has had nothing to eat or drink. He waits patiently . . . hoping that some day the fistula will close so that he might participate in a full rehabilitation program to learn various skills to help him live better from a wheelchair. Gordon can receive mail at Passavant Memorial Hospital, Superior Street and Fairbank Court, Chicago, IL 60611.

We find again at this time that we have friends and brethren who have been ill. It is our prayer that these loved ones can experience the nearness of God in their need. Those hospitalized have been Sis. Sara Schmidgall, Sis. Alma Schmidt, Sis. Martha Zierke, Mary Spohr, Richard Anliker, and Kristi Bohlin (daughter of Wallace and Lillian).

Many blessings have been received through the teachings of our various visiting ministering brethren. Truly, it is refreshing anytime we can gather around the Word of God. Those who visited us were Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont), Bro. Albert Wuthrich (Pulaski), Bro. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), and Bro. Joe Schrock (Congerville).

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Melba Mangold

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High. Psalm 92:1. We are again in the season of Thanksgiving; we should count our blessings and appreciate all the Lord has blessed us with this year. There has been, at least in this area, a bountiful harvest with beautiful fall weather for the farmers to work in so they could bring in the crops. The trees have been unusually colorful this fall, with more red and bright yellow displayed than in some falls.

Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber are the happy parents of their first child, Joshua, born Sept. 19. The grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Eunice Gerber of Latty. Two other little babies share the same birthday. Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman have a little boy, Timothy Lee, to be with his sister, Holly. The grandparents are Bro. Milton and Sis. Caroline Leman and Leland and Sis. Mary Swadley of Peoria. He was born Sept. 29. That same day, Bro. Allen and Sis. Nathalia Getz became the parents of Greg Allen, their sixth child. His brothers and sisters are Wayne,

Gary, Sandy, Kent, and Natalie. The grandparents are Bro. Jess and Sis. Laura Getz and Bro. Emil Stoller of Latty.

Little Christopher Schmidgal, three-year-old son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Carrie had the misfortune of having two fingers cut off when an automatic fan came on, unexpectedly. He was flown to Springfield where surgeons attached the fingers to the hand. There is feeling in the fingers, and they are hopeful that he will be able to use them. It is truly marvelous what wisdom God has given to man. Dallas Cawley, the husband of Sis. Madelyn, has had emergency surgery, but is recovering.

Sis. Ida Nussbaum, a resident at the Home, was taken from this life rather unexpectedly, being in the hospital only a few days. She was an example to all. She was unable to see and had lost both legs, but she always seemed cheerful and said "it could be worse." Her funeral was in Congerville, and she was buried in Forrest.

We have been listening to the tapes of the conference on Wednesday evenings. It is certainly inspiring to hear the elder brothers speak on so many timely subjects. We are so thankful for them. We do well if we heed the warnings and exhortations they so kindly give us.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

We rejoice to add, to the fold of Jesus Christ, two more couples. Eldon and Darlene Steidinger and Kenneth and Linda Fehr gave their testimonies of their faith for salvation and were baptized. They were witnesses of the joy of having Jesus in your heart. Bro. Leroy Huber and Bro. Perry Zimmerman assisted our elder for the occasion.

Sis. Julie Bahler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bahler, is engaged to Bro. Herman Drayer of Bluffton.

It was a joy to have the Youth Fellowship here and have young people from our surrounding churches come on two Sunday evenings to sing praises to the Lord.

Sis. Gertie Moser had the misfortune of breaking her arm.

There were many charitable gifts given and many deeds done for the annual Benefit Day for Fairview Haven. They are grateful for each one who helped to make it successful.

With great joy, we share that Marci Fehr, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Glenn Fehr, has turned to the Lord Jesus for her salvation.

On his 20th birthday, John Chester Traub received a foot injury while picking corn. He has a broken toe.

ILLINOIS, FORREST Beverly Eisenmann - Jan Bachtold

We have had several hospital patients this month. Bro. Alvie Kilgus had cataract surgery. Sis. Louise Zimmerman was in for a few days, as was Minnie Bachtold and Kaylene Knapp (Bro. Glen and Sis. Laura). Sis. Leona Ricketts again submitted to surgery and is in at this writing, as is Bro. Ed Bach. We welcome those that have been ill back into our midst and are thankful when God grants recovery and good health.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Dave Weigand (Champaign), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor), and Frederick Knapp (Congerville). May God bless them for bringing God's Word to us.

Our congregation is rejoicing over seven young souls who have surrendered their hearts and have turned to the Lord. They are Tricia Gerber (Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther), Glen and Linda Steidinger (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn), Holly Zimmerman (Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn), Sandra Anliker (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy), Marcia Metz (Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam), and Alisa Hamilton (Tom and Sis. Earlene). We pray that, as they proceed in their repentance, their foundations will be firmly grounded in the Lord.

Also rejoicing for a different reason are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger. They rejoice because of the birth of their first baby. Little Lynn Marie was born Sept. 19 and was joyously welcomed by the new grandparents, Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger and Bro. Allen and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman.

We gathered together one Wednesday evening to remember our Lord's suffering and death on the cross. Sharing Holy Communion with us and our Elder Bro. Perry were Elder Bros. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) and Josh Broquard (Fairbury). It has also been spiritually uplifting when we have gathered together on Thursday evenings to listen to the conference tapes. Those quiet evenings of listening to what God had to tell us

were a real blessing to us as we are living in such a busy and rushed time of life.

A thought for Thanksgiving: With the glibness of accepted routine, we approach a holiday peculiar to Americans, a holiday whose origin lies in the heartfelt gratitude of those first Americans to a God who had bountifully supplied their material needs and had made possible their survival . . . Thanksgiving, the giving of thanks for good received, is nothing more nor less than grateful prayer. Its power lies in the simplicity of its sincerity. Belief in the power of prayer is individual. One must remember, however, that the result of prayer can be universal. For one full day, then, let us lay aside self-will, self-pity, self-justification in favor of selflessness, compassion, and justice strained with mercy. For one full day, let us surmount fear, discipline loose talk, and control uninformed judgment. For one full day, let us take unto ourselves the serenity of spiritual strength. Let us give thanks for the blessings that are ours. And let us call that day, Thanksgiving Day.

Gertrude M. Puelicher

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Verna Hartter

All around us, it seems, we can observe such a bountiful harvest; the fields are bending with ripened grain. How thankful we are! But, alas, we can also observe a spiritual harvest, where the seeds of goodness were sown long before last spring, and souls have now come forth and answered God's call.

On Sept. 22 and 23, Bob and Carci Schieler and their son, Brian, gave their testimonies of how God has worked in their hearts and were baptized according to the peace and faith they have found. On Oct. 3, Jordan and Kathy Feucht also gave testimonies of a true conversion and were baptized according to their faith. Bro. Dave Kieser, Princeville, assisted in this important work of the Lord. We also thank Bro. LeRoy Huber, Eureka, Bro. Ralph Garber, Morton, and Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott, for their labors of love in assisting and bringing God's Word to us.

Chris Knapp, young son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky, was hospitalized for a time after being kicked in the jaw by a horse. He is now

"up and about" and seems to be doing quite well.

Our Sis. Elizabeth Hartman has been ill. She is now home from the hospital but must return each day for necessary treatments. We pray the dear Lord will strengthen her each day. May He also be with our Sis. Arlene Wyss, who is mostly bedfast at this writing.

Ken and Peggy Hartter are new parents of Jacob Kenneth, born on Sept. 19. The grandparents are Ed and Veda Freeman, Peoria, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Verna Hartter.

Jonathan Martin Baner was born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Baner on Oct. 12. He has a little sister, Kate. The grandparents are Richard and Janet Baner, Eureka, and Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred Knapp of this congregation.

We welcome Sis. Sue (Roth) Wiegand to this congregation. She became the new bride of Bro. Rick Wiegand on Oct. 7. May the Lord bless them in their new life together.

Sis. Emma Beetschen passed away on Sept. 22. Funeral services were held on Sept. 24. Surviving are one daughter, Eleanore Knapp of Eureka, one brother, William Koelling of Fertile, MN, and one sister, Sis. Lydia Tanner, Morton. She also had three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. It was wonderful to observe how very much she loved her family, even the great-grandchildren.

Sis. Elsie Landes was blessed this summer with visits from her children, Mabel Adams of Salt Lake City, Margaret England and husband, Dick, of Circleville, OH, and Gilbert of Stamford, CT.

A brown leather coat, size 46, was left in the Goodfield Church sometime ago.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Love rules without a sword, binds without a cord." Author Unknown.

The love of God has reached down and drawn three lost souls out of sin and darkness and into His marvelous light. Our new sisters in faith, Rhonda Funk, Judy Zimmerman, and Beth Ringger, have repented for their sins and have become new creatures in Christ. After giving a testimony of their faith, they were baptized Oct. 21. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann of Chi-

cago with us to assist in this precious work. Ministering Bro. Tom Leman of Elgin was also with us for the occasion.

Two homes have been blessed by the births of precious little ones. Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf are the parents of Janie Marie who was born Sept. 16. Jason, Jaron, and Jodie are her brothers and sister. Janie's grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Winifred Schlipf of Gridley, and Bro. Willis and Sis. Elna Nussbaum of Forrest.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller are the parents of Nicholas John, who was born Oct. 15. His sister, Danielle, welcomed him home. Nicholas' grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Marie Stoller, and Bro. Ray and Sis. Nadine Ringger, all of Gridley.

Mrs. Anna Martin passed away, and her funeral was Oct. 21. Our sympathy is extended to her family and loved ones who will greatly miss her.

Janet Gramm and Dennis Ellis were married on Sept. 22. Janet is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Mary.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Doris Bachtold

The Lord has a will,
And I have a need
To follow that will,
To humbly be still,
To rest in it, nest in it,
Fully be blest in it,
Following my Father's will.

Mike and Barbara Hudson

Whenever our will is completely abandoned unto His will, nothing but good can come from it. Yet, it seems sometimes that even though we acknowledge His wisdom and desire His leading, something within us holds back. It is almost as though we fear to see where He will guide our footsteps. Our humanness isn't quite ready to throw in the towel, give up, and trust our Father. That's when we've got to cling to His promises:

"... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly... 1. He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal... 2. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour... 3. If a man love me, he

will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.4"

How shall we know His leading? First, we must search the Scriptures and discover whether the step we want to take is right in His eyes. Then, we should examine the circumstances in our lives, whether or not the doors are opening. The most important move is committing it unto the Lord and awaiting His peace. This may take time, but when it comes, we will be sure.

We welcome the new students that are attending various schools in our area. We appreciated having Bro. Jim Hoerr (Peoria) for our annual Freshman welcome. As students of the Word, we are continually learning from teachers that bring new insight: we thank Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Everet Hari (Bloomington), and Joe Schrock (Congerville).

Footnotes:

1. John 10:10
2. John 12:25
3. John 12:26
4. John 14:23

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Joann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

As the fall season is upon us, our thoughts are again turned toward harvest. The farmer has planted the seed in faith that God would add the increase. We are thankful that God has again blessed us with a bountiful harvest. Our dear elders, ministers, and Sunday School teachers likewise plant the "Good Seed" into many hearts during each Sunday and mid-week service. Will the "heavenly harvest" be bountiful or slim? Each one of us must answer that question for ourselves. May all of us continue to be prayerful so that the "heavenly harvest" will be a bountiful one.

We are always thankful to our Heavenly Father when our ministering brothers come to visit us and share God's holy Word with us. Those who have recently come to visit us have been Bros. Carl Wyss, Washington, IL; Bob Grimm and Ed Hohulin, Goodfield, IL; Dan Koch, Tremont, IL; and Dave Keiser, Princeville, IL. May God richly bless them.

We wish God's blessings on Sis. Donna Wuthrich and Bro. Ron Massner, Oakville, IA, as they have felt God's leading in becoming man

and wife. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner.

We wish to extend sympathy to the family of Elmer Stegmaier. May God bless and comfort them in the loss of their loved one.

Little Michael Jordon Mayo was born on October 8 to Bill and Gail Mayo. Two "big" sisters, Erin and Macy, also welcome Michael home. The grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie Eunice Taufer and Mrs. Laverne Mayo.

We would like at this time to remember those confined at home and those in the hospital. Those who appeared on our hospital list were: Bro. Frank Bauman, Ed Dockus, Lloyd Belsley, Bob Herman, Jon Feucht (son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth), Sis. Emma Huette, Sis. Marie Schumacher, Lola Kaufman, and Anna Kaufman. Let us continue to remember these dear ones as we go about our daily walk.

Soon Thanksgiving will be here. Reflecting, we have to admire the faith and courage of those few who endured and overcame great hardships to start anew. Religious freedom is a precious gift we should strive to protect. The pilgrims, after setting a bountiful table, offered their heartfelt thanks for the protection and blessings supplied by their Heavenly Father. This Thanksgiving, as we gather together, our table laden from the harvest, let us try to recall and cherish the significance of this holiday. Let us rejoice and be glad, for this is the day the Lord has made.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diana Hohulin

As Thanksgiving time is upon us once again, we look to Thee, O Father, with humble hearts and thank Thee for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us. The hymn "Praise and Thanks For God's Blessings" expresses our feelings so clearly:

Lord God, we honor Thee and praise Thy mild compassion, that Thou so gracefully, dost hear our supplication! Thy love is truly great; Thy mercies are untold; Thou givest food and drink for spirit, flesh, and soul.

So now again Thou hast to us a blessing given. Our handiwork is blest by Thy good Word from heaven. Thou blessest food and drink our needs to satisfy. There-

fore, we give Thee thanks; our song shall rise on high.

Thy living Word is sent our souls to feed and nourish. Thou wilt that in our hearts Thy love and praise we cherish. Thou sheddest light and pow'r upon our pilgrim way, and lead'st us by Thy hand to heaven day by day.

No. 13, Zion's Harp

We offer congratulations to Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister on the arrival of a new granddaughter, Bonnie Sue, born to Leon and Ellen Robison. Bonnie was born October 1. She is welcomed home by Shane. Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel became the first-time parents of a darling daughter. On October 8, Rene Lynn was born. The grandparents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret Getz. Rachel and Danny welcome home their new brother, Adam Joseph. On October 9, Adam was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Geyer. The grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Hazel Geyer and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Haefli. Courtenay Anne was born to Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr on October 15. She is welcomed home by Kristi and Joey. Courtenay's grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Wilma Hoerr and Bro. Dick and Sis. Gladys Binkele.

"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, invites us to partake the blessings from on high.

"This union of our hearts shall stand through grace in Jesus; we walk the path of life, while cheer and trust increases. Where God in truth abides, where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart." The Union of Hearts, No. 19, Zion's Harp

On September 23, Bro. Mark Criss and Sis. Linda Haefli were married. Their parents are James and Cheryl Criss and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ilene Haefli. On October 7, Bro. Norman Hoerr, son of August and Marie, and Sis. Connie Steffen, daughter of Ray and Sis. Doris of Forrest were married. Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss from Forrest had the morning service. We thank him for his deeds of kindness. Bro. Wilbur Triplett and Sis. Louise Hoerr, daughter of Sis. Mabel Hoerr, were married on October 14. We hope and pray God's blessings will be

upon these new marriages.

The hospital patients this month were Sis. Ruth Messner, Sis. Emma Messner, Sis. Mary Lawless, Sis. Ella Hoerr, Fritz Bessler, and Ron Rocke.

The Peoria congregation welcomes Sis. Eleanor Steffen and her two children, Gordon and Sheila. They recently moved here from Elgin, IL.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

The value of all things, even our own life and time, depends upon the use we make of them. As I write this, it is a beautiful sunny autumn day. Everywhere one looks there is a beautiful sight. The trees are a mass of color—yellow, gold, rust, brown, crimson, and burgundy among the green. They truly display God's handiwork.

We feel so unworthy of all the manifold blessings we enjoy each day. We have been privileged to have many visitors again the past few weeks, for which we are most grateful. We could truly feel God's love among us. An especially blessed weekend was shared by many when the Bay City choir came Sept. 22, 23. The many voices, young and old, blending together, singing with joy in their hearts, must surely have pleased God. For the listeners, it was most inspiring. Guest ministers that Sunday were Bros. Jim Ramseyer and Roy Wieland of Bay City and Edwin Ringger of Gridley, IL. Many precious teachings were brought forth from the Word in Ephesians 5 and I John 5. We wonder how any can stand outside and not seek the Lord when they are told of the doom of the unconverted and can see the joys of one who has peace with God. We were blessed with a most perfect weekend, weather-wise and spiritual-wise. The time to bid farewell came all too soon, and many hands were waving from the two buses as they pulled away. We wish God's blessings on all present, and the memories still linger.

Sept. 30 was another special Sunday because our four ministers occupied the pulpit for the first time in many weeks. Bro. Joe Stoller was absent for a long time, and we're thankful he was able to be with us again after back surgery. He told how through affliction, he was made to appreciate the church more and was able to feel the pray-

ers and concerns of the members. We are thankful that God healed him and he can again enjoy good health. The electricity was off most of the morning, and, although it was rather dark, God's light still shone through. We were truly blessed. Candles were placed on the tables, and the glow from them gave a warm feeling. Do we radiate a spiritual glow in this dark world? Bro. Silas Leuthold went on the pulpit and had the closing prayer, giving the finishing touch to a blessed day. What a privileged people we are. We should truly be thankful.

Oct. 6, 7 was another humbling, heart-stirring weekend. We heard the testimonies of the new-found faith of Chris and Naomi Frank, who found their salvation in their sunset years. God is still calling souls, and grace is given to those who seek and find. Bro. Joshua Broquard of Fairbury came to assist Bro. Dave with this important work. Bro. Joshua and Sis. Naomi went to the same little Sunday School together and now conversed together of the love Jesus has for all of us. That love was to give His life and shed His precious blood on the cross. Many relatives and friends were present on Sunday for their baptisms. They testified that they didn't know what joy it would be to greet their sisters and brothers. They now wonder why they hesitated so long to take this step. We are very thankful for them and wish them many years of blessings.

When he shared the Word with us on Oct. 14, Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger of Pulaski, IA, warned us to be careful not to lose the first love as did some of the early churches. We must strive, daily, to keep this love and place our brother or sister before ourselves. We are always glad when Bro. Cleo and Sis. Esther come back home. We thank them for their service.

Bro. Henry Beer was with us Wednesday evening, Oct. 17, with his display of spiritual music, books, and material for a Christian home. A goodly number was present to worship together. Bro. Henry told of the good example Naomi displayed and of the love Ruth showed toward her with the desire to go with her and be one of her people. God blessed her, and she again found happiness. We thank Bro. Henry and Sis. Alice and wish them the Lord's blessings in their

endeavor to be of service to the Lord.

We are sorry to report that Bro. Rodney Wagenbach has not been able to come home; but, hopefully, in a few days he will be able to do so. I am sure none of us will ever know how Bro. Rod suffered. It was a tremendous weight on his parents, who stood by him, as well as on the rest of his family. They were all so faithful to him. Rod and his mother have been in Seattle, WA, for more than three months. His body is now beginning to produce its own platelets, so we trust he is on the mend and will gain more rapidly. The sincere prayers of those at home have been appreciated and have been most welcome and beneficial. God hears and answers prayer, and He knows when we need Him most. He helps us to carry on, no matter how hard it may seem.

Chuck Streitmatter, who spent eight weeks in traction to correct a badly splintered bone in his upper leg as a result of a motorcycle accident, is still hospitalized. He is in a body cast for approximately eight weeks until the bone is knit properly. He spends many lonely hours, yet is cheerful and enjoys mail and visits from his family and friends. We hope he, too, will soon be able to get home; and we trust he, too, has felt the power of prayer for his concerned loved ones.

Bro. Kurt Ehle narrowly escaped serious injury when he, somehow, fell from the tractor and an empty wagon ran over him. One wheel went over his shoulder and another over his leg. His shoulder and a bone in his leg were broken. He was placed in traction but is thankful it wasn't more severe. He is making satisfactory improvement and is hoping his hospital stay will not be long.

Sharon Eberle, wife of Marvin and daughter-in-law of Bro. Bill and Sis. Marie, was stricken with severe pain and taken to the hospital. Her sickness was diagnosed as a heart attack. She is making a satisfactory recovery, but it is hard for her to spend several weeks away from her husband and three little ones. God was good to her and spared her life, for which we are thankful. We trust she will feel His blessed nearness during her recuperation.

Recent hospital patients were Sis. Delores Baer and her father, Otto. Both were surgical patients.

Sis. Delores is home, and we hope Otto will not be required to stay in the hospital long. May the Lord be near them during their shut-in days.

It has been very dry in our area during September and October. Farmers are busy gathering in the bountiful harvest. A big part of the grain has already been harvested. Again, God has been so good with such a bountiful harvest. We don't need to wait for Thanksgiving Day to give thanks, for we have so many reasons, every day, to give Him our heartfelt thanks. Yet, it is pleasant to have a special day for family gatherings and give special thanks for all the good gifts and blessings received during the past year.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy endureth to all generations.

Psalm 100

Sis. Alice Funk, our oldest sister, passed away at the age of 96. She was a resident of the Roanoke A. C. Home and always knew us when we visited her. She is survived by three sons, Virgil, Wilmer and Norman, and four daughters, Sis. Marie Martin, Sarasota, FL, Sis. Dorothy Meier, Peoria, Sis. Eunice Schuppach, Bloomington, and Sis. Helen Fehr.

We have five little babies to welcome this month. A son was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Mueller, Timothy John. Tony is happy to have a little brother. A daughter, Keri Leigh, was born to Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb. She has a big brother, Kory. A son, Isaac Benjamin, was born to Kathy and Ben Fehr III. Steve and Wendy Blunier welcome a little daughter, Emily Lynn. She has two brothers, Steve and Andy. Brian and Mary Jane Meginnnes have a daughter, Maria Ann. May God bless all these little sunbeams.

Bro. Jim Byrd is still hospitalized in the Springfield Burn Center. He is improving and is taking therapy.

He is thankful for all the prayers on his behalf. He and his wife, Sis. Leota, can feel the wonderful power of prayer.

Ella Blunier is hospitalized for injuries suffered in a fall. May God be with these dear ones and sustain them in their hours of need.

The Mortonaires were our guests at our first family sing of the season. What a blessing ours is when we can sing praises to God!

Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Leo, and Bro. Uriel Gehring, Burlington, proclaimed God's precious Word to us.

A large number of us have been blessed at Bible Study. It's interesting to have our older brothers and sisters share this hour with us. The ministering brothers lead the discussions, beginning with John 1. Everyone has a chance to participate by either asking or answering a question. We look forward to the next one.

God dwells in heaven and in meek and thankful hearts.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

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

Zion's Harp No. 236

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger, Pulaske, IA, and Bro. Charles Hemmer, Peoria, IL. We thank these brothers for their willingness to bring forth the Word.

Bro. Jay Bolliger is a surgical patient in Rochester, MN. Our prayers go out to our dear brother and his family.

Sis. Ella Schweigert had eye surgery and has recuperated nicely. Sis. Ella wishes to thank all the dear ones for their prayers, cards of encouragement, the many gifts which included food, visits, and for those who came and sang for her. May the Lord be their rewarder.

Jeff Wagenbach, son of Si and Sis. LaVonne, was hospitalized with injuries from a fall.

Fred Beutel, Jr., is also hospitalized, undergoing tests. Joshua Aberle, small son of Mike and Sue, is hospitalized with spinal men-

ingitis. He has improved some at this writing.

Announcement was made of the forthcoming marriage of Sis. Karen Wagenbach and Bro. Dean Beutel. The parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. Dafe and Sis. Eunice Beutel. A December 23 wedding is planned, Lord willing.

Dr. Gary and Margaret Koch of Seattle, WA, are the parents of a son, Diedrick Martin, born September 18. The grandparents are Bro. Cleo and Halo Koch and Dr. and Mrs. Luers.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Ben Beutel. Ben passed away Oct. 6. May God comfort all in their hours of bereavement.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, may we all be a little more thankful and appreciative for all God has given us.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

BE STRONG

Be strong!

We are not here to play, to dream,
to drift;

We have hard work to do, and loads
to lift;

Shun not the struggle—face it;
'tis God's gift.

Be strong!

Say not, "The days are evil. Who's
to blame?"

And fold the hands and acquiesce
—oh shame!

Stand up, speak out, and bravely,
in God's name.

Be strong!

It matters not how deep entrenched
the wrong,

How hard the battle goes, the day
how long;

Faint not—fight on!

Tomorrow comes the song.

Maltbie Davenport Babcock

We were all reminded to remain strong in the faith as we gathered for three consecutive Monday evenings to hear the tapes of the annual conference. There is truly a blessing in listening to the exhortations given.

We were pleased to hear that three of our converts have found peace and await baptism. They are Jan Sigafus, Connie (Nussbaum) Woodcock, and Kay Monagle. It is important to seek the Lord while we are young. That reminds us of the following poem.

RELIGION IN YOUTH

Young and happy while thou art,
Not a furrow on thy brow,
Not a sorrow in thy heart,
Seek the Lord thy Saviour now.
In its freshness bring the flower,
While the dew upon it lies,
In the cool and cloudless hour,
Of the morning sacrifice.

It is not earthly pleasure
That withers in a day;
It is not mortal treasure
That flieth soon away;

It is not friends that leave us,
It is not sense nor sin
That smile but to deceive us,
Can give us peace within.

But 'tis religion bringeth
Joy beyond earth's control;
Rich from the throne it springeth,
A fountain of the soul;
He that is meek and lowly
The Saviour's face shall see;
To none but to the holy
Heaven's gates shall opened be.
Author Unknown
From book published in 1866

Matthew Kellenberger, son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Ruth, was injured in an accident and hospitalized, recently. However, we are thankful that he made a very quick recovery and was soon able to come to church again.

We were saddened to say good-bye to Ron and Sis. June Slagel and their children as they moved to Fairbury. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Shari Kaehr - Peggy Gerber

THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

Our God again stretched forth His
hand
And blessed this land of ours.
We ploughed the fields and sowed
the seeds;
He sent the sun and showers.
The harvest now is gathered in;
Our barns with grain o'erflow.
There's plenty now for man and
beast,
We fear not wind and snow:
Within our homes bright fires burn.
There's comfort, warmth, and
cheer.
Our children gaily play about.
They know not want and fear.

We have so much. Let us thank
God

On this Thanksgiving Day
And give a portion of our gifts
To those who wait and pray
That God will move the hearts of
men

To share what He has given,
So hungry, weary, hopeless souls
May have a taste of heaven.

By Clara M. Bode

During this blessed Thanksgiving season, we especially want to remember the shut-ins and those in nursing homes. A few in our congregation have recently been hospitalized, also. They are: Sis. Linda Stultz, Sis. Cindy Fiechter, Sis. Carol Compton, Sis. Ida Meyer, Sis. Mel Baine, Bro. Glenn Barger, Bro. Russell Steffen, Bro. Roger Kaehr, and Angie Steffen (daughter of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Roberta). Let us remember all of these dear souls in our prayers.

Beth Renee is the newest addition to Bro. Eric and Sis. Rhonda (Bertsch) Tonner's family. Beth was welcomed home by her brother, Eric. On October 6, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy (Gerber) Rauch, along with young Rachel, were blessed with a son whom they named Jadon Matthew. Bro. Denny and Sis. Jan (Aeschliman) Drayer were blessed with their first child, a little boy named Brice Eugene. May the Lord grant each of these couples much grace in rearing the families which with God has so richly blessed them.

On the weekend of October 6 and 7, many couples from Bloomington came to worship and fellowship with our congregation. Ministering the Word to us that Sunday were Bro. Everett Hari and Bro. Bill Kupferschmid from Bloomington. On Wednesday night, October 10, we had the privilege of having Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis) in our midst. We wish to thank the visiting minister and all our visitors for sharing and being with us.

Bro. Herman Drayer and Sis. Julie Bahler made their engagement known to our congregation. Sis. Julie has been residing here for some time, but her home church is Fairbury. They plan a December 2 wedding in Fairbury.

On October 14, Bro. Roger Reinhard took as his helpmate Sis. Maureen Gerber. Parents of this newlywed couple are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Wanda Gerber, and Sis.

Sarah Reinhard.

Our newest convert is Twila Gerber, daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline. We wish Twila much grace during her repentance.

In the 11th hour of her life, at the age of 90, Sis. Eve Bluhm decided to seek her salvation. Sis. Eva gave her testimony and was baptized on Wednesday, October 3. We are so thankful for Sis. Eva and hope that others, both young and old, will see the light.

Michael Campbell, husband of Sis. Janet, is now stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, with the United States Navy. Anyone interested in writing to Sis. Janet is encouraged to do so, as your letters will be greatly appreciated and welcomed. The address is: Michael and Janet Campbell 3324-D Orlando Place Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

INDIANA, BREMEN Norma Lehman

WISE WORDS

Faith is our counselor;
Without it we could not live.
Hope is our guiding star
When darkness closes in.
Charity is our selflessness,
Our willingness to share.
Wisdom is our oldest friend
With mind to see and hear.
Truth is our sacred trust
That only we can know.
Courage is our self-restraint
When fear controls our hearts.
Peace is our waiting soul
When God shall answer prayer.
Gertrude Rudberg

Those in the hospital this month were Sis. Ernestine Meister and Roy Meister. They are both home and doing fine.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Linda Gutwein - Sharon Neihouser

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.
Hymn No. 52, Zion's Harp

We are happy that two more souls are seeking their soul's salva-

tion and are also finding the way of Truth.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever." Psalms 118:1. We were thankful for the visit of Bro. Harold Gramm (Morris) on a Sunday. We were richly fed from the spiritual table through the three parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. Each one was lost, but when they had been found they wanted to rejoice with their friends and neighbors. It was a special joy for him and Sis. Ila to come and see their new granddaughter, Andria Nicole, who was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg Gudeman. Bro. Willis and Sis. Margaret Gudeman are also Andria's grandparents. May God richly bless this family. Also visiting us this month was Bro. Phil Souder from the Cissna Park congregation. May God richly bless those who are willing to proclaim His Holy Word.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31. On Oct. 14, Sis. Jenna Getz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Doris) and Bro. Dan Kilgus (Bro. Earl and Sis. Arlene) of Remington were united in holy matrimony. Bros. Ken Schneider and Earl Kilgus (Remington) shared the day with us. May God richly bless this union.

We welcome Bro. Hisato, Sis. Kathie, and Rebekah Inoue to our congregation from Japan. We trust they will feel love in our church family.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Steffen are happy to announce the arrival of their daughter, Elizabeth Joy, on Sept. 20. The grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Lucille Steffen (Remington) and Lloyd and Lillian Kanitz (Indianapolis).

The weather was a bit nippy, but with everyone's participation in the activities, the Sunday School picnic was a success. The time that parents spend with their children will surely be profitable and remembered by the children.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE Lois Bucher - Pearl Nueest

The Thanksgiving season is already upon us, and once again we rejoice in a good harvest with a

prayer of thanks upon our hearts. We are always thankful for that, but maybe some of the small things are taken for granted.

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 the little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet surprises" from never-dreamed-of places.

Helen Steiner Rice

With sad hearts we sang farewell to Bro. Harvey and Sis. Sylvia Banwart who have moved to the Eureka area. We pray that the Lord will bless them in their new home. We will surely miss them.

We are happy to report the engagement of Sis. Debra Frank to Bro. Dan Stoller of Latty. The parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah Frank, and Bro. Glen and Sis. Edith Stoller.

It is so nice to see Sis. Louise Alt who worships with us as often as she is able.

The angels of heaven again rejoice! Jennie Sinn has turned to the Lord in repentance and has found peace in her heart. At this time, she is awaiting baptism. We pray that the Lord will guide, sustain, and help her in time of need.

INDIANA, LEO
Mrs. Phil Schlatter
Mrs. Al Frautschi

Thanksgiving has two parts—"Thanks" and "giving" thanks to God and giving to others.

Mere lip praise is never an outlet for grateful hearts when God gives ability for other service, also.

Baptismal services were held for Marsha Stieglitz, daughter of Bro. Oliver and Sis. Emmajean, and Bonnie Klopfenstein, daughter of Bro. William and Nancy. Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, assisted in these sacred services.

Thankfulness is the soil in which joy thrives.

KEEPING THANKSGIVING

There is no hearth so bleak and bare

But Heaven hath sent some blessings there.
No table e'er so sparsely spread
But that a grace should there be said.

No life but knows some moment blest
Of sweet contentment and of rest;
No heart so cold but Heaven above
Hath touched it with the warmth of love.

So count your blessings, one by one,
At early morn and set of sun,
And, like an incense, to the skies
Your prayers of thankfulness shall rise.

Look for the love that Heaven sends,
The good that every soul intends;
Thus you will learn the only way
To keep a true Thanksgiving Day.

—Author Unknown

INDIANA, MILFORD
Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

Our children. Yet not ours;
They are their own whom no one can possess.
For all the future holds of good or ill

They are their own.
Unless, dear Lord, unless by miracles
Of grace and mercy and mercy infinite
They are possessed by Thee
And so become more their own by being Thine.

Minton Johnson

Isn't it the wish and prayer of every believing parent that their children will someday become children of God?

Kimberly Ann Troup made her parents, Bill and Sis. Anne Troup, and her brother and sisters so very happy upon her arrival. Bro. Evertt and Sis. Leona Price became grandparents, again, on Sept. 22.

Steve and Sis. Sandy Frantz are so pleased with their first-born child. Scott Steven was born October 5. His grandparents are Bro. Frank J. and Sis. Ruth Beer and Robert and Vivian Frantz. We give our hearty congratulations to both families.

We wish to thank Bros. Walter Hermann (Princeville) and Ken-

neth Dietz (Bradford) for coming to visit us and for feeding us from the Word. We appreciate their efforts.

Bro. Walter Steffen was hospitalized recently for a few days and is again ministering unto us. Sis. Inez Brooks (Bro. Ted) has undergone back surgery and should be home recuperating by this print-been unable to attend church, due to her health. Also, Sis. Sue Schieler (Bro. Will) was hospitalized for tests. We wish each one and their loved ones God's grace and blessings in their times of distress.

"The Lord sometimes takes us into troubled waters NOT to drown us, but to cleanse us." Author Unknown.

October 14 was a memorable day for the Milford congregation. Bro. Jesse Beer was ordained into the eldership, filling the position left by our retired elder, Bro. Theo Beer. Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty), Ed Frank (LaCrosse), and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) were present to carry out this work.

A Prayer For Thanksgiving
We thank thee for our daily bread,
For faith by which the soul is fed;
For burdens given us to bear,
For hope that lifts the heart's despair.

We thank thee, Lord, for eyes to see
The truth that makes, and keeps men free;
For faults—and the strength to mend them,
For dreams—and courage to defend them.

We have so much to thank thee for,
Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more;
Peace in the hearts of all men living,
Peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

Joseph Auslander

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE
PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Candy Wuethrich

MORNING THOUGHTS

I wake each morning glad that I
May know the sun, the rain, the sky;
The gentle twittering of birds,
The joy of creatures without words.

Dear Lord, your wonders bring to
me
A deep sense of humility;
And I am awed each time I wake
By the beauty of the days you
make.
So thank You, Father, for every
hour
I live to see a tree, a flower,
A bird in flight, a sunset hue
That I may share, Dear God, with
You!

Author Unknown

The poem above seems to express the thoughts of a person who enjoys each blessing God so graciously bestows every day of our life. Often, the little things in life are taken for granted. This time of the year brings thankfulness into full bloom. We are more aware of the countless blessings we have as children of God. Such a thankful heart should be present throughout the entire year. Let us strive to be more thankful and content!

Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley), Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), and Bro. Ed Frank (La-Crosse) shared God's Word with us during our recent Purdue services. May God richly bless them now and forever for their willingness to travel to Purdue and speak to us.

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father. Ephesians 5:20.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever. Ps. 118:1.

We are all grateful to Bro. Bill Schlatter of Junction for his visit and the many good teachings brought to us.

We hear quite a bit about this being the "Year of the Child." Perhaps you will enjoy the following poem:

When your sleep is broken by
A cherubs "I want Mommie" cry,
Grit your teeth and sweetly say,
"Well, this, too, shall pass away."
When a certain dreadful clamor
Means he's learned to use the hammer

On your crystal, don't dismay—
Yes, this, too, shall pass away.
When he floods the bathroom floor,
Spills his milk and paints the door,
Bow your head and softly pray.
That, this, too, shall pass away.
When in sticky sweet embrace
His grimy kisses smear your face,

Best enjoy it while you may,
For, this, too, shall pass away.
By Judith Ellen Brown

INDIANA, VALPARISO Susan and Marie Heinold

O come, let us sing unto the Lord:
Let us heartily rejoice in the
strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence
with thanksgiving.
And show ourselves glad in him
with psalms . . .

Psalm 95

On October 7, we all gathered together for a harvest supper, giving thanks for the many blessings of the past year. We were joined by Bro. Tom Leman and his family from Elgin, IL. One of our many blessings is the addition of Mike and Claudia Thomas, who are scheduled to give their testimonies on October 28. We are all so thankful for this precious new brother and sister in Christ. We are rejoicing with them in their new life.

We are also blessed to have Elder Bro. Nate Steffen and Elder Bro. Ed Frank with us for our communion service on September 23.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Mamie Gerst

How beautiful God's creation is this time of year with the brilliant colors of orange, yellow, red, and green. It would be impossible for an artist to do justice to what we see. We see God in so many things if we are awake, spiritually. As Thanksgiving is near, may we count our many blessings, giving thanks and praise to the one who has done so much for us. There is so much joy when families can be together at this time of year. But let us not forget those who are alone.

We thank our visiting ministers for their untiring efforts, doing God's work. May He give them an abundance of grace and wisdom and richly bless them. Those here this month were Elder Bros. Ben Maibach, Sam Anliker, Roy Farney, and Dan Cook.

Sis. Mamie Gerst was a medical patient at Burlington Hospital. She is getting along "fine" and is again able to be back in church. (Ed. note: Sis. Mamie is your reporter.)

Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther Wagler and Bro. Walter and Sis. Dolly

Stoller have gone back to Zapata, TX, for the winter. We miss them!

Our Bible class is looking forward to loved ones from Eureka and Oakville being with them this weekend.

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

The brilliant fall colors, as displayed by the trees, have been awe-inspiring; the vivid oranges, reds, yellows, and rusts as seen on the rolling hillsides of Iowa have been beautiful. We might name this "the gold season" after this area with its golden corn, golden leaves, and golden sunshiny days. The farmers are very active harvesting corn, which seems to be a very abundant crop. So, once more, we have many reasons to thank our Heavenly Father who provides, protects, and loves us very much. Bros. Veron and Sidney Leman from Eureka and Forrest, respectively, spent a weekend here. On Saturday evening, they showed very interesting pictures relative to our World Relief participation.

Then, on Sunday, we were blessed when Bro. Vernon read and explained some Scriptures. We thank these folks for coming to our area and hope to see them again.

LEARN TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Sis. Aunt Ella Gehring, who now lives with Sis. Marie Schneider, has lived in various areas. She is one of a family of seven born to Grandpa and Grandma Gehring. You see, these are my grandparents; that is why I write of them as such.

Aunt Ella was born in Clayton County on the 25th of Nov., 1890. Her mother passed away in 1918. After that, Aunt Ella had the full responsibility of caring for the house, garden, etc.

She turned to the Lord and was baptized by Bro. Gottlieb Maibach with others who repented at the same time.

In 1947, Grandpa's home was destroyed by fire. He and Aunt Ella then moved to Elgin. When he passed away two years later, she left their Elgin home. In the ensuing years, she spent seven years with her sister, Sis. Mollie Beer, in Roanoke, IL, and numerous years with her brother, Bro. Jake Gehring (and Sis. Bertha), on their farm. She also helped out in caring for

Sis. Louise Metzger after Louise's husband, Bro. Ed, passed away. At various intervals, Aunt Ella stayed at her sister's home, Sis. Elizabeth. That was the home of my parents, the Fred Schneider home, as it is commonly referred to. Since our mother and father have passed away, she has now been living, as I mentioned before, with Sis. Marie at the old Schneider home. She is enjoying fair health, and finds reading a good pastime.

She did a lot of physical labor, such as gardening, when she was able. She suffered a broken arm at one time and a broken hip at another, but was never known to complain. She has a remarkable memory and loves to visit with folks and read the Bible.

There was a time when we usually stopped at Grandpa's house on our way home from church and enjoyed it so very much; many times Aunt Ella would have a treat of cake, cookies, or the like. She is very well known for her generosity. May God always bless her.

Recently she wrote this in our autograph book: Dear Eleanor, Little Deeds of Kindness
Little words of love
Make this earth like
the heaven above.

Aunt Ella

At our Wednesday night meetings, we have been listening to the tapes which are recordings of the last church conference. They are, indeed, very informative and helpful.

Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer have a new role; it is that of being grandparents. Trudy and Albert Hanson are the parents of a baby girl named April Rose. Trudy is a daughter of the Pulfer's. We extend our congratulations to them.

We sense that autumn is a reality. Wedges of wild geese have been honking through our skies, and some winter birds—woodpeckers, chickadees, bluejays, and nuthatches—are already appearing at some of our feeding stations.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Bonita Frank

We are thankful for the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on our small flock—from granting us willing servants who come and proclaim His precious Word, Sunday after Sunday, to our present building project. We are also thankful for our recent additions which include Jayne Banwart, daughter of

the Vic Banwarts of West Bend, who is employed in Iowa City.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Roy Ehnle, Bradford; John Steiner and Jerry Kuntz, Oakville; and Uriel Gehring and Harvey Heiniger, Burlington. We want to thank these ministers and our own Bro. Joe Gerst for continuing to preach the Truth.

Sharolyn Metzger, daughter of the Arnold Metzgers of West Bend, shared her testimony on Oct. 6 and was baptized on Oct. 7 in West Bend. We welcome her into the fold and pray that she will never leave her first love.

Our annual meeting was held the evening of October 5 with the following selected for duties: Sunday School Primary teacher, Sis. Bev Mogler; substitute Primary teacher, Sis. Kathy Pulfer; Sunday School Secondary teacher, Bro. Brad Eland; substitute Secondary teacher, Bro. Roy Metzger; usher, Bro. Kevin Banwart; head song-leader, Bro. Roy Metzger; correspondent, Bro. Bruce Frank; trustee, Bro. Joe Gerst; church secretary, Bro. Brad Eland; and Silver Lining reporter, Sis. Bonita Frank.

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, we have many reasons to thank God. Among our many blessings, we are reaping a very bountiful harvest. Our crops were blest with plentiful rain and sunshine throughout the growing season. We also have had many spiritual blessings. We have had many dear souls who have repented and found salvation through Jesus Christ. The weekend of Sept. 30, nine loved ones brought their testimonies before the church and were baptized the following day. Those whom we now greet as brothers and sisters-in-faith are Ed and Amelia Roeman, Lois and Ellsworth Niemeyer, Linda and Verlyn Kellenberger, Donn Moser, Glen Metzger, and Rodney Metzger. Elder Bros. Dan Cook and Nathan Steffen were here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser in this work. Also present was Bro. Virgil Metzger, who is a brother of Rodney and Glen. We appreciate the sermons delivered and the duties performed by our visiting ministers.

On September 23, Sis. June Mogler, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Lydia, was united in holy matrimony to Bro. Roger Schultz of

Oakville. We will miss Sis. June but believe it is God's will that she live in Oakville with Bro. Roger. We wish them His blessings and His nearness.

The engagement of Sis. Esther Feucht, daughter of Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha, and Bro. Wesley Moser, son of Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona, was announced. A December wedding is planned.

On Sept. 20, a baby boy, David William, was born to Earl and Barb Meyer. He has two sisters, and the grandparents are Sis. Emma Meyer and Mr. and Mrs. John Boer. A girl was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy Leuthold. Julie Kay has a brother and sister to welcome her home. The grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold and Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger. On Oct. 12, Michelle Lin was born to Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe. She has a brother and sister, and the grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Van Whye.

Several have had to spend some time in the hospital. Those we know of are Bro. Herman Stickling, Bro. Bruce Metzger, Tina Moser, Melissa Leuthold (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle), Lois Metzger, and Sis. Betty Jean Leuthold. We pray for a fair measure of health for all who suffer the ills of the body.

We welcome Sheryl Messner who has moved here from Winthrop to attend college at Sioux Falls.

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Phyllis Siegle

Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works given to the children of men! Soon we will be observing Thanksgiving Day. How much we have for which to be thankful. Here, in our land of peace and plenty, we are enjoying another bountiful harvest. How many more blessings we have than the children of Israel had. We are so thankful for our places of worship and the faithful brothers who proclaim the Word, reminding us of the wonderful plan of salvation freely given to all who will receive.

The words of our Zion's Harp hymn 236 always express our feelings as the season of Thanksgiving is before us:

Now thank we all our God . . .
Who from our mother's arms
Has blest us on our way

With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

The God-inspired messages of Bro. Willis Wiegand, Goodfield, and Bro. Walter Anliker, Eureka, were nourishment for the soul. May God bless all of His weak and needy servants. We would welcome visits from all of them again.

Our wishes for God's blessings and much happiness go to Bro. Roger Schulz and Sis. June Mogler, who were recently married. May Christ always be the Head of their home and bless their Godly endeavors. Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schuz and Bro. Philip and Sis. Lydia Mogler, Lester, IA, are their parents. We also heartily welcome Sis. June to Oakville.

Teresa Wyss and Jay Hutcheson are engaged. The parents of the couple are Dave and Sis. Kathy Wyss and Maurice Hutcheson, Morning Sun, IA. We certainly extend, to them, our best wishes, and may God bless them and their future home with those things He sees best for them.

God painted all the autumn leaves
And put to sleep the flowers,
And told the birds to find a place
To spend their winter hours.

Charles Hutchins

God keeps the aged with hearts of gold and silver-tinted hair, with earnestness and greater faith in prayer. He keeps them as a shepherd guards his sheep. Sis. Lydia Kupferschmid recently celebrated her 90th birthday at the home of her daughter and husband, Ella and Earl Reeser, who so lovingly care for her.

KEEPING THANKSGIVING

Keeping Thanksgiving is more than joining the family around a happy turkey-laden table to enjoy the bounty of our harvest-time. It is more than repeating a brief grace before eating.

To truly keep Thanksgiving is to be thankful every day. It is not only to be aware of our many blessings; it is also to love the Giver. Too many prayers ask for things; too few prayers express gratitude for what is given. But thankfulness cannot be forced. It must well up from deep within us.

May we give thanks, not out of a sense of duty, but of love. Then

we are really keeping Thanksgiving!

E. Y. Burkholder

IOWA, PULASKI Mary Jane Knapp Ginny Wuthrich

Gabby Niehaus, a German exchange student, spent about six weeks of the late summer in the home of Bro. Russell Wuthrich.

We enjoyed a blessed Sunday when ministering Bro. Kent Heimer of Taylor, MO, was with us. The question was laid to our hearts: If you were put in prison for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Let us give thanks for another year of blessings. As the crops are harvested, abundantly, may we ever realize that the blessing is God-given and not of our doing.

PRAISE AND THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

So now again Thou hast
To us a blessing given.
Our handiwork is blest
By Thy good Word from heaven.
Thou blessest food and drink
Our needs to satisfy,
Therefore, we give Thee thanks;
Our song shall rise on high.

Zion's Harp No. 13

Hospitalized this past month was Sis. Elizabeth Wuthrich. She is now hom, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

IOWA, WEST BEND Mrs. Raymond Anliker Mrs. Dennis Fehr

A blessed weekend was ours to enjoy when we were privileged to hear the testimonies of three dear souls and witness their baptisms. We welcome into the faith Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen Anliker and Sis. Sharolyn Metzger. The occasion brought many visitors. Among them were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester) and Gene Marti (Lamar) and ministering Bros. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski), Gene Metzger (Lester), and Virgil Metzger (Urbana). We also enjoyed a visit this month from Bro. Gerry Kuntz (Oakville).

She left a note the morning of October 10, "Mom, I have a meeting after school. Love, Ellen." These were the words of 16-year-old Ellen Schmidt, daughter of Sis. Betty Schmidt. Little did she know that she would be meeting her Maker. Ellen's life was ended when

she lost control of her car on a road a few miles from home. The community was deeply saddened by such a tragedy. Surviving are her mother, Sis. Betty; one brother, Rod, Grand Junction, CO; and three sisters, Mary (Mrs. William Berg), Danville, IA, Twyla, Ames, IA, and Joleen, at home. She was preceded in death by her father, Bro. Richard. Sis. Betty and her family wish to express their gratitude to the many who have expressed their love and kindness to them in the loss of their loved one.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as four dear souls turned their backs to the world and hearkened to our Lord's call. We wish Kandy Bruellman, daughter of Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie; Bill Zaugg, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen; Kent Banwart, son of Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis; and Lois Metzger, daughter of Bro. Arnold and Sis. Alice, all God's grace as they walk this path of life in Christ. We can only pray that more souls will heed His loving call.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr were blest by the birth of Brennan Eli on October 7. The grandparents are Bro. Verner and Sis. Beverly Wirtz and Sis. Nima Fehr.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Edna Banwart (Bro. Earl), Sis. Anna Schmidt, who had eye surgery, and Sherry Schmidt (Jim). We pray that God's healing power will restore each one, according to His will.

JAPAN, SHIODA Evie Blunier

... I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest . . . Genesis 28:15. How wonderful are the promises of God! Here, among the Japanese people in the beautiful Yamanashi prefecture, I have felt God's nearness and much joy in worshipping Him with our dear brethren.

The ever-changing mountains are a constant reminder of the mighty Creator. Though sometimes partly covered with mist or even totally hidden by clouds, they reappear in splendid beauty when the sun shines again. So it is with our walk with God. We always know He is there, even when our vision is clouded with earthly cares. This spiritual lesson was particularly evident to us, recently, when we experienced a typhoon. After a week of rain, we had a night of very strong winds. The wind rat-

tled our little house, then grew calm, and then blew very hard again. How much like our Christian life, as we are shaken by stormy trials. But what a surprise and joy it was to wake up the next morning to a very warm and perfectly clear day of sunshine. Again, it reminded us of the blessings we receive after going through a time of storm in our life.

Sis. Reiko Furuya's mother passed away, recently. Parting with loved ones brings grief, and we share our sister's sorrow. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:5.

Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie Inoue and their daughter, Rebekah, have moved to the States. They will be living in Francesville, IN. Our Shioda church had a weiner roast as a farewell for them. They will be greatly missed here in Japan, but we trust them to God's loving care, wherever they are.

The other day, I was touched while teaching the story of Daniel to the kindergarten children. Their answer to the question why Daniel was saved from the lions was because he prayed to God. They don't just say we should pray, but they always add that we should pray to God. How thankful we should be for the knowledge of the truth and for our belief in the one true and living God! At this Thanksgiving season, I thank God that I can share life with our brothers and sisters in Japan, and when I remember the believers I met in Europe and, of course, our dear brethren in America, I realize what a wonderful thing it is that men are worshipping the true God throughout the world.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper . . . and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel where with he was girded. Jn. 13:3-5. So after he washed their feet . . . and was set down again, he said unto them, know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Mas-

ter, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Jn. 13:12-15.

It is very wonderful that we can hear God's Words at certain times through certain Scriptures. When we were cleaning in church, Sept. 24, the Lord gave me the above words. Yes, He washed His disciples' feet to glorify God through his example. I believe it should humble us to wash each other's feet. The church cleaning also teaches us about humbleness, love, and glorifying the Lord through doing this. We brothers and sisters in faith can then feel much closer, too.

We've had several visitors from Shioda church, recently. Among them was Sis. Evie Blunier, the new kindergarten teacher from the Eureka assembly. We heartily welcome her and pray she will feel at home with us and will feel the Lord's nearness and presence while she is here serving in the Japanese vineyard. Sis. Reiko Furuya also visited us while she was spending time with her mother who was seriously ill at a Tokyo hospital. Her mother was relieved of her suffering a few days ago, and we extend our sympathy to Sis. Reiko and her family. Reiko is the only believer of the Christian faith in her family, and many prayers were uttered that she could share her faith with her mother in her last hours.

KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

Word which God has spoken,
Word of peaceful token,
Gospel of the Lord.

Zion's Harp, 97

We enjoyed our recent visiting ministers; namely, Bros. Ben Wy-song (Sabetha), Wayne Miller (Fort Scott), Leroy Huber (Eureka), and Joe Zimmerman (Morton). May the Lord bless them.

We have three joy bundles to report. Bro. Richard and Sis. Leola Lehman have a new grandson, Ryan Joseph, born Oct. 4 to Kathleen and Dennis Osterhaus. Jason is pleased with a playmate. A first child, Gina Sue, arrived Oct. 12 to make her home with Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Strahm. The happy grandparents are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Ma-

mie, and Bro. Henry and Sis. Loree Plattner, Sabetha. Matthew John was born Oct. 16 to Margaret and John Hundley. A little sister, Rachel, awaits him at home. The pleased grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lila Rokey.

Reuben Bauman was a hospital patient (medical), as was your reporter, Sis. Esther Moser (pneumonia).

Sis. Lydia Kuenzi Hanhart, age 78, passed away at the Sabetha hospital on Oct. 8 after many years of ill health. Lydia was born in the Bern area and lived there until her marriage, in 1947, to Philip Hanhart of Burlington, OK. They lived in Oklahoma until his death in 1961. Lydia then became one of the first residents at the new A. C. Home, helping in the kitchen as long as her health permitted. She is survived by one sister, Sophia Bohm DuBois (NE); and five brothers, Jacob (WI), Fred (Kiowa), Charles and Albert (Bern), and Arthur (Washington, IL). Funeral services at the Popkess Mortuary on Oct. 10 were conducted by our ministers. Services and burial were at Kiowa on Oct. 11.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Jan Kraft

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. (Job 1:1)

Such was Job's character as given by God. He asked Satan if he had considered His servant Job. Satan, in reply, said in effect, "Strip him, and he will curse Thee to thy face." Satan sought Job's fall; God sought his blessing. Satan got leave from God to strip Job. With malignant energy he set to work, and in one day he brought the greatest man in all the east into abject poverty and visited him with sore bereavement. Blow after blow of such a crushing nature and with such rapidity fell upon Job, that one marvels at the testimony of the Holy Ghost that in all this Job did not sin with his lips. WHAT A TRIUMPH FOR GOD! WHAT A DEFEAT FOR SATAN!

"But these strange ashes, Lord?

This nothingness,

This baffling sense of loss?"

"Son, was the anguish of My stripping less

Upon the torturing Cross?
 "Was I not brought into the dust
 of death,

A worm, and no man I,
 Yea, turned to ashes by the vehe-
 ment breath

Of fire, on Calvary?
 "O Son beloved, this is thy heart's
 desire:

This and no other thing
 Follows the fall of the consuming
 fire

On the burnt offering.
 "Go on and taste the joy set high
 afar,

No joy like that for thee;
 See how it lights thy way like some
 great star!

Come now, and follow me!"
 Author Unknown

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

By the power of Thy Spirit, A new
 man Thou didst create.
 Angels see in joyous rapture, That
 God's own Words indeed
 fulfilled.

And amid our glad embraces, Is
 this dear Child of God
 revealed.

(In part) The New Birth
 From Above, Zion's Harp

We wish to rejoice with our new
 brother in Christ, Vernon Beyer,
 as he has given his precious testi-
 mony of faith in God and has chosen
 to denounce sin. Praise be to
 God in heaven and to Christ our
 blessed Saviour! Bro. Vernon is
 presently hospitalized. We often
 truly intercede to God in behalf of
 our dear Bro. Vernon, as he bears
 the infirmities of this flesh.

Those requiring the "physi-
 cian's hand of healing" this past
 month were Sis. Lydia Young and
 Bro. Sam (Esther) Kraft.

We wish to express our heart-
 felt sympathy to the dear family of
 Sis. Ida Neusbaum, as she passed
 from this life. Sis. Ida was the
 sister of our dear Sis. Lena Strahm
 from here.

Our thanks and appreciation go
 to Bro. Bill Emch, Lamont, for his
 willingness to minister God's Word
 unto us on Sunday, Oct. 21, as our
 own ministering brother, Bro. Lor-
 en Strahm, was required to aid
 the Kansas City congregation this
 month.

Try to think how happy you
 would be if you lost all that you
 have and then got it all back again.

KANSAS (and Missouri), KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

Let us sing unto the Lord . . .
 Let us come before his presence
 with Thanksgiving. Psalms 95:1,2.

It has pleased God in some com-
 fortable measure to bless us with
 the fruits of the earth.

Plymouth Colony
 Records—1668

As the Pilgrims, we can thank
 God for blessing us with the fruits
 of the earth and for his loving
 guidance and protection.

Our thanks and appreciation go
 to Bros. Gene Marti, Lamar, KS,
 Lester Hartter, Bern, KS, Harold
 Kraft, Ft. Scott, KS, and Carl
 Hartman, Sabetha, KS, for sharing
 God's Word with us.

We wish all of you an abundance
 of happiness and contentment in
 God this Thanksgiving season. Let
 us remember to give thanks
 throughout the year.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

September 29, 30, the Wichita
 Bible Classes hosted a gathering of
 the other Kansas Bible classes, plus
 the Bible class from Lamar, MO.
 Ministering Bro. John Lehman,
 Bern, spoke to the young people
 both Sunday morning and after-
 noon, and his words of truth and
 warning from God's Word were
 deeply inspiring. We teachers and
 parents of the Kiowa Bible Classes
 extend our sincerest thanks to Wi-
 chita for all the time, effort, and
 hard work they put forth to show
 us such a blessed weekend.

The past few months, we have
 had the privilege of having Sis.
 Brenda Tucker, Jo Schrock, Jean
 Redford, and John and Cheryl Far-
 ney and family worshipping with
 us. Sis. Brenda, daughter of Dale
 and Sis. Marie Tucker, has accept-
 ed a position in Hutchison for the
 present time and is able to drive
 home for weekends to join us. Jo,
 Kathleen Schrock, is now teaching
 here in Kiowa. Jean, granddaugh-
 ter of Bro. John and Sis. Lucy
 Hoffman, is staying with her
 grandparents to care for their
 needs and is thus in our midst,
 sometimes. John, son of Bro.
 Ulysses and Sis. Mildred Farney,
 his wife, Cheryl, and their three
 children have recently moved here
 from Kearney, NE, so they also
 join us sometimes. We may not
 often say it, but the added presence
 of these loved ones is a joy to all

of us.

Of our three hospital patients,
 Sis. Esther Miller is the only one
 unable to return home. We are
 very thankful that Sis. Elizabeth
 Otti is home again, and that Sis.
 Marie Schurter, also home, is do-
 ing much better.

A dear sister in faith was laid
 to rest in the arms of her Lord this
 past month. To the family and
 friends of Sis. Lydia Hanhart, we
 wish to extend our deepest sym-
 pathy. Sis. Lydia resided in the
 Sabetha Apostolic Home for many
 years, but all who knew her could
 truthfully say her love for God and
 all of her family and friends shone
 forth throughout her life. Elder
 Bro. Ronald Nelson, and Minister-
 ing Bros. Carl Hartman, Sabetha,
 and John Lehman, Bern, resided at
 services held here. Though her
 presence will be missed greatly, we
 can't help but rejoice that her pain
 is over and she is forever with her
 Lord.

It was our appointed time to
 hold services at the Kiowa Manor
 this month. So many came to share
 that the singing was truly lovely.
 May God richly bless each one who
 gives of their time for something
 so worthwhile.

Thought for Thanksgiving:

We never forget to say give me.
 When needy, how quickly we
 plead.

But how oft we forget to say Thank
 You, when the Lord has sup-
 plied every need.

We never forget to say help me.
 When troubled, how quickly we
 pray.

But how oft we forget to say Thank
 You, when he's chased all the
 troubles away.

We never forget to say spare me
 From sorrow, from sickness,
 and tears.

But how oft we forget to say Thank
 You to the One who has kept
 through the years.

It seems that we only say Thank
 You each time that Thanks-
 giving draws near.

Is it fair to say "give me" so often,
 and "Thank You" just one
 time a year?

Taken from a tape of
 some sisters in faith. (Au-
 thor Unknown)

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

It is, indeed, hard to believe that
 Thanksgiving is upon us again;
 but, then, we should be thankful

every day for all the many blessings that we unworthy ones receive. This has been an unusually bountiful year in a material way. God has blessed the work of our hands, and the crops have never been more bountiful. Let us always keep in mind from whom all blessings flow and be thankful, daily, both for material and spiritual blessings. But, most of all, we should be thankful for that great price that was paid on Calvary's cross that we might go free.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Thanksgiving Day has come again
With its golden harvest time.
Our season's handiwork is blest;
We enjoy these gifts of Thine.
And, in the comfort of our homes,
Happy family circles dine.
Oh, God! we give Thee thanks.
We live in a land of plenty,
And, from childhood, have been
blest.

May freedom of worship we cherish

Continue without molest.

Jesus the dearest of blessings,
Brought hope of eternal rest.

Oh, God! We give thee thanks.

Remember those in poverty
Whose blessings are so few.

May we, with them, our bounty
share,

And think of those in sorrow, too.
For parents who did sacrifice,

And loved ones dear and true,
Oh, God! we give thee thanks.

Henry Kipter

Our only visiting minister this month was Bro. Earl Gerber, Forest. We thank him, his wife, and those who came with them for their visit.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Eva Emch and Rick Anliker, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

My heart-felt thanks I bring
Thee; Salvation I have found. As
Thou hast suffered for me, In love
to Thee I'm bound. And what Thou,
Lord, hast given I consecrate to
Thee. O, lead us, Lord, to heaven,
Where we Thy glory see! (Zion's
Harp 14, verse 3)

We had a blessed weekend as we were able to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our friend, Tim Moore. It is wonderful to see how the Lord can work in

our hearts. Bro. Tim was not raised in our faith but started to come to Sunday School with a friend. He noticed the love and fellowship we have in our church and had the desire to become one of us. Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, and Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern, were present to assist Bro. Sam Huber in this work.

We give Thee thanks, Oh Lamb of God, That on the cross beam
Thou hast bought For us salvation,
peace and grace With Thee
in heaven's resting place! We give
Thee thanks! (Zion's Harp No. 199)

Also visiting us in this past month were Elder Bro. LeRoy Huber, Eureka, Bro. Ben Stavenik, Mansfield, and Bro. Joe Zimmerman, Morton.

Sis. Susan and Bro. Daryl Meyer are the parents of a son, born Oct. 3. He has been named Wade Anthony and is welcomed home by Lance and Alisa. His grandparents are Bro. Velmer and Sis. Vila Meyer and Bro. Henry and Sis. Loree Plattner, all of Sabetha. Bro. Henry and Sis. Loree also have a new granddaughter, Gina Sue, born Oct. 12 to Sis. Janet and Bro. Dean Strahm of Bern.

Hospitalized this month were Bro. Alpha Aberle, Sis. Fanny Bahr, and Sis. Tillie Aberle.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Judy Bahr - Ramona Meyer

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

As we are in another fall semester, we want to continue to strive to keep God first in our daily walk of life, while continuing our education.

This semester, we welcome to our small group four new faces: Sis. Sandy Reeves, daughter of Dwaine and Sis. Rose Ann from Wichita, KS; James Wernli, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty from Lamont, KS; Steve Schrader, son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy from Lamont, KS; and Bro. Tim Moore, son of Jack and Barb Moore of Sabetha, KS. We wish them God's blessings as they begin another step in life.

On October 14, in Sabetha, KS,

we were happy to witness the testimony and baptism of Tim Moore. We wish Bro. Tim God's wonderful blessings as he begins his new walk of life.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern), Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha), Bro. Carl Hartmann (Sabetha), Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern) for bringing God's message to us on campus. We truly appreciate the time and effort that is put forth to come and be with us. Also, we thank everyone else who has made an effort to come and worship with us. We welcome and invite everyone to be with us for our church services. Services are held every other Wednesday evening, with singing beginning at 7:15 p.m.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

One of our eight-year-old Sunday School children sat at home before a jig saw puzzle. When his mother entered the room, he beckoned her to his side to come and look. He explained his accomplishment in this manner. "Mom, I just sat for a long time and looked at all those pieces, then I said to myself . . . I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13. If our approach to being thankful is any less than this eight-year-old child's, could it be that we are not taking God at His word that He really is a very present help in time of need? Ps. 46:1. Do we realize this before we begin to try to put all those pieces together and thank Him, then, for what will happen because we knew God is in it? Or do we wait until we see victory and then try to appropriate faith and thankfulness to it? Perhaps our quality of faith could be improved.

Ninety-eight visitors were registered for our annual Sunday School fellowship for Kansas churches. It was a time of blessing for the Wichita Church as these young people joined together in song between morning and afternoon services and sang about the virtues of a Christian home and the golden deed we are going to do each day of our life. Bro. John Lehman of Sabetha, KS, was our visiting minister and spoke to the children about their time of learning and

preparation. Our congregation wishes to thank the children for their contributions and conduct in the activity of the weekend. We also want to express our appreciation to the young couples who accompanied them.

Sammy and Melissa Wheeler are parents of a new son, Joshua Michael, born October 14. Sis. Karlene Wheeler is paternal grandmother and maternal grandparents are Jay and Bonnie Hudspeth of Wichita.

Hattie Farney recently underwent surgery at St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, and is now being cared for in Hillhaven Medical Center. She has been confined for several years, yet she has not outlived her usefulness. She is a Christian responsibility, but a source of joy, because we can see her faith and a source of personal blessing. She never ceases to praise the Lord and express her thankfulness that things could be much worse. She has lost her outward beauty but is adorned with inward grace and a meek and quiet spirit, which is a gift of great price. Her husband and brother in the Lord passed on years ago, but her daughter, Lucille, stands by her, faithfully, and ministers to her needs that cannot be taken care of by the care home. Her friends love her and call her blessed. What greater compliment could we pay an old sister of the cross?

MICHIGAN, ALTO Penny Erismann

We had the privilege of partaking of communion, with Bros. Joe Waibel (Bay City) and Ben Maibach (Detroit) assisting Bro. Aaron Steffen.

Our thanks go to visiting ministers Phil Wingler (Sarasota), Lenny Meyer (Chicago), and Phil Stettner (Bluffton) for their services.

Approximately 130 brethren from Bay City, Detroit, Toledo, and Mansfield attended a weekend hog-roast hosted by Alto. We enjoyed the fellowship.

Twin girls were born to Greg and Rhonda Raireigh. Little Shanna Ranea and Andrea Elizabeth will be released from the hospital in a few weeks. Brother Chad will welcome them home and so will happy grandparents Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough.

"Life is a flame that is always

burning itself out, but it catches fire again every time a child is born."

Shaw

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Myrna Steffen and family in the passing away of her father, George Pashak.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Patsy Bragiel

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboreth?

I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it. He hath made everything beautiful in his time; also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end. I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-12

It was a blessed day in the House of the Lord when we heard the good Word of Life from visiting minister Bro. Fred Knapp from Congerville.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Bonnie Popp

For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised. Psalm 96:4

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving. Psalm 95:2.

The special holiday of Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be upon us. May we now begin to reflect on the many blessings which are ours. Let us think about the gifts that we may give to those around us—gifts of love, kindness, and a joyful attitude.

Teach me to share Thy blessings,
Lord,
With those whose lives I touch.
I wish to share Thy love with
them;
I have received so much.

Give me a grateful, thankful heart
For all I will receive;
Show me the way to share Thy
gifts,
Help others to believe.

From **Shield of Faith**
By Roy Z. Kemp

Our best wishes go to Ron Reardon and Sue Zyonk who were joined in marriage on September 22. Ron is the son of George and Sis. Marie Reardon.

Several precious bundles from heaven arrived: Joshua George was born to Bill and Trudy Schmidt. Bro. Robert and Sis. Betty Schlatter are the happy grandparents. Beverly Joy was welcomed into the hearts of her parents, Bro. Rodney and Sis. Evelyn Wieland, as well as into the hearts of her grandparents, Sis. Alice Polk and Bro. Howard Wieland. Carrie Lynn is Janice and Dave Barta's new baby daughter. Bro. Willard and Sis. Arlene Belslev welcome her as their new granddaughter. Laura Ann has arrived and brought sunshine to Darlene and Bill Kujawa as well as to her grandparents, Harvey and Sis. Kay Novak. We pray for a very special blessing upon these young families.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven . . .

On a quiet, peaceful Saturday evening, October 6, we in Detroit shared the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach at this time of Holy Communion. May we carry that hour in our hearts in the hours and days to come. We ask for a blessing upon Bro. Edwin and his wife for being with us.

Those who had a stay in the hospital were Bro. Paul Sabados, Sis. Katharina Koprince and Sis. Katharina Bartolf. Our prayers for God's comfort and nearness are with them.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord. Psalm 92:1.

Thanksgiving time will soon be here when we will pause to give

thanks to God for the bountiful harvest and our many blessings. May we always keep this spirit of thanksgiving each day throughout the year.

THANK YOU GOD FOR EVERYTHING

Thank you, God, For everything—the big things and the small, For "every good gift comes from God"

the giver of them all.

All too often we accept without any thanks or praise The gifts God sends as blessings each day in many ways.

And so at this THANKSGIVING TIME

we offer up a prayer

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

First, thank you for the 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.

Then, thank you for the "MIRACLES"

we are much too blind to see,

And give us new awareness of our many gifts from Thee;

And help us to remember that the KEY to LIFE and LIVING

Is to make each prayer a PRAYER of THANKS

and every day THANKSGIVING.

Helen Steiner Rice

We were grateful for the many spiritual teachings brought to us by our visiting ministers. With us on Sept. 16 was Bro. Walter Anliker of Eureka and Bro. Leroy Messner of Winthrop. On Sept. 30, Bro. Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop was in our midst. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24.

Ronald Schmidt and Jody Tuthill were united in marriage on Sept.

29. The parents of the couple are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Vera Schmidt and Mr. and Mrs. George Tuthill. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their married life together.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

"We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." Acts 14:22.

The best things of life come out of wounding. Wheat is crushed before it becomes bread. Incense must be cast upon the fire before its odors are set free. The ground must be broken with the sharp plough before it is ready to receive seed. It is the broken heart that pleases God. The sweetest joys in life are the fruits of sorrow. Human nature seems to need suffering to fit it for being a blessing to the world. (From Streams In The Desert)

Kimberly Cowan became the bride of Ted Schmidgall on September 22. Bro. Don and Sis. Virginia are Ted's parents.

Kathy Brown was united in marriage to Judd Nelson. Kathy is the daughter of Bro. Vernard and Sis. Barbara. May these two couples use God as their guide in their married life together.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter are the happy parents of Mark Allen. Amy and Brian welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lena Lou Reuter, and Virgil and Mildred Sauder.

We pray God's healing power will always be with the many sick and afflicted people. Our hospital patients were Jeremy Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois), Bro. Ben Greiner, and Bro. Dennis Schmidgall.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

Let us not be part-time Christians. We read in Joshua 14:9, "Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's forever, because thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God." Do we have two personalities, one trying to please God and the other trying to please man? This should not be. Remember, the loudest sermon preached is our behavior toward our fellow man. God is an all-seeing God who watches our every activity. You may fool man, but you

cannot fool God!

The day set aside by our government to observe Thanksgiving is near. True Christians thank God continually for the many blessings afforded them. One of these is freedom of worship. When we hear how loved ones across the ocean do not know from one week to the next if they can assemble, it should make our hearts appreciate that our government still allows religious freedom.

Thanksgiving means remembering, With gratitude and love, The many gifts and blessings God has sent us from above.

So you may know, in rich abundance,

Peace and health and cheer;

And may the blessings of Thanksgiving

Be with you all the year.

Author Unknown

The Winthrop congregation extends their sympathy to Sis. Betty Schmidt and her family from the West Bend congregation over the loss of their youngest daughter, Ellen. God has again shown His almighty power. Are you ready to die?

We enjoy listening to ministering Bro. Floyd Schmidgall. We heard so many good teachings that one almost wishes the mind could be like a "time release capsule," that every hour these teachings could be released and help us through our daily tasks. We appreciate the efforts of each minister who takes time to assemble with us.

Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper observed their 25th wedding anniversary with an open house. May God always bless them.

Kenneth and Lupy Howk are the proud parents of twin girls, Kayla Marie and Cynthia Rae. Bro. Roy and Sis. Alice Howk are the paternal grandparents.

Bro. Raymond Messner is hospitalized for observation, and Sis. Delores (Cornelius) Messerli will be entering the hospital for surgery. May we always remember our hospital patients in prayer.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Marti - Vera Luthi

At this Thanksgiving season, we realize we have many blessings for which to be thankful. But we should be thankful not only once a year, but all year through. In

Apostle Peter's letter to the Ephesians, he encourages them to always give God thanks for all things. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20.

With thankful hearts we welcomed two dear souls into our precious family. Our new brother and sister in faith are Jerry Braker and Becky Marti. They gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of September 22, 23. Elder Bros. Joe Braker, Morton, IL, Sam Anliker, Lamont, KS, and Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, KS, were here to assist Elder Bro. Gene Marti in this important work.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

Thanksgiving Day has arrived, and once again Hymn No. 236 in the "Zion's Harp" comes to mind:

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

We appreciate the seasons that our Lord has planned. The earth in its journey makes one cycle, a calendar of beauty beyond our imagination, with each season bringing its own special treat. At this time of year, when the leaves are gone, we see more of the blue skies, so there are compensations.

He hath made everything beautiful in His time. Eccl. 3:11

We thank ministering Bro. Joe Aberle and his family from Sabetha, KS, for spending a Sunday with us.

We spent several Wednesday evenings listening to the tapes from the recent Brotherhood Conference. May we respect and uphold our elders who warn against strange doctrines and foreign ways. We are on the "proving grounds," and hope to be perfected, thus making us eligible to enter heaven some day.

"Anniversaries are like roses in marriage's bouquet—nurtured by love and joy, shared from day to day. Every loving blossom is the symbol of a year filled with special happiness and memories ever dear."

Author unknown.

Henry and Sis. Loida Hodel cele-

brated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sept. 30. They have seven children and 13 grandchildren. Your reporter extends a special "Thank You" to all of our dear friends and relatives for helping to make their anniversary such a happy occasion.

Tim Sutter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge) and Penny Martin (Mr. and Mrs. Amos Martin) were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm.

Gary Butikofer (grandson of Hege of Littlefork, MN) have announced their engagement. We wish both couples the Lord's blessings as they plan their lives together.

Bro. Jerry Knapp cut a finger in a farm accident, and Henry Hodel lost part of a finger in a workshop accident. Both are improving satisfactorily.

We were beautifully reminded, one Sunday afternoon, of the importance that love plays in a Christian's walk of life. Christ loved us so much that He carried all the cares and burdens of the whole world, and was willing to die on the cross for each one of us. It's not enough to say that we love Him and our fellow man; we need to exercise love. By doing this, we will receive a real blessing.

Let us never allow today's burdens to crowd out yesterday's blessings.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

We were pleased to have Bro. Glen Greenbank with us during most of the month of October while he attended a training course offered by his company, the Burroughs Company, near King of Prussia, PA. Bro. Glen is from Akron, OH.

A group of some 25 brothers and sisters from the Rittman and Akron churches came to spend the October 13th weekend with us in Philadelphia. We enjoyed dinner and singing together on Saturday evening and a wonderful day of worship and fellowship on Sunday. May God bless them for the effort they made to come to us, over the many miles, and for the love and encouragement they left with us.

We have much more to be thankful for today than our pilgrim fathers had on the first Thanks-

giving day. History tells us that during the preceding winter, over half of the colony died. Yet, after much hard labor, the fall of 1621 brought a good harvest of corn, and they saw fit to set aside a day for giving thanks to God for the good harvest, and, most importantly, for their freedom to worship God as they desired. Today, we still have that freedom, and we are grateful for it; but we must remember that the privilege to worship together and to hear God's Word will do us no good, whatsoever, unless we are willing to do what the Word says.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

The weekend of October 6 and 7 was a very special and blessed one for each of us. We were privileged to have members of the Bluffton, IN, choir in our midst. A song service at the Naumburg Church was enjoyed by a large combined congregation of both churches on Saturday evening, and we have many fond memories of the fellowship we had when these loved ones were visitors in our homes. On Sunday, we gathered in the Croghan Church for regular services and a covered dish meal. We heard many kind words of love, encouragement, and even warning from the lips of ministering Bro. Philip Stettner. We want to express our thanks to Bro. Phil and those who took the time to travel the many miles to enrich our lives. It is a wonderful experience to be able to travel and meet those who we do not know, but yet we know them through our precious faith.

On Sunday evening, October 14, the first of the tape recordings from the recent Brotherhood Conference was played. The remainder of them will be played on three more Sunday evenings. May we each take to heart the words of warning and counsel given to us through our beloved elder brothers. May we be granted sufficient strength and grace from our loving Father to carry out our lives according to His will and guidance.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. Arthur Wooschlager and Sis. Alice Farney (Bro. Donald).

NEY YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Great are the blessings that the Lord bestows upon us. Our

thoughts wend to the year which we have left behind, remembering so many things—great, and even small blessings, that come day after day. Let us have a thankful heart.

As we review those who came to visit, our thoughts go to the 16th of September when Bro. Albert Schneider and Sis. Gladys came to spend a Sunday with us. Bro. Albert brought us many good teachings.

Then, our thoughts drift to the weekend of October 6, 7 and the group of 40 singers from Bluffton who were with us. How wonderful it is that the Lord led a group like that to us. We hope their blessings for coming were as great as ours were for having them. Also, it was an added blessing that Bro. Phillip Stettner came and gave us messages from the Holy Word.

We gathered together, Croghan and us, on a Sunday evening to listen to part of the tapes of the conference.

May this Thanksgiving season be received in our hearts with joy.

OHIO, AKRON Lynell Palitto

Sis. Marie Dakovich was hospitalized, recently. Bro. Randy Miller is a surgical patient at this time. Kelly Luginbuhl, six-year-old daughter of Bro. Martin and Sis. Rose, became seriously ill and is a patient at Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron. May the Great Physician heal our loved ones.

We thank Bro. Roy Luginbuhl for ministering to us on October 14.

As Thanksgiving Day, 1979, is approaching, let us be "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:21.

OHIO, JUNCTION Lester Manz

This month, our children had a special weekend when they were hosts to the Akron Sunday School. As these tender souls grow older, we hope that their association with the young folks of our other congregations will grow into full brotherhood.

We thank Bro. Gene Fetter from Toledo for spending a Sunday with us this month and for

sharing, with us, the Word of God.

Our friend, Carlton Schlatter, has begun his college career at Ohio State University in Columbus. Phillip Schlatter was home for a short time while on leave from the military service. Phil and Carl are the sons of Sis. Esther Schlatter.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Henry Manz and Jerry Carnahan.

OHIO, LATTY Susie Sinn

For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. Ephesians 5:31.

Sept. 23 was the wedding day of Sis. LaNae Laukhuf (Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera) and Bro. Arlyn Ruden (Alvin and Dorothy), Cissna Park. Visiting us for this special occasion were Bro. Edward Alt and Bro. Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park, and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo. May God lead and guide them in their lives together.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. Isaiah 55:8. God choose to take little Adrian Marie Mielke for a part in his bouquet in heaven. Survivors include her parents, Dave and Deb, and a brother, Adam. May they find comfort in knowing that she is sweetly resting in the arms of Jesus.

In the hospital for tests were Sis. Ollie Laukhuf, Bro. Emil Stoller, and Jennifer Stoller (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori). Sis. Martha Zeltwanger suffered a stroke, and Sis. Josephine Wenninger submitted to surgery. Our prayer is that they can regain health and strength so that they can assemble with us again.

Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) assisted Bro. Loren in serving us Holy Communion.

For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. I Cor. 11:26.

Also visiting us this month was Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). We surely thank him for his labor of love.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

It is a good thing to give thanks

unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: to show forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Psalm 92.

Recently a brother told me that one can find more time in a day by using "expansion joints." He explained that often we can somehow make our days stretch just a little longer if we put first things first. Maybe we can visit a loved one or a lonely one just by taking the time and leaving something less important undone.

It was reported in the last issue that Sis. Alice Graszl was to have back surgery. We are thankful to report that she did not have to have surgery at this time and is home from the hospital.

We are also pleased to report that Sis. Katherine Bocka is now home from the hospital and recuperating after undergoing hip surgery.

Sis. Amelia Mathes has moved to the Woodland Nursing Home. Her new address is 535 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, OH 44907.

Sis. Francis Beer is still confined to her home and is not well. We certainly miss her presence at church, as it has been many months since she has been able to assemble with us.

At this writing, Sis. Anna Hoffman is hospitalized with pneumonia.

Sept. 22 was the happy wedding day for Sheli Banks and Ronald Fairchild. Bro. Richard and Sis. Mable Banks are Sheli's parents. We wish them much happiness as they share life together.

KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

We were asked by the Silver Lining staff to write a Know Each Other Better. To our readers, I'd like to introduce Sis. Theresa Dinger Kissel, who at the age of 86 still lives alone and does her own housework. Theresa was born in Germany. At the age of ten, she came by boat to the United States with her parents. It took 14 days and 14 nights to come to the States, and they encountered severe storms on the ocean. She can remember some of the passengers screaming because the high waves came into the boat. They were also followed by sword fish, and the captain ordered the crew to throw barrels overboard so the fish would be attracted to the barrels and not

damage the ship. The ship then had time to sail away while the fish played with the barrels.

When they arrived in Mansfield, they walked to Theresa's uncle's house. She described his house as a three-bedroom, kitchen, and living room dwelling. Because her father couldn't find a job or house, they resided with her uncle, which meant that 17 people stayed in this small home.

Because Theresa's parents were very poor, she decided to apply for work at the local cigar factory. Although she was only 11, she talked to the owner of the factory and told him she wanted work. He agreed to employ her if he could find a chair that was the right height. Her feet had to touch the floor, he said. She again was thankful that he did find a chair, and she went to work and earned \$14.00 a week. She was very pleased, because her father got a job and earned only \$18.00 for two weeks. By earning this good wage, she was able to help her parents get started.

As time went on, she met Bro. Andy, one day, but he told his friends he didn't want to marry a red-head and wasn't interested in her. However, as time went on, he changed his mind and married her anyway, red hair and all!

When asked how she found the Lord, she replied that she and Andy had gone to the Apostolic church off and on throughout their married life, but not until later in life did they actually seek the Lord. She said she would watch people go in and out of a neighborhood church, and she had a great desire to also be able to go to the church of her choice, but she knew Andy would have to make the move or she could never go. One day, early in the week, she got down on her knees and prayed earnestly to the Lord that He would move Bro. Andy. The following Sunday morning she was getting dinner ready and he came to the kitchen all dressed up. She asked him where he was going. He told her, "To church." She could hardly believe it. She told him she wished he would have told her earlier because now she couldn't leave the food. He went alone, and when he came home she asked him how he liked it. He said it was "nice." So, the following Sunday, she went with him and

soon she repented, as well as Bro. Andy. On February 27, 1956, they were added to the fold. Several years ago, Bro. Andy was called home by his Maker. Sis. Theresa loves the Lord and wishes to continue to serve Him as long as she lives. She is looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearance of the great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

OHIO, RITTMAN Janette Blough

Oh, what a joy it is, as many of our loved ones have heeded the call of the Lord and are seeking Him in repentance. We are so thankful to God for Beverly and Dana Emch, Jolene Gasser, Neil Gasser, Patty Gasser, David and Tom Hartzler, Janice and Jeff Hartzler, Lynn Maibach, Debbie Steiner, Darrell Widmer, and Betty and Charlene Winkler. "Ring the bells of heaven there is joy today, for a soul returning from the wild. See! the Father meet's them out upon the way, welcoming His weary, wand'ring child." Gospel Hymns. There are some that think that they are not sinners, but the Bible tells us in Romans 3:10, "There is none righteous, no, not one, all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Why not come to Him today? You'll receive blessings that you did not know existed!

"How beautiful are the feet of them, that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15. We received many blessings from our dear ones who have visited us this past month. We want to thank Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest, and Bro. Charles Sinn, Ft. Scott, for giving of themselves to feed us these glad tidings.

Love one another, for Love is of God! What wonderful love can be shown to two dear hearts, and we wish God's special blessings on our newly married couples. Many of our congregation traveled to Forrest, IL. for the wedding of Bro. Larry Bachman and Sis. Donna Zimmerman. We want to welcome Sis. Donna to Rittman and hope she will feel at home here. The wedding of Sis. Kay Beery and Bro. Ron Rufener, Mansfield, was attended by many from Mansfield, Lamar, and Ft. Scott. We will miss Sis. Kay, but hope she will be at home in Mansfield. The son of

Roy and Sis. Wilda Fetty, Bryan, and his bride, the former Wendi Shallenberger, are living in Orrville following their Oct. 1 wedding. The wedding of Sue Hartzler and Earl Nichols was held in Knupp Church on Oct. 20. Sue's parents are Bro. Forest and Sis. Helen Hartzler.

God's precious treasures, little babes, have been received in the homes of our dear ones. They are, Katrina Jill, born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Gasser. At home to welcome her are Kurt, Kelly, and Kara. The grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer, and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Liz Gasser. First-time parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer with the birth of a daughter, Jodi Michelle. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Joanne Widmer, and Bro. Henry and Sis. Martha Dotterer. Sis. Barbara Mathys has a new grandson, Scott Allen, born to daughter Blanch and Wayne Cov. Scott has a brother, Dwight. Little Eric Paul was welcomed in the family of Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler. He has two brothers and one sister. The grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Pauline Hartzler and Sis. Juliet Slaughter.

Into each life some rain must fall. Those needing hospital care the past month were Bro. Carl Ingold, Jack Maibach, Dave Curie, and Sis. Joyce Hartzler. Sis. Janette Blough has her leg in a cast, due to a fracture in her foot. Bro. Ben, Sis. Janette, and the three girls were involved in an auto accident which claimed the life of an area resident who failed to stop at a stop sign. We are so very thankful that the Bloughs were not seriously injured. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Marv and Sis. Rose Luginbuhl. Akron, as their little daughter, Kelly, is very sick. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 40:1.

Thanksgiving Day, 1979, we shall take time in our busy life to thank God for our many blessings, and especially for our freedom of religion which our forefathers came to America to find, which we still enjoy today. Thanksgiving Day was born in 1621. It was Governor William Bradford who issued the following proclamation:

To All Ye Pilgrims

Inasmuch as the great Father has given us this year an abundant

harvest of Indian corn, wheat, beans, squashes, and garden vegetables, and has made the forests to abound with game and the sea with fish and clams, and inasmuch as He has protected us from the pestilence and disease, has granted us freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience; now, I, your magistrate, do proclaim that all ye Pilgrims, with your wives and little ones, do gather at ye meeting house, on ye hill, between the hours of 9 and 12 in the day time, on Thursday, November 29th of the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and twenty-three, and the third year since ye Pilgrims landed on ye Pilgrim Rock, there to listen to ye pastor, and render thanksgiving to ye Almighty God for all His blessings.

William Bradford

Ye Governor of ye Colony

Now over 350 years have passed, and we still gather together on this day to thank God for all the blessings He gives us. Let us never forget the price that was paid for our free religion. We may not always be so fortunate. "Bless the Lord oh my soul, and forget not His handi-work or forget not all his benefits." Psalm 103:2.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehlau

"Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

Psalm 100:3, 4

"I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord: That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell all thy wondrous works."

Psalm 26:6, 7

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God." II Corinthians 4:15

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6

Diane Reineck Hughes had surgery on her hand. We are glad to report that all went well.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Pearl Miller

As we reflect over the past summer, precious memories linger on because many brethren visited us. Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue and their two children from Japan were in our midst. He ministered the precious Word to us. We received many rich blessings. Bro. Akito shared, with us, the importance of following the Word of God. He impressed upon us that the Lord Jesus doesn't make exceptions for cultures. An example he gave us is that some practice greeting with the holy kiss and others do not. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Salute one another with an holy kiss. Rom. 16:16.

From Altadena, CA, we were made happy and blessed with the visit of Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kay Hackenjos. We heard of "Enoch walking with God." So should it be in our lives each day.

Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and Sis. Mildred of Elgin, IA, accompanying Bro. Mark and Sis. Margaret Grimm of Oakville, IA, flew "out West" in Bro. Mark's plane. Elder Bro. Paul ministered on Monday evening with the Silverton brethren present. We treasure these times of fellowship.

My dear mother, Sis. Elizabeth Pfister from Roanoke, IL, 91, flew to Oregon this summer with my two sisters. What a blessed time we had. How much we appreciate our dear mothers.

Sis. Connie Steffen, wife of Bro. Garth, was hospitalized for several days for treatment. We're happy and thankful that she can be home again and is feeling some better.

This fall, Sis. Julie Anderson and Bro. Steve and Cynthia Miller (son and daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Pearl) are attending Oregon State University at Corvallis, OR. Our prayers are with them each day. We pray that God will watch over them and keep them from the evil in this world. They assemble with us on Sunday.

Bro. Kevin Pflederer from Tremont, IL, is finishing his last year of schooling at Oregon State University. He attends the Silverton and Portland churches.

Vacationing in the Northwest for two weeks is Bro. Keith Leman from Elgin, IL. He remarked how much he enjoys nature in prefer-

ence to man-made places. I had to think how this should be in our spiritual lives—we're to think of the celestial joy that awaits us and not of the terrestrial.

Our hearts were filled with thankfulness when we visited with our dear Bro. Rod Wagenbach who is in Seattle, WA, recovering from a marrow transplant. Bro. Rod's mother, Sis. Betty, is with him. They will probably be able to return home in a few weeks and be with their loved ones again. God has heard and answered prayer on his behalf. They have learned patience through this experience. Their home is in Princeville, IL.

As Thanksgiving season is approaching, the verse comes to me: Blessed be the Lord Who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Ps. 68:19

OREGON SILVERTON
Mary Jane Winkler

Thanksgiving is a special time of the year and a time to sit down and think of all the wonderful blessings that we have. The most important blessings are our faith in God and freedom of worship. We can't fathom how wonderful it is to be able to assemble ourselves as often as we desire. Many people, yet today, do not have that privilege but must assemble secretly; and even then they are in danger of being persecuted. We are not physically persecuted for our beliefs, but sometimes I think we have it so good we tend to get careless. We don't have a physical persecution, but, spiritually, we are being persecuted. May we ever strive to overcome all temptations and to let our light shine in this dark world so others may know that we truly do have Christ in our hearts and lives and that we are truly thankful for all our blessings.

My husband, Bro. Andy, and myself wish to announce the arrival of our adopted Korean baby daughter, Rachel Hei Ran. We and our children Sara, Barry, Jerry, and Darin welcomed her into our home and hearts. The grandparents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Ruth Beery and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler, all of the Rittman, OH, congregation.

ADDRESS CHANGED?
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**
(See New Jersey, Union City)

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

Our winter residents are returning. How wonderful it is to go to church on Sunday and see some of our winter family back with us.

We at Zapata have certainly felt the love of God in our small congregation. Four years ago our congregation was meeting in a rented building with only a winter-time residency. Now, four years later, we have a church with ten adults and eight children who are year-round residents.

We want to thank all those who included Zapata in their vacation plans this summer and welcome anyone who wishes to come this winter. The church phone number is 512-765-6436. We do have mid-week services on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. Our phone number, Bro. Leland and Sis. Mary Plattner, is 512-765-4961. Anyone in the McAllen area may contact Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl at 1501 W. Wisteria St., phone 512-682-0219.

God does not only comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters.

SERMON . . .

(Continued From Page 28)

favor and the power to overcome the enemy of our soul. We all want to fight a good fight of faith against the power of darkness and evil in this world.

Peter said, ". . . and peace be multiplied . . ." 2 Peter 1:2. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." John 14:27. For all of us who have received the peace of God, that peace was the most precious gift that any of us could receive.

May we hold fast to that peace. May we follow the teachings of our Saviour and the apostles. May we stay close to our Lord and Saviour, and heed the Holy Spirit whom He has given to us so that our peace can be multiplied.

"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness,

through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." 2 Peter 1:3, 4. We all are familiar with the corruption that is in the world through lust: ". . . the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." 1 John 2:16.

We read that we have "given unto us exceeding great and precious promises . . ."! Oh, there are so many promises in God's Word. But, to be partakers of those wonderful promises, we must be obedient to His commands.

When we consider this, we who have been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ have reason to humble ourselves before Him, and to stay close to Him. May this grace and peace be multiplied in our hearts.

Then Peter speaks of the virtues which are essential to the children of God. "And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity: Peter 1:5, 6, 7.

We know that faith is essential. We read in Hebrews that "Without faith it is impossible to please him (God)." Heb. 11:6. First we must believe that God is and then . . . that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb. 11:6.

So we can see value in faith. We have to believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He died for our sins, and that He "was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:25.

There are other virtues which we must also have. "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience . . ." 2 Peter 1:5, 6. It ends with charity.

We know how the Apostle Paul spoke of charity, or love. We have to have love, do we not?

Paul said, ". . . though I have all faith, so that I could remove

mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing." "I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." 1 Cor. 13: 2 and 1.

We can see the value of all these virtues. If we have them, we will "neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." "But," Peter said, "he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins." 2 Peter 1:8, 9.

The saddest thing that could happen to any of us would be to have forgotten that we were once redeemed with the precious blood of Jesus Christ, and to have forgotten that we were purged from our old sins.

Peter continued, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." 2 Peter 1:10. The Apostle Peter wanted to impress those to whom he wrote with the great value of salvation. He wanted to impress redeemed souls with their high standing in Christ Jesus, so that they would not lose their first love.

"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in the remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth." 2 Peter 1:11, 12. How kindly he reminded them. Today, as we are gathered together, we are not speaking about this because we feel that we are not established in the truth.

We have a wicked enemy, Satan by name, who is trying to destroy our love and peace. He is trying to destroy all that which is good. He is trying to keep the sinner from coming to the knowledge of the truth. He is trying to disturb the believer.

These kind exhortations are valuable. We are thankful that God has ordained that man should labor six days of the week, and that on the seventh day he should lay aside his labors and come to the house of worship. How thankful we can be that we have the privilege in our land to worship according to the dictates of our conscience. We can gather together and be built up in our most pre-

cious faith, being thus encouraged to battle against the power of the enemy.

Peter said, "Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:15, 16. We know what he is speaking of here, do we not, dear ones?

We know that when Jesus was here upon earth, He took Peter, James, and John up on the mountain. There He was transfigured before them and Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." Math. 17:4. Moses and Elias were there with them. Peter said, "... let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias." Matt. 17:4. Moses and Elias vanished out of their sight; then Jesus told them that they should "Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the dead." Matt. 17:9.

We know the weakness of Peter when Jesus gave Himself into the hands of sinful men. Jesus told His disciples that all would be offended at Him that night, but Peter said, "Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yea will I never be offended." Matt. 26:33.

Jesus told Peter that before the cock would crow, he would deny Him thrice, and it came to pass. Peter was unable to do anything of himself. We cannot look down on Peter for that, because Jesus did not supply Peter with His grace and strength in that hour.

Previously, when the apostles had been sent out, spirits were subject to them, and they came back and rejoiced because of it. Jesus said, "... rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20.

But Peter was unable to do anything when Jesus allowed Himself to be taken, because he did not have the strength from the Lord at that time.

That shows us that if we try to do anything by our own power, we also will not be able to accom-

lish it. But if we rely upon the grace of God and His Holy Spirit, if we will carefully follow the teachings and commands of our Saviour, He will supply us with the necessary grace.

God's Word tells us that "... God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." James 4:6. May God give each of us a humble heart, a submissive heart, a heart full of love for Him and for one another. Then we will abide in His truths and in His love.

Peter said, "For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 2 Peter 1:17. Peter James and John heard this voice from heaven when they were upon the mount with Jesus.

Peter continued, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19. We believe that the Lord Jesus is coming again. God's Word tells us so, and we know that it is true. He is going to come again.

We sang the beautiful hymn, "Gratitude For Deliverance." Oh, how we sang those words together! Did it not create in our hearts an appreciation for God's deliverance, an appreciation and a prayer that God will keep all His children from the power of the enemy so that we will be able to welcome His coming?

Let us ask ourselves this morning whether we would welcome the coming of our Lord and Saviour. Will we welcome the call into eternity? Or is there something that we have to set in order before we want Him to come? Is there anything separating us from the love of God? Today God is beckoning and calling.

We read in the forereading: "Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto

me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live. . ." Isaiah 55:1, 2, 3.

Our prayer is that every soul here this morning who has not yet made the necessary preparation will come to the Lord with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

"Incline your ear, and come unto me . . ." Isaiah 55:3. God is speaking these words. The prophet recorded the words, but it is God speaking to everyone

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:6, 7.

We have found it that way, dear ones. When we called upon the Lord, He abundantly pardoned. He had mercy upon us. It is not His will that one soul would be lost, but that all should "... come unto the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4.

We can read in the book of the prophet Isaiah, "... to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:2

Anyone who is not prepared to meet his Creator would have reason to tremble at His Word. But God's Word tells us that "... a broken and a contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise." Psalms 51:17. He will have mercy upon such a one. When we come to our God, He will abundantly pardon.

God will have mercy. We have experienced His mercy and His love, and we owe Him our all, do we not? We should join with the Psalmist who said, "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." Psalm 116:18.

Speaking of the mercy of God, the Psalmist also said. "... the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them." Psalm 103:17, 18.

May each one of us remember His commandments and then, by His grace, do them.

Sermon by Bro. Elmer Witzig of Gridley, IL

Text: Isaiah 55 and 2 Peter 1

As we read this chapter together, we could feel within our hearts that the words which the Apostle Peter wrote were words of inspiration from the Almighty God and our Saviour.

We are thankful that these words were recorded and kept for us today. How grateful we should be that God has provided His Word and prepared a way for it to be bound between these two covers! None of us who are familiar with the Word of God can say that we are ignorant of His will and His desire for us.

The Apostle Peter spoke in this chapter about his concern for the preservation of believers. It says, "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 1:1.

I have often mentioned that we hardly dare compare ourselves with the apostles. Still, we have received salvation in the same way that they have received it. We have repented for our sins, have been born again out of water and spirit, and have become new creatures in Christ Jesus. We have faith in the atoning blood of our Saviour who has gone on before us and who has prepared the way of salvation. The Word tells us that there is no salvation except through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

If we have made that experience, we can truthfully say that we have "like precious faith" with the Apostle Peter. "... like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ" 2 Peter 1:1.

If we claim to have "like precious faith" with the apostles of old, then we have a high standing. There is no higher standing than to be a child of God.

We also have obligations. As children of God, we are "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."

Romans 8:17. The apostle said that "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." 2 Timothy 2:12.

Consider God's great plan of salvation and what it cost Him. He gave His only begotten Son as a Saviour and for a ransom. His blood was the atonement for the sins of all mankind. What a great price He paid!

Truly, God was merciful and kind. He looked down upon us, and called us with a holy calling so that we could realize our lost and wretched condition without Him. Then, when we called upon Him in our soul's deep need, He heard our prayers and forgave us our sins. He sank them into the "Sea of Forgetfulness."

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Psalms 103:12. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." Psalms 103:13.

In today's reading, the Apostle Peter said, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord." 2 Peter 1:2. It was the apostle's wish and prayer that grace and peace would be multiplied. Could there be anything more valuable that we would wish for each other than that the grace and peace of God would be multiplied in our hearts and in our midst today?

There might be some here today who wonder what "grace" means. We know that when we have new converts almost everyone wishes them the grace of God. Sometimes they have wondered, "What do they mean when they wish us the grace of God?"

Grace has several definitions, but it is always an undeserved blessing from God, unmerited love from God. It can be divine power from God to overcome sin.

So, when we wish one another the grace of God, we request God's
(Continued On Page 26)

A Reminder

S.H.
FROEHLICH
LIBRARY
Still Available

10 Hard Cover
Volumes

Black Simulated Leather
Gold Embossed

Philippians-Revelation
The Two Mysteries-Matrimony
Baptismal Truth
Ephesians
Hebrews
Meditations/Epistles of John
Vol. 1
Meditations/Epistles of John
Vol. 2
Meditations/Epistles of John
Vol. 3
Meditations/Epistles of John
Vol. 4
Evidence Demonstrating The Truth
Of The Word Of God
-Single Copies Also-

FROEHLICH
MEDITATIONS
ON TAPE

NEW-Gospels of St. Matthew
Book One
Book of Psalms
Book of Isaiah
Life-Conversion Secession
From State Church
Baptism of Faith

Narrated by
Apostolic Christian Ministers
-Sets or Single Tape-

ORDER FROM
Apostolic Christian
Publications
524 Valley Court
Eureka, Illinois 61530