

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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NEW YEAR, 1980

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Japan)

This new year of 1980 will bring us many events, some over which we have no control and some over which we have control. The most important event which we are awaiting is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is not for us to determine whether it happens in 1980 or at a later date. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout. . ." I Thess. 4:16.

Considering other events over which we have no direct control, there is the matter of whether or not our country will go to war in 1980. If we think that we have troubles now, what will we think if those dreaded nuclear missiles begin to land on our own cities and our own people? "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth . . ." Luke 21:26.

There is the possibility that illness may strike us in 1980. Illness can be prevented to a large extent by proper eating and living, but there is no guarantee that the person most careful about his diet will not be stricken with a terminal illness; and heart disease can be very sudden, giving no time for preparation. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." Proverbs

27:1.

Many events over which we do have control will surely take place in 1980. Some people will repent and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, an experience which is available to all and which we can decide to do or not to do. Some say they can't believe, but if a person surrenders to Christ and follows the teachings of the New Testament, that person will come to believe. Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine . . ." John 7:17. It is my understanding that to "know of the doctrine" indicates faith.

Some who have made a beginning in their life in Christ will probably grow careless in the new year. Satan will then use a feeling of guilt and despair, a "what's the use of trying" feeling, to drag them lower and lower into sin. Peter writes, "The sow that was washed (has returned) to her wallowing in the mire." II Peter 2:22. However, we earnestly pray that in 1980, by controlling ourselves and being obedient to God's Word, no one will have such a terrible experience.

This year, thanks to the atonement and the high-priestly intercession of the Lord Jesus Christ, some who have made shipwreck

will recover. Hopefully, they will become more careful, more spiritual, and more useful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ than before. John was instructed to write to the angel of the church of Ephesus, ". . . Thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works. . ." Revelation 2:4, 5. In order for the church at Ephesus to repent, the individuals who composed the church needed to repent; the meeting place couldn't repent.

In 1980, churches may be started in new areas; and they will add to the strength and unity of the church as a whole. Small congregations may be greatly strengthened. This is not something over which we have no control; we can work and pray to that end. Brethren can move to smaller churches and to new areas in cooperation with our Missionary Committee.

For those things which we cannot control in 1980, we intercede to God through the Lord Jesus Christ. For those things which we can control, we solicit everyone's submissive obedience to the teachings of the New Testament which includes submitting ourselves one to another, not seeking our own way. Have a blessed 1980.

GIVE WHILE YOU LIVE

Elder Bro. John Bahler

Does it surprise you to learn that the believer may not be rewarded for what he leaves in a will?

It sounds that way according to 2 Cor. 5:10 for Paul said ". . . we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body."

A will is of no effect while the testator lives; it is a mere scrap of paper. It costs the testator nothing to will it. He sacrifices nothing. The report comes out that "so and so" died. How much did he leave? He left it all. He had no choice about leaving it, and he left everything. But it was only after

the man left the body that the will was in effect. The man gave nothing.

Of course it is often necessary for believers to retain certain properties during their life time, and to will them to heirs or to God's work. We are aware of this. However, there is no sacrificing

for Christ after death. That must be done in the body and that is what brings the reward.

"Be not deceived," God warns us. Did you ever hear a believer say, "If only I had a million dollars to give"? How easy for the living, as well as the dead, to sacrifice the things they do not have! You can't take your money to heaven, but you can send it ahead.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

A new year has begun again, and our very precious asset of time continues to be depleted. Those who do not know Jesus Christ start each new year with only a resolution. Those who do know Him start each day more successfully with grace. A new year's resolution is made in human weakness and ends only in defeat. A new beginning with grace is made with a supernatural strength from God and never fails.

Grace is the undeserved favor from God that forgives and provides its recipients with whatever they need. Only the confessing sinner (both Christian and non-Christian) can qualify for this grace, because they are the only ones who admit they have a need. Through His grace God forgives those who repent, admitting their sin to Him and to those whom they have sinned against; this is the only lasting way for someone to "begin anew." Zions Harp No. 142, vs. 5. Let's start over with grace.

Our past year has been good, even though trials and disappointments have been experienced. But all of these have helped us realize how to improve.

Our Christmas season also went very well this year. We started early and avoided a lot of last minute shopping. We drew names, and it was agreed upon that we should buy for the person whose name we drew. A few of the children went beyond their requirement and bought for the rest of the family.

It was really a joy to receive from those who wanted to give. How our Heavenly Father loves to see the willing hearts of His children! In fact, the realization of the necessity of willingness on our part is the key to understanding the New Testament covenant. In the old law, God said, ". . . do this or die." In the new and better way, by

trusting in Jesus Christ, we are asked to give our whole life in complete willingness. Then God will create the desire within us to do His will by writing His commandments in our hearts (Hebrews 8:10; 9:14) through the Holy Spirit. How blessed it is to feel the desire to want to give to others!

We try to foster that desire in the children at Christmas time by having them utilize our ceramics equipment to make things for the elderly to whom we carol. What at first seems to be the last thing they wish to do at Christmas, often becomes a real enjoyment for them. One of the boys had something planned for our first night of caroling, but we had to disappoint him by saying, "No, we have activities planned in order to make someone else happy." He frowned and went to his room, slamming the door behind him. But by the time caroling time rolled around, he had gotten over his disappointment. That night he was the one who wanted to wheel the elderly man around the rest home. By the end of the evening, he told Sue he really enjoyed it and looked forward to the next night.

Another gratification we experienced this season was the feeling of being appreciated by some of the children. It is often not that way. But, this Christmas, we received a gift and two cards from one of our older girls. They said, "To a Special Daddy", and "To Mommy and Daddy—Both of you are loved so much." It's no wonder a father once told me that the most gratifying experience for parents is to receive willing love from their children.

Aren't parent-hood and marriage privileges? It is during the time of and within these relationships that we can most fully understand the relationships between Christ and the Church, and comprehend the relationships between the Heavenly Father and His children. Therefore, here is a thought for young couples who are zealous to serve the Lord: Within the four walls of our own home we can best perfect our skills as Christian workers.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Before Christmas actually arrives there is often such a flurry of activity that we need to remind ourselves about the real reason for

observing Christmas. But the past Holy Season has been laid aside among life's beautiful memories. Now, while earth's brow is frozen and while we have a bit more time to reflect upon ". . . whatsoever things are lovely. . ." we can try to translate God's gift to mankind into newly inspired efforts for the coming year. Here at the Home, there is an abundance of opportunity to be helpful. We can easily identify with the feelings of Jan Irvin, who wrote in part:

"O gentle God," he softly cried,
"Why did you make me blind?"
"Because, my son," the Lord
replied,
"You teach them to be kind."

Another child before Him came.
"And why did you make me lame?"
He answered her, in gentle talk,
"You, daughter. teach them to
walk."

A third before the crib appeared,
His head he scarcely raised.
His fingers could not grasp a toy.
His days were seldom filled with
joy.

Then sadly from his lips was heard,
this question softly put.

"Why did you, Lord, want me to
live?"

The answer fast as softly came.
"My son, you teach them to give."

Many groups in the community remember our residents by singing for them, by bringing Christmas decor to brighten the Home, by taking various ones or groups to activities or by sending gifts. In

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behalf of the residents, we express gratitude in a most sincere manner. May the Lord bless each effort.

Many residents do have the opportunity to go home during the holidays to spend some time with their families. For those who must remain here, gifts are opened on Christmas morning, some go to church and all enjoy a festive Christmas dinner.

New to our home and family is Philipp Fehr, son of Wade and Marjorie Fehr of Peoria. Mr. and Mrs. Philipp J. Hoerr are the grandparents. We welcome Phil to our Home. We hope he likes being here as much as we enjoy having him.

As we turn ourselves to face the new year, we must inevitably recognize that time does not cease. There is no place where we can stand and say, "This is what I am, complete and unchanging." There are forces beyond our control that beat upon us, and it behooves us to stand against them, firm in our faith and conviction. We pray that no matter what comes, all will be to the honor of our Heavenly Father.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

Sunday, Nov. 25, it was our privilege to partake of Holy Communion when Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and Deacon Bro. Noah Herman (Tucson) served us the Lord's Supper. We did as it is directed in I Cor. 11:24 and 25. "Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

Dec. 5 was the time of our annual business meeting. Offices that were filled were: trustee, Bro. Earl Roth; usher, Bro. Al Yackley; and cemetery, Bro. Henry Schrenk.

What greater joy can one experience than to become a child of God! "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life." John 3:36. Jeff Robey (Bro. Ervine and Sis. Ione) is experiencing this joy as he has turned to our Lord in repentance.

Bro. Dick Beery who had been hospitalized for studies is home and around again. Ella Harmon was a surgical patient.

Dec. 21 found our church group caroling at several of our church folk's homes.

On Dec. 23, the Sunday School program was held. We looked forward to our youth's enthusiasm

which surrounded their dear baby Jesus' birth.

Our visiting minister for December was Bro. Todd Feller, LaCrosse, IA. We appreciate the fact that he and his family were here.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lepa Ringer on her sister's passing on to her heavenly home. Sis. Eunice Klumpp lived in Bradford, and Sis. Lepa and Bro. Jim returned to Illinois for a time.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Carolyn Kaufman-Kathy Woodruff

So far this month we have had beautiful weather with which to greet our winter visitors who are arriving. In November we enjoyed a Wednesday evening with Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach of Phoenix and Ed Hohulin of Congerville as they read the report of this year's recent Brotherhood Conference. On December 8 and 9 the Tucson young group hosted the Phoenix young group for a weekend of fellowship and Bible study. It was truly a blessing for all involved, and we thank the Lord for such opportunities.

As Christ's birthday approaches we are looking forward to the Sunday School's celebration of this glorious birth through their program. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6. Truly our children are a blessing and a responsibility sent to us from the Lord.

As previously mentioned, many of our winter visitors have begun to arrive. Bro. Walt and Sis. Hanna Plattner of Peoria, Bro. Ray and Sis. Edna Blunier of Eureka, and Daryl and Ruth Murphy of Greentowne, IN, have all arrived to spend a few weeks with our little congregation in Tucson. We do so look forward to our friends and relatives visiting us each winter. Also, our friend Esther Baer has returned to worship with us after a short illness which left her homebound.

We, here in sunny Tucson, hope and pray that this Silver Lining will reach all of our friends and families back East, thus enabling them to be with us, if not bodily, at least in spirit.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Shirley Witzig

We wish to thank visiting ministers Bro. Richard Schupbach from Phoenix and Bro. Jim Ramseyer

from Bay City. Bro. Richard assisted Bro. Carl in serving Holy Communion. We wish them God's blessings.

Sis. Melva Alexander expresses her gratitude for the love and kindness shown, both in Altadena and Elgin, IL.

As we start a new year, it is good to reflect on what a Christian's first priority should be and to remind those still living in darkness what their first concern should be. Christ instructs in Matt. 6:31, "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" It is much more important to do what he says in verse 34, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Carlton J. Lanz

The year 1979 is now but a story; it has become history. With the New Year commencing on its uninterrupted course of time, it brings us to the realization of how time speeds on for us all. And, as our years roll on, a question which we commonly hear asked is, "Where has the time gone?" Of one thing we can be certain: where ever man lives, dwells or exists, time moves at the same rate of speed for all. Our time is God's time.

Look back over the year that has passed. In summing up the privileges and countless blessings that this nation of ours has enjoyed, many beautiful stories could be written. Looking at them a little closer should bring us to our knees before Almighty God from whom these divine favors come.

The beautiful Christmas program by the Sunday School children in the assembly-room of the church was a very warm scene to witness. Bro. Everett Gerber, Superintendent, and the teaching staff prepared a lovely story-picture of the Saviour's arrival. They are to be commended. The beautiful carol, Silent Night, and a prayer closed the service.

Born to Sis. Judy and Bro. Walter Carlson, Jr., is a daughter, Heidi Lynn. The infant's grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glena Moser, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Carlson of Ellington. She was born on Dec. 17, their first child.

A young man who attended church through an acquaintance, gave his testimony of the conversion he was led through by the grace of God. For some time, he worshipped with us and finally recognized his need for salvation. He was baptized on Sunday and went on his way rejoicing. The church also rejoices when a soul finds his salvation.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE John and Caroline Hejja

"Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." Exodus 20:3.

Consider how the heathen people served their gods. Hoping to obtain the favor of their gods, they were often required to inflict terrible suffering and pain upon themselves. They burned and cut their own bodies and gave their children for sacrifices.

Now consider the love of our gracious God. In order to draw us closer to Him, He took all the pain, suffering, and death upon Himself. Is not this truly great love—that the great, almighty God would die upon the cross for poor, lowly man? Do we appreciate the great price He paid for our salvation? Should we not willingly serve Him and not waste our time serving the "gods" of this world in whatever form they might take.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

The Ft. Lauderdale congregation appreciated having ministering Bro. Ken Lawson (Minneapolis, MN) in our midst.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Elda Martin

Even the angels in heaven rejoice over one soul who repents, and we all rejoice to hear that Tammy Huff has received that new-found peace in her heart.

Our Sunday School children brought us many blessings by having a Christmas program which reminded us of the birth of the Christ child.

We have two new births: a baby boy, William Kenneth, born to Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder. Three little sisters are at home to welcome William. Rochelle Christine is the first child of Bro. Robert and Sis. Debbie Little. Mother and baby had to remain in the hospital for some time, but both are now home.

Other hospital patients are Sis. Phyllis Massner and Sis. Kay Eisenmann. We pray that they will both have a quick recovery. Bro. Dan Kurchev has been able to assemble with us again and wishes to express his thanks to all the brothers and sisters who remembered him with prayers, cards and gifts during his illness. He wants the good Lord to be their rewarder.

We wish to notify all who visit us that we are now starting our Sunday morning services at 10:30 A.M. and afternoon services at 12:45 P.M. Wednesday evening we will still begin singing at 7:30 and pulpit time is 7:45.

We are thankful for the good Word that was brought to us by our visiting ministers, Bro. Paul Butikofer, Elgin, IA; Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT; and Bro. Leland Hirschey, Naumburg, NY. Also, Bro. Joe Schrock, Congerville, IL, and Bro. Phil Sauder, Cissna Park, IL, are back with us for the winter months. We welcome them into our midst.

After many years of faithfully serving the church and the Lord, our Bro. Philip Wingeier has been led by the Lord to retire from the ministry. However, he will continue to care for the church building. A dinner and service were held in his behalf. We want to take this time to let him know that we appreciate the service he has given to our church. May the Lord reward him.

KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Our Bro., Philip Wingeier was born in Alto, MI, on a farm. He was married to Fern Olthouse from the same area. They were both baptized in 1932. For years, Bro. Philip was a Sunday School teacher. He taught until he was called into the ministry in 1940.

Bro. Philip and Sis. Fern started coming to Sarasota for the winters in 1958. At that time, he helped with the ministering of services which were being held in those winter months. In October, 1973, they moved to Sarasota. At that time, our church building was under construction.

Bro. Philip has one daughter, Sis. Vivian, who is married to Bro. Lyman Feldman. She lives in Alto, MI. He also has three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They all live in the Alto area.

His wife, Sis. Fern, passed away on Dec. 16, 1975, after many years

of illness. The Lord granted them 50 years of married life together.

Bro. Phil has taken good care of our church building, doing the work inside and outside. We are grateful for his labor.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON

Holly Stahl

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life." These words seem to express perfectly the spirit of the New Year. So long as our life continues, the beginning of each new year brings with it a feeling of hope and renewal of life. It is a time to bring new warmth and honesty into our relationships with others.

This new year of 1980 is more than ever a time for praying and reading God's Word. We must pray daily for peace within ourselves in an ever-darkening world. As we read God's Word, we must more earnestly put it to practice in our lives. We must ask ourselves serious questions as we read, too. Are there commands in this passage of scripture that I must obey? Are there promises that I can claim? Is there some encouragement I can take to heart? Is there something here I can be thankful for? Are there words of praise that I can echo back to God my Father? With these questions in our hearts, let us seek to know our Father more and more in the new year.

We have a new member in our Bloomington church and are happy to get to know her better, also. Jan Maurer, daughter of Bro. Roy and Sis. Ann Maurer, was baptized on Dec. 2, just in time to make this Christmas a very special one for her. This was her first Christmas with Christ in her life!

Our Christmas program from our Sunday School children was held on Dec. 16. Bro. Lenny Meyer visited with us and shared the Good News on Dec. 23. Some very good news to us in the Bloomington church is that Allen and Laura Nussbaum are repenting. Allen is the son of Bro. Willis Nussbaum of Forrest.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

"A Christian's demise breaks all earthly ties. When the night of death is over Spring eternal he'll discover. When a Christian dies, glorious dawn will rise."

Hymns of Zion #248

Funeral services were held on Dec. 6 for Sis. Eunice Klumpp who passed away at her home on Dec. 3. We are thankful that she could be relieved of her suffering and go to her eternal reward. Surviving are her husband, Bro. Raymond; one son, Bro. David; three daughters, Sis. Eileen, Sis. Deann, and Sis. Gladys; and one grandson. Also surviving are four brothers, Chris, and Bros. Daniel, Reuben and Walter Feucht; and three sisters, Sisters Ruth Feucht, Mildred Endress and Lyola Ringer.

In the last weeks of Sis. Eunice's life, she and Bro. Raymond learned that their daughter, Sis. Deann, and Bro. Ron Baer of Princeville (Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Ann) were brought together by God's guidance. Their engagement was announced on Thanksgiving Day.

Recent visiting ministers who so willingly gave of themselves were Bros. Don Manz (Junction), Don Gudeman (LaCrosse), and Charles Sauder (Tremont).

We are saddened that Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringer will soon be moving to Mesa, AZ. They will attend the Phoenix church. We know that they will be welcomed gladly, especially by their daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Sue and Bro. Bill Sanders.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Charlen Banwart

"Another day of grace is here

O Lord, I pray be ever near;
And fill this heart with strength
and light,
And fill this heart with strength
and light.

As yonder sun that shines so
bright."

"My Day's Journey"
Hymns of Zion

We are thankful for faithful ministers who help fill our hearts with "strength and light" through God's inspiration. Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville), Bro. Edwin Bahler (Remington), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago), and Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) ministered to us, recently.

During the past Christmas season, our Sunday School fixed food boxes for three needy families. We could feel that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We delivered these boxes during our Sunday afternoon Christmas caroling. The

families seemed to appreciate our sharing with them.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Especially at the New Year, we think of starting afresh, making new resolves, striving harder in one or more areas. I was reminded of a true account spoken from the pulpit about a student who had failed a course at first, but tried again and passed it. The instructor put a line through the grade on the student's record rather than changing the grade. He insisted that that failure should follow the student on his record always.

We are certainly fortunate that by the blood of Jesus our old account is not merely lined out. Instead, our failures are blotted out, to be remembered no more! And each night we may pray about sins committed that day, so that in the morning we may rise unencumbered by any burden, ready to strive towards a higher "grade" by His grace and power.

Our Lord is a righteous God, but His mercy and might are promised for our strength and refuge when we are truly converted and committed to Him. It can truly be one of the sources of our joy that each day we start over with the Lord, instead of dragging all our past days' deeds along behind.

Bro. Walt Anliker from Eureka, IL, on Sun., Dec. 1, and Bro. Carl Wyss from Washington, IL, on Dec. 15 and 16, gladdened our hearts with their coming and their labors.

We enjoyed, also, the effects of the children in the long-awaited Christmas program, Dec. 15. Truly, we appreciate our children, and they teach us much of the Babe of Bethlehem, especially when we are open to it, as at Christmas.

Several remarks given after the children spoke and sang struck me with power through the thoughts that they provoked. A brother mentioned that, with problem kids, a particular New York preacher has tried and recommends three things: 1) showing them how much he loves and cares for them, 2) giving them work to do, something at which they can feel useful and needed, and 3) planting in them a hope for their future, ideas and choices.

Christ first used this same system, knowing the frame and makeup and needs of His creation. He

created us; then, loving us so much, He died and arose so that we also might live. Through His Word, we are given instructions in living and doing His Work. By His promise, we have hope each day and for all eternity. And, concerning that hope, the other note made was: We have heard the children sing and speak of that first "Silent Night." Do we realize that He may come again on another silent night? Each must prepare himself.

We are always glad to welcome newcomers. Dennis and Karen Labadie, Cory and Nicol, have moved into our area after a long span of time away. We are delighted to have their company. We wish them the blessings and joys of the Lord as they reside in our area.

More soberly, we have those who have not had good physical health recently. Bro. Sam Slagel was hospitalized but is now home. Sis. Theresa Stammeler is home but immobilized. Sis. Emily Lehmann is in the hospital at this time, very ill. We request the Lord's grace for them in these difficult days. We ask for His presence, His soothing comfort for these who are beloved by us and their families.

Lastly, I have what I believe is a true story, a shining example for the New Year. Two brothers bought farmland out west. They married and lived side by side. They worked together harmoniously, always. But there came a very bad year, a year of stress. They argued for the first time. Afterwards, one brother couldn't rest, couldn't sleep. So he went out to his brother's field and starting shocking his oats, a labor of love. Diligently, without looking up, he worked. But as the sun rose, he did glance over at his own fields. And lo, his brother was shocking oats in his field. Such love, such forgiveness, such purity—may we remember it as another year dawns.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson

Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), Todd Feller (LaCrosse), Art Gudeman (LaCrosse), Larry Wenninger (Latty), John Bahler (Rockville), and Gene Marti (LaMar) have been with us this past month. We want to thank them and wish them God's blessings as they continue in this work.

Sis. Emily Rudin, Sis. Magdalen Bucher, Bro. Melvin Stock, Fred

Enz, Jim Bauer, Bro. Elmer Bauer, and Bro. John Brenner have been hospital patients. We pray that God will be their ever-present help through illness and will bring them to good health, if it be His will.

We've had joys mixed with sorrow this month. We were so thankful that Esther Vogel could become our sister through her confession of faith, holy baptism, and laying on of hands one Wednesday evening. We pray for God's continued grace for Sis. Esther and welcome her into the family.

We are also happy for Bro. Art Walder, son of Sis. Lucille and the late Bro. Ervin, and Sis. Kim Sauder, daughter of Bro. Curt and Sis. Elaine, who announced their engagement. We wish them God's blessings.

We were saddened at the passing of Bro. Harlen Rudin, 63, after he suffered a fall from a ladder. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sis. Kathryn, and five children: Mrs. Barbara Schifferer, Mrs. Marlene Light, Sis. Jeannine Rudin, Bob and Martin. Also surviving are three sisters: Sis. Margaret Rudin, Sis. Lucille Wagner, and Sis. Anna Marie Reutter; five brothers, Bro. Clarence, Bro. Willard, Bro. Ben, Lester, and Alvin; and five grandchildren.

We'd like to remind our readers that our subscriptions to the Silver Lining come due in February.

Some time ago, Bro. W. E. Feller asked me to express his thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, gifts, and beautiful cards received while in the hospital and since he has been home.

LEARN TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER

Bro. Lucien Kuntz was born in Alsace-Lorraine on Feb. 21, 1891. This area became part of Germany while he was a boy. He worried about being drafted into the army and being sent "way up north" by Russia, so he enlisted at age 19 so that he would have more choice in the area in which he would serve. He served two years.

Lucien wanted to be a mailman like his father. He had to take a test. "I was so stupid on that test I didn't know if the buggy came before the horse or the horse before the buggy!" Now he knows it was God's work that he failed that test. God had other plans for him.

Without asking any questions,

his mother's cousin sent him a \$45 ticket for his fare from Paris to Cissna Park. There was even a job awaiting him. He came just in time to escape being sent to the front lines during the war. He arrived on Saturday, Apr. 18, 1913.

Sunday morning his hostess said they were going to the "versammlung," which meant gathering or church. Lucien had been raised a French-speaking Catholic. Now he had to learn German, which was spoken in the church and by most of his acquaintances here. Later he learned English and can communicate well in all three languages.

In 1917, Lucien saw his need for the Lord and turned to Him in repentance. He was able to tell us, as clearly as if it happened last night, how he received peace. He was traveling home from church one night in the buggy. The moon was shining so brightly that it was just like daytime. All at once it got pitch dark and frightened him. A little thing in him said, "Now you have peace." It was so bright that he doesn't feel it really became dark, but only seemed dark to him so that he could believe this was a revelation from God. Lucien was not baptized until 1919 because he couldn't correspond during the war with those in Europe to make his wrongs right. Since his baptism, Cissna Park has had twelve elders.

On Feb. 27, 1921, Bro. Lucien married Sis. Frieda Stock. They were able to share 56 years together. They had six children: Joseph, Kathryn, Mabel, Charlo, Lillian, and Marguerite. He now has eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Bro. Lucien says, "If I had wings, I'd fly home today." He is willing, though, to wait on God's appointed time. He feels God is good to him. He still does his own washing, cooking, and cleaning and bakes pies frequently.

Lucien's advice to young or old is, "Stay close to God so the enemy can't get between. He doesn't grab our hand. He starts with one little finger and gradually takes over."

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Gay Knapp - Pat Rinkenberger

WILL

One ship drives east, and another west
With the self-same winds that blow;

'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales,
Which decides the way to go.

Like the winds of the sea are the
ways of fate;
As the voyage along through life;
'Tis the will of the soul
That decides its goal
And not the calm or the strife.
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

We do not know what the new year will hold in store for us. It may hold gladness or sorrow. Either way, it is up to us to make it a year of service to the Lord. Will you serve Him?

As we enjoyed Christmas caroling to those who were shut in, we realized that we should remember our older brothers and sisters in faith throughout the year. Even a short visit is appreciated.

Sis. Kathryn Miller is home again, and we were glad to have her with us in church last Sunday.

Warren Miller, son of Bro. Jake and Sis. Marian Miller, was in an accident and suffered a broken leg. We hope he is steadily improving.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

"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." Isaiah 9:6

The prophecy of Isaiah is so profound; it reaches beyond my comprehension. Truly He is Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, and we cannot diminish His Lordship by any action of our own! Yet He had tender compassionate mercy on fallen man to the point of making the supreme sacrifice for our sin and thus drawing us unto Him. How can we deny such a Saviour? We owe Him our all!

We rejoice that on Dec. 8, our new brother and sister in faith, Bob and Deanne Cox, were able to testify, through the guiding of the Spirit, of their faith in this risen Lord, and that they felt at peace with God and man and were ready to serve Him the remainder of their lives. Comforting it is to see that the Lord is still working the miracle of conversion in the hearts of men, creating a new heart with new desire and new purpose. The

following day they were able to complete the work of salvation by submitting to baptism and laying on the hands of the presbytery.

Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott) assisted Bro. Herman Kellenberger and Bro. Nathan Steffen in bringing to us the conclusion of the brotherhood conference held in August. We feel a deep sense of gratitude that men are still willing to stand up and be counted for the Lord. May we as brethren lift up their arms and walk submissively in obedience to the Holy Word they are trying to preserve.

A precious child was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman on Nov. 22. Brandon Paul is their first child. The grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller (Bradford), and Bro. William and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman. May they rely heavily on the Lord in rearing this God-given child.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach also rejoice that their home has been blessed with the arrival of Twila Ellen on Nov. 28. Wendi, Valerie, Kim, and Charlene also welcomed her into heart and home. Bro. John and Sis. Pauline Schrenk are the grandparents.

It was heart-warming to behold the countenance of the children as they brought forth song and verse at the annual Christmas program held Dec. 17. The innocence and earnestness of their expression of the birth of Jesus and the events surrounding it left deeper impressions than the most eloquent speeches. It brings to mind Isaiah 11:6 which says: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them."

Louise Tolvstad met with the misfortune of fracturing her hip while visiting in the Lester, IA. area. She had to be hospitalized in Sioux Falls, where she had hip surgery. We are happy to report that she is now home and doing well.

Bro. Wilmar Troike suffered a heart attack and at present is still hospitalized. We pray the Lord will stand mightily by him and his wife, Sis. Esther. It is especially important to feel the presence of the Lord at times of illness.

Sis. Rose Goll fractured her wrist in a fall for which she was hospitalized and at present is con-

valescing in a local nursing home. We hope she too may soon be restored to full health.

Sis. Della Kellenberger was hospitalized and is home again for which we are grateful.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

"For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Psalm 90: 4,12. Another year has ended, and a new one is beginning. What is in the future we can not see, but all we need do is put our trust in God.

We enjoyed our annual Sunday School Christmas program, Wednesday evening, Dec. 19. It is always enjoyable to listen as the children tell the story of our Savior's birth.

We thank Bro. Bill Gudeman of Elgin, IL, and Bro. Wayne Anliker of Forrest for many timely teachings given us. They, along with their wives, each spent a Sunday with us.

Our friend, Mrs. Connie (Randy) Grusy is in the hospital for medical care following an accident. We are thankful that she is recovering and should be home soon. Bros. Melvin Weyeneth and Dave Leman have had surgery, but are doing fine now.

Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller have a new baby girl, Cindy Joy, born on Nov. 24. She has two little sisters, Leann and Cheryl. Her grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber, and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier, all of Eureka. Brent David is the name of the little boy born to Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy Blunier on Dec. 13. He has three brothers, Bruce, Randy, and Merle, and one little sister, Theresa. Brent's grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier of Eureka, and Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle of Princeville.

A summary of happenings in Eureka in 1979: There were nine baptisms, thirteen weddings, eighteen births and two funerals. While there were nine deaths at the Home, only two of the funerals were held in Eureka. The rest were held in their respective home congregations.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Joyce Huber

There is reason for much rejoic-

ing, for several have turned to the Lord Jesus for their salvation: Quinn Zehr, son of Bro. and Sis. Warren Zehr; Jeff Thames, son of Bro. and Sis. Phil Thames; Sam Furrer, son of Sis. Louise Furrer; Nathan Fehr, son of Bro. and Sis. Wayne Fehr; Marci, Leona, and Ivan Fehr, daughters and son of Bro. and Sis. Glenn Fehr; Marie Bahler, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Art Bahler; and Bonnie Moser, daughter of Bro. Lloyd and Myrna Moser.

Carol Thames, daughter of Bro. Phil and Sis. Kay Thames, gave her testimony of her faith in Jesus for her salvation and was baptized. Visiting ministers that day were: Bro. Marshall Heinold, Bro. Ed Kloter, Bro. Ken Knapp, and Bro. Ken Schneider.

Sis. Julie Bahler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Bahler, was married to Bro. Herman Drayer of Bluffton. They will be living at Bluffton. We wish them the best as they make their home together. We enjoyed the Bluffton ministers for the wedding. They were Elder Bro. Orville Ringger and Bro. Phil Steffen.

Sis. Julie's brother, Steve, was married at Fairbury, on week earlier, to Elizabeth Cueva, a former AFS student of Venezuela. We wish that they will experience the presence of Jesus.

One Thursday evening, we gathered together for the rite of Holy Communion—the breaking of bread, symbolizing the body of Jesus broken for our bodily healing, and drinking of wine, symbolizing Jesus' blood given for our eternal salvation. It was a blessed evening with Bros. Ed Frank and Perry Zimmerman assisting Bro. Broquard.

We welcome Bro. Dennis Rassi, son of Bro. and Sis. Arnold Rassi of Tremont. He is coming here to work for Stoller and Maurer.

We also welcome Carl and Becky Kieser and family who have been assembling with us.

We are sorry that Sis. Ida Hari and Sis. Kathryn Steffen were hospitalized. Sis. Kathryn was transferred to Peoria, and Sis. Ida returned home. Also, Bro. Albert Steiner, Sis. Delores Zehr, Sis. Ruth Walter, Al Wagler, Willard Walter, Rhonda Stoller, Trent Runyon, and Denise Banwart were hospitalized.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Beverly Eisenmann - Jan Bachtold

We are thankful that our hospital patients have been few this month. Sis. Elsie Waibel was in for a few days but is grateful to be among us again. LeAnn Masters, baby daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary, was also in, but she too is home and doing well.

Visiting ministers have been Bros. Vernon Schwab and Ken Schneider (Reminton), Walt Hermann (Princeville), Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Bill Kupferschmid (Bloomington), and Bob Walder (Congerville). We thank God for providing these brothers to teach us of His way.

We wish God's grace and guidance for Brs. Ron Koehl and Gary Brown and Sis. Mattie Wenger as they assume their new duties as Sunday School teachers. Sowing the seeds of faith in the hearts of our children is truly an important labor of love.

Several homes in our area have been blessed with new babies. Ed and Renae Wenger are the happy parents of little Sarah Elizabeth, born Nov. 21. The grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia Wenger. Joshua Joel was born to Mike and Jeanette Zimmerman on Dec. 3. Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman are the happy grandparents. On Dec. 9, John and Karen Roth welcomed little Andrew John into their hearts and home. His grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Roth. May God add His blessings to each one of these family circles.

Sis. Martha Koehl wishes to thank the many relatives and friends who remembered her on her 90th birthday with cards, gifts, and flowers. She enjoyed and greatly appreciated everything.

During the past year we have had twelve new babies, three deaths, and four baptisms in our congregation.

As we stand upon the threshold of a new year, may we take to heart the words of the following hymn:

Another Year Is Dawning

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

Francis R. Havergal

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter

As we blow out our Christmas
candles,

May we keep one burning in our
heart—

The Spirit of God to guide us this
year;

We just know there is no better
part.

Author Unknown

Chuck and Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen are parents of a new little son, Jerry Alan, born on Nov. 26. The grandparents are Vance Moore of Deer Creek, and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen. Sis. Sally Fehr of Eureka is the great-grandmother.

A new little daughter, Jodi Alyse, was born on Dec. 4 to Bro. Sam and Sis. Cindy Hohulin. The grandparents are the Elmer Grusys of Eureka, and Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Hohulin. The great-grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Gingrich of Bradford, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Esther Hohulin.

We were thankful for the messages brought by our visitors, Bro. Elmer Witzig and Bro. Harold Schmidtgal of Gridley. May they be granted much strength and courage in their work.

Our dear Sis. Esther Woertz was hospitalized for a time but is now back in the "Home" in Eureka. Bro. George Knapp and his daughter, Holly, were confined to their home with hepatitis, as was Matt Knapp, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky. We are happy to have them again assembling with us.

Sis. Elizabeth Hartman and Sis. Margaret Newlin have returned from the hospital and are recovering at home. Casey Tanner (Don and Mary Alice) had a cast removed from his right arm.

Bro. Sam Heininger has again

submitted to eye surgery, and we pray that the Lord will heal him and all others who have been ill.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

Ere I knew Thee and Thy sweet
compassion,
My unhappy heart sought peace in
vain:

For a thousand lusts of evil fashion
Burnt within me yielding naught
but pain.

Zion's Harp No. 182

When we were living in sin and the god of this world had blinded us to the truth, we thought we were free to live however we pleased and we could do whatever satisfied the flesh. But we discovered that the flesh can never be satisfied, and contentment eluded us. We lacked the peace of God. For the prophet Isaiah declared, "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." (Isa. 48:22)

When the Spirit of God convicted us of our sin and revealed our lost condition, our eyes were opened, and we sought the Lord in repentance. What was our deep longing?—that we might be forgiven and that God might accept us. Why? Because only then could we fill the aching void in our hearts with the peace of God that passes all understanding. When that peace came, we were overwhelmed with joy and love that knew no bounds. Indeed it is a priceless pearl to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and to have His Spirit bearing witness in our hearts, evidenced by His glorious peace.

But Satan did not leave us alone. It was, and is, our peace that he wants to disturb. He wants to rob us of that gentle rapture and leave us frustrated or bitter or restless. It is at times like these that we need to recognize our goal: to be at peace with God and man. This peace can be acquired and preserved only through humility and love. Without peace we are miserable. With peace we are wonderfully happy and content.

The prophet Isaiah also said, "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee." (Isa. 26:3) This is why those who were required to endure much persecution and suffering for the Lord could rejoice amid the pain. Peace, like a river, preserved their souls,

and no external torment could disturb it.

What is the church striving for, and what are we seeking to preserve? We are striving for the salvation of lost souls. We are seeking to preserve our peace with God, the assurance that He has accepted us and can one day say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21) This is the objective of Christ's Church: To help lost, disturbed mankind find peace with his Creator and to preserve this peace through unity and likemindedness among the brethren.

To be at peace with God we must be at peace among ourselves. Jesus has said we can not bring our alms before the altar of God until we first have been reconciled with our offended brother. What we do to the least of His we are doing to Him. To be at peace with God, we must obey Him. Again God has spoken through the prophet, "Oh that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been like a river, and thy righteousness like the waves of the sea." (Isa. 48:18)

To be at peace with God we must be a peacemaker among His children. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." (Matt. 5:9) If we are to be a peacemaker, we must be "subject one to another and be clothed with humility." (I Peter 5:5) Pride and self-exaltation will never promote peace.

If we would desire to be useful servants of the Lord, we must let His peace rule in our hearts. He gives us this peace when the thoughts and intents of our heart are pleasing in His sight. Then, when the condition of our heart is good and we are kept in perfect peace, we are fit for the Master's use, and He can make us a great blessing to others.

Bro. Roy Wyss and children and Bro. Raymond and Sis. Lydia Kuntz and family have surely felt the love of the brethren during their time of sorrow. The prayerful support and messages of concern and sympathy have lifted them. The many deeds of kindness and gifts of love will always be remembered. Sis. Arlene has gone on ahead, and we must carry on.

Sis. Mary Martin has been in the hospital.

We were privileged to hear the letter which summarized the deliberations of the Brotherhood Conference read and expounded upon. We appreciated the visit of Bro. Joe Braker who assisted Bro. Edwin Ringger in this labor of love.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Doris Bachtold

Things change.
Friendships fade.
Money is spent,
Glory's forgotten,
Power is lost.
Seasons change,
So do people;
Day turns to darkness,
Sorrow to joy.
Pain is eased,
Rules are broken,
Promises forgotten,
Trust betrayed.
Life ends,
Love cools,
Hate dies,
Stars fall.
Things change . . .
But God is always God.

June Hawvermale

Sometimes we're glad for change. Other times we fear its approach. Yet, if God changed, we would be of all men most miserable. We need Him. We need His saving grace. We need His love. We need God.

We're thankful to God that Bro. Ken Hoerr is our new advisor for our group here at Illinois State. We know that Bro. Ken and all other ministers who come on Thursday evenings will be "holding forth the word of life. . ." (Phil. 2:16) We appreciate Bro. Bob Grimm's coming and sharing the message of Jesus' birth at our Christmas program. It is Jesus' coming and dying on the cross for us that makes life worth living.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Joann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Daniel Joe Wuthrich was born on Nov. 21 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Wuthrich. Marti Jean and Luke welcomed him home. The grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Polly Schrock, Congerville, IL.

"Big" brother Andy eagerly welcomed home his baby brother, Jesse Alan. Jesse was born on Nov. 21 to Bro. Jon and Sis. Christi Lou Zeller. The grandparents are Ralph Meyering, and Henry and Sis. Nor-

ma Zeller.

Bro. Frank Bauman was sweetly called to his eternal rest by our Heavenly Father. His funeral was Nov. 23. May the Lord comfort his beloved wife, Sis. Naomi, his family, and friends.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Sis. Mary Welk. She was a resident of the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. Her funeral was on Nov. 29.

It was with much Christian joy and love that we eagerly awaited the bus-load of our brothers, sisters and friends from Morris, MN, on the weekend of Dec. 1 and 2. "Old" friendships were again renewed as well as "new" friendships begun. We appreciated the love and fellowship which they brought to us. May this precious fellowship and love increase in Christ Jesus. It was with misty eyes that we bid them farewell on Sunday afternoon.

Bro. Phil Getz passed away after a lengthy illness. His funeral was on Dec. 6. May God comfort his precious wife, Sis. Dorothy, his family and friends. Our prayers are with Sis. Dorothy as she suddenly became very ill. We are indeed thankful to God that she was strong enough to be able to go and visit her husband the same afternoon that he passed away. This will be a precious memory for her.

This month, the Lord has blessed our congregation with the following visiting ministering brothers: David Wiegand, Champaign-Urbana, IL; Ron Heiniger, Bloomington-Normal, IL; Harold Gramm, Alpha Moser, Floyd Schmidgall, Morris, MN; and Ed Lantz, Oakville, IA. May God richly bless them for ministering the True Word to us.

Dec. 9 found us rejoicing with Sis. Donna Wuthrich and Bro. Ron Massner, Oakville, IA, as they were united in holy matrimony. May God richly bless them as they establish a Christian home. The parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice Wuthrich and Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma Massner, Oakville, IA.

Our dear one, John Rapp, has been called to his eternal rest. May the Lord comfort his wife, Roxie, his family and friends. Funeral services were Dec. 14.

Our precious, beloved Sunday School children so graciously unfolded the Christmas story for us in their annual Christmas pro-

gram on Dec. 16. May we take a lesson from them and have the faith to "become as little children" in our Heavenly Father's eyes. There was much time spent and memorization done by the students, parents and Sunday School teachers. May God bless all who had a part in making the program a blessed success.

The family of Bro. Frank Bauman wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the relatives, friends and neighbors for the many cards, flowers and deeds of kindness received during the illness and father and grandfather. It shall never be forgotten. They pray that God will bless all who were so kind.

The Edward Dockus family wishes to thank all of their relatives and friends who offered prayers and acts of kindness during the illness and loss of their beloved husband, father and grandfather. The memories will always remain with them. They pray, also, that God will bless all who helped.

Those on our hospital list this month were Wilma Bollegar, Janet Simpson, Al Carius, Roger Ackerman, Clint Kaiser (son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser) and Sisters Dorothy Belsley, Anna (Dave) Rassi, Chelly Kaiser, Lucille Zimmerman and Dorothy Getz. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the beloved shut-in people and those who are sick or in the hospital.

As a new year is here, we in Morton want to wish each one of you a very blessed and Happy New Year. May the Lord keep each one of you in His care.

Ed. Note: Sis. Phyllis included a note with this news. Sis. Joanne Roecker, her co-reporter, has a severe eye condition. At times she is totally blind. Her condition is not improving. She greatly needs our prayers. Please help.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Sue Rieker - Diana Hohulin
"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5:31. On Nov. 25, Bro. Jim Barth and Sis. Julie Hoerr were united in marriage and began walking down life's path together. Their parents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae Barth from Roanoke and Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy Hoerr from Peoria. Bro. Don Sauder and Bro. Jim Le-

man from Roanoke spent the day in our assembly. Also on this day, the engagement of Bro. Larry Herman and Sis. Susie Hunziker was announced. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy Herman, and Bro. Dale and Sis. Barb Hunziker. They are planning to be married on Feb. 3.

"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:6-7. The Light and the Way were shone so that Jenny Waibel and Kathy Holland could repent for their sins. They were baptized on Dec. 2. We welcome them into the fold of believers. Their parents are Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and Mr. and Mrs. Don Clag. We were privileged to have Bro. Don Wagenbach from Washington minister God's Word in the afternoon service.

On Dec. 5, Bro. Dave Kieser from Princeville assisted Bro. Roy Sauder in reading the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference.

We wish to express our sympathy to Bro. Joe Thomas in the death of his brother-in-law, Michael Edger.

This month, we had several hospital patients. They were Bro. Ed Hoerr, Sara Streitmatter, Fritz Bessler, Susie Scherer, Bro. Greg Herman, Sis. Clara Plattner, Sis. Mabel Weber, Bro. George Rauhau, and Sis. Judy Sceggel. Our prayers for each one are that God may heal and restore them according to His will.

Sis. Eunice Kammerer wishes to express her thanks to all who assisted her in her time of need. She especially thanks the elders, deacons, and ministers who prayed for and with her.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Ruth Ricketts

Love is mysterious, invisible, immaterial, yet as real as steel. Alexis Carrel.

Thanksgiving Day, 1969, a clear, crisp day, found us gathering for the first time in our new house of worship. The years have quickly passed, and we have been granted many blessings with many visitors who have brought much joy to us. Bro. Clifford Grimm of West Bend,

IA, was our guest minister. The story of the ten lepers was reviewed: are we all thankful like the one who returned to give thanks, or are we thankful and don't take time to give thanks? We have so much to be thankful for every day and again have reaped a bountiful harvest. May we be found worthy to be a part of the Lord's harvest.

The engagement of Bro. Ronald Baer of Princeville, son of Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary, and Sis. Deanne Klumpp, daughter of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Eunice of Bradford, was made known Thanksgiving morning. We rejoice with them and wish the the Lord's blessings as they plan their future together.

A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall on Nov. 24, following the wedding of Karen Seidel and Brian Fletcher in Wyoming. The parents of the couple are Bro. Richard and Sis. Marie Seidel and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fletcher. We wish them many blessings as they share their life together.

The weekend of Nov. 24, 25 was a stirring one for many of us when we heard the testimonies of two young men, Craig Martin and Kyle Scholl, as they told of their convictions, their decisions to repent, and then of their finding the blessed peace they now enjoy. How heartwarming is was to hear these young men say that they were drawn because of the simple truth they heard and felt the love among the members. As the years pass, each one must still testify of the same experience. How thankful we are for this. Bro. Dale Eisenman of Chicago came to help Bro. Dave in this important work, and we were happy to welcome these brothers into our precious faith after baptism on Sunday before many witnesses. Bro. Chas. Hemmer of Peoria was also with us on Sunday afternoon. We had a day filled with many blessings, and we thank all our visitors. Let us ever cling to the simple truth and the traditions that have proved so beneficial for so many years. Put on the whole armor of God's love and walk in peace and harmony so that when the Lord calls, we will all be ready to meet Him and be with Him in Heaven.

On a Wednesday evening, Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke came to assist Bros. Dave Kieser and Joe Stoller in reading the conclusions of the recent conference held in Fairbury.

It was truly a solemn, blessed evening that we shared with the Bradford brethren. All went home with a deep appreciation for our brothers in their concern for our churches. We owe it to them to be faithful and obedient and to make their lot more bearable. We could surely feel God's presence among us and pray it will always be this way. Surely, we are in the latter days with so much unrest in the world, so many earthquakes, and so much strife and greed. There are many other unpleasant things taking place. How thankful we should be to have the church as a haven to go to and enjoy God's love and blessings.

Other visitors included Bro. Nathan Steffen of Elgin, IL, who was with us for the last regular Sunday when Bro. Silas Leuthold assembled with us. Bro. Silas was asked to have the last prayer, and then he and Bro. Dave walked out together, hand in hand. They labored together many years. After Bro. Silas laid off his mantle of eldership, it was laid on Bro. Dave, who was so thankful to have Bro. Silas to counsel with. Bro. Silas is now living at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka, where his beloved wife has been for a few weeks. We trust that they will find happiness in their sunset years of life and thank them for all the blessings they have brought us.

Bros. Chas. Hemmer and Ken Hoerr of Peoria ministered to us. The central theme was to have faith in God—faith as the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment, believing that if she but touched it she would be healed. And she was. Have faith in all things, and faith will lead us home. The beautiful story of Joseph, with vivid illustrations about Christ, was brought forth. Both had a beautiful garment; both were sold and both were given to bring help to others; both suffered abuse and ridicule and came forth victoriously; and we are the benefactors, for which we should ever be grateful.

On Dec. 1, a daughter, Jolyne Noel, was born to Bro. Wm. and Sis. Joanne Scholl. Janelle is happy with her little sister, as were her grandmothers, Sis. Mary Scholl and Sis. Margaret Frank of Tremont.

As I write this, we are in the midst of the festivities of Christmas. Several groups have been caroling. That has brought joy to

many, and we thank them for their efforts. The Sunday School children told the story of Jesus' birth in verse and song on Dec. 16, and many received a blessing. We can learn from their enthusiasm. How nice it is to receive the pretty Christmas cards and hear from loved ones again at this holy season. May we all take part in spreading cheer to others.

We are thankful that our young Bro. Rod Wagenbach is improving; however, he is still not able to be among crowds and is confined to his home. About seventy young people went to sing carols for him. It must have warmed his heart to look outside and see all of his friends standing there singing for him. We wish him more of the Lord's blessings. Bro. Rod Wagenbach would like to thank everyone who remembered him in Seattle. Many remembered him in different ways. Some reached with a gift, card, letter, telephone call, visit, or a prayer. He surely felt the love of many during his stay there. A Christian life truly is a life of caring and sharing and is worth living.

Our sympathy is extended to the Alfred Streitmatter family in the death of Sis. Ginny's father, Bro. Frank Bauman of Morton. We also extend sympathy to the Klumpp and Feucht families in the death of Sis. Eunice Feucht Klumpp. She was laid to rest in our church cemetery on Dec. 6. She and Bro. Raymond attended church here before going to Bradford, and we were always glad when they could come back home to worship with us.

As another year quickly draws to a close, we review the past and think of all the blessings which we have enjoyed during the past year. The foremost treasure is Christ's love for us and His marvelous plan of Salvation which includes grace to sustain us and faith to look to Him for all our needs. We were privileged to have many visiting ministers, as well as our own, who so willingly brought forth the true Word of God.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who bring forth the Word and who labor so unselfishly for our behalf. We appreciate all our ministers and elders and trust they will reap the benefits of their labors, already here on earth, but much more in the bright eternity. We thank our Sunday School teachers and our song leaders, whose duties

are not always easy but appreciated.

We were thankful to have four souls added to the fold this past year and pray that many hearts can be stirred in the coming days and share in the blessings of a Child of God. Those who have not tasted of His love and goodness through repentance don't realize what joys they are missing.

What joys little children bring to every one. Twelve families were blessed with babies this past year, eight boys and five girls (one set of twins).

We had only one wedding in the church. Three funerals were held.

We are thankful for all of our countless blessings and pray that love and peace can be multiplied in the coming days. May we all live so that our lights will shine brightly and we can be a guiding light, a haven for seeking souls in this dark and sinful world. May we always be ready to do our part in whatever way opens to us. May God's love be manifest in us, and may we strive more diligently to do His will. May peace and love rest on all, and may we look forward with anticipation to the Lord's return.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

As we say goodbye to the old year, we are beginning a new year of a new decade and are aware that we are all entrusted with the same amount of time. We cannot hoard it to use some other time. We cannot borrow it. It is God-given. We must use, wisely, our days, our weeks, our months, and our years.

Sis. Laverne Leman (Bro. Harry and Sis. Millie) passed away. Her smile and kindness will never be forgotten. She chose the songs to be sung and the Scripture to be read at her final service. It was as though she were telling us, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me." St. John 14. The final hymn she chose, number forty-six in Zion's Harp, tells us that we should retain our faith in the merciful Saviour, our best refuge.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Sis. Dorothy Sauder, whose husband, Bro. Willard, passed away. He is survived by his wife; one son, Bro. Tom; four daughters, Barbara Brim, Sis. Judy, Sis. Kathy Finley, and Ellen; three brothers, Bro.

Curtis, Merle, and Bro. John; and two sisters, Sis. Mabel Getz and Edith Miller. Bro. Bill overcame many difficulties in the last few years, but now has rest and peace.

Bro. Jim Barth (Bro. Morris and Sis. Ida Mae) and Sis. Julie Hoerr (Bro. John and Sis. Dorothy) were united in holy marriage on Nov. 25. We welcome Sis. Julie to our congregation.

The engagement of Sis. Jill Schumacher (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Jane) and Bro. Steve Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell) was announced. They are planning a spring wedding.

Elder Bro. Dan Koch assisted our Elder Bro. Don Sauder with the reading of the memoradum. Our other visiting ministers this month have been Bros. Dave Wiegand (Champaign), Art Baurer (Princeville), Walter Anliker (Eureka), Rod Huber (Valparaiso), Ken Heimer (Taylor, MO), and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo, IN). We are thankful for the blessings they shared with us.

Bro. Jim Byrd is hospitalized at the burn center in Springfield. Elmer Musselman, Sis. Mary Aeschleman, and Sis. Martha Bradle are in the hospital at this time. Bro. Aaron Bertsch is in the Roanoke A.C. Home. They are suffering the infirmities of the body. We pray that God's sustaining grace and love will be with them in their hour of need.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg Stoller are parents of their first son, Timothy Lee, II. Twin daughters were born to Bro. Wilmer and Sis. Clara Fischer. They named them Janelle Sue and Kristen Ann.

The annual Christmas program was last night. We pray that God will bless all those who participated as we who heard them sing and say their pieces were blessed.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach

The New Year

Dear Master, for this coming year,
just one request I bring.

I do not pray for happiness or any
earthly thing;

I do not ask to understand the way
Thou leadest me,

But this I ask—Teach me to do the
things that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,
to walk with Thee each day.

Dear Master, make me swift to hear
and ready to obey;

And thus the year I now begin
a happy year will be
If I am seeking just to do the thing
that pleaseth Thee.

Author Unknown

The Lord blesses us abundantly.
We are thankful and appreciate
the many good teachings brought
to us by His servants. Visitors this
month were: Bros. Jim Ramseyer,
Steve Rinkenberger, Everett Hari,
Roy Sauder and Walter Herman.

What is Time?

What is time? The shadow on
the dial, the striking of the clock,
the running of the sand day and
night, summer and winter, months,
years, centuries—these are but ar-
bitrary and outward signs, the
measure of Time, not Time itself.
Time is the life of the soul.

Longfellow

Two precious baby girls came to
join our Christian family. Nov. 24,
Stephanie Anne was born to Bro.
Steve and Sis. Barbara Pflederer.
The grandparents are Bro. Arman
and Sis. Kathryn Kaiser, and Bro.
James and Sis. Lee Pflederer. Dec.
15, Kelly Marie came to live with
Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch. Kelly
has a brother, Tommy. The grand-
parents are Bro. Willis and Sis.
Pauline Sauder, and Bro. Dave and
Sis. Frances Koch.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Alene Blun-
rier, Eureka, announced the engage-
ment of their daughter, Tammy
Lyn, to Ronald Wagenbach, son of
Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise. We
wish them God's blessing as they
plan an April 27 wedding.

Three dear souls have given their
hearts to their Creator. We heard
the testimonies and witnessed the
baptisms of converts Amy Beutel,
daughter of Bro. Alvin and Sis.
Carol, Lois Dill, daughter of Henry
and Sis. Barbara, and Karen Pfled-
erer, daughter of Bro. Chris and
Sis. Ruth. We wish them much
grace, faith, and courage to carry
out their new life in Jesus' name
for their souls' salvation.

Our prayers are with our many
dear sisters and brothers who are
hospitalized and have had surgery:
Bros. Cleo Koch, Ed Koch, John
Greiner, and Jay Bolliger, and Sis-
ters Sophia Sauder, Royaldene Hol-
del, and Louise Wagenbach. We
also pray for Mike Endress, son of
Fred and Ruth, who was also hos-
pitalized. Sis. Lydia Brunner was

hospitalized for three weeks due to
an ulcer caused by a brown recluse
spider bite. Skin grafting was done.
She wishes to thank all the dear
ones for their prayers, their love
and concern for her, for gifts,
cards and visits. She wishes God's
blessings upon each one. We miss
Sis. Vera Aberle and Sis. Mary
Koch who have not been able to
assemble with us for sometime.
We pray the Lord will strengthen
and heal all of our dear ones.

We miss our converts David and
Marijane Foote who have moved to
Clayton, IL, and are fellowshiping
with the brethren at Taylor, MO.

Our congregation was privileged
to hear praises to God in Christmas
story and song from our bright-
eyed and happy-faced pre-schoolers
thru high schoolers. What a blessed
and happy time it was. May it
prove to be a stepping stone to hea-
ven for the youngest to the eldest.

Tenderness and good will are
potent factors in promoting the
unity and stability of the family.

A. J. Cronin

Silver Lining dues are due in
January.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Valerie Kipfer

On Dec. 2, we hosted the youth
fellowship gathering for half of the
Illinois churches. It was truly an
inspiration to hear these young
souls sing praises to God.

Our congregation was blessed
with two new babies. Bro. Steve
and Sis. Lona Elsasser welcome a
son, Jeremy, into their family.
Dawn and Crystal are happy to
have a baby brother. Bro. Bill and
Carol Schmidtgall are the parents
of a girl, Stephanie. Scott, Karin,
and Jason welcome her home.

With all the excitement of the
holidays, we must remember to
keep Christ in our Christmas plans.
One minister asked us, "What are
you going to celebrate? Christmas
or Xmas?" We enjoyed hearing all
our Sunday School sing praises to
the Lord in celebration of the birth
of Christ on Dec. 16 at the annual
Christmas program. The previous
evening, many from the church
went caroling to many who would
not otherwise hear these blessed
songs. But we must remember at
Christmas, and every day, not just
to stay at Bethlehem, but to go to
Calvary where our Lord gave His
life for ours.

As another year dawns. let us

always remember what the Lord has done for us—not just by His birth among men, but His death among sinners.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Darlene Isch - Lisa Shively

God has granted us the arrival of a blessed new year. Let us all strive to walk closer and serve Him more sincerely this year.

LET'S HAVE A GARDEN THIS YEAR

First, let's have five rows of peas—

Preparedness

Promptness

Perserverance

Politeness and

Prayer.

Next, let's have three rows of squash—

Squash gossip

Squash criticism and

Squash indifference.

Then, let's have five rows of lettuce—

Let us be faithful

Let us be unselfish

Let us be loyal

Let us love one another

and

Let us be truthful.

No garden is complete without turnips—

Turn up for church regularly

Turn up with a smile every day

Turn up with a new idea and

Turn up with real determination.

Author Unknown

Note: A garden like this could prove very fruitful. Let's plant, cultivate, love, nurture and harvest it.

On Dec. 2, at Fairbury, Bro. Herman Drayer and Sis. Julie Bahler were united as one in the Lord. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Also, on this day here in Bluffton, we were privileged to have the Princeville choir as our much welcomed guest. Bro. Art Bauer (Princeville) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Champaign-Urbana) brought us God's message to fulfill a blessed weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Robert Byer (Naumburg) and Bros. Duane Kilgus (Fairbury), Wayne Anliker (Forrest), Ben Manz (Junction), Art Ringger (Indianapolis), and Max Reimscheisel (Wichita). We thank these brothers for their labors of love.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Ronald Kaehr, Bro. Lewis Gerber, Bro. Phil Kaehr, Bro. Howard Habegger, Vince Gerber (son of Bro. Vernon), Sis. Dina Kipfer, Sis. Arlene Stump, Sis. Elva Aschliman, Lois Baumgartner (daughter of Bro. Truman and Sis. Marge), and Art Bertsch. We were very happy to hear that Art has decided to repent and have God take charge of his life.

Along with Art, many others have decided to walk the narrow path of righteousness. We rejoice with them and wish them God's richest blessings.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Jo Troxel were blessed with their fourth child. Sarah Elizabeth was welcomed home by Robby, Jason, and Susan.

We felt privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five dear souls on Dec. 8 and 9. Added to the fold were Bro. Brad Fiechter, Bro. Rodney Gerber, Sis. Juli Isch, and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Roxanne Roop.

Also on Dec. 9, the Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program. We felt the Spirit's presence as each song brought us the message of love.

INDIANA, BREMEN

Norma Lehman

On Nov. 25, ministering Bro. Walt Rager from Toledo, OH, was with us. We appreciated his message and want to thank him for sharing with us.

Even though the world looks cold and dark, there is still that narrow road we can travel that leads to the foot of the cross where lies all beauty and peace and happiness. Bro. Gene Lehman from Wolcott spoke those comforting words when he visited us on Dec. 2.

Bro. Morris Frank from Leo ministered to us on Dec. 9. Bro. Ed Frank from LaCrosse was with us on Dec. 16. On Wednesday, Dec. 12. Bro. Walt Steffen from Milford was here.

We want to thank all those who came to meet with us; their presence was greatly appreciated.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Linda Gutwein - Sharon Neihouser

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire;
Seek the everlasting treasure
Ere the day of grace expire.

Hymn No. 52, Zion's Harp

We are grateful that another soul in our congregation is seeking her soul's salvation. We pray for many more before it is forever too late.

Joy has come into the home of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy Wuethrich with the birth of their first child, a daughter, Marianda Lynn. Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis are the grandparents. Also Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher have taken for adoption, Jimmy, who has been a foster child in their home for two years. May God bless both of these homes.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7. These were fitting words for our dear Sis. Anna Getz who passed away on Nov. 24. She had been in failing health for several years and was a resident at Parkview Haven. She leaves to mourn three daughters, Dorothy Osburn, Sis. Carol Howat, and Elna Kanschat; and one son, Don. May God comfort the loved ones in knowing that their mother is safe in the arms of Jesus.

Parkview Haven Benefit Day was held on Dec. 1. It was very successful and the staff wishes to thank all those who helped in any way to make it such a blessing.

Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop) visited us on Thanksgiving Day as many gathered together for a Thanksgiving service. May we remember always to stop and count our many blessings. It will surprise us what the Lord hath done.

Our best wishes go to Kim Gutwein and Blake Wuethrich (Bro. Bob and Sis. Phyllis) as they were united in holy matrimony on Dec. 15.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ben Anliker and Rebekah Inoue (daughter of Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie) who are hospitalized at this time.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

During this Christmas season, there are many reasons for holiday joy and happiness in everyone's home. Little Brian Michael was a special present for Steve and Donna Hall. Brian has been visited by his grandparents from Kouts and

Indianapolis (Bro. Harold and Sis. Heinold and Orville and Dorothy Hall).

"...they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: . . . And they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and mirrh." (Matt. 2:11) In our Christmas program, one of the students explained about the gifts the wise men offered to Christ. The songs and verses by the other children portrayed, so vividly, the birth of our Savior.

One of the best gifts each of us can give is to visit those who are shut-in or ill. The residents of two area nursing homes seemed to enjoy and appreciate our Christmas caroling, but those who participated received even a greater blessing.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE

Lois Bucher - Pearl Nueest

Hospitalized for surgery this month were Sis. Diana Gudeman and Bro. Ken Bucher. We are glad both are home and doing well. At this time, the infant daughter of Tom and Norma Mark is in the hospital. We hope that she will soon be home with her family.

God has blest Scott and Mary Ann Rice with their first child, a girl, Sara Ann. Her grandparents are Conrad and Donna Parlberg and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Rice.

The World Relief meeting was held here at LaCrosse on Saturday, Dec. 8. Those ministers remaining for Sunday services were Bros. Jim Hoerr, Vernon Lehman, and Floyd Wieland. We are thankful that the brothers are willing to lend themselves to give us timely messages from the Spirit.

In this new year, we can make New Year's resolutions and have the best intentions. But unless we look to the Lord for guidance and wisdom, we will never be able to make those changes for which we are striving. May we all remain instant in prayer for ourselves and all those we love so that, in strength, we may strive for our souls' salvation.

INDIANA, LEO

Mrs. Phil Schlatter
Mrs. Al Frautschi

It's January, Inventory Time.
If you **only** have one piece of bread,
you're poor.
If you **only** have one suit of clothes,
you're poor.

If you **only** have one car,
you're poor.
If you **only** have one house,
you're poor.
If you **only** have one yacht,
you're poor.

If you **only** had one million dollars,
you're poor for there is no one more poor than he who has only the things of this world. He is rich who is a child of the King!

"For what is a man profitted, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
Matthew 16:26

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and thou knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich. . ."

Revelations 3:17, 18

"And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Lk. 12:19,20.

Ministering Bros. Elmer Schrenk, Alto, MI, and Orville Ringer, Bluffton, shared with our congregation this month.

The Lord's blessing is asked upon Sis. Stephanie Sylvester and Bro. Philip Bollier who are engaged. Stephanie is the daughter of Mrs. Dwain Sylvester and the late Mr. Sylvester; Philip is the son of Bro. John and Sis. Velma Bollier.

Pamela Brown, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch was hospitalized as a medical patient.

Our editor, Bro. Ed Souder, was hospitalized a short time. Thanks be to the One who is able to restore health! Remember our editor in prayer for his health and strength. He puts in many hours of overtime on the Silver Lining.

Ed. Note: Your editor almost didn't let this stay in (it was only a hernia operation), but all who work on the Silver Lining desperately **need** your prayers.

Sis. Jyl Norr (Mrs. Kenneth) is hospitalized following a car accident. In the difficult places in life, can we say: I am here 1) By God's appointment, 2) In His care, 3) Under His training, and 4) For His time.

Sis. Jennie Klopfenstein, widow of the late Bro. William B. Klop-

fenstein, Sr., departed this life Christmas morning. "We knew that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1

She is survived by two sons, Bro. William of Leo, and Richard, Huntington; two daughters, Sis. Lucille Frank, Fort Wayne, and Sis. Helen Maxfield, Leo; nineteen grandchildren; and twenty-five great-grandchildren. Services were conducted Dec. 27 by Bros. David Bertsch and John Bollier.

Bro. Edward and Sis. Connie Frautschi and their three children moved from Fort Wayne and our Leo congregation to near Cleveland and the Akron church. We'll miss them; it's Ohio's gain.

We were able to share the tapes of the conference on Monday evenings and Elder Bro. Orville Ringger of Bluffton assisted Elder Bro. David Bertsch and Bro. Morris Frank in sharing the many timely messages from the Conference letter on a Saturday evening.

We wish our readers a Christ-glorifying New Year!

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

Many people dwell on the things they gave up to be a Christian. It seems to me that this is what stands in the way of many people in the process of their deciding to be a Christian. Yes, there are many things I gave up to be a Christian. I gave up sin, to get salvation; I gave up self, to get the Lord; Satan, to get Christ; Death, to get Life; Hell, to get Heaven; Distress, to get rest; Confusion, to get peace; Fear, to get joy; Habits, to get abundant life; Guilt, to get Pardon; Bondage, to get freedom; and Judgement, to get forgiveness. It's strange, but having given up so much—I DON'T MISS A THING!

Author Unknown

We had a blessed weekend of testimonies and baptisms on Nov. 26 and 27. Six souls were added to the fold: Bro. Bob and Sis. Joyce Wolferman, Bro. Gerald Martin, and Sisters Julie Schieler (Bro. Will and Sis. Sue), Ann Bell (Bro. Dick and Sis. Clara Kaiser) and Irene Sumpter. Elder Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) and Ed Frank (LaCrosse) were present to assist Bro. Jesse Beer.

Funeral services were held Dec. 1 for Sis. Lydia Stieglitz, 83. We ex-

tend our sympathy to her sister, Sis. Magdalene Zimmerman (Bro. Mike), and her half-sister, Sis. Mary Ann Haab (Bro. Arthur).

Bro. Don, Sis. Colleen, and Lisa Lemans have returned to Roanoke to make their home. They will be greatly missed by the Milford congregation, but we really enjoyed them while they were here. May God bless them, abundantly.

The memorandum was read Dec. 5. Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) assisted our ministers with this duty. We really appreciate his love and efforts.

Dec. 12 marked the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. John, Sr., and Sis. Dorothy Martin. In October, their children honored them with a reception at the fellowship hall for family and friends. Their children are Bro. Gerald (Garlene), Bro. John, Jr. (Leona), Sis. Joyce Wolf-erman (Bro. Bob), all of Milford, and Sis. Verla Suttor (Bro. Al) of Bremen, and Ruth Blaettner (Pete) of Fort Wayne. We wish them many more joys and blessings.

We surely are sorry for Sis. Frieda Ruch who met with an accident. She fell and broke her hip and, therefore, had to undergo surgery. She is still recuperating in the hospital. Frieda is our oldest sister attending church, and we surely do miss her cheery presence and pray for her recovery. Sis. Aldine Reimscheisel was hospitalized at the Bluffton Clinic and has since returned home.

Christmas is a special time, especially for children. We enjoyed our annual Christmas program on Dec. 16. Both children and adults have enjoyed caroling to shut-ins and the aged.

Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto) visited us on Dec. 9 and expounded on the Word of God. We are especially thankful for the efforts of each visitor.

On Oct. 20, Lorene Sorg (Earl) gave her testimony and underwent the baptism of faith in her home. Sis. Lorene has been ill and unable to attend services. Earl has also decided to turn to the Lord in repentance. They have one daughter, Mrs. Gene Hoerr (Peoria). We wish both of them God's sustaining grace.

...Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. (Phil. 3:13)

The New Year is not present

with us, only a new day! So it will be continually. We shall see but one day at a time. If each day is lived right, the whole year will be right; if each day is wrong, the year will be all wrong. Each day is a white page to be written. Write it beautifully, and the year will be beautiful.

Author Unknown

INDIANA, LAFAYETTE PURDUE UNIVERSITY Candy Wuethrich

Precious moments during this past year have been spent with God and His children. Each day we grow a little closer to eternity. Often, we forget the seriousness of eternity, letting one day slip into another, and soon a year is gone. We must prepare for our eternity by not letting one day go by without spending some time alone with God. How much have you and I grown in our Christian life during the past year?

The following poem was read during our recent Christmas program at Purdue. I believe that it gives us all something to ponder over during this new year.

Empty Hands

My hands were filled with fortunes,
With silver and with gold,
With selfish earthly talents
And worldly fame untold;
But I could find no happiness
In the treasures that were mine,
And I could see no blessings
Though search I did, to find.
And then I saw with open eyes
Through the darkness and the
gloom,

He placed no blessings in my hands
Because there was no room!
My hands were full of selfish
things,

Of arrogance and pride,
There was no room for blessings
Though oft' I know He tried.

And then I prayed, "Lord, take my
wealth

My silver and my gold.
Take my talent, take my fame
Let me serve within Thy fold."
Then as I stood before Him
With empty hands reached out
The blessings started flowing in
And I no longer doubt,
That all the blessings He withheld
Through all my years of gloom,
He would have gladly given
But, alas, He found no room!
So now I come with empty hands
At the dawning of each day

Knowing they will soon o'erflow
With blessings freely sent my way!
Ruth H. Underhill

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Amelia Schini - Mildred Clauss

Great is the Lord, and greatly to
be praised . . . Ps. 48:1.

When we review the blessings of
the past year, who of us cannot say
"Amen" to the above?

Another vacancy in our pews in
church was made when our Sis.
Eunice Knochel moved to our re-
tirement home in Francesville. We
miss her but rejoice with her in
that she will be able to enjoy many
blessings yet in her sunset years.

Elder Bro. Andy Virkler assisted
our Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler on
Sunday, Dec. 9, in reading the
memorandum. We thank them for
their kind love that was shown.

Sunday, Dec. 16, our Sunday
School children favored us with
songs and recitations commencing
the birth of Jesus. This was held
following afternoon services. It was
a joy and a blessing to all of us to
witness their love. May such days
be a lasting blessing to them.

INDIANA, VALPARISO Susan and Marie Heinold

This Is

The beginning of a new day.
God has given this day to use as I
will.

I can waste it or use it for good.
But what I do today is important,
Because I am exchanging a day of
my life for it.

When tomorrow comes, this day
will be gone forever,
Leaving in its place something that
I have for it.

I want it to be gain and not loss,
good and not evil,
Success and not failure, in order
that I shall not regret

The price I have paid for it.

Author Unknown

Over and over we give thanks to
our Heavenly Father for such a
caring place as Parkview Haven
where they have cared for our be-
loved sister in faith and daughter,
Mrs. Daryle Hari (Janet), since
Dec. 6. Janet's condition remains
coma vigil.

Sis. Ellen Troxel also has taken
up residency in an apartment at
Parkview Haven. Since that time,
she has been hospitalized for sev-
eral days, but we are hopeful that

she will soon be able to be back in her apartment.

Ministering Bros. Elmer Schmidt, Winthrop, MN, and Karl Westfall, Francesville, favored us with their visits this past month. We were also blessed by visits from Bro. Jim Rinkenberger and companions from Bluffton who were brought safely to our little church through a severe storm and icy roads. What a blessed day of fellowship!

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Laurel Widmer

Sis. Edna Kyberg wishes to thank everyone for the cards, visits and prayers she received during her recent hospital stay.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

Romans 8:1

We have two young friends in our congregation who have made their peace with God and found that they have no condemnation. They are Tim Schwab (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene) and Denise Stoller (Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola). We look forward, with them, to the day of their baptism.

Bro. Andy Virkler and his family spent Sunday, Dec. 9, with us. We are thankful that they were willing to travel so far for our benefit.

As the old year was ending and the new beginning, we celebrated Christmas with songs and recitations by our Sunday School classes on Dec. 21. Each year the faces change and the children grow. Some are just beginning, while others have gone to take their places among the adult spectator group. But always the message is the same:

"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 Savior which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10, 11

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Mamie Gerst - Judy Gehring

For my love they are my adversaries: But I give myself unto prayer. Psalm 109:4.

Learn to entwine with your prayers the small cares, the trifling sorrows, the little wants of daily life. Whatever affects you—be it a changed look, an altered tone, an unkind word, a cruel wound, a demand you cannot meet, a sorrow

you cannot disclose—turn it into a prayer, and send it up to God. Disclosures you may not make to man, you can make to the Lord. Men may be too little for your great matters; God is not too great for your small ones. Only give yourself to prayer, whatever the occasion.

And if for any wish you dare not pray,
Then pray to God to cast that wish away.

Coleridge

We thank the ministers who visited us, Bro. Jerry Kuntz and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz, Oakville, and Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL. Bro. Nathan assisted Bro. Ed with the reading of the memorandum. May God bless their efforts. The Oakville congregation joined us here for the occasion.

Bro. Jacob Gehring of Elgin, IA, father of Bro. Uriel, went to his eternal reward Nov. 17. He was 81. Bro. Uriel was with him the last hours of his earthly life and witnessed his passing from life into eternity. A serene calm engulfed the hospital room in those moments immediately after death—from here to eternity in a moment of time. How precious to be "prepared to meet thy God." Sis. Bertha, Jacob's wife, now resides at the Good Samaritan Home at West Union, IA. Survivors include Bro. Uriel and family, Sis. Phyllis Massner and family, Sarasota, FL, and Jack Willett and family, Cedar Falls, IA.

As the new year is upon us, may we strive to stay close to our God who cares and understands.

Thy Year

God bless thy year,
Thy coming in, thy going out,
The rest, thy traveling about.
The rough, the smooth,
The bright, the drear:
God bless thy year.

Author Unknown

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

What Christmas Is

Christmas is a stable where
The waiting shepherds are.
Christmas is a carol sung

In frosty winter air.
It's a manger bed
With God's love cradled there.

The Gospel of Luke gives us a clear picture of the night our dear Saviour was born. According to his account, the shepherds saw a host of angels in the sky and heard them sing "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men."

Our Sunday School children went caroling last evening. This is an annual event and is truly one to be commended. It is greatly enjoyed, both by the participants and the folks who hear the carols.

May the warmth and love that surrounds us at Christmastime fill the hearts of all of our readers.

Bro. Jacob Gehring passed away Nov. 17 and will be missed by our congregation. He was always in attendance at our services if possible. He is survived by his widow, Bertha, two children, eleven grandchildren, one sister and two brothers. He has been a member of the Apostolic Christian Church for many years and found much satisfaction in visiting the sick, the shut-ins, and the elderly.

Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer was moved from the care center to the Postville Hospital.

Christopher Ronald is the name of Paul and Sis. Evelyn Pulfer's new grandchild. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Laudhers, Cedar Rapids. We extend congratulations to Audrey and Ronald, the parents of the infant boy.

We sincerely appreciated the visit by ministering Bro. Uriel Gehring in November.

During our business meeting, Bro. John Schupbach was elected to serve as our song leader. The following brothers were put in as trustees: John Schupbach, Floyd Frieden, and Lonnie Butikofer. Bro. Tim Butikofer and Chas. Schneider are ushers.

The following are Sunday School teachers: Bro. Albert Butikofer, Bro. John Schupbach (Bible Class); Bro. Charles Schneider, Bro. Floyd Frieden (Junior Bible); Sis. Elizabeth Moore, Sis. Sue Schneider (Intermediate); and Sis. Jan Frieden, Karla Moore (Primary).

We have four black-capped chickadees that come regularly for suet and seeds. It is amazing how they respect one another in that only one will eat at a time. The other three wait their turn, flitting around nearby. At the moment, I can hear the cry of a bluejay and spy a downy tenaciously hanging

onto a wire basket-like container, filled with bird feed.

After the snow falls, we expect to see an increase appearing in the variety of birds. Even now, an occasional cardinal is on the scene. The cardinals really bring a splash of color onto the snow covered landscape, which is hard to match.

God is good; God is great. He is love, and thanks are due Him for His plan of salvation.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Verle Funk

New Year's Day divides the past from the present. It draws a sharp line between the "has been" and the "may be." It forces us to think of what is forever gone and brings us face-to-face with the possibilities of what is to come.

Each new day does this, also. Each night marks something that has slipped away, and each morning opens a new, unwritten and unknown chapter of our lives.

New Year's Day does this on a larger, more searching and a bit more frightening, scale. We think not only of yesterday—but a whole year of yesterdays. We reflect on those things that have made a difference in our lives.

New Year's Day causes us to look forward, not only to tomorrow, but to 365 tomorrows.

It is good to analyze the successes and failures of yesterday and have high hopes for tomorrow. However, if the present is in order, we need have no fear of the future. If we're walking hand-in-hand with Jesus today, the past cannot hurt us, nor the future disturb us.

"Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not life more than meat, or the body more than raiment?" Matt. 6:25.

We thank our most recent visiting ministers, Bro. Jerry Kuntz, Oakville, Bro. Russell Wuthrich, Pulaski, and Elder Bro. Edward Lanz, Oakville.

Best wishes are in order for our newlyweds, April and James Parmer. April is the daughter of Bro. William and Sis. Verle Funk. James is the son of Earnest and Donna Parmer. May God light their path and direct their lives. Ed Note: It appears as if April is your reporter's daughter. Congratulations!

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Bonita Frank

As the winter snows continue, May we remember the one who controls the weather and not so much regret the things we cannot do because of the snow. By slowing our busy schedules, He frees more of our time for His work—visiting the sick and the shut-ins, writing letters to those who need an encouraging word, or even running errands for those who cannot get around in winter-time.

We are again thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. They were: Bro. Gene Metzger, Lester; Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka; Bro. Duane Metzger, West Bend; and Bro. Ed Alt, Cissna Park. We thank them for their labors of love.

Kevin Anliker, son of Ray and Pearl Anliker of West Bend, shared his testimony Saturday, Dec. 8, and was taken into the fold on Dec. 9. We pray that Kevin will always strive to discern and follow the Lord's divine will for him, claiming this ever-abundant grace.

Our flock will miss those who are leaving soon. Sis. Barb and Sis. Louise Unsicker both leave this area to further their education elsewhere, and Bro. Kevin Banwart leaves us to return to the West Bend area. We wish them the Lord's richest blessings and will greatly miss them.

May we again remember those whom we remembered during the holidays with kind deeds. They not only appreciate thoughtfulness during December, but all year long.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

From here in the northwest tip of Iowa, we wish a blessed New Year to all of our readers of the Silver Lining. As we begin a new decade, we wonder what is in store for us. We pray that our faith will remain strong and our trust in God firm.

We are happy and thankful that Bro. Larry Leuthold's wife, Mardi, has turned to the Lord in repentance. Dietrich Knobloch, son of Bro. Willie and Sis. Helen, and Beth Mogler, daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie, also are turning their lives around and are repenting.

Elder Bro. Leo Moser conducted the wedding, on Dec. 2, of Bro. Wesley Moser and Sis. Esther Feucht. We know their light will shine as

they establish their Christian home in our community.

Bro. Alvin Leuthold has been hospitalized with hip surgery and is getting along fine. Just last night we heard that Brent Teubel, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline, was injured when struck by a car while riding an ATC motorbike. He is in intensive care with several fractures. We hope and pray that he will heal with the help of God.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Phyllis Siegle

Bells ring out so loud and clear, heralding the arrival of another New Year. Resolutions are made over again on "this to do, from that to abstain." But do you know, you who would do well, it's best to go on bended knee, and make your plea of, "Help me, Lord." Man's weak strength is all in vain, but help from above is our sure gain.

Author Unknown

Bro. Curtis and Sis. Kathy Frank are the parents of a son named Ryan Alan. May he bring joy to their hearts and happiness to their home. The grandparents are Bro. Ernest and Sis. Bernice Frank, and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Joan Lanz.

The wedding of Terri Wyss, daughter of David and Sis. Kathy, was Nov. 10. Her husband is Jay Hutcheson of Morning Sun, IA. We wish, for them, much happiness in their new life as one.

Martha Whipple and Rick Noll are engaged. Martha is the daughter of Lawrence and Sis. Lorraine. The parents of Rick are Mr. and Mrs. Richard Noll, Ft. Madison, IA. Our best wishes are extended to them.

Dec. 9 was the wedding of Bro. Ronald Massner and Sis. Donna Wuthrich of Morton, IL. Bro. Ron is the son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Norma, and Sis. Donna is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Eunice. "Our love shall not diminish, nor fade, nor wax away; bind us till life we finish, and in the grave we lay." (Zion's Harp No. 137) We wish them many years of joy and happiness together.

"Pour out your heart before Him." Psalm 62:8. Two friends recently expressed that after they did just that, things went well for them. Brenda Kiefer, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Delores, and Kurt Eberhardt, son of Bro. Jody and Sis. Ruby, gave their testimonies

of faith and were baptized the following day. We welcome our new sister and brother in faith, and wish, for them, God's precious gift of grace throughout their entire lives.

The evening of the same blessed day, we assembled together at Burlington to have the conclusions of the conference report explained to us. It seemed the evening went so fast, as it was such a timely and interesting one. In sincere respect and with great appreciation, may we take to heart these teachings. Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, in such love, gave his time and effort so unselfishly the entire weekend, as he helped our Elder Bro. Ed. We wish to thank him and welcome him back. We appreciated those who accompanied him.

May God bless the labors of love of the brothers who proclaim God's Word. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Joe Gerst, Iowa City (who spent Thanksgiving with us), Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL, and Bros. Albert and Russel Wuthrich, Pulaski.

IOWA, PULASKI
Mary Jane Knapp
Ginny Wuthrich

We were thankful to have Bro. Vernon Leman with us on Dec. 2. Once again, the good Word went out. We were reminded that the cross comes before the crown. May we ever be diligent in working for the Lord and having our hearts tuned to the Lord.

We are thankful that we have been able to listen to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. May we ever have a prayer upon our hearts for the dear brothers as they endeavor to keep the faith preserved.

The Sunday School classes have been busy with caroling and their program. How precious it is to see the little ones tell of His birth. May it ever be kept in their hearts.

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

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker was our visiting minister on Thanksgiving weekend. On Saturday, Dec. 8, our hearts were happy to hear the testimonies of Kevin Anliker (Bro. Ray and Sis. Louise) and Mark and Deb Bruellman (Bro. Don and Sis. Verda). Baptismal services were held Sunday afternoon. Elder

Bros. Leo Moser and Harold Messner, Bro. Walter Anliker, and Bro. Elmer Schmidt were present. May God grant grace to His lambs, that they may hold fast to the solid rock and drink of the Living Waters of life.

Another year has passed, and we wish to express our thanks to all our visiting ministers and elders who rendered their services for the above testimonies and the reading of the memorandum. We were enlightened anew and were thankful for the many warnings that were brought to our attention. There are many pitfalls that keep entering into our walk of life as a true child of God. So we must all be true, obedient, and listen to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit in order to stay on the straight and narrow path. Then we may be worthy to enter the heavenly home that God has promised to us someday.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Silas Metzger, Warren Kellenberger, Jim Wirtz, Sis. Emma Luthi, and Bro. Lawrence Schneider. We pray that God will bestow His healing power to each one.

Dec. 16 we were again privileged to hear our Sunday School children express the true meaning of Christmas and Christ's birth. As we look out into the world of confusion, selfishness, hatred, wars, and such, we wonder how many will honestly worship the Holy Child who came to give His life as a ransom for our sins. How many will have the real Peace in their hearts and the sincere love for all mankind? Our wish for all the readers of this Silver Lining is that peace and joy may fill their hearts during this Christmas season and throughout the new year. Our summary for 1979 was nine births, six weddings, five converts, ten baptisms and one death.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Jane Weiss

O Hear the Bells on Christmas Day,

"Ding, Dong, Ding, Dong, Dong."
 "Jesus is Born!" they seem to say,
 "Ding, Dong, Ding."

As my fellow teacher at Shioda American Kindergarten, Sis. Evie Blunier, finished putting up one of the new bulletin boards for December, she was asking the children

about it. It was a stained glass window made from construction paper and bells from styrofoam cups and ribbons. After the children responded that they were indeed bells, she asked, "What kind of bells?" Out of the mouths of several precious souls rang the words, "BELLS FOR JESUS!" Who can tell the Christmas Story better than children themselves? As each of us in our individual churches observe the Sunday School children year after year, and now as our precious Japanese children enthusiastically perform for their parents in a language not their own, we must be aware that God allows us as teachers, parents, aunts, uncles, friends or whatever to plant this most valuable seed and to fertilize it with our love. We can see the perfected fruit and enjoy it and even receive a blessing from it. Jesus truly does "love the little children, all the little children of the world."

Lord willing, we expect to have visitors from the U.S. with us for Christmas and the New Year. They are Sis. Evie's sisters, Marge Blunier and Sis. Doris Blunier from Eureka. May God bless our fellowship together and give them a safe journey here and back.

The New Year! What does it mean to you? To the Japanese people it is the greatest annual celebration. They send their New Year's greeting cards, clean their homes extra clean, make special foods, and visit their friends and family. All the normal activities come to a halt for at least three days. Everyone is frantically busy clearing all outstanding accounts before the end of December so that they may greet the New Year with a clean sheet and be in the proper mood to celebrate it joyfully.

For many of us it's a time to review the old year, be thankful for our blessings and perhaps make amends for our mistakes by resolving to do better in the future. May we all praise God for our blessings and live even more sincerely for Him in the New Year.

Our Sunday School teachers for the new year will continue to be Sis. Sally Gramm for the Kindergarten class and Sis. Reiko Furuya for the older children's class. Bro. Toru Saegusa will take his first turn as trustee for our Shioda church with Bro. Willis Ehnle and

Bro. Uchida. We know he'd appreciate your prayers. Our number is few, so it's important that each one helps in whatever way they can.

Jesus says in John 10:9, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and shall find pasture." The Lord not only promises us eternal life if we enter in at the door, but also promises to provide for us—give us pasture! In this new year, may we trust and abide in Him each day.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

Thanksgiving! It sounds like a wonderful word. Believers should not forget this word before God and man. If we forget to be thankful we have nothing left but dissatisfaction. We had our Thanksgiving Service on Nov. 18, and later, in the afternoon, Sis. Evie Blunier showed her slides of Europe. Of special interest were the slides of our church folds in Hungary and her report of the churches there. It gave us all a yearning to visit them. It also made us feel we should give more of our time and energy for the things of the Lord, as we live in a free country and have been so blessed.

We are now thinking about the blessed Christmas story, and the children are learning their pieces for our program.

May all Silver Lining readers and their loved ones have a blessed Christmas and Gods blessings in 1980!

KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

We report that we have three new babies this month. Laura Beth was born Nov. 12 to Sally and Randy Reist. Little Miranda says welcome. Bro. Louis and Sis. Mavis Meyer are the maternal grandparents. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger are happy for Anthony James, born Dec. 2. Anthony is somewhat special, as he is their first child, and the first grandchild for Bro. Jim and Sis. Julia first grandson for Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger. Eric Ryan was born Dec. 6 to Mr. and Mrs. James Isch. He has a little sister, Mindy. Elmer and Eldora (Wittmer) Isch are the paternal grandparents.

Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott)

and Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville) were our guest ministers. Bro. Lanz also helped Elder Bros. Lester Hartter and Gene Marti with the conference summary on Dec. 1. An added bonus was the opportunity to hear the tapes on three Wednesday evenings. Much food for thought was given. May the Lord grant grace to heed the warnings.

On Dec. 4, quite a group traveled to Newton for a World Relief work-day. Also, 50 from the area churches took part. The man sealed and handed 1680 boxes of meat for shipment, and the ladies sorted and mended clothing. It was hard work, but it was very rewarding.

At our annual election, Bro. Eldon Plattner was re-elected trustee. Bro. Joe David Rkey was reelected to help with the address system.

Sis. Lena Strahm (Bro. Alpha Sr.) is hospitalized with a fractured hip, due to a fall.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Into another year of time should bring us no dismay when God is our companion through every night and day. God's guidance and strength are there. He has our future planned; we need only trust and take His loving, outstretched hand.

Clara Bernhardt
(taken in part)

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to our dear Sis. Doris Bahr and family in the death of their beloved mother and grandmother, Sis. Lydia Farney, Kiowa.

We give congratulations to Roger and Janice Shannon who are the proud parents of a little adopted son, Scott Michael, born Nov. 29. Scott has an older brother, Mark, to welcome him. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer.

We thank ministering Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, for his willingness to share God's Word with us. The exhortations and words of encouragement were indeed welcomed by each thirsty soul.

May our faith sustain each one of us for the coming New Year, 1980.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Judy Bahr

It doesn't seem possible that another semester has come to an

end and a new one will soon begin. We have two seniors who will be graduating this December. Bro. John Wernli is majoring in Dairy Science. He is the son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Betty, Lamont, KS. Richard Wullschleger is majoring in Milling Science, and he is the son of Bro. Art and Sis. Gussie, Wichita, KS. John and Richard will be missed by all of us but we wish them God's blessings as they leave our group.

Our group recently went Christmas caroling to two nursing homes and one hospital in Manhattan. The Joy that fills one when he sees the old eyes light up is the best gift he could receive. We thank all the visitors who came to share this blessed evening with us.

We wish to thank Bros. Roy Wernli, Lamont, KS, and Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS, for holding church services this month. It's a wonderful privilege to be able to attend church.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

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. Alas how many only know the Savior as a child.

H. O. Z. No. 36

How thankful we are, this blessed season of the year, to yet be freely granted the privilege of hearing the story of Christ's birth in all of its truth and sacred beauty. The Sunday School children told it, the carolers sang of it, and our elder and ministering brethren meditated upon it on Christmas Day as we gathered to worship. Praise the Lord for the precious gift of Christ to a dying world. What hope His birth, and, yes, His death at Calvary, brought to all who believed in His coming. And best of all, that door is yet open to any and all who seek His precious face, turn from their sins, and through a true conversion begin their life anew in Him. How we pray that multitudes will come to Christ before it is too late.

Bro. Charles Terry and Sis. Bea Diel were our hospital patients this month, and we are so glad that Bro. Charles is in our midst again. Sis. Rea is still very ill in the hospital at Cherokee and needs our fervent prayers.

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Sis. Clara, Lamont, KS, joined us one weekend this month. On Saturday evening we heard the grave warnings of our elder body from the memorandum. Bro. Ronald Nelson and Bro. Sam meditated upon it. Then, on the Lord's Day, Bro. Sam again lent himself, morning and afternoon, to bring us precious teachings from the scriptures.

We visited the Kiowa Manor twice this month with services and songs of praise (once as appointed, once to carol). What a joy it was to see how deeply many of them appreciated our coming.

Here is a thought for the new year: In all Thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct Thy paths. Prov. 3:6

Kiowa's Silver Lining dues month is February!

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

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

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 for thy love;
Another year of raining
For holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee. Amen
No. 150, Hymns of Zion

Bro. Clarence and Sis. Laura Kachelmuss and Bro. Emil and Sis. Louise Anliker visited us recently. Bro. Clarence brought forth the Word of God so clearly and plainly. We thank him for his inspiring messages and invite them to visit us again.

Rick Anliker, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Lorene was hospitalized for surgery on his wrist.

Melvin Young fell from a scaffolding while he was shingling a roof. He was very fortunate that

there were no broken bones, but he did have several facial cuts and bruises which required stitches. He was hospitalized for a few days and is home doing fine now.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

We assembled together at Bern to hear the conclusions of the conference. Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, and Bro. Ed Lanz, Oakville, were here to assist Bro. Lester Hartter in bringing them to us. It is good to be reminded from time to time how we should conduct ourselves. We are thankful to know our brothers are willing to be used as watchmen and will try to lead us away from danger. May God bless them.

Other visiting ministers have been Bro. Mark Bahr, Detroit, Bro. Wayne Miller, Fort Scott, Bro. Loen Strahm, Gridley, KS, and Bro. John Lehman, Bern. We thank them all.

We have assembled twice on Wednesday evenings to hear the tapes of the conference. This Wednesday will conclude them. We invite everyone to assemble with us Wednesday evenings as we are again having mid-week services. We alternate with Bern, and the time is 7:30 p.m.

Bro. John and Sis. Cornelia Aberle are the parents of a girl born Dec. 6. She has been named Sarah Marie and is welcomed home by Rachel, Jeanne and Myra.

Sis. Elizabeth Marti had a stroke and is in the Sabetha Community Hospital. Her speech is affected, but there is no other paralysis. She is showing improvement.

A reception was held at the Fellowship Hall for Bro. Ted and Sis. Cordelia Locher. They have been married 50 years. They have four children throughout the country: Wayne in California, Robert in Louisiana, Roger in Florida, and Betty Metzger in Oneida, KS. They were all able to be present for the reception.

The new addition to the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha has been completed. They are now accepting new residents. The capacity has been increased from 37 to 80 beds. Open House was held December 9, 1979, and was attended by a large crowd.

Our Sunday school program was presented to us this noon by the children, our "future church."

It is wonderful to know the seed is being planted and, hopefully, will bear fruit some day in the future. We enjoyed their ministry in verse and song.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

In our local daily newspaper this morning on the editorial page, an article appeared which said, "Something New in What to Wear." The writer was explaining what lengths people go to have a new look of fashion, sometimes trying to be like everyone else, and sometimes trying to be very different. Then the editor continued by saying there is a new look that is taking the country by storm and may eventually be worn by everyone. It is seen on Christmas shoppers as they tightly clutch their purses, on the faces of clerks in convenience stores, on the faces of men and women as they pay for their groceries at the check-out counter, etc. It is not reserved for any race or age group. In fact, this fashion is catching on all over the world. After much elaboration he said that this new look, or latest look, is FEAR. "It is the constant, penetrating, unrelenting look of fear. It is fear of the known and the unknown. It is fear that goes deeper than any human emotion except love." The editor concludes by saying, "The greatest hope at this time of year should be that the creative designers of world fashions can somehow change the trend, making the look of fear passe, and ushering in an international look of LOVE."

I heard the testimony of a converted Jewess who said that she was taught to hate; but when she found the true Messiah, the gift of love was given to her, and there just was no room for hate, no room for fear. A brother from West Bend, IA, related to us, after returning from Russia, that even a smile is hard to find in Russia. The people are afraid to smile. We have heard the same report from those who have visited Rumania as well as other countries who are under the rule of an iron hand and suppression. If love is a stronger emotion than fear, then certainly the Epistle of John gives us some vital instructions as Christians and a big responsibility to demonstrate this love one to another and to our fellowman.

Several Saturdays ago I stood at the airport with a group of people waiting for a plane which was bringing, as passengers, a refugee family from Laos. We were told they were in need, and we were there to offer the church's assistance. Putting yourself in their place, how would you feel, not being able to speak the language of the people you were going to live among? When we first approached them I was not certain they knew how to smile. It is a two way challenge. One local minister made the remark over the pulpit that there is a language of love that everyone can understand. Surely, if we bring what we have to the Lord and offer it, God will supply the rest.

The holidays have brought families together from a distance and we always rejoice to see our families come to visit us. The homecoming is certainly part of the blessings of having a family. The prophets of gloom would have us believe that we may never experience another blessing in our lifetime, but as long as we keep our eyes on the Great Designer and Creator, what do we have to fear? If God be for us, who can be against us?

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Patsy Bragiel

We were pleased again to have ministering Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley) and Bro. Floyd Wieland (Detroit) visit our congregation on Thanksgiving eve.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Jill Rinkenberger, along with their three sons, have a new baby girl to join them. Amy Jeann was born December 3.

We rejoice to have another friend, Kerry Wieland (Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lana), make a change and yield her life to our Lord. May God grant her His grace and strength to seek out her repentance.

No man can be called friendless when he has God and the companionship of good books. (Elizabeth Browning)

As we have elderly brothers and sisters away from home and ill in the hospital, may they find God and His Word, the Holy Bible, their companion. Hospitalized are Bro. John Lambert, Bro. Sam Wieland (Sis. Ida), and Sis. Marion Meylan (Bro. Herman).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Bonnie Popp

As we approach a New Year, may we consider how swiftly the hours and days pass. May we have an innermost searching and set the priority in our lives that we will fill those days ahead with things which are pure, honest and upbuilding in the spirit.

Our Sunday School presented a program of the Christmas message in word and song. The message throughout the program was the word of the Old Testament foretold and then the fulfillment of that event with New Testament scripture.

One of the songs the children sang spoke well of the light of the star of Bethlehem.

"... Oh give us thy light to light the way into the land of perfect day. Beautiful Star of Bethlehem Shine On."

R. Fisher Boyce

A beautiful weekend was ours to welcome into the fold two very precious souls, Shelle Massner and Pat Allen, husband of Sis. Jeanette (Belsley) Allen.

Many of Shelle's family from Kansas and Illinois were able to be with us. We were also grateful for Elder Bro. Roy Grimm, Bro. Sam Huber, and Bro. Wayne Miller who were with us.

May the Lord ever light the way of these two souls and may these be the words in their hearts:

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually: Let God be magnified.

Psalm 70:4

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion.

Psalm 71:1

We extend our prayers of consolation to Sis. Esther Orcsik and her family. Sis. Esther's father passed away in Hungary and she was able to make the trip to be with her family there.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who were ill. Sis. Linda Shaw has been in the hospital, as well as little Heather, Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz's baby girl. It is at times such as these that we feel hearts fervently linked together in prayer.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1

MOVING? LET US KNOW.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

Carol Virkler

"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12.

We rejoice that Lance Nelson has made the decision to follow the Lord. We wish him God's grace and nearness as he begins this new walk of life.

Sis. Viola Aupperle has hospitalized recently. God has restored her back to good health.

We enjoyed a blessed day on Dec. 16 when the children of our Sunday School presented the annual Christmas program. It was a joy to listen to the recitations, Scripture readings, and beautiful songs of praises telling of our dear Saviour's birth.

After the program, many of us went Christmas caroling at several nursing homes in the area. Then we all returned to the church to enjoy a delicious pot-luck supper and evening of fellowship. We thank all the visitors who came to share the day with us.

Also on this day, the Sunday School children learned to share when they each brought several pieces of fruit and canned goods which were made up into fruit baskets and given to the shut-ins and needy families.

A NEW YEAR'S PROMISE

Another year I enter,
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
What the new year will bring me
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?

But I have heard God's whisper,
I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper—
I surely shall be blest:
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest!"

Author Unknown

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

Today we stand on the verge of the unknown. There lies before us the new year, and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come, what new needs shall arise?

But here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our Heavenly Father, "The Lord thy God careth for it. The eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." (Deut. 11:11, 12)

Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger are happy to announce the arrival of their first child, Emily Joan, born Nov. 20. Emily's grandparents are Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Edna Zeltwanger and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Morton.

Also, a first child was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth Schmidgall on Nov. 24. Little Rachel Lee's grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vila Schmidgall and Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hoerr of Peoria.

Ryan, Quinn, and Joan are pleased with their new sister, Leah Mae, who was born on Dec. 14. Leah's proud parents are Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner, and her grandparents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Gladys Messner and Bro. Simon and Sis. Mary Ellen Wiegand of Goodfield.

We thank our ministering brothers Ken Lawson and Noah Gerber who came to visit us and share God's holy Word. May God reward them for their efforts.

Our dear friends, Dutch and Esther Schlupp, are hospitalized at this writing. Our prayers for God's comfort and nearness are with them.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

Full redemption is the promise
Made to him who heeds the word;
They who in their heart retain
Thee

Shall receive the great reward.

Zion's Harp, No. 176

We pray that with the approaching new year many more friends might heed His Word so that they may receive the great reward. We cannot help but ponder the question in our hearts: Will God gather his elect in this new decade? Will he take his bride, the Church?

Arlen and Linda Messerli announced the birth of Daniel Frederick on Dec. 4. Bro. Cornelius and Sis. Delores are the paternal grandparents.

Sis. Pearl (Archie) Lienemann is recovering from surgery and Sis. Melva (Roland) Messner is at the clinic for a check-up.

We extend our sympathy to the Messerli family in the loss of their sister, Margaret Larson.

Thought: Embrace Jesus while you are alive, and he will embrace you when you die.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Sandra Marti - Vera Luthi

We have been richly blessed this past year. How thankful we are for our eleven converts, two new babies, one wedding, and no deaths.

The Sunday School children are busy practicing for their Christmas program. We are all looking forward to hearing them recite their pieces.

Walter Cordill is in the hospital as a medical patient. Our prayers are that he will soon be able to assemble with us. Sis. Fern Braker spent some time in the hospital this past month, and we are thankful that she is able to assemble with us again.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

May God richly bless each and everyone with His love and peace during this new year we are beginning.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22:6.

Tom, Theresa and little Travis Cottrell welcome a baby girl, Tonya Renee, who was born Nov. 21. Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Page are the grandparents.

We are happy to welcome new converts David and Mary Jane (Miller) Foote who have moved to the Clayton area from Tremont, IL. May God richly bless this young couple as they seek to work out their soul's salvation, and may they feel a warm welcome from all of us here at Taylor.

Special visitors this month were ministering Bros. Kenny Dietz and Roy Ehnle from Bradford and Bob Grimm from Morton and their families. We were richly blessed and would sum it up with Ephesians 6:10, "Finally my brethren be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp and little Ryan are moving to Eureka, IL, where Jon has been transferred through his work at Moormans. We'll miss them but trust that this

is God's plan and that He will bless them in this venture.

"Christ is the channel through which we receive peace with God." (M. Jess) We rejoice with Sis. Janelle Scott whose husband, Don, has made his beginning in repentance. May God grant the necessary grace and strength that in due time this little family can say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

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, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6.

Once again we spent a joyous and worthwhile evening seeing and listening to our Sunday School children portray Christ's birth in word and song. We thank the children and teachers for a special treat, and may God bless them for all their efforts. Their efforts mean more to us parents and grandparents each year. They should never think it isn't worth the time and effort which they put forth. We look forward to these programs, and each one is a link in that chain of fond memories.

This is indeed a special season, and we trust that all we do and take part in will be pleasing to God and, in turn, that we will receive His true blessings.

The following is a tribute to the memory of our dear Sister Elizabeth Sutter, who passed away one year ago: We miss you so much, and especially today, as it was just a year ago that we bade you a fond farewell. We wondered then if life could really go on without you. We know now that it was only the physical part of you that left. The memories we have will always linger with us and the light of your example will never be extinguished and will one day lead us to that perfect Home. Not only are you missed by your children and grandchildren but by all who knew and loved you here.

May we appreciate these fond memories of those who have gone on, and may we enjoy the wonderful fellowship we can have with those who are still with us.

We wish to make the following clarification. Gary Butikofer, grandson of Sis. Marie Butikofer, and Joy Hege of Little Rock, MN, have announced their engagement.

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

We were blessed with visits from ministering Bros. Homer Reinnick of Toledo at Union City on November 25 and Corban Bahler of Rockville at Philadelphia on December 9. The good fellowship of our loved ones from other churches is a real source of joy and encouragement to our small congregations. When, in addition, they bring the Word in its Godly truth and power, it is an added blessing.

On Sunday, December 16, we enjoyed the children's Sunday School Christmas program at Philadelphia. In addition to providing a wonderful hour of song and spiritual enjoyment, we were reminded how God would like to see in us the simplicity, innocence and faith that we could see in these small children. Even though we may feel that we will never be able in this life to obtain the perfection of the Lord, we ought never to stop trying. Perhaps the best way to even come close to attaining that goal is to pattern our lives after the innocence and faith we see in our small children. "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein."

**NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler**

(Luke 18:17)

Our Sunday School children are preparing their Sunday School program which will be presented to the congregation on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 23. It is rewarding to see the efforts put forth by the children at this holiday season of the year and to hear what they have to say through verse and song.

As the New Year is approaching, we look back to 1979 and are thankful for the many blessings enjoyed throughout the year. It has been a year of bountiful harvest, and we look forward to a blessed New Year for all.

Our hospital patients are Sis. Minnie Virkler and Sis. Sarah Virkler. Bro. Arthur Wooschlager has entered the Extended Care facility at Lewis County General Hospital. Bro. Chester O'Brien suffered a broken bone in his elbow as the result of a fall outside his home.

**NEY YORK, NAUMBURG
Rachel Snyder**

On Saturday evening, Nov. 17, we gathered with the Croghan folks to hear the testimony of John Virkler, son of Charlott and the late Clifton. On Sunday, we again gathered with them to witness his baptism. It was so nice that Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (cousin of John) from Bay City, MI, could be with us, bringing us good teachings and helping with the work. We all enjoyed a dinner after the services. Bro. Andrew was able to be with us again in the evening as we gathered at Naumburg.

We have now finished listening to the tapes of the conference. It is very inspiring to listen to them. May we all adhere to the advise given.

Sis. Barbra Bockman had a birthday on Dec. 15. She was 102. She attends church every Sunday and is in unusually good health. Though her hearing is quite impaired, she still enjoys the fellowship very much.

Bro. Jesse Karcher has been in the Lowville Hospital and is now in the extended-care part of the hospital. He seems to be doing a little better now than when he entered the hospital.

**OHIO, AKRON
Lynell Palitto**

What a blessed privilege was ours as we again heard the "Word" brought forth in abundance by Bro. Merrill Laukhuf on Dec. 2.

Kelly Luginbuhl, daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose, was discharged from the hospital on Dec. 4 and is home again with her family. Bro. Paul and Sis. Rose Pamer have not been able to assemble with us for quite some time now. Also shut-in at this time are Bro. Noah and Sis. Mary Baumgartner. Let us remember the shut-ins with cards, visits, and prayers.

The annual Christmas Program was held on Dec. 16. The six classes of students, combined into three groups, proclaimed the beautiful message of Jesus' birth in harmonious singing.

As we begin a new year, may we rededicate our lives to live in the love of Christ, because He was born and died for our salvation.

Just a reminder to those who may have forgotten—December is

the month for our Silver Lining collection.

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Lester Manz**

We had our first session of the conference tapes this month.

Sis. Gwen Manz was in the hospital. It is nice to report that she is home now and able to be with us again in church.

Sis. Betty Schlatter has been in school the past few months in the Chicago area. It has been nice to have her with us again over the holiday season.

**OHIO, LATTY
Susie Sinn**

There is a Guide that never falters,

And when He leads I cannot stray;

For step by step He goes before me,

And marks my path—He knows the way. Ackley

Thanksgiving messages were brought to us by Bro. Ed Frank and Bro. Art Gudeman (LaCrosse). We were reminded that we have many things to be thankful for everyday, especially our soul's salvation.

On Nov. 24 and 25, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Melanie and Annette Hackenjos (Bro. Myron and Sis. Lorene) and Teresa Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby). Bro. Orville Ringger (Bluffton) and Bro. Marvin Stiegelitz (Leo) shared this blessed weekend with us. We pray that many more of our loved ones will have the same experience that our new sisters have had.

Sis. Sophie Sinn was hospitalized but is now home recovering. Sis. Sadie Riegenbach recently underwent surgery, and we are thankful that she is improving.

Bro. Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) assisted Bro. Loren Stoller in reading the memorandum. We certainly appreciate their kind and loving warnings and admonitions. May we each strive to do our part in keeping the traditions and doctrines of our precious faith.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD
Lucille Groh**

NEW YEAR'S WISHES

What shall I wish thee! Treasures of earth?

Songs in the springtime, pleasures
and mirth?
Flowers in thy pathway, skies
ever clear?
Would this insure thee a happy
new year?

What shall I wish thee? What can
be found,
Bringing the sunshine all the year
round?
Where is the treasure, lasting and
dear,
That shall insure thee a happy
new year?

Faith that increaseth, walking in
light;
Hope that aboundeth, happy and
bright;
Love that is perfect, casting out
fear—
These shall insure thee a happy
new year.

Peace in the Saviour, rest at His
feet,
Smile in His countenance, radiant
and sweet;
Joy in His presence, Christ ever
near—
These will insure thee a happy
new year.

F. R. Havergal

Peace . . . what a wonderful feeling
in a world of turmoil. Yet
God still grants each of His child-
ren this beautiful life if he sur-
renders all and trusts Him com-
pletely.

Three dear friends have made
this experience, and it has been an-
nounced that they have found this
perfect peace. They are Frances
Gage and Joanne and Don Garrison.
This is truly a wonderful way to
start a new year, living for Jesus.

Nov. 24 and 25, Elder Bros. Ru-
dolph Graf and Joseph Ramsier
visited here and served us Holy
Communion. How wonderful to
have the privilege of partaking of
it again being reminded of our Sav-
iour's love and His great sacrifice
for a dying world.

On Dec. 9, Bro. Ron Steiner
(Rittman) visited and proclaimed
the precious Living Word to us.
We thank all of our brothers for
favoring us with their visits.

Our ministering Bros. Robert
Beer and Kenneth Sauder were re-
cently hospitalized. Bro. Kenneth
has been released, for which we
are so thankful. Bro. Robert was
released but had to be readmitted.

We pray for God's healing power,
as we miss Bro. Robert who has
served our congregation so faith-
fully for many years.

Other loved ones hospitalized
are Sis. Helen Sferro, Sis. Barbara
Bricker, Bro. Robert Sauder, Bill
Heckle, and baby Troy Baltic (Bro.
Pete and Sis. Karen). In love, our
deepest prayers go to each one for
God's nearness and blessing of re-
turning health.

We are happy to report that we
have two new babies in our church
circle. Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie
Domka are the first-time parents
of a baby boy, Richard Daniel, born
Dec. 6. The happy grandparents
are Bro. Steve and Sis. Ruth Sabo
Domka and Bro. Dale and Sis.
Joyce Hartzler (Rittman).

Cliff and Lynn Ramsier are the
parents of a baby girl named Jac-
lyn Marie, born Dec. 8. Bro. Wal-
lace and Sis. Helen Ramsier are
Cliff's parents.

Our hearts were saddened on
December 3 when our dear Sis.
Anna Hoffman bade us farewell,
and, we trust and believe, went
home to her eternal rest. Sis. Anna
was born July 13, 1900. She was a
dear sister, and the children of
our church knew her better as the
"candy lady." As regular as Sun-
day came, she had some goodies to
share with the little ones. Surviv-
ing are three sons, William, Harold
and Russell, and four brothers, Bro.
Aaron, Bro. Ora, and Noah Sau-
der, all of Mansfield, and Bro. Lew-
is Sauder of Bluffton.

Safe Home at last! Oh say she has
not died,
Her soul has only crossed the swell-
ing tide,
And Heaven's gates for her have
opened wide;
She's Home at last!

Life's sun for her has set, but oh
the glow
That long will linger O'er this
world of woe
Because she lived and labored here
below!
She's Home at last!

A. B. Christiansen

OHIO, RITTMAN Florence Hartzler

But seek ye first the kingdom of
God, and his righteousness; and
all these things shall be added unto
you. Matt. 6:33. We are thankful
that there are still more souls

seeking the right way, and we re-
joice with Ed Marty, Greg Gasser,
Denise Zollinger, and Joyce (Mai-
bach) Thompson. May they feel
the peace of God in their hearts
that so many of our dear ones are
experiencing.

While we are rejoicing, some
others have sorrow. Our sympathy
is extended to Dorothy (Weber)
Yarger at the passing away of her
husband, Fred, 28. We also sym-
pathize with Dorothy's folks, Bro.
Ralph and Sis. Ellen Weber. We
pray that she will feel the Lord's
nearness and know His is only a
prayer away.

As some die, so we have new
births. A son, Eric Michael, was
born to Ronn and Denise Riggen-
bach. The grandparents are Ver-
non and Sis. Martha Riggenbach.
Born to our converts Stan and Kar-
en Beery is a little girl, Rebecca
Elizabeth. She has one brother,
Tony, to welcome her home; along
with grandparents Richard and
Gladys Bauman and Bro. Melvin
and Sis. Elizabeth Beery. Another
little girl was born, and this one
to Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic.
Elaine Diane is welcomed home by
three sisters and five brothers.
The grandparents are Bro. Geoge
and Sis. Minnie Riggenbach and
Bo. Mitch and Sis. Violet Baltic.
May the Lord bless these families
with their precious little bundles.

The Lord is my strength and my
shield; my heart trusted in him
and I am helped . . . Psalm 28:7.
Isn't it a comfort to know He can
help if we put our trust in Him.
Sis. Estella Winkler has her leg in
a cast due to a fracture in her
ankle. Bro. Ralph Weber was in the
hospital because of a back prob-
lem.

The engagement of Dennis
Hartzler and Kristina Haught was
recently announced by her par-
ents, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Haught.
Dennis' parents are Bro. Joe and
Sis. Marian Hartzler.

A new decade is upon us starting
with the year 1980. It seems like
the past ten years have been full of
turmoil and strife, and it looks like
this new year will have some of
the same. Many years ago the
angels brought good news to the
shepherds: Peace on Earth, Good
Will to men. Worldly peace does
not prevail right now. I am re-
minded of a song written a long
time ago. Henry W. Longfellow
states in one verse, "And in de-

spair I bowed my head, 'There is no peace on earth,' I said, For hate is strong, and mocks the song of peace on earth good will to men." But then in the next verse he said, "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth good will to men." May we all pray for peace in these troubled times.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Josephine Rehklau

ANOTHER YEAR IS DAWNING

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

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 for 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. Amen.
Hymns of Zion

Tillie Laukhuf, who was in the hospital as a medical patient, is now in the Van Wert Manor in Van Wert, OH.

Bro. John Fetter has been in the hospital and is now able to again assemble with us.

We pray that God's healing power will restore to each one a measure of good health as it is His will.

We welcome Mark and Jeanene Masters into our fellowship.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was held on Dec. 16. The children gave an inspiring program stressing God's best gift to man.

I wish all my fellow workers who contribute to the publication of the Silver Lining a blessed New Year.

ADDRESS CHANGED?
TELL YOUR REPORTER.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Mary Jane Winkler

The children presented the Christmas Story of Jesus' birth in verse and song and told how Jesus came to save us from our sins. It truly is wonderful to see the children as they relate these truths to us. May we all ever remember anew the reason we have Christmas and ever be thankful that the baby Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

Sis. Terry Zollinger was chosen to replace Sis. Carol Dietrich as Sunday School teacher. We wish to thank Sis. Carol for her time and love shown to our children in teaching them about the Bible. We wish Sis. Terry God's blessing as she endeavors to teach these little children.

**YE MUST BE
BORN AGAIN**

Reprinted from The Apostolic Christian Church publication, "Ye Must Be Born Again".

THE AWAKENING

When the divine light begins to dawn in a human soul and the soul becomes aware of its uncleanness and unworthiness, what is more natural than that one should resolve to mend his ways, to discontinue doing the things which the quickened conscience shows him to be wrong, and to do better!

Thus begins the first skirmish of a battle which is to go through many stages before victory is won and the soul attains to its liberation from the power of darkness and evil.

Often as long as one is a willing servant of sin he is apt to harbor the illusion that, should he choose to do so, he could, any time, at will, throw off his vices and live a virtuous life. It is only after the soul has challenged the power of sin by making a resolve to cease from sinning, that the soul discovers how great is the power of sin over it.

Wise are they who at this state learn quickly to seek Jesus Christ, the Saviour, who has broken the yoke of Satan and who is able to make those who believe and obey Him truly free. But often this wisdom is not so quickly learned. The human heart is proud and is loath to confess itself, thus unable to free itself. So the struggle goes on. Sometimes the soul has victory and

rejoices therein, then again it suffers defeat, finding itself overcome by the power of sin to do what it would not (Rom. 7:19) and goes down into the depths of despair being condemned of its own conscience. "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death." (Rom. 7:24)

UNDER THE LAW

Thus the soul is brought under the law. Ever trying to keep the law of righteousness to be justified thereby, but often failing, it finds no satisfaction and no peace.

No, this is not the way to attain the newness of life. This is patchwork, mending a rent here, while a greater one appears elsewhere. Overcoming one weakness by a concentration of the will, only to find oneself fallen into another and perhaps greater one. This is the error to which Jesus refers when he says, "No man also seweth a piece of new cloth upon an old garment." (Mark 2:21) Christ means by these words to warn us against patchwork; against efforts to mend and improve the old natural life in order to attain virtue and be justified before God.

The remedy is not to improve our natural life, but to give it up, to lose it, as Jesus said: "Whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall find it." (Luke 9:24) Paul said strikingly to the Romans: "Our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." (Rom. 6:6) Now, we were not physically crucified with Christ, but we are crucified with Christ, when through repentance our sinful nature, the sinful life, is nailed to the cross and perishes.

Thus the way is paved for the new life, for the new birth, as Christ said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

But what is more natural than Nicodemus's question: "How can a man be born when he is old?" Or the question of the prison keeper to Paul and Silas: "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

THE WAY

In the following paragraphs we shall endeavor to show, in words as direct and simple as possible, the way by which men can attain to the new birth, realizing, however, that our best efforts in this direction are vain if God does not open the hearts to receive, understand

and believe His word.

The first essential, therefore, is a humble attitude, a receptive mind, a willingness to be instructed and corrected; in short, a willingness to cooperate with the grace of God and not resist Him.

We must have confidence toward God, that He desires our salvation, as Paul writes to Timothy. "It is the will of God that all men should be saved." (I Tim. 2:4) There is nothing lacking on His part. He has prepared the way and calls men though the gospel to come to Him on this way. He is faithful and true and keeps His words of promise: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Matt. 7:7) He promises two things, two specific works in the New covenant, namely to enable us to choose and to do His good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13-16)

But our seeking of God must be a sincere and wholehearted affair. God is not impressed by words and phrases. He sees the heart, and the sincere yearnings of our hearts reach Him if they are expressed only in deep sighs or in such simple words as, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." On the other hand, He is unmoved by the most eloquent and finely phrased prayers which scholars can form, if they are not the true expressions of the heart's yearnings.

If a person would attain to the new life, he should be honest and sincere with himself and with God for He knows all things and cannot be deceived. If we lack sincerity we deceive only ourselves. If we approach and seek God in sincerity and true earnestness and in the way prescribed in the Gospel, we cannot fail, for God's way is a way upon which the simple cannot err, if they are sincere and obedient.

Not only is simplicity of mind no obstacle to our finding God's ways and to our understanding His message but it is in fact an essential condition to understanding God's ways. Christ says: "Verily I say unto you whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." (Mark 10:15)

Among all the obstacles we meet in turning from the natural to the godly life, one of the most difficult is false human wisdom and philosophy. Just as the human heart desires to be justified in its own vir-

tue, so does it also desire to be guided by its own wisdom and both of these are serious obstacles to God's work.

God's wisdom is infinitely higher than human wisdom, and one of the highest lessons that we must learn in coming to God, is to completely subject our own wisdom and thought to His wisdom and doctrine. The child is receptive and teachable, whereas the adult mind is full of preconceived notions and conceit which hinder the wisdom from above from finding lodgement in our hearts. That is why, as Christ said, if we are to receive the Kingdom of God, we must do it in childlikeness (Matt. 18:3), that is, by being teachable, receptive, and in simplicity.

When the soul has reached a state of humility, of teachableness and a realization of its dependance upon Christ for grace and guidance, a large forward step has been taken toward the new birth. Often this is the most difficult part of conversion, for the natural man loves his "own life" and is slow to give it up so that Christ might be born in him.

IN REPENTANCE

All this time, prayer is playing a great role in the work of regeneration. Many of us were taught from childhood to pray, but as long as the soul is untouched by the divine life our prayers are mostly an empty form, mere words and phrases rendered largely through habit and a sense of duty. How futile are such prayers! But a change is taking place. The divine light is dawning in the soul. The conscience is quickened and condemns pitilessly not only our past transgressions but such new transgressions as are still committed as long as the soul has not laid hold in faith on Christ as its Saviour. Now the soul is truly under conviction and is lashed by the accusation and condemnation of the Law. Having not yet laid hold on faith nor received the strength which comes only through faith in Christ, the crucified and risen Lord, Who is the victor over the power of sin and death, the situation seems hopeless. Doubt, fear, and despair torture the soul.

Now prayer partakes of a different nature. It becomes a yearning, a crying, a sighing to God for help. The fine phrases are forgotten. Sometimes without words the soul sighs to God, and sometimes with

such simple words as, "O Lord help me, O Lord be merciful to me and forgive me my many sins and make me free from sin." (Rom. 10:13)

These are days of darkness and despair, but Oh, how healing are they if we allow them to serve the purpose for which they are sent; namely, to lead us to truly and earnestly seek the Saviour. These days make it possible for the soul to bring to God the one offering which He will not despise, a broken and contrite heart. (Ps. 51:17) This is repentance in the sense used in the gospel. It is a deep feeling of remorse and regret for past sins, a struggle to become free from sin and a reaching out to God for help. It is born out of a realization that God is holy and righteous and that those who would stand in His presence must be purified and sanctified in order to be acceptable.

CONFESSION

A new important need is now experienced by the soul — a need which is quite the opposite of what the soul previously desired. The natural man, in darkness, is not very much concerned because he has sinned, but he does fear that he might be found out by his fellow men. Therefore, to keep his sins under cover of darkness is one of his chief concerns. Now that the soul is enlightened, it is tortured by the consciousness of its guilt before its Maker and has an actual desire, even a deep felt need to make confession of its sins.

It is like the impurities of the body gathering into a large painful boil. The pain becomes very severe and the sufferer longs for the time when the boil becomes "ripe" so that it may belch forth its pus and impurities and allow the healing process to begin. So the soul in repentance has an increasing desire to "open up" and pour out a confession of its past sinfulness. David experienced this after he once forgot God and fell into a great sin for which he afterward repented so contritely. His confession of repentance was made openly and written into a psalm of instruction and published, even printed into the Bible, where you and I may read it until this very day. It is recorded in the thirty-second Psalm, where he says: "When I kept silence my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me; my moisture

is turned into the drought of summer, I acknowledged my sin unto thee and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." (Ps. 32:3-5)

(To be continued)

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

Lord God, we honor Thee
And praise Thy mild compassion,
That Thou so gracefully
Dost hear our supplication!
Thy love is truly great;;
Thy mercies are untold;
Thou givest food and drink
For Spirit flesh and soul.

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

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

Zion's Harp No. 13

The Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

But let us remember what it says in Romans 8:31: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Nevertheless, the enemy is here every day. He is here and he tries to deceive us.

When Peter was in prison, "prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Acts 12:5. What prayer can accomplish is marvelous! It is hard to grasp and to understand what can happen when prayer is fervently given!

I believe that, as long as this world has stood, those who recognized their God and Maker and kept the law and the commandments fared well. God was with them. In this new dispensation of grace, beloved, the Lord and Saviour has paid for all upon Calvary's cross. He died for the remission of our sins. The apostles

were sent forth, and the churches have been established.

We want to pray for our beloved church. Today we sit together in a beautiful edifice which we call our "church," but the building can save no one. We must be united together; we must stand in unison; we must pray and uphold those things that we love; and we must never try to rent the beautiful things that constitute the body of Christ, the church.

There may be a day coming, beloved, when even the church will give way. In this same Acts of the Apostles, when the Apostle Paul was on the high seas being taken to Rome as a captive, a storm arose and they met with disaster. The marvelous part of it all was that Paul told them that no harm would befall them even though their ship would be wrecked, if they all stayed together. I don't know whether the day might come, beloved, if we don't cling together, fighting against Satan in unison, that the church would give way.

There is always fear within the wind. Only the other week, all forty elders stood together. What for? Out of concern and love and a desire to hold together those things that we have established by faith.

There is a constant threat of the enemy's creeping in. We have read passages of Scripture that signify this danger, and we must be very, very careful. We have to be prayerful to overcome the cunningness and the craftiness of the devil, who through Herod tried to destroy the early church. Many, many wonderful men of God gave their lives. They died a martyr's death because they loved the Truth and they stood up for it.

We read that the Lord came to Peter's rescue. The Lord would not permit the devil to destroy the planting of the beautiful seed as the churches were being established. The Lord had barely died. He had only recently paid the terrible price.

The Lord had sent the disciples forth to minister and to preach and to make known the glad tidings. He sent them together, two by two, to take the message of the gospel: Repent and be converted. This was the message that was preached, and the disciples were be-

ginning to establish churches. But the enemy was there immediately, and he always will be.

"Behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands." Acts 12:7. At first Peter thought that it was a vision, as we read further. He couldn't quite grasp it until he was outside the gate. Then he knew that God had freed him and was sending him back to his people.

"When Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews." Acts 12:11. Now he was sure that God had delivered Him.

"And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying (on his behalf)." Acts 12:12. So it is.

"And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hear, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness; but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel." Acts 12:13, 14, 15.

We all have a Protector today, beloved ones. We all have the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost, by whom we have been sealed when we erected this wonderful covenant with our God and our Maker. What is He for? To lead, to guide and direct us; to help us in emergencies; to lift us up when we are down; and, when we are too high, to bring us down.

This is all the work of the Lord. Let us appreciate our salvation, this precious gift that God has given to us. A beautiful hope and faith brings us back again to the things which we don't see. We must have faith to believe in things that we don't see, to believe that those things which have been predicted in the Bible will happen.

The kingdom of God is promised and assured to those who love Him and keep His commandments. May God add His blessings to the Word.

Sermon by ELDER BRO. PAUL FEHR of Morris, MN

Text: Acts 12:1-17

Beloved, aren't the works of God marvelous? This morning we read that we should not look on the things that we see, but on the things that we do not see; because the things which we see are temporal, and the things that we do not and cannot see are eternal.

I think that this is one of the problems today. Maybe we are all somewhat guilty. In our very, very busy schedules of life, as Brother Alpha mentioned this morning, it is so easy for us to cast our eyes too much on the things that are around us. Even in our prayers we sometimes mention things that we have prepared for tomorrow. Our eyes are constantly upon things of a temporal nature, because we see them and we are involved with them. We give too little attention to spiritual things. Isn't this true?

Beloved, this is a problem. In this world we are handling things, doing things, seeing things; the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life tend to bring us closer to those things that we see. It is only natural. I think that the Lord wanted us to be aware of this. As we read together, the Apostle Paul cautioned about those things.

Really, brothers, sisters and dear friends, the things that we want the most, deep in our hearts, are the eternal things. We know that life passes on and by, day by day. We are already beginning to feel age coming on. We see many beautiful days pass by, and we are all getting closer to our final day. Some have gone on before and there are others (our children) who can expect, the Lord willing, to be here longer. God shows us the worldly things that lie before us and warns against becoming involved too deeply, which we do very easily. We forget about those things that we really should be doing: reading the Bible, praying, and caring for the needy. There are many things that we can

accomplish which are acceptable in the eyes of God.

We read of the downfall of Babylon. That occurred because the people cared for those things that they saw. They forgot God. The Apostle Paul writes that in the later days there will be scoffers who will deny the Lord, saying, "The Saviour Jesus Christ—where is His coming? Since the world began, we've been talking about His reappearance. He never came and I doubt that He will ever come." Let's never become of that mind beloved ones.

We can read also that God told people that definite things would happen which were hard to believe; yet, the things came to pass. Noah, for example, entered the ark and a lot of people mocked. But the flood came and they were locked out.

We've preached for a long time that the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is coming and He still hasn't come. There have been people who have said that at a certain time the Lord was going to be here, but the Lord said that He didn't know the time of His coming. God has reserved that decision for Himself. It is good that He has. I think that God Himself is observing and watching, perhaps postponing the hour.

We can read in the Bible that God told Jonah to declare that in forty days Ninevah would be destroyed. What saved Ninevah? The people repented in sackcloth and in ashes. They fasted. They accepted the fact, beloved, that God was going to do what He said, so they repented. God saved the city and gave it a little more time.

Beloved ones, the day is coming when, as unexpectedly as a thief in the night, the Lord will appear. However, the moment when we meet our God concerns me more than predicting the exact day when the Lord and Saviour will come back to earth. Many will lie in

the graves for years and years, but when the resurrection day comes, the Lord and Saviour will usher in the fulfillment of life and time. We will all be there to meet Him, and we want to be there. But life is uncertain, and this is what we want to take into very, very serious consideration.

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hand to vex certain of the church." Acts 12:1. Can we imagine how it was? The enemy tried to destroy, root out in the bud, the first few churches established by the apostles. We can see that they were vexed. They were tried.

It says that James was killed. Peter was put into prison and was also to be killed "because he saw it pleased the Jews . . ." Acts 12:3. In doing these things Herod was heartless, if we dare to use the terminology, beloved ones. In times past another King Herod tried to destroy the Lord and Saviour but was not successful. This Herod, his grandson, tried to get rid of Peter but he, too, was unsuccessful.

We want to remember, beloved ones, that when there is prayer offered, when there is a sincere plea in behalf of the righteous, wonderful things can be accomplished!

Peter was put into prison. He was chained. It says that he was "bound with two chains" and that he had a guard on each side of him. Acts 12:6. They wanted to secure this captive, beloved ones. Furthermore, when Peter went out with the angel, they passed through a door that was sealed and locked. When God comes to the rescue, all opposition is in vain.

Today, beloved ones, what we still need badly is God. Many things enter the life of the Christian. There are joys, but there are also sorrows. We want to admit this.

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