

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

VOLUME 31

February
JANUARY 1981

NUMBER 2

THE LABORERS ARE FEW

Elder Bro. Ben Maibach, Sec. Treas., Apostolic Christian Mission Fund

Very often the statement is made that there are few opportunities available for brethren to offer themselves in the service of the Lord. When He was on earth, the Lord appointed seventy disciples in addition to the apostles "...and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place." Then pathetically, He had to say that "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Luke 10:1, 2.

We had sincerely hoped that some heart would be touched by Sis. Evie Blunier's report of her experience while teaching in Japan among our brethren, but unfortunately, to this date we have received no response. This makes us wonder if it is the will of God that we continue to provide an opportunity to share the hope of the glory of Jesus Christ with the children at kindergarten and nursery level in the area of our Shioda church where Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle and their family live. When we consider that most of us in our beloved faith had the seed of truth planted in our hearts when we were at a very tender age, and consider the impact that it had upon us all of our lives, most certainly we would not want to deprive others of that same privilege.

Since we recognize that God works through men, it is important that we find brethren who are willing to give themselves wholeheartedly and are willing to spend and be spent in the service of our King. Often we on the Missionary Committee are approached by troubled brethren who tell us that in our faith there are not enough opportunities for well-meaning and burdened brethren to make themselves available to serve in the vineyard

of our Lord. We believe that many are not aware of the channels that are provided and the opportunities that exist.

Our fellowship organized a missionary committee many years ago upon recommendation and approval of the elder body. It was empowered to review and approve all phases of the missionary activities of our brethren, and also to screen and approve all brethren who go forth in the labors, approved by our faith.

While giving God the credit, we feel that some are not aware of our faith's missionary accomplishments. These include new congregations and churches at Athens, Alabama; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Ft. Lauderdale, Sarasota and Port Charlotte, Florida; Bloomington, Bradford, Chicago, Urbana and Washington, Illinois; South Bend, Indianapolis and Valparaiso, Indiana; Burlington, Garden Grove and Iowa City, Iowa; Kansas City, Kansas; Lexington, Kentucky; Detroit, Michigan; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Zapata, Texas. A church was begun in Canada at Regina, Saskatchewan, and three churches were established in Japan at Shioda, Tamahata and Tsutsujiga-Oka. There are also fellowships at many of the universities and army bases where brethren and friends had been living. Many of these recently established congregations have been blessed with wonderful growth where souls have been consistently added to the body of Christ. I believe that as you read this you will be surprised and impressed; but we are still not doing enough when we consider the precious gift of life given to us through Christ our Redeemer.

God has also granted that our church could flourish in lands

where we are free from persecution and external oppression, and long-established congregations have been able to erect new buildings in which to worship. Many have added facilities for our aging and infirmed brethren and friends. We probably have one of the most outstanding and hospitable homes for the handicapped available anywhere, and our brethren have supported the Children's Home at Leo. Throughout the land conscientious and sincere brethren help to make the lives of others more blessed and comfortable, remembering the words of our Saviour, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Mat. 25:40.

For many, the zeal to go forth seems to have more appeal when the mission field is far from home and in a strange culture where there is often absence of the guidance and counsel of our shepherds. I sincerely believe that prayerful, sincere reflection and meditation while upon our knees will cause us to recognize an important fact.

In this great land of ours where our forefathers labored, there are struggling brethren working with all diligence to maintain outposts. If we are not careful, some of those flickering lamps are going to be extinguished. There is a need for brethren in such areas as Maywood, California; Union City, New Jersey; Valparaiso, Indiana; Garden Grove, Iowa City and Pulaski, Iowa; Kansas City, Kansas; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Sardis or Girard, Ohio; Silverton and Portland, Oregon; and also Regina, Canada. Loyal and dedicated brethren could be very useful and much appreciated. If you will review our churches throughout the land, there are many others who would be greatly encouraged if their

numbers could be increased.

In November I was privileged to be in Sarasota, Florida, at one of our newly established churches. Blessed by our loving God, it is flourishing and we added four lambs to the fold. What rejoicing in heaven as well as on earth! We wish this could be duplicated throughout the world, and yet, don't we have to confess how hard it is to leave the warmth and security of our families and large congregations?

It often occurs to me that if our forefathers had been as self-centered and complacent as we are, they would have stayed in Europe where they enjoyed many comforts. There wouldn't be one church in the United States. But, thanks be to God, they had the love and the zeal to go forth. God was with them and you and I are

the benefactors of their labors of love, blessed and increased many fold by a gracious and majestic God.

We have been abundantly flooded with the outpouring of the kind providence of a merciful heavenly Father. If we're truly grateful and if we have the talents and the opportunity, shouldn't we give very prayerful consideration to where we can serve God the best? If you are moved and concerned, we urge you to counsel with your loved ones and your shepherd; and if you feel that you have the support of your local congregation and have something to offer, please contact one of the brothers on the Mission Committee which includes Rudolph Graf, chairman; Wendell Gudeman; David Bertsch; Eugene Marti; Joseph Ramsier; David Kieser; Roy Grimm; and myself.

gan negotiations with a local builder who specializes in churches. By August, the builder gave us a price for the building, assuring us that the amount he quoted would be enough. We then wrote a letter to all the churches requesting prayerful and financial support. In October, as generous responses started coming in from the churches, our builder called to tell us that he had quite seriously underestimated the cost of the building and gave a new price which was more than 25% higher. We could not possibly raise the additional amount among our four families, and we were reluctant to ask for more funds so soon after our original plea. We, therefore, began to consider other avenues. Having had such high hopes, it is difficult to express the discouragement and frustration brought on by this development—but once again God intervened to help us.

A dear brother, Paul Emch, a builder in Phoenix, AZ, heard of our dilemma and offered to help. In a few days he sent us a proposed floor plan for a building quite different from the one we had originally planned, which was more practical. After a few changes, Bro. Paul drew final building plans for us, and even journeyed to Philadelphia to view the site and to locate the building thereon. It was now April 1980, and while Bro. Paul was with us, we held the ground-breaking ceremony.

During this period, funds were received from the brotherhood across the land and Japan totaling

HISTORY OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Bro. Ed Aeschliman

Brethren have lived in the Philadelphia area since 1962. Over the years a number of church families came to the area, some only staying for a short time; but four families became permanently established there in their vocations and began to consider the Philadelphia area to be their home. For many years, these families traveled quite regularly to the Union City, NJ, church which was about 120 miles away to worship on Sundays. This, of course, was very burdensome, and in 1973 an effort was made with the approval of our counseling elder to look for a place in the Philadelphia area where services might be held locally on one or two Sundays a month.

We soon located a Grange Hall near a little town called Devault, PA, some 20 miles west of the city of Philadelphia. The Grangers were willing to rent the hall to us on Sundays. Starting in January, 1974, we began meeting there one Sunday a month. Later our meetings were expanded to two Sundays and then in 1978 to three Sundays. We continued to travel to Union City on the fourth Sunday of each month in an effort to keep our ties there and to lend sup-

port to that small congregation.

In September, 1977, Elder Bro. John Bahler visited us in Philadelphia and served the Lord's Supper for the first time in the Grange Hall. After reviewing our needs for better facilities with Bro. John, he suggested that we search the area for a site on which we might one day build a church of our own. Several sites were under consideration when, in March of 1978, the Grange people offered to give us at no charge a three-acre plot of land belonging to them that they never intended to use. This was a very encouraging development which, needless to say, we accepted with deep appreciation, remembering to thank God for hearing our many prayers. We believed this to be a sign that indeed God had now opened the door for us to go ahead.

Unfortunately, there were some zoning and deed problems which took 13 months to resolve, and we decided to practice patience during this period. As much as we wanted to begin plans for a building, we felt we should wait until the land was legally ours lest we find ourselves running ahead of the Lord.

Finally in April of 1979, we received a deed to the land and be-

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

USPS 496780

Editor-News Correspondent: Ed Souder.

Assistants: David Bertsch, Maurice Frank.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America.

Counselors: Theo Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, IN 46741.

Second class postage paid at Grabill, IN 46741.

The subscription rate is \$5.00 per year. Send zip no. with address.

Remember to send changes of addresses. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips).

almost exactly what we had asked. But after a year of inflation, it was evident that it would not be enough to have the church built. Again the Lord opened a way. Bro. Paul suggested that some of our brothers from neighboring churches might be interested in offering skilled labor assistance. When our needs were made known we got an almost immediate response. What followed was a true miracle.

(To be continued)

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Doug Kellenberger

The family unit was a strong and important entity in the days of old. Children were important to their parents and a very great asset to them. They were regarded as a valuable possession. Carrying on the family name was an important objective to the head of the family. Family loyalties and birthrights were sacred. Children were often ushered into the presence of grandfather to receive the laying on of his hands to invoke the Lord's blessings upon them. So important is the parental responsibility in the sight of God that He chose Abraham to inherit His blessings because He foreknew that Abraham would "command his children and his household after him. . ." (Gen. 18:19)

In our present day, a common attitude toward children is just the opposite. The family unit is deteriorating in America. Children are looked upon with disdain. They are unimportant to a lot of people and considered to be in the way by many 20th century parents. Even Christian fathers are too busy to properly tend to the needs of their wives and families. Careers, personal goals and even spiritual work are much more important to many.

At our home we see great evidence of this parental failure. The children have developed feelings of inferiority, a mix-up of identity, and abnormal behavior due to childhood rejection and lack of proper nurturing. Our objective for these children is invariably centered around giving them love and instilling in them a sense of self-worth in which they are so much in need. They also require consistent discipline and an understanding listener to help bring them out of their shells and to heal their

deep feelings of hurt.

Our children just recently learned the Bible verse, Ps. 139:17. It was selected with the intention of building their self-esteem through becoming aware of God's concern for them. The constant effort to instill self-worth also includes looking for something positive to say about the good which they do.

Our greatest heritage is our knowledge of God and His promises to those who delight in Him. That heritage was important to the fathers of old and they carefully passed it down from generation to generation. It is interesting to note that our spiritual forefathers did not give their sons a "pep talk" to "psyche them up," but rather a rehearsal of who God was, what He had done, and how He intends to keep His promises to those who trust in Him. (Gen. 48:15, 16) The fathers knew that if their children were taught that God remembers His covenant (Exodus 2:24) to satisfy their physical and spiritual needs, then they would have a lifelong foundation to fall back upon.

While our new boy, Keith, is waiting to enter school, he is working to earn money. Saturday he cleaned the chicken house to pay his way to an activity. Today he is cutting firewood to earn the money to pay for Gary's gloves that he messed up while cleaning the chicken house. Sometimes we have to learn the hard way.

We have been given some more tremendous blessings from God. Last week a brother called from Sardis, OH, and said that he was interested in helping us. We made use of his carpenter's experience by adding two new doors—one in our study and the other in the new shed. The new shed's insulation project was also completed last weekend. Some brothers and Sunday School seniors from Bluffton came on Saturday morning to blow in insulation on top of the ceiling. We thank the brothers and friends for their service and donations. We thank everyone for their support and prayers; they help move the heart of God to provide the people to do these wonderful things for us.

We also praise our Lord for providing Sis. Jane Weiss from Bay City to help us with child care and domestic responsibilities in both

houses. It is amazing to see the divine providence and sovereignty of our Lord at work. Two weeks ago Jane was due to return to school on Tuesday. She became snowed-in and the next day learned that someone's services were needed in the Wieland house due to existing temporary circumstances. She volunteered to stay, and on the following Sunday was hired to fill in temporarily by our administrator. Her continued services are needed at this time, and she has foregone her school plans for the time being to assist us here. We surely appreciate her help and welcome her to Leo and our Home.

A few of our board members were here this past Sunday for a very special reason. Another one of our former children was taken into the fold of Jesus. Claudia Kizer gave her testimony on Saturday evening and was baptized on Sunday with happiness in her heart for the salvation she has found through trusting and giving her whole heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. She is now our sister in faith, and we rejoice with her. She is presently going to school and working part time at the Home.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own."
Dickens

Even though the world lies white, serene and still, yet in spite of winter's sting, we know that God has promised spring. In the meantime, let us give thanks for winter's quiet sound. Home and fireside are never more acceptable. An unknown author once wrote, "The spirit of a household reaches further than from the front door to the back. It shines forth from a child's eyes and shows in the way a man hurries back to his home." Another poet, William Wordsworth, penned the following: "The smoke ascends to heaven as lightly from a cottage hearth as from the haughty palace. He whose soul ponders this true equality may walk the fields of earth with gratitude and hope." John Ruskin once wrote, "There is no such thing as bad weather; the good Lord simply sends us different kinds of good weather."

A church youth group in Virginia suggested the following: "Greet

every dawn with a measure of the joy that sunwashed you when you first experienced true beauty. Thrill to every new idea with eagerness and explore it; then choose to discard it or make it yours. Toil for what you believe in with all your strength, but make each effort a labor of love. Share your burdens and your joys with God, then plant a flower of thankfulness over each complaint. Hope like a wide-eyed child with a complete faith, unbroken against the cruel rocks of a grownup world. Give freely of yourself, with heart and arms ever open to those who need your comfort. Each day seek out the weeds that would trip you in the paths of friendship and love, and remove them before a new day can root them more firmly."

Each day here at the Home has its quota of joys and sorrows, but in everything we can give thanks. Fanny Crosby put it this way:

Oh, what a happy soul am I,
Although I cannot see.
I am resolved that in this world
Contented will I be.

How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't;
To weep and sigh because I'm
blind,
I cannot and I won't.

Especially during these winter days is mail time important for our resident. Our address is APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED, R.R. #3, VETERANS ROAD, MORTON, IL 61550. We enjoy hearing from you whether we happen to be personally acquainted or not.

We share in the sorrow of our Sis. Carol Fahrni in the unanticipated sudden loss of her mother while on a visit to her home at Alto, MI. Sis. Carol expresses heartfelt gratitude to all for the many kindnesses extended to her during the bereavement.

Until we meet again, let us remember, "Prayer is not a device for getting our wills done through heaven, but a desire that God's will may be done on earth through us." (Source unknown)

ALABAMA, ATHENS
Dorthy Barnett

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have

peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. Jn. 16: 33.

We would like to wish God's grace, blessings and true spiritual growth for Roger and Wanda Brooks who have found peace in their hearts and await baptism. May we all look to the cross every day, thanking Him for redeeming us.

Among our visitors for the holiday season were Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Strassheim and family (Milford, IN) and Sis. Mayme Gerst (Burlington, IA). We enjoyed fellowship with them at our Sunday morning worship services.

Hospitalized: Daniel Haggermaker (son of Bro. David and Sis. Judy Haggermaker).

Shut-in: Bro. Henry Perry.

On Sunday evening, Dec. 21, as the congregation gathered to listen to the children and young folk reciting and singing to honor the birth of our Lord, we were reminded that even we adults must become as humble as a child to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Each of us should remember Christ, the Babe. He came into the world to die and shed His precious blood for remission of your sins and mine. May we always be mindful of God's gift to us—our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May the new year, 1981, be a fruitful year for Christ. May we each do our part in witnessing for Him.

HE KNOWS THE WAY
My Father's way may twist and turn,

My heart may throb and ache;
But in my soul I'm glad to know
He maketh no mistake.
My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away;
But still I trust my Lord to lead,
For Father knows the way.
There's so much now I cannot see—

My eye is still so dim;
But come what may I still can trust

And leave it all to Him.
For by-and-by the mist will lift
And darkness turn to day;
Then looking back we'll praise His name,

Who led us all the way.
(Author Unknown)

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

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Julie Hoerr

"Asleep in Jesus! blessed sheep, From which none ever wakes to weep!" ZH 111. On Dec. 24, Bro. Jeff Rokey entered into his peaceful rest with our Lord and Saviour. During Jeff's several hospitalizations, his one wish was to be home for Christmas, as his sister and family from Illinois planned to be here. Jeff's wish was fulfilled twice, as he spent time at home with his parents, Bro. Ervan and Sis. Ione, his brother Jerome and family, and Sis. Judy (Rokey) Knapp and family, and then went to his "Eternal Home" and relief from his physical ailments, the evening of Dec. 24. Memorial services were held in Phoenix, Dec. 27. Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson) read Ephesians 6 as the basis for the service. Internment was in Congerville, IL. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ervan, Sis. Ione, Sis. Judy and Jerome. We trust that God's nearness will comfort them.

"How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's trials are ended,
With them shall ever be!" ZH 122

At the time of this writing, our elders are meeting for their winter conference. We trust and pray that God's will may be revealed to them.

Little Scott Zollinger, son of Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley, fell at home and required stitches in his forehead.

Bro. Loren Knapp, Tucson, and Bro. Todd Feller, La Crosse, were our visiting ministers this month.

"I'm baptized in Christ's name And in his death I'm buried;" HZ 43. The weekend of Jan. 10-11, we were privileged to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Leslie Egglston. We trust that she may always remember this weekend and look to it for encouragement.

Bro. Joe and Sis. La Vina Dotterer and Bros. Bill and John Dotterer and their families traveled to Washington, IL for Sis. Carolyn's wedding, Dec. 28.

A beautiful Promise to cling to. . .
Jesus already knows what you need.

Source Unknown

ARIZONA, TUCSON**Rose Huette**

We have been richly blessed with beautiful weather. The temperature is in the 70's and 80's almost every day. We love to have visitors and would like to share this beautiful weather with anyone who would like to visit us.

On Dec. 21 we were blessed by having visiting ministering Bro. Carence Yackley and his wife, Sis. Linda, with us. We enjoyed them both and hope they will soon visit us again.

In the past year, we had one baptism, one wedding and two births. Seven were added to our little flock of believers and friends of the Lord. This includes two new families.

Our new Silver Lining reporter is Rose Huette.

CONNECTICUTT, ROCKVILLE**Carlton J. Lanz**

This one verse that I have before me is from a sermon by a beloved elder, Bro. Sam Aeschliman of Bluffton, IN. He is no longer with us but is in eternity—to which he refers in these few sentences. His many years of caring for the church, love, and reverence for God made him stand out like a lighthouse guiding and directing ships coming over some stormy weather and turbulent waters. He began his verse with: "In many places throughout the Holy Scripture we are told that there are two destinations, and while here on earth we should prepare for eternity. Of course, there are some people who do not even believe there is a God. What a rude awakening there will be for anyone who does not believe that there is a God, that there is an eternity, or that there is a heaven and a hell, because the Word tells us there is. The Almighty God who created heaven and earth has given each of us a living soul, and that soul will 'live' or 'die' forever. We speak of being in heaven as living forever. Eternity is something that no one, not even a professor with much wisdom and much learning, is able to explain; according to God's Word, eternity has no end." This is a beautiful message in the utmost of simplicity, yet its meaning is far-reaching.

Death took Sis. Clara (Lanz)

Kupferschmid Sunday, Jan. 4, at Rockville General Hospital. She leaves her husband, Bro. Werner Kupferschmid, five sons, Bros. Eugene, Wayne, and Daniel Kupferschmid, and Stuart and Duan Kupferschmid, all in this general area, and one daughter, June Stein, of Newington, one brother, Otto Lanz, and one sister, Mrs. John Luginbuhl. Funeral services were at the church with Elder Bro. John Bahler conducting the rites. Burial was in Ellington Center Cemetery. Clara had no enemies. Her greeting was always with a cheerful smile. Her love brought the grandchildren to her on Sunday morning to where she would sit in the downstairs.

Death has also taken Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl at Rockville General Hospital. He had been under the doctor's care for some time but his death was peaceful. He leaves his wife, Sis. Huldah (Lanz), two sons, Bros. Ervin and Leonard of Ellington, two daughters, Sis. Gladys Scheider (Albert) and Sis. Joyce Hunt (Harry), three brothers, Bros. Christian and John and Herman of Roanoke, IL, and four sisters, Sisters Rose, Emma, Ida, and Mrs. Louise Ballasy.

Bro. Ernest, for some fifty years, served in the ministry. His eulogies are many but have not been reported. His lifestyle and his lamp which he always carried with him was evidence of his purpose in this life. He often used the parable of the ten virgins when he would say, "It will be so. Christ said it will be so." He would add, "Only five of the ten had their lamps ready." I can well remember that our mother, whose body lies in the grave for many years, would quote the beautiful passage of Scripture in Rev. 14:13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . . they rest from their labors; and their works do follow them." Funeral services for Bro. Ernest were on Friday with Elder Bro. John Bahler and Bro. Arthur Gudeman in the pulpit. Bro. Don Gudeman offered prayer at the cemetery in Ellington.

It has been the wish of Sis. Huldah in behalf of her family to extend thanks and sincere appreciation to all who offered prayers and sent cards of comforting messages and other kind services.

Also, there is thanks and appre-

ciation by Bro. Werner Kupferschmid for the many prayers and messages of comfort in the passing of his dear wife, Sis. Clara.

Wedding vows between Bro. John Lanz, son of Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz, and Sis. Kay Schneider, daughter of Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider, were witnessed by the church with Bro. Corbin Bahler officiating. The appropriate hymn was sung by the entire church. A reception and supper followed at the new Longview building. They have our best wishes, and may God bless their home and lives together.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE**Sally Gress****THE ART OF GIVING**

Emerson said, "The only true gift is a portion of thyself."

Wilfred A. Peterson wrote: "We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the heart: love, kindness, joy, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, forgiveness. . .

"We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the mind: ideas, principles, plans, inventions, projects, poetry.

"We give of ourselves when we give gifts of the spirit: prayer, vision, beauty, aspiration, peace, faith.

"We should give of ourselves with the radiant warmth of sunshine and the glow of the open fire."

We wish to thank the visiting ministers who so richly gave of themselves this month. They were Bro. Bob Pflederer of Morton, IL, and Bro. Al Schneider of Rockville, CT.

FLORIDA, PORT CHARLOTTE**Betty Rassi**

We have been richly blessed with the Word of God being ministered to us by Bros. Dug Sebo and Glenn Price, Jr., of Sarasota and Bro. Art Gudeman of Northport. We thank them for giving of themselves in the service of the Lord so that we might be fed the true Word and be filled.

Our gatherings have been small so far this winter, and we again cordially invite you to worship with us whenever you are in this area. We want to thank our visitors from Sarasota who make a special effort to drive down to help with the singing. May God richly

bless their efforts. Our visitors have been from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Ontario, Canada. We appreciate all visitors and thank them for the blessings they bring. Their greetings, love, and just their presence make the efforts worthwhile.

Sis. Mary Schick of Akron, OH, usually spends the winter months with a daughter in Port Charlotte but has been unable to make the trip this season. She is still confined to her daughter's home in Akron. Her address at this time is in care of Goldie Hicks, 710 E. Glenwood Ave., Akron, OH 44300. Sis. Mary would like to hear from her friends. Let us not forget our elderly, ill and handicapped. A little personal note to let them know that we care means much more than an expensive gift.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Elda Martin

For our climate, we have been experiencing rather cold weather; however, our hearts have been warmed with the loving words and kind teachings of our visiting ministers. Among them who came to share the Word are Elder Bro. Dave Kieser, Princeville, IL; Elder Bro. Roy Sauder, Peoria, IL; Bro. Al Langhofer, Wichita, KS; Bro. Edwin Bahler, Remington, IN; and Bro. Bob Meyers, Bluffton, IN.

Sis. Marie Martin is again in the hospital for another skin grafting surgery. We trust if it is God's will she can be healed and again assemble with us. Let us remember her in our prayers.

I got up early one morning and
rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
I didn't have time to pray.

Problems tumbled all about me
and heavier came each task;
"Why doesn't God help me?" I
wondered. He answered, "You
didn't ask."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on gray and
bleak.

I wondered why God didn't show
me. He said, "But you didn't
ask."

I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently, lovingly chided,

"My child, you didn't knock."

I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering
the day.

I had so much to accomplish,
I had to take time to pray.

Unknown

HAWAII, HONOLULU Michael and Janet Campbell

I Said a Prayer For You Today
I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have
heard—

I felt the answer in my heart
Although he spoke no word!
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind)—

I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind!

I asked that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way!

I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small—
But it was for His loving care
I prayed the most of all!

Author Unknown

During the month of December, the Lord blessed us with several visitors. On Thursday, Dec. 4, Bro. Edwin Aberle and his wife from the Rockville congregation called from their hotel, and we had a most wonderful telephone conversation. Circumstances were such that we could not make any personal connections, although it was good to speak to those loved ones.

On Sunday, Dec. 7, we met Bro. Steve and Sis. Dixie Plummer from the Latty, OH congregation at their hotel. We enjoyed lunch and a wonderful time of fellowship together. Although it was a short visit, we appreciated it so much.

On Wednesday, Dec. 31, we met Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy from the Francesville, IN congregation at the airport and drove them to their hotel. Again we had a short but most wonderful visit. Roger and Sue left later to visit the other islands.

Our assignment with the U.S. Navy at Honolulu is finished. We are now on our way home and want to thank everyone for their visits, letters, cards and gifts.

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

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL

Dixie Knapp - Jean O'Shea

Have you ever wondered what your prayers sound like to an Almighty God? I have. Just recently I felt as though He gave me a peek, and for a very few moments I was in the presence of a child speaking to her Father.

As I was walking past the nurses' station in the hospital in which I work, ever so faintly I could hear the sounds of someone in pain. I looked around. No one was near by. I paused. . . listened.

Once again I could hear the voice. It was a quiet, whispering sound. I moved closer to the place from which the voice came. It was obvious that the speaker to a patient's room had accidentally been knocked to the "On" position. I reached to turn it off. The hushed tones came over the nurses' sound system.

"Dear God," the voice pleaded, "stay near to me." The patient must have been lying close to her hand speaker. "Help me endure this pain."

A wave of guilt swept over me. "I shouldn't be listening. This woman is sharing her heart thoughts with God—not me," I thought.

The voice continued, "The pain. The pain. Help me with the pain." The sincerity of her cry was so touching. "Use me as You see fit. Help me to be strong." This moment was so pure. A heart burdened with a great need was reaching toward the Master's heart for His holy power. She had no one to impress with her words. No special phrases to use. No time consciousness.

"Stay near me, Father. I need Your presence," she continued. Here was this woman surrounded by professional people who were trying to care for her. Medications for her pain were only partially helping. Friends and family could show their love but her Source of strength was her Holy Father.

"Be close to the other patients. They need You by their side," she interceded for those around her that she never would know.

I reached toward the speaker. Click. The hushed pleas were silenced. She was still talking to her Father. He was still very aware of her cries and yet, at the same time, He was using those precious

moments to teach me, too. Those simple sincere words that so deeply moved my own heart, the heart of a stranger, had to be very touching to the Father who loved this soul—simple but sincere words.

I wonder if she felt as if God was hearing her prayer. I wonder if she has ever felt as if her cries were empty and lifeless. I wonder if she had the faith to believe that when she asked to be used of God, He, at that very moment, was answering her request. For there was a person walking down the hall that day who grew because of the hushed pleas of a stranger talking with God.

Two little ones from our congregation recently were patients in area hospitals. Michael Steffen, son of Bro. Walt and Sis. Veronica and Alesa Knapp, daughter of Bro. Kevin and myself, are both doing fine now.

We thank Bro. Lenny and Sis. Charlotte Meyer from Chicago for joining us on Jan. 11. And we give much praise and thanks to God for what has occurred the day of this writing. The hostages have been freed! Many prayers that we have all prayed for them have been answered. Our prayers now go with our new president and his staff for the weighty decisions that rest on their shoulders.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

Special visitors have included our Elder Bro. Dave Kieser and ministering Bro. Don Manz (Junction). We appreciated the many precious teachings they so willingly shared with us.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Raymond Klumpp was elected to serve as a church trustee. Bros. Randy Kieser and Gary Endress were elected to serve as ushers, and Bro. Jerry Kieser was selected to be the head song leader.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Judy and Bro. Ken Knepp and their family on the death of her brother, Bro. Jeff Rokey of the Phoenix congregation.

Amber Pyles, infant daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky, was hospitalized for a few days with a virus. Bro. Carl Hancher was a recent surgical patient. We are thankful that both of them are able to assemble with us again.

Bro. Mark Ehnle returned to the hospital this past week to receive further treatment for the control of his leukemia. May God continue to give him and his family much grace.

The family of Sis. Julia Ehnle wishes to thank everyone for the cards and gifts of love sent to her at Christmas time. She asks God to bless everyone for their generosity.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isaiah 41:10. We just finished a trip to Phoenix during which we especially felt the closeness and blessing of the Lord from beginning to end. It was a trip about which I had certain reservations, yet prayer (not worry) made the trip a truly joyful experience.

Even when death comes, we are promised no need of fear, no reason to question God's providence nor his rightness." A friend was held up at gun-point some years ago, yet he was not harmed nor was anything stolen, because of another's "accidental" intervention. Those bent on evil turned and ran. Surely a husband and wife expressed much thanksgiving that night. The Lord's will was carried out. But just as surely had money or the car been stolen or he been harmed or even killed, could they have known that the Lord's timing was accurate, that His Spirit would strengthen, help, uphold, and cause good to be the result. "Praise ye the Lord. . . Praise Him for His mighty acts." Psalm 150: 1, 2.

Bro. Rod Huber, Valparaiso, IN, and Bro. Bob Pflederer, Morton, were our visiting ministers. In His name we thank them for their efforts to His glory and honor.

Bro. Miklos Bozzay has served us prayerfully and well as usher. We thank him for his efforts to bring order in the house of the Lord and ask the Lord's blessing upon him. Bro. Ron Anderson will now be assuming those duties. We wish him the help of the Lord, as well as our individual cooperation.

Bro. Ray Young has had yet an-

other time of surgery, but we can now say he is doing well. We love to rejoice with those who rejoice. May the Lord continue to bless his recuperation as well as his spiritual storehouse.

On our trip to Phoenix, I was privileged to be driving the last leg of the journey. I was impressed by a couple of points of interest. The saguaro cactus is each one an individual in size, proportion, and number of fingers. Yet each is certainly recognizable as a member of the saguaro family, and each points up towards the heavens. May we be such straight and tall members of the body of Christ, striving to bring forth as much fruit as the Lord would ask of us. I am also not a particularly brave driver, and I noticed how much more willing I was, especially in the mountains, to drive the speed limit when I could see ahead. Other times I held back, almost as though I thought the road might be ending beyond where I could see. And it is not well, but sometimes I catch myself doing that as a Christian. It's full speed ahead as long as I think I can see ahead. But He catches me braking sometimes instead of being open to His will when change and times of decision arrive. May we let God control by letting go.

In these last few days much history has been made. President's rely on policy makers and experts of all kinds in their negotiations and decisions. Would that their policy might come from the Word of God, which is much more than a book of etiquette, listing the rules for behavior. The Bible reaches out, through the Spirit of our Lord and Savior, to prepare us heart, mind, and spirit, to make and to live Christian decisions. Only through the Word of God can the knowledge of good and evil and true wisdom be given.

As the presidency changed hands, I thought how each president, no matter what his plans are, has to deal with what he has been bequeathed from earlier administrations, a great deal of which (the history, treaties, and agreements) is not easy to manage. And, increasingly, the president seems to acquire, with each new year, tougher problems in both the foreign and the domestic realms. Nevertheless, no matter

how little the president did or does to bring into being these problems, he has the responsibility to work toward solving them satisfactorily. As Harry Truman said, "The buck stops here." And so we as individuals created by God stand before Him. We may have terrible influences from our past or crushing blows in the present, but in our future we will be judged, not by history, but by a righteous God on whether we have availed ourselves of the only panacea known, the blood of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord.

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and ye would not." Matt. 23:37. A minister recently said he never yet heard of anyone who repented when they were told to. How true it is. I remember well when a special friend repented. At his baptism I felt as though I were a watched pot. And I remember promising myself that, though I wanted to repent, I would not—could not—now because everybody would think I did it because of him. Yet when I did repent, a number of others had begun first, and someone asked me if I had been moved by their repentance. I hadn't been at all, but I wouldn't have been ashamed, afraid or rebelled against saying yes, had it been true. The Lord had changed my heart. Ah, Satan likes excuses, and he loves to see us "cleverly" rationalize—a slave master watching his slaves dance to his every whim.

When Mary Magdalene at first saw our resurrected Lord, even though she was seeking Him, she thought Him to be the gardener. John 20:15. I know many gardeners. All are "good" people. Some are Christians; some are not. But many of the world who purport to seek the truth consider Jesus Christ only to be a very good man—quite a philosopher, but only a man. The divine truth can only be laid to our hearts when, as in verse 16, Christ speaks to us as He did to Mary. "Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master." Jn. 20:16. Then we, as she, must turn ourselves around, and then will our eyes be opened and Christ, the Son of God, be re-

vealed.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Luke 15:7.

Valerie McCarthy has repented and found peace with her Lord. We wish her God's blessings and guidance in her new walk of life.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Eulalia Eisenmann, Bro. Willard Rudin, and Bro. Wayne Hauptli, all medical patients. Also, submitting to surgery were Sis. Mattie Bauer (Bro. Harry), Bro. Urb Bauer, Sis. Isabelle Bauer (Bro. Gerge) and Joanne Class (Vernon). Margaret Hebert underwent open-heart surgery. Most of the hospital patients are home again and recuperating very nicely.

Marty Rudin, son of Katherine Rudin, broke his ankle, and Sis. Myrna Weerts (Bro. Kenny) is gradually recovering from pulled ligaments in her arm, which has been very painful. Ben Merkle, who has been at the Hawthorne Lodge in Watseka, has been transferred to Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury.

On Jan. 7. we had our annual meeting. Bro. Ben Rudin is our new trustee. Bro. Curt Sauder is to help serve in Sunday School, and Bro. Lester and Sis. Arlene Stock are to help on the kitchen committee.

We have been blessed this past month with visiting ministers Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Bro. Robert Beebe (South Bend, IN). We thank each one of them for their love and for sharing God's Holy Word.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Mardell Ott - Pat Rinkenberger

"I need oil" said one man; so he planted an olive sapling. "Lord, he prayed, "It needs rain so that its roots may drink." And the Lord sent gentle showers. "Lord, my tree needs sun," prayed the man. And the sun shone brightly. "Now frost, my Lord, to brace its tissues." And behold, the little tree stood sparkling with frost, but at evening it died.

The man told his strange experience to a friend which said, "I, too,

planted a little tree," he said, "and see! it thrives well. But I entrust my tree to God. He who made it knows better what it needs than a man like me. I laid no condition. I fixed not ways or means. 'Lord, send what it needs,' I prayed, 'storm or sunshine, wind, rain, or frost. Thou hast made it and thou dost know.'"—Cowman.

Funeral services for Bro. Jeff Rokey (Phoenix) were held here in Congerville, and we extend deepest sympathy to the Ervan Rokey family. Visiting ministering Bros. Richard Schupbach and Bill Dotterer (Phoenix) helped conduct the services.

Other visitors this month were Bro. Kenny Knapp (Taylor), Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington), Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott) and Bro. Si Wagenbach (Tremont).

Chuck Schrock and Ida Eglin spent some time in the hospital. We wish, for them, health again.

Sis. Bena Steffen wishes to extend sincere thanks to all for their deeds of kindness, cards, and prayers during her hospitalization and convalescence.

We rejoice that souls are still finding grace to repent and serve the Lord. Starting in this new way of life are Pat Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy of Taylor) and Emily Schlipf (Clarence and Lorene). We pray that they may be grounded upon the Rock.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN Ruth Ann Getz

The grimness of death has been a reality to us, and our hearts reach out to several families who have experienced the visit of the death angel. We saddened at the news of William Foell's death which came so suddenly Dec. 31, and we sincerely wish to extend sympathy to his dear family. He was born Nov. 2, 1900, in Elgin and was the son of Gustav and Sis. Catherine Reber Foell. Surviving are his wife, Sara Koch Foell, a daughter, Sandra Foell of Palatine, and a son, William L. of Dallas, TX.

Five days later the Lord called again in this family when He took Marie Foell (sister to William). Born Sept. 4, 1903, she lived in Elgin all of her life and was laid to rest Jan. 4 after a lingering illness. Surviving them both are two sisters, Sis. Ann Scheitlin and Katherine Vick, and three broth-

ers, Otto, Walter, and John, all of Elgin.

Sis. Marjorie Wewetzer has been bereaved in the death of her sister, Lois Cooper, who passed away very suddenly, Jan. 11. May the Lord grant His comforting spirit.

Finally, on Jan. 15 Sis. Mabel Steffen, 81, was called home to be with the Lord. She was born Nov. 15, 1899, in Elgin to Bro. William and Sis. Rose Stecher Wewetzer. Surviving are six daughters, Sis. Louise and Sis. Lenora Steffen, both of Elgin, Mrs. Luther (Helen) Steffen of Fort Wayne, IN, Mrs. Don (Sis. Gladys) Kaufman of Cisna Park, Mrs. Jack (Rosemary) Rechkemmer of Tarpon Springs, FL, and Mrs. Richard (Jeanne) Stoller of LaCanda, CA; five sons, Al and Bro. Earl, both of Elgin, Bro. Raymond of Rensselaer, IN, and Dale of Rancho Santa Fe, CA. Ministering brethren Carroll Gerber (Bluffton), Willis Wiegand (Goodfield), and Earl Kilgus (Remington) were among those who came in respect to Sis. Mabel and to support her family.

Our newly elected trustee of the church is Bro. Lloyd Kellenberger who will fill a three-year term. Also recently appointed as the new board member to our Apostolic Christian Resthaven is Bro. Ken Lindoerfer. We trust and have confidence that these brothers will trust in the Lord with all their hearts and lean not to their own understanding. Prov. 3:5.

Four families have had the blessings of having new children added to their families. We rejoice with them, trusting that they will also rely upon the guidance of the Lord in rearing these dear little children.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Sharon Kellenberger have received Daniel Lynn into their family. He was born Dec. 23 and was welcomed by Rachel, Neal, Gary, Kay, and Robert. His grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Emma Blunier (Roanoke) and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Minnie Kellenberger.

Lucas William was born Dec. 25 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Gudeman. Brandon is his big brother, and his grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller (Bradford) and Bro. William and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene, Ryan, Daren, Angela, and Austin Mueller are pleased to have Tristan Alvin

join their family. He was born Jan. 14 and his grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Loretta Baumgartner (Cissna Park) and Edna Mueller (Fairbury).

Amy Jo received a warm welcome into Bro. Tim and Sis. Diane Ebert's family. Especially overjoyed are Jeremy and Jennifer. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna Woodward and John and Relda Ebert are the grandparents.

Again various loved ones have suffered illnesses, and we have loving concern for their health and that it will be restored. We realize at the same time that the Lord's will is supreme. Should it not be for Him to restore health, may He brighten their spirit until it can be fit for the kingdom. Among those hospitalized have been: Sis. Emma Viellieber, Bro. Joel and Sis. Ernestine Gudeman, Sis. Anna Lohbauer, Sis. Gladys Weiss, Eda Schifferer and Louis Reber. Sis. Ida Moser is now residing at the Olivet Nursing Home at 355 Raymond Street, Elgin, IL.

We felt a revitalization among us as Elder Bro. Leroy Huber (Eureka), together with our beloved elders (Bro. Herman Kellenberger and Bro. Nathan Steffen), read to us the conclusions of the Brotherhood Conference held in August of 1980. It is humbling to realize that the Lord is still willing to chasten His children, for we can read in Rev. 3:19, "As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. . ."

The Lord has brought two more souls (Dorothy Schifferer, wife of Ed, and David Steffen, son of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn) into repentance and to a realization of their lost and sinful state. Truly, it is a time to rejoice when men can call upon the Lord with a penitent heart, for we can feel that the Lord is pleased with such a sacrifice and then in due time can bring sweet peace to their souls.

If you from sin are longing to be free,

Look to the lamb of God;
He, to redeem you, died on
Calvary,

Look to the Lamb of God.

Jackson

How wonderful it is when friends can feel the need of a Savior, as the following have, and turn to the Lord: Linda Wiegand, Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen; Jeanine Wettstein, Harold and Loretta; Dan and Dav-

id Schumacher, Bro. Bob and Sis. Charleen; Tina and Bruce Martin, Bro. Louis and Sis. Arletta; Sandy Getz, Bro. Allen and Sis. Nathalia; Mary Beth Wettstein, Bro. Art and Sis. Donna; Lena Hangartner, Bro. Roy and Norma; Becky Knecht, Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judy; Sheri Grubb, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Grubb, El Paso; and Larry and Lloyd Wettstein, Bro. Bob and Sis. Verna.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Anne Leman wish to thank everyone for the many, many acts of love shown to them during Bro. Dave's hospitalization and since he is home. They were overwhelmed by all the kind deeds.

Bro. Nelson Martin was hospitalized with a cracked pelvis and cracked ribs, which happened when he slipped and fell off a shed roof. He is home again and, even though he is having considerable pain, is doing real well. We are grateful more injury was not done at the time of his accident.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Huber welcomed their fourth son on Jan. 15. Little Jeffry Scott has Alan, Michael and Randy waiting to play with him at home. Bro. Leroy and Sis. Clara Huber and Leonard and Sis. Ann Hartter are his grandparents.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

Dec. 27 was the wedding day of Nancy Moser and Kevin Friedman. Their parents are Keith and Nita Moser and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Friedman. They will be making their home in Forrest.

Our hospital patients this month are Sis. Martha Stortz, Bro. Joe Slagel, Bro. John Wiedman, Bro. Walter Moser, Grant Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary), Sis. Sarah Steffen, Esther Hofmann, and Sis. Donna Schieler. Some of these have been dismissed, but for those who are not, we offer our prayers that a measure of good health can again be restored to all who are afflicted.

On Wednesday evening, Jan. 7, we were privileged to partake of the Lord's Supper. How beneficial it is for all of us to go to Calvary, to realize the love of our Saviour, His suffering, and the price He paid for our salvation. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman assist our elders.

Other visiting ministers the past month have been Bros. Paul Gasser, Akron; Bruce Leman, Roanoke; and Gene Lehman, Wolcott.

Here is a quotation that expresses our thoughts many times:

I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be and I am not what I hope to be; but, by the Grace of God, I am not what I once was.

Author Unknown

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

Just as I am, thy Love unknown,
Has broken every barrier down,
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

(Streams in the Desert)

Our congregation has been blessed with three precious souls that have come to God in repentance seeking their salvation. Mike Zimmerman and his wife, Jeanette (Bro. Perry and Sis. Dorothy), and Renee Wenger (Ed), daughter-in-law of Bro. Albert and Sis. Nathalia, have turned their backs on the world and have come to "His." We are told in God's Word that even the angels in heaven rejoice over each sinner that repents.

On Sunday, Jan. 4, Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke) visited and brought us God's Word. Do we appreciate enough our freedom to go to God's House and hear His Word?

I do not ask my cross to understand,

My way to see—

Better in darkness just to feel
Thy hand

And follow Thee.

(Streams in the Desert)

Sis. Persida Huber, Peoria nursing home, fell and cracked her hip and is now in the Methodist Hospital in Peoria. She was formerly from Forrest. Bro. Alve Kilgus, Fairview Haven Home, and Sis. Aldine Wackerle were our hospital patients. They are both at home again.

Jeanne Schlatter (Bro. Dan and Sis. Josephine of Forrest) and Edward Metzger, both of Scottsdale, AZ, have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. They plan a May 31 wedding.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter

To every thing there is a season,

and a time to every purpose under the heaven;

A time to be born, and a time to die. Eccl. 3.

A very dear brother, Tom Hohulin, has been taken from our midst, in fact, almost in the twinkling of an eye. But as we review the beautiful impression that his life has made on our entire congregation, young and old, we can see through our tears that he had completed his life's purpose here on earth and God's will is done.

Bro. Tom passed away on Jan. 6 in San Antonio, TX, after a very short illness. Funeral services were held on Jan. 10 in Goodfield. Surviving are his dear wife, Sis. Carol, daughter, Andree, son, Adam, parents, Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie, three brothers, Bros. Sam, Bill, and Jim of this congregation, and one sister, Sis. LeAnn Bucher, Indianapolis. We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to this dear family.

We ask God to bless the marriage of Jyl Bellville and Chuck Knapp. They were married on Dec. 19, and their parents are the Robert Bellvilles and Bro. Wes and Sis. Mildred, all of Goodfield.

Jan. 4 was the wedding day for Sis. Deonne Steffen and Bro. Anthony Monfree. Sis. Deonne's parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Allene. May God bless this dear couple as they begin their life together.

Jordan Benjamin is the new son of Joe and Sis. Jan Tanner. He was born on Dec. 27 and has a sister, Jodee, and a brother, Jessee. His grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Helen Zimmerman of Roanoke, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Leona.

Little Chad Gerber (Roger and Trish) is still hospitalized, following surgery, and we are happy to hear that he is doing quite well.

We wish to sincerely thank the following ministering brethren for their messages brought to us recently: Joe Braker, Morton; Marshall Heinold, Washington; Leland Plattner, Zapata; Jim Rinckenberger, Bluffton; and Dave Wiegand, Champaign.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Carol Klopfenstein

"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say Rejoice." Phil. 4:4. When Jesus sent out the seventy disciples to labour in His behalf,

they "returned again with joy saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name." (Luke 10:18) Jesus agreed that He could give them power over all the power of the enemy and they could do many miracles through His name, but He told them that this is not the reason they should be rejoicing. "But rather rejoice," He said, "Because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20) It is the hope of salvation that enables us to rejoice always in spite of any hardships or misfortunes that come our way. The apostle Paul who endured much affliction could many times write in his epistles that he rejoiced. He could encourage persecuted brethren to rejoice also because this world was not their home and their names were written in heaven.

Many of us have been richly blessed in that we live in a land of freedom where we can live and worship according to the dictates of our own conscience, and we enjoy prosperity and many comforts our forefathers were denied. We have it so nice, we really have to rejoice in God's goodness as we think how loving and kind He has been to us. It is good for us to appreciate and have thankful hearts, but we should be careful that our physical well being is not the only cause for our rejoicing. Even if we had the faith to remove mountains and could perform many wonderful miracles in His Name, these also would not be the true cause for rejoicing. Let us remember those precious words of our Savior whether we are healthy or sick, rich or poor, free or persecuted: "Rejoice! Because your names are written in heaven."

The peace of God has enhanced the lives of three dear souls who have turned to the Lord in repentance, allowing Him to create in them a clean heart. Kathy Stoller, Joy Ringger, and Ellen Gramm are looking forward to giving their testimonies and being baptized.

It was announced that Bro. David Meiss, son of Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge will be married to Sis. Debbie Diggie of Roanoke.

Sis. Sophia Kaupp and her brother, Elmer, wish to thank all those who were so kind to them with visits, cards and gifts on their birthdays and at Christmas. They are now living at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka.

We appreciate the recent visit of ministering Bro. Tom Leman of Elgin.

Kimberly Ringger, daughter of Jake and Barbara Ringger of Gridley, is engaged to be married to Timothy Brookhart of Macomb.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Sandy Gramm

How glad we were to have ministering Bros. Leroy Hartman, Peoria, Uriel Gehring, Burlington, Everett Hari, Bloomington, and Jim Byrd, Roanoke, each spend a Thursday evening with us. Also, Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, Gridley, shared some of our church history. We want to thank these brethren for their efforts.

As we look around us, it seems the world grows darker every day. Now, while we still have the time and the door of grace is yet open, is our chance to let our light shine out to those around us. There are many people we come in contact with every day who are searching for something. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16. Let us take these words to heart and fulfill our duty to be a light and example to those around us now, before it's too late.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

JoAnn Roecker - Phyllis Farney

We wish to extend sympathy to the Pfloderer family upon the passing of their sister, Katherine Swearingen. May God comfort and bless her husband, Harold, her family and friends.

Sis. Frances Sauder was sweetly called "Home." Her funeral was on Dec. 31. May God comfort her family and friends.

We wish to extend sympathy to Sis. Carol Fahrni upon the passing of her mother, Sis. June Fahrni of Alto, MI. May our Heavenly Father also comfort and bless her family and friends.

The Lord has brought together two dear loved ones who wish to become one in Christ, Bro. Ron Jones, Portland, OR, formerly of Morton, IL, and Sis. Liz Moser, Portland, OR. The announcement was made on Sunday, Jan. 11. Bro. Ron's parents are Gene and Sis. Sherrill Jones, Morton, and Sis. Liz's parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser, Portland. May God

bless them as they establish their Christian home together.

Bro. Charlie Schwenk wishes to express his thanks for all the prayers, cards, gifts and flowers received during his affliction. May God bless all who were so kind. Bro. Charlie still can not come to church to worship with us and would appreciate our remembering him in prayer.

We wish to thank Bro. Ron Heiniger, Blomington-Normal, and Bro. Richard Schupbach, Phoenix, AZ, who recently ministered God's Holy Word to us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

The following loved ones have recently spent some time in the hospital: Sis. Idja Mae Klaus, Sis. Emma Zimmerman, Sis. Virginia Hunziker, and Terry Pfloderer, daughter of Bro. Robert and Sis. Eleanor Pfloderer. May God be with them.

We had one wedding, 16 baptisms, 13 births and 18 funerals in 1980.

Let us be prayerful for our beloved elders as they have recently spent time meeting together to help strengthen our most precious faith. "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; the elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity." I Tim. 5:1-2.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner
Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly

Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to sin;
Thy Spirit now shall live within.
Zions Harp, #41

On Dec. 13 and 14 we were privileged to hear and witness the testimonies and baptisms of Valerie Hess (Gene and Rhoda) and Dan Hoerr (Dave and Sis. Harriet). Also, we were thankful to hear that Ben Hancher, who is 80 years old and now lives at our Apostolic Christian Home, has found peace with God and was baptized on Dec. 19.

May these three dear souls who have found their new life with our Lord Jesus Christ be blessed abundantly throughout each day.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join
The twain, created man.

Hymns of Zion, #286

Bro. Tim Funk (Bro. Jim and Sis. LuAnne of Tucson) and Sis. Debbie Feucht (Bro. Walt and the late Sis. Dola) were united in holy matrimony on Dec. 21.

Dec. 28 was the wedding date of Bro. Mark Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Velma) and Sis. Carolyn Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina of Phoenix). Their wedding was held at the Washington church. We wish both of these couples the Lord's richest blessings as they walk life's pathway together.

Among the visiting ministers this month were Bros. Noah Herman and Jim Funk from Tucson.

We have been blessed with three dear little souls in our congregation. Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman had a daughter. Michelle Ann was welcomed home by her brother, Chad. The grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Nancy Herman and Bro. Paul and Sis. Rhoda Meister.

First-time parents are Gordy and Martha Steffen. They were blessed with a son, Brandon Elm. The grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister and the late Bro. Elmer and Sis. Eleanor Steffen.

Welcoming home his new sister, Jessica Marie, is Bryce. Her parents are Kevin and Beth Van Dusen. The grandparents are Bro. Vern and Sis. Marie Hohulin and Mr. and Mrs. William VanDusen.

Among the sick this month were Bro. Robert Miller, Christopher Hemp, Sis. Sophie Hybarger, Sis. Anna Hoerr, Evelyn Thomas, Helen Thomas, and Amelia Asal. May the Lord restore each one to good health.

Our Sis. Hulda Streitmatter from our church home passed away and her funeral was on Dec. 15. She is survived by her children and brothers and sisters. May she rest in peace until the calling of our Lord.

Our annual business meeting was held Jan. 11. We also elected our new Sunday School teachers. They are Bros. Bruce Witzig and Norman Hoerr and Sisters Betty Miller and Barb Thomas. Our new trustee is Bro. Tom Hoerr.

Our Elder Bro. Roy Sauder and his wife, Gertrude, left to attend

the Elder Conference in Zapata, TX, and to vacation in Florida. May God watch over and protect them and grant them a safe journey back to their home.

Bro. Walter Bittner wants to thank all for the cards, flowers, visits, and prayers while he was in the hospital and at home. It was truly a blessing.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Arlene and Arlys Martin

We heard recently that we can grow spiritually if we learn more about Jesus (Matt. 11:29). Visiting ministers who encouraged us to study the Scriptures and learn more about Jesus have been Bros. Dan Koch of Tremont and Nathan Stoller of Bradford.

Jan. 4 was a happy day in Princeville. We welcomed one new brother and two new sisters into our fellowship. They are Bro. Dennis Herrmann, son of Bro. Harry and Sis. Bertha Jean Kieser Herrmann; Sis. Brenda Martin, daughter of Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna Sauder Martin; and Sis. Terri Stoller, daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Wagenbach Stoller.

On Jan. 11 Bro. Joe Stoller announced the engagement of Bro. Steve Leuthold to Sis. Lois Dill of Tremont. The parents are Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Schumacher Leuthold of our congregation and Sis. Barbara Steiner Dill of Tremont and Henry Dill.

First-time grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Bitner Baurer. Their granddaughter, Brooke Amanda, was born on Dec. 23 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Rocke Baurer of Roanoke.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

As day is breaking, God's "littlest angels in disguise" are busily eating at our feeding station—the red-bellied woodpecker, five bluejays, the little juncos, the upside down nuthatches, the nervous little chickadees, a pair of cardinals, the downy woodpecker, the finches, and of course, many sparrows, including one albino sparrow that visits everyday. We are daily reminded that God even provides for the sparrows.

In the year just ended, we had 15 baptisms, nine funerals, 19 babies, and 14 weddings.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl Baurer

are the happy parents of their first daughter, Brooke Amanda. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Mae Rocke, and Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer (Princeville) are the grandparents. May God be with the little one and her parents.

Funeral services were held for Bro. John Blunier. He had been living in the Eureka Apostolic Christian Home. He is survived by two sisters, Sis. Rose Funk and Sis. Anna Grusy (Gridley).

The engagement of Sis. Debbie Diggle (John and Sis. Sarah) and David Meiss (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marge), Gridley, was made known. They are planning a March wedding.

Peggy Luginbuhl (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean) and Ron Schroeder (Joyce and Dan) Washburn, announced their engagement the same day as her sister, Becky Luginbuhl, who is engaged to Dennis Unsicker (Bro. Mel and Sis. Carolee) of Dunlap. Peggy and Ron are planning to be married Feb. 28, and Becky and Dennis are planning to be married March 14. We wish these three couples God's richest blessings.

Hospitalized this month are Sis. Mary Leman and Sis. Lena Pfister. Little Leigh Nichole Getz is still hospitalized. May God's healing hand provide their every need.

We were privileged to have as visiting ministers this month Bros. Art Baurer, Vernon Leman, and Marvin Schmidgal.

Our annual business meeting was held Wednesday evening. May God bless the brothers who were given new responsibilities.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT Dorothy Wagenbach - Phyllis Lang

It was with much joy that we heard of the engagement of Bro. Steve Leuthold and Sis. Lois Dill. Lois is the daughter of Sis. Barbara Dill and Henry Dill, and Bro. Steve's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Shirley Leuthold. We heard the happy news of the engagement of Bro. Terry Koch and Sis. Christine Gschwind. Bro. Terry is the son of Bro. Jesse and Sis. Amy Koch, and Sis. Christine is the daughter of Aaron and Iris Gschwind. Bro. Jesse and Sis. Amy's daughter, Connie, has also announced her engagement to Marty Kiesewetter. Marty's parents are Albert and Zona Kiesewetter. The engagement of Patricia Bolliger

and John McKey has been announced. The parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and Paul and Amy McKey. We wish them all God's blessings as they make their wedding plans.

Bro. Al Aberle was our hospital patient this month. We pray that the Lord will heal his hand.

We have three new little babies to tell you about this month. Ken and Linda Sauder became the parents of a baby boy, Adrian Joseph, born Dec. 31. He is welcomed by sister Mikalia. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Elizabeth Sauder, and Ed and Marion Harding. Ron and Tammy Wagenbach are happy first-time parents of a baby boy, Paul Ronald, born Jan. 16. The grandparents are Bro. Si and Sis. Louise Wagenbach, and Bro. Wally and Olene Blunier. Roger and Becky Schweigert became parents of the third son, Curtis Edward, born Jan. 14. His brothers are Christopher and Marc, and his grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Ida Schweigert and Wayne and Eleanor Howard. May God add his blessings to these family circles.

"...men ought always to pray and not to faint." (Luke 18:1)

ILLINOIS, URBANA Charlen Banwart

"Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed
for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to
Thee,
O Lamb of God! I come!"

Just As I Am

This was sung at the graveside service of Bro. Tom Hohulin of Goodfield. He was the son of our beloved Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin (and Sis. Elsie) and the son-in-law of Sis. Verna Roth of our congregation. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." (Rev. 21:4)

Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary Gail Weyenth are moving to Peoria, as he has been transferred by his company. We have enjoyed having them assemble with us for a short time and wish God's blessings upon them in their new home.

Sis. Julie Fehr (wife of Bro. Denny of Niantie) was a surgical patient. We are thankful she is

now at home recuperating.

Elder Bro. Steve Rinkenberger (Cissna Park), Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria), and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington) ministered to us recently. Elder Bro. Ed Hohulin and Bro. Bob Grimm shared the memorandum of the Brotherhood Conference with us. "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever; nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it; and God doeth it, that men should fear before him." (Eccl. 3:14)

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Joan and Mary Schick

The days and years fly by as the Lord continues to protect, provide, and bless. Our congregation has received so many blessings in this past year, including seven new brothers and sisters baptized into our fold, one couple united in marriage, and six precious babies.

We give our congratulations to Sis. Carolyn Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Lavina of Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Mark Hoerr of Peoria who were united in marriage on Dec. 28. May God bless them with much love and faith and give them many happy years together.

We appreciated the ministers who visited our congregation. They were Bros. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN), Phil Stettner (Bluffton, IN), and Elder Bros. Joe Braker (Morton) and Roy Sauder (Peoria). May God give each a special measure of grace.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Tami Fiechter Gayla Baumgartner

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth forever. I Peter 1:24-25.

We sincerely thank Bros. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix), Morris Frank (Leo), Ben Mantz (Junction), and Edwin Bahler (Remington) for bringing us the Word of God. May the Lord's blessings be with them.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard were blessed with their third daughter, Annie Janelle, Janon Noel is the name given to the precious daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter. Heidi joyfully welcomes her little sister. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter are the

happy parents of Klint David, their first child. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Andrea Sipe welcome their new son, Kristopher Ray, into their home. We wish these parents God's guidance in rearing their children.

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity. . ." I Cor. 13:13. It is through faith that Bro. Dave Mueller and Sis. Terri Steffen made their engagement known. They are planning a Feb. 22nd wedding. Their parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ambros Mueller of Ft. Lauderdale and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Eileen Steffen.

Tim Pfister and Angela Hunt are engaged and are planning to be married on Aug. 22. We wish them much happiness as they plan their life together. Tim's parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Barb Pfister.

Bro. Steve Longenberger (Bro. Harry and Sis. Devona) and Sis. Kathy Gerber (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Maryann Kaehr) were united as one in the Lord on Jan. 11. "Where God in truth abides; where two join hand and heart, we find a threefold cord; not lightly rent apart." (Zion's Harp)

Among the hospital patients this month were Sis. Denise Heyerly, Sis. Rose Gerber (Bro. Eli), Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), Sis. Lucinda Fiechter (Bro. Joel), Bro. Howard Baumgartner (Sis. Joyce), Sis. Lucinda Sauder (Bro. Lewis), Kara Heyerly (Bro. Simon and Sis. Delores), Rod Bucher (Bro. Nile and Sis. Phyllis), Sis. Marjorie Reimschisel (Bro. David), and Sis. Esther Aschliman (Bro. Noah). May the Lord restore good health to each one, according to His will.

We were saddened by the death of Reuben Kipfer. He passed from this life on Jan. 3. Surviving are a brother, Bro. Ed, and four sistres, Sis. Ida Steffen (Wilmer), Sis. Elma Kipfer, Sis. Lucinda Steffen, and Sis. Josephine Meyer (Bro. Joe).

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emma Gerber would like to thank all who remembered them on their 50th wedding anniversary. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless them with health and happiness.

Moving? Let Us Know.

INDIANA, BREMEN (See South Bend)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Wendy Gutwein - Jacki Huber

The first month of 1981 has surely been joyous for our congregation as we have quite a large group of converts. We pray that with humble hearts they will continue to seek the Lord and build a strong foundation on the Solid Rock.

The World Relief Committee met here Dec. 19. We were thankful for the ones who stayed for Sunday, especially ministering Bro. Vernon Leman (Eureka) as he spoke to us from God's Holy Word. The same afternoon, our Christmas program was held with our Sunday School children singing songs and reciting verses of the Christmas story.

New Year's Eve we once again assembled for our New Year's Eve program. We surely appreciated Bros. Les Huber (Lexington) and Joe Stoller (Princeville) being here to minister to us before the program.

We were pleased to hear the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Nick Gutwein (Bro. Carl, Sis. Yvonne), to Sis. Suzanne Schwab (Bro. Vernon, Sis. Arlene) of Wolcott. We're looking forward to having Sis. Suzanne as part of our congregation.

Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington) spent one Sunday afternoon ministering to us. We'd like to thank him and his family for visiting us.

Our prayers are with the family of Herb and Sis. Sue Cook in the death of Herb's mother, Mrs. Merle Cook.

We have the joyous news of a new little one to report. Lance Charles is the new son of Harvey and Sis. Ellen Gutwein. Nicole, Heather and Stuart are thrilled with their new baby brother, also. May the Lord bless their little family.

O Gentle Saviour
O gentle Saviour, from thy throne
on high,
Look down in love, and hear our
humble cry.
Go where we go, abide where we
abide,
In life, in death, our comfort,
strength and guide.
O lead us daily with Thine eye of
love,
And bring us safely to our home
above.

Hymns of Zion, #20

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS**Bobbi Erb**

This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Lamentations 3:21-24.

Sometimes we allow our emotions to block our view of God's faithfulness. But be assured, God sees the total picture, and His actions are perfect. God is at this moment being absolutely faithful to all of us. He can do nothing else.

Our visiting ministers in the past month were Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford) and Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton). May the Lord bless them for their deeds of love.

INDIANA, La CROSSE**Pearl Nuest - LuAnn Feller**

Blessings were ours as we listened to the youth tell us about the birth of Christ in verse and song, Sunday, Dec. 20.

Christmas Day services were enjoyed by many as we received rich blessings while hearing the old, old story about the birth of Christ. We were happy to have Bros. Gene Lehman, Wolcott, Marshall Heinold, Washington, and Bill Schlatter, Junction, with us.

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Steve Gutwein, Francesville, on Sunday, Jan. 11. May God continue to bless the ministers as they speak the Word of God.

Douglas Ailes, young son of John and Carol, was a surgical patient. He is now home and doing very well.

My heavenly home is bright and fair,
Nor pain, nor death can enter there;
It's glittering tower the sun outshine;
That heavenly mansion shall be mine.

Gospel Hymns

Loved ones have been called from our midst to their eternal rest. Sis. Louise Wittmer, 84, wife of Bro. Edward, passed away Jan. 8. Sis. Louise Alt, 83, passed away Jan. 11. May their loved ones find comfort, knowing that they went home to die no more.

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

"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10. There was joy in the congregation, too, when testimonial and baptismal services were held for Claudia Kizer, Tonya Wyman and Patty Souder. Patty is the daughter of your Silver Lining editor, Bro. Ed Souder (and Sis. Irma).

Bros. Loren Klopfenstein and Lynn and Steve Stieglitz have returned from several weeks of volunteer work in Ecuador.

Tom and Pamela Brown are blessed with a new baby boy, Justin David. He is welcomed by his older brother, Jason, and grandparents, Elder Bro. David and Sis. Marie Bertsch.

Hospital patients were Sis. Ruth Garman, little Bethany Cockburn and Jackie Norr, and Sis. Bertha Steiner. Bro. William Klopfenstein has undergone heart surgery. Many prayers have gone up for our sick. Others have been ill at home with flu. Perhaps this is the time of year to remember that the snowdrift hides the rose!

Americans have been welcoming the hostages home. Many families who have been waiting so long are rejoicing. Have you been praying for the untold number of people on this earth who are still "hostages of satan"? Those who have experienced the grace of God in salvation have the responsibility of sharing the good news of salvation through His shed blood to those precious souls who are still bound. The mission of the church is to reach people for God.

Ye Have Not, Because. . .
If you had been living when Christ was on earth,
And had met the Saviour, kind,
What would you have asked Him to do for you.
Supposing you had been blind?

The child considered, and then replied:

"I expect that without a doubt I'd have asked for a dog with a collar and chain
To lead me daily about."

And how often thus, in our faithless prayers,
(We acknowledge with shamed surprise),

We have only asked for a dog and a chain

When we might have had. . .
opened eyes!"

M. Colley

Our newly elected trustee of the church is Bro. John Klopfenstein. Bro. Bob Cockburn will serve as usher. We give our prayerful support to our brothers.

INDIANA, MILFORD**Marcy Haab - Connie Beer**

He lives and grants me daily breath;

He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives, my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

—Martin Luther

Sis. Lorene Sorg, 73, was called to eternal rest on Jan. 3. She had been ill for several years. We extend our sympathy to those she left behind: her husband, Bro. Earl; a daughter, Mrs. Gene (Sally) Hoerr of Peoria; two grandsons; four sisters, Sis. Naomi Beer (Bro. Theo) of Milford, Sis. Marie Ritzman of Akron, OH, Sis. Frances Clark (Bro. Homer) of Ossian, and a twin, Mrs. William (Irene) Best of Nappanee; and two brothers, Roy and Walter Speheger of Bluffton.

We sincerely extend our sympathy to Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy Steffen and family in the passing of his dear mother, Sis. Mable Steffen (Elgin).

Funeral services were held Jan. 16 for Lloyd A. Welty, 61. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Esther Lehman Welty, and his son, Bob Welty.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Cockburn (Leo) are the parents of a new daughter, Mary Kathryn, born Nov. 23. Bethany and Amy both welcome her home. Her grandparents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Price and Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth A. Cockburn.

Sonya Hoover and Thad Tinkey are engaged. Sonya is the daughter of Don and Sis. Virginia. The parents of Thad are Mr. and Mrs. Rex Tinkey.

We were happy to have Bro. Bob Bebee and the South Bend congregation with us for our New Year's Eve service. In what better place could we be than the house of God to see the old year out and the new year in?

Our 1981 business meeting was held Jan. 7. The newly elected officers are: Bro. Bert Aeschliman, Bible Class; Bros. Steve Haab and Steve Beer, 3rd and 4th grade class; Bro. Alvin Haab, trustee; and Sis. Marcy Haab (Bro. Steve), Silver Lining Reporter.

This past month, three of our loved ones underwent back surgery: Sis. Sandy Beer (Bro. Lee), Sis. Marcy Haab (Bro. Steve), and Tim Steffen (Bro. Walt and Sis. Dorothy). We pray that the Lord will be near them. May they feel the prayers of their loved ones as we remember them in prayer. Also, Bro. John Lehman was hospitalized for tests and is now back home again.

He giveth more grace when the
burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when
the labors increase;
To added affliction He addeth His
mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multi-
plied peace.

His love has no limit, His grace
has no measure,
His power no boundary known
unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in
Jesus
He giveth and giveth, and
giveth again.

—Annie Johnson Flint

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY
INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
Verne Von Tobel**

The semester is well on its way and so are our plans for hosting college weekend: the last weekend in March. The Purdue group has also been blessed with several converts. We are thankful for the decisions of Trudi Gudeman (Francesville) and Lori Brenkman (Goodfield). They make a blessed addition to our young group. We have also enjoyed seeing Dan Fiesler and Eric Stephen (Bluffton) and Bruce Weibolt (Remington) who have been here for the short course.

We are thankful for all of the efforts of love that bless us each time we meet for services, and we encourage everyone's prayers for a blessed upcoming college weekend.

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

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Annette Bahler - Beth Virkler**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3) We have four new little ones to add to our growing congregation. The parnets of Rustin Lane are Russ and Pat (Beer) Mikels, born Dec. 15. The parents of Kerry Lee are Dale and Marcella (Wasner) Tyler, born Dec. 18. The parents of Benjamin Lee are Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol Troxel, born Dec. 26. The parents of Rachel Kay are Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita Bahler, born Jan. 3.

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." (Psalm 119:71). We pray that our brothers and sisters who have been suffering the infirmities of the flesh can testify to these words. Bro. George Waibel, Sis. Lillie Frey and Sis. Eliza Getz have spent time in the hospital this month.

In a recent testimony, an elder brother told us of an experience he had while driving out west. He was driving through the desert country of southwestern United States and observed the total barrenness of the land. His traveling companion spoke up and said, "This is what happens when life is all sunshine." There is such an important truth in this. We may not want to welcome storms, cloudy days, high winds and freezing rains, but all this along with some sunshine produces a rich fertile valley in our spiritual life. If we could all drive through a desert in our spiritual life, I'm sure that none of us would want that barrenness with no promise of fruit that results from a life of sunshine and ease.

Our annual meeting took place this month with Bro. John Knobloch, Bro. Ron Clark, Bro. Dan Stoller and Sis. Charlene Getz receiving the support of the congregation to teach our children their lessons of truth on Sunday morning.

This year our congregation had two weddings, five funerals, six births and one baptism.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Gayle Bucher**

More holiness give me,
More striving within;
More patience in suff'ring,
More sorrow for sin;

More faith in my Saviour,
More sense of His care;
More joy in His service,
More purpose in prayer.
More Holiness Give Me,
P. P. Bliss

Recently, Bro. Rod Huber shared with us an inspiring message explaining the necessity of striving for holiness in our lives. We thank Bro. Rod, his family, and the brethren who accompanied them for sharing a most blessed day with us. Fellowship of our brethren is so uplifting, and we encourage everyone to visit us. Because of the extremely cold weather, we have been using various facilities other than our regular location in La Paz. Starting in February, however, we will be worshipping in La Paz, hoping for warmer weather.

Our congregation was privileged to share a New Year's Eve service with our Milford brethren. We humbly thank them for their invitation of love and fellowship.

In spite of the abundance of snow and frigid temperatures in South Bend, the construction of our new church facility continues to progress. We are very thankful for those who have shared their time and talents helping in various capacities. The Lord willing, the building should soon be completely enclosed. We covet the prayers of all our brethren and friends and thank you again for your continuous support.

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Pro. 3:5,6.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Laurel and Kris Widmer
Suzanne Lehman**

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed in thee." We look forward to hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Melinda and Sandy Bahler. The girls are daughters of Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler. On Jan. 10-11 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Dwight Waibel and Sis. Becky Schwab (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Arlene). We wish them the Lord's guidance in their Christian walk of life.

Seeking and finding God's will and direction in their lives, Sis. Suzanne Schwab (Bro. Vernon and

Sis. Arlene) announced her engagement to Bro. Nick Gutwein (Bro. Carl and Sis. Yvonne, Francesville) on Jan. 4. We rejoice that another Christian home will soon be established.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Judy Gehring - Kim Salek

On Sunday, Jan. 4, we had our annual meeting. Bro. Paul Wagler was elected to finish our Bro. Paul Eisenmann's term as trustee. Bro. Paul Eisenmann was recently given ministering duties. Bro. Ken Scheitlin was put in as our new trustee for a five-year period. No matter what our duty is in the church, whether it is an elected duty or being a member of the congregation, it is an important duty. We need each and every member of our congregation to make the body whole. It may not be an elected duty that we perform, but being willing to help and support in another way. All of us have special talents, and it is up to us to be wise stewards and attend to them diligently.

Bro. Jon Schmidgall of Oakville spent a Wednesday evening with us and left us with much food for thought. He read from Galatians 5 and meditated on the works of the flesh and the fruits of the Spirit. So often when we think of the works of the flesh we immediately think of the gross sins, but also included are many things that we do not consider gross sins. Yet . . . "they which do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. . ." such things as "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murder, drunkenness, revelings, and such like. . ." It would do us well to sit down with our dictionaries and seek the meaning of these words. So many of our church conclusions are directly related to this Scripture. And yet if we would faithfully practice the first fruit of the spirit, love, all of these works of the flesh could be done away with. John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." If we love Him, we will keep His commandments and refrain from the works of the flesh. Bro. Jon suggested that each day we take one of the fruits of the spirit and for that day diligently practice that fruit to see if we do let that fruit abound in our lives, in every as-

pect of our lives. I'm sure that by the end of the week we would all see an improvement, and our lives and those of others around us would all be the richer for it.

We thank Bro. Jon and his wife for spending the evening with us and for bringing us the precious Word of God so that we can be nourished and grow more perfect in its light.

MIRROR OF THE SOUL

Humility makes a man peaceable among his brethren, fruitful of doing good, cheerful in suffering, and constant in holy living. Humility makes us qualified for the highest service that we owe to Christ and at the same time is not neglectful of the lowliest service to the saint in the most modest of circumstances. Humility can be content with the poorest of fare and yet will have a special liking for the choicest tidbit, as with God, with Christ and be entertained majestically. Humility makes one willing and ready to bless him who curses him and to pray for him who persecutes him. A humble heart is an abode of God, a disciple of Christ, a companion of angels, a storage utensil for grace, and is prepared for glory. Humility is the attentive nurse or guardian of our grace and gifts and the mighty spur to consecrated exercise of duty.

Writings of S. H. Froehlich
Evidence page 64

IOWA, ELGIN Eleanor Butikofer

This is such a gorgeous day; the thermometer registers a 45. If we did not remember that calendar-wise we are in January, the air would indicate we are having a day in April. We thank God for sunshine and blue skies, both physically and spiritually.

The light of friendship is like the light of phosphorous, seen only when all around is dark.

The door to the human heart can be opened only from the inside.

We may give without loving, but we cannot love without giving.

—Apples of Gold

Bro. Gottlieb Pulfer, a resident of the Elkader Care Center at Elkader, was pleased yesterday to see his son, Paul, and Mr. and Mrs.

Albert Hansen and daughter, April, the latter being his great-granddaughter. Gottlieb is quite alert and consequently can enjoy company.

Sis. Alta Thoman has recently had a bout with pneumonia, spending a number of days in the West Union Hospital. She is now doing quite well at her home in Elgin. She and her brother, Clarence, have been living in the town of Elgin since they sold their country home in 1969. We are very thankful that Alta is improving. We certainly miss her presence at our church services; her quiet demeanor and sweet smile are an asset to our congregation. We hope that she will soon be able to assemble with us again.

Our Elder Paul Butikofer and his wife, Sis. Mildren, are at Zapata, TX, where Paul is attending the elder meeting.

Bro. Lonnie Butikofer is attending classes at the Upper Iowa University in Fayette. He is working for a master's degree in nursing. His wife, Sandy, who recently received her R.N. credentials at the area school at Calmar, is now employed at the West Union hospital. We congratulate her on her accomplishment.

Here are the names of the various species of birds seen close to our home: Red Billed Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Red headed Woodpeckers, Juncoes, Chickadees, Blue Jays, Gold Finches, Ring-necked Pheasants, and Purple Finches. These feathered creatures, with their colors and songs, truly brighten our winter days as they sing and fly about showing their appreciation for food set out for their sustenance.

May God bless all of you readers, not only during 1981, but always.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharolyn Metzger

We have had the blessed opportunity of listening to the tapes from the Brotherhood Conference. The seeds were truly sown. May our hearts have been fertile and free of thorns that would prevent us from bringing forth the fruit required of His children.

Bro. Uriel Gehring of Burlington, Bro. John Steiner of Oakville, and Bro. Elmer Witzig of Gridley, IL, are the ministers that have worshipped with us this past

month. May they be richly rewarded. We appreciate all who join us, as there can never be too many.

Mark Wirtz of West Bend has been hospitalized in Iowa City. His parents are Paul and Bev. May God be with him and all who are close to him.

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our
tears,
And there, sometime we'll understand.

Then trust in God thro' all the
days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy
hand;
Tho' dark the way, still sing and
praise,
Sometime, sometime we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

We had the privilege of hearing many good teachings the weekend of Dec. 21 when Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer and Bro. Dale Moore from Elgin, IA, were our visiting ministers. Bro. Paul and Elder Bro. Leo Moser brought us the conclusions of the Conference report. During the holidays Bro. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville, and Bro. Roger Aberle, Sabetha, ministered to us while spending some time here with relatives. We are thankful for their endeavors.

Bro. George and Sis. Charlyn Meyer became the parents of a precious baby girl, Gwen Ellen, on Dec. 23. She has six brothers and sisters, and her grandparents are Sis. Emma Meyer and Bro. Lou and Sis. Norma Bauman, Goodfield. On Jan. 3 Heidi Lynn was born to Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema. She has one sister, and her grandparents are Bro. Freddie and Sis. Esty Metzger and Leonard and Henrietta Bajema. Catherine Louise was born on Jan. 9 to Chuck and Vicki Leuthold. Her grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Emilie Leuthold and Bro. Nathan and Sis. Martha Stoller, Bradford. She has four brothers and sisters.

Announced was the betrothal of Bro. Terry Knobloch to Sis. Elaine Braker, Lamar. We look forward to having Sis. Elaine in our congregation.

Although we have had a very pleasant winter, there have been many with flu and illnesses. The known hospitalized were Anna Knobloch (Otto), Lance Knobloch and Calvin Knobloch. All have been released and are feeling better.

In 1980 our church had 15 baptisms. There were four deaths and 19 babies were born—eight girls and 11 boys.

Lydia Moser and her family would like to take this opportunity to express their heartfelt thanks to the many dear ones who remembered them in so many kind ways during the illness and death of Bro. Ade.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jerilyn Wagenbach

Bro. Danny and Sis. Dolores Anliker have a new baby boy, Royce Allen, born Dec. 22. He has two brothers, Scott and Kenny, and two sisters, Jill and Jennifer. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bertha Wagenbach, and Bro. Noah Anliker (West Bend).

Sis. Sarah Gerst (Bro. Les) wishes to thank all the dear ones who remembered her during her illness with their prayers, cards, gifts, food, and visits. They pray that God will bless one and all for their acts of kindness.

On Jan. 10 and 11, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of faith and witness the baptisms of two new sisters in Christ, Rhonda and Jane Gerst (Bro. Chris and Sis. Nettie). Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Lanz in this work.

Ministering Bros. Bill Gerst (Alto, MI), Arnie Gerst (Chicago), Joe Gerst (Iowa City), and Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL) have been with us this past month. In one sermon, we were reminded that, though we usually think of the saying, " 'Tis more blessed to give than receive," we can also be blessed by receiving God's plan of salvation. Those who reject His gift will have eternal sorrow. May God ever bless those brothers who are willing to minister to us through His Word.

IOWA, PULASKI Mary Wiegand - Ginny Wuthrich

With the holidays over and moving quite rapidly into the new year, are we striving fervently to be more Christ-like? We always need to be reminded of our high calling,

and we are thankful to have ministers that lend themselves as tools in God's hand. Bros. Ralph Garbor, Morton, and Bob Walder, Congerville, were with us this past month. We wish them God's blessings for their good deeds.

Little Jenny Lynn Schaer was born to Don and Sue Ann Schaer on Jan. 13, but lived only a short time. Graveside services were held Jan. 14 at the Pulaski Cemetery. The grandparents are Bro. Bernard and Sis. Leah Schaer and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Holycross. We extend, to them, our sympathy.

IOWA, WEST BEND Judy Fehr - Elma Mogler

Elder Bro. Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City) visited us over Christmas. We are thankful to them for expounding the Word in truth and simplicity.

Our prayers go out to many in our congregation who have had various illnesses and surgery. Sis. Anna Schmidt had surgery on her hand and is doing well. Dick Schmidt is home after having a goiter removed in Rochester, MN. Manuel Fehr was in Rochester for tests at the Mayo Clinic. Walter Zaugg recently had a heart attack and is hospitalized in Emmetsburg. Mark Wirtz is in Iowa City, and it has been diagnosed that he has acute lymphocytic leukemia. He has begun taking chemotherapy treatments, and we pray that the Lord will go with him through each day.

Minnie Gerber Bruellman was born Feb. 15, 1888 at Diesback, Switzerland to Henry and Margaret Fehr. She had six brothers and three sisters. At the age of two, she came with her parents to America and lived at Eureka, IL. In 1897 they moved to West Bend, IA, where she continued to live all of her life.

At an early age she repented and was a faithful child of God. She had faith that the Lord would stand by her side.

On Nov. 28, 1915 she was united in marriage to Bro. Manuel Gerber. They lived on a farm northeast of West Bend. After a few short years, on Dec. 14, 1919 the death angel came and took Bro. Manuel, leaving Sis. Minnie with three small children plus one who was born several months later. They

were Eli, Noah, Marie (Mrs. Fabey Gress) and Mabeline (Mrs. Arthur Banwart).

With the help of her relatives, she struggled and was able to keep her children together, which was a wonderful blessing.

As time went on she moved to West Bend, and through years of gardening, delivering milk and washing clothes, she was able to see the blessings of her labor.

After all her children were married, she was united in marriage to Bro. Emil Bruellman on Oct. 25, 1942. They had ten blessed years together, and on Mar. 13, 1952 the death angel came again to take her beloved husband.

With favorable health she continued on with her labor (enjoying her garden) until in 1973, when her health was failing, she was admitted to Clear View Manor. There, she endured the cross of suffering. Finally on Dec. 22, 1980 she slept peacefully away.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Klotzle

"And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." Genesis 11:6-7.

Only since coming to Japan have I understood the deep consequences of the tower of Babel. The people's deserved punishment by the Lord had a far-reaching effect which has now touched my life. Today in Sunday School I again felt the frustration of speaking a different language as I tried to get across an important teaching of Jesus, first in English, and then in my poor Japanese. I had to think of the tower of Babel once again, and then rejoice that someday the barrier of language will be removed. And for now, here on earth, there is something else to be thankful for—a love and communion between believing hearts that transcends any language barrier.

For many in Japan, Christmas was just another workday. But for us, the days around Christmas held many joys and blessings. After our Sunday School Program on Dec. 21, we went caroling at a nursing home. As we walked down the hall

singing of Christ's birth, it was touching to watch the eager young children deliver small gifts to the elderly residents. We also caroled on other days at quite a few homes, trying to share the message and spirit of Christmas. And then on Christmas Eve, we gathered together for supper and a service, commemorating the night of our dear Saviour's birth.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom." Luke 6:38a. We were humbled and overwhelmed by the many who remembered us in so many ways during this past Christmas season. May God bless each one, for He knows what a strength and encouragement it has been to us.

"For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." James 4:15. Our dear Sis. Uchida became seriously ill in December, and the doctors felt that she did not have long to live. The Lord has shown His power, though, and that He still has a plan and purpose for her here on this earth. She has somewhat improved, but she is still in the hospital at this time and still needs our prayers. We had the privilege of visiting her in the hospital when she was gravely ill and when her condition was unstable. As we were about to leave, she touched us deeply as she spoke to us in a small, quiet voice. "Thank you very much," she said. It was the first English our sister had ever spoken to us.

On New Year's Day, Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue and their family were with us for a special New Year's service. We thank him for ministering to us and letting the Lord use him to help us begin another year in our Christian walk of life.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue - Yoshio Yamazaki

Much of our Japanese culture came from old China many centuries ago. An example is the calendar. Each year is said to be the year of a certain animal. Last year was the year of the monkey, "Saru" in Japanese. Saru means monkey of course, but another meaning of "saru" is "leave." So people say, "We had much unhappiness last year. Happiness left

with many problems." However, this year is the year of the rooster, and people hope to escape from unlucky situations with lucky birds. It is really unfortunate that people of this world cannot put faith in the true and living God instead of such foolish things.

We were especially blessed at Christmastime as our Christmas service and children's program was held on Dec. 21. It is always a blessed hour when we hear the children tell of the birth of our dear Saviour and give the true purpose for which He came.

We are sorry that most people in this land don't seem much interested in God's love and true salvation through repentance. The Lord's work is not easy and takes patience as Noah must have had when he built the ark.

We are thankful to be followers of our Father in Heaven, and may we be true servants 'til He comes again.

KANSAS, BERN

Esther and Stella Moser

Some go to church to take a walk;
Some go there to laugh and talk;
Some go there to meet a friend;
Some go there, their time to spend;
Some go there to meet a love;
Some go there a fault to cover;
Some go there for speculation;
Some go there for observation;
Some go there to doze and nod;
The wise go there to worship God.

Unknown

Sis. Pearl Meyer is pleased to report a new granddaughter. Melissa Renae was born Jan. 10 to Virgil and Doris Meyer. Five big brothers complete the family circle.

Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit) was our guest minister for New Year's services. The Sabetha congregation also assembled with us.

On Jan. 11, Elder Bro. Lester Hartter united in marriage Sis. Kathy Menold and Bro. Joe D. Roke. We welcome Sis. Kathy into our assembly along with Heidi, Holly, Trent and Ryan. May the Lord ever be the unseen guest in their home. We wish them much happiness and joy as they travel life's pathway together. We had many visitors come to the wedding. Among theme were Bros. Wayne Kilgus (Fairbury) and Bill Emch (Lamont). We thank the brothers for their efforts in bringing the Word to us.

Reuben Bauman and Sis. Katie Grimm (Bro. Paul) had short stays in the hospital. There is much flu and sickness in our community.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Leroy Meyer was chosen as a new trustee. Leroy will work with Bro. Allen Rokey and Eldon Plattner. Bro. Richard Strahm was re-elected to supervise the P.A. system.

In checking back over the year 1980, we find that we have nine new babies, five boys and four girls. We laid three dear sisters to their eternal rest, and we have three converts with which to rejoice.

KANSAS, EMPORIA

Rose Schiesser

Our visiting minister was Bro. Al Langhofer from Wichita, KS. The Word of our Lord God was opened to Eph. 2:1: "And you hath He quickened, (gave life) who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. . ."

We were asked, "Do you know who the prince of the power of the air is?" Bro. Al replied: "He is Satan."

Have you ever wondered how many other names and descriptive designations Satan is referred to? He is frequently called the devil, meaning the slanderer (Mt. 4:1), Accuser of the brethren (Pet. 12:20), Adversary (I Pet. 5:8), Beelzebub (Matt. 12:24), Belial (2 Cor. 6:15), the deceiver of the whole world (Rev. 12:9), the great dragon (Rev. 12:9), the wicked one (Matt. 13:19, 38), the father of lies (Jn. 8:44), the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4), a murderer (Jn. 8:44), the old serpent (Rev. 12:9), the prince of the air (Eph. 2:2), and the tempter (I Thes. 3:5). These varied designations indicate the character of Satan.

We should pray for each other to ". . . take heed to yourselves at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting (overeating), and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and

pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:34-36).

Yet, we are to "Be careful for nothing (don't worry about anything); but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:6, 7)

Dear ones, it has often been written, may our Heavenly Father grant us His grace of serenity to accept the things we cannot change; the courage to change the things we can; and the wisdom to know the difference. For to will what God wills brings peace.

We wish to extend our invitation to each one of you and welcome you to services at Emporia, KS. The Lord willing, services will be held every third Sunday evening at 7:30 at the VFW building, 302 South Commercial.

We want to thank the ministers who stand before us in fear and trembling to preach the Word of God. May our Heavenly Father bless them richly according to His will for the time and effort they take to bring us His most holy and precious Word.

Without the Word there is no conviction, without conviction there is no repentance, without repentance there is no salvation or deliverance of almost any kind of evil, whether material or spiritual. And without Salvation there is no hope for eternal life after death. Praise be to God.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8) "For Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1) I love the words in song #78 in The Zion's Harp, "Faith, Hope, and Love." When you have a little time, read them.

I pray that God will bless each of you and keep you safely under His wings until we meet again, whether it be here on earth or in our home in heaven. May His will be done.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr
Procrastination is one of man's

worst enemies! Someday I will do the things for others that I have well intended to do for so long. I have heard it often said that man's way to hell is paved with good intentions. Let us be diligent in serving the Lord, doing for Him today, while we yet have life within us.

A precious infant daughter, Stacy Lynn, was born Jan. 7 to Carol and Jack McLaskey. A son, Brian, welcomes her home. Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer are the maternal grandparents.

With grateful hearts we wish to sincerely thank our visiting ministers for their labors of love. Visiting with us have been Bro. Perry Zimmerman, Forrest; Bro. Harold Kraft, Ft. Scott; Bro. Al Langhofer, Wichita; and Bro. Max Reimischel, Wichita.

KANSAS - MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY

Paula Bahr

Greetings of Christian love to all of you. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to each of you who have sent gifts for our building fund. We ask your support in prayer as we undertake this project, for as Solomon said in the 127th Psalm, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. . ."

In March, Kansas City will be host to the National Pork Congress. We extend a special invitation to each of you who will be here during that time to join us for fellowship and a worship service. We are making plans to reserve our regular meeting place in the Capitol Federal Building at 75th and State Line Road. Please contact Terry Farney at 913-341-5893 for details when you get here.

Bill Rodgers is now at home recuperating after being hospitalized several weeks with a severe lung condition. We are grateful that the Lord has once again extended His special love and strength to Cora and Bill during Bill's trying illness.

Our ministering brothers for January were Joe Aberle, Sabetha; Mark Bahr, Detroit; and Bill Emch, Lamont. Our thanks and appreciation go to each of them.

Here's a special incentive for each of us to be a light by keeping and showing our faith:

I saw you stand steadfast in grief
But saw no trace of unbelief.

I saw you stand unmoved by stress
But saw no trace of bitterness.
I saw you stand bravely for years
But saw no trace of senseless
fears.

Though you spoke not of faith's
firm law,
I caught your faith by things I
saw.

From: I Call You Friend—
Perry Tanksley

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Ramona Meyer

Take therefore no thought for
the morrow: for the morrow shall
take thought for the things of it-
self. Sufficient unto the day is the
evil thereof. Matt. 6:34.

Truly, as we pass through our
life day by day, it is certainly a
constant battle to take one day at
a time. Satan is a crafty foe and
is looking for some way to make
miserable beings out of the human
race. So as our duties foretell, we
must continue to fight him off for
he shall never stop trying until he
is doomed into everlasting destruc-
tion. Certainly it is our prayer and
plea to remain unmolested from
without and to maintain the true
hope of being with our wonderful
Lord and Savior some day.

It was very nice to have Sis.
Candy Wiess and Sis. Carol Le-
man, both from Elgin, IL, in our
midst for several days.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr

To The Master Gardener
Janet Garibaldi

I am like a garden, Lord,

A garden filled with weeds.

Gently with Your loving hands,

Plant in me the seeds

Of love and joy and kindness

Of faith and hope and trust.

Pull out the choking weeds of self,

And those of pride and lust.

With your Spirit water me

Till I have life anew

And all who see this well worked
ground

Will know it's kept by You.

As I read the above poem, I
wanted to share its beauty, but
as I read it through again, I
realized something: we are God's
beloved children. Our heart is His
garden. If we humbly lay aside our
worldly pride and place the ground-
work of this heart in His gentle,
loving hands, not only will He nur-
ture and cherish it, but He will

keep it continually fertile for the
seeds of His Word. Then as those
seeds are cast forth to sink deeply
into the readied soil, there is no-
thing to hinder their blossoming
into fruit worthy of our loving
Master's gardening. How truly
beautiful such fruit would be. Just
think, through us "God's" glory
the world could see. May we deeply
strive to keep the groundwork in
God's capable hands, for we are a
truly fortunate people.

There are precious seeds, search-
ing for fertile ground, cast to us
often by our faithful brethren.
This month we enjoyed the added
privilege of having Elder Bro. Per-
ry Zimmerman in our midst to sow
many precious seeds from God's
Word. Along with Bro. Perry, his
dear wife, and traveling compan-
ions, we enjoyed a supper and sing-
ing Sunday evening to end a very
blessed day of Christian fellow-
ship.

We are sorry to report that sev-
eral of our beloved ones in faith
are not at all well at the present
time. Sis. Esther Hodel, Sis. Lucy
Hoffman, and Sis. Emma Diel
have been hospital patients, and
though Esther is able to be home,
she still is unable to be in our
midst. Our fervent prayer is that
God may be ever near them.

Col. 3:23-24: "And whatever ye
do, do it heartily, as to the Lord,
and not unto men, knowing that
of the Lord ye shall receive the re-
ward of the inheritance; for ye
serve the Lord Christ."

Our annual meeting was held one
Wednesday evening this month,
and as each of us start our new or
old duties for the next year, may
the above Scripture shed light as
to the way we should work for our
Lord.

God's strength behind you and
His arms beneath you are all you
need for the task before you.

KANSAS, LAMONT Mary Isch

We were especially blessed to
have three of our dear elder breth-
ren present to bring us the Confer-
ence deliberations. They were Bro.
Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott; Bro.
Lester Hartter, Bern; and our
home elder, Bro. Sam Anliker.

Surely if these dear brothers,
who met together in Jesus' name,
find it necessary to lovingly warn
us of the cunning adversary, we
should accept their admonitions

and concern. There is not one of
us who would want to hear God
say on judgement that we should
depart from Him and that He never
knew us. So let us have a closer
walk with Him and be more dili-
gent in our work for Him.

Our hospital patient this month
was Bro. Clarence Young, who had
hip surgery. He has recovered very
well and is back in our assembly.

Jan. 7 was our annual business
meeting. Sunday school teachers
elected were Sis. Cathy Burnham
and Bro. Ron Isch. Reelected to the
Cemetery Board was Bro. Clarence
Young. Also reelected was Sis.
Mary Isch, Silver Lining reporter.
Sis. Betty Wernli was elected to
the Food Committee.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

Elder Bro. Sam Huber and Sis.
Jeanette Nohl, Morris, were united
in marriage on Dec. 28. They are
now at home in Sabetha. We wel-
come Sis. Jeanette to our commu-
nity. May the Lord richly bless their
union.

Visiting ministers this past
month have been Bro. Mark Bahr,
Detroit, Bro. Alpha Strahm, Jr.,
Bern, and Bro. William Emch, La-
mont. We thank them for bringing
us the Word.

Hospitalized this month were
Bro. Phil Metzger and Sis. Fanny
Bahr.

Sis. Della Heiniger passed away
Jan. 18. Survivors include two
daughters, Dorothy Meyer, Sabe-
tha, and Sis. Lillian Esslinger,
Bern (Morrill); one son, Wilbur
Heiniger, Seneca; four sisters; two
brothers; 17 grandchildren; and
ten great-grandchildren. Services
were held in Sabetha on Jan. 20,
with burial in the Sabetha Ceme-
tery.

KANSAS, WICHITA Judy Langhofer

Our Wichita church had imme-
diate benefit resulting from the
mid-winter conference of elders in
Zapata, TX in January. On Sun-
day, Jan. 11, we were blessed by
having three visiting elders, name-
ly, Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Eure-
ka, IL, Elder Bro. Harold Messner,
Winthrop, MN, and Elder Bro.
Paul Butikofer, Elgin, IA. They
were accompanied by their wives.
After an inspiring day of exhorta-
tion to godliness, the service was
closed by singing hymn 214 out of

the Zion's Harp. We are all familiar with the words of this song:

With your Zion's Harp now
chiming
Praise the Lord, let's do our best.

It concludes with the last verse as follows, which shall be referred to later:

See them, who their harps
suspending
On the weeping willow tree.
Lacking zeal, thy pardon spurning,
They could not rejoice in Thee.

No doubt, the writer of these words received inspiration from Psalm 137. David, who wrote the psalms, being both poet and prophet, and who lived and died before the captivity, wrote of the plight of the Israelites as captives of the Babylonians. He ends the psalm by revealing a rebellious attitude against their captors.

The Babylonian Captivity (Ps. 137:1-4, 8, 9)

By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down, yea, we wept
When we remembered Zion.
Upon the willows in the midst
thereof
We hanged up our harps.
For there they required of us
mirth, saying,
Sing us one of the songs of Zion.
How shall we sing the Lord's song
in a strange land?
O daughter of Babylon, who art
to be destroyed;
Happy shall he be, that taketh and
dasheth thy little ones against the
stones.
Happy shall he be, that rewardeth
thee as thou hast served us.

God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and warned them not to rebel against God's chastisement upon them. The Israelites were to carry on their living as usual, marrying and bearing children, etc., lest they be diminished and destroyed. God spoke through Jeremiah and gave the people this remarkable advice. "Seek ye the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray unto the Lord for it," promising them their peace would return unto them. The feelings of pain and of vengeance became subdued by the healing process of time. Their ultimate deliv-

erance from captivity and joy can be read in Psalm 126:

The Song of Restoration
When the Lord turned again the
captivity of Zion,
we were like them that dream.
Then our mouth filled with
laughter,
And our tongue with singing;
Then said they among the heathen.
The Lord hath done great things
for them.
The Lord hath done great things
for us;
whereof we are glad.
Turn again our captivity, O Lord,
as the streams in the south.
They that sow in tears shall reap
in joy.
He that goeth forth and weepeth,
bearing precious seed,
shall doubtless come again
rejoicing,
bringing his sheaves with him.

How familiar some of these words are as we find them in other hymns we have sung and do sing, and how applicable they are to our Christian life. We delight in our deliverance by our Lord and Redeemer.

The reality of these two psalms seems far removed from most of us, apart from our Christian experience, but we are warned to "Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand the wiles of satan." Eph. 6:11. With this sobering thought here are the last four lines of hymn 214:

But we are in Thee confiding
Freed from Babylon and sin:
Even though our lives they
threaten,
Thou O Lord, will help us win.

Bro. Roger Reimschisel was seriously injured in a fall while working in construction. He suffered with a pulled tendon in his leg and multiple fractures in his hand. Except for the protecting hand of the Lord, he could easily have lost his life after falling about 30 feet to concrete below. We continue to praise God for deliverance and for his wonderful works and care.

MICHIGAN, ALTA Penny Erismann

"Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in

his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Psalm 30

Our prayers for comfort and solace go out to Sis. Helen Steffen and her family in the passing away of her daughter, Donna. We also extend our sympathy to the family of June Farney, especially her daughter, Sis. Carol, who now resides in Morton, IL.

Bro. Ferd Grawburg and his brother, Ed, are home from the hospital and doing fine.

We give our thanks to visiting ministers Bro. Homer Reineck (Toledo) and Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City).

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Patsy Bragiell - Linda Ramseyer

Sis. Lillian Ramseyer has been lead to move her home to the Peoria area. We greatly wish her the best in this and wish her God's nearness wherever she may be. The congregation had a surprise going-away gathering for her. Her new mailing address is 718 E. Cornington Ave., Peoria, IL 61603.

We appreciated having visiting ministering Bro. Don Gudeman (La Crosse) bring the teachings of salvation to us over Christmas time.

Bro. Sam Wieland (Sis. Ida) was hospitalized for a short time. Thankfully, he has been able to be up and around again.

For another year, special duties have been given to brothers and sisters to carry out the work of the Lord. As they have been chosen, may they also be led by His will and purpose. As new Sunday School teachers, we have Bros. Ken Rinkenberger and Clifford Knochel and Sisters Jane Weiss and Carol Meylan. The new trustee will be Bro. Eugen Meylan, and new cooks will be Sisters Martha Rezmer and Della Eriseman.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Vera Wieland and their two boys joyfully welcome their first baby girl, Brinn. Bro. Roy and Sis. Margaret Wieland and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Minnie Grusy (Congerville) are the grandparents.

February is the collection month for Silver Lining dues.

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of

peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

How grateful we are that the Lord has chosen and provided a new minister for us. Bro. Don Miller has taken on this important task of preaching God's Word. We are truly thankful to Bro. Don and his dear wife, Sis. Bernadine. May they ever feel the nearness of God and the prayerful support of all our congregation. We pray that our Heavenly Father will richly bless them.

The home of Tom and Beverly Broms has been blessed with their first precious bundle. Little Olaf Alfred arrived on Dec. 17. The grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Millie Schmidgall.

We were privileged to have Bro. Floyd Schmidgall of Morris minister to us on Jan. 11. We truly appreciate his visit and labor of love.

Our bi-monthly Wednesday evening song service has been changed to once a month, January through March, and will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Starting in April, we will revert to the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays for song service.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

Dec. 28 was the wedding day for Sis. Jeanette Nohl (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Minnie) and Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS). We wish them God's blessings.

Katie Jo is the new baby daughter born to Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner.

Funeral services were held Jan. 12 for Mary Stettner.

Bro. Bill Luthi passed away on Jan. 13. Bill was the oldest brother in the Morris church. He is survived by his wife, Lillie (Hohulin, Peoria, IL); sons, Albert, Harold, Bro. Reuben, Bro. Donald, and Bro. Raymond (LaMar, MO), daughters, Sis. Vi Wulf (Leonard), Sis. Wilma Kuntz (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Lillian Mogler (Alvord, IA), and a sister, Sis. Rose Moser.

Sis. Rose Moser wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards, visits, and gifts of love during the past year.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

Our Elder Bro. Harold Messner said one Sunday, "Rev. 22 is the last chapter in our Bible. The next

page is blank. Is that the way our life will be? Will the last chapter in life be empty and void? Or will it be a full life in the Lord? Let us ask ourself, which shall it be?"

Some of our older brothers in our church are not in the best of health. Bro. Carl Miller has been confined to his home for over a month. Bro. Walter Messner had minor ear surgery, and at this writing is in the hospital for more tests. Bro. George Messner is going to the hospital this week for more knee surgery. May the Lord continue to give these dear brothers the needed grace and strength to bear these burdens due to their health.

Sis. Linda Schmidt wishes to convey her thanks and appreciation for all the gifts, cards, and prayers made on her behalf.

Phil Messner, son of Bro. Don and Sis. Viola, has announced his engagement to Sandy Hauer of Winthrop. Don and IdaBell Witt wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Bonnie, to Dallas Loverude of Fairfax. The engagement of Todd Messner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Carol Ann) to Renee Ohlemann, daughter of the John Ohlemanns from Gibbon, was also made known. We are certainly happy for all of them and wish them much happiness.

Our annual brother meeting was held in January. Bro. Marvin Messner was re-elected trustee. He was also elected chairman of the trustee committee. Bro. Marlyn Messner was re-elected to the hail committee. Bro. Jerry Messner was elected to the building aid committee.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

Little Michael Dean was born to Gary and Lou Fanning on Jan. 3. He spent some extra time in the hospital, but we're glad he is doing fine at home. Matt and Kyla are happy to welcome their new little brother. The grandparents of this precious bundle are Bro. Dean and Sis. Arlene Marti.

Sunday, Jan. 4, the engagement of Sis. Elaine Braker to Bro. Terry Knobloch from Lester was announced. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together. The parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker and Bro. August and Sis. Florence Knobloch.

We enjoyed the visit of Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner, Croghan, and Robert Beyer, Naumberg, and their wives on Sunday, Jan. 11. We also thank Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, Ft. Scott, for coming down for Sunday evening services. We were richly fed from the Word of Truth, and wish them all God's blessings.

We held our annual business meeting and elected Bro. Dale Marti as trustee, Bro. Jack Knobloch, Sis. Sandra Marti, and Sis. Martha Braker as Sunday School teachers, Sis. Vera Frieder as Silver Lining reporter, and Bro. Laurence Luthi as usher. We wish them all God's help in their new duties.

We extend sincere sympathy to Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marilyn Luthi and family in the death of his father, Bro. William Luthi, Morris.

Sunday, Jan. 18, Bro. Rex Frieden (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Bernice) and Sis. Vera Luthi were married in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the narrow path together. We enjoyed the many visitors and especially thank ministering Bro. Charles Sinn from Ft. Scott for coming and serving us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber
Faith came singing into my room
And other guests took flight.
Grief and anxiety, fear and gloom
Sped out into the night.
I wondered that such peace could be,
But Faith said gently,
"Don't you see that they can never live with me."

E. Cheney

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. Rom. 8:1. We are so happy to have another young man repenting. Curtis Heiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser, Wapello, IA) has made the beginning step and we wish, for him, God's grace and help to erect a good foundation in his Christian life. Our prayers go out for many of our loved ones, and we are thankful for just "one" at a time and hope we can be a proper light and example, then leave the rest up to the Lord.

Brad Brueggeman (Jim and Virginia Moser) received painful in-

juries in a farm accident and is in a hospital at Columbia, MO. Amy Hoerr (Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee) was a hospital surgical patient and is home again. We are always glad to report, "recovering satisfactorily."

Visiting ministers and families this month were Bros. Arnie Gerst, Chicago, Kenneth Dietz, Bradford, IL, Wayne Miller, Fort Scott, KS, Steve Rinkenberger, Cissna Park, IL, and Elder Bro. Ezra Feller, Cissna Park. We appreciate our local ministers and find an additional blessing in hearing those who come to visit and proclaim the Word. At this time, we are trusting God to return all the elder brethren to their homes after the annual conference in Texas. May God direct each of us to walk closer to Him and be obedient and supportive to our shepherds who have our well being foremost in their minds.

Several from our area have been in Ecuador helping to erect a school. We will have a report later as to the progress. It's wonderful for them to be able to travel such a great distance and under adverse conditions lend themselves to help those who are less fortunate. May God reward their efforts and protect each one on their homeward journey.

We give recognition to Bro. Adolph Gerst who was 90 on Jan. 9 and to his wife, Emma, who was 83 on Jan. 6. Bro. Adolph drives to church almost every Sunday and enjoys the fellowship. All of us are benefited by their presence in our congregation.

Our last but not least bit of news is the birth of a dear little boy, Jesse Albert, to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Barb Heimer. His grandparents are Bro. Albert and Sis. Edith Joas, Morris, MN, and Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Heimer, Wapello, IA. I'm sure that this family feels like their "cup runneth over." We are happy with them and wish them God's wisdom and understanding to follow this advice: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Prov. 22: 6.

A kind word is never "lost." It keeps going on and on, from one person to another, until at last it comes back to you again.

(Anonymous)

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA Ed Aeschleman

Bill Orth is looking forward to the return of his wife, Juanita, and their baby daughter, Dorothy, who have been visiting relatives in Argentina for several weeks. We will all welcome them back and wish them God's protection on their long journey.

Sis. Mary Diggelman has been ill with the flu for several weeks and unable to attend church. She is improving slowly, and we hope to have her back soon in good health, God willing.

We are grateful to God for the safe return of Sis. Marie Walsh to our Union City congregation after visiting for a number of weeks with loved ones in Switzerland.

Sis. Minnie Cook in Union City was hospitalized for a short time and has now entered a nursing home in Wayne, NJ (address to follow). She is doing quite well and is able to attend church again.

Bro. Dave Wegman's work has brought him from Chicago to Carlisle, PA, and he has been worshipping with us in Philadelphia. We thank God for sending Bro. Dave to us and look forward to having him as part of our congregation.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Our sympathy is extended to the families of three brothers who have been taken from our midst in the past four weeks. May each family find comfort in the promise that our brothers are now "Safe in the Arms of Jesus."

Bro. Arthur Wolschlager passed away on Dec. 24, only a few weeks after his wife, Sis. Lucy, was laid to rest. Bro. Art was 86 years old and is survived by his two sons, Mr. and Mrs. Lowaine Woolschlager and three grandchildren. Funeral services were held by Bro. John Widrick and Bro. Norbert Steiner on Dec. 27.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 6 by Bros. Norbert Steiner and Floyd Graves for Bro. Amos Virkler who was called from this life on Jan. 4 at the age of 96. Bro. Amos and his wife were faithful custodians of our church for many years. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Brayton (Imelda)

Schneider, Lowville, and Mrs. Irene Strife, R.D. Castorland, and six grandchildren.

Bro. Hiram Farney was taken from this life at the age of 93 years on Jan. 13. His funeral service was held on Jan. 16 by Bros. John Widrick and Floyd Graves. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Sarah, one daughter, Mrs. Elmer (Arlene) Roch, Talcottville, two sons, Carleton, Croghan, and Harlan, Star Route, Lowville, four grandchildren, and one brother, Bro. Jerome Farney.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Jerome Farney who has not been able to assemble with us for several weeks. Sis. Berdena Widrick has been able to assemble with us after being hospitalized as a medical patient for several days.

We assembled with the Naumburg congregation on one Sunday and expect to assemble with them again while our elder brothers attend the mid-winter meeting in Zapata. They also assembled with us on the 11th of January.

An "Open House" was held on Saturday, Dec. 27, for Sis. Irene Farney in honor of her 90th birthday. Our congratulations and best wishes are extended to her.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Heb. 4:13. Yes, all that we do, speak and even our every thought is before our Heavenly Father as an open book. As He looks at our open book, what does He see?

Sis. Barbara Bachman is in the hospital at Lowville, and Sis. Maude Pelton is in the Carthage Area.

On Dec. 21, right after services, a group from Naumburg went to carol at Sis. Clara Merz's. From there we went down to Greenbriar Nursing Home and caroled for Minnie Rauche and the folk at the home.

We at Naumburg and Croghan are assembling together on Sundays while our elders are at the elder conference. We spend one Sunday at Croghan and the next at Naumburg.

ADDRESS CHANGED?
INCLUDE OLD AND NEW ZIPS

OHIO, AKRON Carolyn Miller

Our visiting minister this past month on Dec. 21 was Bro. Art Ringger from Indianapolis.

There have been quite a few in our congregation who have been sick and unable to assemble with us. Bro. Ned Baumgartner was again hospitalized this past month.

A little girl has been added to the home of Bro. Jeff, Sis. Charlotte, and little Matthew Graf. Michele was born on Dec. 16.

We had our annual voting on Jan. 4. The following offices have been filled: Bro. Dave Graf, trustee; Bro. Glenn Greenbank, usher; and Sis. Joyce Gasser, kitchen committee. It was also decided that Bro. John Palitto should continue to serve as the Akron trustee for the Rittman Apostolic Christian Home.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

As correspondents for the Silver Lining, we receive a monthly letter from our editor. He gives us suggestions and encourages us to keep on writing. One thing he mentioned recently was the number of brothers and sisters in the area who help get the publication out and in the mail. Very few of us realize the tremendous task that this is. A month rolls around fast, and the first thing we know it's "that time" again. Let me thank each and every one for their willingness to serve us and their Lord in this way. We thank God for them and ask Him to bless them richly.

We had the pleasure of having Bro. Henry Dotterer and Bro. Rudolph Graf visit us and proclaim the Living Word. We cherish the fellowship of our brethren.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

May the Lord bless Bros. Loren Stoller and Marvin Stieglitz for ministering the true Word of God to us this past month.

Sis. Frieda Manz wishes to thank all who remembered her at Christmas with cards.

New offices filled this year are: Bro. Roger Gasser, Sunday School teacher; Sis. Virginia Manz, Sunday School teacher; Bro. Ken Manz, trustee; Sis. Henrietta Manz, World Relief Sewing; Sis. Carolyn Spangler, Kitchen Committee; and

Bro. Dennis Schlatter, usher.

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Henninger - Susie Sinn

Come, every soul by sin
oppressed—

There's mercy with the Lord,
And He will surely give you rest
By trusting in His word.

—Stockton

We are thankful that another soul, Sherry Stoller (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy), has come to fully trust His Word. May she find the grace to build her spiritual house on a firm foundation.

Three of our loved ones have been hospitalized for surgery. They are Sis. Shirley Stoller (Bro. Mark), Neal Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), and Sis. Esther Stoller (Ken). May they feel the many prayers uttered on their behalf.

With the coming of the new year comes new responsibilities. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the brothers and sisters were moved to elect Sis. Roberta Stoller and Bro. George Keyson for Sunday School teachers, Bro. Dwain Laukhuf for trustee, and Sis. Irene Stoller (Bro. Dave) for the World Relief Committee. May they feel our support as they begin their new tasks in our precious church.

Lindsey Nicole has brought joy into the home of Bro. Don and Gail Stoller. Also welcoming her into the family are Matt and Kylee and her grandparents, Bro. Justus and Sis. Ruby Stoller, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Fellers.

Jan. 11 was the wedding day of Sis. Shirley Sinn (Bro. Carl and Sis. Tootie) and Bro. Robert Klotzle (Bro. Erv and Sis. Jane), Rittman. May God bless them and be the unseen guest in their home. Sharing in this joyous occasion was Bro. Ken Indermuhle, Sardis.

Following is a poem written by Michaela Nolte, an exchange student from Germany who became a sister in faith while staying with Bro. Lee and Sis. Mary Eisenmann. She has returned to her home in Germany and would appreciate hearing from anyone who would be willing to write to her. Her address is Buxtehuder Str. 108, 2100 Hamburg 90, West Germany.

Ed. note: We encourage anyone who is willing to write to Micky to do so. It will help to keep the tie that binds bound.

A WONDERFUL FRIEND

As an exchange student
I came to this land
Not expecting to find
such a wonderful friend.

His name is Jesus
He's my Lord and my King.
Unto His glory
I will ever sing.

Only God can
give my heart rest.
He is going to teach me
to face every test.

There will be times when I's
tempted
and times when I am sad.
Still He is able
to lift up my head.

Now I can finally
stop to roam,
Because I started to walk
towards that heavenly home.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Lucille Groh

And let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal. 6-9.

Often the statements are made, "I don't have any talent" or "it seems I can't do anything special for the Lord." As humans, we sometimes tend to think that if we don't do something big or great, it isn't worth anything. I believe the Lord often looks at small things as being very important. As an example, what seemed very trivial to a sister recently, seemed very important to the other person. Let me reiterate. Our sister works in an office and the telephone rang. In her usual "Good morning, Mr. so and so's office, may I help you?" she detected from the voice of the caller that that person was black. After taking the message and talking casually, the conversation ended. A few days later, maybe a week, the caller came into the office. She was a small pathetic black lady who upon observation must have had a very trying and unhappy life, and she approached our sister and said, "Miss, I must tell you something. I want to thank you for being so kind and pleasant to me the other day. You see, my load was so heavy and you were so kind. After I hung up the phone, I cried and thanked God because you had been

so nice." Our sister was quite taken back by the conversation because she had not even realized her kind words had meant anything; in fact, she couldn't even remember what she said to the little lady.

Somebody did a golden deed,
Proving himself a friend in need.
Somebody sang a cheerful song,
Brightening the sky, the whole
day long.

Was that somebody you?

John Clements

Isn't it exciting to be able to report that two more souls have found peace with God and their baptisms have been announced? Carol Sue and Lonnie Brown have made this beautiful experience. Carol Sue is the daughter of ministering Brother Wallace Ramsier and Sis. Helen Ramsier. We certainly share their joy and rejoice with them and wish them God's continuing love and guidance.

Loving prayers are being offered in behalf of Sis. Donna Gabor who has been confined for many weeks because of blood clots in her leg. Also, Noah Sauder has been transferred to Ashland Hospital, and we trust God will be with Him in these days of illness. Sis. Sarah Rice had two accidents recently and received some broken bones, and we pray that God will restore and mend again. Many loved ones have been absent due to colds and flu, and we hope our church will soon be filled again.

David Sauder and Joy Robson have recently announced their engagement and plan to be married on April 11. David is the son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder, and Joy's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Robson. We wish them much happiness.

A bundle from heaven came to live with Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks on Dec. 17. They have named their new son Raymond Casey.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Florence Hartzler - Janette Blough

"Not now, but in the coming years, it may be in the better land, we'll read the meaning of our tears, and there, sometime, we'll understand. . ." These words taken from a song in the Hymns of Zion, which was sung at the funeral of Ken Riggenbach, may bring some comfort to those in sorrow. Our

deepest sympathy is extended to the parents, Bro. Will and Sis. Martha Riggenbach, to his brothers, John, Joe, Ralph, Art and Don, and to his sisters Ellen Gasser, Sis. Ruth Steiner, and Sis. Luella Stoller. Many friends came to pay their last respects to this young man and to show their sympathy to the family. The song continued, "Then trust in God thro' all the days; fear not, for He doth hold thy hand; tho' dark thy way, still sing and praise, sometime, sometime, we'll understand."

Even though we have our sorrows, we also have rejoicing when those that are lost in sin find the way to salvation. We pray that the Lord will give grace to Ellen (Riggenbach) Gasser, Beverly (Gasser) Moore, Marilyn (Winkler) Uhler, and Carol (Emch) Powell as they are giving heed to the Master's call. "In times like these, you need a Saviour, in times like these you need an anchor; be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock! This Rock is Jesus, yes, He's the One, this Rock is Jesus: the only One; be very sure, your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!" —Gospel Hymns, No. 231.

The home of Steve and Sue Zollinger was brightened with the arrival of their first child, a boy, named Jeremiah Richard. The first-time grandparents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

Our hospital patient this past month was Bro. Carl Ingold. We are thankful that he is able to be home and recovering from surgery. Sis. Elizabeth Musser and Sis. Jenny Bauman have been shut-ins for some time, but they are now able to attend church again. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalms 34: 19.

"When pure and upright hearts by flames of love ignited, are by the bond of faith more firmly yet united. . ." Many friends and relatives travelled to Latty for the wedding of Bro. Bob Klotzle and Sis. Shirley Sinn. We pray that the Lord will bless them as they walk this pilgrim way side by side. "Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow. . ." "Holy love, bright flame from heaven, only to pure hearts revealed. . ." "Our love shall not diminish nor fade nor wax away; bind us till

life we finish and in the grave we lay." These quotes are all taken from our hymn book, Zion's Harp. This love was also shown to two other dear ones as their engagement was announced. We pray that the Lord will bless Bro. Jim Rufener and Sis. Pat Gasser as they plan their future lives together. The parents are Bro. Ike and Sis. Verna Rufener, and Sis. Doris Gasser.

A new resident at the Apostolic Christian Home is Sis. Louise Rake. Let's pray for the loved ones in the Home and show that we think of them once in a while by sending a card or paying a visit. They surely appreciate these little things.

We want to thank all those whose terms of office in the church have been terminated and who gave of their time to serve us. May the Lord bless everyone. We look to those who have now taken their place and pray that the Lord will give them the will to do their best for Him and also for us.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau

And he spake this parable unto them saying, "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Luke 15:3-7.

We rejoice that two dear souls, Sarah Miller and Dan Fetter, through the goodness of God, have been lead to repentance. They have now professed to have peace in their hearts and are looking forward to baptism and receiving the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Loren Stoller with us for our Christmas Day services.

Bro. John Fetter is in the hospital for surgery. It is our prayer that God will grant him a good recovery.

Tim and Beth McFadden have a son, Ryan. His grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Collette Harmon.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Connie Steffen

Our year is beginning with above normal temperatures; our mountains lack snow. Many people are voicing worry, and fearing we will be short of water for our summer needs. Like so many things ahead, we can rely on God's knowing all things, and "the last chapter isn't written." Winter may yet come to us, spring may come early for our dear ones to the East, and all will work to the glory and honor of God.

Announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Ron Jones and Sis. Liz Moser. We wish them God's rich blessings in their lives ahead, and we feel confident that they will look to the Lord to lead them through each day.

We have heard, recently, of many loved ones and friends passing from this life. Death is not a pleasant subject, but it is a reality with which we each must deal. It is good if we can think of it as being only a transitional "moment" from time into eternity. A dear older brother once said, "Many people have a 'faith' to live by, but only a few have a faith to die by." We should plan now to acquire the faith to die by.

For each thorn, there's a rosebud,
For each twilight, a dawn,
For each trial, the strength to
carry on,

For each stormcloud, a rainbow,
For each shadow, the sun,
For each parting, sweet memories
when sorrow is done.

Author Unknown)

PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA

(See New Jersey, Union City)

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Margaret Koehl

We are glad to report that Bro. Bob Sauder of Mansfield, OH, who is spending the winter here, is with us again after his stay in a Laredo hospital.

A great sadness has come over our little congregation because of the death of Bro. Tom Hohulin of

Goodfield, IL. He died while spending the Christmas holidays here with his parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Elsie Hohulin, who live here in the winter months. Our deepest sympathy goes out to all of his family, especially his wife, Sis. Carol.

In Memory of Ministering Bro.
Jacob Frautschi, Toledo

When loved ones pass from mortal
life

And lay their armour down
They leave earth's tumult and its
strife

To win the promised crown.
We would not eulogize the dead,
For words will seem quite vain,
Yet faithfulness will for each saint
The promised rest attain.

We will resign our brother then
To Christ who loved him best;
There in the presence of the Lord
He'll share a glorious rest.
He had the noblest of all gifts,
The gift of charity,
And oft befriended young and old
With kind humility.

He had a heart of sympathy
For children and the youth,
And by example—precept too—
Oft taught them words of truth.
His was a life of service true;
A fruitful branch was he,
And with Christ's all sufficient
grace
He served Him faithfully.

He was a preacher of God's word,
His ministry was blest,
How often did some fainting soul
By his message feel refreshed.
His radiant faith, his unfeigned
love,

For friends and fellowmen
Inspired many to take heart
And journey on again.

He also drank of sorrow's cup,
When loved ones went before;
May he with those remaining here
Meet them on yonder shore.
His life's companion, children all,
Since he has gone to rest,
Will oft his words and deeds recall
And rise and call him blest.

Henry Beer

Pride and Humility

Pride walks, with heavy tread,
Down the road of life.

Humility creeps after,
His frail and loving wife.

He lives, to plead for me above

And every mile or so,
Pride stops to fling a jeer
Back at the humble creature
Who follows in the rear.
But when the lightening flashes
And Pride begins to quake,
Humility steps forward,
His trembling hand to take.
She leads him past the danger;
Then with heavy hand
He shoves her to the background
And reassumes command.

—Mary Ellen Stelling

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet
message gives!
He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, all glorious in the sky;
He lives, exalted there on high,
My everlasting Head.

He lives, to bless me with His love;
My hungry soul to feed;
He lives, to grant me rich
supply;
He lives, to guide me with His eye,
To help in time of need.

He lives, triumphant from the
grave;
He lives, eternally to save;
And while He lives I'll sing:
He lives, my ever faithful
Friend;
He lives, and loves me to the end,
My prophet, Priest, and King!

He lives, my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there;
My Jesus still the same:

What joy this blest assurance
gives!—
"I know that my Redeemer lives:"
All glory to His name—

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

ever tried to analyze how it must have been? What they really experienced? Sometimes you and I hear a wind, or we hear the results of the wind.

The Lord told Nicodemus, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. Nicodemus asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" John 3:4. The Lord explained to him by the example of wind. He said that we see the results of the wind but we cannot see the wind.

Likewise, we can feel or see the

results of the Spirit of God, but we cannot see God's Spirit. It was like this on the Day of Pentecost. The sound like a great rushing wind that "filled all the house" was the first indication of a Presence unto them cloven tongues like as fire there. Then there appeared of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:3.

Think back to the time when a Voice came from heaven and related to the prophet John the Baptist that truly the One whom he baptized was the Son of God. When that Physical Being descended as a dove, as the Scripture relates, and settled upon the Lord Jesus Christ, John heard a Voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17. God sent a physical thing that John could understand.

Here we have another physical sight. There were, as it relates here, tongues of fire. In other words, we would describe what happened as flames of fire coming from heaven and alighting on each one of the men who had assembled there. That's what the Word says: ". . . tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:3. That was the only way it could be described.

What was It? We could not say that It was a dove that came out of heaven and became a part of Christ. It says It was "like a dove." The description here is "like tongues of fire." It was a descriptive thing that could be talked about or told about.

In the same way, John the revelator on the Isle of Patmos viewed what God revealed to him and he had to describe it in some manner. As we read about those things today, we wonder about them. Is that what is going to come to pass? But we have to believe God's Word!

Is anything impossible for God? If we question that, we can question any part of this Bible. Let us always remember that nothing is impossible for our Creator, our God.

Here, the Word says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4. Is that hard to understand? Beloved, it must be confusing to the world today. If we take out of it the miracle that God gives and use human reason-

ing, then we are complicating something that the Lord wanted to be simple for us to understand. This was the manifestation of the Spirit of God to mankind. Never before had man experienced this.

The Scripture does not explain how the Spirit performs such wonders. Man has speculated upon it at broad ends. Does it really matter? It is enough to say that it was a manifestation of God to those people; and not only to them, but to all who witnessed it.

Let's you and I go back to the time we began to listen as the Lord spoke to us. Didn't we have to take on "new tongues" and speak differently? Didn't we feel the need to praise God? To trust Him? To fall upon our knees and thank Him instead of complaining? That was surely a different type of speaking for us. But I do not wish to detract from the wonderful gift of the Lord to these men. It was a miracle of God.

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven." Acts 2:5. Not all present had lived nor were living in the area of Jerusalem. The Jews had disbursed themselves throughout the known world, but many of them had come back to Jerusalem, possibly for purposes of business.

It is marvelous that the Lord chose to manifest Himself through His Spirit. Surely, as those men left Jerusalem after witnessing this wonderful, miraculous happening, they carried it back into their own countries, the various nations from which they had come.

"Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language." Acts 2:6. That was a miraculous thing in itself. Suppose, beloved, that I was from a different country, a country unknown to you. Suppose that all of you who are here this evening were from different countries and did not have the ability to understand each other's language.

Very few people understand three languages. Some five. There are those who have conquered seven languages. But there are many languages throughout the world.

As recorded in this chapter, a miraculous thing happened. As the multitude of people came together and heard these men, they did not

need interpreters. The marvelous thing was that each one heard the words spoken in his own native tongue. That, as far as I know, has never happened again upon this earth.

"And they all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?" Acts 2:7. They knew who they were. They had heard about them. They were those who had followed the One who was crucified.

"And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?" Acts 2:8. Then they listed all the different languages, or countries from which they came. Everyone was able to hear in his mother tongue, we might say, as the men spoke.

Have you ever had an experience like that? Maybe in part some have. Perhaps when someone spoke in a foreign language, knowing that they were speaking and talking about God, there seemed to be some flow of Spirit. Maybe there will be some of you who will say, "Yes, I have had that experience. I have." It's wonderful to know that through what others are relating in a foreign tongue, the Spirit can edify us. But that isn't what happened here. These men actually heard words in their own languages.

The account relates that there were those who marveled; but there were also those who seemed to say, "It can't be. I don't believe it. I don't believe what I am hearing." So they tried to explain it some other way.

Then the Apostle Peter spoke and told them what had happened and why. Here is what he said: ". . . this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams." Acts 2:16, 17.

Dearly beloved, we can understand the outpouring of the Spirit. Those of us who have come to and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ, fulfilling His commandment to repent and be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost, can thankfully say that this wonderful Spirit of God speaks to us day after day and directs us every step of our lives.

SERMON BY BRO. ELDER RICHARD SCHUPBACH OF PHOENIX, AZ

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Acts 2:1-21

Wouldn't it be wonderful, beloved, if we ourselves could have experienced, have seen and heard this marvelous miracle on the day of Pentecost? It was the fulfillment of a prophecy made before the apostles' time, and the gift of the Spirit that Christ had promised.

We read together in the Old Testament of the philosophy of the seasons. These two passages of Scripture both speak of times that God has set.

When He set our earth in motion in the beginning, God planned that there would be times and seasons. The wise man, Solomon, who wrote Ecclesiastes realized that there were things in his life that he could not control, and said that there is a time and season for everything.

God has surrounded us, beloved, with what we call nature. How easy it is to close our eyes to His wonderful plan, and yet it is so close to each of us that we can understand the perfection of God. In nature seed is sown in the earth, but until the time comes for the little seed that is planted to grow, when God unlocks that life, the plant can remain dormant.

In Indian ruins in the state of Arizona, corn has been found in little pots and clay vessels. Grains of corn preserved for hundreds of years, were planted, and grew. A mystery? No! A miracle! Because God so designed it!

Solomon understood much of God's design, and his thoughts have been recorded in this Book, God's Word. This Book contains the spiritual knowledge that the world needs. The Word speaks of those things which Christ did and taught while He was here upon earth. Today we can hand to friends or acquaintances this Book which will guide them in every aspect of life.

I remember that some years ago, quite a few years ago, this

same passage of Scripture fell open to me. I was visiting a camp in Texas where many soldier boys were gathered together. This same passage of Scripture broke open and I thought that surely these young men must wonder about a lot of things that happen in their lives. In a sense, I was reliving a similar time in my own life when I had wondered, "Does our dear God really control all of the things that happen in our lives?"

Within this congregation this evening, there may be young folks who wonder about this. But, beloved, God does control. If we let God have control, we have a promise. We may not always have exactly what we want, but I believe it is as the Word says. The things that come upon those who love the Lord will be for their good and for their edification. Sometimes a problem, a tribulation, or even a sorrow that comes to us today will bring a better tomorrow.

In the New Testament we read about another time. It was the time soon after the Lord Jesus Christ had fulfilled the mission for which He had come. As the Lord looked upon this earth, as He walked here, His time was short compared with many of our lives. Yet, there was so much for Him to accomplish within such a short time. Nevertheless, when He hung upon the cross, He looked toward heaven and said, "It is finished." John 19:30. In other words: "That which Thou hast sent Me to do, I have done."

As we sit here this evening, maybe you and I should ask ourselves the purpose for which we have been given the breath of life. I don't believe that any one of us is here just to satisfy his own desires.

The Word says that we came naked into this world and that we're not going to carry anything from it. But, beloved, how we live in the time that has been granted

to us is very important. You know, the Word speaks of while we have time, while there is time. Today is the time which it speaks of!

But the time that we read about this evening deals with a specific promise that the Lord Jesus Christ had given to His disciples. The Lord truly was taken from them; He was no longer upon this earth, but He had told them that they should not be discouraged for He would reveal to them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Never before had the Spirit been revealed in such a manner as this. On the day of Pentecost when they were all together "with one accord in one place" the Spirit came upon them. Note two very wonderful words that are so easily passed over: "one accord." People can gather together but not be in one accord, with one purpose, for one reason.

We have come here this evening, beloved, for only one purpose. Isn't that true? We came to hear God's Word in truth so that He might help us to see our mistakes and ask for forgiveness and to receive strength and courage for the future, not knowing what tomorrow will hold.

I think of the youth here this evening. Any person can get caught up in life and think, "Well, tomorrow I am going to do this or do that." We plan for tomorrow. That isn't bad. I think God wants us to think about what we are going to do, to decide; but we must realize that God controls tomorrow. It is better to think or say, "If God so wills, tomorrow I will do this or do that."

This chapter tells of the anointing by the Holy Spirit of the disciples of the Lord on the day of Pentecost. "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." Acts 2:2. Have you

(Continued on page 26)