

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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CHRISTMAS

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

"Christmas"—the magic word that tugs at the heart-strings of all who have been reared in the United States. Of all the special holidays of the year, it is only at Christmas that I think, "Another year away from the land of my birth." It isn't especially that I'm homesick, and it isn't that I have a desire to live in the States rather than in Japan. It is simply that soon it will be Christmas, and a person is always supposed to be "at home" for Christmas. Whatever it is, there is something special about Christmas.

Traditionally, I grew up going to church on Christmas morning with my father, mother, brothers and sisters. In the afternoon we had a special Christmas meal together in our home. For gifts, we usually drew names and purchased a gift for the person whose name we drew. One year, which I remember very well, the amount to be spent on a gift was twenty-five cents. I had my mother's name and bought her a glass water pitcher which had a spout shaped to stop ice cubes from falling into the glass when pouring, a new luxury in those days. The most memorable Christmas of all for me was when we younger children together received a Sears Roebuck mail order sled which sold for \$1.19. I had asked for it, but felt I was hoping for too much in that time of depression. There it was when Mother called us into the living room to see our gifts on Christmas eve. My eyes sparkled and my face glowed. It is as clear in my mind as if it occurred last evening.

However, the most important part of Christmas, by far, is the fact that it is to celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. Through Him human beings have

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WHAT'S IN JAPAN?

Sis. Jane Weiss

(Submitted by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach)

Forgive me for talking about myself, but I do want to share with you, my dear brothers and sisters, the life of a sister teaching in the Shioda American Kindergarten and attending the Apostolic Christian Churches in Japan. How do you put it all down on paper? I don't know. I don't think you can, but I'll begin with a prayer and hope that I can say the things that are meaningful to hear and that are worth knowing.

For me, it began with a deep love for our Triune God, a deep thankfulness for the gift of salvation, and a desire to help others know Him. Not knowing what I could do, I just prayed, "Thy will be done." One day, it seems so long ago, I heard someone say, "If you have the faith to go to Japan and teach in our church's kindergarten there, please pray about it, then talk to your local elder and then to Bro. Ben Maibach." So after a time of prayer, I did talk to my elder and Bro. Ben, and then after Sis. Sally Beutel also volunteered to go, it was decided that we would go together.

Now, those two years (which I thought seemed so very long!) are over. I have returned again to Japan after visiting my family and brethren in the States this summer. After Sis. Sally's and my experience of both arriving at the same time and finding everything new, I suggested to the elders that it is far better for the children and teachers if we go back on the rotation system so there is continuity. All agreed to accept my offer to come back for one more year.

I plan to return home the summer of 1980, and one certified teacher will be needed to replace me. In addition there is a possibility, if there would be enough

volunteers, that a kindergarten-nursery school might be started at the Tokyo church following somewhat the same pattern as we are doing in the country. But this is only in the stage of prayer, and no decision has been given as yet, and we will have to see how the Lord directs.

To anyone who might be considering this labor, or perhaps even if this is the first time that you've heard much about the churches in Japan, I'll tell you that I don't consider it a labor in the least but a deep privilege to share the Word with those who perhaps have never heard it before. Teaching in the kindergarten, telling the Bible stories to those adorable little children brings so very much joy and pleasure. Also, by getting to know their parents, by speaking with them, perhaps teaching them English, God opens so many doors for us to be examples to them.

Children really are the same the world over. And I am certain that they learn a foreign language faster than an adult can, and they believe the Bible stories easier than an adult wants to. I pray that all of you support me when I say that this work here is a worthy one and would be good if continued. We appreciate the prayer support from all of you. We also appreciate how the parents and churches of the teachers who are and have been here support us so diligently.

It brings great joy to our hearts when the loved ones who have visited here in Japan can return to the States with a "good report" of our churches and the work here, and they can report that our churches are indeed the same as those in the States. Our churches are very small, about thirty members in both the Tokyo and Shioda church-

es, but we pray and work towards growth. At this time, I am the youngest of the converted members, but we sincerely pray that those who have heard the Word as little children in our kindergarten will not forget what they learned, but might repent and be born again.

For those of you who might wonder a little about our physical life here, I'll give you a bit of an explanation: Last year Sally and I moved to a new "little" Japanese house, a little less than a fifteen minute walk from the church and kindergarten (the kindergarten is taught inside the church building). Until August 31, 1978, we lived in the second floor of the church; a small apartment was made there for the teachers. We are very well pleased and happy with the new house and environment there. The combination of kindergarten tuition and help from the Mission Fund pays for our house rent, utilities and our living expenses. We also are privileged to have two trips within Japan each year.

Yamanashi prefecture, where we live, has four definite seasons, and where we live we are surrounded by grape and peach farmers. We live in what you would call country, but it's a very highly populated rural area compared to what you would imagine in the States. We're also surrounded by mountains which are lucious green in the spring and summer, splendid rusts and browns in the fall, and sparkling white in the winter.

We do travel some by car, but generally public transportation is used, such as buses and trains. The Tokyo church is about an hour and a half from us by car and about two hours by train. Sis. Evelyn Blunier of Eureka, Illinois, who replaced Sis. Sally Beutel, and I go to Tokyo once a month on the third Sunday to attend church and the monthly singing.

The kindergarten hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, and then we have Sunday School, which is presently taught by Sis. Sally Gramm of Gridley, Illinois. The children and their teachers carry their lunches to school. We arrive by 8:30 every morning and are usually finished with our duties at about 3 o'clock. We have about 30 children in the kindergarten. We divide the children into two groups, "big people" and "little people." The school year

is a bit different here in Japan than in the States. Our school year begins in April, and graduation is in March. There are about two weeks of vacation after graduation, two after Christmas, and six weeks during July and August. Then, of course, we have national holidays off, and I believe Japan has more national holidays than the States. We run the kindergarten basically like an American kindergarten, and we use an English kindergarten text book with the "big people." We have outings with the children and parents and also educational trips with just the children. Bro. Willis Ehnle serves as the administrator of our kindergarten, and we try to have teachers' meetings with him and Sis. Lois about once a week to discuss whatever might be needful. We also go to the children's homes for visits with them. Once a month we have PTA meetings with most of the mothers attending quite regularly. There is a little bit of a struggle for the children and teachers when they first enter, but the children learn fast. Soon everything seems to run quite smoothly.

The Americans who come to Japan, at least our church people, seem to have quite a lot of rapport with the Japanese. I could not ask to be treated nicer by them. In fact, sometimes I wish that I could get them to stop doing so many things for me!

One thing that I've really found to be a priceless thing is to learn, if possible, the Japanese language before coming to Japan. That's probably what scared me the most before I came, but I'm so thankful for the little bit of studying that I did before I came and that I could continue to study once I came. It would surprise you how many peo-

ple can speak English, but many more can't! It thrills them so if you try to speak to them in their language (especially the grandmothers and grandfathers), and it also helps you to feel more comfortable when you can express yourself.

Once again I would encourage you, if you feel that it's the Lord's will for you to come to Japan, to speak to your elder, and then to Bro. Ben Maibach. We would encourage you to do this by January 31, because we would like to have the next teacher lined up by that time. If any brother or sister would have any questions about Japan and the work here, please feel free to write to me, Sis. Evelyn Blunier or Bro. Willis Ehnle here in Japan.

READY

Ready to suffer grief or pain,
Ready to stand the test;
Ready to stay at home and send
others if He sees best.
Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.

Ready to go, ready to bear,
Ready to watch and pray;
Ready to stand aside and give,
Till He shall clear the way.

Ready to speak, ready to think,
Ready with heart and brain;
Ready to stand where He sees fit,
Ready to bear the strain.

Ready to speak, ready to warn,
Ready o'er souls to yearn.
Ready in life, ready in death,
Ready for His return.
Ready to go, ready to stay,
Ready my place to fill;
Ready for service, lowly or great,
Ready to do His will.

Charles D. Tillman

WHAT IS COVETOUSNESS?

Are We Guilty of This Deadly Sin?

(Written by a ministering brother)

In Corinthians 6, we find covetousness listed with fornication, adultery, and drunkenness, with only a comma between. Men who are guilty of these practices shall not inherit the kingdom of God. In Colossians 3:5, we read that covetousness is idolatry, and in I John 5:21, that children of God should keep themselves from idols.

The dictionary defines covetous-

ness as an unrestrained desire for something that another person has. In the seven woes of the 5th chapter of Isaiah verse 8, we read, "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, until there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." The Scripture warns against emulations in Galatians 5:20. Webster defines emulations as the desire to

equal or surpass, or rivalry. "Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." (Gal. 5:26) "The love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Tim. 6:10)

In the sermon on the Mount, Matthew 6:24, Jesus said, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Mammon is defined as riches regarded as an object of worship and the greedy pursuit thereof. In Phlippians 4:5 we read, "Let your moderation be known unto all men." The dictionary lists moderations as the avoidance of extremes; not being excessive. As believers in Christ who wish to have a part in the first resurrection, and who expect to leave this earth, perhaps without a moments notice, should our life-style be one of ostentatious display? "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (I John 2:15) The rich young ruler who came to Jesus asking what he could do to inherit eternal life went away sorrowful. Though he was of sterling character, he had a covetous heart, and the Scripture does not relate that he ever sold out, distributed to the poor and followed Jesus.

The antonym for covetousness is generosity. In Ezekial 16:49, we read that pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness (leisure time) was the beginning of the downfall of the proud city of Sodom, and the prophet also said that Sodom did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. In I Timothy 6:17, we are charged that if God blesses the labors of our hands, and if our herds and flocks are multiplied, and if our silver and gold is multiplied (Deut. 8:13), we are not to be high-minded nor trust in these riches. They are temporary at best. (Psalm 62:10). We ARE to trust in the living God for it is He that giveth man the power to get wealth (Deut. 8:18,19). We ARE to do good, and distribute and share with the needy. Psalm 41 lists certain promises to those who will remember the poor.

In tithing and charitable giving, we find the only true tax shelter for the believer (we can deduct up to 50% of our income). In I Timothy 6:19, Paul says we will be laying

up in store for ourselves a good foundation against the time to come and will lay hold on eternal life. And finally, Jesus Himself tells us in the Sermon on the Mount, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matt. 6:19-21)

If we are truly interested in treasures in heaven, it will not concern us who has the finest car, the largest tractor, the biggest farm, or the most opulent home. We will hardly notice because we will be about our Father's business.

Christmas . . .

(Continued from page 1)
the opportunity to be acquitted of all sin and guilt and to stand before God innocent. Therefore, it is well for every Christmas gathering to include prayer, Christmas carols, and the reading of the Christmas story from the Bible.

As we think of the love which caused Christ to come to earth as a baby born of a virgin, let us all love each other more, and deeper. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to men."

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

The holidays are upon us again, and as we pause and reflect on the past year, we would be remiss if we did not thank God for his manifold blessings. In the past year, we have added a set of houseparents, an administrator, and two sisters to help in caring for our children. We are looking forward to the arrival of another brother and sister couple to serve as houseparents to replace our brother and sister who are leaving.

We have had some children come to stay with us, and some children have left; a number of those who have left have gone to live with their families. We miss the children who leave, but we are happy for them when their parents are able to provide them with a stable family life. We are thankful that God has provided us an opportunity to provide a Chris-

tian atmosphere to some of His little ones who might otherwise not have ever had such a chance. As is true with any child, we often times must wait for many years to see the fruits of our labors, but we have had one of our girls repent this past year and are praying for her that she will soon find the peace that comes from faith in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. We thank God that the seeds are being sown in the hearts of these young lives and pray that others will also come into fruition in their time.

We thank all of our brothers, sisters, and friends for your willingness to help us in doing the Lord's work. We thank them for their gifts which are so necessary to operate our Home. We especially thank all who come to help us, and we ask for their continued love and prayers on behalf of all of us here. We are still in need of people to help us and are praying that another couple might be moved to come work with us and our children.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In ancient times, humanity looked forward to a promised Messiah. In our times, we look back upon that great day in history when the Saviour was born. Time itself pivots around this day which binds the two eras together. No printed column can in a few words explain the ineffable influence which Christ's birth has had upon the earth. Love, which was its prime signifiacnce, is explained in I Corinthians, Chapter 13.

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"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity (Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself—Matt. 22: 39), I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and though I give my body to be burned and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth (to feel and endure pain or annoyance) long, (And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves; for charity shall cover a multitude of sins—I Pet. 4:8), and is kind (benevolent, gracious); charity envieth (discontent at the sight of another's excellence or success) not; Charity vaunteth (to brag or boast) not itself, is not puffed up (to act or speak in a scornful, conceited manner); doth not behave itself unseemly (unbecoming; not suitable for time or place); seeketh not her own (Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others—Phil. 2:4); is not easily provoked (purposely stirred to anger); thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity (who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them—Romans 1: 32); but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things (bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ—Gal. 6:2), believeth all things; hopeth all things; endureth all things. Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. . . . And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Christmas can be seen in all its decorative beauty; Christmas can be heard by listening to the beautiful carols; but the important part of Christmas is that which can be felt deep within when the influence of the Saviour uplifts the standards of our actions and thoughts. Let us profit from the Innkeeper's great mistake. Let us not refuse to let Him in.

We are happy to welcome a new

family member, Nancy Jones, who arrived to live at the Home on October 23. Her parents, Lucille and Ron Jones, are from Peoria.

Our residents who normally are occupied at the Peoria Community Workshop have been laid off because of the strike at the Caterpillar Tractor Co.

Benefit Day always impresses us with the fact that many give of themselves and their resources without thought of return or reward. They give as the flowers of the field who release their fragrance into space—freely. Surely through the hands of such, our Heavenly Father speaks.

May the spirit of the Holy Season pervade the hearts and homes of all, and may its influence linger on through the coming year.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

Hazel Vibbert - Judy Haggermaker

"... And God did rest the seventh day from all his works." Heb. 4:4 We all need to remind ourselves that our God gave us the seventh day for rest and that God made heaven and earth.

We were thankful to have Sis. Gail Gutwein and Sis. Barbara Thomas over from the Huntsville church on Oct. 7. Gail is planning to reach the youth in the Philippines with the gospel. We all give her our prayers.

Mr. and Mrs. Perry Honregger from Forrest, IL, and Bro. Jesse and Sis. Frieda Haab from Milford, IN, and Bro. William and Sis. Nancy Klopfenstein from Leo, IN, have been our visitors. They brought many greetings with them. We are always very thankful to have visitors.

We have been blessed with three new babies who are in our midst. Darevin Wayne Hagggenmaker was born in July. His proud parents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Vivian Hagggenmaker. The grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Alma Hagggenmaker. Jerhmie Lynn Bolen was born in October. His proud parents are Bro. John and Sis. Cathy Bolen. The grandparents are Bro. Winford and Sis. Unis Kelley. Daniel Grant Hagggenmaker was born on June 4. His proud parents are Bro. David and Sis. Judy Hagggenmaker. The grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Shirley Hagggenmaker.

We all were sad to hear that Mrs. Wilma Royster, mother of Sis. Debra Hillard and mother-in-law

of Bro. Ricky Hillard, passed away Oct. 27. The family, I'm sure, would like your prayers.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

We were blessed Sunday, Oct. 21, when Bro. John Klotzel (Altadena) gave us sermons on The Great Plan of Salvation. Our monthly potluck supper preceded evening services and hymn singing.

"Jesus loves the little children," and we now have two more infants to love. On September 24, little Raeann Rokey was the first little one for Jerome and Janet, and certainly Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ione Rokey are very happy to have a grandchild close and not just in Illinois. Uncle Jeff welcomes Raeann, also. Then, on October 16, little Jason William made Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders first-time parents. Waiting to be called grandpa and grandma are Bro. Earl and Sis. Emma Sanders, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lysla Ringger.

We are thankful that retired Elder Bro. Roy Farney is home from a short stay in the hospital. It is such a joy to have him and Sis. Minnie in our midst.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) plans to be here November 18 and will assist Elder Bro. Richard Schuplach in reading the Conference letter. We look forward to his visit.

We here in Phoenix extend Season's Greetings to you and invite you to join us for a winter visit.

On November 15 we had a beautiful, bright, sunny day with temperatures in the low 80's. This warm trend is expected to continue for a few days before returning to slightly cooler days.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Carolyn Kaufman-Kathy Woodruff

Finally, the cool weather that we prayed for has arrived. We are eagerly awaiting the many visitors who will come to worship with us during the winter months. Many things have taken place this month, one of which is the arrival of a new family that has moved to our community and become part of our congregation. Bro. Ray and Sis. Virginia Cooper from Silverton, OR, have moved to Tucson with their two boys, Gary and Dave. We welcome them with open arms and hope that they feel loved, wanted and needed.

Orville Schmidt was recently admitted to the hospital. Our prayers are with him and his wife. We are hoping for a speedy recovery. Sis. Martha Blessman was recently called back to Springs, TX, for the funeral of her 13-year-old grandson, son of Glenn Blessman. He was tragically killed in an auto accident. She plans to stay with the family for a few weeks. Surely, she needs and wants our support in thought and prayer.

Bro. Glen Hackenjos and his wife were here this month from Altadena, CA, for a blessed weekend of fellowship in the Lord. We are always grateful when the Lord sends his ministering brethren to help spread the Word and enrich His children's lives.

The annual business meeting was held for the election of a new trustee. The exiting trustee is Bro. Bob Haas. The brother whom the Lord moved the congregation to choose to replace him is Bro. Ray Cooper. We are so few in number that every member, no matter how new or old, is asked to serve the church in whatever capacity the Lord sees fit. We all have to work together if we are to maintain our small, but ever growing, body of believers in Christ.

As previously mentioned, we are eagerly awaiting the many winter visitors. Our congregation begins to buzz as the winter months approach. In anticipation, we begin to prepare our hearts and homes for the many loved ones who visit us each winter. We have come to look forward to the coming of believers and friends. We pray that the Lord will not disappoint us this winter and that we will truly be blessed with their rich fellowship.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Witzig

We were greatly blessed by visiting ministers: Bro. Bill Dotterer, Phoenix, AZ, and Elder Bros. Rudy Graf, Akron, OH, Lester Hartter, Bern, KS, Gene Marti, Lamar, MO, and Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, AZ. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Heb. 6:10)

Our dear friend Gene Alexandera passed away on November 15 after a long illness. He leaves his wife, Sis. Melva Alexandera, daughter

Patty and son Michael. Funeral services were held in Glendora, CA, with burial in Elgin, IL.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Carlton J. Lanz

It is that time again when our thoughts turn backward to the little town of Bethlehem where the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, took place nearly two thousand years ago. As the custom goes, people from all parts of the earth visit this sacred spot, as it is termed. To those who have been reared in Christian homes and taught the truth, His purpose in coming to this earth in person should be clear. What greater achievement could one ever hope for than to be reconciled with God—the purpose of Christ's coming. The thousands upon thousands of beautiful hymns written in His honor and praise, and the lovely carols we sing at this time of Christmas Season are surely meaningful and inspiringly designed. He is known the world over, and it is said that He, being God, is God and cannot be satisfactorily defined or adequately characterized in words. He cannot be properly fitted into any of our familiar categories. But when all has been said, it nevertheless remains true that God is transcendent, omniscient, omnipotent, and infinitely exalted. Indeed, with God being God, it could scarcely be otherwise. The apostle Paul declared, "... his ways (are) past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33) Hebrews declared, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8)

I would like to digress for a bit to consider our precious heritage that God has so richly preserved and blessed in many areas and ways. The list of our American heroes and heroines, black, white and Indian is endless. Our heritage, made possible by those who thought of America before themselves, reminds us that the lives we live today will be part of America's tomorrow. Undoubtedly, those loyal men and women, many of them if not all, have gone with the ages. Yet, they have left their mark of respect and endearment to many of us.

Many things have changed since their time, but I recall Bro. Paul Gasser's advice from our pulpit, when he said, "We do not always go along with their decision—refer-

ring to those who make important decisions—but, then, we have to pray for what is best."

Before the body of believers, two young men, Lloyd Luginbuhl and Daniel Bahler, delivered their testimonies very confidently with reference to what God had done in their conversion. They were then baptized and went on their way, joyously. Their parents are Bro. Martin and Dorothy Luginbuhl and Bro. Corbin and Sis. Virginia Bahler, respectively. The two Elders at Croghan and Naumberg, Bros. Steiner and Beyer, were present at the time and assisted Elder Bro. John Bahler.

Twin boys were born to Bro. James and Sis. Sandra Schneider. The names of these infants are Matthew John and Michael David; the date of birth was October 23, 1979. Their grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Gladys Schneider, and Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther Gerber, Forrest, IL.

Bro. Ed Frank, elder at the La Cross church, spent a Sunday or more here at Rockville. His messages from our pulpit were inspiring and wholesome; we truly enjoyed his being down to a "sincere" level as he spoke to the church.

We listened to many interesting reports on World Relief findings. We also enjoyed visiting with our many brethren who were in the delegation. Many greetings were exchanged with one another. This fellowship is precious to the believer.

Death came to Sis. Freda Zahner, wife of Bro. Frederick Zahner. She had been ill off and on for some time. She was 73. Her survivors, in addition to her husband, are one son, Wilfred Zahner; three daughters, Sis. Fredricka Whitman, Mrs. Wilma Lehnerr, and Mrs. August Leite; and two sisters, Sis. Bertha Moser and Sis. Marie (Walter) Hany. Burial was in Ellington Center Cemetery. Bro. John Bahler, elder, had the services.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE John and Caroline Hejja

True love is shown through deeds. God showed His marvelous love for mankind by sending His Son to earth in human form. Why did He do this? From the time of man's fall in Eden, man has been in sin. Satan wanted man to perish, but God wanted to save mankind and give him an opportunity to re-

pent and win the victory over death. Long ago, He promised to provide a way by which man could find salvation. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Gen. 3:15) This was fulfilled when He sent His Son in the form of human man. "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law." (Gal. 4:4)

There were numerous prophecies in the Old Testament which were fulfilled by Jesus at His coming, but many of the people in those days closed their eyes and could not believe because He came as a human in a meek and humble way. This is the ultimate in humbleness—not only that God came to earth as a human, but the lowly circumstances of His birth. Jesus left the glory of Heaven to come to save the people of this wicked world. This should be an example to us and we should learn humility from Him.

God, in His grace, has blessed us with our first baby. Christina Elizabeth Hejja was born Nov. 7. Her grandparents are Sis. Louise Akel (Ft. Lauderdale) and Bro. Ferenc and Sis. Gizella Hejja (Budapest, Hungary).

We welcome the Goerge Fulop family. Bro. George and Sis. Katherine have just moved to Ft. Lauderdale from Akron, OH. Five of their children have come with them. We wish them God's rich blessings in their new home.

We are happy to have many of our regular winter visitors with us again and welcome everybody who wishes to visit us in the weeks ahead.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Elda Martin

As each Sunday passes, we can see many of our loving brothers, sisters and friends returning to spend their winter months in our warmer climate. We extend a hearty welcome to anyone visiting in our area, as it is always a blessing to meet those of like mind and faith.

We were blessed by having God's Word brought to us by Bro. Carroll Gerber, Bluffton, IN, Bro. John Schmidgall, Oakville, IA, Bro. Harold Emach, Girard, OH, Elder Bro. Roy Sauder, Peoria, IL, and our

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. Bro. Roy assisted Bro. Ben in reading the memorandum.

Bro. Dan Kurchew is still in need of our prayers for a full recovery, following surgery. He has not yet been able to assemble with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

On November 11, many from our congregation assembled in Washington to share the joy of Sis. Sandy Schick and Bro. Dan Guingrich on their wedding day. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Dolly Schick, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Gungrich. We welcome Sandy to our congregation, and we ask God to always be the unseen guest in the home they have established.

Elder Bro. Dave Kieser and Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson) each recently spent a Sunday ministering to us. May we prayerfully support the brethren who willingly proclaim God's Word.

Sis. Carol Heinz wishes to thank everyone for cards, gifts, and especially for prayers at the time of her surgery. She also appreciated those who helped by caring for her sons.

We were reminded recently that we should give to others until we feel blessed. One of our ministers told us of an elderly man who stopped them when they were shopping one Christmas season and admired their baby. Then he wanted to give the baby a gift of money. As it was obvious this stranger was quite poor, they tried to refuse his offer but finally accepted it at his insistence. They could see it was a tremendous blessing for the man to give the money, and he walked away with a spring in his step. In the approaching Christmas season, as well as all year, may we give until we feel blessed.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Charlen Banwart

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His Coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him
still,
The dear Christ enters in.
(O Little Town of Bethlehem)

We are looking forward to our Sunday School Christmas Program which is to be held on December 9. We appreciate the efforts put forth by our Sunday School teachers. May they ever feel God's nearness.

We have received "showers of blessings" from the following ministers who have visited here recently: Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield); Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton); Ed Alt (Cissna Park); Art Baurer (Princeville); Chuch Hommer (Peoria); Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park); and Tom Lehman (Elgin).

And ye, beneath life's crushing
load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful step and slow—
Look up! For glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.
(It Came upon the Midnight Clear)

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

There is much talk today about assertiveness training. We need not enroll in that. Our stand on life's issues should be from "our certainty" training from the Word. Only by using that source can we make sure that our stand is firm and our paths straight.

Bro. Maurice Frank, Leo, IN, and Bro. Ed Bahler, Remington, IN, visited us Sunday, Oct. 28. We were blessed by their ministry and the presence of the many other visitors who came with them. It's also good to share a meal at church to extend the time of enriching fellowship.

On Wednesday, Oct. 31, Bro. Tom Leman from Elgin, IL, labored in our behalf, letting the Word of God go forth as the trumpet of truth to our waiting ears.

On Saturday, Nov. 3, Elder Bro. Dave Kieser from Princeville, IL, with our Elder Bro. Dale, read and expanded upon the words of the memorandum from our elders' conference. Saturday evening and Sunday 'twas a special blessing to listen, not only to the words of the Spirit through Bro. Dave, but also to hear and feel the love of Christ which radiates from him. My parents came the weekend before and helped give our house a more thorough going over than usual. I thought of that in connection with the memorandum, in light of its warnings, sug-

gestions, and concerns for us. It seems we, too, need the reading of the memorandum to get our corners clean. Perhaps too often we only clean our lives with "a lick and a promise."

The Sunday School children enjoyed our annual wiener roast. The Lord has seemingly blessed each year with more people who attend and more wholesome fun. On Sunday, Nov. 4, they sang a group of songs for the congregation. Words of praise always sound sweet to the Master's ear, we are told. These, our children, always seem ready and willing to sing. We appreciate them. Perhaps we should be more ready to follow their example.

We welcome Denise Romersberger from Gridley to our congregation. She is following the same route as her sister Debbie, who just graduated with her R.N./B.S. in nursing from the University of Illinois Medical Center. Denise, having finished her first year in Champaign, should be with us this year and the next two. We're glad to have her.

We had just heard a wondrous sermon, written by the Spirit, spoken by one of His ministers, reminding us again that no matter what happens to us, no matter how bad our earthly lot may be, that heaven is worth all suffering, all pain, and all anguish. Then we found out that two of our beloved sisters were going to have major surgery. Sis. Minnie Lehman and Sis. Pauline Schrenk have held His hand through their surgery, and both seem to be healing well. We pray that He will continue to watch over them and give them grace to ever endure.

Remember the old song "My Anchor Holds"? (Gospel Hymns) I was struck one night, while singing it, with the verse which says, "My anchor holds. . . till the turning of the tide." I thought of it first with our periods of temptation and testing, followed by brief but blessed times of respite. And then, again, after a funeral in the family, I thought of Christ's holding us 'til He comes for us (that is, the tide's turning and our going home). Either way, what a comfort our Anchor provides!

At Christmas time we are involved in many kinds of activities. Often we wish to make or improve things for our loved ones. As I was persisting recently in painting a

dollhouse for my daughter, I was granted insight into a bit of the painting process. Painting covers up a multitude of problems. But it is only a cover-up. Especially in exterior paint, there is nothing guaranteed forever. The weather conditions eventually will cause blisters, cracks, or peeling to occur, showing again those awful imperfections. Even an inside paint job needs to be renewed, either because of the spots and dirt it accumulates or because the people living there "get tired of it." Even in painting something, one must be careful to have enough to cover (sometimes it takes two or more coats), so that the old surface doesn't show through. And, again, if there is too much paint, it will drip down, marring the beauty of the new surface.

Are we not a fortunate people? Our Lord died on the cross for us and shed His blood once for our sins. Our sins are blotted out, and we are washed as white as snow (no paint job needed). Each day we must be renewed, but through prayer our daily sins are also wiped away. The humidity and heat of the sun need never crack our outward serenity nor our inner calm. If we do think we need a paint job, a cover-up, we have not been letting our Lord and Saviour have His cleansing way with us. His cleansing action, with our commitment, is guaranteed forever.

When we give to others at Christmas, let's remember what true giving is. It's giving so much of ourselves that we leave ourselves vulnerable, open even to pain. Our example is Christ. We just received a note of appreciation from a former student from Sunday School. It makes us humble and reminds us we have not just many Christmas cards to write but Christmas "thank yous!" The Lord has given us so many who have given us so much. We thank one and all. "The Lord. . . preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore." Psalms 121:7, 8

My mother-in-law, Sis. Josephine Schlatter, visited our church in Chicago with the family on Sunday, Oct. 14. When she went to leave, her tan vinyl coat, with her grandmother's scarf (listing Doug, Melissa, Scott, Craig and Katrina, her grandchildren), a pair of white

gloves, and a hanky in the pocket was gone. One similar to it, which evidently belongs to the person who took hers and answers the same general description was left in its place. If you can, please help us get the problem solved.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

O God our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wisemen.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

Funeral services were conducted at our church for Sis. Carrie Hari, 88, who passed away at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home where she and her late husband, Bro. Albert, spent the past five years. The Hari's lived in our community for a number of years before moving to Peoria. Sis. Carrie is survived by two sons, Bros. Al and Marvin, and four daughters, Wilma Stock, Deloris Reineke, Sis. Verna Bauerer, and Sis. Cora Leman.

Diane Stock and Robert Goodrum were united in marriage on Saturday, Oct. 27. Dianne is the daughter of Bro. Gilbert and Sis. Kathy Stock, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Goodrum are Bob's parents. We wish them God's blessings as they travel life's pathway together.

The choir from the Bloomington church visited us during our November Hymn-Sing.

We were pleased to learn that, through repentance, Randy Mogler has found peace with God and desires to be baptized into His service.

Bro. Ron Heiniger, Bloomington, was our visiting minister this month.

Our hospital list includes quite a number from our community. Jim Bauer (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta) was a medical patient; Sis. Laura Hodel was a patient at Mayo Clinic for three weeks, undergoing

tests; Sis. Aline Otto was a surgical patient; and Bro. Joe Hari underwent surgery for the removal of a toe. Bro. Joe is getting along reasonably well at this time. Bro. Lynn Knapp was hospitalized for knee surgery, and Jim Vogel was injured in a truck accident, for which he also was hospitalized. Jim is the grandson of Sis. Mabel Vogel.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Gay Knapp - Pat Rinkenberger

O come let us adore Him,
King of king and Lord of love;
Even angels bow before Him
In celestial realms above.
Let us come with gifts to give Him,
More than frankincense and gold,
Humbled lives and hearts
surrendered,
As these Christmas hours unfold.
Betsy Kline

"Rejoice! The Saviour is born." has been chosen for the title of this year's Christmas program. Surely we all have reason to rejoice.

Elder Bros. Josh Broquard and Dan Koch (Tremont) were here Wednesday, Nov. 7, for communion services. How important it is for us to look into ourselves at this time, and draw nigh unto our Lord.

Other ministers this month were Bros. Walter Anliker (Eureka) and Harvey Heiniger (Burlington). May God bless them for their labors in His behalf.

Our Bible Class went to the Dessi Scott Children's Home on the weekend of Oct. 27. We hope it was a blessing for all and will bear fruit in the hearts of our young adults in the years to come.

There is happiness in the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock. Douglas Edward is their fifth son, born on Oct. 19. His grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther, and Bro. Lee and Sis. Velda Overmyer (Francesville).

Grant Daniel is Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna Rinkenberger's new son. He was born on Nov. 16. His grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Martha, and Dave and Lois Marquardt of Wanatah, IN. Isaac welcomes Grant home.

Bro. Dick Hasty is in the hospital this month. We pray that God can help him bear his cross of affliction. Susie Knapp (Bro. Fredrick and Sis. Marge) and Susie Ott (Bro. Don and Sis. Caroline) were also hospitalized this month.

The family of Sis. Ida Nussbaum

wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, food, cards, and expressions of sympathy at the passing of their mother and grandmother. A special thanks goes to all at the Eureka Home who gave her such loving care. She always said, "Everybody is so good to me here."

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

I wonder if we, as believers, exercise ourselves in the art of being thankful—fulfilling the Scriptures that say, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 5:20) and "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Philippians 4:6) Thanksgiving, as indicated in the Scripture, seems to point to the fact that our daily living, even our very being, should exemplify a thankful heart. No doubt, we would find much less time to find fault with our neighbor if this were a conscious part of our lives.

We are so grateful to God who called Mary Spohr to repentance. Mary has been suffering a lingering illness and has reached a high age. We have to marvel at the long suffering of our God, that He patiently continues to call us even when we so often harden our hearts toward Him. Mary is now convalescing at the home of her daughter, Sis. Lucille Knobloch from the Lester, IA, congregation.

Sis. Bertha Weichert, 87, was called to her rest on Friday, Nov. 2, in the Eureka Hospital. She was born August 12, 1892, in Fairbury, IL, and was the daughter of Bro. Joseph and Sis. Bertha (Grusy) Weichert.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Melva (Banwart) Alexander in the passing of her husband, C. Eugene, on Thurs., Nov. 15. He is also survived by one son, Michael, of Convina, CA, and a daughter, Patricia, of Glendora, CA. In recent years Eugene and Melva have been living in San Dimas, CA. It is a tremendous comfort to know that Eugene heeded a call of the Lord to repentance and found peace with his God before he departed this life.

Holy Communion was served to us again on Saturday evening, Nov. 3. Reverently, this holy rite was carried out with the assistance of Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton).

Being able to partake means so much to our spiritual welfare; we count it a blessing held most dear.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Debbie Kellenberger experienced the miracle of becoming the parents of little Bryan John, born Oct. 26. Bro. John and Sis. Wava Steffen, and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger are the grandparents.

Also experiencing parenthood for the first time are Bill and Melody Schambach. Kyle Steven was born Oct. 11. Bro. Bill and Sis. Cora Schambach, and Elvis and Gail Kellenberger are the grandparents.

In our congregation we again find that there are those who have had illness. We are grateful that all of them are home again and recuperating. Those hospitalized were Sis. Alma Schmidt, Sis. Martha Zierke, Elsie Schock and Sis. Della Kellenberger.

Richard Anliker is convalescing from open heart surgery and is deeply grateful for all who remembered him with prayers, cards, and gifts during his illness.

Sis. Mabel Steffen also wishes to express thankfulness for the many cards, flowers, and gifts given during her illness and 80th birthday.

Brethren who visited us, bringing us many teachings from God's Word, were Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Portland) and Bro. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield). We appreciate these brothers' efforts and ask that the Lord bless them.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

This is the time of year when we are looking forward to Christmas; the caroling, programs, family gatherings and all that make up this joyous time. It is also important to remember to do good and love one another, not only at Christmas, but every day of the year.

We have enjoyed the visits and inspirational messages of a number of ministering brothers. Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger of Cissna Park were here on Oct. 28. Also, Bro. Edmund and Sis. Lorene Kloter of Goodfield spent a Sunday with us. On November 11, Bros. Kenny Knapp of Taylor, MO, Ralph Garber of Morton, and Fred Knapp of Congerville, along with their wives, spent the day with us. We heard many good teachings from all the brothers.

Two of our loved ones at the Home passed away recently. Ser-

vices were held in Morton, his home congregation, for Bro. Manny Jacobs. Sis. Bertha Wickert's services were held at Elgin, IL, her former home. Our sympathy goes to their families.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Stoller are the parents of their third daughter, Paula Kay, born on Oct. 24. She is welcomed home by sisters Rachel and Brenda, and brother Darrell. Her grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Wilma Stoller, and Henry and Sis. Wilma Blunier.

We again had two babies born the same day to two of our young couples. Bro. Robert and Sis. Marlene Prather are the happy parents of their first child, David Robert, born on Oct. 28. His grandparents are Bro. Jack and Sis. Milly Prather, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand. Also, a baby boy was born to Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein the same day. Phillip Dean is their first child, too. His grandparents are Harold and Loretta Wettstein, and Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

We have praise in our hearts that Tillie Maier has had faith in Jesus for her salvation. As she was not able to come to church for the baptism, Bro. Josh Broquard and Bro. Perry Zimmerman had the baptism at Fairview Haven, where she has been making her home. Tillie has two sisters, Sis. Anna Holmes and Sis. Louise Zimmerman.

Bro. and Sis. Andy Hunyady of Akron, OH, showed their slides of Hungary, Romania, etc., at the Fellowship Hall where we could all attend. Bro. Andy gave an excellent presentation. We could see the conditions in some of these countries, and he mentioned the need for us Christians to intercede for them.

We welcome Ron and Sis. June Slagel and their family who have moved to Fairbury and are worshipping with us.

Bro. and Sis. Bud Kelson's daughter, Carol, was married to Ben Kafer, and they will be making their home in Fairbury.

Bro. and Sis. Don Steidinger's son, John, married Pam Kafer, and they will be at home here.

Bro. Ed Bach had surgery at Champaign, Sis. Bertha Maurer was hospitalized, and Phil Sohn had surgery at Carle Hospital.

Bro. Dan Koch and Bro. Perry Zimmerman were present along with Bro. Josh Broquard to read the memorandum of the conference held this fall at Fairbury.

We enjoyed the messages given by visiting ministers Bro. Marvin Stieglitz and Bro. Earl Banwart who visited us recently.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Beverly Eisenmann - Jan Bachtold

May God bless the two couples who are making plans for January weddings. Ken Lehmann (late Bro. George and Sis. Alice) and Mary Ellen Leeper are planning a Jan. 12 wedding. Matilda Rieger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Marian) and Harry Johnson are planning a Jan. 19 wedding.

Our dear Bro. Louis Zimmerman passed from this life into eternity Oct. 28 at the age of 89. We sorrow with his loved ones who must remain behind. His wife, Sis. Louise, has been confined to her home for some time. His children here at Forrest include Sisters Josephine Schlatter and Jean Aberle, and Bros. Perry, Glen and Allen. Though it is a time of sorrow, we must also rejoice for Bro. Louie, having become a victor over that last enemy—death.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters have welcomed a precious baby girl into their hearts and home. Little LeAnn Jane was born Nov. 6 and is a new sister for Ronnie, Lisa, Aaron, Cory, Ricky, Jeremy, Nathan, and Leslie. The grandparents are Ed and Sis. Mary Ann Plattner.

Sis. Sarah Koehl, Sis. Bertha Maurer, and Bro. Ed Bach have been hospital patients. We pray for each one and commit their need for body and soul to God who loves each one.

Sis. Ella Honegger is now residing at Fairview Haven since being dismissed from the hospital after falling and breaking her hip.

We appreciate the visit of ministering Bro. Rod Huber and his family from Valparaiso. He expressed his feeling that the Lord may soon be returning, which reminds us all to stand in readiness so we are prepared to meet Him at whatever hour He does appear.

Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) shared with Elder Bros. Josh Broquard and Perry Zimmerman in reading and explaining the memorandum to us as we gathered together with the Fairbury congregation Wednesday evening. We

thank them for their efforts in warning us of the dangers surrounding us in this world and for reminding us of our duties as children of God. May we all be obedient to these teachings.

We are looking forward to gathering Wednesday eve, Dec. 19, to hear our Sunday School children tell us the wonderful story that never grows old—the story of Christ's birth.

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

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

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter

ARLENE! This time God picked a dear one in full bloom, in the prime of her life, as mentioned in the service for our dear beloved sister-in-faith. Why? It was God's will. And Sis. Arlene certainly knew it was God's will, as she found comfort in these words:

Yet in sorrow I find comfort;
In the dark, I trust my God;
For my good He but intendeth,
Gratefully His help I'll laud.
When O'er me the floods are passing

And the roaring waves are lashing,
This I know; The Lord is light,
He will help me by His might.

Zion's Harp 157

Sis. Arlene Wyss passed away in the Eureka Hospital on Oct. 19, following two years of sickness. Funeral services were held on Oct. 21. Surviving are: her husband, Bro. Roy; her parents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Lydia Kuntz, Gridley; one daughter, Sis. Marcia Waibel, Wolcott, IN; three sons, Bro. Bruce, Dale, and Chad, all of Goodfield; two brothers, Bro. Clyde Kuntz, Gridley, and Ralph Kuntz, Colfax; two sisters, Sis. Lucille Romersberger, Gridley, and Sis. Rosella Knapp, Lexington; and one grandchild. We pray that God will abide with these loved ones in their loss.

Tracy Lee is the new little son born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Shirl Bauman on Oct. 18. The grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marie Siedel, Princeville, and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mildred Bauman.

We wish God's richest blessings on the marriage of Ruth Wiegand and Jeffrey Grimm, which was solemnized on Nov. 2 in the Goodfield Fellowship Hall. Their parents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna.

We have a number of loved ones who are hospitalized at this time. Sis. Elizabeth Hartman is to submit to surgery today. Sis. Margaret Newlin remains hospitalized, as is Linda Rokey, wife of John, Jr. Recovering from pneumonia are Lisa Grimm (Bro. Bob and Sis. Elna) and Jeanie Zimmerman (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Kathy). May our dear God be with them all.

We appreciated the visits and messages of our visiting ministers Bro. Art Bauer, Princeville, Bro. Noah Herman, Tucson, and Bro. Vernon Schwab, Wolcott. May God's Spirit abide with them and with us all.

The family of Arlene Kuntz Wyss wishes to express their sincere gratitude for all the thoughts, prayers and many kind deeds shown to them during the illness and death of their loved one. They are the Roy Wyss family, the Raymond Kuntz family, and the Ed Wyss family.

We will soon be celebrating our dear Saviour's birth. What does it mean to us?

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is not a holiday package wrapped with gay ribbon and holly.

It is a time for meditating, for recalling that night long ago when Bethlehem cradled to its heart and gave mankind the Redeemer of the world.

Christmas is a gift transcending human understanding; an angel choir echoing the Song of Songs; imperishable glory from the very heart of Heaven to the farthest part of earth.

Christmas is a boundless love melting all grief, all heartache; hope, serene and beautiful, lighting all darkness.

Christmas is peace.

Loretta B. Buckley

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

We are glad that God has changed the lives of two dear souls in a miraculous way, and through the works of repentance and faith has set their feet on righteous pathways. Linda Stoller and Tim Kaupp have repented for their sins and now feel the peace of God in their hearts.

Our hospital patient this month was Jake Ringger.

Although it stirs our heart and seems so awful to think of the scorn, the pain and anguish that our Lord endured on the cross, what truly brings us to our knees with a humble heart of gratitude is knowing that He suffered for sins He did not commit so that we can go free. He who was perfect was chastened and dealt with as though He was the lowest, meanest criminal on earth. Never was there a greater injustice! Any seemingly unfair acts we may have to put up with in life become insignificant when we compare them to the vicarious death and suffering of Jesus Christ, who died of a broken heart.

For He is our childhood's pattern;

Day by day like us He grew.

He was little, weak and helpless;

Tears and smiles like us He

knew,

And He feelth for our sadness,

And He shareth in our gladness.

Cecil Frances Alexander

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Doris Bachtold

A businessman was frustrated with his lack of spiritual growth; he knew he wasn't taking the time to get alone with God. Yet, he wanted to be more like Jesus.

One day he was running late to get on the commuter train. He was rushing to get to the train's steps when right in front of him stepped a small boy with a suitcase under one arm and a big jigsaw puzzle box under the other. The businessman ran into the boy and the box flew open and puzzle pieces scattered all over the platform. The conductor called out, "All Aboard!" and the businessman was faced with a decision: should he get on the train and be on time for work, or should he stop and help pick up the puzzle pieces? Then, he realized that this was his chance.

As the train pulled out the man

looked at the boy and smiled. He knelt down and began picking up the pieces. When he finished, he handed the box to the boy and said "Sonny, I'm sorry; here you are."

The little boy looked up at him and said, "Mister, are you Jesus?"

Jim White, Christ Likeness

We have learned more about the traits of Christ through the ministry of the following brothers: Edwin Ringger (Gridley), Everett Hari (Blomington), Josh Broquard (Fairbury), Ed Bahler (Remington), and Joe Schrock (Congerville). We thank them for showing us the best example: Christ.

Bro. Joe Schrock has been our advisor for the past 24 years; he has decided to lay aside this responsibility and serve somewhere else until our Lord comes. With great appreciation, we give our deepest thanks to him and to his wife, Esther, for all their time and prayers they've offered on our behalf. We, the present I.S.U. group, and all past students, are thankful to God that we have had the leadership of a Christian brother while on campus.

We asked Bro. Joe to share with us the history of our Bible Study Group since he was there when it began:

In the fall of 1956, Bro. Ed Huhlin asked Bro. Joe Schrock to accompany him in initiating a Bible Class on the University of Illinois campus for the benefit of the members and friends who were attending that university. They felt that a regular meeting supervised by a brother authorized by the Elder Body would unite a group there and help those students to grow in the faith.

Early in 1957, the same school year, Bro. Joe Schrock proceeded to perform the same type of venture at the school that was then known as Illinois State Normal University. In 1959, so that the group could use campus facilities, a group of 49 charter members complied with the regulations of the university organization. This involved drawing up a constitution, electing a president, and choosing a campus adviser.

For quite some time, on the first Thursday of each month, Bro. Joe conducted the meetings. On all other Thursdays, guest ministers conducted the services, either as classes or as church services, ac-

ording to their individual preferences.

In the early sixties there was an average of around 200 people who attended these services; about 110 students of our church attended the university. The average attendance has dropped to 30-80 since the enrollment of students has dropped to below 20. Bro. Edwin Ringger, the elder of our Gridley church, has been appointed by the elder body to take over the responsibility of adviser to the I.S.U. group.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Joann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Once again we bid farewell to a dear brother. Emanuel Jacob entered into eternal rest on October 17. Bro. Emanuel resided at the Apostolic Home in Eureka. Many remember Bro. Emanuel because he was our song leader for thirty years. Our love and sympathy is with Sis. Mary and her children. Services were held at Morton on Saturday, October 20. May God bless and comfort all.

Bro. Albert H. Sauder went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 23. Bro. Albert was 85. Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Frances and family.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roeschley are the happy parents of Heidi Jean. She was born October 25. "Big" sister Heather welcomes her new sister home.

October 27 was the wedding day of Brad Grimm and Patricia Wells. May God bless them. Parents are Bro. and Sis. Henry Duane Grimm, and Mr. and Mrs. George Wells.

Nov. 3, the annual chili supper and singing was held. Money was raised for various church charities. Many of us came away filled in "body and spirit." We give a special thanks to the young brothers and sisters who planned this blessed evening for us so we could in turn help those who are less fortunate.

Edward Dockus, after a long illness, passed away. His funeral was Nov. 5. May God comfort his wife Margaret and family.

Bro. Henry Aberle, father of Bro. Melvin, has found his eternal rest with our Lord. Bro. Henry's funeral services were held Nov. 12. His dear wife, Dorothy, has our love and prayers at this time. We extend our sincere sympathy to Bro. Henry's entire family.

A special "pre-Thanksgiving"

bundle arrived at the home of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda Kaufman. Trenton Miles was born Nov. 15. Little Jeff welcomes this precious brother.

We have the following loved ones on our hospital list at this writing: Bro. Frank Bauman, Bro. Phil Getz, Lloyd Belsley, Roy Farney and Sis. Lucille Zimmerman.

Once again, we approach the time of year that brings precious memories, tucked away, back to mind. Thanksgiving has blessed our families and homes, and now our Saviour's birthday is at hand. Pushing aside all the commercial aspects of this holy time, let us look upon Christmas as our time for rejoicing and showing our love one to another.

Needless to say, we are bombarded by merchants' advertising. Radios sound out clever jingles and newspapers tell us we just can't make it without such and such new model "xyz." People are rushing about seeking just the right gift for each one on their list. In all the clamor and somewhat frustrating confusion, are we keeping this time in it's proper and respectful atmosphere?

Each of us can recall some incident that brought joy and laughter last holiday, I'm sure. Who can ever forget the glee and joy in the faces of the little children as they eagerly waited to recite and sing for daddy and mommy? It is almost overwhelming joy to hear all their voices singing carols. Shining faces, full of smiles, are the joys of Christmas. You'll not find your blessings in a department store; neither can your joy be beautifully gift-wrapped. The joy and love of the celebration of Christmas comes through the fellowship and caring we experience within our own families; and, beyond all, through the blessed fellowship of God's children as they come together to worship their Heavenly Father. Love, being the most precious of all gifts, can neither be bought or gift-wrapped. Love is the gift of re-assurance and often the healing balm for unknown wounds. The gift of love never becomes out-dated, worn-out or no longer useful. Love just keeps loving.

God is not only a "present help in time of trouble," but a great help in keeping us out of trouble.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diana Hohulin

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

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

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

Bro. Henry Beer

Christmas! What a beautiful time of year. With the snowy white fields and ice covered trees all around and our families all uniting with love and peace in each heart, it is so refreshing to hear the Christmas story told.

On October 21, Bro. Rod and Sis. Judy Getz became the first-time parents of a precious little boy, Jesse Phillip. The grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger from Lester.

This month the Peoria congregation was privileged to have with us Bro. Noah Herman from Tucson. It is always a pleasure to have Bro. Noah preach the Word and spend some time here.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Jean Lang were united in marriage on October 27 in Tremont. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr of Peoria and Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang of Tremont. We pray that God will bless them in their new walk of life, and we also welcome Sis. Jean to Peoria.

"O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grey-

headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come." Psalms 71:17, 18. On November 3, the young members held a dinner for our older brothers, sisters, and friends. Surely they are the pillars of our faith, and we enjoy sharing experiences with each other. May God bless each one.

The hospital patients this month were Sis. Sophie Hyberger, Sis. Martha Altorfer, Sis. Anna Hoerr, Sis. Eunice Kammerer, Sis. Louise Fehr, Sis. Emma Staub, Bro. Ken Hoerr, Mary Welk, and LaVerne Perdelwitz. May God bless each one according to their needs.

On October 17, two dear souls were taken from this life here on earth to their heavenly home. We express our sympathy to Sis. Verna Baurer and Cora Leman and their families upon the death of their mother, Sis. Carrie Hari. Bro. Jake Schneider passed away. We express our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and to all of his brothers and sisters. Sis. Dorothy wishes to express her sincere thanks and appreciation to all who were so kind and helpful during the illness and death of her beloved husband, Jake. A special thanks is given to our dear ministers for their many visits and prayers for his comfort. May God add his blessings to each one.

Sis. Laura Koehl wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and kindness while she was in the hospital and recovering at home.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Ruth Ricketts

Each day's sunset gives one less day to live, but one more day to remember.

As I write this, it is a beautiful, balmy day. It is Thanksgiving Day. The trees are bare, the bounteous harvest has been gathered in, most of the fields ploughed, and we have more time to relax and count our many blessings. God has showered His blessings down on us again, and we are most grateful.

Bros. Aaron Steffen, Alto, MI, and Bob Walder, Congerville, IL, were our guest ministers on Oct. 28, and we were spiritually fed by God's leading them in their humble teachings. We were reminded how important all the parts of our physical body are: we need all parts to function properly, and, when all do

so, we are healthy and useful. Likewise, the spiritual body needs all the members to strive to work together and help each other to preserve unity. All must blend together as one body for perfect harmony. A kernel of wheat when in the beard on a stalk in the field is one, yet when all kernels are ground into flour and blended together they become as one body. Love is the factor that blends and holds us together. Love helps us to esteem our brother higher than ourselves and to help one another. Many blessings were derived from their messages, and we appreciate their visits.

October 26 was an important day in the life of our young brother, Rod Wagenbach, and his mother, Sis. Betty, as they came home from Seattle, WA, where they spent the last four months while Bro. Rod underwent bone marrow transplant and treatments. We praise God that he is steadily improving. Although he must be very careful and avoid crowds, he is most happy to be at home, improving every day.

After suffering for many years with an open leg, our Sis. Bessie Martin is recovering nicely from artery bypass and skin graft. She feels so much better, and we are looking forward to having her soon worship with us again.

We are so thankful to have Sharon Eberle able to worship with us again after suffering a heart attack. May she continue to regain her strength and be able to care for her little family.

Sis. Grace Streitmatter, too, is feeling much better since surgery and is able to be with us again. She wishes to thank everyone for the cards, visits, telephone calls, gifts, and especially prayers and concern for her during her hospital stay and convalescence at home. We are always glad when those who have gone through critical times can have their health restored.

Bro. Kurt Ehnle is able to come to church with the aid of crutches. He feels he is extremely fortunate that he was not more seriously injured when he fell from his tractor and was run over with a wagon.

Troy Jerold was born Nov. 4 to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Luann Endress. Little brother Clint and grandparents Sis. Mildred Endress and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum of Forrest welcomed him, too.

Our dear Sis. Mary Leuthold is

now living at the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home, and soon Bro. Silas will be joining her. How we regret having them leave, yet we trust that they will find comfort and happiness among those dear ones who labor in love to make their sunset years pleasant. May our dear Lord be ever at their side to comfort, encourage and strengthen them. May they feel the love and prayers of those with whom they have associated for many years, for we will never forget all they have done for us.

In just a short time, the Christmas holidays will be here. Already the children in Sunday School are beginning to prepare for their program. The carolers, who spread so much cheer to the shut-ins, are making plans for their visits. May we all feel the real spirit of Christmas in our hearts. "Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. All else is outward display—so much tinsel and decoration. For it isn't the holly, it isn't the snow, it isn't the tree nor the firelight's glow. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again. (Sunshine Magazine)

May the Lord bless each and every one this Holiday Season with family gatherings, love, peace and gratefulness for all God's rich blessings.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Rejoice and be merry in song and in mirth!

O praise our redeemer, all mortals on earth!

For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,

Who brought us salvation, His praises we'll sing!

An old church book

Our sympathy goes to Bill Presby and family in the loss of his wife Shirley (Schafer) Presby. Funeral services were held by Bro. Roy Sauder on Oct. 29.

A son, Stephen Richard, was born to Bro. Richard and Sis. Beverly Bertchi. He has a brother, Samuel, to play with him. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge Leman welcome a little son, Eric Samuel. His sister, Peggy, and brothers, Dennis, Clark, Randy, and Chris are happy he is here. Regan Jon was born to Bro. Randy and Sis. Jan Martin. His brothers, Ryan and Rory, welcome him. May

God bless these little boys, always.

The engagement of Sis. Marge Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen) and Bro. Ron Lindenbaum (Bloomington) was announced. A January wedding is planned. May God's love richly bless their lives together.

Sis. LeAnn Moser (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Christa) and Bro. Paul Fischer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat) are making wedding plans. Their engagement was made known. May God's blessings be theirs.

Lori Hodel (Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hodel) and Kenneth Washer (Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Washer) were united in marriage. May God bless them.

Susan Brown (Mr. and Mrs. Don Brown) and Phillip Rocke were united in marriage in a candlelight ceremony on Nov. 2.

Sis. Judy Hodel (Bro. Ray and Sis. Kathryn) and Bro. Harold Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Edith) were united in holy matrimony on Nov. 18. May God's blessings be with all the loved ones as they establish their homes.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch was our visiting minister this month. His father, Bro. Aaron, is very ill at this time. His mother, Sis. Bina is hospitalized.

Bro. Bill Sauder and Sis. Laverne Leman need our prayers as they are in the hospital. May God be with them.

Ed. Note: Bro. Dave Bertsch informed us that Bro. Bill has passed away.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

God's plan fulfilled;
As He had willed,
Then came the Christ to earth;
The star so bright,
In deepest night,
Foretold His blessed birth.

The angels' throng,
With joyous song,
Appeared to shepherds meek!
The angels' words
The shepherds heard;
Then went they forth to seek.

Hymns of Zion, No. 35

Visiting ministers for this month were Bro. John Steiner (Oakville), Bro. Joe Braker (Morton), Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson), Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury), and Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest). We heartily

thank these brothers for their labors of love, and may God ever reward them.

Bro. Joe Steiner was injured when an auger collapsed and fell on him, crushing three bones in his right hand. He was hospitalized for several days and required surgery and a cast. We are thankful that God protected him and sustained him through this time.

Bro. Fred Beutel, Jr., had surgery and is recuperating at home. Sis. Annie Koch (Bro. Gene) also had surgery and is recuperating at home. Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt) has been laid up for several weeks with pneumonia. We pray that God's healing power touches all those that are confined to their homes.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Anna Lehman and family in the passing away of her son, Edward.

On Oct. 28, Sis. Jean Lang (Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis) and Bro. Brad Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Velma) of Peoria were united in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together.

As we approach this Christmas season, may we ever think of the true meaning of Christmas.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

On October 21, the Princeville and Morton Sunday School students spent the day with us. Lending himself to the deliverance of God's Word on that day was Bro. Ralph Garber. We thank him for his labors.

PEACE

With eager heart and will on fire,
I fought to win my great desire.
"Peace shall be mine," I said; but
life
Grew bitter in the weary strife.

My soul was tired, and my pride
Was wounded deep; to Heaven
cried,
"God grant me peace or I must
die,"
The dumb stars glittered no reply.

Broken at last, I bowed my head,
Forgetting all myself, and said,
"Whatever comes, His will be
done,"

And in that moment peace was won.

Henry Van Dyke

Our dear friend, Kay (Plattner)

Monagle gave testimony of her faith and was baptized on October 28. Ministering Bros. Roy Sauder and Leroy Hartman from Peoria were with us on that day.

The following Sunday two very precious souls were brought into the family of God as Jan Sigafus and Connie (Nussbaum) Woodcock were baptized after giving their testimonies the previous evening. We thank Bros. Ron Heining, Bloomington, Don Sauder, Roanoke, and Roy Sauder, Peoria, for bringing God's inspirational messages to us.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest . . ."

Zion's Harp

Our church was filled for the wedding of Sis. Sandy Schick and Bro. Dan Guingrich of Bradford. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Pauline (Dolly) Schick of our congregation and Bro. Edward and Sis. Doris Guingrich, of Bradford.

So many of us lead such busy lives that we often feel we just don't have time for everything we want to do. But we should always have time for some things.

I Didn't Have Time

I got up early one morning and
rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me
and heavier came each task—
"Why doesn't God help me,"
I wondered.

He answered, "You didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty, but
the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show
me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning
And paused before entering the
day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I HAD to take time to pray.

Author Unknown

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL

Dixie Knapp

Anyone who celebrates Christmas knows of the "Little Town of Bethlehem." As I began to study about this town, little did I realize how many interesting things are

recorded about it.

700 years before Jesus was born, God spoke to the prophet Micah telling him that the birth would be in Bethlehem. Since there were two Bethlehems—one in Judah and one in Zebulon—God used both the Hebrew and Aramaic names, Bethlehem and Ephratah, to clarify further the exact town in which the birth would take place.

Micah wrote, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2). This is the verse to which the wise men were referring when they were asking the place of the birth of the Messiah. "He (Herod) demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet" (Matthew 2:4-5).

Bethlehem is in the Judean hills, five miles from Jerusalem, and on a main highway to Hebron and Egypt. Many events that were recorded in the Old Testament took place in this town. Rachel was buried there (Gen. 35:16, 19). Ruth's father-in-law, Elimelech, lived there (Ruth 1:1, 2) as did her husband Boaz (Ruth 2:1, 4). Their great-grandson, David, kept his father's sheep there (I Sam. 17:12, 15) and there it was that Samuel anointed David as king. Because of this, Luke refers to Bethlehem as "the city of David" (Luke 2:4, 11).

But far above the wonder attached with that little village in the Judean hills is the wonder attached to a God who would send his son to earth as a human baby. The wonder attached to a Man who lived perfectly. The wonder attached to a man who loved even while he was hanging on a cross. The wonder attached to what "Christ living in me" could really mean (Gal. 2:20).

With the dawning of a new year approaching, the dawning of a new life together as one is being planned. Jan. 13 is the day that two of our congregation are planning to be married. Sis. Mary Leman, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen Leman of Roanoke, and Bro. Ron Lindenbaum, son of Mary Ann Lindenbaum and John and Connie Lindenbaum of Lexington, intend to make their home in Bloomington.

Marriage is just another avenue through which they will grow in His worship and service.

David in Psalm 127 and 128 writes of the joys of children. Bro. Jim and Sis. Ann Kellenberger share David's enthusiasm because on Oct. 30 they welcomed Justin Michael into their hearts. Bryon and Bradley are careful to notice if Justin needs attention.

On November 13, Chelby Jeanne Kaeb was born. Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda enjoy the new daughter in their home. Needless to say, Chad and Clint approve of their little sister, too!

The Princeville Choir was with us one Sunday evening and spoke to us "in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs." I often try to imagine how thrilled many Christians living right now would be to gather to sing as we were able to without any fear of physical harm. We thank our brothers and sisters in Princeville for sharing their love with us.

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially them who labor in the word and doctrine" (I Timothy 5:17). Again we want to thank our Elder Bro. Dan Koch and Sis. Carol for being with us. We appreciate the love and wisdom Bro. Dan shows to us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Shari Kaehr - Peggy Gerber

The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Isn't it hard to believe that the Christmas Season is here again? Time seems to slip by so quickly. Christmas is such a special time of year to all of us who are believers,

as this is the time our Saviour, Jesus Christ, was sent down to earth so many years ago. The baby Jesus was also a blessing to his parents, Joseph and Mary, here on earth.

Many couples in our congregation must be feeling as Mary and Joseph did, as they, too, have been blessed with new-born babies.

Bro. Paul & Sis. Mary Jo Gerber were blessed with their 4th child, a daughter named Tara Lynn. On October 18, Steve and Cynthia Maller became first-time parents of a boy named Jeremy Alan. Pleased grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Gladys Maller. Also first-time parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb (Gerber) Reinhard on the arrival of little Rachel Jo.

On October 24, Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean (Schwartz) Steffen, and little Jennie, welcomed Kimberly Sue into their lives. Angela Dawn was the name given to Ted and Elaine Liechty's baby girl. Angie's grandparents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber. October 25 will mark the birth date of Bryan Jay Gerber, the first boy born to Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb Gerber. "Big" sister Emily welcomes her new playmate, happily.

Heather Ann was the newborn bundle given to Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan (Neuenschwander) Schwartz. Heather was also welcomed by her brother Brad, age 2. On November 7, Tricia Ann was born to Tim and Carol (Neuenschwander) Mock. Gwen, age 3, is pleased to have a baby sister. Grandparents of these two babies are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mildred Neuenschwander.

Bro. Arlen and Sis. Sue Tonner felt blessed to welcome little Jacob Andrew into their home. Jacob was welcomed by his sisters, Elsie and Joan.

On October 27, marriage vows were repeated by Leon Tonner and Darlene Cook. Leon's parents are Bro. and Sis. Clara Tonner. Bro. Steve Fiechter and Sis. Fonda Geisel felt it to be God's will that they walk this path of life together and were married on October 28.

Greg Frauhiger took Tonya Tumbleson to be his wife on November 3. Greg's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Rose Frauhiger. Myron Kaehr and Rita Sparks were united as one on Saturday evening, November 3. Bro. Fred and Sis. Naomi Kaehr are Myron's folks.

On November 17, Mike Mann and Lisa Pfister became one through

holy matrimony. Lisa's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb Pfister.

On October 21, Sis. Melinda Moser (Bro. William Gene and Sis. Edna) and Bro. Gene Gilgen were announced to be wed. They are planning a December 16 wedding.

It seems we always have to report that a few in our congregation have been sick and in the hospital. Our prayers go out to these brethren. Hospitalized this month were Sis. Lydia Nussbaum, Bro. Russell Steffen, Sis. Ester Geisel, Sis. Gladys Lantz, Sis. Arlene Stump, Bro. Ray Gerber, and Bro. Ed Moser.

We'd like to thank the ministers who came a distance to bring us God's inspiring messages. They were Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton), John Diggelman (Union City), Ben Hartzler (Rittman), and Rod Huber (Valparaiso).

On the weekend of October 20 and 21, we felt privileged to have the Morton Choir with us. We all felt a blessing in their songs and words of inspiration. May God bless them for their unselfish efforts.

Sixty years seem like quite a few years to us, don't they? But recently Bro. Jacob and Sis. Elizabeth Graber celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and they will tell you that it has been a very happy 60 years. We wish them many more joyous and blessed years together.

We were overjoyed to hear of more souls seeking the Lord in their lives. Let us all fervently keep praying that the Lord will continue to trouble hearts and to stir souls to surrender their lives to our Savior during this Christmas Season.

INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. Where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Col. 3:1-3.

On Nov. 4, we were pleased to have Elder Bro. Loren Stoller from Latty, OH, with us. We were blessed by his sermon and were urged to keep God's commandments.

Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman was with us on Nov. 11. His loving message was filled with words of encouragement. We as believers are to be a blessing to each other.

Bro. Jesse Beer from Milford

ministered to us on Nov. 18. We were reminded how good the Lord is to those who love him and serve him.

In this Thanksgiving season, we should be thankful for the plentiful harvest and all our earthly blessings, but much more than that we should thank the Lord for all our spiritual blessings.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. Psalms 100:4

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein - Sharon Neihouser

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. Sis. Tianne Nussbaum (Sis. Tillie) of Bloomington and Bro. Jerry Overmyer (Bro. Danny and Sis. Carol) spoke their wedding vows on October 14. Sis. Kristine Leman (Bro. Sidney and Sis. Fern) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Ed and Sis. Gladys) of Wolcott were joined together as husband and wife on October 28. Sis. Suzanne Wuethrich (Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Duane Schieler (Sis. Marilyn) of Wolcott were united in holy matrimony on November 18. May God richly bless these three couples. We will miss Sis. Suzanne and Sis. Kristine but welcome Sis. Tianne to our church family.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher announce the engagement of their Elaine to Jeff Sanders. A summer wedding is being planned.

Bro. Morris Eshleman was hospitalized, but we are happy to report that he is at home again and recovering.

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.

Hymn No. 236, Zion's Harp

A thanksgiving program was held on Wednesday evening and we were reminded of our many blessings and not to be thankful just one day out of the year, but to thank God each and every day. Also, we must not just thank Him for our countless blessings but also our trials, as they help us to walk

closer to Him.

"Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies." Psalm 27:11. Bros. Alfred Bahler, Gene Lehman, Vernon Schwab (Wolcott), and Al Langhofer (Wichita) visited us this month. We appreciate their willingness to come and share the Word of Life.

Know Each Other Better

Our dear older brothers and sisters are so precious to us in many ways. Maybe it's that special word of advice or encouragement, the consistent Christian life they have lived, a loving pat on the shoulder, or just seeing them take their familiar spot each Sunday in the assembly that make them so precious. Our dear sister, Angela Von Tobel, has been this type of example for all of us in our Francesville congregation. Born July 25, 1888, in Hungary, she was the only daughter of Bro. Phillip and Sis. Louise Gutwein. She had seven brothers—Phillip, Jr., Lewis, Conrad, Fred, Adam, John, and Carl. Adam is her only living brother.

In 1905, Angela journeyed with her family to the United States. She was 17 years old. Phillip, Jr., (a brother in the faith) was coming to work in the United States to avoid the army, since he would have to bear arms in Hungary. They came to Fairbury where they were heartily welcomed by the late Bro. Jacob Von Tobel. Her father, Bro. Phillip, and two brothers then set out to find a place to settle and buy land. Bro. Phillip liked the flat land and decided to settle in the Francesville area. No church was yet established here, although a few families were in the area. Bro. Phillip was a minister and held services in their home until a small house was rented in which to assemble. This house still stands today along State Road 421, across from the present church.

At the age of 19, Angela was married to Paul Von Tobel (son of Bro. Jacob). When she was 21 years old, she yielded her heart and life to God. Today, at 91, she is so thankful that she could realize she was lost and be given the grace to repent. She feels everyone must first realize that they are a sinner. Angela and Paul lived their married life together in the Francesville area where Paul was in the lumber business. They were blest with six

children—Paul, Jr., Harry, Bro. Virgil, Sis. Katherine, Eugene, and Bob.

Angela's father, Bro. Phillip, became Francesville's first elder, and his son, Bro. Phillip, Jr., ministered in our congregation for many years.

Sis. Angela has been given life well past the three score and ten. She has also been blest with a sound mind and the ability to get around. She now lives in an apartment on the retirement end of our church home, Parkview Haven, and can enjoy the fellowship of others in the home. She has concerns for members of her family who do not know the Lord and kneels in prayer for them each day. She says God answers prayer and has the faith to believe all things are possible with God.

She feels truly blest for all God has given her and says, "We are what we are, by the grace of God." We of the Francesville congregation also feel truly blest to have faithful sisters like Angela. Her quiet, humble nature is an example for all of us. When I left Sis. Angela, she was holding her new great-granddaughter in her arms. As one generation passes into another, we trust that we will not lose sight of God's precious promises, but that we will teach them to our children that they, too, might know this wonderful way.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

We recently completed listening to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference. We cannot appreciate enough our blessed heritage. Many teachings were brought forth. We are exhorted: "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (I Peter 5:5)

We have been fed with many wonderful words from visiting ministers this past month. Visiting us were Bros. Maurice Frank and Jack Bollier from Leo, Phil Stettner (Bluffton), Steve Gutwein (Francesville), Elmer Witzig (Gridley), and Bill Kupferschmidt (Bloomington).

Bro. Gary and Sis. Christie Bollier were blessed with a little girl, Michelle Christa, on October 22. Her brother, Matthew, was excited. The grandparents live in Leo, IN.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Lois Bucher - Pearl Nuest

Bro. Art Ringger from Indianapolis was our visiting minister. We give thanks to him for giving of himself that we might receive a blessing.

Our Sis. Jennie Sinn was baptized in the home of her son, Gene, where she is now living. We are all very happy for her and wish her many blessings in her new life.

I'm happy to report the birth of three little girls. Lisa Marie was born to Tom and Norma Mark. Little Michelle welcomes her to the family. Dale and Mary Ann Fischer also have a little daughter, their second, named Rachael Rene. Tracy is anxiously waiting for her to come home. Bro. Phil and Sis. Mary Troxel are the grandparents of both of these new babies.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jill Hitz are the happy parents of little Sarah Elizabeth, their first child. The grandparents are Bro. Lenard and Sis. Audrey Hitz, Detroit, and Bro. Jack and Sis. Vera Nuest.

The birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is being celebrated again throughout the land. May we all make the effort to remember and teach our children the true meaning of Christmas. It is a season of giving of ourselves for the happiness of others. Whatever is given in His name is returned to us many times over.

Christmas is a Season of Kindness
Kindness is a virtue given by the Lord.

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

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter

Mrs. Al Frautschi

Christmas is the time when we commemorate the birth of our Saviour, and Wise Men still seek Him! There was only stable room that starry night; but, today we can give Him heart-room and watch for His coming again.

Our Christmas program with young people and children partici-

pating was held on Sunday evening, Dec. 9.

The congregation has been listening to the Conference tapes for several Monday evenings.

Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch have been spending time in Illinois with his parents who are ill.

As we approach a new year, may we resolve that it will be Another Year for Thee.

Another year is dawning!

Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee!

Another year of leaning
Upon Thy loving breast,
Of even deeper trusting;
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness,
In the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
Another year of praise;
Another year of proving
Thy presence "all the days."

Another year of service,
Of witness to thy love;
Another year of training
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven,
Another year for Thee!
Frances Ridley Havergal

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

The blessed story of the Christ,
The babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.
The fullness of God's love divine,
Surrounds the Christ so mild
Also how many only know
The Saviour as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain,
If here our love should cease,
For in the man of Galilee,
We find the gift of peace.
'Tis not the babe, but Christ,
The man who walked in Galilee;
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this babe to know,
Nor stay in Bethlehem,

But go with Christ to Calvary's
brow,
Beyond Jerusalem.
'Tis there men learn to know the
Christ,
For there He bore man's sin.
Then open wide the door of heart,
And let the Saviour in.
Bro. Henry Beer

On November 10 and 11, six souls
were added to the fold and now can
say they know Christ the man and
Saviour.

Our new brothers and sisters in
faith are Alvin and Carol Haab,
Steve and Marcy Haab and John,
Jr., and Leona Martin.

Ministers present for the special
weekend were Elder Bros. Loren
Stoller (Latty) and Alfred Bahler
(Wolcott) and Bros. Ray Sinn
(Latty) and Junior Price (Sara-
sota).

Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Bro. Carl-
ton) was hospitalized for a few
days this past month. We are
thankful she is recuperating so
well. Bro. Andy Kammerer is pres-
ently in the Goshen Hospital. Our
thoughts and prayers are with him
and his wife, Sis. Laura.

Our Thanksgiving program was
presented November 18. We were
left with the thought, "If you need
something, ask God. If you don't
need anything, Thank Him."

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Candy Wuethrich

"Ye shall find the babe wrapped
in swaddling clothes, lying in a
manger."

Luke 2:12

What a wonder! The tiny, chub-
by hand upon the cheek of the vir-
gin mother is the same hand that
leads each of us along life's path-
way and holds the universe in its
palm. The baby arm around the
mother's neck is the arm of the
One whose everlasting arms are
underneath all things.

The Purdue Group hosted college
weekend on Nov. 10-11. We would
like to thank the many ministers
who so willingly came and shared
God's Word with us. All that spent
the weekend felt the Lord's pres-
ence and guidance as we learned
more about "The Whole Armour
of God."

Bro. Joe Schrock, Bro. Ed Alt,
and Bro. Ezra Feller attended our
regular Purdue Services and ex-
pounded upon the teachings of our

Lord. We appreciate their efforts.
It is such a blessing to have visit-
ing ministers share God's Word
with us at our Purdue Services.

"I believe"—ay, do I! I believe
He will never fail me, never leave;
I believe He holds me, and I know
His strong hand will never let me
go.

—Annie Johnson Flint

INDIANA, REMINGTON Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

Little children were close to our
dear Lord's heart and also hold a
special place in each of our own
hearts. May God help each of us to
be "true children of His" and in
this way set a proper example for
our precious youth.

Duane and Roberta Pilotte are
the happy parents of their first
child, Nicholas Todd, born October
29. Bro. Bob and Sis. Mil Clauss
are the maternal grandparents.

On November 5, Bro. Brad and
Sis. Dorene Bahler were blessed
with the birth of Leah Christine.
Their family also includes Stell and
Caleb. The grandparents are Bro.
Kenneth and Sis. Mary Jo Schmid-
gall of Phoenix and Bro. Ed and
Sis. Lois Bahler of our own con-
gregation.

Our hospital patients have been
Bro. Albert Schini and Sis. Eunice
Waibel. We are thankful to report
they are both able to assemble with
us again.

On November 18, our congrega-
tion was blessed with two visiting
ministers: Bro. Walt Steffen of
Milford and Bro. Carroll Gerber of
Bluffton.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Laurel Widmer

Being rooted and grounded in
love, we are able to comprehend
the breadth, the length, the depth,
the height, and the love of Christ,
which passes knowledge. With love,
we are able to be filled with the
fullness of God.

Bro. Neal Widmer and Sis. Kris
Leman were united in the bond of
holy matrimony on October 28 at
Francesville. Parents of the bride
are Bro. Sid and Sis. Fern Leman.
Parents of the groom are Ed and
Sis. Glayds Widmer.

Bro. Duane Schieler and Sis.
Suzanne Wuethrich exchanged
marriage vows on November 18 at
Francesville. Parents of the bride
are Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna
Wuethrich. The mother of the

groom is Sis. Marilyn Schieler. We
wish both couples every happiness
in their lives together.

Bro. Ed Kyberg has been con-
fined to his home for a while, but
we trust he will soon be well again.

Visiting ministers this month
were Bro. Fred Knapp (Conger-
ville, IL) and Bro. Ed Ringger
(Gridley, IL). We thank them and
the others who came from their
churches for sharing this weekend
with us.

INDIANA, VALPARISO Susan and Marie Heinold

Glory to God in the Highest.
In remoteness and near by us
Ruleth He with might and grace
Let us bring our thanks and Praise!

Peace and Good Will to all nations!
Ye, the heirs of His salvation!
Far and near, O sons of men,
Praise the Lord with glad refrain!
Zion's Harp No. 9

Christmas 1979. Children again
in verse and song praise our Savi-
our and tell of His birth. Carolers
will warm our hearts. May we all
join in the song of the angels that
holy night when Christ was born.

Our beloved Claudia and Mike
Thomas told how they had been en-
lightened and wanted to live as
Jesus taught all the days of their
lives. They were baptized Sunday,
October 28, with Elder Bros. Ed
Frank and Jesse Beer officiating.
Truly, miracles are performed in
the hearts of men.

Thanks also to Ministering Bros.
Art Ringger (and their wives) who
er, Todd Feller, Lenny Meyers, and
Art Ringger (and their wives) who
visited here in Valparaiso this past
month.

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

There is beauty in everything—
in happiness shared and in each
small success. In a day, there is a
spiritual beauty in friendship and
brotherhood and in the perfect
works of nature. There is a beauty
that gives meaning and purpose to
life. In its time, in its own way,
everything is beautiful. We find in
the ninth verse in the second chap-
ter of I Corinthians: "Eye hath not
seen, nor ear heard, neither have
entered into the heart of man, the
things which God hath prepared
for them that love Him." That is

such a lovely thought.

About a week ago, our eyes met a real snowfall. I presume it was to a depth of about three inches. This caused some winter birds to edge into feeding stations. At our home, the usual ones appeared. The sun's rays did melt away all of our snow within a few days time, and now the farmers are again able to resume the balance of their corn harvesting.

Thanksgiving Day found us filled with thanks in our hearts for so many precious gifts. Food, homes, freedom of worship, and a beautiful country to live in are some of these gifts.

At our last writing, we mentioned the birth of a baby boy to Gene and Julie Moore, also that his name was not decided on at that moment. Now, here is his name—Wesley Werner. He is doing very nicely.

Congratulations are also due Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach. They have a new baby boy. His name is Kent Michael.

It was a real blessing to have visiting ministers. They were Bros. Arnold Gerst and Roy Grimm, the former from Chicago and the later from Taylor, MO. Bro. Roy assisted Bro. Paul in explaining the subjects brought up at our church conference. They were informative and uplifting.

You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you did things for others.

Those from the Elgin church wish that all of you readers will have a very pleasant Christmas Day.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Bonita Frank

We hope and pray that the Lord will grant each and every one a blessed Christmas as we remember His precious birth. Let us keep in mind, too, that 'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the man who walked in Calilee; 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free." (Bro. Henry Beer) How thankful we should be for the privilege of having our spirits set free!

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jerry Kuntz, Oakville, and Bro. Albert Wuthrich, Pulaski. We thank them for coming to preach His Word. We are also thankful for the visitors we had on November 3 and 4 from Cissna Park, IL. It was a blessed weekend, and again we

were reminded of how precious the fellowship of those of like-mind and faith is. May we ever strive to keep that faith.

Sis. Jill Nelson, daughter of Sis. Donnabell and Alvin Nelson of Winthrop, was a medical patient in the hospital last week. We are glad she is now on the mend.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

As the holiday season draws near, we wish each of our readers a blessed Christmas. The Sunday School programs, the family gatherings, the bountiful meals and the giving of good gifts are a few of the blessings we can enjoy. The greatest blessing is God's gift to us—Jesus, who was born of a virgin, to become our Saviour and Redeemer.

The weekend of Oct. 21 was inspiring and blessed when Elder Bros. Gene Marti, Roy Grimm, and Herman Kellenberger were here to assist in hearing the testimonies and the baptisms of nine dear souls. Those whom we now embrace as brothers and sisters-in-faith are Roy Feucht, Rhonda TeSlaa, Peggy Snyders, Joyce Knobloch, Theresa Meyer, Shiela Moser, Brenda Knobloch, and Chuck and Cora Lee Knobloch. Among our many visitors for the weekend was Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha. Two more souls have turned to repentance. They are Vicki Knobloch and Jeanette Feucht. May God be ever near them.

God has brought two dear souls together with His divine love. The engagement of Sis. Esther Feucht, daughter of Bro. Gus and Sis. Martha, and Bro. Wes Moser, son of Elder Bro. Leo and Sis. Leona, was announced. A December wedding is planned.

Several families have been blest with new bundles of joy. Rick James was born on Oct. 23 to Don and Pat Metzger. The grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goettsch, Des Moines. On Nov. 8, Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn Meyer became the parents of Wayne Frederick. His grandparents are Sis. Emma Meyer and Bro. Lou and Sis. Norma Bauman, Goodfield. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Sue Leuthold are the parents of Chet Alvin, born on Nov. 10. His grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estelle Leuthold and Alvin and Sis. Donnabelle

Nelson, Winthrop. Our grandchild, Katie Elizabeth, was born Nov. 16 to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger. Her grandparents are Bro. Ervin and Sis. Elma Mogler, West Bend, and Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger.

Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger observed their 72 years of married life on Nov. 17 with family and friends. They are grandparents to 84 and great-grandparents to 135.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Phyllis Siegle

Almost everywhere we look, the countryside reminds us of some verse in the Psalms. For the fall season, which we have just experienced, we think of Psalm 67:6: "Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us." Psalm 46:10 reminds us of the winter season as we look out upon the land, beautiful and quiet after a newly fallen snow: "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." These are as applicable today as they were in David's time.

"There is a sad but kind remembrance,
Cherished memories fond and true.
There is a token of love and affection,
When we the days and years review."

Author Unknown

We express our sympathy to Sis. Rosemary Wegman and family, as her father, Bro. Emmanuel Jacob, passed away.

The engagement of Bro. Ronald Massner to Sis. Donna Wuthrich of Morton, IL, was made known. God's blessings are certainly wished for them. Bro. Ron is the son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner, and Sis. Donna is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich.

God entrusted a tiny bundle to the care of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Joleen Gerst who welcomed daughter Christin Lee, born Nov. 6. Three sisters, Heidi, Heather, and Carrie, are happy to have a new playmate. The grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Nettie Gerst, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Luttenegger. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster were blessed with a baby boy, born Nov. 12. There are many brothers and sisters to love and share their joy. May God bless these families.

We are again richly blessed as Elder Bros. Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Sam Anliker (Lamont, Kansas), and Bro. Simon Wagenbach (Tremont) ministered to us from God's Holy Word. Our sincere thanks are extended to them for their labor of love.

As we approach this Christmas season, let us ask ourselves whether we have a "chamber in the inn" where Christ may lodge, or whether we still treat Him as a stranger. "Christmas is more than a day at the end of the year, more than a season of joy and good cheer. Christmas is really God's pattern for living to be followed all year by unselfish giving. For the holiday season awakens good cheer and draws us closer to those we hold dear." Author Unknown.

The angel of God appeared to the shepherds with a great blinding light as they were watching their flocks in the fields. He told them to fear not, for that night there was born unto them a great King. "And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger. . ." Luke 2:7.

IOWA, PULASKI
Mary Jane Knapp
Ginny Wuthrich

THE ANSWER IS FAITH

When Jesus came to earth as a child
 Instead of in regal array,
 Why did the shepherds—humble
 and mild—
 Worship Him meekly and pray?
 Why did the wise men travel so far,
 Carrying gifts of great worth?
 How did they find Him with but a star
 To guide o'er the trackless
 earth?
 The answer is faith. They followed
 the Word
 Of God through the angels above.
 They knew 'twas the Christ that
 they had heard
 Was coming to prove God's love.
 The answer is faith. Today we
 believe
 Because we know God is true.
 By faith in His Word, His love we
 receive
 And with Him begin life anew.
 Samuel H. Cox

As the beautiful Christmas season is upon us once again, are we so wrapped up in the earthly preparations that the true meaning of Christmas is crowded to the back of our minds? May this not be the lot of any of us, but let it be a time to reflect on Christ's birth and the real meaning it has for us.

October 27 was the wedding day of Don Schaer and Sue Ann Holy-cross. May God's blessings be with them as they begin their life together.

Sis. Leah Schaer submitted to minor surgery and is feeling better again.

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

"When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son." (Gal. 4:4) We are once again approaching the Christmas season when we will celebrate our Lord's birth. How richly we are blessed in that God was willing to send His only Son in our behalf that we might share in His wonderful plan of salvation. We are looking forward to our annual Christmas program when the story of His blessed birth is told through the children's carols and recitations. It truly brings to mind His love that He had that we might learn also to have that same love for others—not only at this time of the year but also throughout the year.

It was announced that Kevin Anliker, son of Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise, had peace with God and man. Our congregation looks forward to baptismal services in the future.

Don Haverman, husband of Mona (Bruellman), is hospitalized with a back injury in the Mason City Hospital. Sis. Helen Zaugg was a hospital patient due to a blood clot in her leg. Little Paul Zaugg, son of Bro. Norman and Sis. Polly, and Karen Zaugg, daughter of Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie, were hospitalized due to flu which hit our community. We pray for all who were ill.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Marvella Wickman welcome a baby boy, Jamie Lee, born Oct. 27. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Helen Zaugg, and Bertha Wickman. Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress are the parents of a daughter, Christy Jean, born Oct. 18. The grandparents are Bro. Fahey and Sis. Marie Gress, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophia

Steiner of Tremont, IL. May God bless these parents so that they will bring their children to church as we were brought to learn and grow in the Lord.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

To one and all we pray for the gift of light, and wherever you travel "may a star lead you, the wind be at your back, the road rise to meet you . . . and God hold you in the hollow of His hand."

Author Unknown

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

The end of October, we had blessed Communion Service here in Tokyo, and Elder Bro. Willis came to assist in serving. We could realize again how much the Lord loved us and that He gave His life for us. Also, we felt that we should serve Him much more. After that, we served supper together.

Bro. Saburo Utsuki and his wife, Sis. Shizuko, visited the Republic of Communist China the middle of last month. He really enjoyed his visit because he saw quite a different China than he thought he would see. That is because he served there during the last war.

Several went to Yamanashi-Ken on Nov. 2 and 3 for an English speaking fellowship meeting there. I Thess. 5 was used for our meditation, and we received many teachings for our undying soul. The afternoon was spent in visiting and walking through the woods. Autumn tints were lovely against the blue skies. Only God could create such beauty. Praise Him!

JAPAN, SHIODA

Sally Gramm

It's getting nippy outdoors, here in the Japanese countryside, as fall slips away into winter. The Japanese "KOTATSUS" (little heated, covered tables, under which chilled hands and feet can be put until they're toasty warm) are in use everywhere. These small comforts of life are greatly appreciated as the days get colder and the daylight hours get shorter.

We spent a lovely day with our brothers and sisters in the Lord a few weeks ago in a mountain area near here. We had a pleasant day of Bible reading and exhortation and later hiked through the mountain forest, enjoying the brilliant fall colors in the crisp air. When

we stopped to rest beside a sparkling, rushing mountain stream, I tasted the clean, fresh water. How sweet and refreshing it was! I was reminded then of Jesus' loving invitation to all of us: "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst . . . the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4: 14)

We were recently able to partake of the Lord's Supper. The warm bond of love which we could feel as we fellowshiped together afterwards still lingers in my memory. How precious it is when sisters and brothers in the faith can enjoy each other and encourage each other. Let us ever strive to strengthen our bonds of love between one another, for then we are truly living in Christ's love.

KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Give us through the coming year
 Quietness of mind;
 Teach us to be patient
 And always to be kind.
 Give us reassurance
 When everything goes wrong,
 So our faith remains unfaltering
 And our hope and courage strong—
 And show us that in quietness
 We can feel your presence near
 Filling us with joy and peace
 Throughout the coming year.

Helen Steiner Rice

We are looking forward to hearing the conference memorandum on Dec. 1.

Ryan Osterhaus, six-week-old grandson of Bro. Edward and Sis. Leola Lehman, was hospitalized for surgery.

Our guest minister was Bro. Roy Wernli (Lamont).

Bro. Edward, Sis. Leola and Sis. Janice Lehman have safely returned from Switzerland. No doubt, the greatest highlight was visiting the birthplaces of their parents. Leola's father was the beloved late Elder Bro. Rudy Locher. Also, it was a joy to visit with kinsmen as Edward speaks fluent Swiss.

New residents are now moving into the addition to the Apostolic Christian Home. Granted, no one is ever quite ready or willing to leave a home of many years. However, this is a lovely home, truly a

"home away from home." Let us never forget to strive toward that eternal "home," the most beautiful yet to come.

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Frieda Strahm are now permanent residents. Also, Sis. Sophia McClanahan is back from Midwest City, OK. There will be an open house held in the near future.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Jan Kraft

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth"—Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, 11:2-4

Hospitalized this month was Larry Bahr (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ruth) for surgery.

Bro. Danny and Sis. Dorothy Sinn want to extend a thank you to the many who sent them cards and good wishes on their 40th wedding anniversary.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Our dear brother and a new babe in Christ, Bro. Vernon Beyer, passed away on Nov. 1. Bro. Vernon had just recently learned of his terminal malignancy and turned his life over to Almighty God. Surviving is Bro. Vernon's wife, Rosemarie, and four children. The parents, who preceded him in death, were

Bro. Frank and Sis. Elizabeth Beyer.

We miss our elder Sis. Carrie Lehman, as she has left us to make her home in a nearby nursing home. Her address is Carrie Lehman, Autumn Manor #1, Box 265, Yates Center, KS 66783.

Our sincere congratulations go to Bro. Brian Bahr as he has recently completed his education and obtained his license as a registered pharmacist. Bro. Brian is the son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Doris Bahr.

It gives us courage to go forward upon righteous pathways when we know there are still those who are willing to give of themselves to be ministers of the gospel. Bro. Tim Zimmerman has been given the duty and responsibility of this great work. We are truly thankful to Bro. Tim and his dear wife, Barbara (Kraft). May our Heavenly Father richly bless them.

We give many thanks to visiting ministers Elder Bro. Sam Anliker, Lamont; Bro. Bill Emch, Lamont; Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest, IL; and Bro. Harold Kraft, Fort Scott. Thanks be to God for his provisions.

Hospitalized this past month were Sis. Carrie Lehman and Carol (Jack) McLaskey, daughter of Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer.

A special Christmas blessing is wished to each and every dear sister and brother in Christ across the land.

The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you.

KANSAS (and Missouri),

KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

THE JOY OF GIVING

Somehow, not only for Christmas,

But for all the year through,
 The joy that you give others

Is the joy that comes back to
 you;

And the more you spend in blessing

The poor and lonely and sad,
 The more of your heart's possessing
 Returns to make you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier

Not only can this verse be a reflection of our lives, but of God too—He gave us joy through Jesus Christ his Son. How glad He must be when we return His love and pass it on to others, as Jesus teaches us:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:37-39

We give our thanks to ministering Bros. Loren Strahm, Gridley; Gene Marti, Lamar; Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott; and the many others who attended services with us in Kansas City.

May God's blessings go with Doug and Pam Ott as they move to Kiowa (Doug's home town). We always enjoyed having Doug and Pam assemble with us and will miss them.

We are looking forward to having Louise (Mrs. Ed) Wreath back. She has been in California for several months with her sister who is ill.

Our sympathies are with Bro. Joe Farney and his family, as his mother, Sis. Lydia Farney, passed away.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Judy Bahr

Teach me, Father, when I pray,
Not to ask for more,
But rather let me give my thanks
For what is at my door.
For food and drink, for gentle rain,
For sunny skies above,
For home and friends, for peace
and joy,
But most of all for LOVE.

Treasures of Silver

We truly wish to thank the brethren who have shown their love and concern for us on this college campus.

The visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Al Langhofer, Wichita, KS; Lloyd Kraft and Loren Strahm, Gridley, KS; Ronald Nelson, Kiowa, KS; Lester Hartter, Bern, KS; and Carl Hartman and Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS. May God reward them richly for taking time to bring us the Holy Word.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

Sis. Esther Miller and Sis. Kathleen Schrock were both hospital patients this past month, but we are thankful they are now able to be in our midst again.

We would like to extend our deep-

est sympathy to the families of Sis. Hattie Farney and Sis. Lydia Farney, who fell asleep in the arms of their Lord—Sis. Hattie on Nov. 1, at the age of 80, and Sis. Lydia on Nov. 14, at the age of 91. Grave-side services were held at the Apostolic Christian Cemetery for Sis. Hattie on Nov. 3, with ministering Bro. Raymond Roth officiating. Funeral services were held for Sis. Lydia at the church here on Nov. 17, with Elder Bro. Sam Huber and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson officiating; Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, and ministering Bro. Joe Aberle, Sabetha, were in our midst. On the Lord's Day, Bros. Raymond and Joe brought us precious teachings from God's Word. We are so thankful for God's love through His Word, for help in time of pain, sorrow and tribulation. We are also thankful for His help in time of joy and peace. We truly hope the Word's truths are a comfort to those who said their last farewell to their loved ones.

This month, we had the blessed privilege of listening to the tapes of this year's Brotherhood Conference held in Fairbury, IL.

In this age, when Satan is trying so hard to undermine the truths of our Gospel and draw us away from our Lord's teachings, how thankful we are for the deep concern of our elders and ministering brethren who steer us toward the straight way, which is in Christ, and away from the broad way of the world which is through Satan.

St. Matthew 7:13, 14:

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, let us not be carried away in the hustle of this old sinful world. Let's keep close to His wounded and bleeding side. 'Tis not the manger but the cross that sets men free. And, oh! how we wish men would heed the Master's loving call and realize how short time here on earth is, compared to eternity. Our life is

as the grass that groweth and soon is cut off and is no more. "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14. So, never let us forget that the greatest gift was God's giving His only son on that old rugged cross for you and me.

KANSAS, SABETHA Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

The blessed story of the Christ,
The babe of Bethlehem,
Is worthy of our song and praise,
And stirs the hearts of men.

Bro. Henry Beer

Our visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Gerald Sutter and Kenneth Knapp of Taylor, and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz of Leo. We thank them for bringing us the Words of Life. We do appreciate all who take time to visit us.

Doug Reinhard, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores, had the misfortune of breaking his right arm recently and has it in a cast. Hospitalized this past month have been Sis. Katie Leiser, Sis. Tillie Aberle and Sis. Fanny Bahr. We desire a speedy recovery for all of them.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Patsy Bragieli

The Bloomington choir shared a joyous weekend in Bay City. Many beautiful hymns of praise were expressed, telling the same beautiful story of our Saviour's loving kindness and the joy we find in the true Christian life. Visiting ministers with us that weekend were Bros. Ronald Heiniger (Bloomington) and Walter Rehklau (Toledo).

Sis. Julia Wakerle passed away, and funeral services were held on Nov. 12. For some time, she had been unable to attend church due to illness while staying in a nursing home. Her husband, Bro. John, preceded her in death.

Hospitalized have been Bro. Paul Waibel, Sis. Ellen Wackerle, and Sis. Diane Jacobs.

Christmas time is here again, a very special time to set aside and worship the Christ who was born at Bethlehem. To gain the full meaning of such a time, it must be that we can overshadow the MANAGER and meet Christ at the CROSS.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT**Bonnie Popp**

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

"The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." Psalm 19:7-9

Our thanksgiving should be daily in our hearts for all these pure and just blessings of God. We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Andy Virkler assist our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach in reading the memorandum.

"He leadeth me beside the still waters." Psalm 23:2

As Sis. Charlotte Burton has made a new home in Peoria, our love and prayers go with her. Though we will miss her here in Detroit, we pray that He will lead her in whatever her endeavors may be.

As preparation for the season of Christmas begins, I think of Mary and Joseph making the long, hard journey only to find no room for them at the inn at the end of the day.

Let us not become so preoccupied with the business of the day, the preparation of festivity, or the hurrying about to get everything done that we allow less time for Christ in our hearts. Let Him find room at the inn-door of our lives, for it is serving the Christ with love and serving others in His love that can bring about a message of Christmas.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS**Carol Virkler**

We are nearing the Christmas season when we celebrate the birthday of our Lord Jesus who was God's gift to all mankind.

THE GIFT OF GOD

The gift of God is eternal life
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
And that is why He came to us,
Fulfilling the prophets' word.
On that night so long ago,
God sent His Son to earth,
And that is why the angel host
Told shepherds of His birth.
Messiah came down a tiny Babe,
That He might live and grow

In favor with both God and man,
That God's love we might know.
Now everyone who obeys His Word,
Through stress or storm or
strife,

May have this gift God gives to us
Through Christ: eternal life.

E. Gano Karns
A new bundle from heaven has arrived at the home of Doug and Connie Bergstrom. Their second son, Aric Henry, was born on Oct. 25. Three-year-old Cory welcomes his baby brother home. The grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Rhine Kellenberger of Lester, and Hazel Bergstrom of Wabasso, MN.

We were richly blessed, spiritually, from the messages brought to us by our visiting ministers on Nov. 18. Those with us were Elder Bro. Harold Messner of Winthrop, Bro. Nate Stoller of Bradford, and Bro. Joe Stoller of Princeville. We thank them for coming and for lending themselves as God's servants.

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

"I was headed for hell—and no one wants to go there!" These plain and simple words from one of our converts remind us of the depth of Jesus' love. We also were headed for hell. We should have died on the cross. We thank you, Lord.

Elder Bros. Lester Hartter (Bern, KS) and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) were with us to welcome five new souls into God's family: Mary Koehl (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys), Kathy Nohl (Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra), Linda Nohl (Bro. Bud and Sis. Sophie), Brenda Schmidgall (Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine), and Charlene Luthi (Bro. Don and Sis. Della). Dorene Moser's (Gary) name was missing from last month's column as a new sister in Christ.

Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Carl Hartman (Sabetha, KS), Earl Banwart (West Bend, IA), Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN), and Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

Sis. Helen Joos was a hospital patient. Let us remember those who need our prayers.

**THE ART OF
KEEPING CHRISTMAS**

How can we best keep Christmas?
By sinking the shafts of our spirit

deep beneath the sparkling tinsel of the surface of Christmas and renewing within us the radiance of the inner meaning of the season.

By following the Star on an inward journey to Bethlehem to stand in awe and wonder before the Babe in a manger.

By rediscovering the faith and simplicity of a little child, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

By being still and listening to the angels sing within our hearts.

By quietly evaluating our lives according to the Master's standards as set forth in the Sermon on the Mount.

By reaffirming the supremacy of the spirit in man's conquest of himself.

By rededicating ourselves to the Master's ideas of Peace, Brotherhood and Good Will.

By resolving to give ourselves away to others in love, joy and devotion.

Wilferd A. Peterson

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem**

I place myself in Jesus' hands
And there abide forever.
No grief, no joys shall loose the
bands

Nor yet our union sever.
In these dread days,
When earth decays,
Who stays in Him and thus obeys.
Shall be preserved forever.

Zion's Harp No. 177

It is always uplifting when dear souls place themselves in Jesus' hands to stay with Him, obey, and along with the body of believers, be preserved forever. What a wonderful promise God has given us: **to be preserved forever!**

Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger assembled with us and assisted our Elder Bro. Harold Messner in reading the memorandum. How needful are the warnings in these sinful, troubled times.

We were privileged to have a group of young brothers and sisters from the Morris, Lester, and Illinois congregations assemble with us this past month.

The area Bible Class teachers met with ministering Bros. Elder Harold Messner, Alpha Moser, Harold Gram, Noah Miller, Elmer Schmidt, Duane Metzger, and Earl Banwart in the Winthrop church

to discuss and evaluate the program and entertainment for our annual youth fellowship. Many prayerful thoughts were given during this meeting.

Christmas is important to young people. We hear whispered comparisons among the Sunday School children concerning their part in the Christmas program. Let this holy season and the time we spend renewing our knowledge of the events leading to and following the birth of our precious Saviour be now and ever more a strengthening time in our lives. May the wonder of Christmas fill you with joy and peace that will continue throughout this holiday season and the coming New Year.

Bro. George Messner fell, breaking his arm. Sis. Audrey Messner (Bruce) was also hospitalized. Both are now recuperating at home.

The family of the late Henry Schmidt and Sis. Celina Schmidt gathered at the Winthrop senior citizens center to enjoy a pot luck supper and visit with the youngest daughter, Mrs. Michael (Joyce) Abbell, and family of Bethesda, Maryland. The Abbells were spending several days in the community visiting and on business. Mrs. Schmidt has twelve children.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Sandra Marti - Vera Luthi

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN
God sent the little Christ Child
So man might understand
"That a little child shall lead them"
To that unknown "PROMISED
LAND."

God in His great wisdom
Knew that men would rise to power
And forget HIS HOLY PRE-
CEPTS

In their great triumphal hour.
He knew that they would question
And doubt the holy birth
And turn their time and talents
To the pleasures of this earth.
But every new discovery
Is an open avenue
To more and greater mysteries;
And man's search is never through.
Man can never fathom
The mysteries of the Lord.
Or understand His promise
Of a heavenly reward.

No one but a LITTLE CHILD
With simple FAITH and LOVE
Can lead man's straying footsteps
To HIGHER REALMS ABOVE!

Helen Steiner Rice

We all need a childlike heart and mind filled with faith and love. If we want to be led by our Heavenly Father. We have to remember that our journey can't end with the Babe in the manger at Bethlehem, but we must also go with Him to the cross at Calvary.

There are times in this life when we, too, must bear a cross. Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Becky Marti (Ken) were surgical patients this past month. We are thankful that both are home and recovering. Surely, they have felt the grace that God has promised in time of need. It is our prayer that they will soon be able to assemble with us again.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

Once again the material harvest is past, and we have been blessed bountifully. One of our ministering brothers compared the church with a pod of soy beans. The seed is sown and the beans grow closely together in the pod through the season which is sometimes rainy, dry, or windy. But in the end, they don't all reach the bin. Some are shattered and lost on the ground. How sad it would be if any of us who have made a beginning and live through the heat of the day, walking closely with God and our fellow-man, would in the end miss the great harvest and garnering in. May we "hover together" as a covey of quail seeking protection from animals and the elements. Alone, one is more easily captured than when in a group, so let us all stay close to God and each other and thus be able to ward off the enemy.

Love is like "magic," and it always will be,
For love still remains "Life's
sweet mystery."

H. S. R.

Sandra Cottrell (Bro. Wm. and Sis. Ruth) and Dale Cramer were united in marriage Oct. 20 in Columbia, MO, where they are making their home.

Congratulations go to Jimmy Sutter (Bro. James and Sis. Lois) and Kris Myles who have announced their engagement. We wish God's blessings for both couples.

Tim Sutter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge) received a broken arm in an accident at school.

We welcome visiting ministers, and were happy to have Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen and family from Elgin, IL, on Nov. 11. We thank them for coming. We're glad the Steffens have a daughter in our area, for we all benefit from their visits.

"Unity and harmony bring special blessings." Elder Bros. Joe Braker, Morton, and Roy Grimm reviewed the recent conference deliberations with us on Nov. 17. May we, by the grace of God, walk hand in hand and keep a faith that is not only sufficient to live by, but also to die by. We thank Bro. Joe and his family for coming. May our Elder body receive a special blessing for the concern they have for each of us, and may we do our part to make their duty and role a pleasant one. Bro. Joe spent Sunday with us, and we were truly filled to overflowing. He expounded many teachings about the wonderful plan of salvation and the love of God. We must say, "It was good to be there!"

Memories go back to a year ago when we lost a dear one in our church, Bro. John Hoerr. Time flies by and other events take place, but for the family the parting still hurts and the lonely hours are very real. May God continue to stand by their sides.

KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

In the spring of 1926, a small four-room cottage near the Fabious River was converted into a church. It was north of Taylor, MO, and provided an "Inn" for seven families and 14 members. As was the custom, the members took turns, by families, serving lunch on Sunday. Bro. Ed Grimm opened the church early every Sunday morning and started the furnace when heat was needed. While waiting for the members and friends to gather one Sunday, he wrote our loved hymn:

THE LITTLE WHITE CHURCH ON THE LEVEE

There's a church on the levee
by the Fabby,

No lovelier spot far around,
Where the children of God love to
gather,

In Communion with Him to be
found.

It is there in that church on the
levee,

That I often find peace for my soul;
When trials and sorrows would crush me,
And the billows of fate o'er me roll.

It is there in that church on the levee,
That I hope to be found when He calls;
In His service I pray He will find me,
When the curtain of life for me falls.

It is there near that church on the levee,
That my loved ones are resting in Peace;
And 'tis near them I hope they will lay me,
When my labors of love here shall cease.

Cho.—Oh, come, come, come, come,
come to the church on the levee,
Oh! come to the church on the knoll:
No spot is so dear to my memory,
As the little White Church on the knoll.

Bro. Edward was the first minister of our church in Taylor.

Today, Bro. Roy Grimm, grandson of Bro. Ed, serves as elder of our congregation. Bro. Roy was baptized in 1949, became a minister in 1966, and was ordained elder in 1976. He and Sis. Dona (Feller) are parents of six children and have four grandchildren.

Bro. Gerald Sutter, also a grandson of Bro. Ed Grimm, was put into the ministry in 1955. He and Sis. Marjorie (Wenneker) are parents of six children and have one grandson.

Bro. Kenny Knapp, originally from the Conngerville area, was made one of our ministers in 1976. He and Sis. Phyllis (Denler) are parents of three children and have one grandson. A son lost his life in 1978. Bro. Kent Heiner, great-grandson of Bro. Ed Grimm, was put into the ministry in 1979. He is married to the former Jan Hodel from Roanoke, IL. "For he is the minister of God to thee for good." Romans 13:4

**NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Ed Aeschleman**

November 4 was a very special

day when the Union City and Philadelphia congregations met together in Union City to enjoy three visiting ministers. They were Elder Bros. John Bahler of Rockville and Andy Virkler of Bay City and Bro. Corbin Bahler of Rockville. Many good teachings were prompted by the Holy Spirit, and then Bros. John and Andy served Holy Communion to the needy flock. The service was solemn and impressive, and we were indeed reminded of our Lord's suffering and sacrifice, and of our need to be diligent in our efforts to walk in the footsteps of the Lord.

We all rejoice in the return of Sis. Marie Walch to the Union City congregation after an absence of several months which were spent in Vermont with her employer. We can be ever grateful that God is still willing to hear the prayers of His children.

Bro. Dimitrie Liuba has been unable to attend church for several Sundays because an affliction in his knee makes walking very difficult for him. We trust that with God's help he will soon be able to meet with us again at Union City.

We were happy to welcome Sis. Bertha Weisert back to Union City after several months of illness. She was hospitalized and then spent several weeks at home, convalescing. We are ever thankful to God for His healing power.

Sis. Rose Sauder of Roanoke, IL, visited her daughter's family (Nancy Aeschleman) for several weeks. She was a welcomed visitor at the churches in Philadelphia and Union City several times during her stay.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

As the Christmas season of the year is upon us, we are reminded of the true meaning of this season. Every day, we thank God for sending His Son as a Babe in a manger. How humble it was for Him to tread this earthly path to live and die for each of us.

We are thankful that the message still goes forth, and that loved ones are being called here and there to surrender their lives to Him. We rejoiced, even as we believe the angels in heaven rejoiced, on the weekend of November 17 and 18 when we gathered to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of John Virkler, son of Sis.

Charlotte. We welcome him as a brother-in-faith. We want to thank Elder Bro. Andy Virkler and his wife, Sis. Maxine, of Bay City for sharing their time and love with us for the weekend.

A blessed Sunday was spent together on November 11 when Elder Bro. Ed Frank of LaCrosse ministered to us. Again, we were reminded of our duties and responsibilities through his messages. In the evening we gathered to hear the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference read by Bro. Ed and our Elder Bros. Robert Beyer and Norbert Steiner.

Robert Purvines and Diane Grandjean were married on October 27 by Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner. Their parents are Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines, and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Grandjean. Also married on October 27 were Patti Petzoldt and Randy Widrick, daughter of Donald and Sis. Rita Petzoldt and son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Widrick. The wedding day of Bradley Herzig and Joyce Robbins was November 17. Brad is the son of Bradley and Sis. Regira Herzig, and Joyce's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Robbins. Our congratulations and best wishes go to these young couples as they begin their lives together.

Daniel John Lawton was welcomed by Fred and Linda, Freddie, Lynette and Nicole. Daniel was born on November 1. His grandparents are Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lawton.

Cindy Farney, daughter of Urban and the late Sis. Evelyn Farney, has entered the Air Force and is serving in Texas.

Sis. Lydia Virkler was a medical patient and has been able to return to the home of Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler. Sis. Barb Virkler was a medical patient in Syracuse for a few days and has now returned home. At present, our hospital patients are Bro. Arthur Wooschlager and Urban Farney. May God ever be near each of our loved ones and share a measure of strength and grace to them in their needs and afflictions.

NEY YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Sis. Natalie Herzig is back home again from the hospital and doing well. She was admitted for one day

after having a fall.

We have had the privilege of listening to God's teachings given by Elder Bro. Edward Frank from LaCrosse, IN, on Nov. 11. We gathered with the Croghan folks.

Thou art my Light and Power,
My joy and Life each hour,
Redeemer blest!
While pilgrim here I be,
I lift mine eyes to Thee
My faith's security,
My soul's true Rest!

What more can we wish for than to have Light, Power, Joy and Life given by our dear Savior each and every hour.

Taken from "Christ My All" in the Zion's Harp.

OHIO, AKRON Lynell Palitto

Bro. Tom Saurer was hospitalized for a few days due to an injury to his wrist while cleaning some farm machinery.

On November 4, the engagement announcement was made of Sis. Lynda Pamer (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor) to Bro. Walter Beery (Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth) of the Rittman congregation. That same Sunday, we were privileged to hear the Word expounded by Bro. Gary Maibach.

On Sunday, Nov. 18, Elder Bros. Joseph Ramsier and Rudy Graf read and gave us Biblical direction from the report on the Brotherhood Conference.

Bro. George and Sis. Kathryn Fulop and children George, Jr., John, Frank, Paul, and Kathy have moved to Florida.

"Praised be the Lord who gives us strength,
Who leads and gives direction.
My brethren, when you kneel in pray'r,
For me make intercession.
'Twill not be vain. Pray'r as a chain
Binds us in God together,
And when we part,
Unites each heart
In Jesus' name forever."
Zion's Harp No. 195

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

Christmas is a celebration for Jesus' birthday. What lovely memories it brings: carols, prayers, and

praises. My favorite carol can be found in Hymns of Zion No. 14, "As With Gladness Men of Old." That is our prayer for all.

We give our thanks to our visiting ministers, Bro. Andrew Virkler from Bay City and Bros. Joe Ramsier and Ronald Steiner from Rittman. It is so good to enjoy the fellowship and the good news that they bring. May God bless all of them.

OHIO, JUNCTION Lester Manz

Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) assisted Bro. Loren Stoller in the proving and baptism of our new Bro. Russell Manz. Following provings, we had the memorandum read and explained to us. Bro. Russell's parents are Bro. Elias and Sis. Evelyn Manz. Also sharing this blessed weekend with us were ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Kenneth Sauder (Mansfield, OH).

Wendy Kay is the new daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, and the new sister to young Greg. The grandparents are Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Louise Manz and Bro. Robert and Sis. Inez Ramsier (Rittman). Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky and young Gretel Schlatter also are welcoming home a new girl, Heidi Rebecca. Heidi's grandparents are Sis. Juliet Schlatter and Bro. Loren and Sis. Esther Stoller (Latty). We are all thankful that these children were born healthy and trust God will keep them in His care all of their lives.

The new address of our loved one in the service is:

Phillip A. Schlatter
PSC Box 1424
APO, NY 29860

OHIO, LATTY Susie Sinn

"Kindly Heaven smiles above . . ."
Hymns of Zion

The engagement of Bro. Dan Stoller (Bro. Glen and Sis. Ede) and Sis. Deb Frank (Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah), LaCrosse, was made known. May God guide and direct them as they plan their future together.

Laurel Ann is the newborn daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Janice Laukhuf. The grandparents are Eli and Lola Laukhuf and Sis. Lillian Stoller. Ready to help care for her at home are twin

sisters Trenna and Treva, Noel, and Cara.

Albert Stoller passed from this life into eternity. Survivors include a brother, Bro. Emil Stoller, and three sisters, Sis. Emma Klopfenstein, Sis. Ida Rocke (Cissna Park), and Sis. Nettie Stoller. Albert was born handicapped; he was not blessed with the senses of hearing or being able to speak. Despite his handicap, he was blessed in many ways with respect and fear for Almighty God. For many years, he lived with his sister, Nettie, who patiently and willingly cared for him, especially during his declining years. Albert will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved him, but we are thankful that God saw fit to call him to his eternal rest.

Our hospital patients include Bro. Fred Zeltwanger who had surgery, Bro. Emile Stoller, Corbin Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb), and Scott Gerber (Roger and Sis. Eunice). May God be near these loved ones.

Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction) visited us this month. We thank him for his visit and pray God will add His rich blessings to his labor.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10, 11.

How thankful we are that we know and understand the true meaning of Christmas. May true peace and joy reign in each of your hearts during this blessed holiday season.

December is the month for Latty Subscribers to pay their Silver Lining dues to their reporter.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

The Kindergarten Sunday School Class was listening very intently to their teacher as she told the beautiful story of Christmas. As the story unfolded, Mary and Joseph had arrived at Bethlehem and after knocking at many doors couldn't find a place to stay, having received the same answer, "No room." Lit-

tle Johnny couldn't stand it any longer and said, "Teacher, I got room in my inn, they can come and stay with me!"

Yes, He can and will stay at our house today if we but open our heart's door and invite Him in. He is a wonderful guest and friend.

We are very thankful and happy to report that wise men still seek Him today. Nine souls in our community are seeking the Lord and we pray the Lord will grant them continuing grace to go forward in their new found love and faith.

The weekend of November 10 and 11 was a day of rejoicing and blessings as the Peoria choir favored us with a visit. Many beautiful songs were sung to God's honor and praise and new friendships were made and old ones renewed.

We especially wish to thank Bro. Charles Hemmer for expounding God's precious Word to us, and we invite all to return again.

October 20 was the happy wedding day for Leonard Dolce and Patricia Brannon. We wish them much happiness as they share life together.

Loving sympathy is extended to Frank Bertka due to the death of Rosemary Bertka, wife of John Bertka, and to Bro. Martin Kleshinski in the loss of his brother, George.

We are sorry to say good-by to our dear friends who have been transferred to other communities. Sis. Sue) has moved to Mesa, AZ. Jerry and Erika Bird have moved to Tanglewood Drive, Cumming, Steve Sauder (Bro. Kenneth and GA. (Jerry's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Miriam), and Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Went have moved to 154 Bay Bury Lane, Jackson, MS 39212 (Sis. Emilie and Harold are Chuck's parents). We will miss all of them and wish them well and especially God's protection and care.

Hospitalized are Sis. Anna Hoffman, Sis. Helen Sferro and Susan Weiss. We trust the Lord will be near each of them and grant His grace for each new day.

Bro. Jesse Beer, our oldest member, will be celebrating his 98th birthday on December 19, if the Lord permits. He is still able to attend church quite regularly and still lives alone. He has been a real inspiration for all and has helped

many, many young people with their education. We wish God's grace and strength in his sunset hours.

OHIO, RITTMAN Janette Blough

"Pass me not, oh gentle Savior; Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by." Gospel Hymns. We are so happy to report that six more souls have heeded the gentle call of the Savior and have turned to Him in repentance; They are Verla Blough, John and Jodi Calame, Pam Gerber, Steve Hofacre and Diana Stoller. May our Lord guide and direct each one of our converts in his new walk of life.

Our congregation has been blessed by the arrival of four new babies. Our precious little bundles are three boys and one girl. A son, Jason Dale, was born to Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfry. Jason has two older sisters, Heather and Ronda, and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Joan Hartzler, and great-grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Elda Hartzler. A little girl, Alicia Marie, was born to Gary and Sis. Susan Murry. Alicia has an older brother, Brent, and an older sister, Melissa, grandparents, Glen and Mary Jane Winkler, and great-grandparents Bro. Alvin and Sis. Estella Winkler and Sis. Caroline Emch. Mike and Tina Ramsier are first-time parents with the arrival of Logan Michael. Bro. Jim and Sis. Dorothy Ramsier are happy grandparents and Logan has a great-grandmother, Sis. Elizabeth Ramsier. Matthew Benjamin is the name given to the little son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman, who are also first-time parents. Sis. Marie Bauman is a first-time grandmother with the arrival of Matthew. Bro. Ben and Sis. Jenny Bauman are his great-grandparents.

Those of our congregation who have been hospitalized are Sis. Doris Gasser, Sis. Mildred Hartzler, and Alicia Murray. Sis. Doris and Sis. Mildred have been able to assemble with us again, for which we are very thankful. We pray for our Lord's sustaining grace for those who must suffer pain or sickness. We hope little Alicia will soon be big enough to join her family at home.

We wish to thank Bro. Ken In-

dermuhle of Sardis and Bro. Eugene Pamer of Akron for visiting our congregation and ministering to us out of God's precious Word.

Bro. Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer are settled in their home since their marriage took place in Forrest, IL. Sis. Elaine is the daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Donna Leman of Forrest, and we are so happy to have her with us in our congregation. Bro. Dale is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer. We wish them God's richest blessings in their married life.

The engagements of two couples have been announced. On Nov. 4, the engagement of Bro. Walter Beery and Sis. Lynda Pamer of Akron was announced. Bro. Walt is the son of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery and Sis. Lynda is the daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer. On Nov. 11, the engagement of Bro. Ron Laparo and Sis. Karen Hartzler was made known. Sis. Karen is the daughter of Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler. Sis. Lynda and Sis. Karen are both granddaughters of Bro. Rueben and Sis. Velma Hartzler. May our Lord guide our engaged couples as they plan their life together.

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Eccl. 3:1. We have rejoiced over the repenting of 27 souls in our congregation, the blessings of new births, weddings, and wedding engagements. But we also have sadness with us, as Victor Ritzman was suddenly taken out of this life. We extend our deep sympathy to his wife, Blanche, and to all of his family. We shall miss seeing Vic's friendly smile on Sundays. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ellen Weber and their daughter, Dorothy, over the death of Dorothy's husband, Fred Yarger. May our Lord comfort and console all of our loved ones who are experiencing, or have experienced, the vacancy felt by the loss of a loved one. "Does Jesus care when I've said 'goodby' To the dearest on earth to me; And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks, Is it aught to Him? Does He see? O yes, He cares; I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief; When the days are weary,

the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares." Gospel Hymns.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

As the Christmas season draws near, we have much to be joyful for. The Lord has blessed our congregation and kept us in His care. Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake have been blessed with another of God's precious creations. Born on Tuesday, Nov. 6, weighing ten pounds and one ounce, Matthew David was welcomed home by Clifford, Lisa, Luara, Sheila and Julia. The grandparents are John and Sis. Almada Brake of Sardis and Bro. Herb and Sis. Ruth Hilty of Rittman, OH.

Our hearts were saddened at the passing away of Sis. Clara Grossenbacher. She was 87 and died on Nov. 3 at the home of her son, Carl Grossenbacher. May God comfort the family in this time of sadness.

We wish to thank Bro. Rudolph Graf (who was with us for Sis. Clara's funeral) for his words of inspiration. May God also bless Bro. Gary Maibach for his willingness to teach us from God's Word.

... Let us now go over unto Bethlehem. (Luke 2:15)

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

Phillip Brooks

It isn't far to Bethlehem town
It is anywhere but that
Christ comes down
And finds in some one's
Shining face
A welcome and a biding place.
The road to Bethlehem
Runs right through
The homes of people
Like me and you.

Anonymous

Let us not only follow the Christ child to Bethlehem this Christmas season, but let us also invite Christ into our hearts and follow Him to the cross.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehkla

THE ANGEL'S SONG

I wonder if we'll hear again
Such lovely song on earth,

As that which once the angels sang,
Of Jesus' wondrous birth.

O rapturous, holy, blissful scene
Above Judea's plain,
As there the humble shepherds
stood
And heard that sweet refrain!

The echoes of the heavenly song
Did fill the earth that night.
For in the town of Bethlehem
Was born the Prince of Light.
The angels sang their praise to
God,

Of peace, good will to men.
Such words as sung by angels
host—

Shall they be heard again?
Perhaps when Christ shall claim
His own,

As angels' round Him throng,
We'll hear the blessed notes again
Of that celestial song.

Bro. Henry Beer

Sis. Emma Schick has had surgery and is in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. We wish her a good recovery.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Pearl Miller - Connie Steffen

Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger visited our Oregon churches and shared the minutes of the memorandum from the general conference. We were truly blessed by his visit and messages to us and greatly appreciated his love and concern for our little flocks.

We have had quite a lot of company this year and feel so grateful for each dear person who has counted it worth their time to visit us. We hope their memories are as pleasant as ours.

The weather has suddenly turned crisp, making the beautiful colored leaves fall to the ground. Large flocks of Canadian Geese fly south beneath clear blue skies. All of this brings us right to the fact that another year is nearly gone, one more year in the "pages of memories" book. How will it look? How good it is if we can find love, peace and joy written there.

We have been discussing the book of Revelation in our mid-week Bible study. Each church was told: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches . . ." (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17 and 29.) At this time of the year, we are so busy with the wonderful time called "Christmas." It

brings the wonder in children's eyes to us, the whispers of adults, families getting together for never-to-be-forgotten times, and the re-reading of the wonderful story of Love. A King became a baby; He was the son of a poor carpenter. Never was a baby welcomed as He—by angels, shepherds, and wisemen. In the book of Revelation, we can see how He will come again as a king and judge. Men will not pay Him homage then, but He will give gifts to the TRUE and FAITHFUL, they who OVERCOME. Following are some of the wonderful gifts we will receive: we will eat of the tree of life (Rev. 2:7); we have a crown of life (Rev. 2:10); we will not be hurt by the second death (Rev. 2:11); we will receive hidden manna to eat and a white stone with a new name written on it (Rev. 2:17); we will receive power over nations (Rev. 2:26); we will receive the Morning Star (Rev. 2:28); we will be clothed in white raiment (Rev. 3:5); we will be kept from the hour of temptation (Rev. 3:10); we will become a pillar in the temple of our God and will receive a new name (Rev. 3:12); we will sit with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21); and we will live with Him forever in the beautiful city that we read of in the 21st and 22nd chapter of that awesome book. Think! All these gifts can be attained by wisemen who will come to Him today as wisemen came to Him on that first Christmas.

OREGON SILVERTON
Mary Jane Winkler

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger in our midst. We truly want to thank him for lending himself in teaching God's Word to us.

As Christmas is here again, may we ever go back to that lowly stable where Christ was born and rejoice that God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son into this world as a Babe in the manger. He was the perfect example, who knew no sin, and had to die that cruel and bitter death on the cross so that we might have life.

We should never forget to sing praises to God as the angels did on that wonderful night so long ago at the birth of our dear Savior.

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

On the hills of Bethlehem
 In a far off distant land,
 There were men who watched their
 sheep
 Both day and night;
 In the stillness of the night,
 In the sky there shone a light
 In the fields of old Judea
 Long ago.

They were men of faith in God
 Waiting for His promised Word
 That was told by saints and
 prophets
 Long before;
 As the light grew brighter still
 In the night out on that hill,
 They were seized with fear and
 trembling
 Long ago.

From the brightness of that light
 There appeared an angel bright
 With a message for those shep-
 herds,
 Do not fear;
 For unto them was born that day
 In a village far away,
 He who was to be their Saviour
 Long ago.

The angel told them where they
 might
 Find the Babe that very night;
 In a manger they would find
 Him,
 Mother near.
 He was found, this Christ the Lord,
 By the angel's very word
 In the town of David's birth place
 Long ago.

As the angel stilled their fear,
 Suddenly the sky was filled
 With a multitude of angels
 Come from heaven;
 They were singing praise to God
 For the wonders of His Word
 That took place that very evening
 Long ago.

How we wish that we might hear
 Angels singing loud and clear,
 Peace on earth, good will to people
 Far and near;
 But the angels then went home
 To the heavens whence they
 came,
 And left the shepherds all alone
 Long ago.

But the men that very night
 Went to see if there they might
 Find the baby that was born
 In Bethlehem;
 In a lowly cattle shed.

Lying in a manger bed
 Was that dear and precious Baby
 Long ago.

There were men who came one
 night,
 Guided by a brilliant light,
 To that Child's humble cradle
 From afar;
 They bowed low their graying
 heads,
 As they worshipped round that
 bed
 Giving gold and precious treasures
 Long ago.

But that Child became a Man,
 All according to God's plan,
 In a backward little town
 Of Galilee;
 He was gifted from His youth
 In the ways of love and truth,
 Working for His friends and
 neighbors
 Long ago.

Finally the time had come,
 When He left His mother's home
 For the work His heavenly Father
 Bade Him do;
 He would speak to friend and foe
 Telling them what they should
 do,
 Healing blind and sick and crippled
 Long ago.

But not every one believed,
 Even though they saw the deeds,
 And heard teachings
 They had never heard before;
 They demanded He be killed,
 And His deeds and voice be
 stilled
 On that shameful cross of Calvary
 Long ago.

As a gentle lamb He stood,
 Giving up His life and blood
 To pay the awful price of sin
 For you and me;
 He was laid into a grave,
 That a kind man freely gave,
 In a garden close to Calv-ry,
 Long ago.

On that glorious Easter morn
 At the rising of the sun,
 When His friends had come to see
 Him
 In the tomb—
 He came forth alive and well,
 Hope and comfort to fore-tell
 To His faithful friends and
 children
 Through all times.

When His work at last was done,
 As His friends were looking on

He was taken up to heaven
 Before their eyes;
 A cloud, no doubt an angel band
 Welcomed back their King of
 kings
 And He's up in heaven now
 At God's right hand.

He is coming back again
 To take His friends and loved
 ones home
 To a place the Lord has gone
 To prepare;
 No one knows the time or hour
 When the Lord will come with
 power,
 But we want to all be ready;
 It might be soon.

Bro. Ben Hartzler

The Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 32)
 our prayer and say, "God, my Fa-
 ther, our Father, which is in heav-
 en." That is such a holy thing. It
 is such a real thing to us when we
 can pray in this manner.

Jesus said, "I say unto you, The
 Son can do nothing of himself . . ." (John 5:19) We conclude our pray-
 ers by saying, "in Jesus Christ's
 name." We conclude our prayers
 by praying through the Son, our
 Saviour; your Saviour; my Sav-
 iour.

You know, dear ones, today our
 younger people sometimes want to
 put the Bible on the shelf too often.
 They don't realize how "real" the
 Bible is. We can give you numbers
 that will just shake your mind and
 make you want to bring this Bible
 back out onto your table where you
 can read it at night.

For example (it just comes to
 me), every day in the world—ev-
 ery day, day after day, there are
 two hundred thousand babies born.
 Did you know that? That comes to
 75,000,000 people every year. Sev-
 enty five million babies are born
 every year!

Do we need the Bible to tell us
 that something, some day, some-
 time, is going to have to happen?
 Doesn't common sense tell us that
 the world will become filled with
 people? Something is going to have
 to happen to thin all this out, isn't
 it? That's when we get the Bible
 off the shelf. That's when we look
 into the Scriptures and read that
 Jesus Christ is going to come. He
 is the One who is going to (if you
 will pardon the expression) thin
 out the population. He is going to
 come from the clouds of heaven,

as we have just read, and He is going to gather in His people.

As Brother Jim mentioned this morning, it is up to us in this office to proclaim the Word of God; and I am sorry that sometimes we falter in our words or our gestures. But we have been chosen to proclaim the Word, so that even unborn babies not yet thought about will have a spiritual home where they can walk through the front doors and say, "This is my church and this is where I found my salvation."

I often think of chapter five in Revelation where it just "puts it on the line." It tells us where we are. It tells us how we stand. We may be in business, we may drive a big car, ride in big airplanes, but when all is said and done, here is where we fit in: "I beheld, and I heard the voices of many angels round about the throne and . . . the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." Rev. 5:11. Yet the Bible says, "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matt. 22:14. Now where do we fit in in all of this?

My son brought home a book from the library the other day. He read me just a line, and some numbers stuck with me. It said that the dead outnumber the living by a ratio of 30 to 1. That is today. For each one of us here, there are thirty people somewhere who have gone on before us. The population is now pushing five million people—times thirty for those who have gone on.

Do you see, dear ones, what a tremendous thing it's going to be when Jesus Christ comes to judge the world? Can we really conceive in our simple minds the power of God? Can we really comprehend what all is going to take place on that great day? I don't think I can. I just don't think I can grasp it.

Today Jesus Christ doesn't get much respect. People swear by Him. They use His name in vain. He is not given much value, much worth. Therefore, it is up to us to preserve this precious faith and to keep His name Holy. "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain . . ." He was slain on your behalf and on my behalf that He may "receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and

glory, and blessing." Rev. 5:12. Those are powerful words! I didn't write them. They have been written for thousands and thousands of years, preserved for you and me.

"Every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth . . ." Rev. 5:13. You see, all those who have died before us will someday meet the Saviour. That's why it behooves us to remind different generations about the Lamb, our Saviour, who is going to come again. It is not a threat; and we are not trying to sell faith or sell religion. We are trying, in our own weak way, to make others realize with our words that some day the Saviour is going to come again. With this idea or with this theme, we find ourselves teaching Sunday School, praying at the kitchen table, telling our children, and now preaching across the pulpit.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." John 5:19. Today He extends His arm of compassion and kindness and goodness and mercy towards His people.

Dear ones, it would be very easy to become proud, thinking that we are special people on a pedestal. If we can humble ourselves, we realize that God is merely following His Word. It tells us clearly that the people of God are, to a certain extent, going to be blessed. There will always be sorrows and there will always be handicaps; but, on the other hand, when we go to sleep at night, if we have peace with God aren't we the wealthiest people in the world? If we can close our eyes at the end of the day and be at peace with our God, is there a greater gift?

Dear friends, it is hard to explain to you what this is all about. This may not be the answer, but to me it seems that if we can humble ourselves, God can make an entrance into our hearts. If we walk around with "our nose in the air" thinking we are something special, as Brother Jim mentioned this morning, then we are going to have trouble. There will be a barrier between ourselves and our God. But if we realize that we are just one more pebble on this great beach, that we are just one more human being, then it hum-

bles us to know that we are nothing special. God's judgment will be on every soul and every heart.

Jesus used powerful words in the three years he ministered, which were recorded in all four gospels. He said, "Verily! (I want your attention!)" because He went on to say, "For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." John 5:21.

If you read these gospels, you will read that the people tried to crucify Jesus Christ. This very day, even though we do not see Jesus carrying a cross and being hung on it, people are trying to crucify the Saviour. That is called sin. As long as we carry this burden of sin with us, as long as we are burdened with this load of sin, we are never going to see the kingdom of heaven. It is just that clear. Is that a pessimistic statement again? No, dear ones, it is a true statement from the Word of God.

I believe that the love of God has brought us together. The love of God has caused us to be here together again this afternoon; otherwise, we would have left.

Brother Dale Eisenmann was with us last Sunday in Bluffton. He reminded me and the congregation that Sunday, the Lord's day, is a holy day from sun up to sun down; all twenty-four hours are holy. I think that is so very, very important to remember because we conclude this reading with "There is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust." John 5:45.

The way for us to trust Moses is to trust the commandments which he was given, and which are now recorded in the first five books in the Bible. Christ has suggested here, "For had ye belived Moses . . ." John 5:46. I believe the writings of Moses. Do you believe the writings of Moses? They are very clear. There are ten commandments. Let us look at them periodically and apply them. As I just mentioned, let us keep the Sabbath day holy.

Jesus appealed to the people through the use of parables, teachings and, yes, through the use of miracles. It says here, "Even so the Son quickeneth whom He will." John 5:21.

We can also read, "Redeeming the time, because the days are

evil." Eph. 5:16. Are the days evil, or aren't they? You can tell me as well as I can tell you. You have your own community to live in. Peoria, probably, has its problems with society, crime and so forth. The whole world has problems. Each one of us has his own problems. The devil comes to you and the devil comes to me in his own way. He will come to us in different ways because he knows where we are weak and have "soft spots." The evil one will try to penetrate that soft spot, to "trip us up" and bring us down to his level.

Therefore, we must continually look in the Scriptures so that we can rise above all these things. As Brother Jim mentioned: To be filled with the Spirit and the love of God is what will count on that great day!

Again I say, numbers have always impressed me. The Bible says that "many (shall) be called, but few are chosen." Matt. 20:16. We try to figure out the numbers. How many are "many"? And how many are "few"? We pray for our children; we pray for the church. But how many are "many"? I think it is wise, I think it is well, that the Saviour didn't tell us that there will be a definite number such as ten billion people called and five billion chosen. I think it has been well that He said, a "few (are going to be) chosen."

"The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few." Luke 10:2 When He says "few," it causes us to become a little more humble. It causes us to draw a little bit closer to our God, because we hope and pray that we can be in that number "few."

So, dear ones, as we read further, the Lord says "That all men should honour the Son." John 5:23. That is a commandment. God didn't just suggest to us that it would be nice if we would honor this and honor that, or do this and don't do that. Every word that Jesus spoke was a commandment from the Son of God. Often we hear that the Ten Commandments take pre-eminence over the words of Jesus. This should not be. Jesus Christ is our Saviour and He is seated next to the Father, our God and Creator, today. So when He tells us here "That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Fa-

ther," John 5:23, that is a commandment.

We teach our children to sing the song, "Jesus loves me, this I know." This can be firmly rooted in their little minds while they are still at home. still in the cradle. The mother sings to the little children, and she rocks the baby in her arms singing, "Jesus loves me this I know." To pass the time? No. To fill that little child with the name of Jesus Christ. When the child becomes older, he or she can look back and say, "Yes, my mother taught me. 'Jesus loves me, this I know.'" How will that child know? Because he or she will know that mother and dad got the words from the Scripture.

You and I are taught the very same thing today: that Jesus Christ loves us, and that we must also love and recognize the Father. Do we do this? Or is Jesus Christ just ink on the paper which we have before us? Soon, a brother will come up and ask that the Word be blessed, and will that be the end of it? We have to be so very careful to take Jesus Christ with us each and every day. He reminds the people here: "He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him." John 5:23.

Is your faith as simple as the first verse in the book of Genesis? Is it too much to comprehend that, "In the beginning" God created all things?

Dear ones, as we realize that the world is being filled with more and more people and more and more bombs, we wonder what is going to happen. Men have never failed to use something they have invented. Everything man has invented has been used. The thought causes us to pray that there might be peace.

The peace paper extolled in the media is worthless. Prayer will cause peace to come into the hearts of men and between the hearts of different countries. The harder we pray, the longer the great battle that we read about in Revelation and Daniel will be postponed. So, the harder we pray, the further away God is going to schedule the coming of His Son.

We should make use of the power of prayer. When a brother or sister falls from grace or favor in the sight of God, the elder often

asks him, "Have you been praying regularly?" They will have to admit, "No, I guess I have become a little bit careless." It behooves us that every day as often as possible we pray in the name of Jesus, as we have read.

"He that heareth my words, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life." John 5:24. "Believeth" means more than it might seem, dear ones. Recognizing Jesus Christ and God the Creator is not sufficient to gain us entry into the kingdom of heaven. Dear friends, don't ever be watered down. Don't be taken in by a sales campaign of some modern day religious people who say that all you have to do is believe, and you've "got it made." It doesn't work that way. My Bible and your Bible doesn't say those things. There is more to it. There is conversion; there is renewing of the mind; and there is baptism, one of our precious ordinances. All these things will come and then a soul "shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24.

Spiritual life, as all of us have noted after we have become converted, then becomes life in Jesus Christ. We start all over. Money, wealth, and pride become useless words, and we pick up the fruits of the Spirit as Brother Jim mentioned this morning. Spiritual things become part of our conversation and conduct. But not until that time. As long as we are unconverted, we may think that we are walking a pious and useful life, a wholesome life, a good life. Yes, in the eyes of our beholders, maybe we have been. But according to the scriptures, dear ones, until we repent and are converted, born again out of water and spirit as the Bible tells us, we are not going to gain entry into the kingdom of heaven.

This does not make the Apostolic Christian church something unique. It applies to all churches in the entire world who preach this precious gospel, and who believe in repentance, conversion, and baptism.

There is going to be a great day. I question whether we can comprehend how great a day it will be.

When I was first troubled by the Spirit at home, I went out and bought a Bible. I did not want my

parents to know I had a Bible, but I forgot that Mom cleaned my room every day, and she probably saw that Bible in that dresser drawer. I thought I had it concealed pretty well. Regardless, friends, purchase a Bible and read it in the quiet of your home, in the quiet of your bedroom, and see for yourselves what Jesus is talking to you about. Let the words of the Sunday School teacher, your parents, the ministers, penetrate your heart. Buy a Bible.

Purchase a Scripture and read for yourself the truths that we talk about from this pulpit. It reminds us, and I think this should pierce every one of us though not as a scare tactic and not to cause trembling in a believer, that "The hour is coming, and now is when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God." John 5:25. There is a day coming for all those people I mentioned, for all those dead, when they are going to hear the voice of the Saviour.

Something else will also happen. Often we find it very hard to understand, and it troubles our faith, that we cannot comprehend how the Saviour is going to come from the clouds of heaven. Think of it this way: as you are walking down the path of life, someone taps you on the shoulder. How many times have you gone to a shopping center, or O'Hare Field, or wherever it might be, and somebody taps you on the shoulder; it is an old classmate, an old army buddy, or whatever, and you rejoice to see them! Think of that, sometime, as being the Saviour coming, and you turn around and that tapping on the shoulder was the Saviour! Then what?

There are only two courses. The Saviour will either say, "Come with Me," or He will hand us "judgment papers." It's going to be that clear. "Come with Me!" or "judgment papers." It's not going to be that way, but sometimes we can bring things down to our own weak level of thinking.

Jesus Christ will, as we have read, judge every one of us. That's why, at the conclusion of this April 1, 1979, we should take the Scripture to ourselves, apply it, and realize that we, too, shall hear the voice of the Saviour.

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that

are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life." John 5:28, 29.

Dear ones, where are we standing today? Where are we standing in the sight of our God and in the presence of our Saviour? Are we standing properly? Are we standing in good faith with our employer? Our employees? Our neighbors? Our friends? Or, have we grieved our neighbor in our neighborhood where we live? Do we have enmity with somebody down the road? Down the street? Are we at peace with everybody right now this afternoon? If we are not at peace with someone, we should be moved to go from church and shake a hand here or there, and offer an apology. We must not only be right with our great God, but we must also be at peace with our fellowmen as much as possible.

That is not always possible. Sometimes young friends come to the elder in Bluffton and say, "I don't know what happened to so-and-so, but I really grieved them when I was in school and was a classmate with them." It troubles them. It troubles them severely if they stole something, or did this or that, and now cannot find that person whom they wronged.

However, they finally find peace, because, after all, you have to use common sense. If you can't find somebody to shake hands with, we have to hope and pray that our great God will forgive us as He does each and every day. At the conclusion of a day, we ask the Lord very simply, "Lord, if I have grieved Thee this day, forgive me."

We sang the hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul." Is it? Is it well with your soul this afternoon, or is there, perhaps, just a little more work we should do? The nature of mankind is to try and get by with as little as we can. On tests, theses, or themes in our school-days, in military service or business, the nature of men and women is to try to do as little as possible. Isn't that human nature? As Christian people, we owe it to ourselves to take the extra step, to go the extra mile. That's how we can be an example. Just picking up dirt off the floor in our home, our business, our little corner, is doing a little bit extra. The Saviour expects us to do a little bit extra. If

we go through life doing just enough to get by, what is the Saviour going to say on that great day? What is the Saviour going to tell us if we have done just enough to get by?

We have to be careful to apply the words that we have read. It says, "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true." John 5:31. Even Jesus Christ Himself had a humble nature and did not want to take to Himself more than what was proper. "I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." John 5:30.

As we go through the Scriptures, we are given instructions. We do not know why particular portions of Scripture open, but we read in this one verse, "Search the scriptures." John 5:39. That's a commandment. That's an instruction for you and me.

Tonight as we go home on the bus, when we get to our homes tomorrow morning, tomorrow noon, tomorrow evening, verse thirty-nine is telling us to "Search the scriptures."

Why would we want to search the Scriptures tonight, having just been in church all day? In the quiet of your home, your room, in your "easy chair," if you re-read the words, you can take up where I have left off because we have not covered the entire chapter. You can, perhaps, get from the verse something I didn't even touch upon but which is useful. It is useful for you because it says, "... for in them (Scriptures) ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." John 5:39. The Scriptures testify of Jesus Christ and His saving grace.

That is why we read these Words Sunday after Sunday. Brother Jim finished this morning, and I will finish this afternoon, and we can read (I think in the Book of Acts in chapter ten) that some people didn't believe the word of God. But we can also read one verse which says, "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." Acts 10:15. And many were troubled and were gathered in.

That is always the hope of the ministry of the church, that many can be called and gathered in before it is forever too late, as we have read in these precious Scriptures.

Sermon by BRO. PHILIP STETTNER of Bluffton, IN

Text: John 5:19-47

Looking into the Scriptures, we realize that the Word of God has not changed from this morning until this afternoon. It is still the same Word of God. We have not come here to be entertained, and we have not come to hear something new. We have read words with the same meaning that Brother Jim read this morning: it is not we ourselves or our outward appearance, but it is what is in our hearts that counts.

On that "great day," as we have just read, Jesus Christ is going to be our Judge. Many times we forget this because in the Gospels the Lord is referred to as Jesus or as Christ. But if you read the latter part of the New Testament, in The Acts, the letters, and finally Revelation, He is referred to as the Lord Jesus Christ and there is a difference.

Jesus walked with us, so to speak. He walked as a man upon the face of the earth. He talked with us as a human creation. But after He rose into heaven, He is referred to as the Lord Jesus Christ. He is given a higher name; the word "Lord" is powerful. In the chapter which we have read, John talks about Jesus, but in prayers we hear about the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy One who is seated next to the Father.

Something is happening today. We have to realize and believe that God is God and Jesus Christ is Jesus Christ and that He is calling you and me. The Lord Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. Nothing has been changed. We talk about Jesus Christ as "King of kings, and Lord of lords." (I Tim. 6:15). He is that today. Nothing is changed. The importance and the potency of Jesus Christ's being our only Saviour is still the same today though the headlines in the paper may tell you otherwise.

If your newspaper is the same as mine, you can often see words

from Scripture in the headlines. We can read about Jerusalem, Israel, Egypt and all those places. In the book of Acts in chapter ten, Cornelius sent men to Peter who was at Joppa. Joppa is now Tel Aviv.

Today Jesus Christ is being put aside. Men are going to have peace, of their own accord, they think. But, dear ones, the only peace we will ever know is the peace that Jesus Christ offers in the Scriptures. Men will never have peace as long as the evil one, Satan, is reigning upon earth. Never! That is not a pessimistic statement; that is a realistic statement. As long as the evil one is running free, there will never be peace in the world.

Men sign papers and shake hands, but there will never be peace. If you read the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, did you read the last lines? What did they say? The men shook hands, signed the paper, and thought they had peace. But, dear ones, the last lines told of the exchange of military hardware. Jesus Christ tells of the exchange we must have between ourselves and our Father, but the exchange takes place in our hearts.

Read the final lines of that peace treaty of the Mideast. Did you read it? They are exchanging hundreds of destroyers, hundreds of fighter planes. Are we giving the Egyptians and the Israelis hundreds of destroyers and tanks and personnel carriers in the name of peace? I don't think so. That's why we can put the newspapers aside and come back to the living Word of God.

The Word of God has applied to your grandparents, and now it applies to us. That's why we have churches. Brother Jim mentioned this morning that we can preserve our precious faith for our children. We are of age. We have become converted, some of us. But that never gives us a guarantee for tomorrow, and that's why Jesus

Christ continually warns us.

"Verily, verily," He said. That's an old-fashioned word used in the King James version which means truly. That was Jesus Christ's way of saying, "I want your attention." "Verily, verily," He said, "I say unto you." He wanted nothing else to be in their minds. He wanted them to have their eyes and their ears tuned to Himself and His words. That's why we have three or four steps in this podium. It is not because we are better than you; not at all. We want only to have your eyes and your ears for a short time so that we can proclaim, in our weakness, the Scripture that has opened to us.

We talked last evening at Brother Leroy's home, and he told us (I go along with what he said because I am in the printing business) that the King James version is becoming harder to find with each passing year. That is not to say that other Bibles are not as good; but the King James version has been in my home and in the evening as I sit down in the easy chair and read the Bible, the King James version means a lot to me. And what about our children? You see, many of the words in some of the Scriptures are being changed slowly but surely over the years. The potency and the holiness of Jesus Christ is becoming watered down, and that should not be. It cannot be! We must remember that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We have just read that if you do not know the Saviour, you do not know the Father.

We can read in the beginning of Genesis that God is the Creator. God is only God to those who are unconverted; but after we became converted, after we find the grace to repent, God becomes our Father. Then we can pray to our God and can introduce that new word in

(Continued on page 28)