

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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NUMBER 2

PASSING OF A SHEPHERD

Bro. Steve Ringger, Bluffton

Not long ago, a dear brother, Sam Aeshliman, went to his rest to meet his Saviour and his dear wife, Minnie. Bro. Sam had enjoyed a long life full of joy, responsibility, and tribulation. I believe brother Sam could say as Paul wrote to Timothy, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith."

Some of the significant events in the life of Bro. Sam are as follows:

He was born Dec. 31, 1891, in Wells County, Indiana. He repented and was baptized at the age of 19. On Sept. 3, 1916, at the age of 24, he was married to Sis. Minnie Gilliom. Bro. Sam was called to the ministry on July 5, 1936, at the age of 45. On July 5, 1941, he was ordained as the elder of the

Bluffton church. He was the shepherd of the Bluffton church and others until Sept. 29, 1974, when he retired.

On Jan. 21, 1980, his dear wife, Sis. Minnie, passed away. On Sept. 28, 1980, Bro. Sam also passed away.

In the latter months of his life, Bro. Sam was not able to talk due to a stroke. However, if he had been given the chance in those months to tell us for what he had striven to live, he would have stressed three important principles:

1) **Love thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.** Bro. Sam served his God faithfully. By the grace of God, he kept his baptismal covenant for 70 years and

served his God in the ministry for 39 years.

2) **Love thy neighbor as thyself.** During his years of serving the church, he always took time to hear our problems, take confessions, and preach and teach the Word.

3) **Be clothed with humility.** Bro. Sam was never interested in exalting himself. He would be the first to say that any good which he had done was entirely by the grace of God.

The above was written not to eulogize Bro. Sam but to remind us of the principles for which he stood. Let us, like Bro. Sam, live up to our spiritual potential. Let us practice the above principles, by the grace of God, so He can use us in His work.

PUT UP YOUR SWORD

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle

Yesterday, Oct. 1, Lois and I visited the home of one of my English students, a little boy in the first grade named Takeaki Miura. His grandfather, a gentleman of 61 years of age, came to the door in a friendly manner and urged us to go with him to his grape vineyard to enjoy some of his grapes. They grow overhead, with tables underneath where tourists from Tokyo can enjoy eating the fruit they themselves have cut from the vine.

As we sat there visiting, enjoying the grapes, the conversation turned to other foreigners he has met in the past. Then Mr. Miura began to speak very earnestly about an experience he had during World War II, as if he had long

waited for the opportunity to share it. This is his story:

It was February, 1944. Mr. Miura was 25 years of age, a member of the Japanese army stationed in Chiba Prefecture northeast of Tokyo. One morning a group of U.S. B-29 bombers flew over on a bombing mission and he saw one of the planes come down in flames. As he looked up to the sky, he saw that the crew had bailed out and were floating down in parachutes. He ran in that direction and came near to where a U.S. airman had just come down. The U.S. airman drew a revolver and aimed it at Mr. Miura, who having been trained to never flinch nor seek to escape death, continued to come forward although he had no gun, only

a sword which his grandfather had purchased. Mr. Miura drew his sword and brandished it in the air as he hurried toward the airman, who lowered his revolver and raised both hands in surrender. His thought was to take the life of the airman as he had been trained to do, but as he rushed up to him with his sword drawn he thought, "He is about the same age as I am." Then they looked intently into each other's eyes, and Mr. Miura said he felt a friendliness between them. He couldn't take the airman's life—something prevented it.

Back at his own army base, he learned through an interpreter that the airman was indeed 25 years old, the same as Mr. Miura, and

that his name was Orintotto Rodovich (phonetic spelling), an American of Italian background who had a wife waiting for him back in the United States. He was the machine gunner on the B-29 which had left Athlete Airfield in Saipan on an assignment to bomb the Mitsubishi Aircraft factory in Cheba Prefecture. His commanding officer was Capt. McDonald. Mr. Miura would like very much to find that man, if he is still alive in the United States, and invite him to his home for a visit. He thinks it is so remarkable that the airman didn't shoot him, and that he didn't use his sword to take the life of the airman who was taken prisoner and reportedly returned to the States. After the war, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency did not list his name as one who died in prison, so Mr. Miura feels certain he returned home safely.

After telling us his story, Mr. Miura ran to his house to get the sword. It was in a cloth sleeve which he carefully removed, revealing the wooden case in which the sword is kept. He excitedly drew from that case a brilliantly shining sword about three feet long and handed it to me. I accepted it fearfully, as I observed the sharpness of the sword, and wondered how he could trust me enough to put such a weapon in my hands and stand there before me. I spoke of how dangerous the sword was, that it could be used to take a person's life in an instant, but he explained that this sword was not made to take a person's life, that it is a peace sword. He said that if it were not a peace sword, he would surely have taken the airman's life. I told him that it was God's will that they not take each other's life, and he agreed, although his concept of God and mine may be quite different. Mr. Miura put the sword back into its case and inserted it into the cloth sleeve, after which he held it to his chest in an endearing manner. He said that the sword is about 400 years old and that it is a peace sword—that it was made only for defense, not for killing. (At this point I went to our car to get a booklet of selected Scripture passages from my brief case, but unfortunately I had run out. The next time I meet him, I hope to give him one. The distribution of God's Word in its

pure form by all of God's people at the time of meeting someone who indicates a possible interest should be encouraged.)

Considering the spiritual implications, Peter must have used a similar sword that night in the garden when he cut off the ear of Malchus, the high priest's servant. The Lord Jesus Christ told Peter, "Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" John 18:11.

The Lord Jesus Christ had instructed His disciples, "...he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." Luke 22:36. I cannot help but wonder if the Lord Jesus Christ also considered the sword to be an instrument of peace and how that is supposed to be implemented. Powerful countries of this world have enormous armaments, all for peace, yet they are so often used for war.

The Lord Jesus Christ might have instructed His disciples to buy swords so that the soldiers coming to take Him prisoner would see the swords of His disciples and, thereby, be prevented from attacking with swords. It is just a thought, and I still don't know with any certainty why Christ gave that instruction. One explanation is that He wanted to have the opportunity to heal Malchus's ear after Peter had cut it off.

The lesson for us is that we should put up our sword, that is, quit cutting and debasing others. Take a stand for what is right according to God's Word, yes, but do it in a peaceful way. Our Lord said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9. Meanwhile, if anyone knows how to locate that former U.S. airman, Orintotto Rodovich, through the U.S. Veterans' Administration or some other way, please let me know.

NOTICE:

The telephone numbers of ministering Bros. Jim Hoerr and Ken Hoerr of Peoria were incorrectly printed in the 1980 edition of "Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers," which is published by Orel K. Steiner of Oakville, IA 52646. The correct numbers are: Jim Hoerr 309-692-7757
Ken Hoerr 309-692-5031

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

In 1981 the world is not going to get any better, but that does not mean that our Almighty God's abilities are going to be lessened. As time progresses, sinful conditions will increase and inter-personal problems will become more complicated; but we need not become discouraged when comparing our ability to cope with them, then and now. God will always supply all of our needs, for the Word of God says that "when sin abounds, grace does much more abound." (Rom. 5:20) As sin increases and deepens life's problems, we who believe are going to be endowed with an increased ability to not only cope with those problems, but in Christ Jesus to conquer them. (Rom. 8:37)

In fact, as this latter age culminates in the most sinful condition of all times, we can expect the most abundant amount of grace of all times.

This is an exciting time in which to be living, not only in anticipation of the Lord's return, but in anticipation of a great revival of grace in the truly believing Church which will enable us to meet the needs of sin-captured souls.

Here at the "home" we anticipate the arrival of new children. Our administration informs us that our child caring difficulties will increase, and that causes us concern. All Christian parents will have anxieties in this coming year, but that is why God has given us those "exceeding great and preci-

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Editor-News Correspondent: Ed Souder.

Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

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ous promises" that He will meet the needs of the situation. (II Peter 1:3-4) We begin to realize why Paul said that he took pleasure in necessities because when he was weak, he became strong through God's increasing grace. (II Cor. 12:10)

"We not only had a blessed Christmas, but also a 'Mary' one," explains Sue Cockburn. A daughter, Mary Kathryn, was born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn on Nov. 23. The paternal grandparents are Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cockburn of Altoona, PA. The maternal grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Price of Milford.

Once a month, brothers from all over the Midwest meet at the Children's Home to discuss concerns and procedures for our program. This last month, our board members did "double duty." They came the day before the meeting and insulated part of our new shed which they also helped to build two years ago. There are not many boards whose members serve in both administrative and physical capacities. We thank the brothers for their efforts! They all seem to enjoy themselves when they are together. Some stay overnight and bless our homes with a happy atmosphere and encouragement to go on.

Our new boy, Keith, arrived. He is 14 years old. He has already helped shovel snow off our ice skating area and is in charge of our other new arrivals, eight ducks which he will feed and water.

A number of children went home for Christmas, and the Willis children went with Brace and Brenda to Gridley, IL. They were well hosted there. Also, our Ronda and Claudia accompanied them and stayed at different brethren's homes. We thank everyone for taking our children into their homes, hearts, and prayers.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The Bible tells us that charity never fails. Another indication of this is the lingering of tenderness so prevalent during the Christmas season. How precious if it could linger all during the coming year. Henry Van Dyke once penned the following:

"Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and

to remember what other people have done for you . . . to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world . . . to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts, hungry for joy . . . to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness . . . are you willing to do these things, even for a day?"

"Then, you can keep Christmas! Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children . . . to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old . . . to stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough . . . to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that the shadow will fall behind you?"

"Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world . . . stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death . . . and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?"

"Then you can keep Christmas! And, if you keep it for a day, why not always. But we can never keep it alone."

Our staff and family here are holding out arms of welcome to Ruth Schwartz of Bluffton, IN, who has returned to live with us after spending an interim at the home of her parents. Also new and welcome to our family circle is Mary Schramm from Pekin, IL. Her mother is Elizabeth Jacob Schramm and her father, who is deceased, was Arthur Schramm. Mary has a sister, Julia McCoy, and a precious little niece. We look forward to many happy times with Mary and are glad she came in time to enjoy the many Christmas activities. Birthday time for Mary is Jan. 13.

Speaking of Christmas activities, we extend a special thanks to the many who have remembered our residents in any way at this special season. Words cannot adequately relate our gratitude.

Appreciation is also expressed for the memorial contributions

which are channeled to our Home. In this regard, we do need to ask for help. In order to process them adequately, we need the following information: **the name of the deceased and the church which was attended; the name and complete address of the donor; and the name and address of the next of kin of the deceased.** Hours of research time could be eliminated if this information were always on the memorial envelopes. We thank you for kindly giving us this information, as it speeds the processing for the families involved.

Life here at our Home is in many ways like life in any normal home. There are tears of sorrow sometimes. But there are also times when tears of joy are experienced. There was the time when a resident's tears were explained as a result of just feeling so full of joy and peace. She was lying on her bed resting, when all of a sudden this flood of goodness and joy came over her in such fullness that she "just had to cry." When she came in tenderness to share it with another, it was a heart touching experience. It seemed proof once more that our Heavenly Father shares a special blessing for special people.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Julie Hoerr

Dec. 3, our annual business meeting was held, and many offices were filled: Trustee, Bro. Don Emch; Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Don Kokanowich; Assistant Superintendent, Bro. Dave Klopfenstein; Song Leader, Bro. Doug Schmidgall; and Usher, Bro. and Mrs. George Freed.

Little Holly Joy was born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich on Dec. 9. Mark and Heidi welcome Holly, as do grandparents Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Kokanovich and Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed. The great-grandparents are Bro. Sam Schupbach, Sis. Rose Funk and Mrs. George Freed..

Dec. 14 was our Sunday School Christmas program. The theme this year was I Cor. 13, as it was because of God's great love to send His only Son that we may now have a Christmas Day. Truly it was a day, to each of us who remember a similar program eight years ago, to see how our church has grown. Our Sunday School

now has 57 who attend.

We gathered on three Sunday evenings to hear the conference tapes.

The Helping Hands group held a Christmas Boutique Nov. 22.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Doris Kobanovich, Bro. Jeff Rokey and Joe Zollinger. Sis. Toni Bentley is now able to assemble with us after her hip surgery.

Several from our congregation have had loved ones pass away this month. We trust that the Lord may comfort them in their sorrow. Our sympathy goes to Bro. Harry Roth who went to Fairbury Dec. 5 when his sister, Sis. Anna Roth, was called to her heavenly home. We also remember Sis. Ione and Bro. Irvin Rokey as her sister-in-law, Mrs. Eli Hartter, passed away in Sabetha, KS, where Sis. Ione traveled for the services. Donna Mae (Toots) Koehl passed away in Kentucky and was buried here beside her husband, Elmer, in Green Acres Cemetery after memorial services on Dec. 8. Our church family extends sympathy to Sis. Ruth Vaughn and Sis. Toni Bentley.

Retired Elder Bro. Ray and Sis. Minnie Farney wish to thank each one who remembered them with thoughts, prayers, and gifts during their 45th wedding anniversary.

The family of Sis. Emma Menold express their heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation to each one who remembered her with kind expressions of sympathy during her illness.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Witzig

On the third of December, Bro. Simon Bahler was called from this world. We wish to extend our sympathy to his daughter, Eleanor Garrett, son, Jack Bahler, and three grandchildren. His presence will be missed by many.

We wish God's blessings to ministering Bros. John Bahler (Rockville), Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), and Carl Feucht (Lester) for their labors of love in sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Bill Hecker is now home from the hospital, although yet unable to attend church with us. What a comfort to know the Lord is ever at his side to give grace and courage for each hour.

By the time this issue is out,

another year will have ended and a new one will have freshly started—another year of fighting the darkness in the world and learning of God's ever present help and strength. In reflecting upon the past year, my mind recalls a very precious piece of advice. This past summer I was blessed with the privilege of working at the Peoria Apostolic Christian Home as an aide. In the evenings before I left, a certain dear older sister liked to visit a few minutes and share with me some of the lessons she had learned in her many years of walking with the Lord. One night I sat on the bed beside her and she said, "Whenever you have a problem or don't know what to do, ask God for help first. . . He has all the answers." What a simple and obvious piece of advice, yet how often do I do it? I'm sure that many of us find ourselves making a mess of things before we think to ask God for help. Oh, that I could learn the lesson well that she so lovingly tried to teach me. This year as we face many old and new trials let's remember the word "all" in I Peter 5:7.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Carlton J. Lanz

Christmas! What a beautiful story it is. It has been told and retold for centuries, yet it never grows old. Only God could have thought of it. Here the great storytellers find their art outmatched. The genius, subtlety and consummate skill in this age-old story, with the combination of humanity of philosophy and of divine mystery, make it truly the greatest story ever told.

We have seen many great writers require reams of pages and huge books to tell their story. Yet this story as it is written in Luke requires exactly 416 words, so carefully and with such divine simplicity chosen, that it is the greatest art humanity has ever created. Out of these 416 words comes some of the most uplifting and impressive music that mankind has ever known. For all these centuries this simple story has come with benign influence over all mankind. Its principles are based on love, giving, and new life for every individual who embraces it.

The Sunday School children with their teachers and superin-

tendant, Bro. Everet Gerber, presented their annual Christmas program which included carols, verses and giving of gifts. Bro. John Bahler, elder, added a short message at the finish with Bro. Albert Schneider giving the prayer.

Our meetings were enriched with the inspirational messages of Bro. Joe Aberle of Kansas who spent a couple of weeks here as he visited his son, Bro. Richard. We also had Bro. Glen Price of Sarasota, FL, who had come with the intention of being present at the wedding of Bro. Michael Salatie and Sis. Jeanette Trueb, Ellington, CT. Bro. Corbin Bahler administered the vows, with a reception following. They will reside in Florida where his folks and business are.

This is a belated reporting, but for the record we include it. Bro. Richard Luginbuhl and Sis. Sue Jackson of Michigan took their wedding vows some time in the past and are happily united. They at present are occupied and hope to be in their new house which is being built.

What lies ahead or beyond the threshold of this year you do not know, nor do I. We can speculate, but let us enter this new year with hope.

FLORIDA, PORT CHARLOTTE B. Rassi

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name. . ." Mt. 18:20. Nov. 30 was the first Sunday service for Charlotte Harbor for the winter season. There were 26 in attendance. Services are at 1:30 and 3:00 PM with Sunday School being held during the first service. We welcome all visitors, and our doors will be open until mid-April. Easter Sunday will be the last service for this season, so mark your calendar if you are coming to Florida this winter.

Bros. Doug Sebo and Glen Price have the stewardship of our little congregation.

We welcome Bro. Arthur Gudeman and Sis. Mary who have returned to be with us for several months. We are so grateful that they are here.

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

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE

Sally Gress

A tax auditor came, years ago, to a poor servant of the Lord to determine the amount of taxes he would have to pay. "What property do you possess?" asked the auditor. "I am a very wealthy man," replied the Christian. "List your possessions, please," the auditor instructed. "First, I have everlasting life. Jn. 3:16. Second, I have a mansion in heaven. Jn. 14:2. Third, I have a peace that passes understanding. Phil. 4:7. Fourth, I have divine love that never fail-eth. I Cor. 13:8. Fifth, I have joy unspeakable. I Peter 1:8. Sixth, I have a faithful wife. Pr. 31:10. Seventh, I have healthy children, who are obedient and happy. Ex. 20:12. Eighth, I have true loyal friends. Ph. 18:24. Ninth, I have songs in the night. Psa. 42:8. Tenth, I have a crown of life. Jas. 1:2. Eleventh, I have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who supplies all my needs. Phil. 4:19.

The auditor closed his book and said, "Truly, you are a very rich man, but your property is not subject to taxation."

(Author Unknown)

Perhaps in the new year, we should all strive for these riches in Christ Jesus.

We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Eugene Marti of Lamar for ministering to us this month.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Fred Meyer and Sis. Vi Gerber. We are happy to report that both are recovering nicely.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Elda Martin

We rejoiced as we heard the Christmas story being told by our dear Sunday School children. They sang songs and recited verses to honor our Lord's birth. To share God's love of giving, the children and parents spent the afternoon Christmas caroling to the less fortunate.

Many greetings of love are expressed each Sunday as our sunshine encourages brethren from the north to worship with us. Among those visiting was Bro. Charles Hemmer, Peoria. Spending the winter months with us are our Bros. Joe Schrock, Congerville, IL, and Art Gudeman, LaCrosse, IN. Bro. Art ministers at our Port Charlotte church, and we encourage

anyone in that area to worship with them.

Sis. Marie Martin is still unable to worship with us. She is awaiting another skin graft on her leg. She covets your prayers.

Bro. Mike Saladie and Sis. Jeanette Traub, Rockville, CT, were united in holy marriage. We welcome Sis. Jeanette into our congregation. A reception was held in their honor. Also, a reception was held to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Streitmatter. They wish to express their many thanks for all the cards, gifts and love they received.

HAWAII, HONOLULU

Michael and Janet Campbell

As the winter season approaches, visitors are again arriving at the beautiful islands of Hawaii. On Sunday, Nov. 2, we were very happy to meet Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Shambach from Akron, OH, at their hotel. We enjoyed a wonderful day together, beginning with breakfast. This was followed by a tour of the Naval Base, after which we returned to our home for a time of fellowship. Later on, we went on a tour of the Island and ended the day by returning to their hotel to listen to a tape.

The following day, the Shambachs left to visit the other islands. When they returned, we met them at the airport and went to meet Bro. Byron and Sis. Mary Schock from Congerville, IL, at their hotel. All of us enjoyed dinner together and spent some time shopping. We returned to the hotel for more blessed fellowship.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, four dear sisters came to visit us at our home. They were Sisters Rita Menold and Jean Leuthold from the Princeville, IL, congregation and Sisters Jan Sigafus and Marvella Knobloch from the Washington, IL, congregation. We went to dinner and later returned to sing a hymn, listen to a tape, and enjoy a time of fellowship. On Thanksgiving Day, we went on a tour of the Naval Base and also on a tour of the USS New York City, the submarine to which Michael is assigned. Later, we enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner at our home. After our dinner, we sat around the table and sang songs from "The Hymns of Zion" and enjoyed

some more fellowship before they returned to their hotel.

We praise the Lord for providing the wonderful blessing of having these dear souls with which to fellowship. May God richly reward them for their deeds of kindness. We are still receiving letters for which we are very thankful. Please write to us or include us during your visit to Hawaii. Our address is 3324-D Orlando Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96818. Our telephone number is (808) 422-1041.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL

Dixie Knapp - Jean O'Shea

We rejoice with Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy Steffen on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Marie, born Nov. 21. Abby's two brothers, Tommy and Todd, are happy to have a new sister. The grandparents are Bro. Manny and Sis. Lucille Steffen of Fairbury and Bro. Harry and Sis. Clara Isch of Bluffton.

We were privileged to have a group of couples from the Bluffton congregation for the weekend of Nov. 22-23. We held our monthly hymn sing on Saturday evening after a potluck supper and enjoyed the men's quartet from Bluffton as our special guests. We extend our warm appreciation to Bro. Wendell Gerber for ministering to us on Sunday and thank all those who were able to be with us for a most blessed weekend.

Our Thanksgiving Day services had to be cancelled due to a snow-storm and icy roads, but we found that we still had multitudes of blessings to ponder even in the confines of our own homes. Our hearts were thankful as we personally reviewed our past year of blessings.

We lift our thanks this day,
O Lord,
As now we humbly pray;
But may our greater "thanks" be shown
In serving Thee each day.
Kay Hoffman—from "Ideals"

We express our sympathy to Bro. Stan and Sis. Nate Vogel and their family on the death of Stan's father, Bro. Walter Vogel of Cissna Park.

Our love also goes out to Sis. Tillie Nussbaum who lost her sis-

ter, Emma Menold of Phoenix, and several weeks later her father, Henry Menold of Tuscon. May the Lord comfort and strengthen these dear ones in their losses.

We appreciated hearing the memorandum read on Dec. 10. Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) was here to assist Bro. Dan Koch in reading and explaining the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference to our congregation. We were exhorted to have a meek and lowly heart like Christ's and to let true charity abide in us. In doing so, we will truly support the guidelines set forth by our faithful brothers.

It was a beautiful winter evening on Dec. 13 as we gathered at several of our area nursing homes to sing Christmas carols to the residents there and to share in the special blessings that seem to follow such events. If we can only remember that we need to give of ourselves and our time all year long, not only when giving is "in season." We had a lunch and a time of fellowship afterwards at the church. The whole evening was a wonderful way to share together the special spirit of Christmas.

The next day our annual Christmas program was held at 7:00 p.m. with the Sunday School students providing the story of Jesus' birth in song and verse. I had to think of how many of these programs were probably going on in our many churches and yet how each one must be so special and so pleasing to the Lord.

We were saddened to hear that Robert Bull, father of Sis. Laura Nussbaum passed away suddenly the week before Christmas after a short illness. We express our deepest sympathy to Bro. Alan and Sis. Laura and their families. May God's unfailing love envelop and sustain them during this holiday season and always.

It was with sadness that we said farewell to Terry and Sharon Zimmerman and their three children as they left our area and moved to Kentucky where they will be administrators of the Desi Scott Children's Home. We held a farewell potluck supper on Wednesday evening, Dec. 17, and although we will miss them in our congregation, we wish them God's richest blessings in their endeavors.

Bro. Steve Virgil, husband of

Sis. Bev, was hospitalized over Christmas after undergoing an ulcer operation. Our thoughts and prayers are with him for a speedy recovery.

Now that we are approaching the brink of another new year, may all of us re-evaluate our hearts and lives and strive anew to grow in the likeness of our Lord and Saviour. May one of our goals (including myself) be to practice true charity as described in Cor. 13. That chapter is so amazing, as it can be applied to our every-day lives whether we are a housewife, office worker, farmer, or even an invalid. No matter what we do each day of our lives, the principles of true charity can be applied and will keep us busy for the entire new year ahead.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Evelyn Endress

We were thankful to have many guests with us for Thanksgiving Day services. Among them were ministering Bros. Walt Herrmann (Princeville) and Don Manz (Junction). Other ministers visiting us recently were our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita), and Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville). I apologize for failing to mention the blessed weekend we shared when Bros. Delbert and Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) came to Bradford a few months ago. We certainly do appreciate all of the ministering brothers and their families who come to assemble with us.

Marjie Rumbold and Cliff Sturm were united in marriage on Nov. 15. May God bless them as they begin their life together. Marjie's parents are Bro. Elwin and Sis. Loretta Rumbold.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Duane and Sis. Doreen Elsasser and their family on the death of her father, Bro. Harvey Zimmerman of Morton.

WORD, WORLD. There is a difference of only one letter in their spellings, but what a vast difference in their meanings! This thought was brought to us recently by one of the visiting ministers.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Charlen Banwart

The following letter was received by the church families who reside

in the Champaign-Urbana. "With Thanksgiving approaching, it causes us to reflect on all that the Lord has done for us. One of the most outstanding things in our mind is the little church at Urbana-Champaign. It is such a blessing to have a congregation that we can call home. Since the bulk of our lives at the university involves only interaction with students, it's really special to be a part of a church that has little children and people over 22.

"It would mean a lot to us if we could in some way show our appreciation for all that you have done for providing a 'home' full of love for us. Being students, we can't give much, but we can give our time. We would like to give all the mothers a free Saturday afternoon on Dec. 6 (so you can do Christmas shopping, etc.). We will pick your children up around 1:00 and entertain them (we will take the older ones to a Christmas play and the younger ones will get to bake cookies and play games), feed them supper, and return them home around 7:00 or 8:00 P.M." The letter was signed by Bro. Frank Sauder, president of our student group.

Needless to say, all of us took the students up on this offer and wish to thank them for this wonderful expression of love and appreciation.

Bro. Mike Fritz, son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Sherry, has graduated from Purdue University and has accepted a job with Caterpillar in Peoria. May God bless him as he begins a new phase of his life.

Our sympathy is extended to Jerry and Lois Vogel and family in the loss of Jerry's father. Bro. David Wiegand's brother died suddenly and our prayers are with them also.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

"In days of prosperity, be happy. In days of adversity, remember that God has made them both." I saw this paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 7:14 on a poster. Bible verses have a way of surprising me with their beauty, simplicity, and aptness. And thus, this one struck me. How I think I appreciate good days! In rough ones, instead of counting blessings (of which there are always an abundance), I tend to

groan and moan, having myself a "pity party." Yet as this verse reminds us, both kinds of days are part of each one's life. God gave both days of prosperity and days of adversity, and He will sustain, come what may. But we must trust, believe, and lean on Him and His wisdom, seeking His will and not our own.

We have had much good news in December, a month in which we celebrate the Gospel and its tidings of great joy. Bros. Bob Meyer, Bluffton, IN, Chuck Hemmer, Peoria, and Duane Kilgus, Fairbury, ministered to us, reminding us not only of Christ's coming as a Babe, but also of His second coming, which may be sooner—or not as soon—as we think. But we are always blessed by the truth, for we were told, most importantly, what we need to do to prepare ourselves. Gratefully, we commend them to the Lord for their reward.

We are thankful that Bro. Boyd Metzger has accepted the position of trustee, filling the vacancy left by Bro. Dick Gudeman's leaving. We appreciate the efforts of all our brothers' and sisters' special bors for the welfare of the church, especially those of our trustees who all come from a goodly distance, but keep our church in good working order, financially and physically. They share a great responsibility.

Andre Etta McCoy has joined her parents, Dave and Sis. Sheila, and sister, Alisha, in time to celebrate another Baby's birth. We rejoice with them and their dark-haired bundle, for "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord. . ." Ps. 127:3.

The church, too, is refreshed and uplifted by the opportunity to love its little ones (bigger ones, too!). The sight and sound of each one is precious to the Lord, and to the church also. At our Sunday School Christmas program, we were again reminded from Genesis of the promise of a Savior, of some of the subsequent more specific promises of Christ's genealogy, forerunner, manner and place of birth and their fulfillments in Him. Truly, "without Christ as the center, Christmas means nothing at all." (from Kind.—1st gr. pieces)

The Lord said, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matt. 5:4. Even amidst the

holiday hustle and bustle, there is mourning. Perhaps now, grief is even harder to bear in these more barren months. Many loved ones have left this earth. Some we know are bound for heaven; all are gone to eternity. For some it is children who are mourned, prayed over, wept over, given over unto the Master, knowing only His call, His touch will bring them back to the Word. Sometimes we mourn for others and their crosses, sometimes for our lack of health or strength. The promise is that, in prayer, asking, we shall receive strengthening, comforting, love.

Bro. Ray Young has had back surgery. We pray that his pain may be lessened greatly, according to His will. And to Bro. Ray in his convalescence, we commit ourselves in prayerful support.

To share a bit of our Chicago lore with you, we'd like to take you Christmas carolling. Sunday, Dec. 21, we left our church in Hillside around 2-ish. Our biggest carolling group ever, just under 50 of us, began the journey, not quite half being children. We started travelling in seven vehicles. From church we went via 294 to Sis. Miriam Lockwood's, near 127th and Western in Blue Island. She is in her own home, getting somewhat more feeble, but cared for well by her daughter and grandchildren. Next, we travelled to dear Bro. Ray and Sis. Marge Young's, just off Steger Road in Crete, way south. There we shared his pain as well as singing carols and hymns from the Zion's Harp. To get to our last stop we travelled north, up Michigan Avenue for awhile, seeing all the lights of the city and a beautiful full moon over the Lake, to Sheridan and Wilson, to a "halfway house" where Doris Kuerth works and lives. These poor souls listened to our carols in a smoky lounge, even asking for the children to sing by themselves—"Away in a Manger." Some of us may have shied away from the run-down dismal area, from the comments of some of these residents. Nevertheless, we know two things: 1) There, but for the grace of God go I, and 2) Christ died for each of us there as surely as for each one who sits in our benches at church. The poor man Lazarus at the rich man's gate was probably a neglected-looking soul at

best. We carolled at these three places between 2 and 7 p.m., when we arrived up north in Skokie for a chili supper. We had covered at least 90 miles by that time and had not eaten at any of our stops. We were hungry. Our number had grown smaller, due to various considerations; still there were just under 40 of us in about half as many vehicles. We enjoyed more fellowship as well as bodily nourishment. By the time we returned to church, we had covered many miles of 294 (the tollway) and the Dan Ryan expressway (94). It was 10:30 and time to go home to rest and to thank God for our Sunday, with its variety, charity, and opportunity for giving.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

Home at last, thy labor done,
Safe and blest, the victory won;
Jordan passed, from pain set free,
Angels now have welcomed thee!
Anon.

Bro. Walter Vogel, 68, was relieved of his pain and cares when he was taken Home on Nov. 19. He is survived by his widow, Sis. Clara (Plattner) and two sons, Gerald of Champaign and Stanley of Carlock.

Jessica Lynn was born to Sis. Patti and Bro. Randy Martin of Hopeston. It was with joy and love that Christina and Rebekah welcomed home their little sister. The grandparents are Bro. Herman and Sis. Arcelia Bauer and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Rosie Martin.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Anna Hari have both recently been surgical patients. We are pleased to report that they are home again, although Sis. Anna is still taking treatments following a corneal transplant. Sis. Laura Hodel has also been a surgical patient.

We are always happy to have visiting ministers here to share God's Word. We thank Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington, and Bro. Robert Beebe, South Bend, for their labors of love in sharing.

On Dec. 7, our congregation enjoyed a potluck supper at the church. The event was held to show our appreciation to Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sauder for the many years of faithful pulpit-service rendered by Bro. Phil.

During an interview with Bro.

Phil, we learned that in 1940 the Tremont Church (Bro. Phil's home church) had only one minister. Bro. August Bolliger pleaded for a helper, and by Dec. 1, 1940, the church decided to search the congregation to see if a minister could be found. The consensus of the member-body favored Bro. Phil. Although Bro. Phil had had no Sunday School teaching experience, he said that he would try, by the grace of God and the prayer support of the congregation, to be the helper whom Bro. August was seeking.

When Bro. Phil moved his family to Cissna Park in March, 1946, he thought he would discontinue the ministry, but the Cissna Park church decided he should continue to be God's servant and bring forth His Word.

After serving for nearly 40 years, Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna decided it was time to retire. After consulting with the elder and fellow-ministers, the request was granted. So in Dec., 1980, after serving in the ministry for 40 years, we can say "thank-you," and we have the assurance of our Father's favor of "well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Other interesting observations noted during our interview were Bro. Phil's recording of all the chapters in which was contained the material used in his meditations. He also said that when it fell upon him to conduct services alone, the otherwise empty pulpit brought to mind how Jesus reassured Peter when he walked on the water to meet Jesus. Bro. Phil also felt that outstretched hand of support.

There were also rewarding times, such as the group of around 40 who came forward in repentance in 1954 and proved their desire to serve their Lord.

In reaching his decision to retire from the ministry, Bro. Phil felt assured that the church would continue to receive spiritual food through his retirement. This has truly been proven as Bro. Phil's son-in-law, Bro. Kenneth Eisenman, is fulfilling his responsibilities well beyond our expectations.

On Dec. 17, we enjoyed the Christmas story presented in verse and song by the Sunday School classes.

Renewal subscription dues to the

Silver Lining are payable in February.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Pat Rinkenberger - Mardell Ott

We congratulate Clarence and Sis. Peninna Miller as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. A reception was held Nov. 30 at the Goodfield Fellowship Hall.

We were privileged to have our Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard (Fairbury), Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury) and Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest) come and share, with us, the reading of the memorandum. We are thankful for these exhortations and for all the elders who sound the trumpet, warning of the evils 'round about us.

As the apostle Paul states in Ephesians 4:7, "Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power," so we wish Bro. Mike Rinkenberger God's grace and power as he takes on the responsibilities of preaching God's Word.

We wish to express our deep appreciation to Bro. Earl Gerber (Forrest) for coming and sharing, with us, many good teachings from the Word. May we not only be bearers of the Word, but doers.

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven. II Cor. 5:1-2. We can take comfort in these words even though we sorrow over the loss of our Bro. Kenneth Miller, 53, who passed away Dec. 5 after several months of illness. Our sympathy goes out to his wife, Sis. Betty, his daughter, Sis. Kathy, and his son, Jim. He will be missed by all of us, but we know we'll meet again on that resurrection day.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Bena Steffen and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein, who are both home again.

Clarence and Sis. Peninna Miller would like to thank all who remembered them with cards, gifts, and gifts of money. They also thank those who helped celebrate their 50th anniversary and made it such a wonderful day.

Sis. Betty H. Miller and family wish to express their sincere

thanks to everyone for the acts of kindness shown to them during the illness and passing of their husband and father, Bro. Kenneth Miller. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

From the beginning of time, when God created this earth, He said: "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years. . ." (Gen. 1:14) And so it has ever been without failure or breakdown. Day follows night, and night follows day, and we have days and years. With our Lord there is no variableness or shadow of turning. We find ourselves again at that point where one year passes and another begins. Let us consider well the exactness of our God. If He is able to keep the days and years from the beginning of time without so much as the loss of a moment, is He not able to keep the soul yielded to His will? What a comfort that can be when this pilgrimage becomes weary and we faint. Let us take new courage in the new year, seeking to do the Father's will day by day.

The Christmas season recently past was the cause for various groups to spend time caroling the joyous glad tidings of Jesus' birth from house to house. This holy birth was also the theme of our annual Christmas program where the children, sweet and innocent, so eagerly expressed in song and verse the meaning of that birth. It was encouraging to note that it was the Lord Himself that they wished to emulate—not the manger, hay, cattle, shepherds, wise men, etc., but the Holy Son of God, born as a humble babe. Truly He is worthy of being praised!

We have had varied illnesses among our loved ones here. Margaret Gould remains hospitalized, but has seen some progress with her leg ulcer. Sis. Marie Feoll had to return again to the hospital for a time. Bro. Carl Wiess, Sis. Ernestine Gudeman, Bro. Henry Kellenberger, Ed Schifferer, and little Brian Kellenberger (son of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie) all have required hospitalization and are home again. Sis. Ida Moser and little Jeremy Schambach (son of

Bro. Ed, Jr., and Sis. Gayle) remain hospitalized at this time. We are very grateful to report that Jeremy is improving after a very serious bout with meningitis. Sis. Nina Huber met with an accident which left her with a gash above her left eye. She too is recovering nicely.

Reuben Moser, 80, passed from this life Dec. 1, and we wish to extend our sympathy to his beloved family. He was born Oct. 19, 1900, in Morton, the son of Daniel and Fredericka Eckert Moser, and had lived in Elgin most of his life. He is survived by a son, Gerald of Darien, CT; five sisters, Sis. Nina Moser, Sis. Ida Moser, Ruth Moser, and Mrs. Florence Schneider, all of Elgin, and Mrs. Carl (Esther) Grams of Janesville, WI; and three grandchildren.

This past month we have been blest to have, with us, three beloved brothers who brought us teachings from the Word of God. It is our hope that this precious privilege to travel about freely and to share in our fellowship freely will never be taken for granted. These brethren are Phil Stettner (Bluffton), Maurice Frank (Leo), and Nathan Stoller (Bradford).

On Dec. 7, Bro. Timothy Schwab (son of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Rachel Schamback (daughter of Sis. Elizabeth) were united in holy matrimony. We rejoice with them and extend to them our best wishes for a life united together with the Lord, making their union a threefold cord.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

A new year with its blank pages is again before us; how will they be filled? A summary of the past year shows two baptisms, two weddings, three funerals, and 19 births. There were also nine deaths at the Home Complex with funerals at their respective churches.

We felt blessed in having 11 new converts. We hope and pray there will be more to follow while the waters are being troubled.

Sis. Cathryn Wettstein has recovered from successful cataract surgery. Bro. Ed Feller is still in the hospital following more surgery. We hope that he will be able to return home soon.

Our aged Sis. Hannah Frey was able to go to her rest Nov. 22. She

was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. John. Our sympathy goes to her family, Bro. Geo. Martin and Sisters Della Anliker and Edna Martin. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Leroy Huber. Her family wishes to thank all who remembered her during her illness and for the kindness shown them at her death.

On Nov. 29, Bro. Sam Anliker of Lamont, KS, was here to share in the reading of the Conference conclusions. We also appreciated his ministering to us on Sunday. A church potluck and singing was held Sunday evening, ending a most blessed weekend.

Among our many visitors on Sunday, Dec. 7, were Bros. Earl Kilgus, Remington, Everett Hari, Bloomington, and Don Wagenbach, Washington. Also, Bro. Harvey Heíniger of Burlington, along with others, was with us on a Wednesday evening. We always enjoy visitors and especially thank the brothers who are willing to serve us by sharing the Word.

We have three new baby boys to tell you about. Kevin Jay was born Nov. 17 to Kent and Janet Hodel. He has a brother, Eric, and a sister, Christine. The grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Mildred Hodel and the Harold Zobrists of Metamora. On Nov. 18, Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Beth Wettstein welcomed their second son, Alen Jon. His brother is Philip Dean. His grandparents are Harold and Loretta Wettstein and Bro. Sam and Sis. Elizabeth Blunier. Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling now have three little boys. Kevin Michael was born Dec. 9 and joins Eric and Brian at their home. His grandparents are Bro. Emil and Sis. Pearl Vierling of Oakville and Sis. Mildred Endress of Princeville.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

On Saturday evening, Nov. 22, the annual conference letter was read by Elder Bro. Loren Stoller from Latty and our local Elder Bros. Josh Broquard, Perry Zimmerman, and Arthur Bahler. May each of us be a support to our elders in preserving our precious faith.

We welcome Carl and Becky Kieser as our brother and sister in the Lord and pray we can all be a help to each other.

Our dear Sis. Anna Roth was called to her rest on Dec. 5 at the age of 92. Due to failing health, she was unable to assemble with us the last few years, but many of us have pleasant memories of her quiet, sweet disposition. We extend our sympathy to her surviving brothers, Bro. Sam, Morton; Joe, Peoria; Ben, Glendale, CA; John, Fairbury; and Bro. Harry, Phoenix, AZ.

The engagement of our Sis. Carol Thames (Bro. Phil and Sis. Kay) to Bro. Rick Hany (Alfred and Sis. Marcella) of the Gridley congregation was announced on Dec. 7. We wish them God's richest blessings in this endeavor. They are planning a Feb. 15 wedding.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 14, our Sunday School students gave their annual Christmas program. It is always inspiring to see and hear each student do his part.

It is the annual custom of our Sunday School to take a collection before Christmas for needy families in our area and then set aside one evening to deliver baskets of groceries, cash, etc. to those families and sing a Christmas carol for them. We have found that the children enjoy sharing their gifts of love, and it is an impressive evening for all. We plan to do this on Dec. 19.

We are thankful that Don Bazzell has answered the call of the Lord to repentance. He is the husband of Sis. Carol Bazzell.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Lydia Eisenmann, Bro. Donald Steidinger, Brian Moser (Keith and Nita), Dayton Steidinger (David and Deann), Kathy Walter, and John Roth.

A special thanks goes to our visiting ministers, Bros. Ron Heiniger, Bloomington; Elder Ed. Frank, Art Gudeman, and Don Gudeman, LaCrosse; Larry Weninger, Latty; and Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

We thank Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) for his visit and for bringing us the precious Word of Life.

May God add His blessing upon the marriage of Rita Leman (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Leona) and Marvin Wenger (Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia) who were married Nov. 29. They will reside in Forrest.

Hospital patients were Sis. Pauline Wiegand, Bro. John Stoller, and Bro. Frank Honegger. We are always thankful when the number is few to report. May we always be mindful of those confined to their home or a hospital bed when we kneel to pray.

Bro. Perry Zimmerman conducted funeral services for Menno Moser, who passed from this life into eternity Nov. 20. We offer our sympathy to his dear wife, Carrie. May she ever look to God for her comfort and strength.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger are the happy parents of little Carrie Ann, born Nov. 30. Lynn Marie is happy for a little sister. The grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Carolyn Zimmerman and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger.

Our dear Sis. Louise Zimmerman passed from this life Dec. 12 after many months of being confined to her home. Her loving presence will be missed by all of us, but more keenly felt by her children, Sis. Josephine Schlatter (with whom Sis. Louise made her home), Sis. Jean Aberle, Sis. Marge Kaisner, Sis. Betty Hodel, Henry, Ernie, and Bros. Perry, Glen, Allen, and Bob. May this large family circle be comforted in the knowledge that Sis. Louise is now "safe in the arms of Jesus."

The family of Sis. Elsie Waibel wishes to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to their friends and relatives for the many acts of kindness shown them during the illness and death of their loved one. May God bless and reward each one.

Services were held for Laverne Wiegand who passed away Dec. 16. We offer our sympathy to his mother, Sis. Carrie, who resides at Fairview Haven. His sisters and brothers are Sis. Carolyn Butikof (Elgin, IA), Sis. Leona Steffen (Forrest), Sis. Edith Zimmerman (Morton), Sis. Virginia Hilti (Forrest), Lester (Quincy), Bros. Paul and Wilbur (Forrest), Joe (Colfax), Bro. Dave (Urbana), and Ben (Morton).

During the year 1980, we had ten baptisms, 13 births, and nine deaths.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Verna Hartter

Thanksgiving Day was an especially thankful day for us, as it was

our first time to assemble for worship services in our newly remodeled church building. Although it is not finished in every detail, it was a joy once again to worship and kneel in prayer to our great God in His house.

Grant David is the new son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Carol Heinold. He was born on Dec. 6 and has two brothers, Clint and Thad. His grandparents are Sis. Esther Yentes of Morton and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mary Heinold.

A little girl, Diana Eileen, was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler on Dec. 11. Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin of Eureka and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marci Schieler are the happy grandparents.

On Dec. 10, we were once again reminded of the great importance of keeping the vows we made on that great day when we were accepted into the church, according to our faith and testimony. Bro. Roy Sauder of Peoria assisted in bringing the memorandum of the brother meeting to us.

We are very happy to have a new brother and sister in our congregation. They are Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Heinold. We enjoyed hearing their testimonies on Saturday, Dec. 13, and they were baptized into the fold on the following Sunday. We thank God for them. Bro. Joe Braker of Morton was willing to assist in this work.

We also appreciated the visits and messages brought by Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, Bro. Todd Feller, LaCrosse, Bro. Roy Grimm, Taylor, Bro. Don Manz, Junction, and Bro. Marshall Heinold, Washington. We thank God for these servants.

Sis. Sandy Hohulin has submitted to surgery, and we are very happy to see her back in our assembly.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Carol Klopfenstein

"Now this I say brethren that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God . . . for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible . . . then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." (I Cor. 15:50, 52, 54) These words of hope and promise were brought to mind at the funeral of Sis. Ida Witzig, 70, who passed away Dec. 10 in her home.

After a lingering illness, her sisters who attended her could hear her speak the memorable words, "I'm ready now," just a day or so before she died. Her life of faithfulness and devotion to following the way of her Savior bore witness that she was ready to be relieved of her earthly suffering, and can now be present with the Lord. Our sympathy is extended to her loved ones who remain. Here sisters are Sis. Emma Beckley of Remington, Sis. Anna Schneider of Peoria, Sis. Matilda and Sis. Pauline Witzig of Gridley and Sis. Ruth Meyer of Fairbury. Her brothers are Bro. Alpha, Bro. Sam, Bro. Edward and Bro. Elmer Witzig, all of Gridley.

The family of Sis. Ida Witzig wishes to thank every one who so kindly assisted them during the illness and death of their loved one and wishes God's blessings also for all the prayers.

"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scripture, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 3:15) We were filled with gladness and hope as we beheld the tender earnestness in the faces of our Sunday School children who have this blessed privilege of being taught the ways of the Lord in their impressionable years. On Sunday, Dec. 14, they told of the Christmas story in song and verse.

Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger and Sis. Wilma Zehr were hospital patients, recently.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Rick Hany of Gridley and Sis. Carol Thames of Fairbury was announced.

Amanda Elizabeth was born Dec. 10 to Ronald and Barbara Harris of El Paso. She has a brother, Ryan. Amanda's grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Betty Schmidgall of Gridley and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Harris of El Paso.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Jo Ann Roecker - Phyllis Farney

Sis. Hannah Frey of the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home, formerly of Morton, has passed away. Her funeral was on Nov. 24 at the Eureka church. May God comfort and bless her relatives and friends.

God has brought together two loved ones in faith who wish to become one in Christ in the holy bonds of matrimony. The engage-

ment of Sis. Beth Rapp, daughter of Bro. Howard and Sis. Delores Rapp, to Bro. David Kaiser, son of Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Ann Kaiser, was announced on Sunday, Nov. 23. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they establish their hearts and lives together in the Lord.

We rejoiced with Steve Zimmerman as he gave his testimony of faith on Saturday evening, Nov. 29. We witnessed his baptism on Sunday, Nov. 30. May God's grace and blessings be with our new Bro. Steve as he walks the narrow pathway of life. His parents are Russ and Sis. Vinie Zimmerman.

Bro. Harvey Zimmerman was called Home on Thanksgiving Day. He had undergone heart surgery. His funeral was on Nov. 29. May our Heavenly Father comfort and bless his wife, Sis. Stella, his family and friends. It is never easy to say "Farewell" to a loved one.

We are thankful that God has given grace to Marium Funk to repent and become converted. She gave her testimony of faith on Wednesday evening, Dec. 3. We then witnessed her baptism and welcomed her as our sister-in-faith. May God be with her in her new walk of life. Marium's parents are Bro. Wilbert and Sis. Vi Funk.

Bro. Al and Sis. Ginny Hunziker and Dan and Viola Schini are the happy grandparents of Benjamin John Schini, born on Nov. 27. Benjamin's parents and two sisters are John and Janet (Hunziker) Schini, Brenda and Betsy.

We wish to extend sympathy to Bro. Sam Roth upon the passing of his sister, Sis. Anna Roth. May the Lord richly comfort and bless her family and friends.

Our precious Sunday School children presented their annual Christmas program on Sunday evening, Dec. 14. It truly was a very blessed evening. May God bless all who helped to bring us this program.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 21, our whole church went Christmas caroling to our shut-ins and elderly loved ones. It was a blessing to see so many come to participate in singing to our precious ones. Truly, it was a blessed evening.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Marjorie Bertschi are the parents of their first son, Justin Robert, born on Dec. 16. Justin's sister, Jamie,

helped to welcome him home. The happy grandparents are Bro. Francis and Sis. Verna Rother and Bro. Gene and Sis. Dorothy Bertschi, Roanoke.

This month we have had the following people in the hospital: Kathryn Becker, Janet Simpson, Patty Bertschi, Sis. Mary Hauter, Sis. Marge Kaufman, Chris Frank, Bro. William J. Roekner and Bro. Al Koehl. May God continue to be with them and all who are sick or shut-in. May each one of us remember them in prayer.

Bro. Ron Heiniger, Normal-Bloomington, and Bro. Marshall Heindol, Washington, recently ministered God's Holy Word to us. May God bless them for their labors of love.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Menold family upon the passing of their father, Harold Menold, Peoria. May God comfort and bless his family and friends.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Wiegand family upon the passing of their brother, Laverne Wiegand, Forrest. May God comfort and bless his family and friends.

Our Morton congregation wishes all our Silver Lining readers a very blessed holiday season and new year. May the Lord richly bless each one of you.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner
AT DAY'S END

Is anybody happy because you passed his way?

Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?

The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;

Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?

Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,

That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;

Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,

"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?"

John Hall

As we look back to the year gone by, let's remember that the things we've accomplished in our daily living couldn't have been fulfilled without the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. So as we turn the page of the new year, let's hold on to the love of God. He gives us grace each day to live one day at a time. Most of all, let's make a greater effort to have our light shine for those around us.

"How shall it be when at last returning From weary wanderings and from toil and strife, Shall reach the home for which our heart is yearning and enter into everlasting life? When from our feet the dust of earth has vanished, The last sweat from our brow is wiped away, Our eyes behold what oft earth's care has vanished And gave to us new courage on our way."

Zion's Harp #147

Sis. Emma Menold was laid to rest on Nov. 17. The funeral of Sis. Rosa Kroos was also on Nov. 17. Sis. Clara Frank passed away and her funeral was in Oakville, IA, on Nov. 17. Henry Menold's funeral was held on Dec. 11.

We express our sincere sympathy to the families and friends of these dear ones.

Among the sick this month were Sis. Nettie Zimmerman, Sis. Naomi Frank, Sis. Naomi Haefli, Bro. Francis Meier, Bro. Ben Bauer, Jack Rahn, Kevin Clatt, and Paul Heindol. May God give comfort and strength to each one according to His will.

The conference conclusions were read to us on Wednesday, Nov. 19. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Joe Braker from Morton spend the evening with our congregation to assist our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder.

The family of John Waibel wishes to express their sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards, gifts, flowers and food, but most of all the love that was shown to them.

Bro. Walt Hess wishes to express his thanks to everyone who sent him cards, flowers and gifts during his stay in the hospital.

Bro. Norm and Sis. Connie Hoerr

were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Amanda Christine. The grandparents are August and Marie Hoerr and Ray and Sis. Doris Steffen of Forrest. May God bless their new bundle of love and may she bring joy and laughter into their hearts and home.

Correction: Sept. 27 was the wedding date of Martha Meister (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie) and Gordon Steffen (Sis. Eleanor and the late Bro. Elmer).

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Arlene and Arlys Martin

The Word of God and the indwelling Holy Spirit protect believers from false teachings and teachers. Visiting ministers who spoke of the Word and the Holy Spirit have been Bros. Al Langhofer of Wichita, KS; Kenny Dietz, Bradford; James Byrd, Roanoke; LeRoy Huber, Eureka; and Roy Ehnlé, Bradford.

Our sympathy is given to Bro. Chris Frank, whose wife, Sis. Naomi, passed away Nov. 26. Sis. Naomi was born on Aug. 2, 1898, to Bro. John and Sis. Maggie Traub. She married Chris Frank on Oct. 4, 1923. Surviving besides her husband are a son, Raymond of Dunlap, two grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, one brother, and two sisters.

Sympathy is also extended to Sis. Anna Roach. Her brother, Henry Menold of Phoenix, AZ, passed away on Dec. 7.

Carol Ann Eberle, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Marie Eberle, was married to Helms Ganey on Nov. 2.

Chuck Streitmatter, son of Andrew and Bernice Streitmatter, was married to Linda Johnson on Nov. 8.

Nov. 29 was the wedding day of Donna Lou Streitmatter and Joseph O'Kane. The parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter and Glen and Connie O'Kane of Princeville.

Congratulations go to Fred Christ and Tina Logsdon. They have announced their engagement and plan to be married in February. The parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ of our congregation and Lennie and Hazel Logsdon of Pekin.

Abigail Jo is the name chosen for the newest daughter of Bro. Earl and Sis. Margaret Feucht.

Abigail was born on Dec. 7. Daniel, Mark, Rachel, and Sara are pleased to have a little sister. Her grandparents are Bro. Daniel and Sis. Natalie Feucht of Princeville and Bro. Joshua and Sis. Marie Broquard of Fairbury.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 14, our Sunday School children told us about the birth of our precious Saviour. How refreshing it is to hear children speak of Jesus Christ.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Farewell, Old Year!
With goodness crowned
A hand divine hath set thy bound.

Welcome, New Year,
Which shall bring
Fresh blessings from my God and King!

The old we leave without a tear,
The new we hail without a fear.

Because,
I know that o'er it all
Rules He who notes a sparrow's fall.

Unknown

Best wishes go to three young couples who were united in marriage. Phyllis Fischer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Pat) and Keith Brown began their new life together. Eldon Hohulin (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marie) and Susan Cherveney (Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cherveney) were married Nov. 22. Bro. Mark Hodel (Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann) and Sis. Pam Moser (Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi) Oakville, IA, were united in holy matrimony Nov. 23. We welcome Sis. Pam to our congregation.

Love that is shared is a beautiful thing.

It enriches the soul and makes the heart sing.

Helen Steiner Rice

Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg Stoller welcome a little son, Matthew Edward. Little Timmy has a playmate now. May God bless them!

Bro. John and Sis. Lynn Getz are the happy parents of their first daughter, Leigh Nicole. Bro. Dick and Sis. Mabel Getz and Bro. Willis and Sis. Bernice Knapp are the grandparents. Little Leigh had surgery. We pray that God's healing hand will quickly restore her

to good health.

Sis. Pat Fischer was hospitalized but is home again.

The Sunday School Christmas program was enjoyed by all. It's such a special blessing to hear our children sing of the Saviour's birth. May they always remember that it is not the babe, but Christ, the man, who walked in Galilee. 'Tis not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free.

We were privileged to have Bro. Fred Knapp (Congerville) and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and David Bertsch (Leo) with us as visiting ministers. We appreciated their loving messages.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagonbach - Phyllis Lang

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Noah Gerber (West Bend) and Noah Herman (Tuscon). We thank them for their labors of love and wish them God's blessings.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and family in the passing of her father, Bro. Harvey Zimmerman (Morton).

Sis. Leah Winzeler has moved to the Apostolic Christian Restmor Nursing Home in Morton. We hope she enjoys her new "home."

Kevin Dill (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy) broke a bone in his hand while he was in school. Della Schweigert (Willard) had the misfortune of falling and breaking her wrist. Bro. Fred Beutel also spent some time in the hospital but has been recuperating at home. We wish God's healing power on all our loved ones that have been laid up.

Our sympathy is also with Della Schweigert (Willard) and family in the death of her mother, Sis. Hulda Streitmatter (Peoria).

Our Sunday School children presented the wonderful Christmas story again. We thank the teachers for their time and patience as they teach our children from their youth until young adulthood.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel welcomed Julie Kay into their family on Dec. 15. She has sisters, Teresa, Jennifer, Marcia and Dinan and a brother, Steven, to help take care of her. The grandparents are Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach and Bro. William Beutel.

Stephanie Lynn was the name chosen for Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel's first baby. She was born Dec. 17. Her grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach and Bro. David and Sis. Eunice Beutel.

"Another year is dawning
Dear Master let it be,
n working or waiting,
Another year with Thee."
Hymns of Zion #150

January is collection time for the Silver Lining.

"And Jesus called a little child unto him in the midst of them, and said, 'Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" Matt. 18:3-4.

We rejoice with our new converts who have turned to the Lord. They are Faith and Melody Klaus, Ben and Patrice Metzger, Robert Pfaffmann, Lori Wyss, Kary Streitmatter, and Tom Wuthrich. We pray that they may have abundant grace and peace from Jesus.

Elder Bros. Roy Sauder and Dan Koch of Tremont brought us the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference this month. We are thankful for their labors of love. Also this month, our visiting ministers were Bros. Ralph Graber of Morton, Marvin Schmidgall of Eureka, and Joe Schrock of Congerville. May God bless them and their families.

Bro. Chris Koehl was hospitalized, but we are glad he is feeling better and back with us again.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Pearlina Streitmatter and Sis. Lydiann Wyss and their families who lost their mother and grandmother, Sis. Karoline Metzger of Lester.

We had our annual church Christmas caroling on Dec. 14. We enjoyed the oneness of our family of God as each person, young and old, spread the holiday cheer to those less fortunate. May all of you have a blessed holiday season.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Gayla Baumgartner
Tami Fiechter

On the weekend of Dec. 9-10, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms

of Craig Stoller, son of Bro. Richard and Sis. Arlene, and Trent Bucher, son of Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis. May our Father in heaven ever lead our new brothers as they walk this heavenly journey.

Bro. Art Ringger (Indianapolis) and Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo) visited us this month and shared God's Word with our congregation. We would like to thank these brothers for their labors of love given to us.

Jesus loves the little children. Bro. Dean and Sis. Cyndee Feichter welcome a precious bundle, Leah Elizabeth, into their family. Andrew Lee was the name given to Bro. Steve and Sis. Fonda Fiechter's first child. Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen welcome their third daughter, Lori Ann, into their home. May the parents of these little children ever seek the Lord's guidance.

Several from our congregation have spent time in the hospital this month. They are: Bro. Arlen Tonner; Bro. Noah Aschliman; Bethany Maller, daughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda; and Krista Schaefer, daughter of Bill and Linda. May each one feel God's love and presence at all times.

Sis. Emma Isch passed away at the age of 99. Although she could not attend church for some time, she has loved and served her Lord for many years. What a blessing it was when the Lord called her Home. We extend our sympathy to her children, Sis. Alice Honegger (Bluffton), Sis. Essie Isch and Sis. Mary Diggelman (Union City, NJ), and Ed Isch.

On Nov. 29, we were privileged to hear the reading of the memorandum. May we heed these timely warnings and strive to be obedient as we walk the pathway of life.

By God's loving direction, Bro. Ken Dubach and Sis. Jodi Isch have announced their engagement. Their parents are Al and Billie Dubach and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch. Bro. Greg Gerber, son of Bro. Frederick and Sis. Margaret, and Sis. Joan Schwartz, daughter of Bro. Kenny and Sis. Elizabeth, announced their engagement on Dec. 7. May the Lord's blessings be with these couples.

As a new year is dawning, may our Father above ever be by our side and direct us in all we do. Again, may we thank Him for His

protection through another year!

LITTLE THINGS

Just little deeds of kindness
Along with love and cheer
Can place a rainbow in the sky,
Each day throughout the year.

There are so many little things
Just waiting to be done—
So many needy golden deeds
Before Life's setting sun.

Today is here, so use it well;
How fast the moments fly!
Don't leave undone the little things;
Put rainbows in the sky.

INDIANA, BREMEN (See South Bend)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jacki Huber - Wendy Gutwein

At our annual Thanksgiving program, one of the poems that was read told us that instead of feeling bitter when we are seemingly taken for granted, we should rejoice, realizing that "whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant." Matt. 20, 27. If we want to be truly great in God's kingdom, we must learn to be servants here on earth.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Kenneth and Vernon Pelsy and Elaine (Pelsy) Logan at the death of their dear mother, Sis. Lydia Pelsy. Sis. Lydia had spent the past years at Parkview Haven Rest Home. When a true Christian dies, we can't help but rejoice, realizing there isn't death, but rather life eternal awaiting.

We miss our friends, Bruce and Coleen (Long) Westfall, in our congregation, as Bruce is spending time in Newport News, VA, with the Army.

It is always refreshing to spend time with those of like mind and faith. We enjoyed fellowship with couples from Fairbury and Forrest, IL, and were also thankful to have had Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) here to share the Word with us on the same Sunday.

Three doesn't necessarily have to mean a crowd! Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman can attest to this, as they welcome their third child, Bart Thomas, into their home. Tanessa and Phillip are also happy to have a new baby brother.

The engagement of Kim Boehning (daughter of Stan and Maxine) to Mark Davidson (Mr. and Mrs. Warner Davidson) was announced. We wish them God's blessings.

A marriage in the Lord can be so beautiful! We were again reminded of this when Bro. Brad Barnes and Sis. Becky Bucher were united in marriage. Bro. Brad is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Barnes of Monticello, and Sis. Becky is the daughter of Bro. Elmer and Sis. Peg Bucher.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Al Getz and Sis. Peg Bucher, as they have been hospital patients this past month.

As a new year is beginning, thousands—probably millions—of resolutions will be made. If every true Christian would "resolve" to live closer to our dear Lord, reading with a real hunger for the Word, praying more sincerely and striving to be more in tune with the Holy Spirit, more good could be brought than we could imagine! May this be our goal every day.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS

Bobbi Erb

On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14, Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), Don Sauder (Roanoke) and Orville Ringger (Bluffton) shared the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference with us. May we each take to heart the words of warning and counsel given to us and pray for grace and strength to serve the Lord.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Brenda Suttor are parents of a baby girl, Heidi Marie, born Nov. 20. Her grandparents are Allen and Verla Suttor (Bremen) and George and Peggy Grant (Lexington).

I recently read an illustration that has stuck with me. Robert J. Little said, "If you have on a table two pitchers, one filled with vinegar and the other with honey, and you tip them over, what will come out?" "Of course that which is already inside." In life we are tipped over by the unexpected crises, the minor irritations, the people who are thoughtless or who hurt us. Our reaction to these life situations will reveal what's inside us. The more we fill our minds and hearts with the Word, the more the honey can replace the vinegar.

INDIANA, LA CROSSE Pearl Nuest - Lu Ann Feller

Bro. William Schlatter, Junction, OH, and Bro. Larry Wenninger, Latty, OH, were with us for Thanksgiving services. May God bless them for their labor of love.

Saturday evening, Nov. 29, Elder Bros. Leo Moser, Lester, Edward Lanz, Oakville, and Alfred Bahler, Wolcott, were present to read the memorandum of the recent Conference. May we all stay near to God so we will not be found wanting when the Lord returns for His own.

Kenneth Schneider spent Sunday, Dec. 14, with us. May God be his rewarder.

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

Hymns of Zion

Sis. Diana (Bob) Gudeman had back surgery. May she have a speedy recovery.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion

INDIANA, LEO Mrs. Phil Schlatter Mrs. Al Frautschi

A New Year's Resolution

I will—

like Paul, forget those things which are behind, and press forward;
like David, lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help.

like Abraham, trust implicitly in my God;

like Enoch, walk in daily fellowship with my Father;

like Jehosaphat, chose rather to suffer than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

like Daniel, commune with my God at all times;

like Job, be patient under all circumstances;

like Caleb and Joshua, refuse to be discouraged because of superior numbers;

like Joseph, turn my back to all seductive advances;

like Gideon, advance even though my friends be few;

like Aaron, uphold the hands of my spiritual leaders;

like Isaiah, consecrate myself to do God's work;

like Andrew, strive to lead my brother into a closer walk with Christ;

like John, lean upon the bosom of the Master and imbibe of His Spirit;

like Stephen, manifest a forgiving spirit toward all who seek my hurt;

like Timothy, study the word of God; and

like the heavenly Host, proclaim the message of peace on earth.

Realizing that I cannot hope to achieve these objectives by my own strength, I will rely upon Christ for "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

(George Burger)

The congregation was blessed by the ministry of Bro. Edwin Ringger, Gridley, IL.

Shawn Krause, one of our Sunday School boys, was hit by a car and hospitalized. It's good news that he has recovered.

Baby Adam Joseph was born Dec. 14 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Carolyn Bollier. Among those who welcome him are his sisters, Jennifer and Katy, and brother, Andy.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Elizabeth Pulfer and family in the passing of her son, Raymond Pulfer, 63.

On Dec. 14 the Sunday School children presented a Christmas program in song and class presentations of the birth of Jesus. Prior to the program we all enjoyed a potluck supper and time of Christian fellowship.

On Dec. 27 Elder Bro. Loren Stoller was with us as we shared the Brotherhood Conference report. We pray for grace and the Holy Spirit to guide us as we heed the counsel and warnings from God's Word as shared with us by our elder brethren.

Let us pray not for lighter burdens but for stronger backs.

(Theodore Roosevelt)

Your tomorrow has to get past Him before it can get to you!

We do not know what the future holds; but we know Who holds the future—a comforting thought for 1981!

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

INDIANA, MILFORD Connie Beer - Sandy Beer

A traveler crossed a frozen stream
In trembling fear one day;
Later a teamster drove across,
And whistled all the way.

Great faith and little faith alike
Were granted safe convoy;
One had the pangs of needless fear,
The other all the joy.

Author Unknown

Elder Bros. David Bertsch (Leo) and Wendell Gudeman (Francesville) were present on the evening of Dec. 6 to present the 1980 Con-
currence letter. Members from South Bend were also present. We appreciate the great efforts of our elder brothers.

Tim Steffen, son of Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy, was hospitalized with his back problem. Andy Weldy is presently hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers are with each soul that suffers adversity. Helen Keller once wrote:

"Impatient with frustrations, we ask ourselves why terrible obstacles should be placed in our path! We cannot but wonder at times why we cannot have smooth sailing instead of being compelled always to fight against adverse winds and rough seas. No doubt the reason is that character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved."

Sis. Hulda Graff (Bro. Oscar) is getting around some better at home. Also, Bro. Andy Kammerer is continuing his treatments. It seems that we cannot appreciate good health enough.

Bro. Lewis and Sis. Mim Speicher have announced the engagement of their daughter, Amy, to Tom Kroh. Amy's grandparents are Bro. Theo and Sis. Naomi Beer.

Signs of the end times are everywhere. When the great angel announces that time shall be no more—what then?

"When the choir has sung its last
anthem
And the preacher has made his
last prayer;
When the people have heard their
last sermon
And the sound has died out in the

air;
When the Bible lies closed on the
altar
And the pews are all empty of
men,
And each one stands facing his
record—

And the great book is opened—
WHAT THEN?

Cowman

PURDUE UNIVERSITY INDIANA, LAFAYETTE Verene Von Tobel

(We) "are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord." Eph. 2: 20-21. At the beginning of a new year we need to look over our spiritual house. We need to guard against decay. The spiritual weather of the past year may have been very stormy or we may have borne only the lights rains of this life. Whatever our spiritual weather this past year, we can all look at our house and repair or strengthen it for the new year. This is the time to set our house in order or insulate it with prayer for a year of faith that it will stand no matter what the weather is ahead.

Bro. Mike Gutwein and family have moved home to Francesville for Mike's veterinary externship. We are also happy for Bro. Mike Fritz, who has accepted a job with Caterpillar and will be assembling with the Washington church. We will miss all of them here at Purdue! We are again thankful for those brethren who have come for our services. Our neighboring ministers, Bro. Vernon Schwab and Bro. Edwin Bahler, came to support us on Wolcott's turn, and Bro. Frederick Knapp came on Congerville's night. We praise the Lord for our faithful brethren. Francesville hosted us at our annual Christmas program and we all praised God together for "The Gift of Christmas" which was our theme.

These times are special, and through practicing for the program, we received blessings of just being together. We again had the privilege of gathering for a group supper where we exchanged gifts and friendship—how wonderful heaven must be! ! !

INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

Christmas shines with brightness and then, so fast, it fades. But we pray the precious message of our Saviour's birth never quiets or losses brightness in all hearts year around.

The memorandum was read to us this month. Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) and Ezra Feller (Cissna Park, IL). We appreciate their special efforts and wish them God's blessings.

Our hearts rejoice with Andy and Mary Zickman. It was announced that they have found peace with God. How thankful we are that grace is still given to us to make our hearts right with the Lord.

We are happy to write that Loren Wilson (Sis. Velma) is home and doing well after undergoing surgery. He expressed thanks to all who supported him in prayer and cards. "Hide thyself as it were for a little moment. . ." (Isa. 26: 20)

In the Talmud there is a story of a peasant worker who fell in love with the daughter of his wealthy employer. She also loved him and, despite her father's violent objections, married him. Aware of her husband's ardent love for learning, she insisted that he go to the great rabbinical academy at Jerusalem. He studied twelve years while she, disowned by her family, suffered in poverty and loneliness. Though still eager for advanced studies, he returned home. When he reached the door of his house, he overheard his wife saying to a neighbor that even though the pain of separation seemed more than she could bear, she hoped and prayed that he would return to the academy for further study. Without a word to anyone, he went back to the school for twelve years more of study. Once again he turned determined footsteps toward his native village, but this time all Palestine was singing his praises as the most brilliant and scholarly mind of his generation. As he entered the market place, he was caught in the crowd of a reception committee that had gathered to honor their native son. While people were pressing about him, he saw a woman, her body bent, her face wrinkled. He realized that

this prematurely old woman, whom the milling crowd ignored and pushed back, was his beloved wife. "Let her through," he shouted. "Let her through. It is she, not I, whom you should honor—she who sacrificed while I studied. Had it not been for her willingness to work and wait, to serve and suffer, I would be today a peasant laborer and not Rabbi Akeba." Mrs. Charles E. Cowman

Perhaps we can learn from her that a quiet, simple life, faithful to our Lord, is one that is a blessed sacrifice.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Gayle Bucher

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;

Heed the word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way.

Evil are the worldly pleasures,
Leading to eternal fire:

Seek the everlasting treasure,

Ere the day of grace expire.

Zion's Harp, "Repent Ye!"

Our congregation rejoices with Nancy Lehman who has chosen the Lord to be the Master of her life. Her parents are Bro. Vern and Sis. Leona. Our prayers are surely with her as she takes this most important step.

We humbly thank Bros. Al Langhofer, Art Baurer, and Gene Lehman for sharing God's Word with us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for spending their time and talents with us.

We are happy to have Sis. Pauline Laidig worshipping with us again. She was hospitalized for gall bladder surgery and is making a satisfactory recovery.

Our dear Sis. Marie Germann had the misfortune of falling and breaking her arm recently. May the Lord grant His healing power to all those who are in need.

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Cor. 4:17.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Kris and Laurel Widmer

Suzanne Lehman

The Lord has again directed two pathways into one. Bro. Tim Schwab (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Rachel Shambach

were united in holy matrimony, Dec. 7, in Elgin, IL. We welcome Sis. Rachel to our congregation and wish them every happiness in their lives together.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume, along with sons Brian and Brent, welcome into their home and hearts their new little bundle of joy, Derek Neal, born Dec. 11.

We're looking forward to hearing the beautiful Christmas story this year at the Christmas program. It is such a blessing at this time to contemplate the love God had for us by sending His Son. The obedience and faith of Mary and Joseph are also an inspiration to us as we walk the narrow way. Truly our all is little compared to the many gifts God has given us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

Thanksgiving Eve, Bro. Ed Lanz was down for our mid-week service. Thanksgiving Day, Bro. John Steiner had the message. On the next Sunday, Bro. Jerry Kuntz was our guest minister. We want to thank these loving brothers for taking time out to help the Burlington congregation. Bro. Harveys spent some time with their daughter, Sandy, in Atlanta over the Thanksgiving holidays, and Bro. Uriel spent time at West Union with his mother at the Good Samaritan Home. 19 were at the home for the noon meal. Church was held in the forenoon at Elgin, IA. Some spent the weekend at Winthrop.

On Tuesday evening, Bro. Ed Aeschleman stopped in and paid us a nice visit.

Elder Bro. Don Sauder spent a Sunday with us. Isn't our fellowship something the world knows nothing about? We give a special thank you to Bro. Don for taking his precious time for our church in Burlington.

Our monthly singing was held Sunday evening with good attendance. The singing was so beautiful.

Sis. Rekie Anliker has recently been a hospital patient. She got to go home yesterday; may the Lord stand by her side. Timna, daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Dorothy Taege, had her tonsils out on a Monday morning.

To think that 1980 is gone, never to return again. What will the coming year bring? We need not

worry, for we are told to take no thought of tomorrow, only place our trust in God, and He will abundantly supply all our needs. Did we fall short in doing all we resolved to do in 1980? We cannot see what lies ahead, but we can pray that we will have courage and faith in God to face whatever may come. Let us pray that we can each do our bit to help the poor, the sick, the weary of heart, and those who grieve. Let us pray for strength to overcome our own weakness and for courage to make amends to those whom we may have hurt. Let us resolve to do all we can for others, for the only thing we can take with us is what we have given.

ARE YOU?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you generally stay away,
Then criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you the sort that's satisfied
To only just belong?

When the business session comes
around,
Do you pretend you're sick
And leave the work to just a few,
Then talk about "the clique"?

Think it over, member;
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member
Or do you "just belong"?

Author Unknown

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

What a lovely picture meets our gaze this morning; snow is busily covering the fields, waysides and meadows with its whiteness. Yes, it appears as though we may have a white Christmas. I just sighted three cardinals in our birch tree; they seemingly are waiting for their turn at the sunflower seed container. Their plumage is so beautifully gorgeous; it reminds one that God our Creator must be beyond a doubt love beauty because He created so many lovely things.

We recently held our annual

election for our Sunday School teachers and other offices. Those elected to replace out-going ones were: Bible class, Bro. Albert Butikofer (teacher) and Bro. John Schupbach (substitute); Junior Bible class, Bro. Chas. Schneider (teacher) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (substitute); Intermediate class, Sis. Sue Schneider (teacher) and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer (substitute); Second Grade Class, Sis. Karla Moore (teacher) and Sis. Jan Frieden (substitute); Primary Class, Sis. Janet Mogler (teacher) and Sis. Gloria Frieden (substitute); Trustees, Bro. Lonnie Butikofer, Bro. Floyd Frieden, and Bro. Elmer Butikofer; Ushers, Bro. Jim Butikofer and Bro. Chas. Schneider, and Songleader, Bro. Lonnie Butikofer interchanging with Bro. Al Butikofer and Bro. John Schupbach.

Bro. Floyd Frieden is to care for the recording of sermons, etc. Bro. Bert Butikofer is our representative for the Home for the Handicapped. Bro. Orville Moore manages the car parking when the occasions demand the service.

Congratulations and best wishes are due Sis. Sandy Butikofer, wife of Bro. Lonnie; she just completed a R.N. course at Calmar, IA (area school).

We are so happy to let you know that Julie, wife of Gene Moore, has turned to the Lord. No doubt you recall that last month's column related that Gene was repenting. May God richly bless both of these dear folks.

It will be January by the time these paragraphs reach you, but I want to say that the caroling of the Christmas carols and the program which the Sunday School presented were both delightful.

We are happy to see Mr. and Mrs. Roger Halverson and their children, Candace and Wade, at our church services. They recently moved from Marshall, MN, to Elgin. Mrs. Halverson (Sharlene) is the daughter of LaVerne and the late Lavila Schneider.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Loftsgard and children, Jeremy and Joey, recently moved to Clermont, where they purchased a home. We are always delighted to see them at our church services.

We thank Bros. Noah Gerber, West Bend, and Uriel Gehring for their visits to our church and their

explanations of the Scriptures.

A group from our church gathered at the Samaritan Nursing Home at West Union recently to sing for the residents.

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep
I remember so well this prayer I said
Each night as my mother tucked me in bed.
And today this same prayer is still the best way
To "sign off with God" at the end of the day,
To ask Him your soul to safely keep
As you wearily close tired eyes in sleep
Feeling content that the Father above
Will hold you secure in His great arms of love.
Having His promise that if 'ere you wake
His angels will reach down your sweet soul to take
Is perfect assurance that awake or asleep
God is always right there to tenderly keep
All of His children ever Safe in His care,
For God's here and He's there and He's everywhere.
So into His hands each night as I sleep
I commit my soul for the dear Lord to keep,
Knowing that if my soul should take flight
It will soar to the land where there is no night.

Helen Rice

May our readers all enjoy a blessed new year.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharolyn Metzger

Let us remember as we begin the new year that all things are made possible through our Heavenly Father—that we by ourselves can do nothing. May we therefore solicit support from on high as we make our resolutions—adding always that His will and not ours be done.

Once again we were blest with His holy Word through visiting Bro. Kenny Dietz, Bradford, IL; Bro. Jerry Kuntz and Bro. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville; and Bro. Fred Knapp, Congerville, IL. We are thankful for the effort put

forth by each. We appreciate all who come and join us in our worship.

The presence of Sis. Pam Moser will truly be missed in our gatherings. May God be with her and Bro. Mark Hodel as they journey through this life together.

"Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for thee."

#150 in Hymns of Zion

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

We wish peace and blessings to all who read the Silver Lining in this fresh new year. The joys and disappointments, the triumphs and mistakes of 1980 are now history. We hope the joys and triumphs will outweigh the mistakes and disappointments as we begin the year ahead.

After 93 years of traversing through this life, Sis. Carrie Metzger was called to her heavenly rest on Nov. 22. Born in 1887 in Wuttenburg, Germany, she came to America at the age of three with her parents. She and Fred observed their 73rd anniversary just five days before her death. She was preceded in death by two sons, Bro. Emil and Paul. Survivors include her husband, 84 grandchildren, 145 great-grandchildren and 12 children: Sis. Emma Meyer, Sis. Freida Mogler, Sis. Karoline Wuthrich, Sis. Lydiann Wyss, Sis. Pauline Streitmatter and Bros. Ernst, Wilhelm, Jacob, Elmer, Eli, Fredrick and Roy Metzger. The family is grateful for the many kindnesses shown to their mother during her long illness and at the time of her death.

After a very short illness, Bill Moser was called from this life on Dec. 4 at the age of 78. He and Viola were privileged to celebrate their 50th anniversary two years ago. Besides the widow, he is survived by sons Howard and Bill and six grandchildren. This family, too, very much appreciates the love and kindness shown to them. May God reward everyone's thoughtfulness.

A dear young soul has answered the tender, loving call of Jesus and has turned in repentance to her Saviour. LuAnn Metzger, daughter of Bro. Fred and Sis. Esty, has begun the heavenly race. We thank

God for souls who seek to walk in His ways.

We were blest to have visiting ministers bring us messages from God's Word. Bro. Virgil Metzger, Champaign, Bro. Art Nohl, Morris, and Bro. Wayne Fehr, West Bend, have our thanks for their endeavors.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee Knobloch and their young family have moved to the Zapata, TX, area. Since their move, a new little girl has been added to their family. We were sorry to have them leave but know they will be a welcome addition to the Zapata church.

On Nov. 23, Monty Wayne was born to Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Whye. His grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Zelma Knobloch and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Van Wyhe. He is welcomed home by a brother and two sisters. Joshua Lee was born on Dec. 9 to Gary and Sis. Ronda TeSlaa. He has one brother, and his grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Lucy Knobloch and Mr. Alfred Teslaa.

Spending some time in the hospital recently were Clay Metzger, son of Keith and Mary, Paulette Feucht, daughter of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie, and Bro. Dennis Kellenberger.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jerilyn Wagenbach

"Our love shall not diminish. . ." Zion's Harp #137. On Nov. 23, Sis. Pam Moser was married to Bro. Mark Hodel of Roanoke, IL. We wish them the Lord's blessings and trust that He will be part of the "three-fold cord" found in a Christian home. Sis. Pam's parents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser, and Bro. Mark is the son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Ruth Ann Hodel.

Also on Nov. 23, announcement was made of the betrothal of Sis. Lorna Schulz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy) to Bro. Brian Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) of Taylor, MO. May the Lord bless and guide them throughout their engagement and in their new life together.

Kay Grimm became the bride of Max Ireland on Dec. 6. Kay's parents are Bro. Kenny and Janice Grimm of Oakville. May this young couple also seek to have a home that God will bless with His presence.

Again, sadness has been in our midst as several families have lost loved ones in the Lord. Sis. Clara Frank, formerly of Burlington, passed away Nov. 14 at the Christian Buehler Memorial Home in Peoria where she had lived since 1962. She was born April 23, 1890, at Eureka, IL, to Bro. William and Sis. Hannah Streitmatter Frank. Surviving are one sister, Sis. Lena Siegle (Oakville), and three brothers, Bro. Ernest (Oakville), Bro. Chris (Princeville), and William R. (Moline, IL). The family wishes to thank all who remembered them with prayers and acts of kindness in the loss of their sister and aunt.

The Lord gained another "precious jewel" when He took Adair Scheiler Beyer, infant son of Bro. Peter and Sis. Luanne Beyer, as a "gem for His crown" on Nov. 27. Left behind are his parents; brothers, Andrew and Koertland; sister Barbechen; grandmother, Sis. Hilda Gerst; and great-grandmother, Sis. Mary Scheiler (Francesville, IN).

Bro. Dave Miller passed away on Dec. 2 at Mediapolis Care Center. He was born Mar. 2, 1903, in Burlington, OK, to Gottfried and Katie Schini Miller. He married Sis. Sarah Heiniger Dec. 24, 1926, at Seneca, KS. Surviving are his wife; three sons, Harlan (Gladstone, IL), David (Bettendorf), and Robert (Mediapolis); four daughters, Rose Marie Rydberg (Arkansas City, KS), Sis. Ruby (Bro. Joe) Eberhardt (Oakville), Shirley Earnest (Wapello), and Ellen Moehle (Mediapolis); 25 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; a brother, Eli Miller (Peoria); and a sister, Rose Barth (Roanoke, IL).

May the Lord comfort each one in their loss and grant them His sustaining grace.

As we end the old year and begin the new, may we remember, each day, to serve our Lord according to His will.

God, Grant Us Hope
And Faith and Love
Helen Steiner Rice

HOPE for world grown cynically
cold,
Hungry for power and greedy for
gold,
FAITH to believe when within and
without
There's a nameless fear in a world

of doubt,
LOVE that is bigger than race or
creed
To cover the world and fulfill each
need—
God, grant these gifts to all
troubled hearts
As the old year ends and a new
year starts.

IOWA, PULASKI Ginny Wuthrich Mary Wiegand

As we are starting another new year, we can look back and say that the Lord surely has been good to us. May this be another year filled with His rich blessings.

Bro. Harvey Heiniger from Burlington, IA, was recently with us. We are always glad when he and his wife come to Pulaski. Bro. Wally Ramsier from Mansfield, OH, was here, too. We surely appreciate the efforts these brothers put forth to come many miles to serve us. When Bro. Jim Haerr from Peoria came, he stressed how we should let our love and esteem for each other be shown more outwardly. It makes the devil's work much harder. We had another blessed weekend when our Elder Bros. Leo Moser, Gene Marti, and Ed Lanz came to read the memorandum to us. They emphasized the importance of self-discipline and self-sacrifice. Bro. Gene said how important it is to discern the spirits and to not leave the "body of Christ." Bro. Leo followed it up by telling us that to "obey God and keep His commandments" is what life is all about.

Sis. Hattie Miller doesn't get out very much, so one evening the Sunday School children went to her home to sing for her. It is such a joy to see the children sing with all their hearts. Hattie was so happy they came.

Danny and Sis. Lynn Townsend welcomed their fourth little boy into the family. Big brothers to little Cody Wayne are Joshua, Jamie and Cory. Cory was especially happy because he was born on his birthday.

Little Jill Cruikshank had to have surgery but has bounced back and is fine now. Her dad and mother are Lowell and Sis. Billie Cruikshank.

Sis. Karoline Wuthrich and Sis. Shirley Wuthrich have our sympathy in the death of their mother

and grandmother, Sis. Carrie Metzger from Lester.

IOWA, WEST BEND Judy Fehr - Elma Mogler

We were truly blessed when visiting minister Bro. Roger Aberle of Sabetha brought forth the true Word.

On the evening of Dec. 14, our Sunday School rooms were filled with eager smiling faces of children who then became sober as they filed into the sanctuary to tell of God's love and the birth of His beloved Son who came so long ago to redeem us.

The first Tuesday of December is the time for our annual business meeting and prayerful thought and consideration. This was the year for a new usher. Bro. Larry Wickman was replaced by Bro. David Bruellman. We also chose two Sunday School teachers. Bro. Verner Wirtz was replaced by Bro. Larry Fehr and Sis. Betty Banwart was replaced by Sis. Sue Schneider. May they ever look to God for guidance.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Fehr have been blessed with a precious "bundle from heaven," Dona Mae, who was born Dec. 5. Her grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Potts, Burnettsville, IN.

Our hearts go out to Bonnie Anliker and her husband Sid whose mother, Mrs. Elva (Bill) Weber, passed away recently. We also sympathize with Sis. Edna Banwart, Sis. Nima Fehr and Bro. Lawrence because of the loss of their brother, Paul Schneider of Mallard.

There is never a life without
sadness,
There is never a heart free from
pain;
If one seeks in the world for true
solace,
He seeks it forever in vain.
So when to your heart comes the
sorrow
Of losing some dear one you've
known
'Tis the touch of God's sickle at
harvest
Since He reaps in the fields He
has sown.

Author Unknown

Sis. Emma Sauder is doing very well after having cataract surgery.

As the new year approaches, it might be of interest to note that during 1980 the Lord has called and added to the fold five souls. We have had ten new babies added to our congregation during the year. There were nine couples united in marriage, and we experienced two deaths during 1980. We need the Lord's help in every step we take.

JAPAN, SHIODA Evie Blunier

During practice of our Nativity Play for the kindergarten Christmas program, I was stopped short and deeply touched by the faith of "Mary" and "Joseph." We had directed Kumiko-chan and Hirokikun to go to sleep while the piano played "Silent Night" just before Jesus is born. "But we want to pray first," they said. "Oh, for the heart of a child," we teachers thought as we hastily added "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep" to the script.

"And that's the story about Baby Jesus," says the little "grandmother" in the final scene. "But we can't be shepherds. And we can't be wisemen," say the "children" at her feet. "No, we can't, but Jesus came for everyone. Then Jesus died for everyone. Now we can all pray to Jesus," she explains, and in her clear child's voice, the message is poignant. . . "What can I give Him, small as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb; If I were a wiseman, I would do my part. Yet, what I can give Him; Give my heart."

Author Unknown

Yes, we can't stop with just the story of Baby Jesus, for to many Japanese people, it would be just the same as celebrating anyone's birthday, or the birthday of Buddha. How important to think of the babe in the manger as the Savior of the world.

We were together on Wednesday evening, Nov. 26, for a special Thanksgiving service. The following Sunday, a group of us gathered for a song service at Tamahata church. Although still owned by our church, the building is not being used for services now, so we were blessed by being able to assemble there again for a singing. I happened to be outside watching the children when the familiar sound of the hymn, "The Little

Brown Church," came from the windows. Little Michiyo-chan sat quietly on my lap as I listened and thought about the memories the song probably brought to the members of the Little Tamahata church.

The previous Sunday, our Sunday School children had a unique experience when we visited an elderly woman in need. Bro. Toshio Uchida arranged the visit and went with us as we walked to her nearby home from the church, a long line of children, each carrying a gift of fruit. Neighbors stopped working in their gardens and orchards to listen to the children sing about Jesus outside the door of her small house. We're always grateful for the assistance of Bro. Uchida as he comes in to have opening prayer each Sunday morning before Sunday School.

Sis. Asakawa is still hospitalized as a result of a stroke. Her condition is stable at this time. It's always a blessing to have visitors from our Tokyo church. Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki served us for both services when he visited here Thanksgiving weekend. Recently, Bro. Saburo and Sis. Shizuko, Sis. Hiroko and Nobuko Utsuki spent a Sunday with us. Their enthusiasm and joy that they bring with them is an inspiration to all of us.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue - Yoshio Yamazaki

Time is like an arrow, and it is almost finished for 1980. It was a very busy year. We must feel that the end of the world is at hand, as the world becomes worse day by day.

Recently, our Sunday School children stopped coming regularly. I wondered why, so I visited their homes and their parents to see why they weren't coming. Most of their mothers said that the children are watching TV—special programs for them from 9:30 to 10:30 AM Sunday morning. I was really shocked that the mothers didn't push them to come Sunday School. We believe that the parents should teach their own children the right way.

We are going to have our Christmas service and Sunday School Christmas program on Dec. 2, 1:00 PM, and we are quite busy these weeks.

Dear Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue had a blessed baby boy on

Nov. 5, and both mother and boy are fine—surely they thanked God. They named him "Makoto," which means Truth. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life;" John 14:6. This is the verse from which they took his name.

We wish to thank each one who remembered our brethren with Christmas greetings and with prayers throughout the past year.

May you be blessed by our Heavenly Father in the New Year.

KANSAS, BERN

Esther Moser - Stella Moser

THANK HIM ANYWAY

When things are going smoothly
And you tote a lighter load,
Do you stop and thank the Father
For a smooth and painless road?

When your tears have turned to
laughter
And the sky is blue above,
Do you ever whisper, "Thank you
Father,
For your tender love"?

When you feel that you need no
one
To help you through the day,
Do you still take just a minute
To thank the Father anyway?
H. L. Patch

Our area had a crippling ice storm Dec. 7-8. Power lines were down and everything was at a standstill. It made us realize how very dependent we are on our electric servant. The storm also badly tore up the trees. True, only God can grow a tree, but He also has the might to destroy it in short order.

We have one joy bundle to report this month. Evan Jay was born Nov. 24 to Bro. Richard and Sis. Kathy Strahm. Little Scott is pleased for a brother. Bro. Ephriam and Bro. and Sis. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton) are Evan's grandparents.

On a recent Sunday morning, we were happy to have Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) minister to us. We give our thanks to Roger.

Made known to us was the engagement of Sis. Kathy Menold and Bro. Joe D. Rokey. We wish them many blessings and much happiness together.

Kyle Strahm (Bro. Alpha and Sis. Mamie) had the misfortune of cutting a tendon in his foot with

a chain saw he was using. He was hospitalized for a time and now wears a cast. We are happy to report that Kyle has turned to the Lord in repentance. Two other dear souls, James and Diane Kaeb, are also repenting.

We spent the past three Wednesday evenings listening to the conference tapes. It was interesting to hear the voices of the different elders as they spoke of the concerns of their hearts. May we ever walk a straight line as we journey toward our Bench Mark.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

It was our privilege this fall to gather on Wednesday nights and listen to the tape recordings of the 1980 Brotherhood Conference. Then Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont) assisted our Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart in reading to us the letter of the conclusions of the Conference. Also, Bro. Sam was with us as we partook of Holy Communion.

MAKE THIS YOUR DAILY PRAYER

Bless me, heavenly Father,
forgive my erring ways,
Grant me strength to serve Thee,
put purpose in my days.
Give me understanding
enough to make me kind
So I may judge all people
with my heart and not my mind.
Teach me to be patient
in everything I do,
Content to trust Your wisdom
and to follow after You.
And help me when I falter
and hear me when I pray
And receive me in Thy kingdom
to dwell with Thee some day.

—Helen Steiner Rice

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

Entering into another year should bring us no dismay if God is our companion, for we need only to trust and take His loving outstretched hand. Looking back over the year that has passed, sum up the privileges and the countless blessings that this, our nation of America, has enjoyed. The sum should bring us to our knees before Almighty God, from whom these divine favors come. One can't help but think of those of like precious faith who are not enjoying a warm bed or the free-

dom of serving their Lord and God because they are in the bleak prisons of communist Russia. Can you imagine the great excitement that would be caused by a beautiful scene on a card, arriving in a bleak prison cell? That is something that we are privileged to experience often.

A precious baby boy, Bradley Joseph, was born to Marsha and Henry Hoelting on Nov. 22. They have two daughters to welcome him into their hearts and home. The maternal grandparents are Rosemarie and Bro. Vernon Beyer (deceased).

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Ramona Meyer

What joy and encouragement is brought to us when we enter into our place of worship and see smiling faces of loved ones from our home congregations, there to worship with us, there to share in the joy of singing praises unto our precious Lord who is our comfort and our strength. We are thankful for the efforts of everyone, including ministering brethren Al Langhofer (Wichita), Loren Strahm and Lloyd Kraft (Gridley), Ben Wysong (Sabetha), and Bill Emch (Lamont).

We are pleased to have two new additions to our small group this semester. They are Bro. Kevin Kilgus (Lamont) and Merrill Stoller (Bern). May the Lord lead, guide, direct, and strengthen them onward as they begin this new direction in life. We are encouraged by this growth in our group and are hopeful for many more will attend in the near future.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

The story is told about a ship that was caught in the throes of a raging storm. It lost its power and began taking on water. Recognizing the peril facing the crew and himself, the captain sent out an S.O.S. The distress signal was picked up by the skipper of a vessel in a nearby harbor. Without hesitation, he and his men made ready to take up the search. As they left port, the storm worsened and it looked like their mission of mercy might be thwarted. One of the crewmen on the rescue ship was stricken with fear and rushed to the captain shouting, "Turn

around! Turn around! If we go any further, we'll never come back!" The commanding officer replied, "Turn around? Did you say turn around? NEVER! Our obligation is to GO—not to come back!"

As I thought on the new year and what it might bring, I came across the above story in "Our Daily Bread" and couldn't help but see the comparison. We are heading into an unknown new year. Will we see another year through? Will the Lord come to take us Home? We don't know, but whatever happens, it is our obligation to "Go on," to let Christ's light shine through us every minute we are granted to live upon this earth that thereby some lost soul might find Christ and thus be saved. Let us be strong, therefore, and keep on keeping on in the Lord.

This past month has held many blessed occasions for us: our Christmas caroling and Sunday School program to celebrate Christ's birth, singings and Bible study, services at the Manor, and Christmas and New Year's services. Oh there were so many things happening, and then Elder Bro. Sam Anliker and Sis. Clara, Lamont, were with us for a weekend, and Bro. Sam and Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson read the memorandum from the Brotherhood Conference to us. In a time when Satan is trying to fill our minds with the pleasures of this world, we give thanks and praise for elder and ministering brethren who try so hard to keep us warned of the evils, and help us stay faithful to Christ's teachings.

Though many have been missing due to colds and flu, we are thankful Sis. Myrtle Rathgeber was our only hospital patient. She is again in our midst at the present time, we are happy to report.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

"The land whither ye go to possess it is a land of hills and valleys and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: a land which the Lord thy God careth for: the eyes of the Lord are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year." (Deut. 11:11, 12)

Today, dear ones, we stand upon the verge of the unknown.

There lies before us the new year, and we are going forth to possess it. Who can tell what we shall find? What new experiences, what changes shall come, what new needs shall arise? But here is the cheering, comforting, gladdening message from our Heavenly Father: The Lord thy God careth for it. His eyes are upon it. His eyes are always upon it to the ending of the year.

Bro. Clarence Loung was in the hospital for hip surgery, and Bro. Charlie Gliedman was there for tests and observation. We wish them the Lord's nearness and healing power.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Miller, Ft. Scott, and Bro. John Lehman, Bern. We thank them for their visits.

We assembled with the Bern congregation for Thanksgiving Day services.

Our Sunday School was host to the Sunday Schools of Lester, West Bend, and Bern. Ministering Bros. John Lehman, Roger Aberle and Ben Wysong were with them in the afternoon.

We have two more who are repenting, Julie Edelman, daughter of Clem and Marge Edelman, and Richard Meyer, son of Sis. Lois and Bro. Eli Meyer. We are thankful that the waters are still being stirred and there are some that have the desire to step in. May there be many more while it is still the day of grace.

Hospitalized this month have been Pam Edelman (knee surgery), Bro. Elmer Strahm, Sis. Della Heininger and Sis. Fanny Bahr.

We have discontinued our Sunday evening singings and now have mid-week services again. We alternate with Bern. Services begin at 7:30, and everyone is welcome. We just finished the third and last session of listening to the Conference tapes. May we all be uplifted and strengthened by what we heard.

Our Sunday School classes are preparing a Christmas program to be presented to us this coming Sunday. It will be shortly after 12:00 in place of our regular noon song service. It is always a pleasure to listen to their offerings of

verse and song. May the words sink deeply into their hearts so that some day they may bear fruit.

We give our greetings of love to all in this coming new year.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Judy Langhofer

The "race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1) is adequately described in the hymn, "O, What Is Mortal" (Hymns of Zion, page 131). Ecc. 9:11 says that it is not to the swift, nor to the strong; but time and chance happeneth to them all. The key word seems to be in the word TIME. If we place eternal values on each moment that we have been given, then chance will have lost its impact—we will have run the race well. Another year of time is about to say good-bye. We will not have a second try at it, we cannot turn time around, but we can press on. The question that matters is, "Was Jesus in it?"

Sis. Glennis Allenbach, your former and much loved reporter of the Silver Lining news, is undergoing medical treatment for a bodily affliction. Sis. Glennis expressed her appreciation and desire for any offered prayer in her behalf during her trial of affliction.

Bro. George Greiner had a ten-day stay in the hospital with gall bladder surgery, but is home and reportedly doing well.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimschisel opened their home for a Christmas fellowship for members and friends of our congregation.

The Sunday School Christmas recitation and songs will be presented with the whole Sunday School participating. Christmas caroling and fellowship will follow the program.

As Joshua was preparing to march forward into the promised land, God gave him this advice in Joshua 1:9. It seems a good start for 1981. "Be strong and of good courage; be not dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Penny Erismann

The memorandum was read by Elder Bros. Rudolph Graf (Akron), Ben Maibach (Detroit), and Joe Waibel (Bay City) on Dec. 6. We

want to thank these brothers for their time and efforts of love.

One of our loved sisters in faith, dear Sis. Marie Kropf, died Dec. 12 at the home of her daughter. She will be greatly missed in our small congregation. Our sympathies go out to her family. She was an inspiration to all around her, always displaying humbleness and meekness of spirit. She lived to be 83, was born in Switzerland, and came to America at the age of 16. She married Fred Kropf and reared three children, Sis. Margerite Blough, Marcel, and Phil.

Hospitalized this month is Bro. Ferd Grawburg and his brother, Edwin. Bro. Ferd is undergoing a kidney transplant. The kidney is being donated by Edwin. Our prayers are with these brethren during this serious operation. We also think of and pray for their families.

Our annual Christmas program was presented to us by our Sunday School children on Dec. 21. What a joy it is to hear songs and words of praise for our Saviour from these little ones!

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Bragiel - Linda Ramseyer
A season of beauty has bloomed in two hearts as God has given them faith to know one another. Engaged are Sis. Cindy Jackson (Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda) and Bro. Lowell Schlatter from Junction.

We were privileged to have visiting ministers share Gospel teachings with us again. They were Bros. William Schlatter (Junction), Rudolph Graf (Akron), and Homer Reineck (Toledo).

Our Sunday School classes presented their Christmas program during an evening of shared singing. We heard the very little ones sing, "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine . . ." Truly the good Spirit was speaking through these innocent voices.

Sis. Maureen and Bob Weiss have been blessed with their first baby girl, Jessica Lane. Jessica will join two brothers. The grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marion Knochel.

Dec. 21 was the wedding day for Sis. Tammy Pashak (Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Reagan Wieland (Bro. Daryl and Sis. Edith). May the Lord watch over

and grant them a wonderful life together adding His blessings as they trust in His will.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Nella Varga

Dec. 14 surely was a full day of blessings. The evening before, we heard the testimonies of five dear souls. On Sunday, Sis. Darlene and Bro. Bill Kujawa and Sis. Astrid Schlauch were baptized. Also, Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher were brought into the membership. The blessings were enriched by having Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Taylor, MO) with us.

On the evening of Dec. 14, our annual Christmas program was held. It was such a joy to see the innocent children singing and reciting the Christmas story. Where "out of the mouths of babes" the Word was brought forth.

Each Christmas season we sing, "O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant." Have we come to rejoice in spirit and thank God that He gave His Son? Do we really adore Him? Oh how the angels would rejoice if all mankind would love and adore Him with all its heart, mind and soul—not only in the Christmas season or the new year, but always! It is wonderful to know that the same angels who rejoiced on the day Jesus was born have also rejoiced with us today.

It is ever so wonderful to have visitors come to Detroit. Ministering Bro. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA) visited with us this month. May God bless his labours of love. We indeed received a special visitor from Dunoveche, Hungary. Bro. Sandor Fulop is the brother of Sis. Esther Orcsih. We wish God's blessings and protection on Bro. Sandor during his stay here and on his way home to Hungary.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

We are thankful and appreciate the many good teachings brought to us by His servants. Visiting on Nov. 30 was Bro. Edward Alt (Cissna Park), and on Dec. 14, Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) were with us. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors of love.

We also enjoyed on Dec. 14 the annual Christmas program, pre-

sented to us by the Sunday School children, when they told the story of our dear Saviour's birth in verse and song.

After the program a large group from our congregation went Christmas caroling at a nearby nursing home. Then we all returned to the church for a potluck supper. It was truly a blessed day for all.

RISE UP AND SING

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord,
In the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up."
(Psalm 5:3)

Rise up and pray, for another day
Awaits to welcome you.

We face the year
God's way before us,
God's strength to pilot us,
God's might to uphold us,
God's host to save us,

From snares and evils;
God's eye to look before us,
Seeing the temptations and
vices;

God's hand to guard us
From all who wish us ill;
God's Word to speak to us,
Afar and near;
God's ear to hear us,
Alone and in a multitude.

Rise up and sing, for another year
Awaits to welcome you.

E. Paul Hovey

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

Rich and Cheryl Meiss are parents of their first child, a son, Charles Richard. The happy grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss.

Bros. Sam Huber and Carl Hartman visited us this month, and we thank them for their efforts of love.

Praying without watching is like sowing a field with precious seed, then leaving the gate open for the swine to come in and root it up.

Sis. Eunice Koehl wishes to thank all who remembered her with their prayers, visits, cards, and gifts, while in the hospital and after returning home. She asks God to bless all of you.

God is a light that is never darkened,
An unwearied life that cannot die,
A fountain always flowing, a garden of life,

A seminary of wisdom, a radical beginning of all goodness.

Frances Quarles

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his names sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Ps. 23

These precious words of Scripture were quoted to our congregation by Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington. Many others accompanied him for a blessed weekend of fellowship here at Winthrop. "Yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord." Ps. 144:15. There should always be joy and happiness through our relationship with other believers.

Many of us went Christmas caroling at the homes of our dear older members. We also went to several homes for the elderly. There is truly a blessing in sharing our time with these dear people. One resident remarked, "Bless your dear hearts; oh, how I loved your singing!"

Bro. Mike Messner was hospitalized for surgery and, at the present time, is home and progressing well. Both Bro. Mike Messner and Bro. Mark Schmidt wish to convey their appreciation for all the cards, prayers, and visits they received.

A little heavenly bundle has come to stay at the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Linda Schmidt. Annmarie was welcomed home by four older brothers. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt are the grandparents.

January is the month we set aside for the collection of the Silver Lining in Winthrop.

ADDRESS CHANGED?
INCLUDE OLD AND NEW ZIPS

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." St. Luke 2:11. The message of the heavenly angel still brings joy to the hearts of believers everywhere, almost 2000 years after the birth of our Saviour. It was the beginning of the plan that brings peace and salvation to all that believe.

Sis. Hildagard Stefan was hospitalized this past month but is again home and well.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 23, it was announced that Bro. Rex Frieden (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Berniece) and Sis. Vera Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn) are engaged. Sunday, Dec. 7, the engagement of Sis. Hildagard Stefan (Bro. Willie and Sis. Hilda) and Bro. Jim Koehl (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys) from Morris was announced. We rejoice with both couples, as we know they have felt God's direction, and pray He will continue to lead them and bless them.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Rose Widmer at the death of her son-in-law, Roe Engelage, Lamar.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

"Two shall be born a whole wide world apart and one day they shall stand and read life's meanings in each others eyes." (Author unknown). Bro. Bryan Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Lorna Schultz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy) Oakville, IA, are planning a February wedding. Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Knapp are announcing the engagement of their daughter Kim to Stuart Buckman of Hannibal, MO. A January wedding is planned. Our congratulations go to Jim Moser (Bro. Earl and Sis. Janette, Elgin, IL), and Virginia Brueggemann who were married Dec. 12. May God bless these couples and their families as they plan their futures. We look forward to three new families being added to our "Little white church on the Levee."

Hospital patients were Josh Redd (Gaye and Dean), accident, and Clarence Kolthoff, father of Sis. Linda Heiner, medical. Both are home again, but Clarence will require further treatment at the

medical center in Columbia, MO. "Cast all your care upon Him; for He careth for you." I Peter 5:7.

On Nov. 23, our Bible Class hosted the Bible Classes from Princeville and Bradford, IL. It is refreshing to see a group of young people together and we appreciate the efforts of both teachers and parents for making this possible.

We have been richly blessed with several visiting ministers and their families: Bro. Kenny Dietz, Bradford, IL, Art Baurer, Princeville IL, and Lenny Meyer, Chicago. We were reminded of the many benefits we have. It would be impossible to list them all. Two of the greatest are being able to gather and fellowship with our loved ones and dwelling on the memories of those who are not among us anymore but have left a lasting impression by their spiritual encouragement and Christian examples. May we remember that after we have made that "first step" to live a life pleasing to God, we still need day to day instructions to do His will so we will be ready when our life is over.

We will miss Bro. William and Sis. Ruth Cottrell now that they have moved to Florida. We sincerely hope a warmer climate will prove beneficial to William and that they can enjoy the winter months with better health, plus the fellowship of the Florida brethren. Also, Dave and Sis. Maryane Foote are moving to Ontario (hopefully for a season also) where Dave has been transferred. "May the Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another." Gen. 31:49.

A little sunbeam, Tonya Janelle, has been added to the family of Don, Sis. Janelle and Todd Scott. May God bless and direct them as they bring up their children in a Christian atmosphere.

On Nov. 24, Bros. Ron Joos and Norman Haerr delivered a semi-truck load of clothing to New Mexico to be distributed among the needy Indians there. On Dec. 1, Bros. Ron and Steve Sutter were part of the "caravan" of 13 loads of grain which were hauled to New Orleans and then were taken by boat to Honduras. May God add His blessing to these labors of love.

We rejoice with Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter in that their son, Jimmy, and wife, Kris, are repent-

ing. We wish, for them, God's special blessing. We are also so thankful that He is still calling and that there are those who surrender to His call. "Thy love it was which sought me; Thou wast unsought by me and to the haven brought me, Where I would gladly be; The things which once distressed me My heart no longer move, Since this sweet truth impressed me, That I possess Thy love." Zion's Harp No. 178.

Once again we enjoyed the annual Sunday School Christmas program. Each year it brings a special cheer and warmth to see the young people's happy faces and to gather with families and friends to share the old, old story.

May the love of God, His grace and cheer be with you all.

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

On Nov. 23 our dear Bro. Albert Schneider of Rockville came to Philadelphia to minister to us in the absence of Ed Aeschleman. The effort made by Bro. Albert his wife and several others was greatly appreciated. It was a blessed Sunday with the true Word going forth and good fellowship abounding.

The children's Sunday school program was held in Philadelphia on Sunday, Dec. 14—a little early because some of the children were going to be away with their parents later in the month. The beautiful words in verse and song that came from these innocent lips could well be an example of the innocence and truth we'll find in heaven. May God help us to help our children attain that end.

We are grateful to Bro. Dan Stoller for lending himself to proclaim the wonderful Word of Life in Union City on Dec. 14. The small congregation there enjoyed all the visitors that came along from Rockville, and the Word fell upon eager ears.

Sis. Minnie Cook of Union City was confined to the hospital for several weeks but has now been released.

Sis. Marie Walsh of Union City will spend several weeks visiting in Switzerland with relatives. We look forward to her return.

We extend our sympathy to Sis.

Mary Diggelman and Sis. Ester Isch in the death of their dear mother in Bluffton.

**NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler**

Our Sunday School children are preparing their verses and song for the Christmas program which will be on Sunday, Dec. 21. It is always interesting and refreshing to hear what the children have learned about the wonderful Christmas story—the birth of our Savior and Redeemer. May they each carry these truths with them throughout their lives.

We were with the Naumburg congregation on Wednesday evening, Dec. 10, where we enjoyed a covered dish supper and an evening of fellowship and singing together.

Bros. Amos Virkler, Arthur Wooschlager, and Hiram Farney remain hospital patients at this writing. Sis. Barb Virkler also remains a patient in Iowa City. Her plans are to return home on Dec. 23. We are thankful that Bro. Jerome Farney has returned home after several weeks in the hospital. It was good to have Sis. Pam Herzig with us one Sunday. Pam has not been able to assemble with us for some time. May each of those who are hospitalized and shut-in at this season of the year feel the love and peace of our Father. We have plans to "Christmas Carol" for several of our loved ones.

Bradley Joseph's birth on Dec. 6 has added a blessing to the home of Loren and Gloria Virkler. Bradley is also welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Lowell and Sis. Celia Virkler and Jesse and Betty Farney.

**NEW YORK, NAUMBURG
Rachel Snyder**

The Croghan congregation assembled with us on the evening of the 22nd of November to hear the testimony of Maude Pelton. On the 23rd, we again gathered to witness her baptism. We now greet her as a dear sister. A potluck dinner was served afterward.

Our midweek services have been discontinued for a time during the cold winter months. Once a month, we will hold a potluck supper, Croghan and Naumburg taking turns. That provides a blessed time of fellowship.

Barbra Bachman, our oldest sister who is almost 103, has had the misfortune of falling at her home and breaking her hip. Surgery was performed and she is now doing fine. A group of singers plan to visit her on the 17th, her birthday.

The Sunday School classes are learning their pieces for the Christmas program. We expect them to give the program during noon time on Dec. 21.

Dec. 14, right after services, we caroled at the Kallett Nursing Home. From there we went to the extended care facility in Lowville.

**OHIO, AKRON
Carolyn Miller**

On Nov. 19, Bro. Charles Novotny passed away after having suffered for some time. May the Lord comfort his widow, Sis. Katherine, especially when the hours grow long and lonely. Sis. Katherine and her family wish to thank everyone for the many prayers, flowers, cards, and love shown during Bro. Charles' illness. He appreciated all the kindness; he loved everyone. They wish God's blessings upon all. Sis. Marie Dakovich also passed away on Nov. 22.

Bro. Tom Leman, Elgin, IL, and Bro. Gary Maibach, Rittman, OH, were our visiting ministers on Nov. 30. The message of salvation was again proclaimed. We were reminded that no one, regardless of age, is guaranteed a tomorrow. Our other visiting minister this month was Bro. Merrill Laukhuf, Latty, OH, on Dec. 7.

We are happy to report that two souls have found the need to turn to the Lord in repentance. They are Tom Graf, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Kathy, and Marsha Graf, daughter of Bro. Leon and Sis. Janet.

Kelly Luginbuhl, daughter of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose, has had surgery; but we are happy to report that she is recovering well and was able to attend church the evening of Dec. 14 when we had our annual Christmas Singing. Our Sunday School children brought forth the message of Christ's birth in song. May God bless the Sunday School teachers for all the time and efforts they put forth in teaching the children.

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

OHIO, JUNCTION**Lester Manz**

Our thanks go out to Elder Bros. Ed Frank from LaCrosse and Loren Stoller from Latty who read and explained to us the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference. As they informed us of the concerns our elders have for the welfare of this church which is so precious to us and then brought us God's Word on Sunday, we were encouraged to try harder to deny ourselves and give our all to our God.

The engagement of Bro. Lowell Schlatter and Sis. Cindy Jackson has been revealed to us. How encouraging it is to each of us to see God's plan as He reveals it unto His children. Surely, we wish God's blessings upon them as they make their plans for their lives together. Sis. Cindy's parents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson from Bay City, and Bro. Lowell is the son of Sis. Esther Schlatter.

In the hospital this month was Noah Sauder. Although still hospitalized at the time of this writing, we hope he will soon recover and be able to fellowship with us again.

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

"When shadows grow long in the evening,
When birds wing their way back home,
I get a heavenly feeling
It's sunset and I'm going home.
God paints the clouds in the evening sky
To show me the way to the palace on High,
And stars mark the pathway lest my feet should roam—
It's sunset and I'm going home.
(Gospel Hymn No. 812,
Ira Stamphill)

Thus, we have the faith to believe that our Bro. Dan Sinn has gone to his eternal home. Our sympathy is extended to his daughter, Sis. Paula Haab (Bro. Ray), Milford, and his son, Bro. Dan. His surviving brother and sisters are Bro. George Sinn (Sis. Clara), Sis. Emma Gerber (Bro. Elmer), Bluffton, Sis. Clara Stoller (Clyde), and Sis. Louise and Sis. Sophia Sinn. He married Sis. Nellie Zeltwanger who preceded him in death this past February. There are two

grandchildren, Jill and Jon Haab, Milford.

Visiting us on Thanksgiving Day was Bro. Walter Rager (Tledo). We certainly appreciated Bro. Walter's visit and pray that God's grace will continue to be with him.

Several of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month, Sis. Debra Dunham (Bro. Chuck), Sis. Sophia Sinn, Sis. Louise Sinn, Sis. Gloria Grant (Bro. Phil), Noah Sauder, and Shelly Grant (Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria). We have missed these loved ones in our assembly and pray that they can soon gather with us again.

Never alone is the Christian
Who lives by faith and prayer,
For God is a friend unfailing,
And God is everywhere.

—Raymond

OHIO, MANSFIELD**Lucille Groh**

I know not whether dark or bright
This year shall be,
I only know He giveth light
And I can trust His love and might
Who leadeth me.

Author Unknown

A traveler in a strange country asked a local lad where a certain town was, and the boy said, "I don't know where it is, but I can tell you how to get there." Our precious guide, the Bible, is silent concerning many things about heaven that we'd like to know, but it is very clear on how to get there.

We stand on the threshold of a brand new year. We have not passed this way before, but our Lord knows the way. We need only to follow and let Him guide us, and we will truly have a blessed and happy new year.

Two new sisters have been added to the family of God, Sis. Debbie Campbell and Sis. Andrea Wilson. We welcome them into our fellowship and pray that the Lord will ever continue to guide and direct them in His way. On Nov. 29-30, Bro. Rudolph Graf and Bro. Joe Ramsier were here for the joyous occasion and also shared the reading of the memorandum of the Conference. Since their visit, our congregation has been listening to the tapes of the Conference every Thursday evening.

Other visiting ministers since

the last report have been Bro. Harold Kraft (Ft. Scott) and Bro. Aaron Stephen (Alto). We thank each one for their labors of love.

Ricky Sauder recently suffered a knee injury. Bro. Robert Beer and Sis. Barbara Bricker are still confined due to illness. We miss them in our church circle. Sis. Donna Gabor has been confined to her home due to a blood clot in her leg. We trust the Lord will soon grant her a speedy recovery.

On Nov. 18, Ricky and Wendy Sauder became the parents of a new son named Joshua Richard. Bro. Richard and Sis. Carolyn Sauder are the new grandparents.

Over the Christmas season, different groups went Christmas caroling and the Sunday School presented their annual Christmas program.

Bro. Jesse Beer visited our congregation a few weeks ago. He is now living at the Rittman home. It was good to see him again.

OHIO, RITTMAN**Florence Hartzler - Janette Blough**

As we begin another new year, let us strive to live and work more diligently for our Lord.

We are glad to report the engagement of Bro. Neil Gasser and Sis. Donna Walder. Bro. Neil's parents were the late Bro. Robert and Sis. Elda Gasser and Sis. Donna is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Marta Walder. We want to wish them God's guidance and blessings.

On Sunday, Dec. 14, Sis. Linda Bachman became the wife of Bro. David Hartzler. May they always entrust everything into our Lord's hands as they live their lives together. Sis. Linda is the daughter of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Katherine Bachman and Bro. Dave is the son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Hartzler.

Two of our families have been blessed with new arrivals. Kari Leigh Bauman has come to live with Harold and Sharon Bauman. Kari has a sister, Stephanie, and a brother, Byron, to help care for her. Bro. Ron and Sis. Karen Laparo are first-time parents with the arrival of Michael Robert. Michael's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joyce Hartzler and Charlie and Helen Laparo of Sarasota. Little Michael also has great-grandparents, Bro. Rueben and Sis.

Velma Hartzler and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Mary Stoller.

We are sorry to report Bro. Larry Bachman is in the hospital. We pray that our Lord will return him once again to good health.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation." Zion's Harp No. 52. So happy are we to report that Jay Maibach has turned to the Lord in repentance. Jay is the son of Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach. We wish him God's grace in his new walk of life.

OHIO, SARDIS

Joyce Indermuhle

"Sing praise to God, all ye who love the Savior." Zion's Harp 191.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend of praise and fellowship with the Peoria choir. Bro. Ken Hoerr came with the choir to minister, to us, the Living Word.

Bros. Rudy Graf, Akron, and Joe Ramsier, Rittman, brought us the Word and instructed us from the Brotherhood Conference memorandum.

I asked my school children this Christmas season to tell me what Christmas meant to them. Hands went up all over the room, and the first child I called on said, "It means Jesus' birthday." I was really blessed to think that in this world of Santa, reindeers, gifts and decorations a small child had first and foremost in her mind the most blessed Gift, our Savior.

Let us all strive in the new year to keep Jesus first and foremost in our lives.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Andy and Mary Jane Winkler

We were privileged at our Christmas program to hear the children remind us again about Jesus and His birth. We are reminded in Hymn No. 36 in the Hymns of Zion that we not only remember Christ as a child but as a man who bore our sins on Calvary.

Another year has gone by. Are we closer to our Lord and Saviour than we were? We have so many things to be thankful for this past year, and we hope that the Lord will continue to bless our small congregation.

Sis. Millie Dietrich had to be hospitalized for a few days, but we are thankful that she is again able to assemble with us. We wish

her God's blessing and protection.

Bro. Robert Miller and Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland) were with us for the Thanksgiving service. We want to thank them for their willingness to be spent for us and wish them God's blessing.

Even though we experience hardships in life, which are good for us, yet we also many times feel God's blessings. We are thankful to have Nick and Mary Kuenzi and their family assemble with us. We know that they will be missed in the Bloomington church but hope that they will feel God's blessing upon them as they assemble with us.

It seems like sometimes the road to heaven gets rougher as we get older, but we know the Lord can provide for our every need. How wonderful it is to go to God's house and be with His children. We need to be drawn closer together and pray for each other, as it seems the times we live in grow more evil.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

(See New Jersey, Union City)

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

We feel very fortunate to be able to report some new permanent residents in Zapata, Bro. Charles and Sis. Coralee Knobloch and their sons, Craig and Curt, formerly from Lester, IA. Since they arrived the first part of December, they have been blessed with a precious little daughter, Carrie. Bro. Charles is a business partner of Bro. Leland Plattner. We wish them much success and happiness in their new home here in beautiful Zapata.

Bro. Bob Sauder, who is a winter resident here, is a hospital patient at this writing. Our prayers are with him for a speedy recovery.

SILVER THREADS

O CROWN OF REJOICING

O crown of rejoicing that's waiting
for me,
When finished my course,
and when Jesus I see,
And when from my Lord comes
the sweet sounding word:
"Receive, faithful servant,
the joy of thy Lord."

O wonderful song that in glory I'll
sing,
To Him who redeemed me to Jesus
my King;
All glory and honor to Him shall
be given,
And praises unceasing forever in
heaven.

O joy everlasting when heaven is
won,
Forever in glory to shine as the
sun;
No sorrow nor sighing—
these all flee away,
No night there, no shadows—
'tis one endless day.

O wonderful name which the
glorified bear,
The new name which Jesus
bestows on us there;
To him that o'ercometh 'twill only
be given,
Blest sign of approval,
our welcome to heaven.

Chorus:

O crown of rejoicing, O wonderful
song;
O joy everlasting, O glorified
throne;
O beautiful home, my home can
it be?
O glory reserved for me!
(Gospel Hymns No. 91)

HIS WORD A TOWER

While foes are strong and danger
near,
A voice falls gently on my ear:
My Saviour speaks, He says to me,
That as my days my strength shall
be.

With such a promise need I fear,
For all that now I hold most dear?
No, I will never anxious be,
For as my days my strength shall
be.

And when at last I'm called to die,
Still on Thy promise I'll rely;
Yes, Lord, I then will trust in Thee,
That as my days my strength shall
be.

Chorus:

His word a Tower to which I flee,
For as my days my strength shall
be.
His word a Tower to which I flee,
For as my days my strength shall
be.

(Gospel Hymns No. 92)

PRECIOUS PROMISE

Precious promise God hath given
To the weary passer by,
On the way from earth to heaven,
"I will guide Thee with mine
eye."

When temptations almost win thee,
And thy trusted watchers fly,
Let this promise ring within thee,
"I will guide Thee with mine
eye."

When thy secret hopes have
perished,
In the grave of years gone by,
Let this promise still be cherished,
"I will guide thee with mine
eye."

When the shades of life are falling,
And the hour has come to die,
Hear thy trusty Pilot calling,
"I will guide thee with mine
eye."

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

the way to Damascus, for we are all ministers. We are all called upon to go forth and to praise God with our lives, to be lights and examples wherever we are, to brighten the corners where we are, and to do His will above all else.

We are to do this not only on Wednesday night, not only on Sunday, not only when we think we might meet a brother or sister in faith, but all of the time. It isn't something we can slip off like a jacket or coat when the days get a little bit warm and we want to be unencumbered. A Godly life is not an encumbrance; it is a precious and wonderful opportunity which God in His infinite love and mercy provided through Jesus, His Son.

Paul was told to go to the gentiles "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me (Jesus Christ)." Acts 26:18.

With my own ears I have heard individuals say, "I cannot repent. I have sinned too much; I have gone too far." What is impossible for God? What sin did He not know of and send His Son to die for? Beloved ones, though our sins are as scarlet, though they are red

like crimson, the blood of Jesus Christ can make them white as snow.

Paul got up sightless, and was led into Damascus. We know of his experience there; Ananias was called upon by God to go and lay his hands upon Saul whom he would find in prayer.

That is the best thing to do, dear friends, when you find yourself at this juncture. By the grace of God, pray. There will certainly come to you, according to the promise of this Word, a new day of light, a new day of truth, and a new day of beauty.

From the time of Paul's conversion until he was martyred, it did not matter what he faced. The driving force of the good Holy Spirit was within him; he did not turn back and he never renounced it. He was glad and willing to obey the Lord throughout his life. Paul said that he never felt as though he had attained his goal, but that he was continually pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14.

That is how we also should go forward, pressing toward that mark of our high calling through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Oh, beloved ones, he said here, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Acts 26:19. He taught people ". . . that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance." Acts 26:20.

May God grant us the grace to do likewise, realizing that the commission given to Paul was given to us. May our lives demonstrate what we found so wonderful, so beneficial, and so precious.

There were undoubtedly many people whom Paul addressed in this chapter (guards, courtesans, and men of the city) but he spoke especially to two very powerful men there. I believe that Festus was a great deal like Pontius Pilate. I believe that Festus and Agrippa were more impressed with the testimony that was given to them than they wished to admit, mostly because such an admission might cause them to lose favor in the ranks of their fellow Roman citizens. King Agrippa, especially, who was schooled in the "customs and questions" of the Jews, knew what Paul was talking about.

Precious friends, I want to speak

to you. Sometimes we wish we could "shake it into you" just how wonderful it is to serve the Lord. Considering your experiences, all the preaching you have heard, all the times you have read the Word, all the precious fellowship which you have certainly observed, all that has been sent your way by the blessing of God, tell us, "Don't you believe?"

We know that you must believe. As Paul said to Agrippa, "I know that thou believest." Acts 26:27. Then, beloved ones, would you say, as Agrippa said here, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"? Acts 26:28.

We sing the hymn, "Almost Persuaded." I never sing that hymn without tears in my eyes because almost is not enough. " 'Almost' cannot avail; 'Almost' is but to fail!" And the very last words of that hymn are "Sad, sad, that bitter wail; 'Almost', but lost!"

Paul said (and don't we, brothers and sisters, say the same as we weep and pray for our friends), "I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." Acts 26:29.

In other words, we wish for others the blessings of abiding in Jesus, the blessings of sharing the hope of eternal life, and the blessings of being children of God, not almost, but altogether.

Beloved brothers and sisters, how may we best help that to come to pass? By being true, faithful, joyful, and happy in the Lord in our precious faith.

The sub-heading here is "Paul's conclusion." The conclusion to everything that we do should be to point the way to the Lord with our lives. The conclusion of every action, of every word, of every thought that we have should be that the Lord Jesus is glorified, praised, and honored through our lives.

Then, beloved ones, the desire that we share for all of God's creation is that they might come to the knowledge of the Truth and live. We believe that it is God's work and God's alone, but we must do our part so that the great and wondrous plan of God will be more fully completed.

May God grant us grace to that end.

CHARLES WALDER
EAST LYNN, ILL 60932

SERMON BY BRO. GARY MAIBACH OF RITTMAN, OH

Text: Acts 26

We sometimes wonder what might have happened if Paul had not appealed to Caesar. We consider where he might have gone and what he might have done. But this we know, beloved ones all, that he was a great "lion" of God.

Paul was a servant in the hands of God and wherever he went, he did the will of God. He served the Lord with gladness. No matter what he encountered, he listened to the still small voice which so often came to him, and he suffered much for the Lord.

The Scripture tells us of times, dear ones, when Paul was very nearly dead. He was beaten or put in prison simply because he told the truth; because he brought the Word of Life and Light to those in whose midst he found himself; because he treasured that which he had received on the road to Damascus.

As Paul began his testimony before Festus, King Agrippa, and Bernice, he told them that according to the old law he had been blameless. But, beloved ones, in his writings Paul said that he counted all things as dung. They were as nothing to him because they did not secure any hope of eternal life.

It didn't really matter how perfectly Paul had followed the old law. He was zealous, but he was zealously wrong! Many times we ourselves must admit in all humility that we were wrong, and that we were zealously going the wrong way. Those things that we pursued with such vigor were wrong for us. We were, in fact, going exactly opposite the way that God wanted us to go.

So often, beloved ones, we are caught up in things which we have persuaded ourselves are right, but which are really wrong. Of course, the enemy of all righteousness delights in such a state of mind. Satan does all that he can to keep us in that conviction, so that we might

never come to the knowledge of the Truth.

We have read that Paul was given great authority and that he, by his own admission, caused people to blaspheme, put them into prison, and consented to their deaths. We know that the coats of those who stoned the first martyr, Stephen, were laid at the feet of this same Saul. He confessed to persecution of the church.

Have we not also persecuted? We might ask, "How can that be?" You friends perhaps would ask, "How can it be that I am persecuting the church or Jesus Christ?"

Beloved ones, if we had seen Jesus on the cross and had looked into His eyes, I believe that we would say that our unconverted lives persecuted our Lord. For God loves us so much that when we were yet in our sins, He sent His Son to die for us.

The experience that Saul made on the way to Damascus is profoundly moving; it is most wonderful and precious. It is an experience that each one must make if he is to have hope in his heart, a living hope of eternal life.

Paul went to Damascus exercising authority and commissioned to commit persecution. He was going zealously according to the dictates of his own mind and his own heart. He was going the way that every sinner everywhere has always gone: the way of destruction, the way of the world, the way of self.

I once dreamed that I was standing by my own grave. I wept because I knew that if that was my grave, I had died without hope. I awoke a troubled young man, but I didn't do anything about it. I let "self" get in the way. There were other things that I wanted to do. I was still in high school. I had friends to consider, things to do, places to go. There were other

times when the call came, the pricks and the prods came. There were times when I very nearly didn't make it, but God was good.

Everyone's experience is different, but the Lord says to us as He spoke to Paul, "... why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Acts 26:14.

Beloved ones, can you imagine what it was like when that light shone around Paul and he was blinded? I don't doubt that he was terrified as the realization of what he had been doing flooded over him.

When the full weight of the guilt of sin floods over an unconverted soul, he feels totally and completely lost. When we realize what we have done with Jesus and our great God in heaven, we ask, "Who art thou, Lord?"

When we feel our burden and guilt, the debt of sin, and the sentence of death that we are worthy of because of those sins, we look for an answer and we look for help. As Paul said, "Who art thou, Lord?" and he heard, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Acts 26:15.

The love, compassion, and mercy of God, beloved ones, that is felt in the hearts of everyone who turns to Him is beyond telling, beyond comprehension, and beyond understanding. When we consider that we have persecuted God (whether in a great or in a small way) and feel burdened and condemned, the Word comes to us as it came to Saul, "But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in which I will appear unto thee." Acts 26:16.

No less commission is given to us than was given to Saul on
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