

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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NUMBER 1

A Blessed Christmas



and



A Happy New Year

CHRIST IS BORN

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

Out of the clear, blue sky came the message, "Christ is Born." The shepherds heard it on the night of His birth and hastened to see Him. The wise men saw His star in the East and came to worship Him. Mary and Joseph were directly involved and they pondered in their hearts what the future held for the Child sent from heaven. Simeon rejoiced to see the Child when He was brought to the temple and exclaimed, "A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel." Luke 2:32. Anna, a prophetess, "... spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Luke 2:

38. We also, in our day, rejoice and are thankful that "Christ is Born."

"In our day" we are especially thankful for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ because we are reminded daily by news of earthquakes, famines, wars and rumors of war, advanced scientific technology which may be used by Satan, and greatly advanced implements of war, that Scripture is being rapidly fulfilled. We live in daily expectation of the birth of the Anti-Christ, or Beast, as he is referred to in the Book of Revelation. The birth of the Anti-Christ may already have taken place unknown

to us, even as the birth of Christ was probably unknown to many at that time. As Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, it may well be that the Anti-Christ has been or will be conceived by Satan. He is to have exceedingly great power, superceded only by the power of God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

As we gather together in comfort and ease this Christmas season, let's not be too complacent, but rather keep our eyes and ears open to the signs of the time so that the Beast will not come upon us unawares and tear us to pieces.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

The last few weeks have been filled with school visits and teacher consultations. Much of a child's life is occupied with learning. And it is such an important responsibility for us as parents to assume an active role in teaching our children. We need to teach them the principles of God's wisdom. If they learn principles, what they learn can be widely applied to all circumstances in their life.

Not only do children learn, but parents do, as well. In fact, as adults, we are still to be teachable if we are to be successful followers of God's Spirit. Brace made this positive statement about a taxing situation that he is in: "This frustrating experience with one of my children is going to bless my life." Being in his situation, he is forced to deal with the difficulty and as a result will grow from it. God allows these conflicts in our lives to provide a conducive opportunity to have our inward character develop into Christ's likeness. Let us take advantage of Life's trials and thank the Lord with our will for allowing them to be brought into our life and for what they are intended to accomplish. (Romans 8:28, 29)

The past week was hectic but productive for the Wieland home. Their basement was completely repainted with a beautiful countryside design and Walt Disney characters. The talented efforts of the visitors who made it all possible were very much appreciated. The effect is superb!

Chucky cleaned out the rabbit pens yesterday. Gary is becoming more responsible in making sure the chickens get fed. (He pays the deficit when they lack in production.) Randy was so intent on making sure he did not meet with Sue's disapproval for leaving dishes by the sink that this morning he even washed the orange juice can and lid.

The children and some of the staff who accompanied them to Morton this past weekend had a very enjoyable trip. There was a delicious chili supper that they attended. We thank them very much for hosting us.

Sis. Judy Luginbuhl is petitioning for visitors from Rockville; how about someone on the Christ-

mas holidays? Those are lonely times to be away from home. She dearly loves her work and truly appreciates being here, but does miss her family, friends and brethren from Connecticut. Please come and visit her and us. We have places for you to stay overnight, right here at the Home or in her house.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Christmas is many things to many people, but none of these can span the height and depth of blessedness as can the Gift of Love. Though born in a Bethlehem manger long ago, He lives today. Each year as the hustling activity of summer subtly blends so beautifully into fall as to create a Psalm of peace for the soul, it reminds us that soon the Creator and Possessor of Time will hold up His hand to signal silence for all nature to sleep for the winter season. Perhaps a pause in each day's occupation will permit us to absorb a bit of this tranquility which nature expesses, and in this way the true spirit of Christmas can find its way into our prepared hearts.

This is the Christmas story:
That the God who "so loved" gave;
He sent His Son to redeem the
world,
And His son from sin can save.

Remember the symbols of Christmas,
The star and each precious thing;
But bring the treasures of your
soul
To the feet of the living King.

Author Unknown

With warm hearts, we welcome into our "family" a new resident. Nancy Christopher of Wolcott, IN, has come to make her home with us. Previous to her arrival, she had been living at Parkview Haven at Francesville. Her husband, Wayne, and sons, Brad and Tony, are still living in the Wolcott area. Her parents are Donald and Mary Ross Hoon and live at Mt. Ayr, IN. Nancy's profession is teaching, having received her Bachelor's degree at Ball State University at Muncie, IN.

A favorite food for Nancy is red raspberries; her favorite pastime is reading. Birthday time for her is Mar. 9.

Nov. 14, the day for our annual Benefit Day, is again history. Another chapter of willing effort by many has brought about the humbling experience of witnessing another successful venture. We wonder how we can express adequate thanks, and then we intercede in prayer to the One who can award a rich blessing to EACH ONE who helped in any way.

A heartfelt wish that peace and holy love pervades each heart and home is our sincere Christmas wish for all.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Dorthy Barnett

It was a blessed Sunday, Oct. 19, when we gathered to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new sister in faith, Sis. Eva Watkins (daughter of Bro. George Kelly).

Another dear soldier for Christ has laid his armor down and is now asleep in Jesus. Our ministering brother, Lavoyd Moore, laid his father to rest Oct. 30. During times of sorrow, God's love is truly our shelter.

Special services were held at 6:00 p.m., Nov. 16, by our Teenage Class and young Christian adults. This was the first of what we hope will be many services sponsored by our young Christian soldiers for Christ.

We extend a hearty Christian welcome to all visitors who may be in our area. Our church is located approximately three miles east of Interstate 65 on Highway 72.

Moving? Let Us Know.

THE SILVER LINING

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ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"... God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him." I John 4:9. As the Christmas season is now here, may each of us remember that, truly, this was the Greatest Gift, God's only Son.

Bro. Jeff Rokey (Bro. Irvin and Sis. Ione) was hospitalized. We are grateful that he is again able to be in church. Sis. Leona (Toni) Bentley had surgery and is still unable to come to church. Bro. Earl Sanders submitted to gall bladder surgery Nov. 5 and is getting along nicely. He should be home soon. Each of these dear folks express their thanks for your prayers.

Nov. 8 was a day of special fellowship of friends and members as we gathered for yearly church cleaning.

Nov. 9 was a beautiful afternoon for our Sunday School picnic, which was well attended. How fortunate we are to have an ever-growing group of youngsters. We thank those who teach and encourage them, our future church.

We are looking forward to Holy Communion on Nov. 16.

Sis. Lou Ann Klopfenstein has an ankle-foot injury which required a cast.

The engagement of Sis. Carolyn Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina) to Bro. Mark Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Velma) was announced. A December wedding is planned.

The weather has been in the high 80's and low 90's the first half of November. We here in the desert wish you warm greetings for a happy holiday season and look forward to your winter visits.

At the time of this writing, I received word that Sis. Emma Menold was called to her eternal rest on Nov. 13. Sis. Emma had been hospitalized here for awhile before being flown to Peoria, IL, to be hospitalized near her family. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Emma's family. We pray that God will comfort them with the knowledge that she is quietly resting and doesn't feel the anguish of the physical body.

Address Changed? . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Carolyn Kaufman
Kathy Woodruff

As fall approaches we in Tucson can also see a difference in seasons as some of the trees begin to change color and the evenings become cooler, and yet our days are an abundant beauty in which we thank our God.

We are also thankful that the Lord brought our young folk back to Tucson safely on Nov. 26. They, along with the Phoenix young people, traveled to California to witness the testimony and baptism of our new brother in faith, Tom Klotzle, son of Bro. John and Sis. Lois. What a blessed weekend they witnessed.

Our condolences go to the families of Sis. Emma Menold who passed away in Peoria on Nov. 12. Sis. Emma resided in Tucson for many years before moving to Phoenix.

Our annual meeting was held the first week in November with the following persons added to offices in the church: Small Sunday School Class, Sis. Lisa Bauer and Sis. Sandy Bauer; and Trustee Harvey Kaisner. Also, our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas pot-lucks were held in November and December. We enjoyed the fellowship and singing of praises to our Lord.

Some of our little flock will be traveling back to Peoria to attend the wedding of Bro. Tim Funk and Sis. Debbie Feucht on Dec. 21, Lord willing. Tim also resided with us for many years, and we wish them both the Lord's blessings.

In December, as the congregation listened to the children reciting and singing to honor the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we again had to thank Him for blessing our little church with so many wonderful young folk who enjoy telling and singing about our precious Lord. If there were no young folk, where would our future church be?

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

God sent the little Christ Child
So man might understand
"That a little child shall lead
them"
To the unknown "Promised Land."

For God in His great wisdom
Knew that men would rise to power

And forget His holy precepts
In their great triumphal hour.

He knew that they would question
And doubt the holy birth
And turn their time and talents
To pleasures of this earth.

For man can never fathom
The mysteries of the Lord
Or understand His promise
Of a heavenly reward.

For no one but a "little child"
With simple faith and love
Can lead man's straying footsteps
To higher realms above!

Author Unknown

Our ministering brother this month was Bro. Glen Hackenjoss of Altadena. May the Lord bless the labouring ministers for their efforts of love for the Lord.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Shirley Witzig

Our visiting minister was Bro. Bill Gerst from Alto, MI. Our heartfelt thanks go to him for sharing the Word of Life with us.

Sunday, Oct. 26, our congregation was blessed with the special joy of hearing Tom Klotzle's (Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle) testimony of God's work of love and peace in his life. What joy and feeling of God's presence as we stood outside to witness his baptism.

Oct. 20, Ken and Linda Cooper were blessed with another beautiful son. We share in Ken's and Linda's and the grandparents' (Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginny Cooper of Tucson, AZ, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig of Altadena, CA) joy.

Bro. Simon Bahler extends his thanks to all who visited and remembered him with gifts of love and prayers during his hospitalization.

Our prayers and loving thoughts are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Doris Hecker as they are presently hospitalized. We trust God to continue to be their constant companion through the days ahead.

Our church has been richly blessed with visitors in the past few months. Among those were many young friends and members from the Arizona congregation. May God's blessing of fellowship continue as we journey together toward the promised rest.

Food for heart and heeding: On Sunday, Bro. Glenn Hackenjos shared with God's inspiration from II Corinthians: 5. He reminded us of our Christian position as ambassadors for Christ. What exactly does ambassador mean? Webster's dictionary states it as being "an envoy of highest rank sent to a country: a messenger." Do we conduct ourselves as being messengers of a better land?

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Sally Gress

We are truly happy to see some of our winter residents returning for the season. We're especially glad to have ministering Bro. Roy Luginbuhl and his wife, Sis. Helen, back with us for the coming months.

Special thanks go to our visiting minister this month, Bro. Al Schneider of Rockville, CT.

On Sunday, Nov. 2, we enjoyed a potluck supper and hymn singing in our new fellowship hall. We look forward to many more blessed times together in this attractive new building.

Sis. Vi Gerber and Sis. Arlene Wieland were both hospitalized this month but are now back with us and feeling fine.

We give congratulations to Brian and Cindy Beer on the birth of their first child, Brian Daniel Beer II. The proud grandparents are Bro. Vic and Sis. Dorothy Beer.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Elda Martin

Sis. Marie Martin is in need of our prayers for her continuing recovery. She is still recovering from skin graft surgery on her leg.

The family of God has increased with four new members. The testimonies were shared and the baptisms witnessed of Rodney Martin, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Aldine; Rick Sellers, son of Bro. Don Sellers; Gloria Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter; and Helen Laparo. We all rejoice with the new family of God. It was a blessed weekend to have our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach here for the occasion. We appreciated and thank Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman for assisting Bro. Ben in God's work.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Bob Pfloderer, Morton, IL, and Bro. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo, IN.

Just a reminder to those who

are in the Port Charlotte area and would be interested in attending services there: we are now holding service for the winter months and invite all to attend; for further information please contact our minister, Bro. Doug Sabo.

HAWAII, HONOLULU
Michael and Janet Campbell

October was a lonely month without a single visiting brother or sister with which to fellowship. However, we are looking forward to the month of November as we have heard from dear brothers and sisters who are planning a trip to the Islands during that time. It thrills our souls as we anticipate a visit and a time of fellowship with these dear souls.

Our young son has asked, "Mommie, may I go to Sunday School?" It grieves our hearts when we have to deny his request. We will be happy when we can return to the mainland and once again attend church.

We want to thank everyone for the letters, cards, and gifts that we have received from dear brothers and sisters in the past. We have appreciated each one so much. We enjoy hearing from anyone who cares to write. Our address is 3324-D Orlando Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818, and our telephone number is (808) 422-1041.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL
Dixie Knapp - Jean O'Shea

On Oct. 26, as Elder Bro. Dan Koch assisted, Mary Ann (Tudy) Schmied made her covenant with God. This was followed by her baptism. The new covenant between God and man rested upon the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ as explained by Jesus to the disciples at the Lord's Supper, "For this is my blood of the new testament (or covenant) which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matt. 26:28).

The Bible records many covenants. Some were covenants of men with men as with David and Jonathan, Abraham and Abimelech, Abimelech and Isaac, and many more. There are eight major covenants in the Bible that are between God and man. We will look at these eight covenants and see how one in particular relates to us now.

The first covenant was when

God told the serpent that the seed of the woman would "bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:14-15).

Every Sunday School child is taught about the story of the rainbow and how it came into being. The rainbow is the sign of the second covenant and is described in Gen. 9:8-17.

Abraham was told by God that his heirs would be as many as the stars of the sky. God told him that he would make of him a great nation and would bless him (Gen. 12:1-4). This blessing is the third covenant.

The key event of the Old Testament is the institution of the covenant between God and Israel at Mt. Sinai. The basic document of this fourth covenant was the Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:1-17). This covenant brought the promises of blessing and the consequences of disobedience.

The ceremony of reconciliation of sin through priestly atonement was the result of the fifth covenant or the "covenant of peace" as recorded in Num. 25:12-13.

God told David in II Sam. 7 that David's throne would be established forever and that the Messianic salvation would come through David's dynasty. This is the last covenant that has taken place between God and man in the Old Testament.

Now look at the covenant that Sis. Tudy and many of us have made with God. It was not like these six Old Testament covenants. It was and is a covenant of the spirit, not the law, mediated through the blood of Jesus, once for all. Under this New Covenant, obedience was not through fear, but because of a willing heart and mind (Heb. 8:10).

There is another covenant of peace that will be coming. It not only is internal as is our present covenant, but it is external, too. This covenant will remove from the land all that is hurtful (Ezek. 34:25,28). It will restore the productivity of nature (Ezek. 34:27,29). And, best of all, it will re-establish the presence of God with his people (Ezek. 20:35; 37:27). Spiritual communion will be "face to face."

Bro. Steve and Sis. Holly Stahl have met their gift from God. On Oct. 27, Daniel Steven was born, and we hope that some day he will

personally know of the covenant that took place in Sis. Tudy's life the day before his arrival.

On Sat., Oct. 25, we gathered at the Lodge at Lake Bloomington for a fall church picnic. Presently, we are having a Bible Study on Friday evenings at the church. We are studying "Grace."

Nov. 9 was the day that Bro. Bill Hodel and Bro. Bruce Leman joined us from Roanoke. God's spirit was directing them as they taught us of His workings here on earth.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

The weekend of Nov. 1 and 2 was a special one for Bro. Dick and Sis. Marilyn (Wiegand) Tanner. On Saturday evening, they testified that they had repented and found peace with God; and the next day their desire to be baptized was fulfilled. Our hearts were touched by God's "Boundless Mercy" as we sang Zion's Harp, Hymn No. 220, and observed the two souls standing before the waters of baptism. Their garments of white were a sharp contrast to the dark clothing of their parents and Elder Bros. Dave Kieser and Ed Hohulin (Goodfield) who stood with them. Other ministers with us for the blessed weekend were Bros. Joe Aberle and Ben Wysong (both of Sabetha) and Charles Sauder (Tremont).

We welcome two newborn baby girls to our congregation. On Oct. 25, Bro. Darel and Sis. Mary Alyce Hofess and Julie welcomed Alisa Louise to their family. Her grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Louise Witzig (Gridley) and Alice Hofess. On Nov. 1, Amber Marie was born to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles. Amber has three brothers and three sisters, and her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Doris Guingrich and Ernest and Lottie Pyles.

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bros. Bob Pflederer (Morton) and Glenn Dill (Tremont) on a recent Sunday. May God continue to bless them as they bring forth His Word.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Charlen Banwart

"Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth,

or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, ever from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psalm 90:1 and 2)

The following ministers have assembled with us recently: Bros. Willis Wiegand (Goodfield); Marvin Stieglitz (Leo); Marshall Heindold (Washington); Walter Anliker (Eureka); Earl Gerber and Clarence Kachelmus (Forrest); and Leroy Huber (Eureka). May we ever appreciate our opportunities to assemble for Sunday and mid-week services.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalms 116:15) We were reminded of this at the funeral, held in Forrest, of Sis. Ethel Wiegand's mother. We extend our sympathy to the Waibel family.

Bro. Dave Wiegand and Sis. Wilma Blunier were hospital patients this month.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

Preparedness should be a constant state for the believer. We should be prepared to: give testimony of the hope that lies within us, visit the poor and fatherless, spend time with our beloved brothers and sisters, and give of our time, talent, and resources for whatever the Lord might set before us or call upon us to do. It would often seem easier to put forth another as being more prepared: Brother "X" has so much more money. He can afford it. Sister "J" has more time for that sort of thing. Couple "M" are so much better at that than I. The Lord has a place for each of us and calls upon us individually by name. He does not expect us to have to "cram" to be prepared. In the teaching of study skills, frequent reviews of the text material are considered the best aid to remembering in testing situations. May we polish our attitude towards the importance of being prepared and review often our text, His Word.

We were just reminded so vividly of the gift of our salvation, as we partook of Holy Communion Saturday evening, Nov. 1. When we are receptive to the Lord's speaking within us, truly we are mightily stirred. Elder Bro. Ron Nelson of Wichita, KS, assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in this hallowed service. May we retain the sanctified glow of that evening.

Bro. Carl Wyss, Washington, was also with us, and he and Bro. Ron ministered to us the following day. Together all of us were blessed by being fed in the spirit and in the body. Such experiences are the pearls of Christian memories, pure, glistening, and of great price. We wish both brothers the reward of the Lord for their submission to His will.

At Christmas time, our Sunday School children say their pieces and sing in remembrance of Christ's coming. Our youngest class will be saying:

I am not an angel
And Mother surely knows,
But I can sing for Jesus.
I'm not a heavenly star,
A bright and shining light,
But I can shine for Jesus.
I am not an animal
Keeping watch in the stable,
But I can love my Jesus.
I am not a Wise Man,
Nor have I gifts of gold,
But I give myself to Jesus.
I am not a shepherd,
I do not keep the sheep,
But I can worship Jesus.

We smile at the thought of the little ones who will say, "I am not an angel, I am not a Wise Man. . .," and yet, who among us can claim to fit those categories either? Nevertheless, Christ came as surely for each of them and for each of us. He died to set us free from sin's bondage and arose triumphantly from the grave, making our victory possible. What a Christ! How can anyone leave such a Christ out of Christmas?

Funeral services for Carl Baer were held Nov. 10. With any circumstances in life, the Lord can teach. So, through one's death, can others sometimes learn about the reality of eternity. Oh, Lord, may we remember that every promise of Thine is kept.

We are admonished to put our spiritual "house in order." Is. 38:1. I was reminded of this on a Saturday a short time ago when we had guests coming. I had not kept my house in order, so putting it in order took a good deal of time. And thus, though I knew what I had planned for supper, I did not get as early a start on the food. Now, my brothers and sisters did get to eat, but they earned it more than they should have had to! The point

for me, however, was this: before I could give of myself for my brethren, I had to have my own house in order. Spiritually I think that is also true. Housecleaning is certainly needed every so often, but, as with being prepared, we must **keep** our house in order, so that the Lord may use us in giving.

I have just a note to add to the previous "orderly house" idea. During my first year of teaching, I loved my students dearly. I yearned for them that they might have salvation. Yet my soul was often admonished: how could I hope to even be an example for them, pointing them to a Savior who was not yet mine? May the Lord continue to convict souls of their unfinished commitment. Belief does not make one a believer until the Lord one professes to believe in is "good enough" that one will put his whole life in His keeping.

A student of mine has just finished playing a part in the school play. After eight weeks of practice and the glory of being an appreciated performer, he now feels let down, and he wishes that the clock could be turned back. He is at loose ends and doesn't know what to do with his time. Though I smile at his plight with some amusement, I myself have just been denied an opportunity that was rightfully mine. Did I remain on an even keel, remembering that each test is for a purpose, that the Lord only grants each disappointment for a reason? I'm afraid the best I can answer is: sort of. My mind knew all that, but I'm afraid my emotions were jumbled and chaotic. Not only our mind but our heart must be stayed on our eternal goal, so that unlike Dave's or mine, our focus does not waver. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

And I say unto you, Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

St. Luke 11:9-10.

How happy we are for two dear souls who have heeded this Word and have turned to the Lord in repentance. They are David Weerts,

son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Myrna Weerts, and Julie Yergler, daughter of Bro. Max and Sis. Donna Yergler.

On Oct. 26. our Bible Class hosted the Gridley and Chicago Bible Classes. Several teachers and their wives accompanied them. Bro. Ray Sinn from Latty, OH, and Bro. Jess Beer from Milford, IN, were also here to speak to the classes. We are thankful to these two brothers for the blessings that we in the congregation received from visit. After their day in Sunday School, they enjoyed a weiner roast at Kaufman's timber before returning to their homes.

Hospital patients this month are Bro. Walter Vogel, medical, and Phil Bauer, surgical.

Our Bible Class and several teachers, with their wives, journeyed to Morton on Nov. 9 for Youth Fellowship.

HAPPINESS

When your heart is full of true brotherly love,
And your soul at peace with the Lord above. . .
Then happiness brightens the pathway of life,
And tends to lighten your troubles and strife.

A. F. Weidemann

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Pat Rinkenberger - Mardell Ott

On Nov. 1 and 2, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Janet Walder (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria) and Lisa Knapp (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge). Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott), and Bro. Kenneth Knapp (Taylor) were here that weekend and assisted our Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard (Fairbury) in this work and in preaching the Word. Other recent visiting ministers were Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor), and Bro. Ed Alt (Cissna Park).

We are also so thankful that our prayers are being answered and souls are turning to the Lord in repentance. They are Kim McClure (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sharon), Julie Knapp (Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice), and Joan Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jerri). We pray that many more may come to the Lord seeking peace, peace that only He can give.

On Nov. 12, we were privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper. It was so beneficial for us, remembering the great suffering the Lord endured to pay the price for our salvation. We thank Elder Bro. Dan Koch for being with us and lending himself in the Lord's work.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Harold Schieber and Bro. Kenneth Miller who are both home again. Sis. Erma Miller wishes to thank everyone for the prayers and the cards she received while hospitalized in Chicago. We're thankful the Lord has again restored good health to her.

The engagement of Sis. Karen Knapp (Bro. Frederick and Sis. Marge) to Bro. Dennis Leman (Ranoke) was announced. We wish them God's guidance and richest blessings.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus: for he shall save His people from their sins." (St. Matt. 1: 21) How thankful we are that these words have become reality. The lowly baby Jesus completed His mission here so that we, as hopeless fallen mankind, could have a living hope through repentance and faith through the ultimate death and shedding of His innocent blood. May the celebration of this blessed event inspire us anew to more fully surrender our walk of life to the living example of Jesus as outlined in God's Word.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Della Kellenberger and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Minnie Kellenberger have again left for Zapata, TX, for the winter months. We shall miss them but trust the Lord will watch over us while we are apart from each other.

Bro. Joel Gudeman has spent several weeks in the hospital recuperating from a stroke. He has now moved to a rehabilitation center where he can hopefully regain body function. Sis. Marie Foell spent some time in the hospital and is home again. Sis. Emma Viellieber also needed to be hospitalized for a time and is recuperating at home, as were the cases with Bro. Mike Warrack and Melinda (Kellenberger) Leman. Margaret Gould remains hospitalized at this

time with leg ulcers. We often don't realize the many ramifications that illness can present to those afflicted, neither can we guess the purpose of suffering in the lives of loved ones. But we know the Lord is able to carry the yielded soul to a fruitful conclusion of the difficulty. So we wish to entrust our loved ones to the Lord's care while we willingly reach out to support them as best we can.

We wish to extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of Bro. Alvin Lohbauer, 79, who passed away Nov. 18. Alvin has been unable to go "in and out" with us for sometime, during which time his loving wife, Anna, attended to his needs at home. Surely the Lord noticed her faithfulness, and so we ask the Lord to visit her now as well as their daughter, Sis. DeLores (Lyle) Kellenberger. Alvin was born April 16, 1901, in Elgin, the son of Conrad and Sis. Rosa (Trittenbach) Lohbauer.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA Melba Mangold

Among our visitors on Sunday, Oct. 26, were Elder Bro. Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL, Bros. Elmer Hartter, Milford, IN, and Willis Wiegand, Goodfield. We appreciate the brothers' willingness to share the Word with us.

Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker are the parents of their second child, Jodi Lynn, born Oct. 21. She has a little brother, Aaron Ray. Her grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Mina Anliker and Bro. Bill and Sis. Clara Kempf.

Three of our dear ones have had surgery. Bro. John Dapper and Bro. Ed Feller of the Home and Sis. Karen (Bro. Mark) Hangartner are all recovering quite well.

Welcoming their first child are Bro. Doug and Sis. Karen Martin. Lori Jo was born Nov. 9. Her grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin and Bro. Harold and Sis. Mildred Hodel.

"When a Christian dies Precious is the prize" (Hymns of Zion) came true for two of our aged sisters at the Home. Sis. Anna Stortz passed away Oct. 26; funeral services were held in Wolcott, IN. On Nov. 7, Sis. Freda Wartman also went to her longed for eternal home. Memorial services were held at the Home Sunday after serv-

ices, Nov. 9. Her funeral and burial were in New Jersey, her home church. She had come to Eureka from New Jersey about six years ago. She told many interesting stories of how she would meet the trains bringing visitors to the East. Her father was a minister, and they had much company, especially other ministers in their home. She knew no one when she came here, but left many fond memories with us.

What a blessed Sunday, Nov. 16, was with many visitors. Bros. Don Gudeman of LaCrosse, IN, and Marshall Heinold of Washington, along with their families, spent the day with us. We thank the brothers for many timely thoughts and warnings.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane Stoller wish to thank everyone for their cards gifts, flowers and prayers while Sis. Jane was in the hospital and since returning home.

On Sunday, Nov. 13, we heard of the engagement of Sis. Janet Wiegand and Bro. Allen Streitmatter of Princeville. We wish them God's rich blessings in this second-most important step in life. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand and Bro. Alf and Sis. Gerry Streitmatter.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

Various ones hospitalized this month were Sis. Perceda Moser, Sis. Marie Huber, Sis. Anna Steffen, Sis. Jill Bachtold, Sis. Anna Roth, Sis. Mary Traub, Sis. Carol Bazzell, John Roth, Bro. Ed Huber, Bro. Ezra Miller, Beverly Steidinger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane), David Slagel (Ron and Sis. June), Paul Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene), and Danny Walter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Colleen). We are always happy to hear when each one is able to return home.

Little two-year-old Denise Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna) had open heart surgery in Chicago. Our prayers and thoughts were certainly with her and her family, and we are glad she is now home and doing well.

The Thanksgiving season is always a time of the year when we can especially stop and count our many blessings and be thankful for all God has given and done for us. Even though our Fairbury area

experienced a very hot and very dry summer and our crops were affected quite a lot, we are still very grateful and thankful for the harvest we did have.

THANKSGIVING DAY

This is the time, that special time,
The day we set apart
To try to voice the gratitude
We feel deep in our heart.

The time when we become aware
Of blessings great and small,
And realize we never can
Give proper thanks to all.

But since God understands and
hears
The language of the heart
I'm sure He knows and cherishes
This day we set apart.

Helen Lowrie Marshall

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

We wish to thank the dear brothers who so willingly gave of themselves in bringing us the precious Word of Life. With us this past month were Bros. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Carroll Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Walter Steffen (Milford, IN). May we always remember to prayerfully support our ministering brethren.

We have had quite a few hospital patients recently. They were Shawn Aberle (Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne), Kristin Kupferschmid (Bro. Alf and Sis. Wanda), Bro. Ed Bach (Sis. Clara), Lori Lanz (Bro. Elmer and Sis. LaVonne), Menno Moser, Sis. Irene Traub (Ben), Sis. Lavenre Aberle (Bro. Mark), and Peggy DeFries (Alan). Most of these have been dismissed, but to those who remain hospitalized, we offer our heartfelt prayers that a measure of good health can be restored.

The hearts and home of Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol Metz have been blessed with a sweet little bundle from heaven. Little Melinda Jo is a sister of Kim, Brad, Daren, and Gina. The grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Mary Metz and Bro. Orie and Sis. Marie Aeschliman of Roanoke.

We offer our support and encouragement to Bros. John Stoller, Elmer Lanz, and Terry Adams who have been called upon to help in teaching our Sunday School children. In these troubled times in

which we are living, it is such an important work to plant the seeds of faith in those young and tender hearts.

May Bro. Carl Waibel feel the nearness and comfort of God as he has experienced the loss of two loved ones recently. His brother, Bro. John Waibel of Peoria, passed away and then his beloved help-mate, Sis. Elsie, who had been ill for a number of months also passed away. Remaining behind are sons Glen and Eldon (Forrest), Gene (Morton), and daughters Luella Stephens (Forrest), Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Urbana), and Carol Arden (Reno, NV).

We wish to thank Elder Bros. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Josh Broquard and Art Bahler (Fairbury), and Perry Zimmerman (our elder) who recently read and explained the memorandum to us. May we heed these timely warnings and strive to be obedient as we walk along the pathway of life.

As the holidays are fast approaching, may we not get so caught up in the hustle and bustle that we forget what it is that we are really celebrating. We look forward to gathering together and again hearing the beautiful story of the birth of our Lord and Savior told to us in songs and verse by our dear Sunday School children. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6.

Bro. Oscar and Sis. Kathryn Schneider wish to express their sincere thanks to their many friends and relatives for their prayers, visits, cards, and gifts while Oscar was hospitalized and since returning home. May God richly bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Verna Hartter

I saw Christmas. . . It was a beautiful thing to see. It was a humble bed of straw, a radiant mother, a beautiful baby.

I heard Christmas. . . It was a beautiful thing to hear. I heard Christmas in the scuff of sandaled feet as shepherds and wise men crossed the fields to enter Bethlehem, bearing their treasured gifts.

I felt Christmas. . . It was a beautiful thing to feel. I felt it all around me, and it enfolded me as a warm, soft cloak. I felt it in the very cold tingle of the air. I felt it in the mass of humanity moving around me in a closer walk of brotherhood, where quarrels are forgotten, wrongs righted, and a smile is on the face of all. I felt Christmas in the very presence of the new-born King. I felt Him so near I could almost touch the hem of his garment. I felt the true meaning and the spirit of Christmas as it renewed itself in each man's heart. I felt that life and death again held purpose and meaning through the birthday of a King.

I saw Christmas. . . I heard Christmas. . . I felt Christmas. . . And I knew that, once again there would be "Peace on earth, goodwill toward all men."

(Jeanne W. Rosenberger)

Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly Davis are the happy parents of a new little son, Ryan Anthony. He was born Oct. 30, and his grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davis and Bro. Hans and Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Sandy Hohulin, who is in an Indianapolis Hospital for tests at this time.

Our sincere thanks to Bro. Arnold Gerst, Chicago, for the very timely messages brought to us on Oct. 26.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Carol Klopfenstein

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.

The very first requirement for any soul who would be part of God's kingdom is that they believe on His Son whom He has sent. No other good works that may be performed are to any avail if one does not first have faith in Jesus and the sacrifice that He made. This faith, however can be dead and is therefore not a saving faith if it doesn't bring forth fruits meet for repentance. (Matt. 3:8) The Apostle James stated that even the devils believe in God and tremble, but they do not have a saving faith. The Apostle further stated that faith without works is dead. (James 2)

Apparently there are two kinds

of belief or faith in Christ. There is a saving faith that moves the heart of man to repentance and conversion. There is also a shallow faith in which one acknowledges the truth, but because of pride and hardness of heart, does not allow it to free him from the bondage of sin.

Faith in Jesus and His atoning work is foremost in our lives. It is this deep and unwavering faith that prompts our beloved ministers and elders to stand up and proclaim the whole counsel of God. They are not content to let us be lulled to sleep spiritually by letting us believe that an unproductive faith is sufficient for salvation. They are steadfast in exhorting us to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith. (2 Cor. 13:5)

Are we unselfish and kind? Are we content to be humble? Do we seek after the things that make for peace? And above all, do we have fervent charity among ourselves? A simple steadfast faith that manifests itself in love and humble obedience is the key to our salvation.

Sis. Gertrude Kiefer, 83, passed away on Oct. 24. She was living in Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. Our sympathy is extended to her three brothers, Bro. Albert of Peoria and Bro. Eli and Bro. Silas of Gridley, and her sister, Sis. Matilda Alt of Gridley. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Roy Sauder and Bro. Leroy Hartman of Peoria with us to share in the funeral service.

Nicholas Scott is the new son of Marlin and Sis. Debra Hendren. He was born Nov. 7. Nicholas' grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Vira Stoller and Mr. and Mrs. Marlin Hendren, Sr., all of Gridley.

Sis. Joanne Huette and Bro. Bill Kuntz of Peoria were united in matrimony Nov. 16. Ministering Bro. Edmund Kloter of Goodfield and Bro. Flovd Schmidgall of Morris were with us for the happy occasion. Other recent visiting ministers were Bro. Merril Laukhuf of Latty and Bro. Merle Bucher of LaCrosse.

Sis. Ella Cargill and Neal Weinstein, son of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda, were in the hospital.

May our hearts be blessed this Christmas season as we ponder

about the Unspeakable Gift that God has given.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Sandy Gramm

We are so very fortunate to have brethren who are willing to come and labor on our behalf. Bros. Dave Wiegand (Urbana), Edwin Bahler (Remington), Roy Wieland (Bay City), Fred Knapp (Congerville), Ken Hoerr (Peoria), and Bob Pflederer (Morton), among others, have expounded God's wonderful Word to us, and we thank them.

Trust and obey. Such a simple phrase, yet if we follow this teaching here on earth, we are promised a home in heaven with our God. When temptations, trials, doubts, heartaches, and tears come our way, Solomon tells us in Prov. 3: 5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." "...because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I Jn. 4:4. Think back to when we were small children and think of the complete trust we put in our parents. Having this same simple, child-like faith in our heavenly Father, waiting to do His will, is the only way we will reach our heavenly goal.

TRUST AND OBEY

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet
Or we'll walk by His side in the
way:

What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go—
Never fear, only trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

John H. Sammis

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Jo Ann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

We wish to extend sympathy to Sis. Mary Roecker and her family upon the passing of her grandson, Rob Roecker. May God comfort and bless her family.

On Sunday, Oct. 26, our Morton Bible Class hosted the Tremont and Peoria Bible Classes for the day. It was truly very uplifting to see so many of our precious young people gather with us for our morning church service. The young people then gathered at our Fellow-

ship Hall for their Sunday School lesson in the afternoon. We want to thank the young people and their Sunday School teachers for coming to be with us for the day. We are especially thankful that Bro. Jim Hoerr, Peoria, and Bro. Charles Sauder, Tremont, also accompanied their respective Bible Classes. May God bless them for their labors of love. The blessings were many and our cups were filled to overflowing.

We wish to extend sympathy to the Yentes family upon the passing of Wayne Yentes. May God bless and comfort his family and friends.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 5, after our regular church services, we were privileged to hear the testimony of our dear one, Mary Kaiser. We witnessed her baptism on Sunday, Nov. 9. We welcome Mary as our sister-in-faith and wish her much grace and God's blessings in her new walk of life.

Sunday, Nov. 9, the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Brad Braker, son of Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker, to Sis. Debbie Pflederer, daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Lee Pflederer, Tremont, was announced. We wish them both God's grace and blessings as they will now establish their Christian home together.

We wish to extend sympathy to Sis. Hilda Roth upon the passing of her brother, Bro. John Waibel, Peoria. May God comfort and bless the family and friends.

Sunday evening, Nov. 9, Morton was host to the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship. We wish to thank all our young people who came and participated in the singing of praises to our Lord and Saviour. Bro. Marshall Heinold, Washington, gave the inspirational message at the close of a very blessed evening.

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to the Menold family upon the passing of their sister, Sis. Emma Menold. May God comfort and bless her family and friends.

Sis. Alma Glaser wishes to thank all those who remembered her with prayers, cards, flowers, visits and gifts. May God bless all who were so kind.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Nancy Hermann and Bro. Mike Hoffman as the Lord has drawn them

together in love. Sis. Nancy's parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Hermann, and Bro. Mike's parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Mary Hoffman, Roanoke. May God bless them as they "Twain shall become one in the Lord."

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Strunk Family upon the passing of their sister, Sis. Ruth Kuntz, Oakville, IA. May God bless and comfort her family and friends.

Sunday, Nov. 16, Bro. Tom Leman, Elgin, and his brother, Bro. Bruce Leman, Roanoke, were with us. We are thankful to the Lord for their labors of love. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for being with us and ministering God's Holy Word to us. Our cups did overflow.

We are thankful that Charlie Schwenk was able to give his testimony of faith, be baptized, and become our brother-in-faith on Nov. 16. We wish him God's grace in his new walk of life. Our prayers are with him as his health does not permit him to come to church.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner

Dear God, wherever we may be on this Thanksgiving Day, gathered with loved ones in our home or many miles away, we bow our heads, remembering those who shared Thanksgiving past, those who have walked with us awhile, whose love will always last. We thank thee for the joy of friends, the food before us set, and for a tiny Pilgrim band whose trials we can't forget. Help us to sift the good and bad, the hatred and the strife. Grant us the wisdom and the strength to lead a useful life. Amen.

Alice Kennelly Roberts

On Thanksgiving Day we have much to be thankful for: God who has given so much to each of us that without him we could not count our blessings, blessings of love, joy, peace, but most of all the blessing of being His children. Let us remember that we should be thankful not only on Thanksgiving Day but for every day in which God gives us a breath of life.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Mary Plattner are thankful to be blessed with a new little boy. Dustin Lee is welcomed home by Brandon David.

His grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mardell Plattner and Bro. Don and Sis. Viola Messner of Winthrop, MN. May they receive many blessings and joy from their little bundle sent from heaven.

We were very happy to hear of the engagement of Bro. Mark Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Velma) to Sis. Carolyn Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina) of Phoenix, AZ. They plan to be married on Dec. 28.

Oct. 4 was the wedding date of Ben Metzger (Bro. Roy and Sis. Evenlyn Metzger) of Lester, IA, to Patrice Doherty (Robert and Alice Doherty), also of Lester. Bro. Chuck Hemmer performed the wedding ceremony which took place at the Fellowship Hall. We welcome the young couple to Peoria.

We were privileged to have the Eureka and Gridley Bible Classes and their teachers spend Sunday, Oct. 19, with us.

Ministering Bro. Gary Maibach and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann, from Rittman, OH, spent the weekend of Oct. 18 and 19 with us. Bro. Gary talked to us Saturday evening about his experiences in the Vietnam War. He told us what it was like to be a conscientious objector, how he was treated by others, and how God helped him through his trials. Sunday afternoon, he talked to the Bible Classes. We want to express our sincere thanks for his time and labors of love.

We also would like to thank Bro. Art Bauer from Princeville for ministering to our folks at the Apostolic Christian Home.

"Beyond the sunset, A glad reunion, With our dear loved ones who've gone before; In that fair homeland we'll know no parting, Beyond the sunset for ever more."

Hymns of Zion, 172

Oct. 20 was the funeral of Fritz Bessler. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Our Sis. Martha Hemmer's funeral was on Oct. 21 in Princeville. Her children are Bro. Chuck Hemmer and Mirian Klopfenstein from Alabama. Her sisters are Sis. Louise Martin and Sis. Mary Scholl.

Sis. Gertrude Kiefer was laid to rest on Oct. 27 in Gridley. Surviving is her brother, Bro. Al Kiefer.

Our Bro. John Waibel, after several months of illness, was called to rest. His funeral was Nov. 6. Surviving are his wife, Aldine, and his two sons. Bro. Bob and Bill Waibel.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to each family who has lost a loved one.

Among the sick this month were Sis. Minnie Maibach, Sis. Emma Menold, Marilyn Heubach, Heidi Reinbeck, and Bro. Walt Bittner. May God restore health to each one according to His will.

Our Senior Citizens Dinner was held Oct. 25 at the Fellowship Hall. We wish to thank our young group for serving and sharing their time and love to these dear people.

On Nov. 2, the Princeville Choir spent Sunday with us, and that evening they sang for us at our monthly hymn sing. We wish to thank them for bringing us a blessing through their songs of praise.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The new birth in Jesus Christ involves an act of God far beyond the power of man. A miracle occurs! Visiting ministers who have told us about the power of God have been Bros. Harvey Grimm, Bern, KS; William Schlatter Junction, OH; Ben Hartzler, Rittman, OH; Wallace Ramsier, Mansfield, OH; Kenneth Dietz, Bradford, IL; Robert Meyer, Bluffton, IN; Rod Huber, Valparaiso, IN; Ronald Heiniger, Bloomington, IL; Marshall Heinold, Washington, IL; Alfred Bahler, Wolett, IN; and Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park, IL.

On Oct. 20, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Brenda Herrmann welcomed a baby son, Dustin Lee. Dustin's sister, Jessica, welcomes him home. His grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Evalyn Herrmann of our congregation and Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier of Mansfield, OH.

Lana Marie Stoller was born on Oct. 22. Her parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller. She is welcomed home by two brothers and three sisters. Otto and Eleanor Baer of our congregation and Bro. LeRoy and Sis. Clara Huber of Eureka are the grandparents.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller had their first son, Jason Joseph, on Nov. 11. Kristina, Jason's sister,

is happy to have a baby brother. The grandparents are Bro. Floran and Sis. Dorothy Stoller and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Betty Herrmann, all of our congregation.

Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter have announced the engagement of their daughter, Donna Lou, to Joseph O'Kane, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen O'Kane of Princeville. They plan to be married Nov. 29.

On Nov. 16, Bro. Dave Kieser announced the engagement of Bro. Alan Streitmatter to Sis. Jane Wiegand of Eureka, IL. The parents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter of Princeville and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand of Eureka.

We offer congratulations to Jay Grimm, son of Bro. Earl and Sis. Anna Lou Grimm and Kathy Ladd who were married Oct. 18 in our Fellowship Hall. We wish them God's blessings in their walk of life together.

Sis. Martha Hemmer passed away on Oct. 18 at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home. Sis. Martha was born on Aug. 2, 1901, to Bro. Christian and Sis. Marie Rassi Martin. She married Bro. Max E. Hemmer in Princeville on Feb. 5, 1928. He died Oct. 17, 1930.

Surviving are a son, Bro. Charles Hemmer of Peoria; a daughter, Miriam Klopfenstein (wife of Lynn) of Decatur, AL; two sisters, Sis. Louise Martin of Peoria and Sis. Mary Scholl of Princeville; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Tell me the story of Jesus
Write on my heart every word;
Tell me the story most precious,
Sweetest that ever was heard.
Tell how the angels in chorus,
Sang as they welcomed His birth,
"Glory to God in the Highest!
Peace and good tidings to earth."

Fannie Crosby

The coming marriage of Bro. Dennis Leman (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Karen Knapp (Bro. Fred and Sis. Marge), Congerville, was made known. We wish them God's love and blessings.

Best wishes are extended to Bro. Mike Hoffman (Bro. Rudy and

Sis. Mary) and Sis. Nancy Herrmann (Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Herrmann), Morton, as they plan their wedding in the near future. We ask God's blessings for them.

Sis. Linda Zimmerman (Mr. and Mrs. Gene Zimmerman) and Bro. Steve Pfister (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila) have announced their engagement. We wish them joy at this special time in their lives.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Carol Knapp welcome their third daughter, Mary Beth, born Oct. 28. Krista, Gini, and Danny are happy for a little one to love. Bro. Morris and Sis. Helen Knapp, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf are the grandparents.

Janel Renee is the first daughter born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Cindy Blunier. Bro. Walter and Sis. Marian Blunier, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Walker are the grandparents.

Jim and Jan Bates are the happy parents of a little daughter, Amanda Kay. Bro. Dick and Sis. Erma Moser, and Virginia and Simeon Bates are the grandparents. We ask God's blessings for these dear parents and their little ones.

Nov. 1 was the happy wedding day for Marjean Knepp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Ruth) and Mark Largent (Mr. and Mrs. William Largent), Tremont. They are residing at 6117 Del Campo Place N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109, Tele. No. 505-883-8770. If anyone is in the area, call them.

Sis. Lucy Hodel (Bro. Glen and Sis. Margaret) and Bro. Randy Koehler (Mr. and Mrs. Richard Koehler) were united in holy matrimony on Nov. 2. We know that love shared multiplies in the hearts of God's children.

Lori Blunier and Lee Ulrich were united in marriage. She is the daughter of Bro. Walter and Sis. Marian Blunier.

We were privileged to have Bros. Bob Grimm, Art Baurer, and Simon Wagenbach as our visiting ministers this month. We thank them for the encouraging messages we received.

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagonbach - Phyllis Lang

With the Christmas season at hand, what a joy it is to know that God sent his only Son into this world. Let's not forget to look beyond the glitter to the Savior's

cross and resurrection.

A precious baby boy, Jonathan James, was born to Ron and Kathy Pflederer on Nov. 8. He will certainly be a buddy for brother Jeff. The grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Lee Pflederer and the Russell Millers.

We appreciated the visits of ministering brothers Earl Gerber, Ken Schneider, Jim Byrd, and Wayne Anliker. We thank the dear brothers for sharing the Word with us.

We were happy to learn of the engagement of Sis. Debbie Pflederer (James and Lee) to Bro. Brad Braker (Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley) of Morton. May God add his blessings as they make plans for their wedding.

Mark Largent and Marjean Knepp exchanged their wedding vows in Roanoke on Nov. 1. The parents are the Bill Largents and Bro. and Sis. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Knepp. We wish them God's blessings in their new home.

We would certainly like to take this opportunity to thank Sis. Lydia Rassi for her many years of faithful service reporting for the Silver Lining. May the Lord bless her always.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Gayla Baumgartner
Tami Fiechter**

Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands and voices, Who wondrous things has done, In whom the world rejoices, Who from our mother's arms Has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love, And still is ours today. Zion's Harp 236.

May we continue to thank our God for the many blessings He has given us.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22: 6. Several couples were blessed this month with precious children. Bro. Lee and Sis. Jenny Gerber are the happy parents of Christopher John. Matthew Lee is the new addition to the family of Bro. Herb and Sis. Gwen Baumgartner. Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Baumgartner were blessed with their third child, Chet Martin. Little Lindsay Ann was the precious bundle sent to Bro. Gary and Sis. Kari Maller. Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber

welcome into their family a son, Clint Michael. John Adrian is the name given to the new son of Bro. Kent and Sis. Sheila Sprunger.

Several in our congregation have spent time in the hospital this month: Sis. Margaret Gerber (Bro. Frederick), Sis. Elizabeth Graber (Bro. Jacob), Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa), and Sis. Pat Kaehr (Bro. Roger). We pray that God's comforting Spirit will be with them.

On the weekend of Oct. 26, nine precious souls were added to the family of God: Sis. Rhonda Meyer, daughter of Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet; Bro. Lynn Fiechter, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Mary; Sis. Angie Yergler, daughter of Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane; Sis. Sally Dotterer, daughter of Bro. Paul and Sis. Phyl; Bro. Brian Fiechter, son of Herman and Sis. Phyllis; Bro. Keith Stoller, son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Flossie; Bro. David Moser, son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Dina; Bro. Sam Steffen, son of Bro. Leonard and Sis. Eileen; and Bro. Dale Aeschliman, husband of Sis. Beth.

On Oct. 29, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Homer Clark, husband of Sis. Frances and Sis. Evelyn Pease. We wish each one God's guidance and blessings.

On Nov. 2, Bro. Stan Fiechter and Sis. Lori Clark were united as one in the Lord. Parents of the couple are Herman and Sis. Phyllis Fiechter and Bro. Richard and Sis. Beulah Clark.

Bro. Ronn Beer from Milford took Sis. Shari Kaehr to be his life's companion on Nov. 16. Sis. Shari's parents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Dorothy. We will truly miss Sis. Shari and wish her much happiness in her new home.

On the weekend of Nov. 8 and 9, our choir was privileged to travel to the Bay City congregation. We extend our sincere thanks for their love and kindness.

Sis. Ruth Schwartz, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Josephine, has returned to the Apostolic Christian Home in Morton. We will miss her and wish her God's blessings and nearness at all times.

On Nov. 16, Bro. Steve Longenberger and Sis. Kathy Gerber announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Devona Longenberger, and Bro.

Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr.

By the light of God's love and guidance, Bro. Gene Gerber and Sis. Becky Meyer were engaged on Nov. 16. Our prayers are with them as they plan their life together. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Evelyn Gerber, and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer.

The Lord brought several visiting ministers into our midst this month: Elder Bro. Ed Ringger (Gridley), Elder Bro. Theo Beer (Milford) Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. Jim Lehman (Roanoke), Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford), Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford), Bro. Elmer Hartter (Milford), Bro. Marvin Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Vernon Lehman (Eureka). We want to thank these brothers for their labors of love.

INDIANA, BREMEN (See South Bend)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Wendy Gutwein - Jacki Huber

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind. . . Luke 10:27.

Believing our new brother in the Lord, Nick Gutwein (Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne), has this love, we joyously received him into the fold on Sunday, Oct. 19. That morning, we heard the testimony of his repentance and conversion with Elder Bro. Sam Huber helping our own Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman. Then in the afternoon, we witnessed the symbolic burial of the "old Nick" in the waters of baptism. Ministering Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott) was also here to share in this blessed day.

The following Saturday, the administrators and board of directors of our nursing homes met at Parkview Haven. Eleven churches were represented. Bro. Ben Hartzler (Rittman) was here for services on Sunday and shared the pulpit with Bro. Vernon Schwab who was also visiting here.

The 9th of November was a special day to Bro. Brad Barnes (Mr. and Mrs. Dean Barnes) and Sis. Becky Bucher (Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg) as their engagement was announced. We wish them the Lord's special blessings.

"Babes are heaven's treasures,

sent to bless the earth with joy." Mary Dawson Hughes.

This month we have the arrival of two of heaven's treasures to announce. Kyle David Wuethrich is Bro. David and Sis. Mim's first child. The grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Wuethrich, and Herb and Sis. Sue Cook. Brooke Rae is a "first" also. She was born to Tony and Melanie Holliday. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson, and the maternal grandparents are Lewis and Sis. Carol Albrecht.

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, ministering Bro. Henry Beer (Milford) visited here and taught us from God's Word. Then on the 16th of November, Elder Bro. David Bertsch (Leo) and Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron) were here to share the Gospel. Elder Bro. David Bertsch also assisted our Elder Bro. Wendell with the reading of our church conference report. We want to thank all of the visiting ministers and elders for sharing with us.

After hearing the report of this year's conference, I had to think. We pray for our elder brothers before they have their conference, and then we pray before the general conference, that the Holy Spirit will direct these meetings. So, we should then believe the Spirit has prompted all that is in the report, and we should try to obey our Lord by taking the advice of our elders.

We are so glad to have Bro. Mike, Sis. Melody Gutwein, and their family living in the Francesville area. They have been living in Lafayette as Mike was studying at Purdue University.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Bobbi Erb

Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni Witzig are happy to announce the arrival of their son, Robert James. Robert has two brothers, David and Brian. His grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Witzig (Gridley) and Bro. Harry and Sis. Clarice Isch (Bluffton).

Sis. Edie Mayer was hospitalized this past week for some tests. We are thankful she is home again.

Bro. Jack Bollier (Leo) and Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington) were our visiting ministers this month. We wish to thank them for their visits and for feeding us from the Word.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE Pearl Nuest - Lu Ann Feller

This new being now arises, Having died with Christ before. What in Adam's fall had perished Christ the Saviour did restore. Dearest child, we bid thee welcome in our blessed brotherhood; From the wild tree thou art grafted on this holy tree and root. Zion's Harp, No. 34

Douglas Germann gave his testimony of faith on the weekend of Oct. 25 and 26. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler, Wolcott, was here to help with the work.

We were happy to have Bro. Art Ringger, Indianapolis, with us Nov. 2. We also received many blessings from hymns that the choir group from Peoria and Washington, IL, shared with us.

"In days of youth seek ye the Lord, His love and truth with one accord. Go offer Him thy youthful days and walk within the Saviour's ways." Bro. Henry Beer

Sandra Nuest, daughter of Bro. Elvin and Sis. Janet, has turned her heart to the Lord in repentance.

Sis. Alice Heinold spent a few days in the hospital as a medical patient.

Bro. Ernest and Sis. Emma Pfeifer are rejoicing with a new grandson born to Kenneth and Susan Pfeifer, Toledo. OH.

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

As we worship this Thanksgiving Day, may we all have thankful hearts for our many blessings.

INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

The comfort of prayer is a blessing,
God's love fills each heart that is true;
May the comfort of prayer and His blessing
Of love, gladden Christmas for you.
God grant you the LIGHT of Christmas, which is faith,

The RADIANCE of Christmas,
which is hope,
The WARMTH of Christmas,
which is love,
The ALL of Christmas which
is CHRIST.

(Taken from a printing by the late
ministering Bro. Otto Norr)

Our children and young people
are to give the message of Christ-
mas in a program Dec. 14.

Sympathy is shared to Bro. Ed
and Sis. Irma Souder and family
in the passing of her mother, Mrs.
Helen Fahling, 82.

Welcome, Baby Mary Kathryn,
to the family of Bro. Bob and Sis.
Sue Cockburn, Nov. 22. Bethany,
Amy, and new baby sister make a
dear trio in their home.

The Christian spirit is the
Christmas spirit, extended through
the whole year—it is an attitude
toward every person, the atmos-
phere of every act. (Mrs. Chas.
Cowan)

He was not only the Babe of
Bethlehem; but, He is also the
Coming King! Be prepared to meet
Him! You can have the joy of
His salvation and the assurance of
His abiding love.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Sandy Beer - Connie Beer

Each Life is Like a Snowflake

Softly from the sky it falls,
so gentle and so fine,
A lacy pattern so delicate,
that none can quite define.
Quietly each soul is formed;
each being specially planned,
Not by fate's own choosing,
but by the Master's hand.

—Lynn Harmelink

On Oct. 27, a precious bundle
was entrusted to the care of Greg
and Paula Kaiser. Kirk Richard is
the first grandchild of Bro. Rich-
ard and Sis. Clara Kaiser. His
maternal grandparents are Mr. and
Mrs. Dester Bell.

We were thankful for the serv-
ices of ministering Bro. Lenard
Meyer of Chicago.

Several of our friends and breth-
ren were hospitalized this month.
They were Ron Wuthrich, Bro.
Bob Hoerr, Sis. Hulda Graff (Bro.
Oscar), Sis. Alice Beer (Bro. Hen-
ry), and Gladys Kegebein, mother
of Sis. Shirley Beer (Bro. Jesse).

Jill Haab (Bro. Ray and Sis.

Paula) had the misfortune of
spraining her ankle. Also, our
thoughts are with Tim Steffen
(Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy) as
he is suffering with a bad back.
Bro. Mike Zimmerman is presently
undergoing tests at Mayo's. Bro.
Andy Kammerer is continuing his
therapy as an outpatient. May our
thoughts and prayers be with
them all.

Wedding vows were exchanged
by Esther Nasiatka and Tony
Hoover (Don and Sis. Virginia) on
Nov. 15.

Many from Milford attended the
wedding of Bro. Ronn Beer and
Sis. Shari Kaehr in Bluffton on
Nov. 16.

We wish these couples much
happiness and God's blessings as
they begin their new lives togeth-
er.

God of the years that lie behind us,
Lord of the year that stretch
before,

Weaver of all the ties that bind
us,

Keeper and King of the open door:

All through the seasons of sowing
and reaping,

All through the harvest of song
and tears,

Hold us close in Your tender
keeping,

O Maker of all New Years.

—Author Unknown

"And so we come, finally, to the
end of another year. 1980 is gone;
1981 begins. Marvelous, isn't it,
the way one year flows into the
next with the past held in memory
behind us and the future always
beckoning us on.

"So what is there to say now but
God bless you and keep you and
make the new year a time of joy
and happiness for you, every sin-
gle day."

—N.V.P.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANA, LAFAYETTE

Verene Von Tobel

All year long we want to be
thankful, and during this season
we are especially reminded of this.
The Bible says: Offer unto God
thanksgiving; and pay thy vows
unto the most high. Psalms 50:14.

We are always thankful for
those brethren who lend them-
selves to look into God's Word at
our services. Bro. Virgil Metzger

(Urbana, IL) and Bro. Ken Weerts
(Cissna Park, IL) shared our Oct.
23 and Nov. 6 services with us.

Awake, my heart, and honor with
praise and thanks and might
Thy God and Thy Creator,
and sentinel at night!

The morning sun with splendor
proclaims it's Maker's fame;
Anthems of praise do render,
all ye who bear His name.

To all parts under heaven
Thy truth and faith extend;

We see each morn and even
Thy grace of covenant.

Let us this day consider, Oh, Lord,
Thy kindness;

Our hearts and soul together
inspire with thankfulness.

Zion's Harp p. 154

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Annette Bahler - Beth Virkler

This month we were privileged
to have Sis. Gizella Hejja visit us
from the Budapest, Hungary con-
gregation. She is a sister to Bro.
John Hejja from here. It's a trip
that she anticipated with much
eagerness because she hadn't seen
her brother for three years. Sis.
Gizy studied English for eight
months in order to share with us
and tell us of her homeland. One of
the things about America that
amazed her was going to the gro-
cery store and seeing all the canned
and frozen foods. In Budapest,
they go to the city market every-
day for their fresh fruit and vege-
tables or grow everything in the
garden. They only know the basic
essentials of living and do not have
the many luxuries that we know.

On Oct. 28, funeral services
were held for Sis. Anna Stortz,
who was 86. Her husband, Bro.
Phillip, preceded her in death.
They had one son, Francis Stortz,
and one daughter, Mrs. Herman
(Aldine) Furrer, both of Wolcott,
IN. She had resided at the Aposto-
lic Christian Nursing Home of
Eureka prior to her death.

The Word of Life was brought
to us this month by Bro. Duane
Kilgus of Fairbury, IL.

Points for consideration wheth-
er certain activities or decisions
are edifying or are vain in the
Child of God's walk in this life.

1) Could I do this in Christ's
name? (Col. 3:17)

2) Can I imagine Jesus doing

this or deciding this way? (1 John 2:6)

3) Will this action bring any glory to God? Can I ask the Lord's blessing in this endeavor? (1 Cor. 10:31)

4) Would I want to be found doing this when the Lord returns? (1 John 2:28)

5) Will this action bring impurity or harm to my body, which is the temple of God's Spirit? (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

6) Will this activity be a hindrance which will hamper my spiritual progress? (Heb. 12:1)

7) Will my following this decision offend another believer, cause him to stumble, or make him weak? (Rom. 14:21)

8) Will this action be a help or a hindrance to the unconverted souls around me? (Mt. 5:16)

9) Does this activity violate any principle of the Bible? (Rev. 22:18-19)

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Gayle Bucher

Thank You, God, for Everything

Thank you, God, for everything—the big things and the small, For "every good gift comes from God"—the giver of them all.

All to often we accept without thanks or praise

The gifts God sends as blessings each day in many ways.

First, thank you for the little things that often come our way,

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

Then, thank you for the "miracles" we are much too blind to see.

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

And help us to remember that the key to life and living

Is to make each prayer a prayer of thanks and every day

Thanksgiving.

Helen S. Rice

The construction of our church building is progressing daily. We have experienced the love and concern of our many brethren and friends. Volunteers from various congregations are sharing their time and talents with the regular construction crew. May the Lord bless all who have given of them-

selves so richly and continue to support us with their prayers and love.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to those who share the ministry of God's Word with us. This month we were privileged to have Bros. Ken Schneider, Wendell Gerber, Todd Feller, Walt Rager and their families visit us. We are so grateful for their love and fellowship.

Our hearts were saddened by the death of our dear Sis. Elizabeth Yackley. She was a loving, faithful sister, always steadfast in the faith and church she cherished.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea saith the Spirit. that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them. Rev. 14:13.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Mary Huber - Claudia Thomas

This month our little church was richly blessed with visiting brothers to minister the Word. We had Bro. Bob Myers from Bluffton, Bro. Merle Bucher, Bro. Todd Feller, Bro. Ed Frank, and Bro. Art Gudeman, all from La Crosse, Bro. Gene Lehman from Wolcott, and Bro. Don Wagenbach from Washington. We truly must praise God from whom all blessings flow.

We also had a special night of singing praises to our Lord. We had a group from the Peoria and Washington churches sing for us. We want to thank them for using their talents to God's honor.

We would also like to wish everyone a Jesus-filled Christmas. May it be adorned with His presence.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Suzanne Lehman

Laurel and Kris Widmer

A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

"Faith of our Fathers" renew us again

And make us a nation of God-fearing men

Seeking Thy guidance, Thy love and Thy will,

For we are but Pilgrims in need of Thee still.

And, gathered together on Thanksgiving Day,

May we lift up our hearts and our hands as we pray

To thank you for blessings we so little merit—

And grant us Thy love and teach us to SHARE IT.

Helen Steiner Rice

Sis. Dorothy Lehman was hospitalized for surgery. We are glad she is recovering satisfactorily and can again assemble with us.

"Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight rolls a melody sweeter than psalm; in celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls o'er my soul like an infinite calm. . . Peace, peace, wonderful peace, coming down from the Father above. . ." Gospel Hymns, 746. On Nov. 2, it was announced that Dwight Waibel (Bro. Len and Sis. Reva) received this wonderful peace, which our loving Father bestows. We rejoice with him in his new-found joy.

The weekend of Nov. 9 was a very blessed one for us as we were privileged to welcome into our family of faith three new souls, Dennis and Connie Stoller (Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola) and Mark Schwab (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene). Visiting Elder Bros. Art Bahler, Fairbury, IL; Jesse Beer, Milford; and Wendell Gudeman, Francesville, shared in this work of faith. Bro. Roy Wernli, Lamont, KS, shared in the ministry.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

Bro. Arnie Gerst of the Chicago congregation spent a Sunday with us and left some time-worthy thoughts. He meditated on II Tim. 2 where the apostle was warning of the deception of Hymenaeus and Philetus. The confusing part of their teaching was that part of what they were teaching was true—but it was not totally true. He spoke of how we, too, must be careful as Satan also tempts us with half-truths. We thank Bro. Arnie for spending the day with us.

Sis. Leola (Bro. Harve) Heinger has been having some back trouble and has spent some time in the hospital. She is home again, and we wish her God's nearness.

One of our ministering brothers brought out some interesting thoughts in a sermon recently. He read from St. John 5, the miracle of the loaves. The thought was expressed that had the disciples not been obedient they would never have experienced that miracle. We, too, must believe and obey

when Jesus speaks to us before we can be blessed. In seemingly impossible situations, the Lord can provide abundantly and even over-abundantly, as He did then. It is when things seem darkest and our faith the weakest that we need simply to trust and obey.

In the past few weeks we have had the opportunity to visit the Oakville Church to listen to the conference tapes that we may have missed. It is always so encouraging and uplifting to feel the deep love and concern our elder brothers have for us. We pray ever so fervently that God will richly bless them and that they can feel His special nearness and ever-abiding love.

IOWA, ELGIN
Eleanor Butikofer

A heavy frost ruined our flower garden; we did however bring into our house some begonia and geranium plants which will provide us with greenery when the winter winds come to Iowa. We are indeed grateful for the bountiful harvest of grains and hay. May God be praised.

Congratulations are due the Roger Loftsgards in that a baby boy was born to bless their home. As of this writing, a name has not been chosen; but he is only two days old, so there's plenty of time for a choice. The baby's brother, Jeremy, will certainly rejoice when he realizes that he has a companion. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Wm. and Sis. Norma Butikofer of Gridley, IL.

Bro. Noah Gerber from West Bend was our visiting minister, and we certainly appreciated his presence and his sermon. We thank him for his efforts.

SPEAK GENTLY

Speak gently; it is better far
To rule by love than fear.
Speak gently; let no harsh words
mar
The good we might do here.

Speak gently to the little child;
It's love be sure to gain.
Teach it in accents soft and mild;
It may not long remain.

Speak gently to the aged one;
Grieve not the careworn heart.
The sands of life are nearly run;
Let such in peace depart.

Speak gently to the erring,
Know they must have toiled in
vain;
Perhaps unkindness made them so,
Oh win them back again.

Speak gently; 'tis a little thing
Dropped in the heart's deep
well;
The good, the joy, which it may
bring,
Eternity shall tell.

G. Langford

We are missing the gorgeous colors the leaves afforded us a few weeks ago, but every season provides us with some blessings. The trees are interesting even in winter with their various shapes and the shelters they afford birds and animals. The summer birds have disappeared, but the winter birds are trickling in. How glad we are to see them. We are providing them with the goodies they enjoyed last winter. Recently the sound of the pileated woodpecker was heard coming from a forest area not far from our home. That's good now that we have hopes of seeing him this winter. He is a large bird about like that of a crow; most interesting.

I hope you will enjoy this poem.

The lowly little postage stamp,
it only costs a pittance,
But when I order seeds or flowers
it carries my remittance.

It carries to a shut-in friend
my hope that she is better.
It carries all my love to you
Each time I write your letter.

It brings me all the latest news
Of children far away;
It brings the books and magazines
I look for day by day.

All these things and many more
These little stamps can bring;
It seems to me a postage stamp
Is a mighty precious thing.

A. Perrin

We find in the Scripture where
we are told not to forget to communicate,
so the poem seems quite apropos.

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Sharolyn Metzger

"For God so loved the world,
that he gave his only begotten

Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

May the true meaning of Christmas abide with us throughout the season and each day of our lives.

We are enjoying the presence of Sis. Becky Banwart in our congregation. Her parents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Betty of West Bend.

Hospital patients are Sis. Barb Virkler, daughter of Sis. Charlotte of Croghan, NY, and Ethel Eland, mother of Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland of here. May God grant them grace to endure.

We are thankful for God's Word that was brought forth through visiting ministering brethren Carl Wyss of Washington, IL; Jon Schmidgall of Oakville; Harvey Heiniger of Burlington; and Bill Gudeman of Elgin, IL. Christmas greetings to all!

IOWA, LESTER

Alice Metzger

A loved one has been called from our midst to his eternal home in heaven. The Lord did so mercifully call Bro. Ade Moser into eternity after suffering a lingering illness on Nov. 6. He is survived by his wife, Lydia, four sons, David, Dan, Sam and Scott and a daughter, Sis. Sheila. Also left to mourn and miss him are seven grandchildren, six brothers and one sister as well as many friends and relatives. He reached the age of 67.

Bro.. Steve and Sis. Rose Knoblock welcome a baby girl, Tasha Rae into their home. She was born Oct. 24, has one sister, and her grandparents are Bro. August and Sis. Florence Knoblock and Bro. and Sis. Lou Wenger, Sabetha. On Nov. 10, Matthew Allen became the first-born of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gayle Hartter. His grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marie Hartter, Sabetha.

The betrothal announcement of Sis. Joyce Knobloch and Bro. Donn Moser was made. In His infinite wisdom, God has shared His love with these dear ones. Sis. Joyce is the daughter of Bro. Si and Sis. Edith Knobloch and Bro. Donn is the son of Bro. Jake and Sis. Donna Metzger and the late Ken Moser.

We are thankful to Bro. Leroy Messner for sharing the Word with us.

Merlin Meyer, son of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla, was hospitalized after breaking his arm in school. Other hospital patients have been Sis. Mary Metzger, Kary Metzger, daughter of Keith and Mary, and Brent Teubel, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Pauline, for removal of a pin from a former injury.

On Oct. 29, Jason William was born to Bill and Cindy (Massner) Marshall. The grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Phyllis (Massner) Knobloch, and Mr. and Mrs. William Marshall, Sr., of Wapello.

Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner were doubly blessed on Nov. 1 with the arrival of twin boys, Randall Henry and Robert Orel. They have two sisters, Karen, 3, and Laura, 2. Bro. Orel and Sis. Rose Steiner, and Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Schmidgall are the grandparents.

Though the Lord often blesses us with joy, we must also experience sorrow. Bro. Fred Siegle passed away at his home in Burlington on Oct. 13. The son of Fred and Pauline Greiner Siegle, he was born June 27, 1901, at Cissna Park, IL. He married Lena Frank Dec. 14, 1930, at Oakville. Surviving are: the wife, Sis. Lena; one son, Richard, Oakville; two daughters, Sis. Arlene and Sis. Phyllis, both at home; two brothers, Bro. Ernest, Oakville, and Andrew, Wapello; one sister, Sis. Lena Siegle, Oakville; and four grandchildren.

The family of Bro. Fred Siegle wishes to express their heart-felt thanks to all brethren, friends, and relatives who extended comforting sympathy and help in their recent sorrow. For the prayers, cards, memorial donations, and other kindnesses, they are deeply grateful, and wish the Lord will bless each one.

On Oct. 19, Harley Rowell, brother of Bro. Floyd Rowell, Oakville, passed away at Pekin Hospital, Pekin, IL. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Floyd and his family.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me. . . for of such is the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14.

Jenica Joan was born on Oct. 22 to Gerry and Jill (Schrock) Marshall. Four days later, on Oct. 26, the Lord had need for another little angel in heaven. He took dear little Jenica to where

she will be "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Surviving are: the parents; one sister, Jera Jill, at home; and the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marshall, West Burlington, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith Schrock, Oakville.

Our Sis. Ruth Kuntz went to her rest on Nov. 11. She was born May 3, 1915, in Morton, IL, to Bro. John and Sis. Mary Welk Strunk. She married Roy Kuntz Dec. 1, 1945, in Morton. Bro. Roy preceded her in death. Surviving are two sons, Bro. Bob and Bro. Keith, Oakville; three brothers, George and Bro. Bill, Morton, and Alvin, Manhattan, KS; four sisters, Sis. Hanna and Florence Strunk and Sis. Katherine Rassi, Morton, and Hilda Bauer, Detroit, MI; and four grandchildren.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to all these families in the loss of their loved ones, and hope they can find some small comfort in the following words.

All Nature Tells Us
Nothing Really Ever Dies
Helen Steiner Rice

Nothing really ever dies
That is not born anew.
The miracles of Nature
All tell us this is true.
The flowers sleeping peacefully
Beneath the Winter's snow
Awaken from their icy grave
When Spring winds start to blow.
Little brooks and singing streams,
Icebound beneath the snow,
Begin to babble merrily
Beneath the sun's warm glow.
All around on every side
New life and joy appear
to tell us nothing ever dies.
And we should have no fear,
For death is just a detour
Along life's wending way
That leads God's chosen children
To a bright and glorious day.

Ministering Bro. Harvey Heinger, Burlington, was with us on Oct. 26. We are thankful the Lord can take feeble men and minister to us through them, for they are indeed instruments in His hands.

The last two weeks, we spent Sunday and Wednesday evenings listening to the tapes of our Brotherhood Conference. We hope that each one will gain a blessing from this, and each one will do his part to uphold the conclusion of our elders and preserve the faith until

the Lord comes again.

IOWA, PULASKI
Mary Wiegand
Ginny Wuthrich

As the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who turns to the Lord, so did the loved ones that gathered the weekend of Oct. 25 and 26 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Laura Wuthrich. Laura is the daughter of Bro. Joel and Sis. Shirley. We welcome Laura as a dear sister into the fold and wish her God's richest blessings. Elder Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville was here for this important work.

Also with us this past month were Bros. Willis Wiegand, Goodfield; Bill Funk, Garden Grove; Virgil Metzger, Champagne; Wayne Anliker, Forrest; Harvey Grim, Bern; and Elder Bro. Joe Braker, Morton. We cannot be thankful enough that these dear brothers are willing to lend themselves to be used as an instrument in God's hands. May our heavenly Father bless each one for his labors of love.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr

We always welcome visiting ministers. It was our privilege to have our Elder Bro. Leo Moser visit us this past month. May God continue to stand by him as he carries out his duties in our behalf.

Our congregation has just completed three sessions of listening to the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference. It's always a concern upon the hearts of many whether or not there will be obedience.

We battle the devil and his desires to have us choose the satisfying of the "flesh," rather than honor God. We strive to preserve God's ways, not only for ourselves but also for our children and future generations. The world is changing because of this desire, and man stands and cries for more liberties to be given—liberties for our "flesh." Christ is the same yesterday, today, and always and asks that the "flesh" suffer to come unto Him. There is perhaps much that can be read into the word "suffer," but for some that is what they feel they are really being asked to do and feel it is too much; but is it?

God said if we really love Him,

we will keep His commandments—we will love Him with all our body, mind, and soul, and truly love everyone as ourselves. When we really think about a person we love, we also note that there probably isn't anything we wouldn't do for that person if it meant a "suffering" on our part. Can we say that we truly love the Lord and everyone including those Shepherds who have asked us to do those things which they have found throughout the years are helpful to keep the fundamentals—which really are God's commands—strong in our church?

God Himself allowed that His "flesh"—a perfect man—be subjected to severe suffering, even death, that all might be given the "liberty" which we all should pursue, that of peace and eternal life in heaven. Christ was obedient by accepting the suffering that was God's request.

Christ asked if the cup could pass from him, yet he was willing to do what God had asked of Him. We, too, ask why certain things must be, but do we continue on and voluntarily accept the "suffering" to do what is not loosed here on earth and show willingness to accept the "death" of that one thing we'd like to dispute out of real love for God and His children—the church of today—and tomorrow?

Randy Grimm (Arlo and Marilyn) and Janet Kirsch were united in marriage on Oct. 11. We wish the blessings of the Lord upon them as well as the following couples who have announced their engagements: Jeff Fehr (Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole) to Beth Anderson (Mr. and Mrs. Roger Anderson) and Sheila Fehr (Eldon and Verlell) to Steve Schuller (Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schuller of Sibley.)

Hospital patients this month were Don Gates, Louisa (Reuben) Anliker, and Bro. George Bruellman. We are happy to say God has allowed them the privilege of assembling with us again. Eldon Banwart, son of Bro. Arlo and Sis. Edna, met with an accident involving a power take-off. Christy Gress, infant daughter of Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol, broke a collar bone in a fall. May God grant them a speedy and complete recovery.

The Christmas Season will soon

be upon us. It is that time of year when we can reflect upon that time many years ago when our dear Lord and Savior was born—a priceless gift from God, His only begotten son. Not only at this time of year but all throughout the year, may we continue to have that true spirit of love and giving.

JAPAN, SHIODA Kathy Klotzle

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.

As we remember the miracle of our Saviour's birth and rejoice in it, the beginning of hope for mankind, let us not stop there. "Our saving hope is all in vain, if here our love should cease. . . 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the Spirit free." Henry Beer.

"Greetings be to you, our brethren, to our sisters in the Lord. Here from far and near assembled, gathered here in one accord. Welcome, welcome, all ye loved ones; greetings in the Saviour's name." Hymns of Zion, No. 7. What joy we've had this past month in greeting and welcoming our visitors from America. The time we spent together has left us with precious memories. Sis. Evie's parents, Henry and Sis. Wilma Blunier, were with us for over two weeks. We enjoyed the times we shared as they became familiar with their daughter's way of life and the blessings she experiences here in Japan.

The Lord also blessed us with visiting ministers. Bro. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI) ministered the Word to us here in Shioda during a Saturday evening service. The next day we were privileged to gather in Tokyo with our brothers, sisters and friends for a pot-luck. As the truth was spoken to us in its simplicity, we were truly blest.

The following weekend, Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola Leman (Eureka, IL) ministered with us. Their visit was also an inspiration to us. May God bless the brothers for serving for our edification and all our visitors for coming and sharing their fellowship and love. We could feel the precious bond between us, even though many had never met before. We are thankful

that, in Christ, however great the distance, there is the tie that binds.

We rejoice with our dear Sis. Tamino Inoue in the birth of her tenth grandchild. Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue of our Tokyo congregation became the parents of their third child, a baby boy. How thankful we are that there is another child to be raised in the home of loving Christian parents who worship the one true and living God and who will teach their children of our Saviour and the way that they should go. May the Lord grant our brother and sister wisdom and grace to that end.

JAPAN, TOKYO Marie Inoue

This past month we felt very privileged to have God's Word shared with us by two visiting ministers, Bros. Bill Gerst of Alto, MI, and Vernon Leman of Eureka, IL. We appreciate our own minister but felt extra blessed to hear the inspiration of the Holy Spirit through additional brothers. The messages are given through an interpreter which may be a handicap to the speaker, but we praise and thank God for their willingness to be useful to Him. Bro. Bill was here a week or so on business, and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Viola spent several weeks here visiting our churches. They also visited in Korea where they visited the Korean Babies Home which receives support from World Relief.

Also visiting were Sis. Evie Blunier's parents, Hank and Sis. Wilma. We were especially thankful they could visit here and partake of some of her experiences.

On Nov. 12 our small flock journeyed to Calvary's cross as we partook of Holy Communion. May we realize the price paid for our sins by our dear Lord and in return be more faithful servants of His.

KANSAS, BERN Esther Moser - Stella Moser

Call and cry, ye watchman, boldly,
Call aloud and spare them not!

Zion's Harp, No. 112

Recently we assembled with the Sabetha congregation to hear Elder Bros. Sam Huber, Gene Marti, and Lester Hartter read the conference report to us. Truly, the watchmen are sounding their

warnings. Now may we heed them more as we journey to Zion.

On a recent Sunday evening, our guest ministers were Bros. Walter Anliker and Marvin Schmidgall (Eureka). We extend our thanks and appreciation for their loving efforts in bringing the Word to us.

Marcia Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) was hospitalized for a tonsillectomy.

Many willing hands made short work of cleaning our house of worship last month.

In our last report we wrote that Sis. Lena Wenger was hospitalized, critically ill. This time we report that she passed away on Oct. 29, age 84.

Lena was born Mar. 27 to Abraham and Lena Speheger Meyer near Bern. In 1928 she was married to Timotheus Wenger. They farmed together until Tim passed away in 1956. Lena then moved to Sabetha and was this reporter's next door neighbor for 23 years. Many a "goody" from her garden and kitchen was shared with her neighbors and friends. Lena was always busy and in good health until this past year when she became a victim of cancer. She served her Lord faithfully, always in her place on Sunday.

Surviving are two sisters, Emma Edelman, Sis. Mary Hartter, one brother, Bro. Will Meyer, and many nieces and nephews. Bros. Lester Hartter and Harvey Grimm (nephews), conducted the memorial services. She was laid to rest in the church cemetery beside her beloved Tim.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

We've been blessed with visiting ministers recently: Bro. Ralph Garber, Morton, IL; Bro. Kenny Knapp, Taylor, MO; and Bro. Fred Knapp, Congerville, IL.

Bro. Emil Banwart wishes to thank all who sent cards, letters, and well wishes to him for his birthday. He especially thanks those who brought gifts of food.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Glory is defined in the dictionary as "Some majestic spectacle or power that makes God's reputation highly impressive and thereby demands man's recognition."

Christ's coming into the world was celebrated by a display of "Glory." When he was born in Bethlehem an angel appeared to the shepherds and "the 'Glory' of the Lord shone around about them." (Luke 2:8,9) The angel announced to the shepherds that the long awaited Saviour had been born. He told them where they would find Him and the sign by which they would be able to identify Him. Then suddenly the heavens opened and a whole multitude of angels proclaimed " 'Glory' to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (V:14). The shepherds immediately left their flocks and started for Bethlehem to see the 'Glorious' Saviour Child.

Some of the Lamont and Gridley ministering brethren have consented to lend themselves to support the needy work of the Lord. Our plans are to hold church services in Emporia, KS, the third Sunday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the "VFW" Building, 302 S. Commercial St. For information regarding the services, contact Bro. Ephriam Young, 1021 Lincoln, Emporia, KS, (phone 316-342-2594) or Bro. Phill Shratm, 902 Sunrise, Emporia, KS (phone 316-343-2290). We extend a warm welcome to anyone and everyone.

A special thanks goes to ministering Bro. Walter Anliker, Eureka, IL, for his timely message from God's precious Word.

Hospitalized last month was Sis. Esther (Sam) Kraft as a surgical patient. Our God is our refuge, with mighty arms revealed, He is our help and shield, God is our refuge and our strength.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

In a world that's filled with trouble and strife,

Where power and wealth seem to mean more than life,

Does it seem possible we can be brought

To a moment of time when each person's thought

Is one of peace and good will toward men?

But here in the Christmas season again

The whole world pauses to ponder a birth

Which changed the course of the entire earth.

It's true that affairs of state must go on,

And trouble won't cease when each day is gone.

But above the woes of a stormy earth

Are the glory and joy of the Savior's birth.

Deep in our hearts we can see a star,

And distant hills where shepherds are.

And when we wonder, "What gift can I give?"

The spirit of Christmas begins to live.

The Christmas spirit isn't "doing the town."

It's not hiding the presents upstairs or down.

It's not even singing the carols so gay,

Nor eating the dinner Christmas Day.

The real Christmas spirit is deep in each heart;

In the love for the Lord and all men does it start.

For when peace and good will really cover the earth,

The true spirit of Christmas will then have its birth.

—Marian Benedict Manwell

As we come to this blessed season of the year (first Thanksgiving and then Christmas), may each of us take time to pause in our hurry-scurry lives to humbly lift our hearts in fervent praise to God our Father. We should do this not only for the everyday blessings and care He so lovingly provides, but also for sending us the most blessed Christmas gift this world has ever known: His only Son, Jesus Christ—our Savior, Lord, and King.

We don't express it often enough, but we are truly thankful for the freedom we have to worship freely in these wonderful United States, and thus be unhindered in gathering with those of like mind and faith to praise our Lord. Besides our monthly singing, Bible Study, and mid-week services, which have again commenced for the winter months, we enjoyed a blessed evening of singing and fellowship when visitors were here in our midst Nov. 15-16. As expressed by one brother in his

prayer, it's wonderful to travel to far places and feel so welcomed by the brotherhood in Christ.

Sis. Bea Diel is again in the hospital, but we truly hope she will soon be in our midst again. Bro. John and Sis. Lucy Hoffman are now residing in the Kiowa Manor for an indefinite stay, and Sis. Martha Roth, who is a resident of the Home, suffered a fall from bed. We are thankful no bones were broken, but some ligaments seem to have been pulled and she is in a lot of pain. May the grace of our Lord be with all those who are ill and may He grant returning health soon.

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

"O come all ye faithful, joyful
and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to
Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the
King of Angels,
O come let us adore Him Christ
the Lord."

Let us be glad and rejoice today, because "He has come." And let us remember the annunciation of the angel, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11)

May our hearts go out to the people in heathen lands who have no blessed Christmas day. "Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to them for whom nothing is prepared." (Neh. 8:10)

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10)

Three dear souls have heeded the call to turn their backs to the world and follow the Saviour. They are John and Stephen Schrader (Bro. Stephen and Sis. Dorothy) and James Wernli (Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty). May they search the Scriptures and pray, for therein is found the way to life eternal.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Hulda Jacobs, Sis. Lorene Anliker and Bro. Bill Emch. Bro. Bill and Sis. Lorene are out and assembling with us again, but Sis. Hulda remains hospitalized at

this time. We wish her much grace and patience and hope she will soon be home again.

KANSAS, SABETHA Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

Announcement was made of the engagements and coming marriages of Bro. Sam Huber and Sis. Jeanette Nohl of Morris and Bro. Gordon Huber and Sis. Sharlyn Meyer, both of Sabetha. Sis. Sharlyn is the daughter of Sis. Lois and Bro. Eli Meyer. Bro. Gordon is the son of Bro. Sam Huber. We wish both couples God's richest blessings.

We were happy to have Bro. Walter Anliker and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall, both from Eureka, visit us on a recent weekend. We thank them for bringing us His Word.

Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, and Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern, were here to assist Bro. Sam Huber in bringing us the letter of the recent conference. We are thankful that we still have watchmen who will warn us of dangers.

We are glad the waters are still being stirred. Joleen Schmidt has made a good "beginning." She is formerly from West Bend.

Hospitalized this month were Sally Hartter and James Hartter. Sis. Jeryl Grimm had the misfortune of spilling boiled water on her legs. She was seriously burned but did not require hospitalization. She is improving nicely now.

Bro. Noah, Sis. Lena, and Sis. Matilda Steiner wish to thank everyone for the love and kindness shown to them and for the many prayers offered in their behalf. They give a special thank you to the Taylor congregation for their love, visits, and gifts while they were hospitalized in Hannibal, MO. At this writing, they are slowly recovering from their injuries. We are expecting Sis. Matilda to be dismissed from the St. Frances Hospital in Topeka within the next few days.

KANSAS, WICHITA Judy Langhofer

And I fell at his feet to worship him, And he said unto me, See thou do it not! I am thy fellow-servant, and of thy brethren that love the testimony of Jesus. Worship God; for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Rev. 19:10.

God who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets hath in these last days spoken to us by the Son. Heb. 1:2.

As the celebration of Christmas comes and goes and the world wraps up its benevolent spirit for another year, Christ continues to testify to the world of His saving grace through the written Word. The Old Testament unfolds itself in the New as God reveals Himself to the world in His Son, Jesus.

The Holy Bible with its 66 separate books, written during a period of 1600 years, extending from 1492 B.C. to A.D. 100 by some 40 different authors, (Dispensational Truth by C. Larkin) was left to us as a legacy. Its pages were penned in the wilderness of Sanai, the cliffs of Arabia, the hills and towns of Palestine, the courts of the temple, the schools of the prophets at Bethel and Jericho, the palace of Shushan in Persia, on the banks of the river Chebar in Babylonia, in the dungeons of Rome, and on the lonely island of Patmos.

Now, in 1980 A.D. Jesus is still speaking to us through this written Word. We have the testimony of His saving grace in our hearts, and we can, with conviction, sing songs of praise and worship to Him for we know His Word is true. He is coming again! Even as it was in the days of Noah, all things are continuing until the coming of the Lord. It is in this spirit that we share with you our joys and concerns.

Bro. George and Sis. Ann Greiner received with gladness the news of the birth of their first grandchild, Jennifer Louise, on Nov. 7. She is the daughter of their son, Franklin, and his wife, Anna.

Sis. Dora Young is back in her home in Wichita after staying with her son, Chuck, for the past few months in Emporia. Bro. Chuck is soon to have hip surgery and will be confined for a few months.

We are sorry to lose Bro. Mark and Christy Meyer, also their son, Johnathon, as they plan to return to their home in Bluffton, IN.

Nov. 8 was the date of the wedding of Terese Grimm and Monty Leo Morris. Teresa is the daughter of Bro. Charlie and Sis. Gail Grimm. They will be making their home in Wichita.

About twenty voices from our Wichita choir presented a selection of songs to the Kansas City church in early November. The Wichita group reported they were received with gladness.

The Wichita church sends its greetings to all parts of the world, wherever our brothers and sisters assemble together. It behooves us to approach the New Year in an air of expectancy for no man knoweth what hour our Lord may come.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Penny Erismann

We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two young souls, Treasure Steffen (Bro. Carl and Sis. Myrna) and Bob Schrenk (Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan). What a joy to welcome them as our new sister and brother in Christ. We were thankful to have Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit) and Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City) come and share communion with us the same weekend.

A welcome is extended to Sis. Miriam and Hazel Feldman who have moved from Fairbury, IL, to join our congregation here in Alto. They are residing at Cumberland Manor, 11535 E. Fulton, Lowell, MI 49331.

A daughter, Joanna Louise, was born to Jim and Julie Blough. Nickolas and Laura are her brother and sister. Her grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Elouise Blough.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Patsy Bragiel - Linda Ramseyer

The Bluffton choir shared a weekend of fellowship in Bay City. Hymns of praise were sung telling of our Savior's love and mercy. Visiting ministers with us that weekend were Bro. James Rinkenberger and Phillip Stettner, both from Bluffton.

Sis. Faye Wackerle and Sis. Betty Schlatter have been hospitalized during the last month. We are glad to see that Sis. Faye is once again able to assemble with us, and we pray that we can soon say the same for Sis. Betty.

As the Christmas season is here again, we are thankful for the many gifts and blessings the humble birth of our Lord Jesus Christ brought to us. May we never forget these blessings and may we

always be able to share them with those who are near and dear to us. Our Christian blessings go to all during this holiday season.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Nella Varga

We have surely received God's wonderful blessings this month. His grace led two dear souls to repentance, Candi Knochel (daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Ruth Knochel) and Joanne Kaisner (daughter of Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner). We wish them God's love and guidance in their future walk of life.

It was such a joyous occasion when Sis. Vera Varga and Bro. Russell Manz (Junction, OH) joined hearts in holy matrimony on the sixteenth of November. May the Lord richly bless them throughout the rest of their lives. Sis. Vera is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne Varga, and Bro. Russ is the son of Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

We appreciated the love and kindness from the visitors we received this month. These ministering brothers were: Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL); Bro. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH); Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo, OH).

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

We were richly blessed this past month with visiting ministers. We thank the brothers for their inspiring messages. May God richly bless each one. Those among us were Bro. Paul Fehr (Morris), Bro. Tom Leman (Elgin, IL), Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bro. Noah Gerber (West Bend), and Bro. Ken Lawson (Ft. Lauderdale). The Weekend of Nov. 15 and 16, our Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Leo Moser (Lester) were with us. On Saturday evening, Bro. Harold and Bro. Leo shared the reading of the memorandum. May we always strive to obey the warnings of our elders so we can keep on the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal joy.

Lance and Sis. Renee Nelson have been blessed with the addition of Justin Lance to their family. Justin, born Oct. 9, is welcomed by sisters Teresa and April. The grandparents are Alvin and

Sis. Donnell Nelson and Marilyn Dording, all of Winthrop.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10,11.

UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN
God sent the little Christ Child
long centuries ago
To walk and talk with mortal men
on this sinful earth below.

Remember that God's purpose
in sending us His Son
Was to purchase our salvation
when our life on earth was done.

So let us try to follow
in His footsteps day by day
By loving more and hating less
all men who pass our way.

Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

A famous man said that God is always with us, but at Christmas we are more intensely aware of His presence. He said that He looks out at us from the faces of those we love and speaks to us amid the sounds of bells and the anthems of praise; His greatest gift comes to our heart anew when we hear the beautiful Christmas story, once again—and believe.

Little Richard Kellenberger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Diane) spent some time in the hospital for surgery. Jeremy Schmidgall (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois) was also a hospital patient. May these families feel a special presence through their trying moments.

The engagement of Sis. Jeanette Nohl (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) was announced to our congregation. We wish them God's blessings.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

Isaiah 9:6: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Once again The Christmas Season is upon us. However, may we pause and reflect upon the true

meaning of Christmas during the busy Holiday Season. May we never tire in thanking our precious God in heaven for sending His beloved Son into this world. May we also remember the "special love" of giving rather than receiving. For the Bible tells us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive!" Acts 20:35.

Many prayers have been extended on behalf of our Sis. Gerry Messner (wife of Elder Bro. Harold) as she underwent tests on her back. Bro. Mark Schmidt was hospitalized for surgery. He is now home and doing fine.

The Winthrop congregation, several times a year, makes a collection of clothes and many other articles for the St. Peter State Hospital. We also send various baked goods which the residents use for their special parties. A note of thanks is always sent to our congregation from them. It warms our hearts to know they appreciate the many things that are done for them.

The new year of 1981 will soon lie before us. How we fill its days will be our own decision. Will it be for Christ or will it be for our own desires? Phil. 3:13, 14: But this one thing I do; forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

We have been blessed with several visiting brothers who brought forth the true inspired Word of God. Bro. Gene Leman and his wife, Verna, from Wolcott, were here Oct. 19. The Saturday evening of Nov. 8, Elder Bros. Sam Huber, Sabetha, and Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, were here to assist Bro. Gene in reading the memorandum. We appreciated their kind advice and timely warnings.

Bro. Paul Fehr and his wife, Sis. Anna, from Morris spent the weekend of Nov. 15-16 with us on their way south to spend the winter months. We thank all our visiting ministers for their labors of love.

Sis. Anna Frieden has recently moved from her home to the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha.

Eli Banwart has been hospitalized, but we are glad to report that he is home again and doing well.

I Know That God Hears Prayer
I know that God hears prayer.
Although the burdens may
Seem greater than the heart can
bear,

Still, day by day,
He eases them, a little here, a
little there.

In answer, at some fitting hour
Along the road
He stoops and lifts the load
And bids us go, lighthearted, glad,
Stronger through testings we have
had.

Grace Noll Crowell

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

THANKSGIVING

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

Zion's Harp, No. 236

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: Wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14. Hospital patients this month were Sis. Ruth (Bro. William) Cottrell, Bro. Louis Hoerr, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Jerry) Knapp, surgical, Bro. George Hoerr, and Sis. Marie Butikofer, medical. We miss each one and hope reasonable health will soon be restored according to God's will.

"Tomorrow is not promised us; So let us take today and make the very most of it, in the once we pass this way. Just speak aloud the kindly thoughts and do the kindly deed, and try to see and understand some fellow-creature's need. Tomorrow is not promised us, nor any other day; So let us make the most of it, the once we we pass this way. (Louise M. Hagan). Our sympathy goes to Maribeth (Heimer) and Greg Hastings in the death of Greg's father.

Dan, N.J., and little Erica Webel are moving to Cincinnati where Dan has found employment. We have enjoyed their fellowship and trust that God will bless them in their new home.

Laban Edward was born to Gary and Joy Butikofer, Ontario, Canada. Sis. Marie Butikofer is great-grandma.

Elder Bro. Dave Keiser, Princeville, IL, spent a weekend with us and helped Bro. Roy share the reading of the conclusions of the recent conference. Other special visitors and their families were Elder Bros. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, IL, and Nathan Steffen, Elgin, IL, and ministering Bros. John Lehman, Bern, KS, and Walt Herrmann, Princeville, IL. We give a sincere thank you to one and all for their services to us in His name.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for instruction in righteousness."

Ed. Note: There was a misprint in the October Taylor news. It was Bro. Elwood (not Bro. Edward) and Sis. Trudie Yackley who had the new daughter, Nicole Jean, on Sept. 18.

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

Sis. Freda Wartman of the Union City congregation died at the Eureka, IL, hospital on Nov. 7. She was 88 years old and a sister in faith for 63 years. Sis. Freda left Union City to live in the Eureka home six years ago after her sister, Sis. Lucy, passed away. The two sisters had lived together in a home of their own for many years. The funeral was at Riewart Funeral home in Bergenfield, NJ, on Sunday evening, Nov. 9. Interment was in Fairview cemetery in Union City. A brother, Henry, and two nephews, Robert Krosner and Louis Schoenleber, survive.

On Sunday, Nov. 4, we used our new church building in Philadelphia for the first time. The building rests on the side of a hill that was leveled and which six months ago was grown over with trees, wild blackberry bushes and poison ivy. It is hard for us to believe the miracle we now see and even more difficult to find adequate words to express our appreciation and thanks to all who so freely gave of their funds, time and labor to build the beautiful church. We give all credit to God who has answered many prayers,

and we trust that He, in turn, will bless each soul that supported this effort with prayers and material help. It is our single intent to dedicate this new church to furthering God's work here on earth. We were pleased to have Bro. Corbin Bahler, Sis. Virginia and others from Rockville with us for our first meeting in the church. We were well reminded how clearly the Word instructs us in Christian traditions and of our responsibilities to walk in the way we are led by the Lord.

On the Nov. 10th weekend, we welcomed more than 40 brothers and sisters from the Rittman, Akron and Rockville churches at the Philadelphia church. A dinner was served in the church dining room Saturday evening, followed by a song service. Sunday was a blessed day of worship and Christian fellowship, long to be cherished. We thank God for sending our loved ones to us and for granting safe passage for all over the many miles that were traveled.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN

Alice Virkler

Star of Hope, Star of Peace,
Beneath your rays, let hatred
cease.

Let us follow faithfully,
Always steadfast may we be.

With your radiant, beckoning
light,
Show us how our darkest night
May be lighted by God's love,
If we lift our hearts above.

Unknown

We have been privileged to listen to the tapes of the recent Brotherhood Conference held in Eureka. May we each be encouraged, uplifted, and strengthened in our faith through the loving words of admonishment and love spoken by our elder brethren. We are thankful that our faith still upholds the true Word of God and traditions of our forefathers in this land, and that we have these brethren who lead, guide and care for our spiritual needs.

Our hospital patients at this writing are Bro. Amos Virkler, Bro. Jerome Farney and Bro. Hiram Farney. Sis. Barb Virkler has returned to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where she

is a medical patient. Bro. Art Woolschlager has returned home from the hospital, and Sisters Irene Farney and Lisa Schamback have been able to assemble with us again after having been hospital patients. We are thankful for the measure of health restored to our loved ones, and our prayers go out for those who remain hospitalized.

Sis. Minnie Virkler was called from this life on Oct. 27 after many weeks of pain and suffering. Funeral services were held on Oct. 30 by Bro. Norbert Steiner and Bro. John Widrick. Her life was compared to the life of Job through the characteristics she displayed during her suffering. She did not complain even when the hours were long and the pain great. She showed much patience and never lost sight of the great hope of life eternal after this life. Her life was a light to each of us who visited her in her home and while she was a patient at Lewis County Extended Care Facility. Sis. Minnie wrote the following poem which was published in the monthly paper of the Extended Care.

As I lie here and gaze out my
window,
I watch the grass turn green into
a lovely green velvet carpet.
I watch the birds flutter by;
I know there is a God.
And the beautiful flowers,
The first of spring which are sent
by my neighbors and friends,
They're something to behold.
I even have a beautiful little pansy
all yellow and smiling,
Also the fragrance of the hyacinth;
How can we doubt as to their
Creator?

I have so much to be thankful for.
The girls on the staff are the
kindest of all—
The care I receive and the many
friends.
Then there are the friends who so
graciously come in to see me,
Which again are too numerous to
mention.

So even as I lie here,
I am most thankful to all who
care for me—

Especially our ministers who come
in
And so graciously feed with spir-
itual food
Which we need for our spiritual
bodies.

So with a big "Thank You" in my
heart,
I say, "God bless you all!"

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

The Lord thy God, He it is that
doth go with thee; He will not fail
thee, nor forsake thee. Deut. 31:6.

We gathered at Croghan church again the evening of Oct. 26 to listen to the last of the conference tapes. Yes, the Lord has been with our dear elders, guiding them to speak to us. We have so many reasons to thank our Lord. May we all strive to obey the teachings they have given us, knowing that they come from the Lord.

It was nice to have Sisters Florence and Natalie Herzig assemble with us again. Sis. Florance's ankle is doing quite well now.

The group of singers from Croghan and here were at the extended care unit at Lowville one evening to sing a few songs and have some refreshments for Bro. Jesse Karcher's birthday.

OHIO, AKRON Carolyn Miller

Bro. Bill Gerst of Alto, MI, was our visiting minister on Nov. 9.

Bro. Ned Baumgartner was hospitalized last month, and we are happy to report that he is better and is again assembling with us. Sis. Marie Dakovich is presently in the hospital. We are sorry to report that Bro. Charles Novotny's conditioned has worsened. May the Lord be near and comfort those who suffer.

A second daughter, Pamela, was born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

At Christmas time we think of the story of Jesus: a young mother placing her baby in a manger, a star shining over His bed, the angels singing, the shepherds coming to worship, and more, but that is just the beginning. In St. Luke 4:18, 19, He outlines some of His duties: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He said in verse 26, "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears." Today is still the accepted time. Claim Him as your Saviour and Lord.

Our special thanks go to our visiting ministers, Perry Zimmerman, Ronald Steiner and Eugene Pamer for proclaiming the "acceptable year of the Lord."

OHIO, JUNCTION Lester Manz

Many of our brethren and friends were in Detroit on Nov. 16 when Bro. Russell Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Vera Varga (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joanne) exchanged their wedding vows. In their wedding service, they were told that we would wish that the wind would always be at their backs and that all their travels would be downhill, but that life is not always that way. We certainly wish them God's grace and strength in their lives together, whether their lives path be uphill or downhill.

Our thanks go to Bro. Loren Stoller of Latty for ministering God's Word to us this month.

In this busy Christmas season, as we shop, eat, and enjoy all the gifts and time spent with our families, let us not allow Satan to be successful in his effort to take Christ out of Christmas.

OHIO, LATTY Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

Love of all gifts is the greatest. The engagement was made known of Sis. Shirley Sinn (Latty) and Bro. Bob Klotzle (Rittman). Their parents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Tootie Sinn, and Bro. Irv and Sis. Jane Klotzle. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their plans.

The weekend of Nov. 1-2, we witnessed provings and baptisms and welcomed into our precious faith a new brother, Don Stoller (Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby) and a new sister, Rosemary Eisenmann (Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary). How encouraging it is for us when we see new soldiers joining us in this battle of life. May we never tire in this battle but grow stronger each day as we strive for that heavenly crown. Sharing in this important work was Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville). May the Lord bless him for his efforts.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized recently. They are Jaymee Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne), Sis. Maria Heffner, Sis. Vicki Laukhuf (Bro. Bruce), Sis. Debra Dunham (Bro. Chuck), Bro. Louis Stoller (Sis. Mildred), and Sis. Melvane Stoller (Bro. Russell). May they feel our prayers in their time of affliction.

During the school year of 79-80, Michaela (Micky) Nolte came as an exchange student from Germany to live in the home of Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Eisenmann and their children, Sis. Joyce, Bro. Bill, and Sis. Rosemary. Prior to coming to this country, Micky was not familiar with God, as she had never attended church before. Through coming to church, and the Godly examples of the people around her, she felt the need of repentance and conversion. Through her understanding of the Scriptures, Micky was an inspiration to all of us. Following is a poem that Micky wrote before leaving for Germany. More poems will be included later.

LOOKING BACK

Almost a year has gone by
Since I came over here.
Starting out, I was very shy;
Somewhere inside there was a fear
That you maybe would try
To change me throughout the year.

I didn't yet know about God;
Church, it was just a bore.
My life somehow was very odd,
But I learned to love it more and more.

Now I myself do tread
The way to that heavenly shore.

Isn't it really great,
All the things God can do?
Quite a while, though, I had to wait,
Till I finally knew
That there up on high is a gate
I, too, want to go thru.

It isn't important to always win,
Or to get everything handed on a tray.

If I just stay away from sin,
And do my best day by day,
I hope at the end I will enter therein;
Sure, there will be a way.

Now, it is time to say, "Goodbye";

You all have been so dear.
Here I've learned to love almighty God;
At last I found out what life is for.
I may not ever come back to this state;
Still the sky will be blue.
And I can always remember with a grin
The happy times of my stay.
Micky

Now that she has gone back to her country we pray that the same Spirit that binds our hearts together will also include Micky's even though she is many miles from us. We have included her address and hope that you will write to her: Michaela Nolte, Buxtehuder Str. 108, 2100 Hamburg 90, West Germany.

Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke 15:10.

There was also joy in our hearts as we heard that Byron Dunham (Bro. Charles and Sis. Laura) had chosen to follow the Lord. We pray that many more can make this wise choice before it is forever too late.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. II Thessalonians 2:15.

Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forest) assisted Bro. Loren Stoller in reading the conclusion of the brotherhood conference. Truly, the Spirit was with the brothers as they expounded on many sacred traditions and teachings. May each of us find the grace and strength and may our attitude be such that when we lay down our cross it will reach heaven's door. Also with us for this weekend was Bro. Merle Kaisner (Fairbury). May the Lord add His blessing.

As we approach this Christmas Season, may there be a thankfulness in our hearts to know that the plan of salvation did not stop with the birth of our Lord and Savior, and may the true meaning of Christmas fill our hearts and lives.

December is the month for Latty subscribers to pay. Please contact your reporters.

Address Changed? . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

Christmas is such a beautiful time. We are reminded of the night, so long ago, when Joseph and Mary traveled over the lonely hard miles, and finally arrived at the little town of Bethlehem. There, our dear Saviour was born.

No warm, downy pillow His sweet head pressed;
 No soft silken garments His fair form dressed;
 He lay in a manger,
 This Heavenly Stranger,
 The precious Lord Jesus, the wonderful child.
 No jubilant clang of rejoicing bell
 The glorious news of the world did tell;
 But angels from glory
 Sang sweetly the story
 Of Bethlehem's Stranger, the Saviour of men,
 Thou Heavenly Stranger, so gentle and mild,
 Though born in a manger, the Father's own Child.
 We'll worship before Thee
 And praise and adore thee
 And sing the glad story again and again.

Ada Blekhorn

Christmas is a time of love and peace. Loved ones travel many miles just to be home for Christmas with loved ones.

THE HEAVENLY RAILROAD

The train was going west. The time was evening. At a station a little girl about eight years old came aboard, carrying a little package under her arm. She came into the car and deliberately took a seat. She then commenced an eager scrutiny of faces, but all were strangers to her. She appeared weary, and placing the package for a pillow, she prepared to try to secure a little sleep.

Soon the conductor came along, collecting tickets and fare. Observing him she asked if she might lie there. The gentlemanly conductor replied that she might, and then kindly asked her for her ticket. She informed him that she had none, and then the following conversation ensued.

Said the conductor, "Where are you going?" She answered: "I'm going to heaven." He asked again: "Who pays your fare?" She then

said: "Mister, does this railroad lead to heaven, and does Jesus travel on it?" He answered: "I think not. Why did you think so?" "Why, sir, before ma died, she used to sing to me of a heavenly railroad, and you looked so nice and kind I thought this was the road. My ma used to sing of Jesus and the heavenly railway, and that He paid the fare for everybody; and that the train stopped at every station to take people on board; but my ma don't sing to me anymore. Nobody sings to me now, and I thought I'd take the cars and go to ma. Mister, do you sing to your little girl about the railroad that goes to heaven? You have a little girl, haven't you?" He replied weeping: "No, my little dear, I have no little girl now. I had one once, but she died some time ago, and went to heaven." Again she asked: "Did she go over this railroad; and are you going to see her now?"

By this time all the persons in the coach were upon their feet, and most of them were weeping. An attempt to describe what I witnessed is almost futile. Some said, "God bless the little girl." Hearing someone say that she was an angel, the little girl earnestly replied, "Yes, my ma used to say I would be more than an angel some time."

Addressing herself once more to the conductor, she asked, "Do you love Jesus? I do, and if you love Him He will let you ride to heaven on His railroad. I am going there and I wish you would go with me. I know Jesus will let me into heaven when I get there, and He will let you in, too, and everybody that will ride on His railroad; yes, all these people. Would you like to see heaven, and Jesus and your little girl?"

These words so innocently and pathetically uttered brought great gush of tears from all eyes, but most profusely from the eyes of the conductor. Some who were traveling on our heavenly railroad shouted aloud for joy. She now asked the conductor, "Mister, may I lie here until we get to heaven?" He answered: "Yes, dear, yes." She then asked: "Will you wake me up then, so I may see my ma, your little girl, and Jesus? I do so want to see them all." The answer came in broken accents,

but in words very tenderly spoken: "Yes, dear angel, yes. God bless you!" "Amen" was sobbed by more than a score of voices.

Turning her eyes upon the conductor, she interrogated him: "What shall I tell your little girl when I see her? Shall I say to her that I saw her pa on Jesus' railroad? Shall I?" This brought a fresh flood of tears from all present, and the conductor kneeled by her side, and embracing her, wept the reply he could not utter.

I thank God that I was a witness to this scene, but I was sorry that at this point I was obliged to leave the train.

J. M. Dosh

Loved ones, are we traveling on the heavenly railroad? Are we going to meet Jesus and our loved ones who have passed on? Jesus has made the way possible by coming as a lowly babe in a manger and then dying on Calvary's cross for you and me.

The Bay City choir traveled to our community the weekend of Oct. 18 and presented a beautiful story in song, praising our Saviour and Creator. Bros. Roy Weiland and Jim Ramseyer proclaimed the wonderful Words of Life to us.

Mansfield hosted the Annual World Relief Conference on Nov. 9. Elder Bro. Andrew Virkler (Bay City) and ministering Bros. Floyd Weiland (Detroit) and Jim Hoerr (Peoria) favored us by staying for Sunday and sharing with us many good teachings and advice.

Hospitalized and in need of our prayers are Bro. Kenneth Sauder and Ella Erhart:

Belatedly, we want to congratulate Brent and Penny Mosier on the arrival of their first child, a baby boy named Adam Thomas, born Sept. 14. They have recently moved here from Bluffton and we welcome them into our fellowship. The new grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet Mosier.

Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier are the new grandparents of a grandson named Dustin Lee Hermann, born Oct. 20. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Brenda Hermann are the new parents.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler - Janette Blough
 Christmas—the time for remembering the birth of our Lord. We are reminded to go to the cross

and not to keep Him in the manger. The following words come to mind, which were written by Harold B. Franklin:

In a cave, a lowly stable, Christ our Lord was born;
From the heavens white-robed angels sang that holy morn.
Shepherds heard the heavenly chorus and were sore afraid;
But an angel spoke the tidings that all fears allayed.
Born to you in David's city is your Lord and King.
So an angel to the shepherds hope and joy did bring.
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Rang throughout the sky;
Noel, noel! Noel, noel! Praise to God on high!
Leaving resting flocks behind them, sought they for the stall,
Where there lay in swaddling garments Christ the hope of all.
Let us, like the lowly shepherds, seek the Lord this night,
That we may, by lives of service, bring to all true light.

From our Zion's Harp, we sing many songs about love; first of all, the love of Jesus for a sinner, and then the love for one another as was shown to our loved ones as they make their plans for the future. The engagement of Bro. Bob Klotzle and Sis. Shirley Sinn was announced, recently. Their parents are Bro. Erwin and Sis. Jane Klotzle, and Bro. Carl and Sis. Bertha Sinn of Latty. The next Sunday, the engagement of our Bro. Dave Hartzler and our Sis. Linda Bachman was announced. Their folks are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler, and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathrine Bachman.

"Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the Good of my life." Psalms 42:8. Many times the Psalms come to mind when our dear ones have sickness. It seems that David called upon the Lord many times in his distress, and we too can find God's Word comforting as some of our dear ones had surgery. We pray the Lord will heal our Bro. Lloyd Indermuhle and Sis. Eva VanNostren. Frank Weber had to return to the hospital, and Sis. Doris Stoller is in for

tests. We are thankful they are again able to assemble with us.

Blessings from God came to brighten the homes of our loved ones as new babies were born. Twin sons were born to Bro. Allen and Rose Bauman and are named Joshua Allen and Jeremy Allen. Little sister Tiffany is glad for two playmates. The grandparents are Marion and Sis. Deloris Bauman. First-time parents are Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer with the arrival of Donna Jo. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Donna Leman, Forrest. Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez Ramsier have a new granddaughter with the birth of Pamela Jo born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie (Ramsier) Maletich. Little Anita is glad to have a playmate. Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Maletich are the other grandparents. Ted and Sis. Rhea Beery have a new grandson, Zebulun Michael, born to Mike and Connie (Beery) Balas. Sis. Barbara Mathys has a new granddaughter, Amy Elizabeth, born to Bob and Tina Mathys. Garret Duane is the name of the first child born to Dan and Debby Ramsier. The grandparents are Bro. Nelson and Sis. Aldine Ramsier. We pray that the Lord will bless these dear ones with their precious bundles.

Isaiah 9:6 (a verse for Christmas): "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." What a wonderful verse which describes our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let's think if this as we celebrate the birth of this Great King.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau

Christmas is for loving,
And spreading peace on earth.
Christmas is remembering,
Our blessed Saviour's birth.

Carice Williams

Our Sunday School Christmas will be given on Dec. 21.

Elder Bros. Ben Maibach and Dale Eisenmann shared with us the memorandum from the conference which was held in Eureka.

Thus united and in concord
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

Zion's Harp

Florence Sherwin, the mother of Dorothy Stevens, passed from this life on Nov. 14. We extend our sympathy to Dorothy, her husband, Robert, and their children.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Connie Steffen

The Lord has richly blessed His people in Oregon. We thank Him now for two more lambs of Jesus who were added to the fold on Nov. 2 when Elizabeth and Melisa Moser (daughters of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Barbara Moser) brought their testimonies before the church and were baptized. It is always a privilege to hear people testify that the Lord has given them grace to repent of their sins and find forgiveness from God and man. It is an additional privilege to witness the promise made at the waters of baptism that they will be true to their God as long as they live. Sis. Elizabeth Moser (Tremont) was able to be present for the baptism of her granddaughters. Also, their great-uncle and aunt, Bro. Dan and Sis. Sophie Steiner, attended.

We were privileged to hear the reading of the Brother Conference memorandum presented to us by Elder Bros. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ), and Leo Moser (Lester, IA) on Saturday evening at Silverton. Then, to finish our weekend of rich blessings, we were served Holy Communion on Sunday evening.

Christmas is nearly here; it seems this year has gone by so very fast. Often our thoughts go to Christmases past, wonderful memories of family and friends, thoughts of various "traditions" of Christmas Eve or Day, and I think of some Christmases that I have been privileged to share, in Illinois, with my husband's family. From the time we were married, Garth had told me of that memorable evening, when after supper the family would all gather around to sing carols; not one or two, but fifteen or twenty. Then Dad Steffen would open the Scripture and read the entire account

of the birth of Christ; then he would pray! When Dad prayed on Christmas eve (as at other times) he thanked the Lord for all His wonderful gifts. Then he would intercede for his dear family and commit them all to God in prayer. His prayers were so sincere and from the heart.

Everyone knew that that was the night commemorated as Christ's birthday. The gifts that awaited distribution were not so important, even to the little ones when Dad ended that prayer. Now Dad is gone to be with the Lord whom he loved and served many years, but the Gift he gave his family is one that lives on. It will be handed down, as a treasured gift, for years to come. The gifts are forgotten, the years are past, but the memories they have given will last.

As a parent I feel we owe our Lord His rightful place, not only in church, but every day, even on Christmas Eve or Day. We should be glad to give our children the gift of life centered around our Lord, that they might see in us an adoration for Him who gave us all. The gifts will soon be forgotten, the years will soon pass, so let us give the gift of "God's love in us" to those whom we love so dearly and to our fellowman.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Andy and Mary Jane Winkler

It seems that time slips by so fast at times. Thanksgiving again reminds us of what our forefathers did for us when they came to this land for their religious freedom. It also should remind us of what Christ did to give us freedom and power over the devil, only by the Lord's grace.

We are thankful to God for three visiting elders, Bro. Carl Kinsinger (Altadena, CA), Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix AZ), and Bro. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) for their time and efforts spent on our behalf. On Saturday evening we were privileged to hear the memorandum expounded to us. Sunday we went to Portland to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of two dear souls. We were thankful also to be able to partake of Holy Communion and to be reminded how close we should walk with our Lord. Truly, we had a blessed time together.

We don't have to go very far from our homes to be reminded that Christmas is coming. People should remember what Christmas means instead of putting on an outward show. Each of us should remember Christ, the Babe, and then we will realize what His birth meant to the world. He didn't stay a babe but grew to a man who was sinless and who suffered and died for our sins; He is our Savior. If we can keep Christ in our Christmas, then surely we have the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts.

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Margery Koehl

We are happy to report that Bro. John Perdelwitz is home recuperating after his stay in a Laredo hospital.

Our Elder Bros. Edwin Hohulin and Herman Kellenberger and their wives are now with us, along with many more winter residents whom we would like to mention by name. We want everyone to know that we are happy for their presence.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild;
God and sinner reconciled."
Joyfull, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King."

The Sermon . . .

Continued from page 28

And yet Noah went ahead, ignoring the ridicule of his companions. Board by board, he constructed the ark exactly as God wanted it to be. Why? Again, because Noah believed God. He believed that, as God had said, the day would come when the ark would be needed by him. God had told him what was going to happen, and Noah believed Him. Noah also, at the beckoning of God, preached to the people. He warned them, and warned them, and warned them that judgment

was going to come upon the sinners. But alas, there were only eight souls who believed the teachings of God and were able to enter into that ark when the floods began.

They entered the ark, and God shut the door. Think how that must have been. God closed the door. Once God closes a door, no man can open it. God closed the door and, as we know, the floods came upon the earth true to the teaching and promise of God, and true to the preaching of Noah as inspired by God. Then the people believed. Then the people looked and watched that ark as it floated upon the water, and they saw that eternally closed door. Then they believed what Noah had been telling them all those years, but then it was too late.

The Bible tells us that, according to the promise of God, the earth will not again be destroyed by water. That happened once, but it is not to happen again, as we know according to the Word. God put the rainbow in the sky to remind us of His promise that this will not happen again. But the Word does tell us that the world shall be purged by fire, that the earth shall be destroyed by fire. Can't we see the comparison of our day and age, and the age in which Noah found himself? How many people believe that the elements are going to melt with fervent heat, as we are told in the Word?

There is a great deal of interest today in the Bible, and we hope and trust that many souls will still be saved. But it appears that the vast majority of mankind rejects, despises, ignores, or even tries to destroy the precious promises of this Word. There are many who try to undermine it, to explain it away if any interest is shown at all.

Dear ones, just as the judgment of God came in the form of couds of water from above and from the fountains of the deep below, as the mountains were covered and all mankind except those souls in the ark were destroyed, judgment will come again. In spite of the power of men, in spite of the ability of men, in spite of the tendency of men to explain these things away and ignore the eternal truths of God, this is going to happen. Mankind is changing a great deal;

moral standards are changing, but God's Word shall not change.

Again considering baptism as the "ark" whereby we can be preserved and saved, isn't it wonderful what God did for us? He didn't have to warn us. Sin is a dreadful thing. God hates sin; as we read here, "Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity." Such is the Spirit of God. I don't believe that any of us can grasp how fully God hates sin.

We were all born with a sinful nature and as we grew up we became aware and accountable. We became involved in sin. We became involved in things which God hated. He didn't have to warn us; He didn't, and still doesn't, owe us anything. He didn't have to tell us, much less provide a means of escape. But He sent His Son, who died a very, very cruel death and bore the agony and the weight of your sins and mine upon the cross of Calvary. He bore it so that those who would believe, obey, and embrace Him and His way might enter into that "ark" of baptism and be saved.

The baptism of the Scripture, which can be compared with the ark of old, is not just the mere fact of being immersed in water. Anyone can be immersed in water in a moment of time. But the baptism that shall be the "ark" to save one's soul when the eternal judgment of God descends upon fallen mankind is the baptism of faith.

What is the "baptism of faith?" A baptism of faith is a baptism entered into after believing God: believing that He exists; believing that sin separated mankind from Him; believing that He provided a remedy through His Son Jesus Christ who literally came down from His eternal glory in Heaven and took upon Himself flesh and blood. He then suffered humiliation, pain, and torture at the hands of cruel and sinful men, shed His blood upon the cross of Calvary, and gave up His life so that we who were separated by sin might be reunited with God. Afterwards He rose from death and the grave, breaking the bonds of sin.

Our Lord's resurrection is extremely important. Not only can we find forgiveness of sin, but because Jesus rose from death and

the grave, the dominion of sin was broken. Through our Lord's death we can find forgiveness, but without His resurrection and gift of the indwelling Spirit we can not find the strength to live a life free from the power of sin. Jesus paid it all.

We must not only believe the Gospel, but we must believe to the point that we are aware that our own sinful life has separated us from God. That awareness will cause us to bow our knees and ask God for mercy in true sorrow and repentance. This Godly sorrow will bring forth wonderful spiritual fruits and God will speak peace to our hearts. The world seeks many things, and there are a great many things accomplished. But when God speaks His peace to an individual soul and the burden (condemnation) of sin is lifted, it's worth more than the world has to offer. Such peace has more value than all the world contains, many, many times over.

We must permit ourselves to be converted by God. God will forgive us, but we must repent so that He can forgive us. We can't convert ourselves; we must ask God to change us, causing us to lose our desire for the things which are sinful and which are wrong in God's eyes. Perhaps some things aren't so bad in our eyes, but are bad in God's eyes. God will do this for us.

We must then, as the Word tells us, make restitution as did Zacchaeus of old. Zacchaeus, we remember, was a little man who climbed into a tree so that he could see Jesus, and the Lord found him there in that sycamore tree. We have to seek God as Zacchaeus did to be found by Him. After Zacchaeus came down, the Lord went to his house, and among other things in their conversation, a repentant Zacchaeus told the Lord that "... if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." Lk. 19:8. This is a Scriptural incidence of restitution or making things right.

Also in the baptism of faith, a repentant soul exposes his sinful deeds, confessing them to God with man as witness. The unburdening of the soul helps to release the hold of Satan. After these things have taken place, the changed person, purified and cleansed by Jesus Christ, promises

to be faithful to God as long as he lives and is immersed in the baptismal waters. The baptism, the prayer, and the laying on of hands for the Spirit of God to dwell in us (to lead, comfort, or correct us, whatever the need might be) is the baptism of faith.

Dear ones, this type of baptism will be all that we can hold to and trust in, when time shall be no more and we leave this life. In the book of Revelation, we are told that a mighty angel shall come down, shall place one foot upon the land and one foot upon the sea, and shall cry with a great and mighty cry that there shall be no more time. Time shall be no more!

When that moment comes—whether it comes when Christ comes for His own, or when God calls us from this life—we're going to need this baptism; we're going to need this "ark" to hold us up. Nothing else will protect us and keep us from the wrath of God. We don't mean to indicate that God is a harsh or severe God; God is a loving and merciful God. He didn't have to offer us this way; He did it because He loved us. But the Scripture is very, very clear. If we reject our Savior all of our lives, if we don't get into this "ark" (this baptism) then He will reject us. He will turn His face from us, and we will suffer His judgment throughout endless eternity.

The choice belongs to us. We can choose the way of Noah of old, or we can choose the way of his peers who ridiculed him. We can choose the baptism of true faith today, or we can choose the way of those who belittle, reject, ignore, or explain away. But we shall, as the Word tells us, reap as we have sown here.

Let us choose, dear ones all, the God of Noah, the God of Moses, the God of Joshua; the God who first loved us, and who even now, in the form of His sinless Son, stands at the heart's door and knocks so tenderly. But we must open the door. Let us open it so that the door of this "ark" will not have to be closed upon us forever and ever, when for us time shall be no more.

Address Changed? . . Give Old and New Address to Your Reporter.

SERMON BY ELDER BRO. DAN KOCH OF TREMONT, IL

Text: Hebrews, Chapter 1

Verse fourteen speaks of the "heirs of salvation." The term heirs indicates that something was given, not earned. In this case God under certain circumstances will give His creation the salvation of their never-dying souls.

In verse three, we read that the Lord Jesus Christ, "when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." The book of Hebrews says much about sin. It discusses how people of the Old Testament times had to make sacrifices on a periodic basis. The High Priest offered the blood of bulls, goats and various animals, which temporarily kept the wrath of God from them but did not bring about permanent forgiveness of sin. Finally the supreme sacrifice, the free-flowing life's blood of the sinless Son of God, brought about permanent redemption of the sins of mankind.

We know, almost certainly, that every one of us who is in this building believes that this took place; that God is in His heaven and that He sent His Son to die upon the cross where He shed His blood. Afterward, He was laid in the grave and through the power of God, He arose therefrom, breaking the bonds of sin and death.

Sin and death are synonymous in the Scripture. When we are in the power of sin, we are dead, spiritually dead. Jesus Christ broke the bondage of sin and death, and He is risen; as we have been reminded, He now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven interceding for His fortunate though weak and needy people. Referring again to the matter of sin, it says that "he . . . himself purged our sins."

The Word says that physical things will perish. "As a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail." Heb. 1:12.

There are things of the Lord that do not change. We are well aware that in our generation earthly things and thinking have changed a lot. Thinking regarding sin has changed. It appears that mankind in general has pretty much lost sight of the fact that sin separates individuals from God. And further, though we live in an age when mankind is generally free to behave according to what seems right in their own eyes, sin is still the same according to the Bible. Those things which we do which conflict with the Word of God, which are disobedient to His commandments and teachings, are sin.

We hear a lot of distressed comments today about the difficulties that the world is in. There is a lot of anxiety, a lot of concern. There is a lot of wonderment, a lot of puzzling. There is a lot of effort put forth to change some of these things, and to determine how change for the better can be brought about. But it seems that the crux of the problem is glossed over, and that the real problem with the world is sin.

When individuals lose sight of the fact that transgressing the Word of God is sin, they lose their fear of God. It appears that this lack of fear of being punished by Almighty God has had an astounding effect upon our civilization. People, generally speaking, do what they feel they can get by with, apparently not worrying about the judgment of a Holy God. But once again, sin is still sin, and perpetrators of sinful deeds shall be judged.

Referring to the matter of the purging of sins, we may judge ourselves guilty in God's eyes and then take advantage of Jesus Christ's offer of freedom from sin through repentance and conversion. Otherwise, we will be judged after this life is over, throughout that endless eternity.

It is fortunate that we have the Scripture to point out these things. To the unconverted, the truth of the Word causes discomfort and struggle. It convicts, condemns, and brings unrest. This unrest and conviction should bring about a search for God. How wonderful it is that God wants us to seek Him, and that He provides a way that we can be reconciled with Him.

Today we hope to observe the baptism of a dear soul, a dear soul who wants to be prepared for that time which shall be without end. In the Old Testament, we are told that an ark saved Noah and his family from the flood. Baptism is the "ark" by which we can be saved. This dear soul, our friend Brent, wants to undergo this baptism which will be his "ark" to carry him through the troubled waters when the judgment of God shall fall upon all the earth.

"The foundation of the earth . . . and the heavens . . . shall perish . . ." Heb. 1:10, 11. These things shall fail; these things shall change and disappear, ". . . but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail." Heb. 1:12. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Referring again to the ark, we know that Noah built it simply because God instructed him to do so. And further, we know that Noah believed God. Faith, true faith, is believing God and taking Him at His Word. If we really believe God, we will do as He says.

Noah did as God said even though those about him scoffed and ridiculed for many years. Not only was he building a large boat upon dry land, but we are told that in those days there was no rain upon the earth, that a mist went forth from the earth to water the ground. People were not used to large amounts of water or rain. How they must have ridiculed poor Noah!

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