

# The Silver Lining

## A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 30

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### BOAT PEOPLE

(World Relief Special Collection)

What you are about to read is a letter that was sent to all Apostolic Christian churches and has been read to their congregations. The "Boat People" are Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese refugees.

Dear Brethren:

Christian greetings in the name of Christ Jesus.

At the last World Relief Committee meeting, it was decided to hold a special collection on behalf of the "Boat People." Quite a few inquiries have been directed to us requesting information as to whether the Apostolic Christian Church is doing anything about the refugee situation.

The World Relief Committee has sent more than \$22,000 through Care, Mennonite Central Committee, and Map International for relief aid and medical supplies during November and December of 1979. These organizations have personnel in the immediate areas.

Many contributions have been specifically designated for this purpose, and additional disbursements will be made as funds are available.

All churches are invited to participate on a voluntary basis. May God richly bless all who avail themselves of this opportunity to help the less fortunate. Contributions should be given to your church treasurer or sent to Vernon Leman, 606 Crestwood, Eureka, IL 61530.

We thank you for your faithful, generous support of all the World Relief activities.

Jim Hoerr, Sec.

### YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

(continued)

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

#### EXPERIENCE

Not only is the confession of sins as an essential part of the Cleansing of the heart in repentance thoroughly established in the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures, but the experience of those in our days who have attained regeneration through repentance and faith confirms the absolute need of confession as a means of unburdening the heart and of obtaining the strength to resist and throw off the power of sin.

To the soul in repentance who is not yet ready and willing to make confession of its sins we can only say: "The fruits of repentance are yet incomplete. Press forward until you have grace to pour out all filth (be it much or little) of the old life." It is no disgrace for a repentant person to confess sins, but an honor. It marks definitely the end of the old life of uncleanness and the beginning of the new life in Christ in righteousness and purity.

However, the doctrine of confession as herein expounded must not be confused with the Roman Catholic Confessional, where the believer, supposedly standing in grace, is permitted to come from time to time to confess his sinfulness to a priest who is supposed to have authority to forgive the sins of those who accept the penance he prescribes, which often consists at least in part of the payment of money, ostensibly at least, for a good cause.

Nowhere in the Scripture do we find a commandment to confess sins to a priest or any officer of the church but the Scripture says, "Confess your faults one to another."

(Js. 5:16) For all true believers, united in the Church which is the body of Christ, are a part of the "royal priesthood" (I Pet. 2:9) and they being in union and communion with Christ can intercede for each other with Christ and with the Father.

#### WRESTLING WITH GOD

In this state of repentance the soul must wrestle with God and Christ in prayer as did Jacob who wrestled with an angel of God all through the night, seeking a blessing. The angel said to him, let me go, for the day breaketh. Jacob replied, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." Jacob prevailed and received a blessing and a new name; "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel, for as a prince hast thou wrestled. (Gen. 32:26-28) So may the repenting soul say to the Lord, "I will not give up. Thou hast promised to help me and forgive me. I hold Thee to Thy promise."

It is not hardness nor unwillingness to forgive sins that causes God to allow the soul thus to suffer and struggle in the slough of despond. This experience is necessary to bring about certain changes in the heart. Willfulness and stubbornness must give place to obedience to Christ; pride and arrogance must be displaced by humility and meekness, and doubt and unbelief must yield to faith. The will and determination to serve God only must become overwhelming. Those in repentance, who ask God's forgiveness, must learn to forgive, where others have offended against them.

The love of things sinful must be changed into a loathing of them and the power of sin over us must be broken. The love of vain things must perish out of the heart. These

We sing our heartfelt thanks,  
Thy truth and love adoring.  
For guidance and for light  
Thy Spirit we're imploring.  
Our hearts we offer Thee  
For life and every day,  
That with Thy grace we tread  
The straight and narrow way.

are fundamental changes which are the real essence of conversion—of being born again.

Superficial evangelists often speak lightly of "accepting Christ as our Saviour." That of course is necessary. But our marriage to Christ the heavenly Bridegroom, like all marriages, must be a mutual affair. It is not only a question of whether we accept Him, but much more of whether He accepts us. He will accept us, He is bound by His Word and His promises to accept us and His love prompts Him to accept us when we meet His conditions and come with the true fruits of repentance asking to be forgiven by Him and to be accepted of Him.

(to be continued)

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

Life is back to normal again. The holidays are past, the old grading period is over, and the new semester is underway. The children's behavior and grades are improving. John (14) is learning that he has to "shape up" to be able to go home, and Kandy (17) is studying hard to graduate one year early. We can definitely see that a stable and disciplined environment is what they need for proper development. All children need that.

I asked John to write something that I could put in my column in the Silver Lining. He expressed the following thoughts:

"God created heaven and earth. God created the earth in seven days. Isn't it amazing how he works? On the seventh day, he rested. He made all of the animals, trees, grass, sky, clouds, and sun. Think about it—your mind can't grasp it."

At the beginning of the year, this, same boy, John, tried to make it very clear to us that he didn't believe in anything about God or Christ.

We are pleased with how many of the children are developing in mind and character. In fact, where we once thought ourselves to have failed with some of the children, we have recently been shown quite the opposite. Our former resident, Mark, has been visiting us regularly after his monthly orthodox appointment in Ft. Wayne. The visits are friendly, and during his last one, he asked for a Melodies of

Praise songbook, because he remembered it had some of the songs he had a special interest in. Recently, we were surprised, but encouraged, by a telephone call from one of our former girls who expressed her appreciation for the home. And now, Claudia has returned to the Leo area, living with a member family and attending Indiana-Purdue extension University in Ft. Wayne. We are so happy and comfortable to see her in church on Sundays again.

We feel the Home is definitely a successful operation and ever improving. We have really benefited from all your support of faithful prayers and donations. We thank you!

### APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

A new year, a new calendar, a new "beginning again" so to speak. It is written, ". . . whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them. . ." (Matthew 7:12). We wonder what the effect would be if we would reverse the thought of this golden gem of wisdom by praying each night, "Lord, deal with us tomorrow as we have dealt with our fellowman today?"

Let us help one another to aspire to rise to such a high plane of thought and consequent action that our lives will weave a magnificent tapestry of inspiration.

Wayne Beery of Rittman, OH, son of Martha and the late Robert Beery, is our newest family member. We welcome him with warm hearts. This brings our census to sixty-eight resident.

Dawn Steidinger, daughter of the Richard Steidingers from Fairbury, IL, is here for a short time as a temporary resident while her parents are vacationing.

With the settlement of the strike against the Caterpillar Tractor Co., our workshop people are back on the job.

During these winter months when our residents are more confined than during the warmer months, visitors are especially welcome. Mail also brings cheer. It is difficult to tell an eager resident day after day that there is no mail for him.

"Learning is not without its effect upon the soul. It either lends it wings to bear it up to God, or it

leaves behind it tink sparks which, little by little, consume the whole being."

"Small virtues require the praise of men to sustain them. . . but true virtue goes quietly through the world, scattering good around and performing noble deeds, without even the knowledge that what it does is heroic."

C. M. Yonge

### ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"To everything there is a reason and a time to every purpose under the heaven—a time to be born and a time to die." (Eccl.3) Jan. 3, 1980, was the time our Saviour called our dear Sis. Christine Dubach Schuster to her heavenly home with no more suffering. Sis. Chris gave her heart to our Lord Jesus Christ as a teen in Bluffton, IN. Lately, when Chris had more bad days than usual, she enjoyed reliving the days spent in Sunday School and Christmas programs in Bluffton. One of her last wishes was to hear a tape of Bluffton's Christmas Program. Her untimely death will be felt by all. She and Bro. George had just taken foster baby number 35 into their home on Christmas Week. Besides Bro. George, she leaves two daughters, Penny and Candy (both in grade school), and her mother, Sis. Hilda Heinold. Her father and brother preceded her in death. Interment was in Phoenix.

We truly feel fortunate to have been blessed with three visiting ministers this month, Bros. Todd Feller (La Crosse), Ed Kolter (Goodfield), and Bill Gerst (Alto).

### THE SILVER LINING

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Hospital patients this month are Jeff Rokey for studies, Sis. Martha DeMille for studies and surgery, and Sis. Dorothy Zollinger for studies. Sis. Clara and Sis. Linda Zollinger were fortunate to receive no serious injuries when they were in an auto accident on one of our wet, rainy nights.

Our congregation extends love and sympathy to Sis. Helen Kircher on the passing of her father, ministering Bro. Eli Sommerholder (Kiowa and later Eureka).

#### God Has For You—

A Light for every shadow,  
A Plan for each tomorrow,  
A Key for every problem,  
A Balm for every sorrow.

Author unknown

#### ARIZONA, TUCSON

**Carolyn Kaufman-Kathy Woodruff**

##### A Cushioning of Prayer

Prayer fits into any little corner of the day

Like packing round this treasure we call life,

Cushioning the bruises and the knocks along the way,

Lessening the crush of cares and strifes.

So pack your day with bits of prayer lest damages of sin

And doubt and fear leave ugly markings there;

Keep it firm and steady, that treasured life within,

Protect it with a cushioning of prayer.

Author Unknown

The blessed month of Christ's birth was marked by many happy and rewarding events. Our young group went caroling at two of the neighborhood nursing homes. Seeing the appreciation on the faces of the elderly made us wonder who was receiving the greatest blessing, the carolers, or the recipients of our songs.

Bro. Tim Funk, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Luanne Funk, returned to Tucson to visit his family over Christmas vacation. We've all looked forward to his visit since he moved to Peoria a year ago this spring.

Our weather this month has truly been an answer to our winter visitors' prayers. It has been warm and sunny for most of the winter, and we pray it will stay this way, the Lord willing.

#### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Witzig

We were saddened by the passing of Mr. Bhagwat on January 5. Many of the members and friends of our congregations throughout our nation were acquainted with him and his work in India.

On two occasions, brothers from our churches visited the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions that he founded in 1938. They were impressed with both the spiritual and beneficent work there. The outpost congregations where aboriginal tribes people who had been taught the Word and the converted were a testimony to the fruits of his labors. The two orphanages and dispensaries served to provide food, shelter, clothing, and medical help for scores of needy children and others.

Mr. Bhagwat was especially grateful for all of the support provided by our World Relief and Missions Funds, as well as the many generous gifts from individuals. His expression of thanks to God for becoming acquainted with our simple and fundamental Faith was humbling to hear.

He will be missed by all of us, and we pray that God will comfort his dear wife, Antoinette. It is planned to continue to help and assist her with the work which is so necessary to sustain the Mission in India. We pray for continued support by all those who have been moved to do so in the past.

Mr. Bhagwat's favorite hymn, "Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go," was played at his funeral. It is a fitting testimony to his life's work and portrays his faith in God and the experiences that were a part of his life.

(The above was submitted by Bro. John Klotzle.)

Also passed from this earthly life, on Dec. 18 after a lengthy illness, was Sis. Naomi Schwarz. Sis. Naomi and Bro. Bill Schwarz are remembered for their hospitality they showed in the many years gone by to many young servicemen who were far from their families. We extend our sympathy to her son, Bill Schwarz, daughter, Marian Hecker, and five grandchildren. At the same time, we rejoice that her suffering is past and her reward won! Also, to be remembered at this time is her sister, Louise Wreath, who spent months away from her family in Kansas City,

MO, to nurse her sister. May the Lord greatly bless Louise for her deeds of love.

A wish for all, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. Oh fear the Lord, ye His saints: for there is no want to them that fear Him." (Psalms 34:8, 9)

#### CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Carlton J. Lanz

### ONLY SO FAR

Any living organism, from the lowest level of plant or animal to man, can exist only if it is able to adjust to its environment, limited as it might be. This principle reaches its highest expression in man whose organism stands at the top of the scale, and whose environment has become the earth and solar system and the stars.

Man also has the largest capacity, on the whole, of adapting himself to changes. He can live in tropic heat or arctic cold; on land or on water; even under water and in the air; and on plains or mountains. He can utilize an immense variety of food materials. His mental powers enable him to continue all manner of artificial adjustments, substitutes, cunning inventions, and desperate devices by which he can adapt himself to changes in his environment. Thus, he combats heat, cold, famine, fire, flood, disease and death.

Man, in a measure, is master of his environment and protects and prolongs his life. But death finally comes. Though man may keep himself in the most favorable physical condition, in time his organism undergoes changes he cannot avoid or resist, and death is the inevitable result.

The real environment of our life is God. All material surroundings, such as rocks, roots, soil, showers, sunshine, earth and stars, are but aspects of this wider and final environment. God is not far from us, or external, but nigh, even in our hearts. In Him we live and move and have our being. Closer is He than breathing, nearer than hands and feet.

We, then, have in God and Christ a perfect environment, meeting and matching our life at every point, subject to no changes, but the same yesterday, today and forever.

Announcement was made of the planned marriages of Bro. Ken Ber-

nia to Sis. Peggie Luginbuhl, daughter of Bro. Rudolph and Sis. Evelyn Luginbuhl, and Bro. Steve Vein to Sis. Dorothy Mangold, daughter of Bro. Clarence and Sis. Martha Mangold. They have our blessings.

**FLORIDA,  
CHARLOTTE HARBOR**  
Elda Martin

The good Lord has so richly blessed our gathering together, as a large number have made an effort to assemble each Sunday. Along with the Sarasota ministers, those who shared in preaching the Good Word were Bro. Robert Meyer, Bluffton, IN, Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN, and Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington, IN. We plan to continue services here until Mar. 30 and encourage all who will be in this area to be with us and enjoy God's many blessings.

**FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**  
John and Caroline Hejja

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." Psalm 24: 1, 9.

The Lord provided a perfect salvation for all mankind, regardless of time or place. His mercy even reached back in time and touched those who died before His coming. At the time of Jesus' fleshly death, His Spirit went and preached to those who died before.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water." 1 Peter 3: 18-20.

The Lord's salvation is available to all, regardless of place. "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16: 15.

The Lord is righteous. His salvation is not meant for just one group of people, but is available to all who hear and are willing to accept and obey. Who in the civilized world, today, can make the excuse

that they did not hear about Christ when Bibles are so accessible, and churches, and all of the news media proclaim Him? The lives of His people should reflect Him, shining forth as bright lights in a dark world. Let us ask Him to give us the grace to do His will and show forth His salvation in our daily lives.

We were grateful to have the following ministers in our midst: Bro. Al Schneider, Rockville, CT; Bro. Roy Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT; Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT; Bro. Morris Frank, Leo, IN; and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Ken Lawson and his family. They have recently moved and intend to make Ft. Lauderdale their home.

Construction is well under way on our new fellowship hall. It is encouraging to arrive at church and see that more of the new building has taken shape.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA**  
Elda Martin

We are so thankful for all our winter visitors. It is always an added blessing to see the house of God filled to overflowing. May the Lord add his blessings to those who minister His word. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington, IN; Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN; Bro. Art Gudeman, La-Crosse, IN; Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl, Rockville, CT; Bro. Al Schneider, Rockville, CT; Bro. Morris Frank, Leo, IN; and Elder Bro. Lester Hartman, Bern, KS.

Our Bro. Elmer Jacobs is in the hospital at this time. He had hernia surgery but is expecting to be home soon.

The engagement was made known of our friends, Patty Martin, daughter of Bro. Richard and Sis. Aldine Martin, and Joe Eisenmann, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Kay Eisenmann. A spring wedding is being planned.

**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL**  
Dixie Knapp

Picture a fourth grade classroom. In this classroom we have a visitor. He is Mr. Professor from the neighboring university, a very famous man who has received numerous awards for his discoveries in science. Mr. Professor is talking to the fourth graders about the build-

ing blocks of all matter—atoms. After his presentation on atoms, one student raises his hand and says, "I don't believe you. I think you're wrong."

Sounds absurd, doesn't it? We all doubt the probability of such arrogance being displayed by a fourth grader toward such a famous man. Yet, what is the difference between that fourth grader questioning the knowledge of a well-known scientist and our questioning our Creator, the very source of all knowledge? The difference? Two things—questioning our Creator is more arrogant AND more common.

Picture another setting. There is a Christmas dinner. The family is waiting for their daughter to arrive. She never will. The scene is not fictional. Sis. Elizabeth Johnson, daughter of Grant and Alberta Johnson of Donovan, received a gift different from those wrapped with ribbons. She received The Gift. A car accident ended Sis. Liz's twenty-one years. "Why?" There's no room for that question.

David, when speaking to the Lord said, "Thou compassed my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways." (Psalm 139:3) God knew Sis. Liz's path, too.

Very few have not experienced the joy provided by love within a family setting. God ordains marriage and offers an endless supply of love through the stability of a Christ-centered family structure. Jan. 13 was the day on which Sis. Marge Leman and Bro. Ron Lindenbaum were joined in the holy union of marriage. They are now to allow God to use this union to bring His love to others. We are glad they will be doing this here.

Elder Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi, Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Wilma Sauder, Bro. Jim and Sis. Myra Leman, all from Roanoke, and our Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Koch were here to share in Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge's joy.

We enjoyed Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer's visit (Chicago) and Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer's visit (Princeville). They were with us during the Christmas season.

The following is a poem Sis. Liz Johnson's father found in her Bible. It was addressed to a special friend. Her dad chose to rename it "To a Friend" and share it with the rest of us.

**To A Friend**

I thought about you just today—  
 In fact, 'twas when I knelt to pray.  
 I prayed that He would keep you  
 safe within His tender care,  
 And at those times you need Him  
 most  
 That you would find Him there.  
 I prayed that He would guide you  
 The way He'd have you go,  
 That you could be a blessing  
 To others here below.  
 I prayed that He would comfort  
 you  
 Even from Heaven above—  
 That you could always find  
 assurance  
 Within His arms of love.  
 Then I prayed His will be done  
 Since He always knows what's best  
 And never fails those He loves,  
 His chosen ones, and blest.  
 Most of all I thanked Him  
 That I could know you, too.  
 I count it a blessing  
 That I could live with you.

Liz

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Evelyn Endress**

Ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville) and Don Manz (Junction) were with us for Christmas Day service. We always find it a blessing to hear the story of our Saviour's humble birth.

Sis. Deann Klumpp and Bro. Ron Baer (Princeville) were united in marriage by Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville) on December 30. Their parents are Bro. Raymond Klumpp and Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Ann Baer. May the Lord bless them as they establish their home.

A baby girl, Tracy Sue, is the precious addition to the family of Marvin and Connie Ehnle and two-year-old Trisha. She was born Jan. 12 and is also welcomed by her grandparents, Ray and Sally Wettstein of Goodfield and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle.

Our congregation was afforded the precious privilege of hosting elder brethren recently. A number of the elder brothers were with us for church services on Wednesday evening, Jan. 9, at which time Elder Bro. Lester Hartter (Bern) brought forth the Word of God. At the conclusion of two days of meeting, most of the brethren took leave of our community, but we were thankful that Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (Naumburg), Norbert Steiner (Croghan), Rudy Graf (Akron), Joe Ramsier (Rittman), and Dave

Kiser (Princeville) stayed for Friday evening service. We appreciated the many precious teachings they willingly shared with us.

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**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**  
**Kathy Schlatter**

TIME is ever important. There are deadlines to be met, obligations to fulfill, sales to be taken advantage of, loved ones to spend time with. The demands are endless; the priorities sometimes hard to establish. A note to help us on that point is:

The essence of time well-used  
 Involves conversion and Christian  
 commitment,  
 Making life worthwhile and one's  
 Eternal destination heavenly.

We are always grateful to those who spend time with us. Bro. Harold Emch, Girard, OH, spent Christmas Day ministering to us. Bro. Dan Hangartner and Bruce and Becky (Gramm) Grandusky lived among us and worshipped with us. We are sorry that Bro. Dan is gone and that Bruce and Becky have left. We send the Lord's blessings with them in their new places of residence, in their new opportunities. Denise Romersberger (home church Gridley, IL) is repenting. We are so happy to have her join us in the precious "family of God."

Sis. Emily Lehmann and Sis. Lois Metzger have had surgery. Sis. Lois is home; Sis. Emily is still hospitalized but doing much better. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalms 34:19.

We have new brothers who were called to specific duties. Bro. Jake Plattner replaces Bro. Norm Stahl as trustee, and Bro. Steve Lau takes Bro. Earl Feller's place as usher. We thank Bro. Norm and Bro. Earl for "serving the Lord with gladness." Psalms 100:2. We pledge support and cooperation to Bro. Jake and Bro. Steve. We know that each of us, whether or not we have an official church position, need to let our light shine in our church, our home, our work, and all of our ways.

Last week was a rough one for me, and I pitied myself. There was more tension and more work to do as the semester drew to a close. But then I realized how "rough" it really was. Neither I nor my near-

est and dearest were hostages in Iran or fighting in Afghanistan. We were not ill, hospitalized, mentally confused, or emotionally distraught (as a friend is who is going through divorce proceedings against her will). We have not lost a child or a parent. The main paycheck may not come on time, but the Lord has provided so both of us are working. The stove may need repairs and the furnace rattle, but we're warm; we're not snowed in, and we are truly held in the palm of his hand. Ahead of us may loom some of the more devastating hours others are now going through. "Yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast." Psalms 57:1.

During our mild winter, the cartoon I've seen the most variations on has an individual surrounded by snow showers, blowers, shovels, scoops—in the rain. At our house, we have a snow fence (that remained under the snow all last year). But I started thinking of snow as the sheep's clothing of the wolf. Snow covers up daintily, prettily when it comes down. The snow often looks enchanting, breathtaking, and quite enticing. Often, it covers ugly reality; sometimes it masks slippery and dangerous areas. And it either melts elusively or turns muddy, slushy, and quite grim. When we "allow" the snow to pile up, removing it takes a great deal of energy. Often human energy is not enough. The weight of the snow has been known to cave in the roofs of houses. Let us make sure that we are always prepared, so that when Satan pelts us with snowy lies and deceiving temptation we will turn back his offensive. "Put on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11. Continued references: Ephesians 6:14-18.

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**ILLINOIS**  
**CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**  
**Charlen Banwart**
**Stopping by Woods on  
 A Snowy Evening**

Whose woods these are I think I  
 know.  
 His house is in the village though;  
 He will not see me stopping here  
 To watch his woods fill up with  
 snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and  
deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.  
Robert Frost

None of us know just how many miles we have to go in this life before we go to sleep for the final time here on this earth. Thus it behooves us to "Haste and seek our soul's salvation; Heed the word of God today!" (Zion's Harp No. 52) Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) and Bro. Bob Grimm recently expounded God's Word to us. We are thankful for our faithful ministers who "plant and water," and we pray that God will "grant the increase." (from I Corinthians 3:7)

The Lord has granted an increase in the size of our congregation. Bro. Rick and Sis. Marla Ringger and their small daughters, Amy and Allison, have moved to Tuscola from Lafayette, IN. They attended the Francesville church before their move. We welcome them and hope that they will soon feel "at home" here.

#### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Judy Bauer - Mary Anderson

I've anchored my soul in the Haven  
of Rest,

I'll sail the wide seas no more;  
The tempest may sweep o'er the  
wild, stormy deep—  
In Jesus I'm safe evermore.

—Gilmour

Our dear Sis. Elizabeth Johnson (Liz), as she was affectionately known) anchored her soul in the Haven of Rest. While still in her youth, she made preparation for that Haven. Sis. Liz was killed on Christmas Day as she drove from Bloomington to attend church services here, after working the night shift at a Bloomington hospital. She was Florence Nightengale personified—her light shone for her patients, and her light shone for those who knew her as they could feel assured she harboured that

blessed hope. Sis. Liz, 21, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grant Johnson of Donovan.

Our annual meeting was held in early January. May each member who has been chosen to serve, in whatever capacity, be blest with heavenly guidance and wisdom and have the uplifting support of the congregation.

A daughter, Julie, was born to Sis. Joan and Bro. Gerald Rudin. Julie has a sister, Gail, and grandparents, Bro. Ervin and Sis. Alma Mogler of West Bend, IA, and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emily Rudin.

At present, Sis. Blanche Steffen is a surgical patient at Carle Hospital and Bro. Joe Hari is a surgical patient at Watseka Hospital where he had a leg amputation. Bro. John Brenner has been transferred to the Americana Nursing Home in Urbana, where he is undergoing therapy. May our Lord and Saviour be the Rock and Refuge for all who are indisposed and unable to freely go and come. Others who have been hospitalized recently are: Sis. Helen Lackey, surgery; Nathan Young (Harvey and Sis. Kate); Bro. Walter Vogel; and Francis Knapp.

During semester break at U of I, we were privileged to have a group from the Champaign church worship with us for a mid-week service. We appreciate the messages which were brought forth by Bros. Dave Wiegand and Virgil Metzger that evening. We thank them for being used for His glory.

Subscription dues for the Silver Lining are payable at this time.

As we assembled for special services on the weekend of the 19th and 20th of January, we surely felt that our "cup runneth over," for we were encompassed with countless blessings. On Saturday night, Randy Mogler shared, with us, his experience of repentance and proved his desire to live a new and sanctified life. On Sunday, he was baptized into His death and was added to the fold of believers. Bro. Randy's parents, Bro. Andy and Sis. Frieda Mogler of Lester, IA, appreciate all kindnesses shown Bro. Randy during his repentance and heartily thank all who opened their homes to him.

Bro. Steve Rinkenberger was ordained elder to shepherd our flock. Elder Bros. Leo Moser, Lester, and Dan Koch, Tremont, assisted Elder Bro. Ezra Feller in the ordination services. For the present, Bro. Ezra

will continue as elder, lending assistance to Bro. Steve. We entreat our Heavenly Father to provide for Bro. Steve and Sis. Velma and their family and to strengthen and grant wisdom that is sufficient to meet every need. Other ministers present for this blessed weekend were Bros. Russell Wutrich, Pulaski, Virgil Metzger, Urbana, Leonard Meyer, Chicago, and Carl Wyss, Washington.

#### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Gay Knapp - Pat Rinkenberger

I saw a door and meant to go with-  
in the room someday.

I looked around and marked the  
ground lest I forget the way.  
When I returned all was the same  
excepting where before  
A light had been, no light was seen,  
and God had closed the door.

Author Unknown

As Bro. Gene Leman (Wolcott) recited this sad poem to us, we prayed that no one would ever find themselves in this hopeless state. We have one dear soul who has just found the grace to open that door—the light still being on. Beth Steffen has made this beginning. Her husband is Kent, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Steffen. Beth's parent are John and Sis. Marilyn Wagenbach of Oakville. May she lay up in store for herself a good foundation against the time to come so that she may lay hold on eternal life.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Clarence Kachelmuss (Forrest), Kenny Knapp (Taylor), Charles Sauder (Tremont), Walt Herman (Princeville), and Kenny Dietz (Bradford).

"Death is swallowed up in victory!" I Cor. 15:54. On Dec. 21, our dear Sis. Cordelia Zimmerman passed away. She and her husband, Dave, have assembled with our congregation for many years.

Bro. Carl Schieber and Sis. Linda Knapp were both hospitalized for a time this month, and so we think of the Great Physician and the power of prayer.

"They called Rebekah and said unto her, wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go." Gen. 24:58. We rejoice with our Bro. Kim Craig and Sis. Carol Wiegand (Goodfield) who have announced their engagement, and wish for them a blessed life together. The parents of the couple are Jim and

Elda Mae Craig, and Dan and Verla Wiegand.

Sis. Bev Schieber has gone to Haiti for a time to help out in a medical laboratory. She would appreciate a letter from anyone:

Beverly Schieber  
Boite Postale 458  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti, W.I.

### ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

A number of people in our Elgin congregation are seeking the Lord in repentance. I am reminded of Isaiah 55:6, 7: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." How good our God is to still bring souls unto repentance! It lifts our spirits to new rejoicing when we yet find, here and there, souls willing to follow the Lord. Some of those souls who are willing to follow are: Miriam Gasser, Nancy Moser, Debra Steffen, Steve Scheitlin, Larry and Dean Steffen, Mark Wewetzer, Dale Schock, and Brent Klopfenstein.

A new little daughter, Jenny Lynn, was welcomed on December 18 by Charles and Carolyn Feucht. Tony and Jeffery also welcome her and are anxious to assume their brotherly duties. John and Florence Feucht and Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold (Morton) are the grandparents.

Lori Schock, daughter of Bro. Herman and Sis. Virginia, has completed her studies at Southern Illinois University. She received a B.S. degree in biology and a teaching certification.

Bro. Jerry Cargill, Sis. Mabel Anliker, and Heidi Schock (daughter of Bro. Norman and Sis. Virginia) all had surgery this month. We are grateful that the Lord has extended his healing hand thus far, and that they can again enjoy a reasonable measure of health.

We are appreciative of the benefits received through the ministering of the Word by Bros. Maurice Frank (Leo) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton).

### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

As of now, our winter has been quite different from last year. We

have had very little snow and not very much cold, either.

Several have been in the hospital. Brent Blunier, infant son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy, was in for several days for a lung congestion. Ina Joy Mogler, daughter of August and Sis. Inez Mogler, was in for tests. Sis. Julia (Bro. John) Dapper of the Home was also in for tests.

Sis. Anna Schumacher of the Home passed away on Jan. 3. Her funeral and burial were held in Ronoke, her home church. Our sympathy goes to her family, especially to her sister, Sis. Elizabeth Hodel of Eureka, the only one left in their family.

Bro. Elias Somerhalter was also relieved of his sufferings on Jan. 5. Originally of Kiowa, KS, he lived in a duplex at the Home for about six years. Although retired, Bro. Eli had been a minister for many years. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sis. Emma, and also to his children. Funeral services and burial were at Kiowa.

We were also sorry to hear of the death of Eliot Fehr at the age of 25. Funeral services were held by Bro. Vernon Leman. Our sympathy goes to his wife and parents, Art and Sis. Lillian Fehr of Eureka.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Dorothy Ginzler of Eureka have two sons whose work has taken them away from our area. Marvin, his wife, and children had been living in Norway for several years. He is a geophysicist with the Gulf Oil Co. In January, he returned to this country and will live in Slidell, LA. Their other son, Bro. David, his wife, Sis. Mary, and children are in Switzerland with the Caterpillar Tractor Co. They live in Trainex, a suburb of Geneva. They enjoy visitors from the States.

### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Joyce Huber

We are thankful for ten baptisms, in addition to six individuals who gave their testimonies in our church this past year. We also appreciate the addition of six new babies. There was one wedding in the church, and our ministers performed wedding ceremonies for six couples in the fellowship hall. There were eight funerals.

We rejoice that there are more new converts: LaRae Zehr, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Warren Zehr, Diane Walter, daughter of Bro.

and Sis. Jim Walter, and Ann Huber, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Jesse Huber.

Bro. and Sis. Henry Kilgus, who reside in Fairview Haven, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on January 11. The date was also Sis. Lydia's birthday. They are the parents of three children: Bro. Earl, of Remington, John, and Alice Myer.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hofmann were married fifty years on Dec. 24 and celebrated on Christmas Day with a family dinner. They have seven children, twenty-seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

We enjoyed having Bro. Sam Anliker as a visiting elder.

Sis. Dorothy Steffen was in the Chicago hospital. Bro. Amos Meyer had a cataract removed. Bro. Don Steidinger, Bro. Alf Steffen and Bro. Harvey Schieler had surgery. Bro. Albert Steiner had a stroke, and John Broquard, Sis. Lydia Maier, Sis. Ruth Walter, and Sis. Lena Clauss were hospitalized.

At our annual meeting there were a few offices where the existing brothers' terms expired: Bro. Jerry Kaisner replaced Bro. Richard Walter as usher; Bro. Jim Walter replaced Bro. Donald Broquard as Treasurer; and Bro. Jesse Huber replaced Bro. Harvey Schieler as Trustee for the Fellowship Hall. Bro. John Fehr asked to be relieved of his car parking duties, having served for the past ten years. Bro. Don Steidinger accepted this duty.

Some of our brethren went to Haiti to prayerfully check out our World Relief shipments. Those who went were Bro. Donald Steidinger, his father, Urban Steidinger, Bro. John Fehr, representative for our World Relief Materials Aids Center, and Bro. Earl Steffen, all from our congregation. Bro. Gary Ifft, World Relief Representative from Normal also made the journey. They left on January 7 for Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and arrived the following day.

They had the privilege of visiting the Grace Children's Hospital which specializes in the treatment of T.B. Here there is need for hospital gowns. From there they traveled out in the country to the Albert Schweitzer Hospital and the Turnbolt Mission. There they made a detailed investigational tour of their needs. They could see how our World Relief shipments from

our churches of various former times, particularly the Heifer Project, have been put to good use. These are both self-help missions, as they teach the people how to farm and become self-supporting. The last shipment from our Material Aids Center at Wing, which was packed Nov. 20, 1979, had not arrived as yet. However, they were anxiously awaiting it. They were very thankful and appreciative of our past support.

They were also able to visit with a representative from World Vision and saw the good work they are doing. However, they were unable to contact anyone involved with the Care organization. They reported that words are inadequate to describe the existing conditions, with their great need. They felt that the work and efforts from our churches are appreciated and used properly by the various organizations.

#### ILLINOIS, FORREST

##### Beverly Eisenmann - Jan Bachtold

We had several hospital patients this month. Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Matthew Koehl (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol), and Bro. Henry Kilgus were all in for short stays. Robbie Mueller (Bob and Sis. Elaine) had surgery. We are thankful that they are all home and doing well. Sis. Clara Bach is in at the present time, and we pray that God will grant her a complete recovery. Sis. Kathryn Schneider is recovering at home after a fall in which she broke her leg. May she always feel God's nearness and our prayers.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman are first-time parents of a baby boy, Todd Quintin, born Dec. 30. The grandparents are Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman, and Bro. Don and Sis. Ione Broquard of Fairbury. May God add His blessings to this new little family.

Elder Bros. Nathan Steffen (Elgin), Josh Broquard (Fairbury), and Perry carried out our Lord's teachings that those who repent and are converted should be baptized in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. We welcome four new lambs into the fold, Glen and Linda Steidinger (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn), Trish Gerber (Bro. Earl and Sis. Esther), and Holly Zimmerman (Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn). Visiting ministers here to share their joys were Bros.

Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Ken Schneider (Remington), and Art Bahler and Merle Kaisner (Fairbury). Also visiting this month was Bro. Earl Kilgus of Remington.

We rejoice with Kristi Knapp (Bro. Glen and Sis. Laura) who has surrendered her heart to the Lord, also. We wish her God's grace in establishing a firm foundation.

Our retired elder, Bro. Henry Kilgus, and his wife, Lydia, reached a milestone in celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Jan. 11. An open house was held for them at Fairview Haven, where they now reside. May God continue to bless them in the sunset years of life.

Sis. Alice Lehmann's son, Kenneth, was married on Jan. 12 to Mary Leeper. They are making their home in rural Forrest. Matilda Rieger and Harry Johnson were united in marriage on Jan. 19. Matilda is the daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Marian. We ask God's love and blessings to rest on these two new homes.

#### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

##### Verna Hartter

"And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go." (Gen. 24:57, 58)

We wish the Lord's blessings on the engagement of our Sis. Carol Wiegand (Bro. Dan and Sis. Verla) to Bro. Kim Craig (Jim and Elda Mae) of Congerville. They plan a February wedding.

Our Sis. Peg Heinold (Bro. Don) has fallen from a ladder and is handicapped for a while with an injured knee.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Brenda (Chuck) Hinrichsen and Virginia (Mark) Wiegand in the sudden passing of their sister, Dorothy Moore. We also offer our sincere sympathy to Sis. Mary Helen (Melvin) Heinold in the passing of her mother, Lulu Hodel.

Sis. Elizabeth Hartman wishes to thank and ask God to bless everyone for their kind thoughts, deeds, gifts, cards, and prayers at the time of her surgery.

#### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

##### Carol Klopfenstein

"I can never feel safe to begin a new day until I've first prayed,

'Lord, Thou art the Vine and I am only a branch. Without Thee I can do nothing.'" Bro. Don Sauder.

Once again we were so wonderfully reminded of the greatness of God and His miraculous work of salvation through His Son. How impossible it is for us to do anything truly worthwhile without Him, for in our flesh there dwelleth no good thing. (Romans 7:18) We could not help but rejoice exceedingly with our loved ones as they described the lost condition in which they found themselves, until God brought them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. He supplied them sufficient grace to turn their backs on the world and its evil, and to submit themselves to Him, so He could transform them. "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18) The peace that radiates from the lives of Sis. Linda Stoller and Bro. Tim Kaupp bears witness to this cleansing experience that God has promised through the prophet. Elder Bro. Don Sauder of Roanoke was with us for their proving and testimony, and they were baptized on Jan. 13.

Jackie Gramm has repented for her sins and feels at peace with God and man. She's looking forward to baptism next month, Lord willing.

The marriage engagement was announced of Bro. Allen Steffen to Sis. Marge Yergler, both of Gridley.

God has blessed two homes with new joy as they welcome new babies. Bro. Daryl and Sis. Debbie Hodel are the parents of Douglas Daryl who was born Dec. 10. His grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jeanne Hodel of Gridley, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman of Roanoke.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein are the parents of Kyle Benjamin who was born Jan. 11. He has four brothers: Craig, Chad, Jay and Neil. Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein of Eureka are Kyle's grandparents.

Sis. Vira Stoller and Sis. Ida Witzig were in the hospital this month.

#### ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Doris Bachtold

Would you like a marriage in which you saved all the important things to talk about until Sunday



evening? You wouldn't want to waste each other's time talking about small things throughout the week. Can you imagine saving all your fiance's letters you received during the week to read on Saturday afternoon because you really didn't have the time before then? Could you go all day not talking to your roommate until just before you turned out the lights and went to bed? Those relationships wouldn't last very long if we kept them like that, would they? Yet, it's "funny" how many times we treat our Father like that. I believe we can see the closeness of our relationship with Jesus when we examine our contact with Him and see how personal He is to us.

Whom do we turn to when things go wrong? People listen and care, and we do need them. But, how many times do they unintentionally turn us aside when we go to them because their needs are bigger at that moment than ours? Jesus never fails.

So often we turn the pages of the Bible out of duty or else to gain knowledge. Yet, what actually is the Word? "In the beginning was the Word, and Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. . ." (John 1:1,14) The more we read the Bible, the more we come to know the Lord, and the greater our love will grow for Him because we will see Him as He really is.

"Come to the Word for one purpose and that is to meet the Lord. Not to get your mind crammed full of things about the sacred Word, but come to it to meet the Lord. Make it to be a medium, not of Biblical scholarship, but of fellowship with Christ. Behold the Lord." Norman Douty.

Everyone talks of the blessings of Christian fellowship. Do we realize that the goal of being with other believers is to help each other to become more Christ-like? Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton) revealed to us at our Bible Study the true beauties of fellowship: ". . . be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God. . ." (Romans 15:5,6) The challenge to each one of us is to keep Christ in our conversations with other Christians. We are thankful for each brother who teaches us more about Jesus.

## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Joann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to the following families in the loss of their loved ones: Sis. Karen (Leroy) Greiner upon the passing of her father, Walter Ross; Sis. Hazel Ferguson upon the passing of her sister, Mrs. Lenora Weiland; the Frank family upon the passing of their sister, Mrs. Nettie (Merl) Crain; and Sis. Bertie (Sol) Rassi upon the passing of her father, Bro. Elias Somerhalder. May our Heavenly Father richly bless and comfort each family.

Our dear Sis. Dorothy (Phil) Getz was called to her eternal rest. Funeral services were held on Dec. 21. May God richly bless and comfort her family and friends. Sis. Dorothy joined her husband to be forever with the Lord just 15 days after his funeral.

We of the Morton congregation wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Br. Don Sauder, Rockford, IL, who so willingly came to help our Bro. Joe Braker in reading the memorandum on Dec. 19. It truly uplifts us to be reminded of our high and heavenly calling, and our duties. May each one of us strive to help our elder body through prayer and by having a closer walk with the Lord.

We are indeed thankful that the Lord permitted our beloved elder brothers to meet at Bradford, IL, on Jan. 9-11. May each one of us, friend, brother or sister, remember them in prayer. May God's will be done so that His church can be strengthened.

We certainly want to rejoice with Bro. Fred and Sis. Nettie (Aberle) Huette as they recently observed their 50th wedding anniversary. May the Lord richly bless and keep them. It was nice to see all their family and grandchildren gather with them on Sunday, Jan. 13.

Sis. Dorothy Belsley is at home and is feeling much better. She wishes to thank friends, neighbors and relatives for prayers, cards, gifts, flowers, food and visits while in the hospital and since being home. She also thanks all who sent her birthday cards and asks God to bless each one. She expresses a special thanks to the ministers for their prayers and visits.

We were privileged to have the following visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Charles Sinn,

Ft. Scott, KS; Robert Miller, Portland, OR; Ronald Nelson, Kiowa, KS; Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, AZ; and Ben Maibach, Detroit, MI. May the Lord continue to bless them as they bring forth the Word of life. We thank them for visiting us.

As always, we have those loved ones who are in the hospital or are shut-in at home. Those who have been in the hospital this past month were: Mrs. Geraldine (Clarence) Peters, Sis. Frieda Schambach, Walt Wittmer, Al Carius, Hollis Roby, Benjamin Joos, Jr., and Bros. Harlan Kaiser, Bill Aupperle and Ben Moser.

Our precious little Clint Kaiser, son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine (Baer) Kaiser, was sweetly called to his heavenly home after a lengthy illness. May God richly bless and comfort his parents, his sister, Kimberly, and his family and friends. It is hard to say farewell to our dear loved ones. His funeral was on Jan. 18.

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Mary Sue Rieker - Diana Hohulin

#### THE LORD HAS A WILL

I need You Lord, in all I do;  
You're always there to see me through.

I can't get by unless I lean on You, Lord.

The Lord has a will,  
And I have a need

To follow that will,  
To humbly be still,  
To rest in it, nest in it,  
Fully be blest in it,

Following my Father's will.

Mike and Barbara Hudson

On Jan. 5, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jo Ann Rieker were blest with a precious little girl, Wendy Jo. Kristi Lynn welcomes her new sister home. The happy grandparents are Fred and Sis. Norma Rieker, and Bro. Pete and Sis. Ella Plattner.

#### THE BIBLE

The Bible is the mind of God,  
Its thoughts are deep and pure.  
The words this precious book records,

Forever shall endure.

It is a plan on which we see  
And read the Father's will.

The glory of His worthy name,  
All heaven and earth does fill.

Bro. Henry Beer

Bro. Dave Kieser from Princeville and Bro. Marshall Heinold from Washington ministered to our congregation this month. We thank them for their acts of love.

Among the hospital patients this month are Sis. Anna Hoerr, Sis. Mabel Weber, Mary Stahl, Gene Martin, Sis. Emelia Dallinger, Ray Streitmatter, Bro. Bill Reed, and Bro. Jack Koehl. Our prayers are with each one that God will bless and uplift them during their illnesses.

#### Our Loss, His Gain

Though he has only fallen asleep  
Within the Master's loving care,  
We're glad he came into our life  
And left his blessed memory there.  
Bro. Henry Beer

On Dec. 27, Bro. George Rauhaus was laid to rest. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Grant and Sis. Mabel Rauhaus and their family.

#### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Ruth Ricketts

Ed. Note: This is Sis. Ruth's last report. She has been a reporter since the Silver Lining was an official church publication. The Silver Lining Staff and the Apostolic Christian Church thank Sis. Ruth for her faithful work. She helped preserve this publication for its present vital mission. We cannot bless, but we can imagine the rewards she will receive from our dear Saviour in heaven. We thank you, dear sister.

The way to contentment is to learn how to accept what we can't alter. As I write this, it is a beautiful winter day, and as yet we have no snow. Such a contrast it is to last year when we experienced much winter weather with snow and wind that prevented us from having worship services.

Christmas is past, but many pleasant memories linger. Bro. Edwin Ringger of Gridley was our guest minister on Dec. 23 and reminded us what the Lord, who was laid in a lowly manger, did for us. He so plainly told of the rewards given those who walk by faith and in love. He also told of the doom of those who do not heed the call to repentance. He pleaded, earnestly, for the friends to awaken from slumber and seek the Lord in repentance.

Many again gathered for Christ-

mas morning worship when the beautiful story of Christ's birth was reviewed. The shepherds heard the message that the Angels told, believed, and went to see the one who was to be the Saviour of all mankind. They told everyone they saw what they had seen. The Wise Men also believed when they saw a new star in the sky and went to find the one they believed to be the Saviour. They found Him, and being warned by an angel to return home another way to escape Herod, obeyed and went home, rejoicing. But they went a new way. We, too, heard, believed, and, once we decided to follow the ways of the Lord, went a different way and walked the path of faith and love.

During the Christmas Season, we had rain and strong winds. We were reminded that the spirit of Christmas is not in the beautiful snow we usually have at this time of the year, but is what is contained in our hearts. That is where the Spirit dwells. How good it is that many think beyond the manger and look to the Cross, for it is there that we meet our loving Saviour.

We have three precious souls who have turned their backs to the ways of this wicked world and are enjoying their new walk of faith. We pray that other troubled hearts may also make the wise decision to follow the path that leads to heaven. No one has ever been sorry they have chosen to follow the Lord. So many more blessings are enjoyed.

The last Sunday of December found many empty benches, as many went to Bradford to witness the marriage of Bro. Ronald Baer and Sis. Deanne Klumpp. Their parents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer, and Bro. Raymond and the late Sis. Eunice Feucht Klumpp. We wish them the Lord's blessings and welcome Deanne to Princeville.

We were pleased to have a goodly number worship with us New Year's Eve, when events of the past year were reviewed with new commitments to do better in the coming year.

Our annual business meeting was held on the first Wednesday in the new year, at which time various reports were read and new appointments were made for various duties in the church. It is good when these various duties can be shared by various ones. We have so many who are capable. It was agreed that

the reporter for the Silver Lining should be put on a five-year rotation system, in conjunction with other offices. Sisters Arlys and Arlene Martin reluctantly agreed to assume the responsibility of reporting for the Silver Lining. I have been the reporter since this worthwhile magazine was started. (Ed. note: Please note that Sis. Ruth has reported since the official church paper was published.) I wish them the Lord's blessing and support of the congregation, which I can truthfully say I have enjoyed these many years. I have received so many blessings and have deemed it a privilege to be a part of the great family of the Silver Lining. I wish to thank everyone for their support and patience with me, and for the cooperation given through their contributions.

It was our privilege to have Bros. Carl Kinsinger, Altadena, CA, and Andrew Virkler, Bay City, MI, with us on Wednesday eve prior to the elder's conference at Bradford. A stirring message was brought forth from St. John 12, Verses 24, 25. Our old body must die to sin and then a new life must come forth which will look forward to eternity in heaven. It was a blessed evening. We are thankful for our dear, humble brothers who give of themselves on our behalf. We were told, so sincerely, what great price the Lord paid for our sins and how we should all walk worthily, resisting temptation and following the light, which is Jesus. We should let heaven be our goal. It surely is worth striving for. May the Lord richly bless our brothers who find that it is worthwhile to visit us from far and near and bring forth the humble teachings that never grow old.

On Dec. 18, a little girl, Angela Rose, was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Herr. The grandparents are Elmer and Marjory Herr of Burlington, OK, and Otto and Eleanor Baer of here. The great-grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Anna Grusy of Gridley, IL.

On Jan. 10, a little boy, Ted William, was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle. Little sisters, Beth and Mary, welcomed him, as did his grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnle, and Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka. The great-grandparents are Bro. Phillip and Sis. Bertha Moser of Gridley, IL, and Sis. Elizabeth Stoller of

here. What a privilege for these little souls to be born to Christian parents where they will learn of Jesus' love.

Our friend, Lee Streitmatter, had the misfortune of falling down some steps and breaking his ankle. He has a large cast but is able to get about with the aid of crutches.

Sis. Bessie Martin made a remarkable recovery from an artery bypass in her leg and skin graft, but we are sorry to say that she is back in the hospital with staff infection. When that has healed, she will have another skin graft. We sincerely hope she will soon be able to come home.

Bro. Harold Streitmatter recently had ear surgery at Mayo Clinic and is now feeling much better. We were glad to have him worship with us again..

Our dear Sis. Emma Asal also wishes to thank everyone for remembering her, not only during the past Christmas season, but every day, for the many kind deeds, encouraging words, prayers, cards, gifts, and visits that meant so much. Even though she is no longer able to physically see, she has memories and spiritual light. She is looking forward to the time when she will see all in heaven.

Sally M. Streitmatter and family thank everyone for the nice Christmas cards and holiday wishes, gifts, and visits. "Mother" was transferred on Nov. 27 to the Apostolic Christian Restmor (935 E. Jefferson, Morton, IL 61550) from the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka after living there almost 14 years.

God bless you and keep you today and forever.

God guide you and guard you on high ways and low.

God's light be about you at morning and evening.

God bless you forever, wherever you go!

This is my wish for all as I write for the last time and again thank everyone for their help.

#### Know Each Other Better

Since my mother stood by me and was a faithful helper to me during these years when I was Silver Lining correspondent, I feel it fitting to tell a little of her life.

Olivia (Ollie) Ricketts was born May 13, 1884, near Eureka, IL, to Jacob and Regula Schmid Kuntz.

She was the fifth child of a family of fourteen. One brother died in infancy. The thirteen children grew to adulthood and enjoyed many pleasant times together. The six who are still living meet once a month.

The family attended church at Roanoke but had to take turns going to church as there wasn't room for everyone in the two-seated surrey. It was a special day when it was their turn to go. They all learned to work at an early age, as there were not all the modern conveniences we now enjoy. During harvesting, they stayed out of school to help. Evidently, work didn't hurt them, for mother is nearing 96. Her sister will soon be 98 and is living alone. A brother is 90. Three other sisters were also in their 90's when they died.

On Feb. 7, 1906, Ollie was united in marriage to Alva Ricketts who lived near Benson, IL. They began housekeeping on a farm near Princeville, IL. The newly-weds went on a passenger train and bought a few necessities for their new home while waiting for the freight train to arrive with their belongings. When it arrived, they hitched the horse to the buggy and went to their new home, a mile south of Princeville. Neighbors were at the train with horses and wagons to help move their belongings, including a wedding gift from the bride's parents. They also had furniture, bedding, and clothing.

They attended the country church known as Steitmatter Prairie. It was here that Ollie surrendered her heart to the Lord and was baptized on Jan. 20, 1918. They became the parents of five children: Joseph and Roy, who live in Peoria; Bro. Levi of Morton; Sis. Marian Hinshaw, who lives near Peoria but attends church at Princeville, and Sis. Ruth who lives at home with her mother.

She has twelve grandchildren and thirty great-grandchildren that bring her joy. She made a quilt for each one. With good eyesight, she still enjoys quilting for herself and with the ladies of the church. She likes to work for World Relief and has made many comforters, as well as little garments for the needy. She is able to attend church regularly, and Sunday noons finds her at the sink helping with the dishes. She also enjoys singing and looks forward to the monthly hymn

sings, as well as other singings.

She enjoys the beauty of God's creation: flowers, birds, beautiful sunsets, and newly fallen snow. She is looking forward to spring when she can again work in her garden and watch things grow. She enjoys cooking and doing other household chores and is thankful to be able to do them.

We feel so thankful that she has a keen mind and an active interest in all things and is able to be part of these worthwhile things. The Bible is her companion, and prayer and attending church regularly have been her staff. We thank God every day that He has blessed her with all these gifts and are grateful for His many blessings.

Like everyone, Sis. Ollie has shared sorrow and joy, but has often said she has never had as many bad days as she has had good ones. Shortly after their 58th wedding anniversary, Alva was taken from this life on Feb. 19, 1964. We were so thankful that he could find peace in his heart before being taken in death. We praise God for His everlasting mercy and goodness. Through His great love and support, Sis. Ollie has been able to lead a full and abundant life and is a light and inspiration to many. She will continue to thank Him the rest of her days while waiting for Him to call her to her eternal reward.

#### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

##### Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

In the year 1979, there were fifteen marriages, ten funerals, sixteen births, and ten baptisms in our church.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Elmer Musselman whose final service was held on Jan. 1. He is survived by his wife, Josephine; two daughters, Mrs. Joanne Hewitt and Mrs. Rita Grebner; and three sons, Ronald, Kenneth, and Keith. They were privileged to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

Sis. Anna Schumacher, 88, passed away. She is survived by a sister, Elizabeth Hodel, and twenty-two nieces and nephews. She resided in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home for five years.

Sis. Martha Bradle passed away on Jan. 14. She is survived by two brothers, Samuel and Bro. Chris; three sisters, Sis. Fannie, Sis. Elsie Bradle, and Sis. Florence Martin of

Marengo, IL; and five nieces and nine nephews. Her quiet ways will be missed in our midst.

Sis. Marjorie Leman (Bro. Bill and Sis. Helen) and Bro. Ronald Lindenbaum were united in holy matrimony. She designed her invitations with this verse on the front: "The ultimate of Love is this—That love is given to us to give to one another." May God bless them in their new life together.

Sis. Marjorie Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell) and Bro. Brent Hodel (Bro. Bill and Sis. Betty) have announced their engagement. They are planning a spring wedding.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Robert Miller (Portland, OR), Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville), Bro. Marshall Heinold (Washington), and Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo). We appreciate the loving and living Word they shared with us.

Hospitalized at this time are Dan Moser (injured in a hang-glider accident), Bro. Harlow Blunier (surgery), Bro. Lee Scherer (a broken hip in a fall), and Bro. Jim Byrd (who is still in the Springfield burn center). We pray that God will be very near to them in their long hours of recuperation.

Ed and Sis. Denise Klaus are the happy parents of Andrew Jared, who was born on Dec. 13. Welcoming him home are his two sisters, Heather and Chris. The grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Ann Klaus, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis La Crois of Bloomington.

#### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Lydia Rassi - Dorothy Wagenbach**

We have grateful hearts and much appreciation for the precious Word of Life that the Lord shared with us through His servants. Visiting us this month were Bros. Don Wagenbach, Vernon Wettstein, John Steiner, and Steve Rinckenberger.

We wish the blessings of the Lord upon Bro. Dean Beutel and Sis. Karen Wagenbach who were united in holy matrimony on Dec. 23 by our Bro. Dan Koch. May the Lord lead and guide our dear ones in their life together.

We are thankful that Sis. Royal-dine Hodel has been able to fellowship with us again. She wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and gifts of food, both before and after her

surgery. She wishes a special thank you to the Christmas carolers.

Hospitalized briefly was our Bro. Al Aberle for surgery on his hand.

A baby is a sweet new blossom of humanity, fresh-fallen from God's own home to flower on earth. She is Dawna Rose, who arrived Jan. 16 to live with Bro. Marvin and Sis. Miriam Frank. She has a brother, Doug, and a sister, Susan, to welcome her.

The Aaron Gschwinds' announce the engagement of their daughter, Christine, to Ed Fischer, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian, Fort Scott. We wish them God's guidance and blessings in their life together.

We're thankful that Bro. Ed Koch is able to fellowship with us again. He wishes to thank everyone who visited him, sent cards and gifts, and, especially, prayers while he was in the hospital.

Bro. Floyd Bliss has been hospitalized this week with quinsy. Our prayers are with him and all who are convalescing.

Jeffrey Bruce is the precious gift added to the family of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder, Jan. 19. Todd is very pleased with his new playmate. The grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Gerry Neukomm, and Bro. Earl and Sis. Glen-na Sauder.

#### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Valerie Kipfer**

A ministering brother recently brought out in a sermon how some people complain that they are not being fed, spiritually, in the church. He said that, perhaps, if they claim they aren't being fed, they may not be eating a balanced diet, in the spiritual sense. Sometimes a child doesn't want to eat what's good for him and instead reaches for candy. This can be compared, in a spiritual sense, to the people who seem to want to read only the Scripture passages which blend with their way of thinking. They ignore the passages which contradict their beliefs. Therefore, they are not taking the Bible in its entirety, but are skipping around and choosing only what they wish to read. Physically, an unbalanced diet can do great damage, and, likewise, spiritually, it can be a soul's downfall. Therefore, we must remember to neglect nothing in our reading. We must take the Bible in its entirety, reading the parts that we

sometimes don't want to read (such as admonitions) along with the parts that are our favorites.

We are thankful that a dear soul in our congregation has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Evie Heinold, daughter of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan, as she seeks the Lord.

"What makes life worth the living is our giving and forgiving."

Thomas Grant Springer

NOTE: If you have not paid for your Silver Lining subscription, you are past due.

#### INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Darlene Isch - Lisa Shively**

Only one life,  
'Twill soon be past;  
Only what's done  
For Christ will last.

Anon.

This thought reminds us of our dear retired Elder Bro. Sam Aeschliman and his wife, Sis. Minnie, who recently were in the hospital and are now residing at the Meadowville Nursing Home. Bro. Sam has always been an inspiration and a blessing to each of us here at Bluffton. Our sincere prayers will never cease for Bro. Sam and Sis. Minnie.

Many others recently have been hospitalized, and our prayers also go out for each one of them. They were Jeff Neuenschwander (son of Bro. William and Sis. Mildred), Kris Gerber (daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Justine), Bros. Alvin Schwartz, Aden Strahm, Ted Kipfer, and Oscar Schaefer; and Sisters Helen Gerber and Agnes Schaefer.

We rejoiced in the union of Bro. Gene Gilgen and Sis. Melinda Moser on Dec. 16. Sis. Melinda is the daughter of Bro. Wm. Moser and Sis. Edna. Gene's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Gene Gilgen, Sr. On Dec. 22 Matthew Leeka and Tami Troxel were united in marriage. Tami's parents are Bro. Wm. and Sis. Bernice. May God bless them, always.

Scott and Karen Kaehr had a new baby boy, Travis Samuel, who Dustin gladly welcomed home. Bro. Alan and Sis. Sue Stoller were blessed with their second son, Philip Theodore.

We are happy to have two more souls seek the Lord in repentance. May God be with them.

Art Bertsch passed from this life on Dec. 16. He is survived by his wife, Betty, and three children. Sis. Louise Gerber, Sis. Betty Compton, Robert, and Lewis felt the loss of their brother.

We were privileged to hear the memorandum of the Conference on Dec. 29. Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) assisted our Elder Bro. Orville in reading and explaining the memorandum. We pray that we can all be obedient to the Lord's teachings.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Homer Reinick (Toledo) and Bro. Al Langhoffer (Wichita). We certainly appreciate their efforts.

### INDIANA, BREMEN Norma Lehman

How often we wish for another chance to make a fresh beginning, a chance to blot out our mistakes and change failure into winning. It does not take a New Year to make a brand-new start. It only takes the deep desire to try with all our heart to live a little better and always be forgiving, adding a little "sunshine" to the world in which we're living. So never give up in despair and think that you are through, for there's always a tomorrow and a chance to start anew. Helen Steiner Rice.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Walt Rager, Al Langhofer, Dave Wiegand, Carl Wesfall, and Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman.

Our soul waiteth for the Lord, He is our help and our shield. Ps. 33:20.

### INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Wendy Gutwein Jacki Huber

"Whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Mark 10:15.

How precious the little children are! We can learn so much from their simple faith and belief in all they are taught. We could see this when the Sunday School classes presented their Christmas program. We noticed how simply and sincerely they all sang from the very depths of their hearts about the Christmas story. The pure love these children have for the Lord Jesus is heartwarming and should inspire all of us to become more childlike in our Christian lives.

We had a blessed evening, New Year's Eve, as visiting Bros. Les Huber (Lexington) and Rod Huber

(Valpo) expounded on God's Holy Word. Following the regular services and a lunch intermission, we spent the rest of the old year in God's house enjoying our annual New Year's Eve program.

"Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls. . ." Heb. 13:17.

We are so thankful for the concern our elder brothers have for the welfare of our souls. We were recently reminded of our responsibilities as brothers and sisters of Christ when Elder Bro. Jesse Beer and our own Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman read the memorandum. It is "safe" for us to be reminded again and again.

Sis. Emma Blume, Sis. Lydia Pelsy, Bro. Emil Pelsy, and Bro. Ben Anliker were all hospitalized this past month. Bro. Emil is now back at Parkview Haven, where he resides, while the others remain hospitalized at this time. Our prayers are always with the sick and their families.

Mark and Jan Gutwein were blessed with a little son, Micah Jammarr, on Dec. 15. Three sisters, Angela, Teresa, and Ursula welcome him into their family. The grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marian Gutwein, and Mr. and Mrs. Art Stetzler (Morton). Jan. 5, little Sandra Mae entered the world as the new daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein. She has one sister, Tricia, and her grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein, and Bro. Elmer and Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber and their family. Sis. Sharon's father, Vern Tanner, passed away Dec. 31. We pray that they can all feel the comfort of our dear Lord in the loss of their loved one.

Eli and Priscilla Anliker wish to thank all who remembered them on their 40th wedding anniversary. They ask God to bless all of them.

### INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Klopfenstein - Pam Frank

We were saddened to hear that our ministering Bro. Richard Aberle and his family will be moving to Connecticut. We will surely miss them, but we wish them God's blessings. Their absence will be deeply felt by all, not only in the ministry, but also in Sunday School.

We welcome Bro. John and Sis. Peg Yergler to our congregation. He has finished school in Lafayette and will be working in Indianapolis.

### INDIANA, LA CROSSE Lois Bucher - Pearl Nuest

On New Year's Day, we were happy to have a visit from Bro. Bob Grimm from Goodfield. We thank him for being the willing medium by which God granted us a blessing to start this New Year.

Duane Bucher, son of Sis. Gwen, graduated at mid-term from high school. Our wishes for a good future go with him.

Those hospitalized for surgery this month are Sis. Caroline Levy and Dale Bucher (Sis. Gwen). We pray that God will grant them a speedy and complete recovery. Sis. Grace Heinold fell and broke her wrist. It is mending nicely.

It is with gladness in our hearts that we report that it has been announced that Dorothy Stewart, Bro. Doyne) and her mother, Alice Heinold, will be giving their testimonies. May God continue to call sinners while the waters are troubled.

### INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

They were out in a boat, some young know-it-alls and an old fisherman. They soon began to ply him with questions. "Do you know philosophy?" "No," he replied. "Then a fourth of your life is gone," said the youth. "Do you know chemistry?" "No," he replied. "Then a half of your life is gone." "But do you know astronomy?" "No." Then three fourths is gone." About that time a great gust of wind came up, and the boat began to sink. It was the old man's time to question them. "Do you know how to swim?" "No," they shouted. "Then all of your life is gone." So without faith in Christ, all is gone regardless of what human knowledge you have.

—Selected (source unknown)

The following few sentences are copied from a letter written by Bro. Ed Souder to the news reporters: "Let the world see how a true Christian acts. Perhaps some will want the same precious pearl that you have. My fifteen-year-old, Patty, has just decided that she does." We are happy for others, also, who have come to recognize this pearl of great prize, namely: Candy

Bruellman, Debbie Schrenk, and Carla Bradtmueller.

Hospitalized was little Jackie Norr, daughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Jyl.

Newly elected to church offices are Bro. O. W. Maxfield, trustee, and Bro. Kenneth Norr, usher.

Thoughts to ponder:

Marks of a Christian are giving and forgiving.

Give without remembering; receive without forgetting.

Love, like the basket of loaves and fishes, is not enough until you give it away.

Kind words shine in the memories of others like morning stars.

### INDIANA, MILFORD Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

#### Prayer for the Month of Silent Slumber

O Father God,  
Silent are Your woods now  
Where the snows lie deep.  
The days are rimed with frost,  
The nights are long.  
The world's asleep, dreaming of  
sunshine,  
Waiting for spring to come  
With its warm green kiss  
That wakens everything.  
Sometimes my soul seems like the  
woods,  
Silent, motionless and chill,  
Waiting for a signal,  
Unable to make it happen,  
But knowing it will come.  
Speak to my waiting soul, Lord,  
Call me into the warmth of Your  
presence,  
And your love.

—Author Unknown

Funeral services were held Dec. 24 for Bro. John Wuthrich, 72. We extend our sympathy to his brother, Walter Wuthrich.

Our 1980 business meeting was held Jan. 9. The newly elected officers are as follows: Bro. Phil Price, replacing Bro. Don Leman as Sunday School teacher; Bros. Ned and Tom Speicher, replacing Sunday School teachers Bro. Frank Beer and Dick Steffen; Bro. Phil Beer, replacing Bro. Ray Haab as church trustee; and Bros. Ken Beer and Don Haab, replacing Bros. Stan Wuthrich and Will Schieler as the new aids. We trust that the new officers will receive a real blessing in helping to carry on these important duties.

On Jan. 12 and 13 we received

many blessings from the testimony and baptism of Bro. Earl Sorg. We wish him much grace as he begins his new life with the Lord. May the Lord bless Bros. Carroll and Wendell Gerber for their labor of love which they shared with us on Sunday.

A few of our loved ones underwent surgery this past month and are recuperating in their homes. They are Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Bro. Carlton) and Bros. Andy Kammerer and Elmer Haab.

Those who are hospitalized at the present time and are undergoing tests are Sis. Sandy Beer (Bro. Lee) and Sis. Lorene Sorg (Bro. Earl). Ed. note: Sis. Sandy is your reporter.

Our couple awaiting baptism, Matthew and Karen Pamer, were blest with a little girl, Emily Sue, on Jan. 18. This bundle of joy is welcomed home by her brothers and sisters. May God richly bless their family circle.

God is in every tomorrow,  
Therefore I live for today  
Certain of finding at sunrise  
Guidance and strength for the  
day,  
Power for each moment of  
weakness,  
Hope for each moment of pain,  
Comfort for every sorrow,  
Sunshine and joy after rain.

God is in every tomorrow,  
Planning for you and for me;  
E'en in the dark I will follow,  
Trust where my eyes cannot see,  
Stilled by His promise of blessing.  
Soothed by the touch of His  
hand,  
Confident in His protection,  
Knowing my life path is planned.  
—Author Unknown

### PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANA, LAFAYETTE

#### Candy Wuethrich

February will be well on its way by the time this issue of the Silver Lining reaches your mailbox, and several more weeks of school will be in our past here at Purdue. On this particular Sunday evening when I am writing this, we await the beginning of the second week of classes in the morning. It is somewhat easier for many of us to jump into this semester and begin studying since it is our last semester.

What a joy it was during our Christmas vacation to visit broth-

ers and sisters in the Lord, recalling special memories and then reaching out for more. We so often take for granted the wonderful blessings of Christian friendship. We can travel worldwide and find open arms and welcoming love overflowing from our brothers and sisters.

Recently, a minister was explaining how our brothers and sisters in Russia have to secretly hold their provings from midnight to 4:00 a.m. without singing, so that they will not be found or heard. How thankful we should be that we can meet and greet one another, singing praises and worshipping God with complete freedom!

It becomes more and more apparent with each passing day that the freedom we have may not last forever. We must grasp the Lord's hand ever so tightly so we don't lose Him or get caught up in the crowd.

Things are happening all around us that could cause our grip to loosen; but if we stay close, He will lead us to live with Him forever. It is all in God's special plan. We are drawing closer to that time when He will call His children home. Are we ready? Watch and Pray!

The Purdue group wishes to express our appreciation to Bro. Ed Bahler for coming and sharing God's Word with us at our last Purdue Service.

#### He Knows

I know not what awaits me:  
God kindly veils mine eyes,  
And o'er each path of my upward  
way  
He makes new scenes to rise.

So on I go not knowing—  
I would not if I might;  
I'd rather walk in the dark with  
Him  
Than walk alone in the light;  
I'd rather walk with him by faith  
Than walk alone by sight.

Where Jesus may lead I'll follow,  
My trust in Him repose,  
And every hour in perfect peace,  
I'll sing, "He Knows, He Knows."  
Author Unknown

### INDIANA, REMINGTON

#### Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

Soon after the busy Christmas activities are over each year, the sisters of the Remington and Wol-

cott area begin another season of busy activities for our World Relief Program. Each Tuesday, we gather at our fellowship hall and work on various sewing projects such as quilts and comforters; baby layette and prenatal kits; health, school and sewing kits; hospital gowns and bandages, etc. In the spring these are boxed and sent to many needy people in needy lands. It is a work of fellowship and fulfillment, and everybody is always welcome to come and sew with us.

On Christmas Eve, Sis. Anna Beckley had the misfortune of breaking her hip. She underwent surgery and is still hospitalized in Jasper County Hospital. Sis. Emma Blume suffered a stroke and is presently in a coma at our local hospital. Emma and Anna had been residing at Parkview Haven Rest Home in Francesville.

On Dec. 30 several from Remington attended the wedding of Bro. Dan Stoller and Sis. Deb Frank at LaCrosse. They will be making their home in Remington as Dan farms some ground near here. We feel most privileged to have another young couple worship with us.

Our annual business meeting was held this past month, and the following were elected: trustee, Bro. John Knobloch; Sunday School Bible Class, Bro. Walt Bahler; Sunday School, 6-8th grades, Bro. Ed Troxel; and Parkview Haven director, Bro. Harold Schieler.

Last year the Remington congregation witnessed four births, four marriages, two baptisms and one death.

### INDIANA, VALPARISO

**Susan and Marie Heinold**

New Year's Eve: I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown," and he replied, "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way." Minnie Haskins

We ended our annual meeting with Bro. Rod Huber reading in Phil. 2:9—"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment." We are thankful for the many blessings God has given us, including an answer to our prayer for a song leader.

We heartily welcome the family

of Sis. Bev and Bro. Terry Miller and their children, Jeff, Wendy, and Stacy, who have moved to the Valparaiso area from Remington, IN.

Mary Ames and Steve Hannon were married Dec. 7. We wish them God's blessings.

Susie and I have been greatly blessed, being your Valparaiso reporters, but we are happy to turn this labor of love over to Sisters Mary Huber and Claudia Thomas.

The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will  
stop,  
At late or early hour.

NOW is the only time you own;  
Live, love, toil with a will.  
Place no faith in tomorrow,  
For the clock may then be still.  
Author Unknown

### INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Laurel Widmer**

**A Prayer for the New Year**  
HOPE for a world  
Grown cynically cold,  
Hungry for power  
And greedy for gold . . .

FAITH to believe  
When within and without  
There's a nameless fear  
In a world of doubt. . .

LOVE that is bigger  
Than race or creed  
To cover the world  
And fulfill each need. . .

God grant these gifts  
To troubled hearts  
As the old year ends  
And the new year starts.  
—Helen Steiner Rice

As this new year starts, we welcome two brand new additions to our church family. Dwight and Lisa Waibel are the parents of a baby girl, Holly Ann, born Dec. 28. Her paternal grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Reva Waibel. The first arrival for the new year is Briana Lynn, born Jan. 20 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer. The paternal grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Bob. and Sis. Norma Pfladder.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Roy Wernley, Bro. Wendell Gudeman,

and Bro. Ed Bahler on Jan. 12 and 13 for the provings and baptisms of Bro. Tim Schwab and Sis. Denise Stoller. We thank each of them for being with us on this special weekend. We are thankful for Tim and Denise. We ask God's blessing for them in the days ahead.

Bro. Sam Furrer was hospitalized this month and is now recovering at home. He thanks everyone for the cards, prayers and visits he received during his illness. Sis. Josephine Farney is able to assemble with us again after an extended illness. It is good to see her up and about again.

### IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Judy Gehring - Kim Salek**

It has truly been a month of blessings. Christmas is a beautiful time of year if we stop and take time to remember and think on the real and beautiful meaning of it. It is sometimes an effort to pull ourselves away from the hustle and bustle of the season and reflect upon what His birth means to us. Our Sunday School classes held their Christmas program on Sunday, the 23rd. It is always precious to see and hear such young ones telling the story of Jesus' birth. The same evening, a number of us went caroling and later came back to the church for homemade chili and vegetable soup. We all received many blessings that day. We want to thank the Sunday School teachers, students, and Food Committee for helping make it a joyous day.

On Dec. 30, Bros. Bill Gerst from Alto, MI, and Jon Schmidgall from Oakville, IA, spent the day with us. Our cups were filled to overflowing, and the call to repentance went forth again to our dear friends and loved ones.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner are the parents of a new son, Dallas Jay, born Dec. 23. Rachel, Darin, and Dean welcome him home. Both mother and baby spent some extra days in the hospital due to a strep infection but are now home doing much better.

On Jan. 6, we held our annual church meeting. Our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz spent the afternoon with us. Bro. Paul Eisenmann was elected trustee for a five-year term. Bro. Paul Wagler was given a five-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. Sis. Kim Salek was elected for a four-year term as Silver Lining

reporter. We pray for guidance from the Lord as we carry out our duties.

When the Lord Jesus went to the Lord's Supper with His disciples, it was a way to suffering and death. Of this, the true Christian will remind himself and shall so go to the Lord's Supper as though it were a going into death, and then one day he will go into death as though it were going to the Lord's Supper. (From *Fundamentals of Faith and Fellowship. . . Confession*)

Sunday, Jan. 13, we partook of the Lord's Supper. Elder Bro. Sam Anliker of the Lamont congregation assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz in that undertaking. We especially want to thank them and their wives for being willing to be spent for us. We were drawn closer to our Lord and Savior in those special moments of partaking of the bread and wine.

We have much to be thankful for in our spiritual lives. In visiting with an old brother in the faith and hearing his account of some of the trials and persecutions that others before us have gone through, we were truly humbled and were ashamed of how we sometimes complain about our trials that are so light, in comparison. It is so strengthening to visit these older and faithful brethren, and it truly makes us thankful that they were willing and able to endure and hold fast.

#### IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

We are experiencing an unusually mild winter. To my surprise, I discovered that one of our lilac shrubs was showing springlike buds all along its branches. I plan to cut a few pussy willow branches, place them in a container of water, and watch them develop.

I saw a grey squirrel today eating his fill of bird seed. Last winter we would see as many as four at a time partaking of sunflower seeds.

Speaking of birds, we saw four cardinals at one time near our house a few days ago. How beautifully they are dressed. It gives one a thrill to behold them.

It's a beautiful world we live in, vast and varied in its scenic splendor, where mountains, valleys, plains, deserts, forests, jungles, tundras, rivers, lakes, and mighty seas form a lovely backdrop and

dwelling place for man and animal. The eyes of God are over every land where man has toiled and where His churches stand.

Our community was shocked to learn of Bro. Lawrence Gehring's passing away. We are going to miss Uncle Lawrence very much. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow, Sis. Edna, and to all of his seven children. He is also survived by one brother, Robert Gehrig, Kennare, ND, and one sister, Ella Gehr Gehring, Elgin. Lawrence had a zest for living. He was always cheerful to his family, friends and neighbors. He was well known for his participation in community activities and in the church, where he served for many years as a Sunday School teacher and song leader. He respected education and supported the institutions which served his children.

We are happy to see Sis. Lena Pulfer well enough to attend church services, having been absent a few Sundays due to illness. Sis. Ella Gehring is ill with a bad cold but seems to be recovering quite well. We wish her a speedy recovery. Bro. Chas. Schneider was ill with pneumonia but is well again, up and about doing his usual work, for which we are thankful. Sis. Bertha Gehring is now residing at the Good Samaritan Home in West Union.

#### Spiritual Tonics

1. Stop worrying, worry kills.
2. Begin each day with a prayer; it will arm your soul.
3. Accept your limitations; all of us can't be great.
4. Try to want what you have, instead of spending your strength trying to get what you want.
5. Spend some time alone for the peace of solitude and silence.

The Christmas program, given by our Sunday School was very enjoyable. The Sunday school pupils, as well as some adults, went caroling to the homes of the aged and infirmed, bringing the message of Christ's birth and the joy that is captured by those who have the hope of a heavenly home. After the caroling, a lunch was served in the dining area of our church.

Bro. Uriel Gehring from Burlington, IA, was a visiting minister. We want to thank him for his efforts.

**MOVING? LET US KNOW.**

#### IOWA, IOWA CITY Bonita Frank

All things bright and beautiful,  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful—  
The Lord God made them all.  
Hymns of Zion, No. 207

We can look out the window and see snow on the ground, and, being human, we lament the fact that we cannot travel as we would like. We see only white for quite a space. If we stop to think, though, snow too is a creation of God. Not only is each little snowflake awe-inspiring, in that it is different from its mates, but together they can quickly stop all traffic and the rush of the world, causing a quiet stillness. God can even use these small flakes to give us our needs: to spend more time with our families at home and to spend more time in prayer for others, especially since we cannot do as much for them as we would like because of the weather.

We are very thankful that our visiting ministers decided to brave the weather and share God's Holy Word with us. This month, our visiting ministers were Bro. Bob Walder, Congerville, and Bro. John Steiner, Oakville. We are ever grateful to these brothers and their families for driving the many miles to worship with us.

We were able to hear the conference results in Burlington, and will be hearing the conference tapes the first two Saturdays in February. Hearing them reminds us to pray continually for those who have the responsibility of the flock's health—our elder body and the ministering brethren. We need to let them know how much we support their labors.

#### IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

Our weather, so far this winter, has been mild with very little snow. On January 13, a beautiful and balmy day, we witnessed the baptisms and consecration of two dear friends. Elder Bro. Ed Frank, La Crosse, was here to assist Elder Bro. Leo Moser in this most inspiring service. Gary Hever and Myron Knobloch gave their testimonies the previous evening. We rejoice to welcome them into the fold. Merle Knobloch, who repented some time ago, has professed peace which passeth all understanding.



He is the son of Bro. Albert and Sis. Salome.

We appreciate the young ministers who are willing to preach the Word while they were here visiting relatives during the holiday season. They were Bros. Roger Aberle and Ben Wysong, Sabetha, Virgil Metzger, Urbana, and Jon Schmidgall, Oakville.

During the past year our congregation was blest with fifteen new babies, there were forty-two baptisms with eight converts awaiting baptism, and we sadly laid to rest four dear souls. We now have 242 members as of Jan. 1

On Dec. 19, Charles and Linda Metzger became the parents of Lori Ann. She has two sisters, and the grandparents are Sis. Flora Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Hansen, Sioux Falls. Troy William was born on Christmas Day to Bill and Charlotte Metzger. His grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger and Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach, Tremont. On Jan. 6, Brian Jay was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger. He has a sister, and the grandparents are Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Kramer. Also on the 6th, Rex Warren was born to Bro. Ray and Kathy Metzger. His grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Leubecker, Harrisburg, SD. JoAnn Sue joined the family of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer on Jan. 7. Her grandparents are Sis. Emma Meyer and Bro. Lou and Sis. Norma Bauman, Goodfield. Jeff Dean was born to Keith and Mary Metzger on Jan. 8. His grandparents are Sis. Flora Metzger and Mrs. Bly, Sioux Falls. Yes, all six new babies are great-grandchildren of Fred and Sis. Carrie Metzger.

Sis. Lucy Knobloch's mother, Mary Spohr of Elgin, IL, is spending some time convalescing in the Knobloch home. Having been in ill health and now at an advanced age, she is seeking her salvation and asks God's blessing on all who have remembered her with cards, gifts and prayers.

Our hospital patients are Melody Knobloch, daughter of Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie and Carl Leuthold. Brent Teubel, who was seriously injured last month, has returned home and is improving. We pray for the complete recovery of each one.

## IOWA, OAKVILLE Phyllis Siegle

### A Tranquil Place

There's a special time  
At the end of the day  
To quietly put  
Our troubles away. . .

A time to withdraw  
From the hurried pace  
And retreat to a  
Gentle, tranquil place. . .

A place to listen,  
A place to rejoice,  
A place to hear  
God's still, small voice.

J. Kerber

Our congregation wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Sis. Lorraine Whipple in the death of her father, Bro. George Rauhaus. After an extended illness, he won his reward and is partaking of the sweet rest in Jesus. He resided at the Peoria Skyline Nursing Home.

We were fortunate to have Bro. Duane Metzger, West Bend; Bro. Bill Gerst, Alto; and Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago, minister to us. We were certainly refreshed in our spirits and were reminded of our all-important duty to bear fruit for Christ. May God bless them, as they spent the holiday season in our midst.

Elder Bro. John Bahler, Rockville, spent a recent mid-week service with us. How pleasant it is to begin a new year in this manner. We know his relatives enjoy his presence, but we appreciate his love in the ministry of God's Word.

Elder Bro. Samuel Anliker spent a welcome visit with us after the mid-term Elder Conference. We heartily thank him for his labor of love.

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention.

## IOWA, PULASKI

Mary Jane Knapp  
Ginny Wuthrich

We were richly blest this past month when the Lord made the way open wherein several dear elder brethren could be in our midst. The weekend of Jan. 5 and 6, our Elder Bro. Leo Moser and Elder Bros. Eugene Marti and Ed Lanz spent some time with us. The conclusions of the memorandum were so lovingly shared with us. Also at that time, Bro. Russell Wuthrich

was appointed to be the lead minister of our congregation, taking over the duties of correspondence and making announcements. His father, Bro. Albert, has served in this capacity for many years, and we certainly thank him for his faithful service. We still look forward to hearing many kindly teachings from him as he continues to serve us in the ministry. May they both feel our prayers and support in this change.

Monday evening, Jan. 14, Elder Bro. Sam Anliker ministered to us. Having been so abundantly nourished in such a humble manner, how can we but desire to strive to serve the Lord more sincerely? He asks so little of us compared to what He has done and promises for eternity if we serve Him faithfully.

## IOWA, WEST BEND

Mrs. Ervin Mogler  
Mrs. Dennis Fehr

We were again blessed when visiting ministers were willing to lend themselves during the holiday season. Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin), Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), and Bro. Alphai Moser (Morris) shared God's Word with us. We thank them for their efforts.

We found it interesting to hear from one of our ministers about a little girl who was sitting with her family. They were talking about the devil, and the little girl set an example for us, as many times little children do. She said, "Do you know what I would do if the devil came to my door? I'd send Jesus to answer the door." "We need Jesus to help us," the minister added.

We have two wedding engagements to report at this time. Darrell Zaugg is engaged to Julie Biddle. Their parents are Walter Zaugg and the late Sis. Mabel Zaugg and Mr. and Mrs. De Los Biddle of Des Moines. David Schneider is engaged to Joan Marine. Their parents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Ella Schneider and the late Virginia Marine and Vernon Marine of Cassville, MO. We wish them God's blessings as they take this important step in life.

Sam and Sis. Tillie Mogler, by God's grace, have been privileged to spend 55 years of married life together. Twelve of their fourteen children were with them for this occasion. There are 59 grandchild-

ren and three great-grandchildren.

Mike and Marilyn Banwart are the parents of a new son whom they have named Matthew Richard, and his grandparents are Art and Madeline Banwart and Iola and the late Richard Rasmussen. Children are blessings from God.

Mrs. Reuben Anliker has had hand surgery. Other hospital patients were Bro. Pat Zaugg and Dick Schmidt. We are thankful that God has helped them on the road to recovery.

### JAPAN, SHIODA

Evie Blunier

Besides the usual Happy New Year greeting, in Japanese we use a phrase which translates into "Please give me your friendship this year also." How important for us to appreciate our friends more each year, and to seek out the companionship of Christ each day anew.

Christmas service was held on Sunday, Dec. 23, since the 25th is a regular working day for many people here. In the afternoon, the two Sunday School classes had a Christmas program. Then a large group went caroling at a home for the elderly. It was especially touching to watch the little Sunday School children slip out of their shoes and enter each little room with a gift of fruit for each resident. It was such a small gift and yet, such joy it brought! Back at church, we had a special Christmas service and then enjoyed a delicious potluck meal.

A smaller group of us also went caroling to homes on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The familiar carols were beautiful in Japanese, and with our American visitors singing in English, we could join in unison to sing "Gloria in excelsis Deo."

We were especially blessed this Christmas season to have visitors from America. My sisters, Marge and Sis. Dori Blunier from Eureka, spent three weeks in Japan. Besides visiting the kindergarten and homes of friends and brethren, they toured parts of Yamanashi-Ken and the Tokyo area. The contrast between our visiting a huge temple, shrine and Buddha statue, and watching many people throw money, offer gifts, and bow to idols, and our worshipping the true God in quietness and reverent simplicity with our brethren made

a lasting impression on all of us.

Two of our sisters enjoyed vacations away from Japan over the holidays. Sis. Hiroko Natori spent two weeks in the Soviet Union with Sis. Hiroko Utsuki from Tokyo, and Sis. Sally Gramm visited Thailand. We're happy to have them with us again.

The Ehnles wish to thank the anonymous person in Elgin, IL, for the gift sent at Christmas time.

### JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

A wish for a blessed New Year is extended to all Silver Lining readers from us here in Japan. The past month was spent in remembering our Lord and Savior's birth. Our Christmas service was held on Dec. 23 with the children presenting their part, "The Lights of Christmas," in verse and song. Then, we all enjoyed a covered-dish meal together.

We are also enjoying a new front door on our church building, as well as inside sliding door and a remodeled front sign. Putting a program together, planning a meal, and making decisions on building repairs all involve a giving and taking of ideas. Many times, we have found that when several help with decision making, the end result is much better. We wish to thank all who remembered our assembly with Christmas greetings. Our conversation at noon-time lunch at church is often bits of news from our brethren in the U.S. The ties of Christian friendship are very blessed.

We remember our dear elder brethren who are gathering in the States. We pray that God's guidance and wisdom will be with them as they gather for the spiritual welfare of our souls.

### KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

#### Take Time to be Holy

Take time to be holy,  
Speak oft with Thy Lord ;

Abide in Him always,  
And feed on His Word:

Make friends of God's children;  
Help those who are weak;

Forgetting in nothing,  
His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy,  
The world rushes on;  
Spend much time in secret

With Jesus alone—

- By looking to Jesus,  
Like Him thou shalt be;  
Thy friends in thy conduct  
His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy,  
Let Him be thy Guide,  
And run not before Him,  
Whatever betide;

In any joy or in sorrow,  
Still follow thy Lord,  
And looking to Jesus,  
Still trust in His word.

Take time to be holy,  
Be calm in thy soul;  
Each thought and each motive,  
Beneath His control;  
Thus led by His spirit,  
To fountains of love,  
Thou soon shalt be fitted  
For service above.

Hymns of Zion, No. 112

This truly is a beautiful hymn  
and a sermon in itself.

Looking back over the year 1979,  
we find that we have ten new babies,  
seven boys and three girls. We  
also had two converts and four deaths.

Benjamin Jacob arrived Dec. 21  
as a welcome first child for Elwin  
and Mary Strahm. The grandparents  
are Bro. Edward and Sis. Leola  
Lehman, and Bro. Alvin and  
Sis. Mildred Strahm.

Congratulations are extended to  
Dan Rokey and Sherri Gooding as  
they make plans for a June wedding.  
Sherri teaches first grade in  
Sabetha, and Dan is a dairy farmer.  
Bro. Melvin and Sis. Florence are  
Dan's parents.

Sincere sympathy is extended to  
Sis. Lucy Rokey, Sis. Mamie  
Strahm, and their families in the  
passing of their mother, Sis. Elizabeth  
Marti.

### KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Jan Kraft

Visiting ministers through the  
holidays were Elder Bro. Sam Anliker  
and Bro. John Leman.

Jan. 16 was our annual business  
meeting. Reelected for a three-year  
term on the Board of Trustees was  
Jim Bahr. Sunday School teachers  
elected were Don Banwart, Wanita  
Sinn, Carol Sinn, and Debbie Banwart.  
Ruth Bahr was elected to the  
Food Committee. Steve Fischer was  
elected Usher, Harvey Smith, Custodian,  
Jim Bahr, Song Leader, and

Teresa Bahr, Silver Lining Reporter.

To everything there is a season,  
and a time for every purpose  
under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to  
die. . .  
A time to weep, and a time to  
laugh. . .  
A time to mourn, and a time to  
dance. . .  
A time to get, and a time to lose. . .  
Ecclesiastics 3:1-6.

A prayer goes forth that God will be with Wanda Kraft and family in the passing away of her mother and with Sis. Kathryn Banwart and family in the passing away of their father. We hope it will help them in their sorrow and give them strength, faith, and courage for tomorrow.

#### KANSAS, GRIDLEY Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Are you utilizing your spiritual gift today? Paul wrote about spiritual gifts in his letters to the Romans, Corinthians, and the Ephesians. He wished that each one would develop and use their talents sufficiently and exhorted that we must not become lax or slothful. God would have taken us to heaven immediately after conversion if He had no purpose for us here. God equiped us for His service, by providing one or more spiritual gifts for each one of us. We must remember that God does not want deadwood in His church.

Hospitalized have been Sis. Wilma (Junior) Young, surgical; Bro. Sam (Esther) Kraft, medical; and Sis. Esther (Sam) Kraft, medical.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara Zimmerman are the proud parents of a baby girl born Dec. 28. She has been named Stacie Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Marie Kraft, and Bro. Orville and Sis. Lulu Zimmerman.

#### KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Judy Bahr

With the beginning of a new semester we look to God for His grace and strength to help us along the way.

We welcome each and every one of you to be with us for Wednesday night services.

For when the One great Scorer comes,

To write against your name,  
He writes not that you lost or won  
But how you played the game.

#### Treasures of Silver

#### KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

Praise the Lord! We have begun a new year and the freedom to worship the Lord is still ours just for the asking. What will this new year bring?—sorrow, joy, pain, laughter, peace, life, or death? I'm sure each of us may face some, or all, of these things sometime during the coming year, but there is one event I wonder if we will be prepared to face should God's time be right. That is the second coming of our Lord and Savior, in the clouds, to redeem His own.

Are we like the five wise Virgins? Are our lamps trimmed and burning, and are we hoping, praying, and watching for our Redeemer to come? Or as the five foolish Virgins are we so involved with the world that our lamps have gone out and His second coming will pass us by?

Will Christ come in 1980? Only God the Father knows the exact time, but He has granted us so many signs and warnings through the Scriptures, that, as the prophecies are fulfilled, we may know that Christ's coming is near at hand. He loved us enough to warn us; may He yet grant us grace to be ready for that great and wonderful day!

We had a blessed privilege this month when ministering Bro. Cleo Rinkenberger, Pulaski, IA, and his dear wife joined us for services, and Bro. Cleo lent himself to bring us two inspiring messages from the Scriptures. Bro. Cleo spoke of the prophetic fulfillment. As we daily see all the pieces fall into place, we glorify our God for His mercy in granting that the door is still open to all who yet chose to enter.

Our dear Sis. Bea Hill was moved to the Enid, OK, hospital and is very ill at this time. May we all remember her and Bro. George in prayer, that if God so wills she may soon be well again.

We were also sorry to learn that Nelson Tucker, son of Dale and Sis. Marie Tucker, broke his foot. We hope he doesn't have to suffer too much, for it must be quite painful.

May God richly bless each beloved brother or sister who accepted offices in the Lord's work on Wed-

nesday evening, Jan. 16, when we gathered for our annual meeting. We may not feel capable of handling our work, but as long as we follow the advice in Collosians 3:23, we'll be okay: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

2 Timothy 4:7: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. . ." These precious words could well apply to the life and death of our dear Bro. Eli Somerholder, who fell asleep in his Savior's arms, Jan. 5, at the age of 84. Bro. Eli ministered the Word for 40 years in the Burlington, OK, Kiowa, KS, area. He truly loved and lived for God, and when his time came to die, he told his family he was ready. For his family and ourselves, we are sad, for we will greatly miss him; but for Bro. Eli, we are happy. He is where he most wants to be: forever with his God. Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and ministering Brothers Ronald Allenbach and Raymond Roth officiated at services held here on Jan. 8.

#### KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

Gridley and Lamont were hosts to the young folks from the Kansas, Taylor and Lamar, MO, churches on Dec. 8 and 9. They gathered with us for afternoon services. Bro. Sam Huber, Sabetha, was the visiting minister. We all joined together for a carry-in supper at Madison after church services.

It was indeed heart stirring to have our Sunday School children present their annual Christmas program on a Wednesday evening. On Sunday afternoon they enjoyed going caroling and afterwards had a bountiful supper at Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch's home.

Our annual business meeting was held on Jan. 4, and those elected to new positions were: Bible Class, Bro. Lloyd Luthi; Primary Class substitute, Jeri Luthi; and food committee, Sis. Mary Isch.

On a recent Saturday evening, the Lamont and Gridley congregations assembled at Gridley to hear the minutes from the Conference read and expounded upon by Bro. Sam Anliker. We are sorry that Bro. Raymond Banwart could not be with us due to the death of Sis. Kathryn's father, Bro. Eli Somerholder.

**KANSAS, SABETHA****Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter**

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Mark Bahr, Detroit, and Bro. Alphia Strahm, Bern. We assembled with Bern on Christmas Day when Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, brought us the Word.

Sis. Elizabeth Marti, 86, passed away on Jan. 16 at the Apostolic Christian Home where she lived for one week. She had been in the hospital for some time. She is survived by one son, Bro. Gene Marti, Springfield, MO (Lamar church), and four daughters, Sis. Mayme Strahm and Sis. Lucy Rokey, Bern, and Sis. Frances Zaugg and Sis. Evelyn Benninger, West Bend. Services were held in Sabetha on Jan. 19 with Bro. Sam and Bro. Roger Aberle officiating. The family expresses their thanks for all kindnesses shown to them.

Hospitalized this past month were Brent Meyer and Sis. Fanny Bahr. Sis. Donna Fechter had the misfortune of breaking her arm. Also, Sis. Lena Steiner has her arm in a cast.

We recently had our annual business meeting. Bro. Noah Steiner was selected as trustee to serve with Bro. John Aberle and Bro. Virgil Hartter. Bro. Gordon Huber was selected as usher to serve with Bro. Jay Kellenberger. Bro. Elmer Strahm was re-elected to the Fellowship Hall committee. Bro. Fred Aberle replaces Bro. Ben Aberle on the Building Aid Committee.

**KANSAS, WICHITA****Judy Langhofer**

Bro. Philip Bowers underwent serious surgery this past week in St. Francis Hospital and will be confined there for the next two weeks. He is recovering well from the surgery, but certainly deserves our prayers. The dedication of his family in caring for him has been a testimony to the church.

The Christmas season brought many joys to our congregation. We would especially like to mention the engagement of Sis. Roberta Farney to Bro. Roger Reimschisel. Bro. Roger moved here from Bluffton, IN, in the spring of the year. It is our hope to have them living permanently in Wichita where we can benefit from their participation and fellowship.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel were presented with a new daughter on Jan. 4. She was wel-

comed by three sisters and a brother whose hearts have been won by her. They have named her Shawnda Lou. Her grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ann Farney of Wichita and Bro. Dave and Sis. Marjorie Reimschisel of Bluffton, IN.

Reading in the Psalms, we can see the positive attitude David had toward God. He knew how to thank Him, praise Him, and trust Him in all things. Since David was a man after the heart of God, there surely are many lessons to be learned in handling the gloomy forecasts for 1980. We were reminded during Wednesday evening service last week, in the reading from the Revelations, of the marvelous coming of the Lord for His Bride and the awful judgments that are to come. God has provided that we can partake of one and escape the other if we only learn to thank Him, praise Him, and trust Him.

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY****Patsy Bragiel**

After a short illness, Bro. John Lambert was taken from life here on earth, Dec. 27. Being 86 years old, and one of the oldest brothers with us, he will be greatly missed. His wife, Sis. Helen passed away several years ago.

There is no greater freedom  
than the freedom of choice—  
No greater Choice  
than the choice to follow the  
Lord.

There's no greater reward  
than to answer His call—  
May your work for the Lord  
be a blessing to all.

Author Unknown

Chosen for a new work for the Lord in our congregation are: trustee, Bro. Jesse Hodder; Sunday School teachers, Bro. Joe Ramseyer, Bro. Duane Broquard, Bro. Tom Schlatter, and Sis. Pam Wieland; and cook, Sis. Lillian Ramseyer. May God instill in their hearts the spirit of His will and way, that it may be a beneficial blessing to all.

On Sunday morning our ministers take turns going to see the brothers and sisters of our congregation who are in the hospital or ill at home. The past month they have been: Sis. Emma Wackerle, Sis. Ellen Wackerle, and Bro. Herman and Sis. Marion Meylan. We

want to remember them in our prayers, and wish that God's nearness remain with them in their weak and lowly hours.

Bro. Blaine and Sis. Cathy Wieland were richly blessed with a healthy baby boy. Brady Lee is their first child. The grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Margaret Wieland.

**MICHIGAN, DETROIT****Nella Varga**

Grace and goodness He has  
promised;

He's a true and mighty Lord.  
Nothing then shall ever part us;  
He will keep us by His word.

Though I must endure affliction,  
Yet I feel my Lord's affection;  
He is here my strength in life,  
And helps me in ev'ry strife.

Zion's Harp, Song No. 157

With God's love and healing grace, Bro. Paul Sabados and Linda Shaw are at home, while Sis. Katie is back at the Armenian Home after being hospitalized. All are recuperating well. Also, Todd Moilanen broke his arm playing football but is feeling a great deal better and soon will have his cast off. Todd is the son of Tom and Kay Moilanen.

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

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Floyd Schmidgall of Morris and Bro. Earl Banwart of West Bend. We thank them for coming and for delivering God's Word to us. May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

Our ministering Bro. Ken Lawson, Sis. Sharon, and their children, Shelly and Tim, are residing in Ft. Lauderdale during the winter months. We miss them and wish them God's blessings.

Summary for 1979: two births, one death, one baptism, and one new convert. We have 30 members and 18 children in Sunday School.

**A Sure Way To A Happy Day**  
HAPPINESS is something

We create in our mind.  
It's not something you search for  
and so seldom find.  
It's just waking up  
and beginning the day  
By counting our blessings  
and kneeling to pray.  
It's giving up thoughts  
that breed discontent

And accepting what comes  
as a "gift heaven-sent."

It's giving up wishing  
for things we have not  
And making the best of  
whatever we've got.  
It's knowing that life  
is determined for us  
And pursuing our tasks  
without fret, fume or fuss.  
For it's by completing  
What God gives us to do  
That we find real contentment  
and happiness, too.

Helen Steiner Rice

### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Pam Sutter - Lili Koehl

"As sure as ever God puts his children in the furnace, He will be in the furnace with them. It is not until we have passed through the furnace that we are made to know how much cross there is in our composition. God sometimes washes the eyes of His children with tears that they may read aright His providence and His commandments. That which is painful to the body may be profitable to the soul. He that has no cross will have no crown."

Long Suffering  
Wings of Silver

Sis. Rosina Moser wishes to thank everyone who has been kind and remembered her throughout the past year with prayers, cards, gifts, and visits.

Bro. Ervin and Sis. Madonna Moser wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and visits while Bro. Ervin was in the hospital and at home.

Little Michael Wulf spent a few days in the hospital. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy are glad to have him back home again.

We thank Bro. Ken Lawson for ministering to us during the Christmas season.

### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Delores Messerli - Mary Thiem

O Praise the Lord, all ye nations,  
praise him, all ye faithful.

Psalms 117.

It is better to trust in the Lord than  
to put confidence in man.

It's better to trust in the Lord than  
to put confidence in princes.

Psalms 118:8,9.

Trust in the Lord with all thine  
heart and lean not unto thine own  
understanding.

Proverbs 3:5.

How needful it is in the midst of today's crises that all people and rulers of the world look to the Lord and ask for his guidance.

A large group of believers spent the evening in worship and fellowship singing in the New Year. We thank Bro. Roland and Sis. Melva Messner for inviting us into their home.

Jeremy, young son of Sis. Candace and Gerald Pederson had throat surgery.

The Christian's life is a one-way ticket. Do not arrive at the gate only to be told your ticket is not good.

### KANSAS - MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

Our thanks and wishes for God's blessings go to ministering Bros. Roger Aberle, Sabetha; John Lehman, Bern; Al Langhofer and Glen Funk, Wichita; and Elder Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, for traveling here to hold services for us.

Recently, we were able to acquire a 5.9 acre plot on the southern side of the Kansas City area. We are looking forward to having our own place of worship in the not too distant future. We trust that God will continue to bless our gathering together as He has in the past.

Our congratulations and wish for God's blessings go to Ken and Mary Lee Williams on their recent marriage. We also offer them our prayers for God's guidance as they continue to seek their souls' salvation, together.

We are happy to extend our welcome to Alan Ott, Kiowa, KS, who has accepted a job here after graduating from Kansas State University last semester.

As the Apostle Paul advised the Ephesians, let us "... be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might . . . Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Paul continued, naming and explaining the parts of the Christian's armor, and emphasizing the importance of the shield: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." (Ephesians 6:10, 11, 16)

May we always remember and take courage—with the shield of faith nothing can hurt us.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

God's love endureth forever;  
What a wonderful thing to know  
When the tides of life run against  
you

And your spirit is downcast and  
low.

God's kindness is ever around you,  
Always ready to freely impart  
Strength to your faltering spirit,  
Cheer to your lonely heart.

God's presence is ever beside you,  
As near as the reach of your hand.  
You have but to tell Him your  
troubles;

There is nothing He won't understand.

And knowing God's love is  
unfailing,

And His mercy is unending and  
great;

You have but to trust in His  
promise—

"God comes not too soon or too  
late."

So wait with a heart that is patient  
For the goodness of God to prevail;  
For never do prayers go  
unanswered,

And His mercy and love never fail.  
Helen Steiner Rice

We hope our shut-ins feel our prayers during these long winter months when they are unable to assemble with us. It is always a blessing and an encouragement for us when we visit them and see their cheerful attitudes.

We enjoyed our visiting minister, Bro. Earl Banwart from West Bend. We thank him and trust that God will bless him for his labors.

We held our annual business meeting and elected Bro. Leonard Marti as our new trustee. Bro. Ervin Knecht was chosen to help teach the children in Sunday School.

Jason Robert was the name chosen for the bundle of joy sent to Jim and Terri Duncan on Dec. 27. The grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti. The great-grandparents are Sis. Marie Stewart and Sis. Anna Marti.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

I will lift up mine eyes unto the  
hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord  
which made heaven and earth.

Ps. 121:1-2.

Our goals should be set in the

"up and ahead" direction. It is well to look back only to benefit from mistakes and errors we've made and, of course, to remember and appreciate God's patience and mercy towards us through these experiences.

Visiting ministers and their families this month were Bros. Arnie Gerst, Chicago; John Lehman, Bern, KS; Sam Huber, Sabetha, KS; and Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, KS. Each message was expressed in a little different way, but it was still the "Old, Old Story of Jesus and His Love." We thank them, and may God bless them for their efforts.

Mark Weigand (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joann, along with a classmate escaped serious injury Dec. 28 when the jeep they were riding in hit a patch of ice and overturned. Both young men were hospitalized but are home again recovering satisfactorily.

Jan. 9, Mark's father, Bro. Marvin, met with a serious accident when part of an old building he was helping to demolish collapsed. He was pinned under it, causing head and neck injuries. Bro. Marvin is still in the hospital at this writing, but somewhat improved. We're so glad that we can commit the dear ones, not only the accident victims, but the families, into God's care and have the confidence that, even if we do not know what the future holds, we do know who holds the future.

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord. His love and truth in one accord. Go offer Him thy youthful days, And walk within the Savior's ways." Songs and Hymns of Zion, No. 132.

It was our joy and privilege to witness this in action on Jan. 12, when Louanne Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie) gave her testimony as to her conversion. On Sunday she was baptized by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm. We welcome Sis. Louanne and wish for her God's grace and a special closeness to Him as she embarks out onto the sea of life.

Jan. 15, we had our annual business meeting to take care of the physical affairs of our church. New officers are Bro. Steve Kiefaber, replacing Bro. Mike Stratton as trustee; Bros. Eric Knochel and Mike Knapp replacing Bros. Marvin Weigand and Jon Knapp on the Fellowship Hall committee; Sis.

Sally Haerr replacing Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr on the Food Committee; and Bro. Leroy Yackley replacing Bro. Robert Hoerr as Sexton.

Our thanks and appreciation go to all those who are retiring. May God inspire the new officers with zeal to continue on with this work so that it is done in order and is pleasing in His sight.

This is a comment we'd like to pass on regarding World Relief Projects (some of us just do not seem to find time to take part as we would like) : the products that are made are all given away, but the blessings in doing this work are ours to keep. What more could we want?

#### NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Ed Aeschleman

Sis. Marie Walch just recently departed for several weeks vacation in Switzerland. Her presence in Union City will be missed. Our prayers are that she will have a good journey, an enjoyable visit with friends and relatives in Switzerland, and safe passage back to us.

Sis. Minnie Cook suffered a serious fall and a broken wrist. Because she is alone in her home, Sis. Emma Ruch of Rockville has come to stay with her and help her while her wrist heals. We are grateful for His marvelous healing power and for the tender love and care He provides through His children.

#### NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Rejoice, the Father loves us here,  
In sympathy remembers,  
And all the gifts we need to cheer  
So graciously He renders.  
What lack we then,  
Yet further, when  
Our Father has such pleasure  
To share with us His treasure?

He who for us so much has done  
To purchase our salvation,  
Who gave His own beloved Son  
For our propitiation,  
He who bestows  
Such love on foes  
Will He, our God and Father,  
Not care for us much rather?

Hymn 206, Zion's Harp

We are reminded of the words of this beautiful hymn when we see

loved ones who have been hospitalized for illness and surgery and are so lovingly cared for and restored to a measure of good health through the hands of our Heavenly Father. Many from our congregation were hospitalized this past month. Several are patients at this writing, and our thoughts and prayers have gone out for each of them during their illnesses.

Our Sunday School superintendent, Bro. Clyde Virkler, was hospitalized on the Sunday of our Christmas program. Several of the children, teachers, and parents went Christmas caroling on Sunday evening. We were able to sing in his hospital room and some of the children recited their parts of our program for him. We were thankful he has been able to find relief from some of his pain and can again be with us in Sunday School.

Sis. Sarah Virkler was a patient for several days and has returned to the extended care facility of the hospital. Sis. Lydia Virkler was also a medical patient and has been able to return to the home of Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler. Pernal Virkler (Bro. Howard) has been able to assemble with us again after her hospital stay.

At this writing, Sis. Hazel Schneider is a medical patient and Sis. Minnie Virkler remains a medical patient. Our ministering Bro. Floyd Graves underwent hip surgery this week, and expects to be hospitalized for two to three weeks. Our thoughts and prayers are with him.

Our Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner was also a medical patient for two days. We are thankful that he has been restored to moderate health and that he and Elder Bro. Robert Beyer and their wives could travel to the elder meeting held in Bradford. Our prayers were with them during their travels, and we are thankful that they enjoyed a safe journey and can again be home to assemble with us. We assembled with the Naumburg congregation on Sunday when our brothers were gone.

Sis. Barb Virkler was hospitalized several days in Syracuse for tests. It is expected that she will be hospitalized soon in Iowa City, IA, for further tests. Our prayers will go with her during that time. May God be a constant help to each of our loved ones during their times of illness.

**NEW YORK, NAUMBURG****Rachel Snyder**

We seem to be having unusually warm weather for this time of year with hardly any snow. We have had very few sub-zero nights. The Lord is helping us to keep down the cost of fuel.

We had a nice Christmas program during the noon hour of Dec. 30.

Our friend, Mildred Pickert, who has been doing our church cleaning, had a stroke. We are glad to know she is doing very well alone at home. We wish her the best.

**OHIO, AKRON****Lynell Palitto**

Visiting Bros. Roy Luginbuhl, Ben Hartzler, Kenneth Sauder, and Henry Dotterer gave us many wonderful blessings through the ministry this past month. We're thankful for our visitors; we hope that they will come again.

Jan. 6 was the wedding day of Sis. Lynda Pamer and Bro. Walter Beery. Sis. Lynda is the daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor, and Bro. Walt, the son of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth, Rittman. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh." Genesis 2:24.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation; Heed the word of God today!" Zion's Harp, No. 52. Greg and Sarah Henico have felt the need for repentance. How happy we are for them, and pray the Lord will give them the grace to strive aright.

Sis. Marie Dakovich is shut-in at this time, due to illness. Kelly Luginbuhl was able to come to church again after a long absence. How we miss seeing our dear ones from Sunday to Sunday.

Bro. Ed and Sis. Connie Fraut-schi and children Heather, Christopher, and Stephanie have moved to our area recently. We welcome them and hope they can feel the love and warmth from our brethren.

**OHIO, JUNCTION****Lester Manz**

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Henry Dotterer from Rittman, Eugene Fetter from Toledo, and Loren Stoller from Latty.

On two Thursday evenings this month, the Junction brethren listened to the last two portions of

the conference tapes.

Please note the address correction of our friend in the service: Philip A. Schlatter  
PSC Box 1424  
APO NY 09860

**OHIO, LATTY****Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn**

On Christmas Day, Bro. Walter Rager (Toledo, OH) meditated on the true Christmas meaning.

In a recent accident, Bro. Lee Eisenmann had the misfortune of injuring his leg. Bro. Fred Zeltwanger has also been hospitalized. We are thankful that God's healing hand has touched them.

**SATAN AND THE SPIRIT**

"I have a whole world to offer you!"

Yes, you have the world to hold  
'Til the day when God declares  
Time on earth shall be no more.  
Fire and brimstone shall rain down  
and melt it like the snow.  
What will you have to offer then  
to a dying soul?

"But think of all you're giving up!"  
I'm giving up the chance to die,  
To spend eternity in hell,  
Burning in a lake of fire.  
I thank God He's made a way  
That I might escape;  
By the living grace of God,  
I shall see His Face.

"You don't sin, you're good  
enough."

There's not a just man upon earth  
That doeth good and sinneth not;  
We all like sheep have gone astray.  
We have turned every one to his  
own way,  
And the Lord has laid on him the  
iniquity of us all.  
"But life will be too dull for you."

Everything you offered me  
Means nothing to my heart,  
For from sin I've been set free.  
Praise the Lord! I'm going home  
ever to rejoice.  
Take the world and get behind—  
I have found a peace of mind.  
Everlasting joy is mine;  
Jesus is my choice!

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN**

And we are happy that Dennis Gordon has made Jesus his choice. We wish him God's grace and nearness in his new walk of life.

the marriage vows of Bro. Dan Stoller (Bro. Glen and Sis. Ede) and Sis. Deb Frank (Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah), LaCrosse, IN. They will be making their home in Remington. May God richly bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

Kayla Marie brought joy into the home of Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller. Welcoming her home were her sisters, Dawn and Kim, and her grandparents, Bro. Carol and Sis. Tootie Sinn, and Bro. Delmer and Sis. Marguerite Stoller.

Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf, Mickey and Erin welcomed into their home little Bethany Lyn. The grandparents are Bro. Lester and Sis. Vera Laukhuf.

On Jan. 1, we held our annual business meeting and filled several positions in our church. Our new Sunday School teachers are Sis. Irma Stoller, Sis. Minnie Sinn, and Bro. Donn Steffen. Those chosen to serve on the kitchen committee are Sis. Ruby Stoller, Sis. Catherine Klopfenstein, and Sis. Helen Schlatter. Our World Relief coordinator is Sis. Mary Klopfenstein, and our trustee is Bro. Bill Stoller, Jr. We pray that God will give them the needed grace to carry out these important duties.

Trust Him when darkest thoughts  
assail thee.  
Trust Him when thy faith is small.  
Trust Him when to simply trust  
Him is the hardest thing of  
all.

**AUTHOR UNKNOWN****OHIO, MANSFIELD****Lucille Groh**

"Have you ever thought of the Bible as a beautiful palace, built out of sixty-six blocks of marble, its separate books? In the first chapter of Genesis, we enter the Vestibule, which is filled with the mighty acts of creation. The Vestibule gives access to the Law Courts, the first 5 books of Moses. Passing through these, we come to the Picture Gallery of the Historical Books. Here we find hung upon the walls scenes of battlefields, representations of heroic deeds, and portraits of eminent men belonging to the early days of the world's history. Beyond the Picture Gallery we find the Philosopher's Chamber, the Book of Job. Passing on, we enter the Music Room, the Book of Psalms,

where we listen to the grandest strains that ever fell on human ears. Then we come to the Business Office, the Book of Proverbs, where right in the center of the room stands facing us the motto: Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people. From the Business Office we pass into the Chapel of Ecclesiastes or the Preacher in his pulpit, and thence into the Conservatory, the Song of Solomon, with the Rose of Sharon, the Lily of the Valley, and all manner of fine perfumes, fruits and flowers. Finally, we reach the Observatory, the Prophets, with their telescopes fixed in near and distant stars, and all directed toward the Bright and Morning Star, that was soon to arise.

"Crossing the Court we come to the Audience Chamber of the King the Gospels, where we find four lifelike portraits of the King Himself. Next we enter the workroom of the Holy Spirit, the Acts of the Apostles, and beyond that the Correspondence Room, the Epistles, where we see Paul and Peter and James and Jude busy at their desks. If you would know what they are writing about, their Epistles are open for all to study.

"Before leaving, we stand for a moment in the Outside Gallery, the Revelation, where we look upon some striking pictures of the judgment to come and the glories to be revealed, concluding with an awe-inspiring picture of the Throne Room of the King."

W. Duns

Christmas Day was a special day for all of us, but our dear friend, Donna Beard, found it very special because it was announced that she has received peace and is now looking forward to the day when she can be baptized. We wish her many more blessings and God's continuing love and grace.

Loving prayers are still being said on behalf of our dear ministering brother Robert Beer who is still hospitalized and is confined to Mansfield General Hospital at this writing. He is very weak.

Sis. Barbara Bricker is also hospitalized at this writing. Our prayers are also being said in her behalf.

Noah Sauder has moved to the Latty area to live with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gerber. We will miss Noah in our fellowship.

Due to a printing error in the January issue of the Silver Lining, we will repeat that we are sorry to say good-bye to our dear friends who have been transferred to other communities. Steve Sauder (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue) has moved to Mesa, AZ. Jerry and Erika Bird have moved to Tanglewood Drive, Cuming, GA. Jerry's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Miriam. Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Went have moved to 154 Bay Bury Lane, Jackson, MS 39212. Sis. Emilie and Harold are Chuck's parents.

Jan. 13, we were pleasantly surprised to have as our guest speakers Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg), Bro. Norbert Steiner (Crogan), and Bro. Don Manz (Junction). They were accompanied by their dear wives and families.

In Bro. Robert Beyer's closing remarks, he repeated the following hymn which is in the Gospel Hymns. The song has such beautiful thoughts. In closing I will also share it with you:

Jesus bids us shine with a clear,  
pure light,  
Like a little candle burning in the  
night;  
In the world is darkness; so we  
must shine,  
You in your corner and I in mine.

#### OHIO, RITTMAN

Janette Blough

What a wonderful way it was to end the year as we heard the testimony of nine dear souls on Saturday, Dec. 29, and then witnessed their baptisms on Sunday, Dec. 30. We were blest by the presence of Elder Bros. Pery Zimmerman of Forrest and Rudy Graf of Akron who assisted Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier. Our nine new brothers and sisters in Christ are Doug Bauman, Stan Beery, Karen Beery, Linda Baughman, Verla Blough, Pat Gasser, Janice Hartzler, Debbie Steiner, and Diana Stoller. And we have five more dear friends who have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are Deanna Arnold, Alan Bauman, Joe Dotterer, Tom Jenkins, and Deanna Rufener. We are so thankful for all of our converts and wish them God's peace as they heed the quiet call of our Lord.

Dec. 22 was the wedding day of Gary Landis and Kim Dearth. Kim is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Dearth, and Gary is the

son of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Lib Landis.

Dec. 15 was the wedding day of Deanna Zollinger and Robert Arnold. Deanna is the daughter of Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

On Jan. 6, Sis. Lynda Pamer became the wife of Bro. Walter Beery. Sis. Lynda is the daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Eleanor Pamer, and Bro. Walt is the son of Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elizabeth Beery.

We wish all of our newlyweds God's rich blessings and much happiness.

Harvey Landis and Stephanie Ziviek have announced their engagement. Harve's parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Lib Landis and Stephanie's are Mr. and Mrs. John Ziviek, Sr.

Carol Emch, daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Eileen Emch, and Don Powell have also become engaged.

We are sorry to report that Dennis Indermuhle has had to be hospitalized and submit to back surgery. We wish Dennis a quick recovery, that he will soon be feeling fine, and that our Lord will once again restore good health to him.

Harold and Sis. Rhea Beery have two new granddaughters, twins, born to Dean and Bonnie Beery. The little girls, Christina Ann and Stephanie Lyn, have an older sister, Heidi, to help love and care for them.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat Steiner have a new baby girl born to them, named Laura Ann. Laura has two older sisters, Lisa and Myra, to help care for her. Her grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Wilma Steiner and Bro. Irwin and Sis. Jane Klotzle.

A little girl, Rachel Denise, was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Noreen Miller. Rachel has four older sisters, Jan, Jill, Marene, and Myra and one brother, Michael. Her grandparents are Richard and Sis. Melba Miller and Sis. Martha Beery.

#### OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehlau

THE LORD IS YOUR REWARD

Oh, precious Saviour, fill anew  
Thy servants who are staunch and  
true



With light and Holy Spirit,  
 With joy and with Thy wondrous  
 might,  
 That in Thy service they delight,  
 Producing fruits of merit!  
 Shield Thou, Bless Thou All who  
 labor,  
 Love their neighbor, And are  
 faithful  
 With the talent Thou didst render.  
 Zion's Harp

Elder Bro. Orville Ringger as-  
 sisted our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach  
 in the reading of the memoran-  
 dum from the conference held at  
 Fairbury, IL. The "shepherds"  
 need our prayerful support.

Marilyn Schlatter Stager met  
 with a fatal accident on Jan. 4  
 near her home in Hood River, Ore-  
 gon. We extend our sincere sym-  
 pathy to her husband, children,  
 and parents (Bro. Ben and Sis.  
 Lydia Schlatter).

**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Connie Steffen**

Another year is beginning. May  
 it be one in which each believer  
 tries to live a little closer to the  
 Lord.

December was a month for wed-  
 dings in Oregon, it seems. Mar-  
 lise Miller (Bro. Robert and Sis.  
 Pearl's daughter) became the wife  
 of Dr. John Lubber of Portland.  
 They were married at Kona, Ha-  
 waii, Dec. 4. David Rumbold (son  
 of Bro. Paul and Sis. Ann) took as  
 his wife Debbie Brewton, of Ore-  
 gon City, on Dec. 15. May the Lord  
 watch over these dear young cou-  
 ples and lead them in their lives.

Our prayers and sympathy are  
 extended to the family of Marilyn  
 Stager. Marilyn was suddenly tak-  
 en from this life in an auto acci-  
 dent on Jan 4. Left without a wife  
 and mother are Dr. James Stager  
 and his four dear children, Fred,  
 Lisa, Laura, and Jennifer of Hood  
 River, OR. Her parents, Bro. Ben  
 and Sis. Lydia Schlatter, Toledo,  
 OH, are surely in our thoughts and  
 prayers, too. We can take great  
 comfort knowing that we have a  
 merciful God who knows even our  
 very thoughts.

We cannot see what lies ahead  
 Beyond the bended road;  
 We surely know we have a Lord  
 Who shares our every load.

We cannot know what may await  
 Beyond the road we view;

We truly know we have a Lord  
 Whose word is yea and true.

We cannot tell if dark or fair  
 The way that we must go;  
 We safely put our hand in His  
 And know He wills it so.  
 (Anon.)

**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Mary Jane Winkler**

We were thankful to have two  
 visiting ministers with us this  
 month: Bros. Garth Steffen (Port-  
 land) and Duane Kilgus (Fair-  
 bury, IL). We wish to thank them  
 for bringing us the Word of Life.  
 How we enjoy hearing the simple  
 truths of the Bible, and how it  
 thrills our souls to know we can be  
 a part of it. We pray that the Lord  
 will bless them for their efforts,  
 and that they will visit us again.

We wish to welcome Bros. Ron  
 Jones and Kevin Pfleiderer into our  
 congregation. They are attending  
 college here. We pray that they will  
 receive a blessing while assembl-  
 ing with us.

March is collection month for  
 Silvertton.

**PENNSYLVANIA,**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

(See New Jersey, Union City)

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

Another year has ended. We  
 have honored the birth of our Sav-  
 iour and have given thanks for  
 all He did for mankind. Let us  
 start our new year with a more  
 dedicated life to our Saviour and  
 God.

Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and Sis.  
 Elsie spent a few days visiting at  
 Phoenix and Tucson.

Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson and  
 Sis. Shirley spent Sunday with us,  
 coming down from San Antonio  
 where they were visiting their  
 daughter and husband. Elder Bro.  
 Paul Fehr and Sis. Anna have come  
 to spend several months with us.  
 Bro. Elmer Shrenk and Sis. Delila  
 are here from Alto, MI, for the  
 winter months.

We have enjoyed having the  
 families with their children who  
 visited their parents during the  
 holidays.

Harvesting of spinach, carrots  
 broccoli, and cabbage is being done  
 in this area. It is beautiful to see  
 the large fields of vegetables. Here,

again, we can see God's blessings.

We encourage anyone coming  
 this way to worship with us. Sun-  
 day services are at 10:30 a.m. and  
 12:30 p.m. Wednesday evening  
 services are at 7:00 p.m.

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

**Minnie Wultz - Della Witschey**

The annual meeting of the Apos-  
 tolic Christian Church Cemetery  
 Association was held in the home  
 of Minnie Wultz on Jan. 7. Visitors  
 attending were Delbert and Ken-  
 neth Indermuhle, Mark Ramsier  
 and Wayne Kloetzle. Several local  
 residents also were in attendance.  
 Several items were discussed and  
 plans were made for the repair of  
 the church floor in the early spring.  
 The annual all-day meeting was  
 planned for the 29th of June.

Miss Della Witschey was a pa-  
 tient in the local hospital during  
 the holidays but is back in the  
 Nursing Home. I visited with her  
 on January 22 and she was much  
 improved and was quilting, her  
 favorite pastime. Our weather has  
 been very good with very little  
 snow and quite cold at times but  
 very good for winter.

W.E. Riggenbach of Paden City  
 was an emergency patient in the  
 local hospital on January 21. He  
 was able to return home the same  
 day.

Mrs. C. O. Wade spent the holi-  
 days with relatives in Daytona  
 Beach, Bradenton, and Zephyrhills,  
 FL. She was happy to get back and  
 enjoy her home again.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Witschey of  
 Pittsburgh visited with relatives  
 here during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Giles and fam-  
 ily of Alfred, NY, were holiday  
 guests of her parents, the Howard  
 Riggenbach's.

Mrs. Kenneth Witschey is a pa-  
 tient in a hospital in Pittsburgh  
 where she is receiving treatments.  
 She hopes to be able to return  
 home soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Barth  
 visited with his father, Frank  
 Barth, and friends in Zephyrhills  
 and Orlando, FL, the last of Janu-  
 ary.

Elza Ritz has been ill for some  
 time and was an emergency pa-  
 tient in the local hospital on Janu-  
 ary 14.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Williams of  
 Akron, OH, are spending the win-  
 ter months in Bradenton, FL.

We are sorry to report that the employee strike at the local hospital which began on August 1, 1979, continues. The hospital has been able to keep open with added help and much volunteer work. With all departments operating on a full schedule, it is the hope of the community that conditions will get back to normal very soon.

### The Sermon . . .

(Continued From Page 28)

from the Word. Our lives are separated from God's Word and God's ways. As the world goes on and on, we get caught up and our mind is distracted from God's Word. Perhaps, even as we walk through the church door today, what God has spoken to us will not go with us. We see that Satan is working overtime. We see that God's mill grinds slowly; but it grinds surely.

We read in the Scripture that He is going to shake not only the earth but also heaven one more time. Those things which are grounded and founded upon the solid Rock, are going to stand. I believe that we are going through that shaking right now. God has allowed Satan much power to shake our faith. Only those things which are grounded upon God's Word will stand.

Paul told the Corinthians in today's reading, "I determined this with myself, that I will not come again to you in heaviness." 2 Cor. 2:1. No doubt there were many times when Paul was burdened. When we see the havoc that Satan raises and what he accomplishes in the hearts of men, it weighs heavily on us.

Let us stop and think, on the other hand, of the blessings of God and of the promises given in His Word. "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Luke 21:33.

If our faith is based upon this Word and this Word alone, will it really matter if this earth passes away? Will it really matter if the Lord comes today? Would it matter to you? If our faith and our life is based upon His Word, it shouldn't matter. It shouldn't really make any difference.

This is the privilege that God gives us today, the opportunity to come under the judgment of His Word, a merciful judgment. We are

taught in the Word: "Judge not and ye shall not be judged." Luke 6:37. So let us examine ourselves in the light of God's Word, according to its promises, commandments, and precepts. If the Lord should come today, would it matter to you? Or to me?

We know that there are those close to us who have not come through the Door into the "ark." We are taught that in heaven there will be no sorrow and no pain. The former things will all be forgotten. So the sorrows which we have, even the heaviness that the Apostle Paul experienced, is only for this life. When the time comes that, by the grace of God, we enter into those realms above and into the blessings of heaven, I don't believe that we will know if anyone is missing, even from our own families.

As God's Word goes forth, we have His promises. We can read in the Word that Mary chose the better part. Martha was busy caring for the things that were material, but "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Luke 10:42.

Today, the door of grace is open. Today, the plan of salvation is still in effect and grace is still sufficient. God is offering us an opportunity to seek the better part that will not be taken from us.

When we "lay away" a loved one whom we have known for some time, we see that death is final. There is no going back and changing or altering anything. The Bible says, ". . . where the tree falleth, there it shall be." Eccl. 11:3. It is a very sobering thought.

I think that anyone who has lost a loved one is impressed with the finality. We cannot speak to the loved one again. How many times we have wanted to sit down and visit one more time, but we can't! Death is final. God tells us this day after day.

This happens every day, but when it hits close to our hearts, it makes a deep impression and makes us realize what God's Word is all about. It is telling mankind that we are not going to live here forever; that we cannot put our trust in ourselves or in the material things of life, but that we must place ourselves in the hands of our Lord. This is what the Word tells us.

Paul said, "For out of much af-

fliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you." 2 Cor. 2:4. Paul experienced many trials of his faith; he was stoned, beaten, and left for dead. He had to have a deep love for spiritual things and not too much care for his own life.

Paul also had a deep love and concern for his brethren, even as we should today. When we see the evil that is in the world, we worry about one another. The Apostle Paul wrote, "I wrote unto you with many tears . . ." 2 Cor. 2:4.

We are reminded that walking this path with the Lord is not all sunshine. We wouldn't lead anyone to believe that it is. But, if we are being led by God's Spirit, we have faith that those things that come are in God's plan. The problems, trials, and heartaches are made bearable by His grace and by His strength.

Not one of us is ever going to be exempt from life's decisions and problems. We are all going to have to face them. But I find, and I think the brethren would agree, that we can do it with the help of the Lord. We can simply place our lives in His hands and say, "Not my will, but Thine be done." Luke 22:42. Those problems that seem to be mountainous are brought down.

Isaiah wrote of this. He said, "Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain." Isaiah 40:4.

God's ways are so high. To think that He would care! Consider that God has created all things beginning with the heavens and the earth. To think then, that God would care that we wouldn't have to walk this road alone. We face a God who is filled with compassion and love, and still many try to walk alone without His hand to direct them.

"But if any have caused grief, he hath not grieved me, but in part: that I may not overcharge you all. Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many. So that contrariwise ye ought rather to forgive him, and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one should be swal-

lowed up with overmuch sorrow." 2 Cor. 2:5, 6, 7. We see throughout the Scriptures that there were problems.

The Apostle Paul was a man of staunch faith. I think of brethren who are pillars in the faith. But no matter how strong our faith may be, there are times when we become somewhat tossed around and troubled. That's when true faith shows in an individual.

We can go along pretty smoothly as long as things fall into place. But the real trials of our faith come when things don't go just the way we think they should. Then we need to believe that if God leads and directs us, all will be well and true blessings will follow. The patriarchs of old, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, Noah, the Apostles Paul and Peter had their trials too.

Life isn't different today from what it was then. Think of the Lord. Think of what He bore and how He endured all the trials that you and I experience. He endured in faith, believing that God would help Him. We should be so thankful that God is seated in the heavens and that the Lord is interceding for us. Many of us are seated here this morning with peace in our hearts, knowing that our Redeemer lives and that someday we will live with Him. Do you have that comfort and that assurance? Do you know that God is still bringing peace to the hearts of men?

This doesn't seem compatible does it, with what we see in the world? But it shows us the wisdom and the understanding of God. We would not want to live burdened down without His hand to help us, to lead us and to guide us.

The other night we visited a friend whose son was in deep trouble. She made the comment that she believes that if he hadn't made an attempt to repent, that he would have taken his life. We can see that God is an understanding God, and a God of love.

We underestimate, I believe, brethren and friends, the power that Satan has over the hearts of people. We underestimate what Satan can do with individuals and how he can turn them inside out.

Yet, consider the miracle that God can work, turning them right side out and back on the path that they were set on when they were first born. We have to remember

that we were born in an innocent state.

But, there comes a time when we are not so innocent anymore, and we come under the influence of Satan. We come under his power and his might. Then we are no match for Satan. We are no match for the things that he can place in our hearts.

Only with God's grace and help can we overcome Satan's power. David experienced this; the Apostle Paul experienced this; and many brethren down through the ages of time have experienced the love and the mercy and the compassion of God.

"For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things . . ." 2 Cor. 2:9. The Apostle Paul was concerned for the church at Corinth, the believers, because he realized the power that Satan has. After the Lord has converted us and brought us through the door of grace into the "ark" of safety, the hands of Satan are not bound. We are not insulated from the temptations and the trials of life. Paul knew this, and he wanted to know whether the Corinthians were obedient in all things.

The time is going to come, and we know that it's not too far off, when the Lord will return and rapture the church, the believers who have repented, been converted, been born again, and lived faithfully for the Lord. When He comes to rapture that church, we wonder if He will recognize us, you and me.

We know that the world has undesirable ways about it, certain looks and certain thoughts from which the Bible tells us to separate ourselves. The Word tells us pretty clearly what God expects. So we wonder if the Lord will recognize you and me. We have the opportunity today to make sure that He does.

We know that the Lord looks into our hearts, and He knows what is there. He knows the condition of our hearts. But the Word tells us that if the cup is clean on the inside, it will be clean on the outside. Often, what is in the heart can be seen on the outside, so that is important, too. When the Lord comes again, He will recognize as His own, as His bride, those who have turned their backs upon the

world and become His followers, in His likeness. This is what God requires and expects.

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." 2 Cor. 2:14.

God does make us triumph in His ways and it reflects back to teachings throughout the Scripture. One passage, for example, says that if we love God, we will love the brethren. We tie the whole Scripture together, not taking a piece here and a piece there but considering God's whole plan, a wonderful way for mankind to redeem his soul.

We should stand before God so that we would not have to be ashamed if the Lord returned today. We don't have to be as those who will run and hide themselves and cry for the rocks and hills to cover them. Only if we haven't taken advantage of God's grace (of the plan presented in this Word), only if we are as foolish as those who idly watched Noah build the ark, will we have to fear His return.

There is something in our day which illustrates how we take things for granted and lose interest in them. I am thinking of the space program. When the first man rode in a rocket, think of how much interest that drew. How we thought about it and talked about it for days afterward! Today we might not even know or think about it at all. Maybe we'd glance at it in the paper. When something is no longer new, it doesn't draw our attention.

I think this is what Satan is counting on. The plan of salvation has been in effect ever since the Lord died upon the cross and arose out of the grave. It is not something new or different; but it is something of which we are going to have to sit up and take notice. We will have to "triumph in Christ" to put Satan away from us.

We must get things in the right perspective and in the right order. We must put our priorities in order. We must get down on our knees and plead that the door of grace will stay open so that many may still be able to go through that door in safety. We do not want to lament the fact that God permitted any of us to live this life.

## SERMON BY BRO. DUANE KILGUS OF FAIRBURY, IL

Readings: Psalm 138 and 2 Cor. 2

The Apostle Paul, who wrote to the Corinthian church to encourage the brethren, had faith and confidence in the blood of Christ and in the power of God (just as you and I have); but we know that he experienced many trials and problems, many sorrows and difficulties. We find throughout the Scripture, throughout the lives of the apostles and the men of faith, that faith was based upon God's Word and upon His promises, as it should still be today. Our faith should not waver with the problems of life.

Regardless of the power that Satan has from the deception that is in the world or from sorrow or trials that come to us, we have faith and confidence in the Word. We know that through the Word we can be fed, nourished, edified in the Spirit, and set upon the right path.

The apostles walked the path of faith, and we know that when they laid down their armor, when they finished their battle, there was victory. God promised it to them, and His promise is the same today. His arm has not been shortened.

The Word is a mystery. But, as we look into it with the eyes of faith, believing that God was, is, and always shall be, we know that God is observing us. He sees not only our physical selves, but he observes the contents of our hearts. When we gather around the Word, we must consider what is in our hearts. As you look at me and as I look at you, we cannot see each others thoughts, but, if we could, would we be ashamed?

We should take this into consideration, realizing that God knows all things, including the contents of our hearts, He knows our intentions. Considering that He is the One to whom we will have to give account, it is important that we consider God's Word carefully and prayerfully.

God has given us another day of grace, another opportunity. He ordained that we would be exposed to His Word. Some of us were exposed to it as little children; some were exposed to it later in life. But, having confidence that God sees us and uses us as creations of His, as those to whom He has given souls, we have faith that He gives us the opportunity to work out our salvation.

Perhaps, when those who have no faith in the Word hear about salvation, they consider it foolish. But we consider it with an eye of faith, with the faith that the Apostle Paul had, the faith that David had, the faith that Noah had. The Word says that all things have continued the same since the time of our Fathers, and are the same today. People still lose interest in God's Word.

There is probably nothing in the Scriptures that parallels the plan of salvation any more closely than the account of Noah's building the ark. Through faith in God, Noah built the ark. No doubt (keep in mind that the Scriptures speak of one hundred and twenty years) progress was very slow. I imagine that, as he started to build it, it caught the eye of people who passed by. They were interested, concerned; and when they saw Noah building it, they probably looked and wondered.

But, as time wears on, it seems that interest wanes. Think of it. More than a lifetime by today's standards, one hundred and twenty years passed as the ark was being built. People probably paid less and less attention. The ark was there and they knew it; and it wasn't of interest. Perhaps they stood back and laughed and made fun; but it didn't draw their attention as it did in the beginning.

I think it is the same with the plan of salvation. It seems that we sometimes become hardened to it because we hear it every Sunday. The invitation is sent out, the Word is still here, and time goes

on.

As Noah was building the ark, time went on. It was a monument and could be seen for miles around, no doubt, but it didn't hold the interest any more because it wasn't new. It wasn't something different.

The time came when Noah and his family went into the ark and the door was shut; perhaps even then, the people didn't really pay much attention. If I am not mistaken, seven days passed before it started to rain, and we have to keep in mind that it had never rained before. The ark did not hold people's interest because it had been there so long. So it is today, I believe, with God's Word and with the love and the patience that He has with mankind. It's been there as long as we can remember and is still with us. So, to some perhaps, it doesn't hold the interest any more.

God's Word is still here. The invitation is still sent out. We still have that opportunity. The door hasn't been shut, as it was on the ark.

Think of it! When the door was shut on the ark, and God shut it, that was it! Then, perhaps, the people started to look at the ark, especially when it began to rain. Then they saw that they had made a mistake. The ark had stood there for one hundred and twenty years, and they were accustomed to it; nevertheless, it was still there. The plan of salvation is still here. The door has not been shut. Again God will shut it; not man.

We still have opportunity today. As the Apostle Paul told the people how the Lord lived and walked, he proclaimed the Word and established the church. When the new dispensation of grace was started, man had opportunity, right from the beginning, to come into that "ark" for safety.

This is what salvation is all about. But, as we look around, many things in our lives are so different

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