

The Silver Lining

A LIGHT FOR BELIEVERS

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Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted. Matt. 5:4

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first;

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore, comfort one another with these words. I Thess. 4:16-18

In Memory of

Bro. Edward Souder

Bro. Edward Souder was called from this life's journey to his eternal rest and heavenly home. He passed away February 12, 1981, at the age of 55. Those remaining to mourn are his wife Sis. Irma, his son Bro. Mark, his daughter-in-law Sis. Diane, his daughters Sis. Nancy and Sis. Patty, his grandchildren Brooke and Nathan, and his brother Dwight.

Bro. Ed was born at home in 1925 to Bro. Elias and Sis. Lydia Getz Souder. He lived his entire life on the same block in Grabill, except for the period from 1942 to 1946 when he served his country in the United States Navy. At the age of 22, he married Irma Fahl-ing from Fort Wayne, and they both turned to the Lord in faith in 1954. Bro. Ed loved his home-town, his family, and his friends, but most of all he loved the Lord, and enjoyed nearly 26 years in the church.

He spent much of his time during his final years, carrying on the work of the Silver Lining, which was left to him at the death
(Continued on next page)

CHARITY — ALMSGIVING

Elder Bro. Loren Stoller

The average person in the United States uses and consumes nine times more things than the average person in the rest of the world. Charity is spiritual love, spiritual benevolence, and divine character in man. It also applies to Almsgiving. Charity was among the many things Jesus exhorted upon in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus talked about the righteousness of the Kingdom in the hearts of men here on the earth.

Fifty years ago people were not always sure their gifts would reach people and places in need. Today, organizations within the church have worked with Care, The Heifer Project, The Mennonite Central Committee and other self-help projects, and positive distribution is being made. Opportunity has been created for willing hearts. An Alms is something given for the care and relief of the suffering and the poor.

As Jesus observed rich men casting their gifts into the treasury, along with the poor widow casting in two mites, he said, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this

poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had."

How many of us "cast in" from an abundance? How many of us follow the standard of the Bible? How many of us give a tithe? If we tithe, is it of our taxable income or of our gross income? We realize, of course, some gross incomes cannot be tithed. In our giving, how many of us sacrifice? In taking away from ourselves and giving to another, we follow the standard of Christ. How many of us are willing to do without, or with less, or willing to use something old somewhat longer, in order to share with those who benefit from our sacrifices?

Let us review our life-styles, our automobiles, our homes, our many changes of clothing, our elaborate vacations. Think about 10,000 church members and multiply that number by ten dollars or 100 dollars. We could raise a million dollars quickly, several times
(Continued on next page)

In Memory of . . .

of his brother Henry in 1977. It is hard to explain how much our church newsletter, the Silver Lining, meant to Bro. Ed. It was started by his brother Henry as a way of sending news to Ed and other friends in the service. Others from the various Apostolic Christian churches asked about the possibility of sending news from their churches, also. The following poem was probably the origin of the name of our church paper. It speaks directly about the men away in the service, but it has a spiritual message of hope as well.

**KEEP THE HOME FIRES
BURNING**

Keep the home fires burning
While our hearts are yearning.
Though your lads are far away,
They dream of home.
There's a Silver Lining,
Through the dark cloud shining.
Turn the dark cloud inside out,
Till the boys come home.

Bro. Elias, Sis. Lydia, Bro. Henry and Bro. Ed, who all believed the Silver Lining shining through the dark cloud, have now gone to be with the Lord. For each of us who remains to continue this earthly journey, the need to be ready to meet the Lord and our loved ones is clearly brought out.

Bro. Ed loved the young people, and gave special effort to teaching Sunday School and directing the choir for over 20 years. Several weeks ago, he was able to witness the baptisms of his daughter Patty, and a young lady, Tonya Wyman, whom he brought to Sunday School for many years.

We thank the Lord for the blessed privilege of these years with Bro. Ed, and for the many joys found in Christian love and fellowship. Bro. Ed would ask us to continue on with the work of the Silver Lining, and with the Lord's help, blessing, and guidance, the help of many volunteers, and the help of the many church correspondents, we will continue it. Our thanks to all who have given such wonderful help and support throughout the years.

Bro. David Bertsch

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

Charity — Almsgiving . . .

a year. Are there funds and reserves among us, that will never be used and possibly lost, if our nation's downward trend continues? Are we guarding our reserves as if Jesus never made any promises to the believer?

Jesus informs us in the Sermon on the Mount: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men to be seen of them . . ." Take special care that we do not put on a display or show, of the good we are doing before men. "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee . . ." Two kinds of people are involved: The giver and the receiver. We American people have been in both positions. From birth, we received the best of medical and home care, were sent to the best of schools, had excellent employment opportunities, and in many cases we took over the farms and businesses our parents worked hard to establish. We would be cheap, wouldn't we, to call in the news media for pictures and stories of what we have done for the poor, who have not received good care and opportunity? "But when thou doest thine alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." Isn't Jesus saying, "Don't think about how much good we have done? Don't total how much good we might have done in the past years, as individuals." God will remember our sacrifices. If our alms are done to be seen, in no way can God reward us. If done for the glory of men, the reward has been given and there will be no reward from God. Our Father, who sees in secret, rewards in His own way, far beyond expectation.

**HISTORY OF THE APOSTOLIC
CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA**

Bro. Ed Aeschliman

(Continued from February Issue)

During the first week in June, eleven brothers and friends from Rittman, under the supervision of Bro. Orin Rufener, and four from Rockville gave us four days of their time and labor. When they went home, our building was completely framed, including a roof with shingles and wall sheathing in place. Bro. Edwin Bahler of Remington had arranged, through his contacts, for us to buy our

building materials from a local supplier at the lowest possible prices.

Bro. Roger Gasser from Akron, who is a teacher but is also very skilled in the building trades, stayed with us for six weeks during the summer working mostly alone on the building every day. He also coordinated activities with contractors who were hired locally for some of the work such as plumbing, installing dry wall, and insulating. Roger's help was invaluable, in-as-much as the rest of us could not spend enough time away from our jobs to properly oversee the work that was going on. Late in June, five brothers and friends from Rittman came and poured the concrete floor. A couple of weeks later, two more came from Rittman to wire the building. Late in August, six brothers and friends from Congerville, Francesville, and Columbus came to finish the masonry work that Bro. Roger had started.

The carpeting and draperies were donated and installed by brethren from Rittman and Rockville, respectively. Finally, early in November, brethren drove a large semi-trailer loaded with nursery stock, sod, and a tractor all the way from Peoria. The eight brothers who came along did a complete landscaping job in one day, and were on their way home the following morning. Wallpaper-

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IN MEMORY — EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
EDWARD SOUDER

ering and many other inside jobs were done by six brothers and sisters from Bluffton who spent a whole week helping us. During the building period, a number of other brethren came and worked for a day or two on whatever activity was taking place at the time.

Our little church is of colonial design to fit in with basic eastern architecture. It covers 3200 square feet, all on one level. It contains a sanctuary that seats 84, a comfortably sized foyer or fellowship area, dining room, kitchen, nursery, three Sunday school rooms and storage, utility and rest room areas. The beautiful brick building now sits on a hill beside the Pennsylvania turnpike in a pretty rural area. It was completed just six months from the time the foundation was laid, and to us it is one of God's miracles. We cannot be thankful enough to God for having moved the hearts of thousands of brethren and friends who contributed so willingly and generously with funds, materials, time and labor to make it all possible, well within our budget.

It is our solemn intent to dedicate the new church building to God's work. We continue to solicit the prayers of all the brethren for a steady growth in faith and numbers. We invite all to visit us in our homes and in the new "Philadelphia" church whenever it is convenient. Also, we encourage brethren and friends to consider employment in this area. The East is a beautiful part of our great country and offers employment opportunities in industry, finance and banking, education, and many other professions and skills. We hope to hold dedication services early this coming spring.

The names of all the brethren and friends who donated their time, labor and skills are listed on the next page. Please forgive us if we have overlooked any one.

AKRON

Roger Gasser

BLUFFTON

Don & Mary Gerber

Les & Rose Gerber

Elmer & Emma Gerber

COLUMBUS

Andy Hunyady

CONGERVILLE

Willis Knapp

Allen Roth

Mark Miller

EUREKA

Jerrald Leman

FRANCESVILLE

Bob Pfladderer

Ron Vogt

PEORIA

Jim Hoerr

John Hoerr

Jack Hoerr

Carl Hoerr

Bill Schick

Jim Barth

Peter Weber

Tom Martin

PHOENIX

Paul Emch

RITTMAN

Ed Stoller

Jon Hartzler

Ken Maibach

Dan Rufener

Vic Bauman

Jim Rufener

Walt Beery

Alpha Maibach

Glenn Riggenbach

Orin Rufener

Bert Gasser

Alan Gasser

Rudy Zollinger

Dave Ramsier

Greg Gasser

Larry Rufener

Issac Rufener

Ken Zollinger

Dave Rufener

Steve Rufener

Leon Rufener

REMINGTON

Edwin Bahler

Stan Virkler

ROANOKE

Lyle Martin

Rose Sauder

ROCKVILLE

Ed & Alma Luginbuhl

Irb & Charlotte Luginbuhl

Gene & Allen Kupferschmidt

Emanual & Helen Kloter

Eric & Sharon Kloter

Tom & Heidi Luginbuhl

David & Barbara Hangartner

Ralph Schnieder

Guy Gottier

TOLEDO

Al Weigele

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

CHILDREN'S HOME

Doug Kellenberger

Tonight is Thursday night. It is one of our study nights (Wednesday is for church and Friday for family activities). We have just finished singing songs around the

supper table and as the dishes were being done. Ronda and Helen are crunching paper together to start a fire in the fireplace and are about to start reading History. They plan to scrub the floor, after the little ones go to bed and the teenage boys have their weekly man-to-man talk with the housefather.

Gary is reading "Three Favorite Tales" to the little girls. It is quiet time, designated each evening for study. Due to the fog and postponement of school each day this week, their in-class time has been shortened and he doesn't have any homework. They have to hurry, because mommy wants to give the girls a bath. It is amazing how efficiently Sue can get three done in the time it takes me to do one.

Keith is sitting in a chair just taking everything in.

Kandy is back home with us after being away for awhile. She fits in very comfortably with us. We appreciate her help in the kitchen and watching our little children. She starts her full-time job this Monday as a Teacher's Aid at the high school. She is looking forward to earning a steady income to finance her growing responsibilities.

We all go through struggles in our Christian life. Sister Kandy's recent remark explains the feeling after a trial in our life when we yield our will to God's will: "Peace is not having a tug-of-war going on inside of you."

The Wielands have a new 14 year old girl named Debbie. She seems very pleasant, willing to please, and happy to be in a home where people care personally about her. Sisters Jane and Judy have their hands full and time consumed in the East House. Tonight, Bro. Brace and Chucky were fixing a sump pump in the sisters' house, so Jane ran the egg route with Bertha and Thelma. John was walking around with his snappy new glasses, looking like a bright young mathematician. Judy was left in the kitchen to prepare the supper, and knowing Brenda, she was probably exerting her warm, complimentary self to make that new girl feel at home.

Let everyone of us administer our gifts as God has given them to us.

Moving? Let Us Know.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME
FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Not till the loom is silent and the
shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas and
explain the reason why
The dark threads are as needful,
in the weaver's skillful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
in the pattern He has planned.

—Author Unknown

We leave in our Heavenly Father's hands the wisdom to know what is best and when is best. All of us who have enjoyed the Silver Lining extend to the family of Ed Souder our sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the loss of husband and father.

It is always with eagerness that we anticipate learning to know a newcomer. Today we welcome into our "family" a new resident, Thomas Manley. The son of Cletus and Elaine Getz Manley, he was living in Peoria, IL, before coming here. Two brothers, Patrick and Edward, and one sister, Jean, make up his family. Tom has been attending Glen Oaks School in Peoria. His favorite foods are steak and pastries, and his birthday time is Nov. 8. Welcome, Tom! We hope you like it here with all of us.

As with the admission of each of our residents, we of the staff shall try anew to show love, to teach, and to administer to the whole need of each one by example as well as by our professional help. Edgar Guest said it so well:

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear
one any day,
I'd rather one should walk with
me than merely show the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more
willing than the ear;
Fine counsel is confusing, but
example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers
are the men who live their
creeds,
For to see the good in action is
what everybody needs.
I can soon learn how to do it if
you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action,
but your tongue too fast may
run.
And the lectures you deliver may
be very wise and true;
But I'd rather get my lesson by
observing what you do.

For I may misunderstand you and
the high advice you give,
But there's no misunderstanding
how you act and how you
live."

Our Bro. Dean Stoller has again been admitted to the hospital. Let us all remember him in our prayers. Mail would be a welcome way for him to pass his time. His love for the farm would make for an interesting topic to write about.

Before the temperature dropped after a recent snowstorm, many of the residents bundled up and went outdoors to play in the snow. How enjoyable and invigorating was this experience, as was evidenced by the smiles on their faces when they came in to prepare for the evening meal.

God be with us all until we meet again.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Julie Hoerr**

"Let us hear and give attention, God's own teaching to embrace. . ." Zion's Harp #217. We have been richly blessed with several visiting ministers. On Feb. 15, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Ronald Nelson (Kiowa), Deacon Bro. Joe Stoller (Princeville), Bros. Alphi Strahm (Bern) and David Wiegand (Champaign). Other ministers this month were Elder Bros. Joe Waibel (Bay City), Ezra Fellar (Cissna Park), and Bros. Carl Wyss (Washington) and Todd Fellar (LaCrosse). Several times during the month we enjoyed Sunday evening services with our dear visiting ministers. We thank each of you for so freely lending yourselves to the Lord's service, and look forward to your return visits.

The second week of February brought bright, sunny days with temperatures in the low 80's. Along with the warm weather came brightly flowered plants, green trees and many dear winter visitors. Thank you for visiting us in Phoenix. We so look forward to our "winter family."

Many enjoyed our monthly potluck Jan. 25, and are looking forward to our next planned church potluck, Feb. 22.

Hospital patient this month was Sis. Clara Zollinger for a fractured pelvis due to a car accident. Sis. Clara is at home and improving slowly. Sis. Linda Zollinger was a patient for tests.

The weekend of Feb. 14, 15, and

16, our Bible Classes and young members traveled to Tucson to enjoy a weekend of fellowship with the Tucson and California young people.

Corrections from last month's Silver Lining are: Bro. Jon Kokanovich—Sunday School Superintendent and Bro. Steve Freed—Usher. Also, Retired Elder Bro. Roy Farney's name was incorrectly printed as Bro. Ray.

As Easter time approaches let us not forget St. John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This is the reason we celebrate Easter!

**ARIZONA, TUCSON
Rose Huetter**

We are looking forward to Easter time and are again reminded of what our Lord and Savior has done for us. Just looking at the beauty all around us tells the story.

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God.

II Corinthians 4:14, 15

We want to thank all of our visitors and hope that they will come again soon. It is really a wonderful privilege to meet and greet so many of our dear brothers, sisters, and friends, some who we have met before and some who we met for the first time.

In the past month we were thankful to have Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Forrest), Elder Bro. Joe Waibel (Bay City), Bro. Carl Weiss (Washington), and our Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix), visit us. We really do appreciate all of the ministering brothers and their families who come to assemble with us.

It was a beautiful time of fellowship as on Jan. 11, those who could, enjoyed a chili supper in our fellowship hall. This is an annual event, and we always look forward to it. We wish to thank all those who made the supper possible.

On February 8 we had our annual Pancake and Sausage Supper. It too, was a wonderful blessing of fellowship as we sang praise to

God in the evening. We were blessed also with having Bro. Joe Stoller (Bradford), as our visiting minister, along with his wife and many other visitors.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Shirley Witzig

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Mat. 11:28-30

How thankful we are for the new soul who has found it necessary to be saved from a world of sin and vain works. Mary Beth Klotzle (Bro. John and Sis. Lois Klotzle) has turned to our loving Savior in repentance. Our prayers are with her as she joins the Lord's army in the war against her old master.

Mrs. Antonette Bhagwat passed on from this world on Jan. 23. She was the loving helpmate of the late Mr. B. B. Bhagwat. They spent years in the Lord's work, establishing orphanages and churches in India.

Hospitalized recently with serious illness was Art Razo. Our prayers are for a good recovery.

We were greatly blessed and appreciate the labors of the following visiting ministers: Bros. Joe Waibel, Bay City, Ezra Feller, Cissna Park, Todd Feller, LaCrosse, Bob Grimm, Goodfield, Ed Knecht, Silverton, Alfred Strahm, Bern, Roy Grimm, Taylor, and Joe Rammers, Rittman.

Our Bible class and a few others enjoyed a weekend of fellowship in Tucson, AZ, the weekend of Feb. 14. We surely appreciate all the love and effort put forth to make our visit possible.

As a small flock out west we are so very thankful for the many visitors we've been blessed with the past months. We continue to solicit your visits and prayers.

CALIFORNIA, MAYWOOD Ben Ammann

We were thankful to several brothers visiting us this month. On Sunday, Feb. 1, we were visited by Bros. Dennis Herrmann, Princeville, IL, Dan Sauder, Mansfield, OH, Dean Maibach, Rittman, OH, Byron Luercher, Tremont, IL, and Roger Miller, Fairbury, IL.

On Feb. 8, Bro. Ed Knecht from Silverton, OR, served us with God's Word and direction.

On Sunday, Feb. 15, Elder Bros. Joe Waibel, Bay City, MI, Ezra Feller, Cissna Park IL, and our Elder Bro. Carl Kinsinger served us God's Holy Word.

We thank all the ministers that served our small congregation.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE Sally Gress

We've been blessed this month with many visitors from the north and a lot of good Christian fellowship. We've enjoyed several Sunday evening hymn singings and a potluck supper in the fellowship hall.

The Ft. Lauderdale church is grateful for all visitors and especially thankful for all visiting ministers, including Elder Bros. Norbert Steiner of Croghan, NY, Robert Beyer of Naumberg, NY, and Roy Sauder of Peoria, IL. Also ministering to us were Bros. Edwin Bahler of Remington, IN, Bob Meyer of Bluffton, IN, Lenny Meyer of Chicago, IL, Al Schneider of Rockville, CT, and Elmer Witzig of Gridley, IL.

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Ernest Luginbuhl of Rockville, CT, on his death. Bro. Ernest was a regular and well-loved visitor in Ft. Lauderdale.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Doris and Diane Roche

We were privileged to have several elders from the Zapata Conference on Jan. 25 to help our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach with the reading of the Conference Report. They were Elder Bros. Roy Sauder, Dave Kieser, Robert Beyer, and Norbert Steiner. We pray for grace, new strength, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order that we might heed the warnings.

Other visitors for February were Bros. Homer Reinick of Toledo, OH, Corbin Bahler of Rockville, CT, Gene Lehman of Wolcott, IN, Marvin Stieglitz of Leo, IN, Carroll Gerber of Bluffton, IN, Kenneth Hoerr of Peoria, IL, Elmer Schmidt of Winthrop, MN, Kenneth Schneider of Remington, IN, Paul Gasser of Akron, OH, and Walter Anliker of Eureka, IL. We must say that our cup runneth over, and we are so thankful for their labor of love.

Our annual business meeting was held and we selected new officers in various vacancies. We offer special thanks to those who served so faithfully. Due to the growth in our Sunday School, we have added a new class. The two new teachers are Sis. Mary Kleishinski and Sis. Sharon Rocke.

Our new Sis. Gloria Streitmatter returned from Tallahassee, FL for a weekend visit. We pray for the Lord's protection over her as she completes her studies.

Our winter visitor, Sis. Margaret Tanner, is cheerfully attending services again after fracturing a shoulder through a slight mishap. Sis. Dorothy Durkin is also recovering nicely. She had a very serious unexpected surgery. We pray that God may give her new strength, and hope that she may soon join us again.

Our dear Sis. Marie Martin is still hospitalized. She had her sixth surgery. A group of doctors have given her new hope with plastic surgery. We feel God has been merciful to her and pray for His presence ever near her. She wants to express her appreciation for gifts, cards, prayers, and visitors during her long illness.

Our sympathy and love are extended to the winter residents Sis. Lucille Heiniger, called home due to the passing of her dear mother, Sis. Louise Wittmer, LaCrosse, IN, and Sis. Louise Joos, returned to Fairbury, IL for the funeral of Bro. Ed Bach.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach have returned to Michigan for a few weeks.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Bro. Ed Souder family. We praise God in a special way for the wonderful blessings through Bro. Ed, and we are certainly reminded of his labors of love for us through the Silver Lining.

Our crowd has been the largest ever even though there has been a good attendance in Port Charlotte, FL. We welcome all to come and worship with us when visiting in the South.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Evelyn Endress

There are numerous explanations for the word "grace." A visiting minister assisting with testimonies of converts several months ago had this explanation:

G od's
R iches
A t
C hrist's
E xpense

Through God's grace, another soul has turned to Him in repentance. We rejoice with Donald Knobloch and his parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen, that he was able to turn his back on sin and heed God's call.

Stephan Dietz and Bryan Klumpp were happy to welcome home new baby brothers this past month. Gregory Michael was born on Jan. 21 to Mike and Kim Dietz. His grandparents are Jim and Wilma Savage and Sis. Hilda Dietz. Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Klumpp became the parents of Kevin Raymond on Feb. 11. His grandparents are Bro. Leonard and Sis. Ann Hartter (Eureka), and Bro. Raymond Klumpp.

We are thankful to report that Bro. Mark Ehnle is home from the hospital and able to assemble with us again. At this time, he is receiving treatments on an out-patient basis.

Please make a note of the new telephone number of Bro. Nathan Stoller in your minister book: 815-542-6465.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Kathy Schlatter

In this world of ours "being curious" is said to be a good sign. A curious person will want to keep learning, keep questioning. But those souls without the covenant of Jesus Christ often forget, in their doubts about (sneer) religion and their ever-tumbling-question-after-question, that the only persons who are promised an answer to every question are those who, through Christ's blood and grace, conquer sin and the grave and reach Heaven's gates.

We spent a most blessed weekend Feb. 1 and 2. Elder Bro. Orville Ringger helped our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann with the conference report Saturday evening. He and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger, both of Bluffton, IN, richly ministered to us. We pray that the blessing of the Lord may rest upon them, now and forever. We were reminded of many inspiring, thought provoking bits of information. Whatever our job or church responsibilities, can we not agree with that which was mentioned

to us, "I'm just working for the One who has the big job." Do we sometimes exist under a double standard? We judge others by the appearance of their actions, what those actions look like, and what really happens as a result. However, we judge ourselves by our motivations. We must keep our priorities in order. Are we doing that? Great cities of old were known for their beautiful cathedrals; now they are identified by their sports arenas? ! We need to greet each member as though we were greeting Christ, our Brother, in genuine love and concern one for another, not neglecting the meaning and retaining the form only.

Dear Sis. Miriam Lockwood and Sis. Maria Benko have been hospitalized. We pray for the Lord's comfort for each. Satan has special tools to depress and oppress those in ill health. May we remember them continually. Bro. Ray Young especially wants his gratitude expressed for the thoughts and prayers and gifts of all those who remembered him. We rejoice to fellowship again with him in church.

Metamorphosis! Life continues to move, change. A child is born. The child gradually becomes an adult. The single adult may marry, may become a parent. The middle-aged person becomes older. The old may become more feeble. One's job becomes more worthwhile, less worthwhile. One may gain more responsibilities. One may feel led to a new field of work. One's family circle becomes larger, or becomes smaller. We all hasten inexorably toward death. Death is the ultimate metamorphosis. But because of the Son of God's cloaking Himself in man's flesh, living, loving, dying without spot or blemish, and rising again, we may be quickened from spiritual death to spiritual life. From dust to dust is not a goal; to pass from earth to heaven is. Funeral sermons have so much to remind us. So much of life seems nebulous. Death is definite. It is clearly separation. Brought up short by that definiteness, we think more of eternity. We that remain, grieve, but we lean more, yearn more for His presence and so are taught lessons of love that sunny days could never teach. From pain can come good because we are driven to cling more closely

to Him, our only comfort. In the densest fog of life, be it confusion, discontent, or grief, there is a Light. But we must follow closely and willingly.

As we gathered at the cemetery, the biting wind whipped us. The more closely we drew to the circle, the less effect the cold wind had. If we as brothers and sisters gather more closely, the warmer will be our fellowship. Through Christ's all-encompassing love, there need be no coldness, no outskirts of the circle. May we all join hands quickly that we would never regret our lack of unity. The story (I believe true) was told of a lost boy in a Great Plains wheatfield. Neighbors and family searched and searched, but then came the night. In the morning they returned to the rows of wheat, this time all joining hands to search every row. Soon they found the small lad, dead from the night's exposure. And his father, with breaking heart, with bitter regret, and anguish, sobbed, "Oh, if we had only joined hands sooner. . ."

First, we must take Christ's hand. Then we may join hands with the body. "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. . ." II Thess. 1:7, 8 (Open Bible shared with medical workers on scene at Thursday, Feb. 19 wreck and inferno which claimed 9 lives—one brother in faith—Rte. 121 between Morton and Tremont, IL)

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Mary Anderson - Melba Funk

We rejoice with the addition, of each dear soul, to our fold of believers. It was a blessed weekend when Valerie McCarthy shared her experiences and was baptized into our precious fellowship.

We also share sorrows of our brethren when their loved ones are laid to rest. Sis. Anna Kaufman, 91, passed away on Feb. 7. Sis. Anna was our oldest member and she attended services until the time of her death. She is survived by four daughters: Mrs. Marie Laubscher, Cissna Park; Miss Laurine Kaufman, Watseka; Mrs. Arcelia Bauer, Hoopston; and Mrs. Lucille Stoller of Gridley; along with

a son, Walter of Cissna Park.

We also extend condolences to Sis. Clara Vogel in the passing of her brother, Bro. Harold Plattner of Goodfield and to Sis. Kathryn Rudin, whose grandson, Jeffrey Rudin was killed in an auto accident.

Bro. Philip Sauder was a recent surgical patient and Bro. Willard Rudin was a medical patient. Both were hospitalized in Champaign and both have returned to their homes. Bro. Clarence Maul was also a surgical patient at a Champaign hospital and he has returned home, too. Sis. Barb Walder (Bro. Dale and Sis. Dorothy) is a patient at Fairbury hospital where she was admitted following an auto accident near Fairbury. She suffered a concussion although she is reported in good condition at this time.

We are always thankful for the ministers who visit us from time to time. Our visitors the past month included Bros. Byron Stoller, Gridley; Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest; Everett Hari, Bloomington; and Frederick Knapp, Congerville.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Mardell Ott - Shirley Ifft

Here in central Illinois we are enjoying a mild week, a real break from the sub-zero temperatures, cold, and snow of last week. It is much the same in our hearts. After the storm, the calm. . . After the rain, the sunshine. God faithfully provides through every trial if we submit our cares completely to Him.

Hospital patients the past month were Susie Ott (Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn), Lucille Blunier (Tim), and Ida Eglin. We are thankful they are all home and doing well. Mike Ott (Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn) had the misfortune of being injured in a snowmobile accident. We trust he will soon be healed.

The annual meeting was held in January. Our new usher is Bro. Glen Ott and the new trustee is Bro. Dale Leman. Bro. Duane Steffen was elected representative to the Eureka Home Board of Trustees.

We are thankful that Emily Schlipf (Clarence and Lorene) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May she seek God's grace to build on the Solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp were blessed with a girl, Lori Suz-

anne, on Feb. 7. Big brother Kevin is enjoying her along with grandparents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Jeanette Knapp, Mr. Richard Fanning, Cleveland, OH, and Mrs. Nancy Ritch, Leesburg, FL.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Ruth Ann Getz

"For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow, and there is none abiding." I Chronicles 29:15. Bro. Nathan Steffen spoke these words when word came to us that Sis. Sara Schmidgall, 76, passed away Sunday, Jan. 25. Sara's life span was past the allotted three score and ten, which seems to be a long time, and yet we must say that "our days on the earth are as a shadow and there is none abiding." Certainly this should put our lives into proper perspective and teach us the brevity of life. Sara was born Nov. 24, 1904 to Bro. Henry and Sis. Amelia Geyer Bollinger and is survived by a daughter, Sis. Clara Lou Blunier (Eureka) and two sons, Albert E. Jr. (Phoenix) and Wilbur (Elgin).

We came together Jan. 24 with great rejoicing when we heard the testimonies of two souls (Tom Moser and John Feucht). We heard how the Lord worked within their hearts, bringing them under conviction of sin and into repentance for those sins. Finally, the Lord heard their cry and brought peace to their hearts. Our new brother John, who is 65 years old, spoke of having an old Bible in his home. He said the pages had turned yellow but the Bible was not worn out. Now those yellow pages are so dear to him. We could feel in one accord that God was with them and had converted their hearts. We observed on the following day their baptism and the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Truly one could feel the love flow from heart to heart. Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott), and ministering brethren Clarence Dietrich (Silverton), Carl Feucht (Lester) and Don Wagenbach (Washington) assembled with us.

The engagement of Sis. Sue Schifferer, daughter of Howard and Sis. Pat and Bro. Joe Aescleman, son of Bro. Joe Sr. and Sis. Mardell (Roanoke) was made known to the church on Feb. 8. May their hearts always be tender

toward each other and toward their God.

Our beloved Bro. Joel Gudeman has moved to Fair View Haven (Fairbury). We miss him here in our congregation, but are comforted to know that the God that he has served so faithfully, for so many years, is not limited as we are limited, but can be ever near his side wherever he may be. May he know and understand that his God is near his side.

Loved ones again have been ill, suffered injury, or required surgery. Bro. Tom Moser and Tim Kilgus required surgery and both are home again. Douglas Leman fell from a ladder and was hospitalized overnight. Louis Reber, Reno Davis (father of Sis. Millie Jepson) and Robert Gebhart are presently hospitalized. Mary Lindoefer also has been hospitalized and is home again.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Melba Mangold

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig, along with a few from Gridley, spent Sunday, Jan. 18 with us. We thank Bro. Elmer for his ministry to us.

We are giving best wishes to Sis. Elaine Zimmerman whose engagement to Bro. Scott Frank of LaCrosse was announced Feb. 1. They are planning a May wedding. Their parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie Zimmerman and Elder Bro. Ed and Sis. Leah Frank of LaCrosse.

We sympathize with Sis. Clare Lou Blunier (Bro. Lewis) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Sara Schmidgall of Elgin, IL. Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Jim Vierling at the passing away of his father, Bro. Emil of Oakville.

We have two new babies to tell you about. Jill Marie was born Jan. 26 to Myron and Elaine Blunier, their first child. Her grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Verda Blunier and Bro. Robert and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach of Tremont. Dale and Sis. Fredora Wiegand have their second daughter, Regina Elizabeth who was born on Feb. 6. She has seven brothers. Her grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Anna Wettstein of Eureka and Sis. Fanny Wiegand of Gridley.

On Sunday, Feb. 8 we heard the wedding vows of Sis. Janet Wiegand and Bro. Allen Streitmatter as they became man and wife. Bro.

Leroy performed the ceremony. We wish them God's blessings in their future life together. We are sorry to see Sis. Janet move away as they will be living in Princeville. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand and Bro. Alf and Sis. Gerry Streitmatter of Princeville.

Bro. Noah and Sis. Hulda Gerber wish to thank all who remembered them on their 60th wedding anniversary. They live at the Home.

We had our first real snow storm Feb. 10 with no church on Wednesday because of the roads being closed. Until then the winter had been unusually moderate for this area. The temperature has warmed up and the snow is going fast.

We are so thankful that the Lord is still calling souls to Him. We have three more converts, Elton Wiegand, husband of Sis. Loretta; their son Greg, and Jon Wettstein, son of Harold and Loretta Wettstein. It is an uplifting experience for the whole church when loved friends can turn their backs to the world and begin to follow Christ.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Carol Bazzell - Joann Zehr

The engagement of our Sis. Diane Hoffman (Sam and Norma) to Bro. Dennis Rassi (Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia, Tremont) was announced Jan. 25. They are planning an April 12 wedding. On Feb. 1, the engagement of our Sis. Christa Huber (Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna) to Bro. Verle Sauder (Virgil and Mildred) of Morris, MN was announced. They have set July 5 for their wedding day. May God bless their undertakings.

We wish much happiness to Grace Bolliger (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn) and Melvin Lewis, Fairbury, who were married on Jan. 23.

On Feb. 15, Sis. Carol Thames (Bro. Phil and Sis. Kay) was married to Bro. Rick Hany (Alfred and Sis. Marcella) of Gridley. Sis. Carol's presence here will be greatly missed. May God's love and grace be with them as they establish their home in Bloomington.

We extend sympathy to the family of Elmer Hohulin, 69, who died Jan. 23. Survivors are a son, John, Arlington Heights; a brother, Ed; and sisters, Sis. Lena and Sis. Leah Hohulin, all of Fairbury; Sis. Lillie Luthi, Morris, MN; and

Anna McDowell, Canoga Park, CA.

Some from our congregation were hospitalized over the last month due to quite an epidemic of flu and colds and other various reasons.

We are always thankful to God and to our visiting Bros. Bob Walder and Fred Knapp, Congerville; Ed Kloter, Goodfield; Bill Kupferschmid, Bloomington; and Elder Bro Ed Ringger, Gridley, in sharing the Word of Life with us.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jan Bachtold - Kathy Leman

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. . .

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2a

Bro. Clarence Kachelmus conducted funeral services for our departed Bro. Ed Bach, 74, who passed from this life into eternity Jan. 17. After a lingering illness, he can now be relieved of the burdens and cares of this life. We sympathize with his wife, Sis. Clara, and his children, Marlene, David, Harold, and Jon.

We thank Bro. Earl Kilgus (Remington), and Bro. Dave Wiegand (Champaign) for their visits and exhorting us with the precious Word of Life.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Willis Nussbaum (Sis. Elna), Bro. Alvie Kilgus, Sis. Beverly Eisenmann (Bro. John), Sis. Laura Knapp (Bro. Glen), Sis. Leona Ricketts (Bro. Meredith), Tammy Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane), and Bro. Harvey Leman (Sis. Leona). Most of these are out and doing well again, but to those who remain hospitalized we offer our prayers for recovery.

Little Kara Lynn was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bob and Elsie Hoffman. Lee and Jenny are happy for a little sister.

"Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing." Psalm 100:2

It was a blessed privilege to host the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship singing on two consecutive Sunday evenings in our church. Bringing the inspirational messages were Bros. Glen Dill (Tremont) and Bill Hodel (Roanoke).

Long long ago in a land far away,
There came the dawn of the first
Easter Day,

And each year we see that promise
reborn

That God gave the world on that
first Easter Morn. . .

For in each waking flower and
each singing bird,

The promise of Easter is witnessed
and heard.

And Spring is God's way of speak-
ing to men

And renewing the promise of
Easter again,

For death is a season that man
must pass through

And, just like the flowers, God
wakens him, too. . .

So why should we grieve when our
loved ones die,

For we'll meet them again in a
"cloudless sky"—

For Easter is more than a
beautiful story.

It's the promise of life and
Eternal Glory.

Helen Steiner Rice

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Verna Hartter

All who believe in God's mercy
and grace

Will meet their loved ones face
to face.

Where time is endless and joy
unbroken,

And only the words of God's love
are spoken.

Helen Steiner Rice

Our dear Bro. Harold Plattner has been taken from our midst. He passed away very suddenly in his home on Feb. 10. It was very evident that his faith and his church were of great importance to him. It wasn't surprising to see him helping almost daily on our recent church project. Services were held on Feb. 13. Surviving are his dear wife, Sis. Gerry; two sons, Bro. Dan and Bro. Sam; and seven grandchildren. He also leaves one sister, Sis. Clara Vogel of Cissna Park and seven brothers, Richard, Pete, Bob, and Les of Peoria; Ed of Forrest; and Walter and Jake of Morton.

We extend our sympathy to this entire family, and we know he will be greatly missed in our congregation.

Bro. Bill Hodel, Roanoke, and Bro. Marvin Schmidgall, Eureka, were our recent visitors and we thank them for the messages brought to us.

ADDRESS CHANGED?

INCLUDE OLD AND NEW ZIPS

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Carol Klopfenstein**

"Humility makes a man peaceable among the brethren, fruitful in doing good, joyful in suffering, and constant in holy living. Humility makes us fit for the highest service that we owe to Christ and at the same time is not negligent of the lowliest service to the humblest saint. Humility can be content with the most modest table and yet will enjoy the most precious delicacies as with God, with Christ, and in glory. Humility makes a man 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 preserving-vessel for grace, and is prepared for glory. Humility is the faithful nurse of our graces and gifts, and the mighty impulse to sacred exercises in duty."

—S. H. Frohlich

We were privileged to hear the tapes of the Brotherhood Conference during the last few months. We appreciate the untiring efforts of our church leaders to "feed the flock of God" and that they, as the Apostle Paul, "have not shunned to declare unto us all the counsel of God."

Three souls have been added to the congregation of the righteous as they endeavor to uphold the light of His Word. Sis. Joy Ringger, Sis. Ellen Gramm and Sis. Kathy Stoller have given their testimony of faith and were baptized. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Orville Ringger with us for the occasion.

We also were blessed by the visit of ministering Bro. Rod Huber of Valparaiso.

Feb. 15 was the wedding day for Bro. Rick Hany of Gridley and Sis. Carol Thames of Fairbury.

Bro. Ray Meiss, Sis. Betty Schmidgall, Jake Ringger, Chet Hany and Mark Wettstein, son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Gloria, have all been hospital patients.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger welcome the arrival of their new daughter, Jamie Lynn, who was born Feb. 19. She has one sister, Megan. Jamie's grandparents are Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat Ringger of Gridley, and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Loretta Bauer of Cissna Park.

ILLINOIS, MORTON**JoAnn Roecker - Phyllis Farney**

We want to wish Bro. Mark Stephens and Sis. Ester Herman God's richest blessings as they were married on Jan. 18. Their parents are Bro. Frank and Sis. Shirley Stephens and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Emma Herman, all of Morton.

Many of us were in Tremont for the wedding of Bro. Brad Braker and Sis. Debbie Pflederer on Jan. 25. Their parents are Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lee Pflederer. We wish to welcome Sis. Debbie into our congregation.

Feb. 1 found us rejoicing with Sis. Nancy Hermann and Bro. Mike Hoffman, as they were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Helen Hermann, Morton, and Bro. Rudie and Sis. Mary Hoffman, Roanoke. May God bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer were blessed with a son, Luke Christian, who was born on Jan. 30. The happy grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Alice Schaffer and Joe and Linda Powley.

We rejoice with Bro. Myron and Sis. Anna (Barth) Springer who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 7. May our Heavenly Father continue to richly bless them.

We are thankful that we have only three people who have had to spend time in the hospital this past month. They are Sis. Lydia Huette, Sis. Barbara Stoller, and Bro. Anton Rother. May God be with them and all of our loved ones who are sick or shut-in. Our prayers are with each one.

Bro. Don Sauder and Bro. Jim Leman, both of Roanoke, and Bro. Lavoyd Moore, Athens, AL, recently spent time ministering God's Holy Word unto us. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for their labors of love.

It is with regret that we were informed of the passing of our dear brother and editor, Bro. Ed Souder, Grabill, IN. We're aware of the long and many hours he so willingly gave of himself to see that we each received "The Silver Lining." Let us continue to keep those who so lovingly shared with Bro. Ed the task of preparing "The Silver Lining" in our thoughts

and prayers. For the task is great, but the blessing greater. Our love and prayers are with his dear wife and family, as we commit him to the Lord. We shall surely feel the loss of his presence, but know the Lord will provide.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA**Mary Plattner - Mary Ann Plattner**

Thank God for Little Things

Thank you, God, for little things
that often come our way—
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we
pray—
The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed—
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need—
Oh, make us more aware, dear God,
of little daily graces
That come to us with "sweet
surprise
from never-dreamed of places.
Helen Steiner Rice

Blessed be the Lord,
Who daily loadeth us with
benefits. . .

Psalms 68:19

Our congregation has been blessed with two dear little souls. First time parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Jean Hoerr. Jason Bradley was born on Jan. 19. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and Bro. George and Sis. Phyllis Lang of Tremont.

Bro. Mark and Sis. Linda Criss were blessed with a daughter, Melissa Marie, on Jan. 23. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ilene Haefli and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Criss.

We were privileged to have ministering Bro. Charles Marti and his wife from Lamar, MO, with us this month.

We welcome Sis. Lillian Ramseyer, mother of our Bro. Dean Ramseyer, into our congregation. She is from Bay City, MI.

We will miss our Bro. Bruce and Sis. Loretta Schafer and family who are moving to Indianapolis. A singing was held at our Fellowship Hall on Feb. 6 for them. We wish them the Lord's blessings in their new home and church.

Hospital patients this month were Opal Wright, Frieda Berchtold, Sis. Anna Hoerr, Sis. Perceda Eberhardt, Sis. Perceda Huber, and Eugenia Martin. May God re-

new their strength and give them comfort with each passing day.

Martha Langjahr would like to thank all her dear friends who remembered her with cards on her birthday and at Christmas. They all were very beautiful, and she was deeply touched.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Hoerr would like to thank everyone for their expressions of love during their daughter Holly's illness, and at the time of her death.

"That love has been and still is a great source of comfort and strength."

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Arlene and Arlys Martin

The abundant life in Christ produces a radiant personality, an inner glow, and a calm spirit. We rejoice that we can see this abundant life in our new converts.

Visiting ministers these past four weeks have been Bro. Charles Hemmer of Peoria and Bro. Everett Hari of Bloomington.

On Jan. 24 Bro. Joe Stoller announced the engagement of Sis. Debbie Stoller to Bro. Pete Aberle of Tremont. Parents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller of our congregation and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle of Tremont.

We welcome Tina Logsdon Christ to our congregation. On Feb. 14 Bro. Dave Kieser performed the wedding ceremony of Tina and Fred Christ. Fred's parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ. Tina's parents are Lennie and Hazel Logsdon of Pekin.

Shut-ins are Sis. Lucy Woertz, Kate Streitmatter, and Eugene Rapp. Please remember these dear people in your prayers.

Our sympathy is given to Bro. John and Sis. Louise Joos. Sis. Louise's brother, Bro. Ed Bach of Forrest, passed away on Jan. 16.

All of us were saddened when Bro. Emanuel Streitmatter passed away on Jan. 22. Bro. "Manny" always had a smile on his face. We will miss him. Our sympathy is given to his wife, Sis. Grace; his two sons, Gene Streitmatter of Rockford and Robert Streitmatter of Washington, DC; his brother, Paul of Princeville; and his sisters, Sis. Bessie Martin, Sis. Leila Elsasser, and Lavina Sloan, all of Princeville, and Ida Koehler of Prophetstown.

Sis. Elise Stahl and family express thanks for the prayers, gifts,

and deed of love shared with them during 1980.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Edith Sauder - Mae K. Hodel

Songs of praise to Thee are swelling,
From thousand thankful voices telling;
Oh, holy Hero evermore!
Death is now sweet for believers;
In Jesus we are heaven's heirs;
The sting of death is now no more.
For after the grave's rest,
Jesus shall call His blest,
Child awaken! Child awaken!
He went before thru heaven's door,
And brings us to our Father's house!

Hymns of Zion #45

Sis. Lena Pfister passed away. She had taken care of her father until he died at the age of 101. She is survived by one brother, Peter.

John Rassi was unexpectedly called from life to eternity. He is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Ethel; four sons, Roy, Wayne, John J., and Donald; and a daughter, Ruth McHenry.

Soft as the voice of an angel,
Breathing a lesson unheard,
Hope with a gentle persuasion
Whispers her comforting word;
Wait till the darkness is over,
Wait till the tempest is done,
Hope for the sunshine tomorrow,
After the shower is gone.
Whispering hope, O how welcome
thy voice,
Making my heart in its sorrow
rejoice.

Gospel Hymn #789

Bro. Mike Hoffman and Sis. Nancy Hermann (Morton) exchanged their wedding vows Feb. 1. We welcome Sis. Nancy to our congregation.

Boni Getz and Dan Oltman were united in marriage Feb. 14. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to both of these dear young couples. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." (I Cor. 13:13)

Lisa Lynne Sauder, first daughter for Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder, was born Jan. 28. She has three brothers to love and help take care of her, Bradley, Nathan, and Matthew.

Luke Benjamin Fischer was born

to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer. He is their first child. Bill and Sis. Anna Reutter (Cissna Park) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marge Fischer are the grandparents.

Katie Jo Hodel was born to Sis. Joyce and Bro. Steve Hodel on Feb. 7. Bro. Emery and Sis. Mabel Getz and Bro. Ben and Ruth Ann Hodel are the grandparents.

Sis. Minnie Leman, little Leigh Nicole Getz, and little Katie Jo Hodel are hospitalized at this time.

Bro. Joe Aeschleman (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mardell) and Sis. Sue Schifferer (Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat), Elgin, have announced their plans to be married Apr. 26. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they undertake to establish a Christian home.

Elder Bro. David Bertsch, Bros. Rod Huber and Kent Heimer were our visiting ministers this month. We are happy when they come to visit their parents and serve the Lord by ministering to us.

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY Sandy Gramm

Once again we were very fortunate to have ministering brethren who were willing to come and speak to us this month. We thank Bro. Ken Hoerr, Peoria; Ralph Garber, Morton; Kenneth Weerts, Cissna Park; and Clarence Kachelmuss, Forrest, for coming and letting God speak through them.

" 'This is from Me,' the Savior said,
As bending low He kissed my brow,
'For One who loves you thus has led.
Just rest in Me, be patient now,
Your Father knows you have need of this,
Tho', why perchance you cannot see.—
Grieve not for things you've seemed to miss.
The thing I send is best for thee.' "

"Then looking through my tears,
I plead.
'Dear Lord, forgive, I did not know,,
'Twill not be hard since Thou dost tread,
Each path before me here below.
And for my good this thing must be,
His grace sufficient for each test.
So still I'll sing, 'Whatever be,

God's way for me is always best.'"
Author Unknown

When heartaches, sorrows, and troubles come our way, we can gain strength knowing that, "This thing is from Me," the Savior said."

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Dorothy Wagenbach - Phyllis Lang

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. David Kieser (Princeville), Dale Eisenmann (Chicago), and Joe Braker (Morton). We are so thankful for the willingness of these dear brothers to expound the Word to us so clearly. May God richly reward them.

We are happy to have Sis. Ruth Frank (George) assemble with us again following eye surgery. Bros. Walter Aberle and Joe Steiner are back in our assembly again, having recuperated at home. We are thankful God has again provided His healing power.

The engagements of the following couples have been announced: Sis. Christine Gschwind and Bro. Terry Koch. Their parents are Aaron and Iris Gschwind and Bro. Jess and Sis. Amy Koch. They plan on a Mar. 29 wedding. Also engaged are Bro. Peter Aberle and Sis. Debbie Stoller of Princeville. Their parents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda Aberle and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Bernice Stoller (Princeville). Their wedding date is Apr. 5.

Bro. Dennis Rassi and Sis. Diane Hoffman of Fairbury, whose parents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi, and Sam and Norma Hoffman of Fairbury, are planning an Apr. 12 wedding.

Gregg Sauder and Cindy Dill have also announced their engagement. The parents are Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill, and Bro. Earl and Sis. Glenna Sauder. They plan to marry May 30.

We wish all these young couples the rich blessings of God as they walk the pathway of life together.

Jan. 25 was the wedding day of Sis. Debbie Pfloderer and Bro. Brad Braker of Morton. Parents of the couple are Bro. James and Sis. Lee Pfloderer and Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker. We wish for them God's rich blessings.

We are thankful for three brothers in faith, Justin Koch (Bro. Vernon and Sis. Merna), Joe Schweigert (Bro. Chris and Sis.

Ida), and Tim Aberle (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Frieda). They were baptized and taken into the fold on Feb. 8. We extend to them a hearty welcome into our fellowship.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi welcomed their fourth son, Jason Daniel on Feb. 10. His brothers are John, Michael and Philip. The grandparents are Bro. Arnold and Sis. Lydia Rassi and Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm of Gridley.

At this writing Sis. Louise Wagenbach (Simon) is hospitalized for tests. We hope she will soon be able to return home.

ILLINOIS, URBANA

Charlen Banwart

"At Home, 'tis well! There palms of peace abounding are gently cooling us, hot from the strife; O'ercome now are all pains of pilgrim life; The cries of fear give way to psalms resounding." (Zion's Harp #170) Our sympathy is extended to the family of our beloved editor, Bro. Ed Souder. May they feel the prayers of countless Silver Lining readers here and abroad. We appreciate the thousands of hours that volunteers from the Leo congregation have spent on our behalf and pray that if it is God's will the Silver Lining may be continued.

We welcome Sis. Georgia Wiegand who has moved here from Oakville. We also welcomed the following visiting ministers recently: Bro. Bruce Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield), and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville). May we take these words to heart each day: "Live thou as thy wish will be, To have lived when thou expirest. Treasures which have come to thee, Fame and wealth which thou desirest, Will not make thy death more sweet, For they are not thine to keep." (My Lifetime Doth Pass Away, Zion's Harp #253)

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Mary and Joan Schick

Another soul has taken advantage of God's love and grace and has answered his call. We wish Lynnette Heinold (Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan) the grace of God in her new walk of life.

We welcome Bro. Mike Fritz from Champaign, who is working at Caterpillar in Peoria. We hope he will feel at home in our congregation.

A ministering brother recently shared with us his feeling of inadequacy and fear as he rises to speak. We were reminded how much we need to pray for our ministers so that the entire congregation may receive a blessing to meet their special needs. Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jim Byrd from Roanoke and Bro. Leroy Hartman from Peoria. Bro. Bob Pfloderer from Morton also spoke at our monthly Bible study on "Train up a Child", a timely subject in today's world. We pray that God will bless these brothers for giving of themselves.

Maria Kellenberger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole) was in the hospital recently, but is now back home and doing fine. Sis. Jan Heinold was also in the hospital, and our thoughts are with her.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Gayla Baumgartner
Tami Fiechter**

Belatedly, we wish to report the passing away of Sis. Rose Gerber (Bro. Eli). We extend our sympathy to her children: Bro. Wendell, Bro. Vernon, Bro. Victor, Tillman, Sis. Lucille Steffen, and Audrey Paxton.

May our hospital patients ever put their trust in our loving Saviour. They are: Sis. Elizabeth Graber, Sis. Mary Moser, Bethany Neuenschwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean), Bro. Kenny Steffen, Bro. Ted Kipfer, Sis. Fern Leman, Sis. Cordelia Aschliman, and Sis. Evelyn Meyer.

Mildred Kipfer passed away recently. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ed and to her loved ones that remain.

On Feb. 14 and 15, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of seven dear souls. Our new brothers and sister in Christ are: Bro. Dave Fiechter (Bro. Charles and Sis. Maxine), Bro. Terry Kipfer (Bro. John and Sis. Sue), Bro. Kent Gerber (Bro. Harry and Sis. Lois), Bro. Stan Fiechter (Bro. John and Sis. Shirley), Bro. Doug Fiechter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunice), Bro. Rex Neuenschwander (Bro. William and Sis. Mildred), and Sis. Shari Stoller (Bro. Richard and Sis. Arlene). May the Lord ever be by their side as they travel this journey through life.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) and Bro. Harold Emch (Girard) for being with us on this blessed weekend. May they ever feel God's guidance in proclaiming His Word.

The engagement of Angela Steffen (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Roberta) to Randy McClain has been made known. We wish them a happy life together.

A little bundle of joy was sent to the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Kipfer. Alyssa Rae is the new addition to their family.

"Our love shall not diminish. . ." Recently our retired Elder Bro. John Yergler and his wife, Sis. Ella, observed their 60th wedding anniversary. A golden wedding anniversary was recently observed by Bro. Olin and Sis. Esther Geisel. How wonderful it is that these couples are continuing to put their trust in our Father above. May He continue to bless them according to His will.

Our Bluffton congregation would like to welcome Michael and Sis. Janet Campbell back into our midst after their stay in Hawaii.

We recently learned again how suddenly one can be taken from life, when we learned of the death of our Silver Lining Editor, Bro. Ed Souder. He will surely be missed by many, but may we ever trust in our Lord and His "timing." We wish to extend our sympathy to our dear brother's family and loved ones.

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 thy way, still sing and
praise,
Sometime, Sometime, we'll
understand.

Hymns of Zion #165

INDIANA, BREMEN (See South Bend)

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber - Wendy Gutwein
"It isn't our position but our
disposition that makes us happy."
JOY—Wings of Silver
When were the happiest times

in your life? Were they your most materially prosperous years? Were they when you felt most "popular"? Any truly converted Christian would no doubt tell us his happiest times were (or are) when he was most contented. External conditions really don't matter too much! Knowing God is pleased with us and will care for us can give us such wonderful peace and happiness that nothing else seems to matter. How true then, that it's not our position, but our disposition that allows us to be happy.

We felt fortunate to have two visiting ministers this past month. Bros. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott and Charles Marti (Lamar) both shared some of their time with us.

A tiny baby can fill a home with such special joy! Fred and Jan Yaggie can no doubt attest to this, as a baby girl, Tianne Lyn, was born to them on Jan. 13.

At our annual business meeting, quite a few brothers were prayerfully elected to assume various church duties. The results were as follows: Sunday School Superintendent: Bro. Wendell Anliker; Sunday School Teachers: Bros. Alvin Furrer, Willis Gudeman, Dave Huber and Bruce Wuethrich; Ushers: Bros. Ken Wuethrich and Don Vogt; Missionary Committee: Bro. James Gutwein; Trustee: Bro. Roger Ward; Parkview Haven Board: Bro. Eugene Huber; Parking Superintendent: Bro. Larry Linback. May God bless each of these brothers as they take on added responsibilities.

We're happy to report that Sisters Margaret Anliker and Kathie Inoue and Bro. Harold Gutwein are all home again after being hospitalized. We pray that God's healing strength will be given to each of them.

INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS Lynn Klopfenstein

"There are always two sides to every story," was a frequent statement I heard as a young girl. Likewise I think of winter as having two sides. The first side is the people who complain of the bitter cold and "dead look" of winter. On the other side are those who never complain, but just give thanks because they have the warmth and love of the Lord in their hearts. This feeling of warmth and love was so radiant this month in our church. We thank

all who made it possible, especially our laboring Bros. Edwin Bahler, Ed Alt, and Elmer Witzig. A blessed and inspirational weekend was felt from the Mortonaires singing group and ministering Bro. Bob Pflederer. Bro. Bob Knoblich gave a short history and progress report of the Home for the Handicapped at Morton, IL. He illustrated some essential needs of the residents and encouraged our support of this most worthwhile project. May the Lord continue to bless those who labor daily for these "special people."

Bro. Kent and Sis. Bobbie Erb have temporarily moved to Denver, CO, for Bro. Kent's medical training. We are all praying for their safe return. Indianapolis welcomes with love and open arms Bro. Bruce and Sis. Loretta Schaeffer and their three children from the Peoria, IL congregation. We are so thankful the Lord has provided a way for them to live with us. They are currently settling in their new home on the west side of the city.

INDIANA, La CROSSE Pearl Nuestr - LuAnn Feller

We were reminded by our ministering brothers about the famine in Egypt and how Joseph was warned by God to prepare. May we all prepare in this time, that we will not starve in the famine we can read about in Amos 8.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." Amos 8:11, 12.

Bro. Art Ringger, Indianapolis, spent Sunday, Feb. 1 with us. May the power of God always be present when God's Word is spoken. May our hearts be prepared with proper soil, so good seed can grow.

We rejoice with our converted friend, Ruth Nuestr, that she is at peace with God and man, and is awaiting the day of her baptism.

God again has led two hearts together. Bro. Scott Frank (Elder Bro. Edward and Sis. Leah), and Elaine Zimmerman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie), Eureka, have announced their engagement. May God bless this union of hearts.

We are in sympathy with Bro.

Ben Hitz and Sis. Tillie Heinold in the passing away of their sister, Ss. Anna Kaufman, Cissna Park. We also extend our sympathy to the many relatives and friends.

INDIANA, LEO
Mrs. Phil Schlatter
Mrs. Al Frautschi

Sister Rosa Bertsch suffered a broken hip when she fell on the ice. Surgery has been successful in mending the hip joint and she is recovering in the hospital. Sis. Rosa has been moved to the Colonial Crest Rest Home for further treatment and therapy.

Much joy is expressed as James and Linda (Garman) Bradley welcome a baby daughter, Emily, to their home. Two brothers welcome their little sister. Grandparents are Pete and Sis. Ruth Garman and great-grandmother is Sis. Maudie Greuter.

Our hearts were all saddened to hear of the death of our dear brother, Edward Souder, Feb. 12. We will miss his Christian love and support for all of the church. We long to express our sympathy and prayerful support to the family: his wife, Sis. Irma; a son, Bro. Mark and his wife, Sis. Diane; two daughters, Sis. Nancy and Sis. Patty; a brother, Dwight; and two grandchildren, Brooke and Nathan. Bro. Ed served his Lord and our body of believers many years as a Sunday School teacher, song leader, and editor of the Silver Lining.

We also wish to express our sympathy to James and Ginger Garman in the death of their infant son. Funeral services were held at the Feller Funeral Home at Waterloo. Grandparents are Pete and Sis. Ruth Garman and great-grandmother is Sis. Maudie Greuter.

What There is Time For
Lots of time for lots of things
Though it's said that time has wings;

There is always time to find
Ways of being sweet and kind;
There is always time to share
Smiles and goodness everywhere;
Time to send the frowns away,
Time a gentle word to say,
Time for helpfulness, and time
To assist the weak to climb,
Time to give a little flower,
Time for friendship any hour,
But there is no time to spare
For unkindness anywhere.

—Frank Walcott Hutt

INDIANA, MILFORD
Conni Beer - Marcy Haab

Love is a gift of God. It is far more precious than any material thing one could ever hope to possess. It can't be purchased, for along with all the best things in life, it is free. Its magic can change a dreary world into a heaven on earth. Its radiance is beyond human powers of description. It is not restricted by race, creed, or public opinion and has nothing to do with physical appearance, for "beauty is in the eye of the beholder." There is no fault or shortcoming that love cannot overcome with charity and understanding. It does not imprison, but rather, in loving, one is set free. There is no limit to what love can accomplish, for its depth finds qualities that would otherwise remain undiscovered. It is the most beautiful, the most absorbing, and the most rewarding thing in life and by far the most important. For love is truly a gift of God.

Dorothy Elfstrom

Dick Doll (son of Bro. Pete and Sis. Becky) was hospitalized and has now returned to school.

Lisa Kaiser (daughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Clara) was in the hospital for tests.

Bro. Dan Beer injured his arm in a farm accident and we are happy that it has healed well.

How thankful we are when God restores the health of our older brethren so they can continue to assemble with us. Bro. Elmer Haab and Bro. Mike Zimmerman have both returned home from the hospital.

A new baby girl, Sara Diana, has blessed the home of Sis. Sandy and Steve Frantz. Sara is welcomed home by little Scott. Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Beer are pleased grandparents.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
INDIANA, WEST LAFAYETTE
Verene Von Tobel

We are still prayerfully planning College Weekend, which is a blessed time of Bible study and fellowship. The date has been set for Apr. 4 and 5. All those of college age are welcome.

The first Sunday of March our Bro. Nick Gutwein, Francesville, and Sis. Suzanne Schwab, Wolcott, were married. They plan to live in Married Student Housing at Purdue where Nick is a student. Bro.

Scott Frank, LaCrosse, was recently announced to Sis. Elaine Zimmerman, Eureka. They may also be living in Married Student Housing at Purdue where Scott is a student.

We want to again thank those who attend our services and especially those who bring us the Word.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Beth Virkler - Annette Bahler

We were thankful to have visiting ministers Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington, IL) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). There is always a blessing given to the congregation from a willing servant of God, bringing forth His Word.

Bro. Harold Scheiler was hospitalized this month for tests and is home again. We hope he is feeling better. "Faith finds in Christ what'er we need to save and strengthen, guide and feed. . ." (Faith is a Living Power, Hymns of Zion #100)

I heard a Christian exclaim this month that if I pray for patience, I'd better be prepared for a trial to come along and try my patience. The Lord must know our patience will only grow with exercising it, and having to learn through hard times, not easy times.

A young man went to an aged saint on one occasion and asked him to pray for him, saying, "Will you please pray for me that I may be more patient?" The old man agreed. They knelt together and the man of God began to pray. "Lord, send this young man tribulation in the morning, send this young man tribulation in the afternoon. . ." The young man nudged him and said, "No, No. Not tribulation, patience." "But," said the old saint, "It is tribulation that worketh patience. If you would know patience you must have the tribulation. If you would know victory, you must have conflict; it is ridiculous for anybody to talk about having a victory when they have never been in a conflict. You must be prepared to enter into the arena with the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and He will give you lessons day by day. But I warn you, you will have to be quite prepared to pay the price. No one can enjoy victory without paying a price, even in the ordinary realms of life."

"It is only a crucified person that can have fellowship with a crucified Lord. It was via Calvary thru the Lord Jesus Christ that you and I can come into the experience of that triumph."

"If you want patience, then it is tribulation—if you want victory, it must be conflict." —W.J. Brown

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Gayle Bucher

WHERE THERE IS LOVE

Where there is love the heart is light,
Where there is love the day is bright,
Where there is love there is a song
To help when things are going wrong,
Where there is love there is a smile
To make all things seem more worthwhile,
Where there is love there's quiet peace,
A tranquil place where turmoils cease. . .
Love changes darkness into light
And makes the heart take
"wingless flight"—
Oh, blest are they who walk in love. . .
They also walk with God above,
And when man walks with God again
There shall be Peace on Earth for men.

Helen S. Rice

On Jan. 25 our congregation visited the Milford congregation and enjoyed a beautiful day of fellowship together. We thank them for their love and support.

Our annual business meeting was held recently. Those elected to new responsibilities were as follows: Bro. Marty Langhofer, Trustee; Bro. Eric Aeschliman, Brotherhood Aid and Usher; Bro. John Schuch, Usher; Bro. Verne Lehman, World Relief and Home for the Handicapped; Don Lehman, Recording System; Sis. Leona Lehman, Dinner Chairperson; and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer, Bible School Chairperson. May the Lord grant each one grace and courage to fulfill their new duties.

We were privileged to have Bros. Ken Hoerr and Aaron Steffen minister to us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for sharing their time and talents with us. We also thank their families for spending the day with us.

Bro. Marty Langhofer suffered a knee injury when kicked by a horse and is walking with the aid of crutches. Sis. Marie Garman is still nursing a broken arm at home. We surely miss her presence in our fellowship. May the Lord grant His healing power to all those in need.

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God." I John 4:7

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Laurel and Kris Widmer

Suzanne Lehman

As zooming jets flare through the sky,
As rockets roar toward outer space,
As brilliant cars go whizzing by,
This is the time, the day, the place
For inward listening. The sound
Of progress will not change the Voice;
Its message never can be drowned
By outward thunder. Yet the choice
Is ours alone to turn within
To harken to the One true Guide,
Who can be heard despite the din
That rumbles through the world
outside.
Quietly, as the stars that glisten,
God speaks, if we will pause and listen.

Jean C. Welborn

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth." Psalm 127:3, 4

Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne Schieler were the happy recipients of this heritage of the Lord when Chad Michael was born Jan. 29. The grandparents are Sis. Marilyn Schieler and Bro. Otto and Sis. Donna Wuethrich (Francesville). Bro. Dennie and Sis. Connie Stoller also welcome their special blessing, Rodney James, into their home, born Feb. 17. Rodney's grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller and Harriet Huff.

We were blessed and enriched from God's Word when Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville) ministered to us Feb. 15. We thank him for his efforts and pray that God will always bless him.

The story is told of an old man, an accomplished artist, who was applying the finishing touches to a bronze sculpture. He kept filing,

scraping and polishing every little surface of his masterpiece. "When will it be done?" asked an observer. "Never," came the reply. "I just keep working and working until they come and take it away." May we all be as diligent to grow in the Spirit and to keep our Salvation until the day God calls us home.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Mary Huber - Claudia Thomas

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Dec. 14, Bro. Keith Heinold was baptized, making it a very special day for all those able to witness the event.

We have been privileged to have Bros. Marvin Stieglitz, Leo; Chris Huber, Francesville; and Walt Steffen, Milford, with us this past month. We feel very fortunate when others give of their time to come and fellowship with us.

A Hungarian countess, a professed unbeliever, commanded that her body be interred in a stone casket in a mausoleum that was to be built about it. A plate was placed on the front of the mausoleum giving her name and some particulars of her death, and then the words, "Not to be opened for eternity." She would defy God to raise her from the dead!

But while they were building that mausoleum and before sealing the body in that tomb, an acorn dropped into the tomb, and today there is an oak tree rising out of the center of it. It is broken asunder and the casket is exposed. It was opened by an acorn under the hand of Almighty God.

You cannot thwart God; you cannot hinder God's omnipotent working. Pilate said, "Make it as sure as you can," and they did everything that human ingenuity could suggest to keep the body of Jesus in that grave in Judea. All their efforts were overthrown. He who had yielded up Himself to death, took His life back again by commandment from God. He was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father. (H. A. Ironside) This is why we celebrate Easter.

IOWA, ELGIN

Eleanor Butikofer

Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.

Luke 11:28

The sun is brilliant, the sky is blue, and the temperature is reg-

istering about 58 degrees. We have enjoyed a lovely season. We did have one severe snow storm which called for some snow removal equipment, but today it feels like spring. We are still enjoying birds coming and going to our stations of food. I spied some goldfinches and a nuthatch just a few minutes ago.

HEART GIFTS

It's not the things that can be bought
That are life's greatest treasures.
It's just the little heart gifts
That money cannot measure.
A cheerful smile, a friendly nod
Are priceless little treasures,
From the storehouses of our God.
They are the things that can't be bought
With silver or with gold.
For thoughtfulness and kindness
And love are never sold.
They are the priceless things in life
For which no one can pay,
And the giver finds rich recompence
In giving them away.

H. S. Rice

Bro. Ed Pulfer is a resident of the Maple Crest Manor Nursing Home located at Fayette, IA. He has been having a tug with his health. He was a patient at the West Union hospital and then submitted to surgery at the Lutheran Hospital at LaCrosse, WI. We are going to miss him and sincerely hope he will be quite comfortable and eventually be strong enough to return to his home in Elgin. Bro. Ed and his sister, Sis. Lena have been living together for quite a number of years. When we think of Ed we picture in our minds a smiling, friendly face and a person eager to attend church services. May he ever feel the nearness of God and his Saviour.

The ladies of our church meet from time to time at the home of our sister in faith, Marie Butikofer for World Relief work. Her daughter, Sis. Elizabeth Moore, resides with her, as well as her granddaughter Sis. Karla, a nurse, who is with the Medical Clinic at West Union. For the World Relief projects they are cutting out blocks of material which are to be used to make quilts and other items.

Sis. Lena Schupbach is feeling much the same as usual. She

hasn't been able to attend church services for some time. God has granted her many years on this earth, as she will soon be 102. Her nephew, Geo. Schupbach and wife Mildred live close by, and they afford much pleasure for Lena with their personal visits, as she loves company. Sis. Ruth Schupbach who cares for Lena very lovingly, told us that Lena asked her to read some letters that she had written home from Switzerland while Ruth and Sis. Bertha Pulfer were visiting there in 1947. Since many of our ancestors immigrated here from Switzerland, descriptions of the scenic villages, lakes, mountains, and beautiful flowers sound intriguing.

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

IOWA, IOWA CITY Sharolyn Metzger

It is always a blessing to have loved ones from away assemble with us. I recall the weekend the West Bend and Elgin single groups visited. On Saturday evening we sang at the rest home in Cedar Rapids. As the residents look forward each month to our coming, it was nice to greet them with a large group. Some of them help us sing and many have favorite requests. They especially enjoy chatting after the singing and seeing the little children. There truly is joy in giving of our time to brighten the days of others.

Bro. Jim Hoerr of Peoria, IL; Bro. Ed Lanz of Oakville; Bro. Paul Butikofer of Elgin; Bro. Clarence Kachelmuss of Forrest, IL; and Bro. Ed Alt of Cissna Park, IL were our visiting ministers. May God bless the effort they put forth to come, especially with our unpredictable Iowa winter weather.

We welcome Joy Ringger as a member of the body of Christ. May she ever rely on the Holy Spirit as she walks the pilgrim journey.

Our thoughts and prayers are offered on behalf of Mark Wirtz as he continues treatment at the University Hospital. May the strength from above carry him through these trying days.

IOWA, LESTER Alice Metzger

We sympathize with family and friends in the death of Bro. Ed Souder. He will be missed by many across the land, but God saw fit

to call him to his reward and we find comfort in that.

The Lord has called two young souls to repentance. They are Brian Mogler, son of Bro. Howard and Sis. Lollie, and Dean Feucht, son of ministering Bro. Carl and Sis. Emma. We pray for them and for many more to turn to the Lord in the day of grace.

On Jan. 25, the wedding ceremony for Bro. Donn Moser and Sis. Joyce Knobloch was performed by Elder Bro. Leo Moser. We rejoice with them and wish them many years together.

We appreciate the messages brought to us by our recent visiting ministers, Bros. Duane Metzger and Ben Wysong.

Four new baby girls have been born recently. On Jan. 26 Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger became the parents to Starr Karoline. She has two sisters and her grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger and Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger, Bern. Sally Jo was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer on Feb. 8. She has two brothers and her grandparents are Sis. Iola Knobloch and Artie and Leona Heyer. Sarah Rose was born to Bro. Tim and Lois DeHaan on Feb. 10. She has one brother and her grandparents are John and Sis. Ione DeHaan and Mr. and Mrs. Almond. On Feb. 11, Annie Louise was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Metzger. She has one sister and three brothers and her grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger and Bro. Simon and Sis. Louise Wagenbach, Tremont.

Sis. Esther Moser was hospitalized following a car accident. Bro. Wes was injured slightly and baby Alex was uninjured. Other hospital patients were Sis. Mardi Leuthold and Sis. Jolene Metzger.

We miss Bro. Doug Schock who recently moved to Pulaski. We welcome Sally Bailey and her two sons who have moved here from Florida.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Jerilyn Wagenbach

At our annual business meeting, new positions were filled on our church committees. They are: Bro. Danny Anliker, Trustee; Sis. Marian Pflum, Sister's Committee; and Bro. Wayne Gerst, Cemetery Committee. We appreciate the time and effort put forth by these brothers

and sisters as they carry out their respective duties.

We share the sorrow of the family of Bro. Emil Vierling who went to his heavenly rest on Jan. 30. He was born Sept. 3, 1906, at Tremonton, UT, to William and Lizette Rudolph Vierling. He married Sis. Pearl Heiniger Dec. 25, 1942, at Oakville. Surviving are: his wife; three sons, Ron, Burlington, Rick, Oakville, and Bro. Jim, Eureka,, IL; three sisters, Sis. Emma and Sis. Esther Vierling, Burlington, and Marie Schmidgall, Morton, IL; and three grandsons. May the Lord comfort the family in the loss of their loved one.

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united.
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in
Jesus;
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases.
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

This God-made union then
Shall never more be broken,
Where faith and love have been
The holy cov'nant's token
Where God the seal does give
The hope shall e'er remain,
Though parting be our lot,
To meet in heav'n again.

Zion's Harp #79

Sis. Lorna Schulz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Brian Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy), Taylor, MO, were united in holy matrimony on Feb. 1. "For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh." Ephesians 5: 31. May God bless and guide this new couple.

Feb. 14 and 15 was a joyful weekend, as we received two dear souls into the fold. Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) assisted our own Elder Bro. Ed Lanz as David Wagenbach (Johnny and Sis. Marilyn) and Mary Lou Kiefer (Bro. Bob and Sis. Delores) gave their

testimony of faith and were baptized in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. While the angels in heaven rejoice, those of us here on this earth are greatly encouraged as we can see how God still works in the hearts of men to draw them unto Him. Our own faith is renewed as we hear the experience of a repentant sinner, converted by the Lord into one of His own.

I know not why God's wondrous
grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why unworthy—Christ in
love
Redeemed me for His own.

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus thro' the Word,
Creating faith in Him.

But "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able To keep that which I've committed Unto Him against that day."

Hymns of Zion #109

IOWA, PULASKI

Ginny Wuthrich - Mary Wiegand

Another month has gone by so quickly and once again the Lord has been so good to us by bringing visitors into our midst. Bro. Walter Anliker, Eureka, IL, said, "Isn't it wonderful that after we have been led out into the wilderness of every day living that at day's end the angels can minister unto us." Bro. Loren Strahm from Gridley, KS, and Bro. Marshall Heinold from Washington, IL, both stressed that our repentance is on God's timetable. When we receive our calling we should heed and not say, "Some day I will repent." We should be most thankful for God giving us the opportunity to become His children.

Sue Ann Schaer has been in the hospital for surgery and is now at home. Sis. Laura Wuthrich has also been in the hospital. We are thankful that both of them are now on the road to recovery.

We are thankful for some newcomers to our small flock here. Ben and "Dot" Metzger, two of our converts, moved here from

Lester some time back. Bro. Doug Schock, also from Lester, has bought a farm and will be worshipping with us. We surely welcome them!

Sue Ann and Donald Shaer would like to thank their dear friends for all of the love and thoughtfulness. It was much appreciated in the loss of their daughter, Jenny Lynn. They want to especially offer thanks for the cards and money during the stay in the hospital.

IOWA, WEST BEND Elma Mogler - Judy Fehr

Three families have been blessed with precious little bundles. Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr became the parents of Sally Ruth on Jan. 26. Grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr and Ervin and Sis. Ruth Metzger of Elgin, IA.

Eli Charles was welcomed into the home of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Charlotte Fehr on Jan. 27. Sis. Nima Fehr and Ervni and Nettie Banwart are his grandparents.

On Jan. 29, Lee Silas Fehr was born. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon and grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Matilda Fehr and Bro. Silas and Sis. Della Metzger.

May the Lord bless each of these little babes as they grow into their family circles.

Sheila Fehr, daughter of Eldon and Verdell Fehr, and Steve Schuller of Sibley were married on Jan. 31 at the Fellowship Center. We wish them God's blessings.

John (Jack) Scuffham, Sr. of Algona passed away Feb. 8 after a lingering illness. His wife is the former Mildred Gerber. We certainly extend sympathy to her and her sons, John and Rodney, and their families.

Bro. Noah Anliker and Alice Marie Metzger (Bernard) are home doing well after their surgeries. Walter Zaugg and Manuel Fehr are also home and recuperating. Mark Wirtz, son of Paul and Bev Wirtz of Britt, who was recently diagnosed as having leukemia, remains in University Hospital in Iowa City and is still undergoing chemotherapy. For those who may wish to write, his address is: Mark Wirtz, University Hospital, Room C 32 J, Iowa City, IA 52240.

We trust that all can feel the healing power of the Lord.

The following was taken from **Cheer Along the Way** by James Deforest Murch.

"Do You Know the Shepherd?"

A noted actor, reciting for the pleasure of his fellow guests at a drawing room function, was asked by a minister present to read the Twenty-third Psalm—"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want. . ."

A strange look passed over the actor's face; he paused for a moment, and then said: "I can, and I will, upon one condition, and that is, after I have recited it, that you, my friend, will do the same."

"I?" said the minister, in surprise. "But I am not an elocutionist. However, if you wish it I will do so."

Impressively, the great actor began the psalm. His voice and his intonations were perfect. He held his audience spell-bound; and, as he finished, a great burst of applause broke from the guests.

Then, as it died away, the old minister arose and began the same psalm. His voice was not remarkable; his intonation was not faultless. When he had finished, no sound of applause broke the silence—but there was not a dry eye in the room, and many heads were bowed.

Then the actor rose to his feet again. His voice shook as he laid his hand upon the shoulders of the old minister and said: "I reached your eyes and ears, my friends; he reached your hearts. The difference is just this—I know the Twenty-third Psalm, but he knows the Shepherd."

Do you know the Shepherd?

JAPAN, SHIODA Evie Blunier

I was such a blessing for us in Shioda to have our Tokyo brethren gather with us for the day on Wednesday, Feb. 11, which is a national holiday. As we sat together to hear the summary of the Brotherhood Conference in America, we realized that although we are an ocean apart, the problems which face us as believers are the same. What a comfort it was to feel the presence of God's spirit as we reasoned together. Our Bros. Akito Inoue and Willis Ehnle lovingly and courageously warned us of dangers facing God's children and encouraged us to live faithfully.

The following article was written by our Sis. Reiko Furuya from the Shioda church in reflection upon her visit to the States in the summer of 1979.

The Teachings Which I Was Given in America

My visiting to American churches was really a blessing. I thank God and to all for that. By that travel I thought the most special characteristics of Americans is keeping warm fellowship very earnestly because they think loving one another is most important (from deep heart). We have American brethren in Japan who have pure Christian love. But I found many such nice brethren in America. They were very warm and kind and entertained the others just like their own children. Throughout my staying in America, my heart was surrounded with many warm hearts of love which belong to unlimited love in Heaven.

When I had such a wonderful and useful time in America, I absolutely didn't know about my mother's sickness because my family members kept it a secret from me during my trip. When I arrived at Japan, I knew for the first time my mother had been severely sick and had entered a hospital in Tokyo about a month before. As I went to see my mother in the hospital, she said to me, "The reason why I didn't tell you about me until now is that I thought God told me not to tell you because He is about to teach you something in America." By God's grace and many prayers, I have come to have deep faith that my mother will be with Jesus in Heaven. (About a month after I came back to Japan, she passed away.) I thought my mother became severely sick so suddenly in order to help me to go to America and that she deprived herself of even her life at last by helping me. (My mother had treated all just as their own mother in her life.)

American churches taught me precious teachings. I found that they always walked with God. Every love comes forth from love toward Jesus. So they had much love toward all. I also was given faith in Jesus by such a wonderful love. I saw they were always prayerfully and cheerfully walking. I was taught by them (a teaching again, that is) that I should

walk cheerfully, prayerfully, and hopefully just as a certain hymn.

I was impressed by their cheerful and heartwarming greetings, by their encouraging words from deep hearts with gentle sounds and by love to fill the other's needs perfectly. They were singing in accord to the Lord and Saviour. How nice it was! I was encouraged by it, too, because I couldn't imagine such a huge members' singing who love God with earnest hearts. And besides I was impressed by the nice fellowship of love which a couple Christian companion had. At the Brother Conference I found a tremendous and unexplainable blessed fellowship.

All experiences in America emphasized to me one teaching to keep four things always to overcome in spiritual life to the end. So my mother passed away to further convince me of the importance of keeping these four things which are the ways how to live in faith: that is careful, cheerful, prayerful and hopeful walking always.

I desire to fulfill these four things.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Yoshio Yamazaki - Marie Inoue

It is very fine weather here in Tokyo since first part of this year and we didn't meet any rain or snow. However, Japan sea-side there was quite heavy snow there and killed many people and houses were damaged.

In the country church, we had the Brother Conference there and Tokyo and Yamanashi-Ken's brothers and sisters met one place together which is a very wonderful and blessed things in this world. Such kind of blessings, only we Christian's privilege from God, other worldly people can not experience this kind of grace of God.

The theme this time was "We church members should bring new people to the church through our good examples." One of the brothers said that we should be ready for new people coming and encourage them. In the afternoon the August U. S. Conference report was reviewed.

The Day of Christ's Coming is just at our hands, so we should much more fight against the Satan, and accept all for the glory of God.

KANSAS, BERN
Esther and Stella Moser
PRAYER

Lord, look upon Thy lowly sheep
 And lend a helping hand;
 Uplift us, Lord, that we may see
 Beyond this troubled land.
 We ask not that Thou wipe away
 All sorrows from our path,
 Nor that all evil in this world
 Fall at Thy hand of wrath;
 But rather, Father, ask we now
 For courage, faith and light,
 That through our trials we may
 rise
 Victorious in Thy might.

Bro. Martin and Sis. Arlene Esslinger have a new granddaughter, Starr Karoline, born to Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger. Lee, Patsy, Fawn and Robin assembled with us until they moved to Lester, IA.

Matthew Meyer, five year old son of Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet is a very lucky little boy. He was in a feed wagon when his daddy put it in operation. The conveyer belt threw him out into the feed bunk unhurt. God surely had a shielding hand over His little one.

Sis. Minnie Meyer had a short hospital stay due to a fall that required a number of stitches. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Minnie and Bro. Avill Meyer in the passing of their grandson, Steven Lehmann, 31 years of age.

KANSAS, EMPORIA
Rose Schiesser

Greetings, Dear Ones, in the most precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our visiting minister was Bro. Bill Emch of Lamont. The Holy Word was opened unto Numbers Chapter 10 and again to Ephesians Chapter 2.

Are we really thankful for our believing brothers and sisters? They have preserved the Precious Word so that we could be quickened or chosen to carry our Heavenly Father's loving Word and guidance to the next generation. We soon will pass from this life to eternity and what was done for Christ will only last.

Bro. Bill mentioned that our church is truly based on Ephesians 2:19-22: "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners; but fellow-citizens with the Saints, of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the

apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

Dear ones, each one of us are important and must fitly be framed together. I Corinthians Chapter 3:7-9.

"So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's building."

So whether we are an elder, minister, door keeper, teacher, husband, wife or mother, each one of us has an opportunity to glorify our Heavenly Father. Let us not hide it under a bushel; for if we do it unto the Lord there will not be among us envying, strife, and division. Nor will we be like the children of Israel in Numbers Chapter 10, but we will be content. Praise the Lord.

I Timothy 6:6-8: "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

Hebrews 13:5: "Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." If we read the words of Hymn No. 44 in the Hymns of Zion, I'm sure our prayers will arise unto our Heavenly Father for grace and strength for each other, not to be envious, but to be content in whatever state we are in, no matter if your cross is sickness or sorrow. Rejoice and sing with gladness and your sadness will vanish. I Thessalonians 5:18. "In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Let us rejoice in our troubled times (BY THE GRACE OF GOD) and our Heavenly Father will grant us grace to be content Psalms 5:11: "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice; let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest (shelters)

them: let them also love that thy name be joyful in thee."

God hath not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways all our lives thro'; God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain. God hath not promised we shall not know toil and temptation, Trouble and woe; He hath not told us we shall not bear Many a burden, Many a care. But God hath promised Strength for the day, Rest for the laborer, Light for the way, Grace for the trials, Help from above, Unfailing sympathy, and Undying love.

(Author Unknown)

If anyone knows of someone living in the Emporia area, please write or contact one of these brethren:

Bro. Brian Bahr 939 Arundel Emporia, KS 66801 Phone: 316-342-9599

Bro. Ephraim Young 1021 Lincoln Emporia, KS 66801 Phone: 316-342-2594

Bro. Scott Strahm 1012 Cottonwood Emporia, KS 66801 Phone: 316-342-5516

Here are some thoughts from Wings of Silver:

LOVE

Is your love patient and kind? Is it able to suffer long, to endure every strain placed upon it in human relations, and still love? Is your love as steadfast in pointing to God's love as is the needle of the compass in pointing to the north? Is your love undiscouraged even by repeated ingratitude and recurrent failures on the part of others? Patience and kindness are the fruits of having Christ live in you. Are you nourishing your life upon His life by prayer and worship and studying His word? If so, the fruit of patience and kind love will grow and will be available for the healing of their lives.

Dear Heavenly Father, as thy Will be Done mold and shape us each at thy speed. Grant us all Grace and strength to fight valiantly; for we know Great victories come not through ease BUT by fighting valiantly and meeting hardships bravely. Have Mercy upon our Souls, Dear Lord, and Grant us thy loving Grace and strength to discern and prove the Spirits that try us. We do Thank you and

Rejoice in Thy most High and Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Hymn #127 Zion's Harp)

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Teresa Bahr

A daughter, Carrie Louise, was born to John and Paula Read on Dec. 29. Little Carrie has a brother, 2 year. old David. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ethel Smith and great-grandmother is Sis. Carrie Massner.

Elections held at our annual business meeting were: Trustee, Bro. Lyle Fischer; Sunday School teachers, Bro. Harvey Smith, Bible class, Sis. Judy Bahr, kindergarten class; Usher, Bro. Don Banwart; Food Committee, Sis. Ethel Smith.

We were blessed with visiting ministers recently: Bro. John Lehman, Bern; Bro. Ervin Knecht, Lamar, MO; and Bro. Earl Banwart, West Bend, IA.

KANSAS, GRIDLEY

Julie Strahm - Doris Bahr

"A LIGHT MAKES NO NOISE"—I couldn't help but marvel at the simplicity of this timely message spoken by a ministering brother. If we are truly in the Lord, His glory will exuberantly shine within us and will require nothing but gentle love and peaceful quietness from within us.

Our annual election was held and presided over by our Elder Bro. Sam Anliker. Those elected to fill offices were: Bro. Eldon Metzger, Board of Trustees; Bro. Ivan Beyer, Building Aid; Bro. Doug Kraft, Property Aid; Bro. Tim Zimmerman, Cemetery Board; Bro. Albert Edelman, Jr. High Bible Class and Superintendent; Bro. Scott Strahm, Sunday School grades 4, 5, 6; Sis. Gail Strahm, Preschool and Kindergarten; Sis. Julie Strahm, Silver Lining Reporter; Sis. Bertha Beyer, to head World Relief piece work.

KANSAS, KIOWA

Janice Bahr

In the Scottish highlands is an old bridge that spans a wild cataract. Its structure is so massive, and it rises so high above the gorge that it is known as "The High Bridge." But something happened that made it necessary for officials to condemn it. A tiny birch seed, caught by a gust of wind, dropped into a small crevice

above the key stone. It lodged unnoticed in the lime, and before long it germinated. Soon it was a young sapling but still nobody saw it. As it grew into a tree, its roots went deep into the mortar. Eventually it began to loosen and crack the masonry so that the arch was severely damaged. The bridge that had defied violent storms and supported the weight of marching armies finally had to be closed to traffic. It had succumbed to a small seed. (Our Daily Bread, August 1980)

So, in the Christian life, one little seed of sin can weaken the foundation of a person's character and be the cause of his downfall. That small seed soon becomes a sapling; and the sapling becomes a full-grown tree, dislodging the spiritual masonry of our lives. May we each and every day confess our secret sins to God, thus allowing His spiritual cleansing to work in our hearts that we may be a true and faithful servant until we are called to our eternal home.

What a blessed evening of fellowship we enjoyed the evening of Jan. 22, when Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Eureka, IL, and Elder Bro. Paul Butikofer, Elgin, IA, were in our midst to share the blessed truths of God's Word. We deeply appreciate the brethren lending themselves to our flock though they must have been weary from their long journey.

We are so sorry to report that Sis. Martha Roth suffered a broken hip when she fell at the Manor. She has undergone surgery in Wichita, but isn't doing well at the present time. Our thoughts and prayers are with her. On the other dear ones hospitalized last month, we joyfully report that Sis. Emma Diel, Sis. Lucy Hoffman, and Sis. Esther Hodel are all home again though not able to worship with us at this time.

It was our appointed time to again hold services at the Manor. Again, we enjoyed a blessed half hour with the dear aged ones there.

Lynne Murrow, daughter of Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow, was joined in marriage this past month to Shawn Johnson, son of Larry and Iva Beth Johnsn. It is our deep and fervent prayer that God may bless their marriage with His love and grace, and be ever present in their home.

A new little ray of sunshine came to the home of Pam and Doug Ott the 17th. His name is Jay Cody Ott and his maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pelton, and paternal grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Marvin Ott.

KANSAS, LAMONT

Mary Isch

"... Followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Heb. 6:12)

"There is only one thing," said a village blacksmith, "that I fear, and that is to be thrown on a scrap heap."

"When I am tempering a piece of steel, I first heat it, hammer it, and then suddenly plunge it into this bucket of cold water. I very soon find whether it will take temper or go to pieces in the process. When I discover, after one or two tests, that it is not going to allow itself to be tempered, I throw it on the scrap heap and sell it for a cent a pound when the junk man comes around.

"So I find the Lord tests me, too, by fire and water and heavy blows of His heavy hammer, and if I'm not willing to stand the test, or not going to prove a fit subject for His tempering process, I am afraid He may throw me on the scrap heap."

When the fire is hottest, hold still, for there will be a blessed "afterward"; and with Job we may be able to say, "When he hath tried me I shall come forth as gold."

Sainthood springs out of suffering. It takes eleven tons of pressure on a piano to tune it. God will tune you to harmonize with heaven's keynote if you can stand the strain.

"Things that hurt and things that mar

Shape the man for perfect praise; Shock and strain and ruin are Friendlier than the smiling days."

Selected
Sis. Matilda Emch was hospitalized for tests and observation and Bro. Charles Glieman was in for eye surgery. We wish them a speedy recovery and God's rich grace to heal them.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Clara Steiner - Judy Hartter

The weekend of Feb. 1 we witnessed the joyous occasion as Bro.

Gordon Huber (Bro. Sam) and Sis. Sharlyn Meyer (Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois) joined hearts in holy matrimony. May the Lord richly bless them as they begin their new life together.

With us on the weekend of Feb. 1 were Elder Bro. Gene Marti, Lamar, MO; Bro. Wayne Miller, Fort Scott; Bro. Bill Emch, Lamont; Bro. John Lehman, Bern; Bro. Lloyd Kraft and Bro. Tim Zimmerman from Gridley. We are so fortunate to have brethren who are willing to labor in our behalf. May our Heavenly Father richly bless them for being with us and ministering God's Holy Word unto us.

Those hospitalized this month were Sis. Anna Freiden, Sis. Fanny Bahr, Sis. Clara Steiner and Bro. Joe Steiner. We are thankful when we can see them among us again, and our prayers go out to those who can not come and go as they would like to.

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Ramona Meyer

With the inner excitement of seeing spring well on its way, it reminds us with a peaceful reassurance that the Lord's Coming is also well on its way. As the fruits of the earth spring forth, so it is in each child of God as the daily nourishment of the Word grows within our heart. Thanks be unto God for His plan of salvation which has made this possible for each one of us.

Ministering God's Word to us have been Elder Bro. Sam Huber (Sabetha), Bro. Joe Aberle (Sabetha), Bro. John Lehman (Bern), and Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern). Much strength and encouragement is felt, to be able to hear God's ever-precious Word, and be with ones of like-mind and faith. We thank each one for making the effort to worship with us.

MICHIGAN, ALTO Jane Grawburg

Today, has brought her share
Of joy and pleasure.
Today, has brought her share
Of testing too.
Today, has brought her share
Of strength and refuge.
Today, because the Lord is ever
true.
The testings often overwhelm
Consume one,
Only is there peace

When He controls.

Today, has brought her share
Of needing Jesus.

And He has given peace
For He controls.

Louise L. Winchip

The Alto Church wishes to express its sympathy to the family of Anne Virkstis (Bro. Ferdinand and Sis. Jane Grawburg) who passed away a few weeks ago.

On Jan. 17, we gathered for our annual business meeting. Bro. Fred Oesch and Sis. Jane Grawburg will serve in Sunday School. Bro. Lyman Feldman and Sis. Sue Daniels are substitutes. Bro. Curt Kaeb was elected as Sunday School Superintendent. Bro. Lloyd Blough accepted a trustee position. Sis. Luanne Kaeb will be helping with the World Relief Committee, Sis. Christine Wineiger with the dinner committee, and Bro. Curt Kaeb will help with the gardening. Bro. Lyman Feldman will assist as an usher, and Sis. Jane Grawburg will write our news articles for the Silver Lining. May the Lord bless these dear loved ones in their labors.

We have had several hospitalized in the past month. Fred Grawburg was in the hospital with a very severe case of pneumonia. He is presently at his son John's home in Lakeview.

Bro. Ferdinand Grawburg was hospitalized again with kidney problems. He is home now and doing very well. Bro. Ferd wishes to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone for the many prayers and support, and especially for the gifts of love that he and his family have been able to share.

Sis. Myrna Steffen (Bro. Carl) was in the hospital for a few days. She is at home with her family again.

Sis. Myrna Feldman was also in the hospital. She is doing just fine now and is enjoying her many friends at Cumberland Manor.

Our Lord has blessed Sally and Don Meyer with their first bundle of joy. Little Betty Jo was born on Feb. 1. Bro. Joe and Sis. Melva are her grandparents.

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

Mark 10:15

We are very happy for Terry Steffen (Bro. Carl and Sis. Myr-

na) who now recognizes the greatness of God's Kingdom, and is ready to enter in. We wish him God's blessings.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Patsy Bragiel - Linda Ramseyer

Bro. Lee and Sis. Carolyn Schamback were blessed with a son, Justin Robert. His sisters, Jody, Tessa and Lori welcome him home. The grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Marian Knochel and Bro. David and Sis. Lois Schamback (Croghan, NY). Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel welcomed a new daughter, Julie Kay. Peggy, Lisa and Jeffrey are at home to greet her. The grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Naomi Ramseyer and Bro. Joe and Sis. Elizabeth Waibel.

We wish to thank Bro. Everett Hari of Bloomington-Normal for visiting us and ministering God's Word to us. We are grateful for brethren who are willing to lend themselves for God's work.

We are happy to hear that Debbie Ramseyer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene) and Tracey Pashak (Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie) have received peace and are waiting to be baptized.

Sis. Louise Lambert, having been ill earlier this winter, is spending a few months with her daughter in Baton Rouge, LA. We wish her the Lord's blessings while she is there.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Bonnie Popp

As I take on the new responsibility of writing for the Silver Lining on behalf of the Detroit church, I would ask for prayer, support and patience of my Detroit church family. I also express appreciation to Sis. Nella Varga for her efforts in writing articles during her term.

Other new responsibilities came about for this new year: Sunday School, Bro. Dan Knockel and Sis. Charlotte Barton; Treasurer, Bro. Phil Bahr; Trustee, Bro. Rod Wieland; Secretary, Sis. Donna Hartzler. Each one of us serves a place and duty in the church. May we support each other in prayer and kindness.

We want to extend a loving welcome to Sis. Beth Schlatter who had been living in Sarasota and now joins our Detroit family.

We also welcome Daniel William, born Feb. 15 to Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa.

Congratulations are extended to Sis. Nella Varga, upon her graduation from high school, and a prayer is offered for the Lord's leading in the future.

Chris Weigle, son of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary, was hospitalized and underwent surgery. We're thankful for his swift and good recovery and are glad to have him back in Sunday School and feeling fine.

Louise Polk has been in the hospital. We pray for sunshine in her days and that she may soon become well.

Sis. Katie Bartolf is now in a nursing home. Sis. Katie has endured much affliction. Please remember her in your prayers.

"Thy word is very pure; therefore thy servant loveth it." Psalm 119:140

As we in Detroit approach a time of Communion and reflect upon our lives, I had to think how all direction comes from the Word. Do we, as servants, find the Word very pure and do we love it? If we do, we will cherish and keep it till life's end.

THE BOOK OF LIFE

The Bible is the Word of God;
It's a looking glass as well.
It's a chart when sailing stormy seas
And a glorious story to tell.

It's a treasure house of wisdom;
It's a light that clearly shines,
A comfort for the sorrowing,
And a hope for troubled times.

It gives the simple wisdom,
Shows the lost the way back home,
It's food for the hungry multitude
And a Friend to those who roam.

It is the wondrous Book of books
To its promises we cling
For it was given to us
By our glorious God and King!
—Dorothy Smith

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Carol Virkler

As the Easter season approaches, may we with prayerful hearts remember that the cross is where our sins were forgiven.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS LEADS TO GOD

He carried the cross to Calvary,
Carried its burden for you and me,
There on the cross He was crucified

And, because He suffered and bled
and died,

We know that whatever "our cross" may be,
It leads to GOD and ETERNITY...
For who can hope for a "crown of stars"

Unless it is earned with suffering and scars,

For how could we face the living Lord

And rightfully claim His promised reward

If we have not carried our cross of care

And tasted the cup of bitter despair. . .

Let those who yearn for the pleasures of life,

And long to escape all suffering and strife,

Rush recklessly on to an "empty goal"

With never a thought of the spirit and soul. . .

But if you are searching to find the way

To life everlasting and eternal day—

With Faith in your heart take the path He trod,

For the WAY OF THE CROSS is the WAY TO GOD.

Helen Steiner Rice

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Jan Schock - Pam Sutter

What rejoicing for each new baby born! Roger and Mary Evink are parents of their first child, a son, Cory Roger. Bro. Richard and Sis. Corrine Schmidgall became first-time grandparents!

On a stormy Sunday evening, Bro. Verle Sauder and Sis. Christa Huber were announced to be married. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Donna Huber of Fairbury and Virgil and Mildred Sauder of Morris. Christa attends the University of Minn., Morris. We wish them a blessed life together in Christ.

Once again God's might was revealed in a winter blizzard which cancelled testimony services for Kayla Schmidgall, but the way was opened to witness her testimony and baptism the following morning. We're happy for her faith to believe, and wish her God's love and grace. A special thank you to Bros. Leo Moser, Dale Eisemann, Ed Alt, and Gene Metzger for their labors and effort to get here.

There's rejoicing in the camp, as two more sinners have come

home! Friends Jodi Schmidgall (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Vi) and Brian Moser (Sis. Norene and Bro. Carl) have chosen to live for Christ. Oh, we hope that the harvest can be great! Let's share with others what Christ has given us.

Following is a brief history of our dear Bro. William Luthi, who passed away on Jan. 13, 1981.

William was born on Jan. 21, 1892 at West Bend, IA, the son of the late Christian and Marie (Schmid) Luthi. In the fall of 1902, he and his brother, Fred, moved horses to Minnesota and stayed with their stock over the winter. Their parents and family moved in 1903. William farmed with the family until 1914 when he began farming on his own.

William repented and was baptized on July 17, 1917. On Sept. 11, 1921, he married Minnie Schlupp at Lamar, MO. Grandma Luthi lived with Will and Minnie on the home place until her death in 1924. William retired from active farming in 1959, and since then lived in Morris.

On Mar. 17, 1965, Will married Sis. Lillie Hohulin from Peoria, IL. They lived in Morris until the time of his death.

Bro. William and his sister, Rose Moser, were the only ones in our congregation who were here 74 years ago when our first church was built in 1907. Sis. Rose yet survives him.

Sis. Lillie Luthi and family wish to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and kindness during the illness and death of Bro. Will. May God bless each and every one.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Carol Messner - Mary Lou Schmidt

I am Jesus' little lamb,
Ever glad at heart I am;
For my shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need, and well provides me;
Loves me every day the same,
Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away;
Jesus is my Staff and Stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,
Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go;
Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am,
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended,

By His angel host attended;
He shall fold me to His breast,
There within His arms to rest.
Amen.

Henrietta L. von Hayn

Precious infant daughter, Amber Marie Schmidt, was taken to her Heavenly Home this past month. Dennis and Sue Schmidt are the parents; and Bro. Darrel and Sis. Darlene Schmidt are the grandparents. Our sympathy goes out to these dear loved ones and their families.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Bernadine Messner have a precious new baby grandson, Jesse Ray. Jesse is the first child of Jeff and Debby Messner.

Bro. Walter Messner wants to convey his thanks for all the cards, gifts, visits, and prayers on his behalf during his illness.

Bro. Ray Messner was hospitalized for observation; but at this writing is home and doing much better.

Sis. Celina Schmidt is hospitalized after having knee surgery. Many prayers are sent upward on her behalf.

May those of us who have our good health, thank our dear Lord each and every day.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Vera Luthi - Elaine Braker

We can thank the Lord that He has guided two people to be united as a Christian family, a light in this world against the bulwark of Satan. (Feb. 15 Sis. Hildagard Steffen (Bro. Willie and Sis. Hilda) and Bro. James Koehl (Bro. Ernest and Sis. Gladys) joined hand and heart to form a three-fold cord. May God's love always shine forth from them to help others when times get dreary.

This month we have received blessings from on High through many visiting ministers. Bro. Willis Wiegand, Goodfield, IL Bro. Joe Aberle, Sabetha, KS, Bro. Harold Gramm, Morris; Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart, Bro. Harold Kraft and Bro. Charles Sinn, Ft. Scott, KS, were willing to proclaim God's Word. May they and their families be blessed for their labors of love.

The surgery patients this month were Debbie Steffan (Paul), Leon Luthi (Bro. Ray and Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Sandy Knecht (Bro. Evelyn) and Sis. Linda Banwart (Bro.

Gene). We are glad they are all better and are joining in the fellowship. Sis. Anna Frieden who is living in our nursing home in Sabetha fell and was hospitalized for awhile. She is better and at home again. Clara Lehman spent some time in the hospital after having heart trouble.

As spring is quickly approaching with the blooming of nature along with the hurried pace of life, this poem was meaningful to us.

Take Time For Little Things
The simple pleasures each day brings. . .
The glory of the springtime flowers,
The beauty of the morning hours
The wealth of nature's bright array.
The quiet moments of each day.
Yes, take time for the little things
And for the pleasures each one brings,
And in these little things you'll see
How wonderful each day can be.
Amanda Bradley

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Loida Hodel - Stephanie Gerber

"For whither thou goest, I will go;
and where thou lodgest, I will lodge:

Thy people shall be my people,
And thy God my God." Ruth 1:16
Kim Knapp (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis) and Stuart Buckman were united in marriage by Elder Bro. Roy Grimm at the country home of the bride near Emden, MO on Jan. 24.

Bro. Brian Knapp (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Lorna Schultz (Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy) of Oakville, IA were married Feb. 1. We wish both couples God's blessings and welcome them to the Taylor congregation.

In times of quietness our hearts should be like trees, lifting their branches to the sky to draw down strength which they will need to face the storms that will surely come.

T. Kogawa
Hospital patients this month were Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro. Louis), surgical, and little Julie Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie) medical. May God grant them both a full and speedy recovery.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, Jan. 23. Bro. Elwood Yackley re-

places Bro. Ron Joos as church trustee. Bro. Steve Sutter was elected to take Bro. Mike Knapp's place as Fellowship Hall trustee and Sis. Nancy Knapp was chosen to take Sis. Joann Wiegand's place on the "Food Committee." We are thankful to be able to work together in peace and harmony and thus fulfill the physical responsibilities of our church.

Happy first time parents are Greg and Maribeth (Heimer) Hastings. Little Joel William's grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Naomi Moser of Wapello, IA and Ruth and the late Joe Hastings of Palmyra. Children are indeed a "heritage of the Lord" and may God bless this little "family" with love and wisdom as they enter a new phase in life.

We enjoyed having ministering Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lois Bahler of Remington, IN, on Feb. 15. We are thankful to God for sending servants here and there to sound the trumpet and proclaim His Word, whether it be admonishment, encouragement or serious and timely warnings to the unconverted.

"Every ship is safe in the harbor,
But that isn't what ships are made for."
E. Bahler

"Ring the bells of Heaven, there is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild—
See the Father meets him, out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary, wandering Child."

#202 Tabernacle Hymns

Peggy Sutter (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marjorie) is repenting and we wish for her the necessary grace to continue on in this most important step in her life. Our prayers continue to go out for all those who are "Almost Persuaded" to join in the "Service of the King." "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
PENNSYLVANIA,
PHILADELPHIA
Ed Aeschleman

Sisters Mary Diggelman and Minnie Cook are able to worship with us again at Union City after

some weeks of absence due to illness. We thank God for His healing power.

We held an open house at the new Philadelphia church for the families in the Philadelphia area that are affiliated in one way or another with the church. We enjoyed a very good turnout and trust that God will move our dear friends to meet with us often in the future.

Two weeks later on Feb. 15 we held another open house for our neighbors, friends, local people, and contractors who supported our building effort. Our dear ministering Bro. Ernest Graf of Akron and several other families from Rittman and Rockville visited Philadelphia and supported our open house program. We were pleased to welcome about 30 visitors from the Philadelphia area, all of whom attended our afternoon services and then toured the facility and shared refreshments with us. Most important of all, we were pleased with a true and powerful outpouring of the Word of Life.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN Alice Virkler

Easter is a time for planting

Many precious seeds,
That they may begin their growing

To fill man's hunger needs.

And Easter is a time for planting

In each hungry heart
Seeds of love and true repentance,
That salvation fruits will start.

As Easter time is near, we are reminded of the Lord's suffering in our stead. Surely it is a time for planting the seeds of love in each and every heart. We are so thankful that we have ministers of the true gospel who plant seeds into each hungry heart. We pray that many more will yet heed the call for salvation and allow true repentance to take place within their hearts.

Sympathy this month is extended to Larry and Sis. Louise Purvines and their family. Larry's mother, Mrs. Fern Purvines, was called from this life in Springfield, IL.

Sympathy is also extended to the family of Jack Virkler, age 36,

who was called from this life after suffering from partial paralysis, resulting from a car accident almost 16 years ago. Jack was the son of the late Bro. Asa and Sis. Mabel Virkler and leaves his wife, Carol, a son and a daughter.

Our hospital patients this month were Pernal Virkler and Sis. Barb Virkler. Matthew Herzig, son of Bro. Ronald and Sis. Eleanor, was an overnight hospital patient after having his arm set and placed in a cast. He returned to school and Sunday School.

We enjoyed a covered dish supper and evening of fellowship and singing with the Naumburg congregation.

It is expected that our midweek services will begin in April. We will alternate with the Naumburg congregation and meet at 7:30 p.m.

NEW YORK, NAUMBURG Rachel Snyder

THE HEART'S GARDEN

The heart is a garden where
thought flowers grow
The thoughts we think, are the
seeds we sow.

Every kind loving thought, bears
a kind loving deed
But a thought that is selfish is
just a weed.

We must watch what we think,
each minute of the day
And pull out the weed thoughts
and throw them away.

Then plant loving seed thoughts, so
thick in a row

That there will be no room for
weed thoughts to grow.

Author Unknown

It was good news to hear that Sis. Barbra Bachman has returned home from the hospital and is doing well. We wish her God's blessing. We now hear that she has become a great-grandmother again. Bethany Joy was born Feb. 4 to Duane and Elsie Lehman McElkeran of Beaver Falls. Mr. and Mrs. Walter McElkeran and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Lehman are grandparents.

Sis. Pearl Colgrove is in the House of Good Samaritan Hospital after having surgery.

A group from Croghan and Naumburg churches gathered for a singing at Sis. Minnie Fauke's for her birthday.

Andrew Virkler passed away

Feb. 15. He was in the Lowville Extended Care Facility. Surviving are his wife Emma Einbeck Virkler, two children, Sis. Julia Karcher and Bro. Everett, as well as nieces and nephews. Two sons, Perry and Clifton preceded him in death. Bro. Robert Beyer conducted the services.

OHIO, AKRON Carolyn Miller

Judy Kaufman was hospitalized this month. We hope she will soon be feeling better.

Our Sis. Anna VonGunten met with a tragic death on Jan. 27. She was struck by a car as she was crossing the street. Sis. Anna's accident caused me to think just how suddenly we can be taken from this life into eternity. It makes me also think that if today were the day we were called out of this life, would we be ready to meet our Maker? Louise French also died this month after having been ill for some time.

DEATH IS A DOORWAY by Helen Steiner Rice

On the wings of death the soul
takes flight

Into the land where there is no
night—

For those who believe what the
Saviour said

Will rise in glory though they be
dead . . .

So death comes to us just to "Open
The Door"

To the Kingdom of God and Life
Evermore.

OHIO, GIRARD Kathryn Emch

We surely want to extend our sympathy to the Ed Souder family. In the years that I have written for the Silver Lining I have learned to love him as a friend. His letters were informative and friendly. He has spent much time and effort in our behalf and will be greatly missed. One of our sisters said recently that she reads all of the paper and surely did not want to miss paying for her subscription. Many have appreciated his efforts and Bro. Ed will now reap his reward.

We enjoyed the blessing of visiting Bluffton this past weekend to witness the baptism of seven young people. We want to express our thanks to Bro. Ben Hartzler

from the Rittman congregation for serving in our pulpit.

OHIO, JUNCTION Les Manz

Born to Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz on Jan. 30 was Matthew David. Happy for a baby brother are Jennifer, Mark, Julie, Jill and Jodi. Grandparents are Sis. Juliet Schlatter and Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn Manz.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Barbara Manz (Bro. Eli and Sis. Evelyn).

OHIO, LATTY

Cheryl Wenninger - Susie Sinn

KINDNESS BRINGS HAPPINESS
Has your heart been cheered by some word of song?

Then do a favor and pass it along.
For a word spoken kindly could bring forth a smile,
Or touch a hard heart, or make life worthwhile

For some weary traveler on life's toilsome road;

So open your heart and lighten his load.

And a kindness that's done for a brother in need

Will bring forth reward, as the wee little seed

Which is tenderly planted and given much care

Till it blossoms and grows, and fruit it doth bear.

For kindness that's given and shared with another

Will happiness bring to you and your brother!

Luella Burkholder

We've had many opportunities to show kindness, as some of our loved ones have been hospitalized. They are Brian Whitman (Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen), Sis. Joyce Wenninger (Bro. Larry), Sis. Vera Laukhuf (Bro. Lester), Brandon Grant (Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda), Dale Stoller (Bro. Glen and Sis. Ede), and Bro. Millard Stoller (Sis. Irma). We are thankful they are all on the road to recovery.

Far beyond the blue of Heaven,
Far beyond the setting sun.

There are mansions waiting for me

When my race on earth is run.

I still marvel at the wonder—
How a great and mighty God

Had compassion for a sinner—
Me, a child born of the sod.

But He touched me with a fire
And my sin-sick heart He found.
He removed me from the mire,
Set my feet on solid ground.

I'll not fear death's chilling valley,
For my Lord has gone before—
He will take my hand and lead me;
In His footsteps I'll pass o'er.

I shall run and not be weary,
I shall walk and will not faint,
Mounting up with wings as eagles,
For the Lord renews my strength.
Susie Hoover

There is joy and thanksgiving in our hearts as another soul, Ralph Stoller (Ruth) has turned to the Lord. Ralph is the son of Sis. Alice Stoller. May God grant him the necessary grace as he begins his new walk of life.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Lucille Groh

I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all His people. Psalm 116:14

Jan. 24 and 25 were very memorable days in the lives of our new brother and sister, Carole and Lonnie Browne, as they gave their vows to God to serve Him and our Lord Jesus until death. What a beautiful way to start a new year and a new life in Him. Bros. Rudy Graf and Joe Ramsier were here to help carry out the wishes of Carole and Lonnie. Sis. Carole is the daughter of Bro. Wallace and Sis. Helen Ramsier. Scott and Julie Sauder are the parents of a new baby boy named Joseph Scott. He is the new grandson of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Sue Sauder.

Loved ones hospitalized this past month were John Gage and Mary Fuhrer. Sis. Alma Beer was treated at the emergency room for a leg injury. Jerry Roberts fell and injured his leg and will be in a cast for several weeks. We also welcome Sis. Mary Stanoyevic and Sis. Theresa Hunyadi back into our fellowship after a long absence due to illness.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Ps. 116:15.

Recently I read the following article written by an unknown author. "A certain nobleman had

a spacious garden which he left to the care of a faithful servant, whose delight it was to water the seeds, support the stalks of tender plants, and do everything he could to make the estate a veritable paradise of flowers. One morning, the gardner rose expecting to find his favorite blooms increased in loveliness. To his surprise and grief he discovered that one of his choicest beauties had been rent from its stem. Looking around, he missed from every bed the most beautiful of his flowers. Full of anxiety and anger, he hurried to his fellow servants and demanded who had thus robbed him of his treasures. He found no solace for his grief until someone told him. 'The lord of the manor was walking in his garden this morning, and I saw him pluck them, and carry them away with a smile of joy.' He realized then that he had no cause for sorrow. It was well that his master had been pleased to take 'his own.' "

This past month the Saviour has plucked some favorite flowers from our midst and has taken loved ones home to bloom in the heavenly garden.

Bro. Ed Souder, the Editor of the Silver Lining, was so suddenly transplanted at the age of 55. We of the Mansfield congregation extend our sincere sympathy to his dear wife, Irma, and family.

Our dear sister, Mary Sabo, age 85, has also been chosen by the Master to bloom in His heavenly garden. Sis. Mary always seemed so glad to come to church and was always so friendly. Her lovely Christian smile will truly be missed. She is survived by two sisters, Martha Enderle, Ella Harmon, and a brother, Joe Sabo.

We think of death as ending, but for the Christian it is a glorious beginning: we think of it as going away, but it is really a wondrous arriving.

OHIO, RITTMAN Janette Blough

May our Heavenly Father guide our Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and those with him who have left for Japan and India. These brothers are looking into a mission in India left to the care of our churches.

Our prayers and wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Sis. Martha Walder who has been hospital-

ized with a back problem. May the Lord once more restore her to good health.

Your reporters apologize that we left out the death of Charles Winkler from the Rittman Silver Lining News in Dec. It was unintentional and our sympathy and prayers still go out to his wife, Sis. Betty Winkler and to his children, Eugene, Chuck and Sis. Charlene.

A little daughter, Audrey Rene, was born to Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller. Audrey has a little brother, Tony, and her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Martha Walder and Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvane Stoller of Latty.

Debbie and Don Steiner are happy first-time parents with the arrival of Michael Nathan. Michael's grandparents are Willard and Sis. Marian Steiner.

Lori Elizabeth is the name given to a little girl born to Bro. Ron and Sis. Joanne Christian. Lori has five sisters, Pam, Carol, Elaine, Lisa, and Debbie, and one brother, David, to help care for her. Her grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Esther Saurer and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Mildred Christian.

LuAnn and Mike Musser are also first-time parents with the arrival of Jason Michael. Jason's grandparents are Bill and Sis. Donna Young. We want to extend best wishes to the families of these precious little bundles.

We have two engagements to announce. Merv Miller is engaged to Dawn Winkler and Dan Widmer has become engaged to Virginia Giet. Merv is the son of Richard and Sis. Melba Miller and Dan is the son of Bro. Harold and Sis. Carol Widmer. We send best wishes to both couples.

Feb. 8 was the wedding day of Sis. Jolene Gasser and Bro. Steve Hofacre. May our Heavenly Father always be with them and bless their marriage.

WHAT GOD HATH PROMISED

God hath not promised
Skies always blue,
Flower-strewn pathways
All our lives through;
God hath not promised
Sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow,
Peace without pain.
But God hath promised
Strength for the day,

Rest for the labor,
Light for the way,
Grace for the trials,
Help from above,
Unfailing sympathy,
Undying love.

Annie Johnson Flint

OHIO, SARDIS Joyce Indermuhle

I love to watch the tiny birds
Listening to their father's words,
He is telling them how to fly
Even the smallest ones must try.
Baby geese and swans and ducks
Listen to their mothers' clucks.
They are being pushed aloft
Out of nests both warm and soft,
Brand new wings are all unfurled
As they soar into the world.

Barbara Taylor Bradford

I had to think as I read this, how much we are like those baby birds. In our Christian walk of life, we too must listen to our Father as He teaches us to live in the world.

A newborn bird is totally dependent upon its father and mother for everything. As a bird grows and learns to fly, it patterns itself after the father bird. We too need to pattern ourselves after our Father. Even when a bird flies off on its own, it will always fly just as taught in the beginning. As we grow in spirit and grace may we constantly review the Word to see how we should pattern our lives.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau

NOW IT IS DONE

Now it is accomplished!
I'm no longer mine;
Lord, I will forever and always be
thine,
For Thou hast created and purchased me too,
Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou
makest me new.

Now it is accomplished! My freedom is gone,
As I am a captive of God and His Son;
What freedom! O, I was by Satan enslav'd
To do his ill bidding; but now I am saved.

Zion's Harp No. 209

It was a joyful weekend as two precious souls became children of

the King and heirs of His eternal Kingdom. On Saturday, Feb. 14, Sis. Sarah Miller and Bro. Dan Fetter gave their testimonies of how the Lord revealed unto them the great need of making a change in their lives. It is now their desire to follow the teachings found in the Holy Bible. On Sunday, we witnessed their baptism, the burying of the "old Adam" and the resurrection to a new life in Christ Jesus. The laying on of hands, which is sealing the Holy Spirit within their hearts as their guide in life, was performed by our Elder Bro. Ben Maibach. Miracles still occur in our day and time.

We rejoice, as do the angels in heaven, that we have another soul in our congregation who has turned to the Lord in repentance. Gail Bradford, through repentance and grace from God has found peace in her heart and is looking forward to becoming a child of the King. We pray that many more will recognize the need of preparing their souls for everlasting life. It is so true, as Bro. Ben said, "We live in the world of the dying."

At the annual business meeting, Bro. Douglas Harmon was elected as a trustee for a five-year period.

In the Sunday School, we now have Sis. Collette Harmon for the Nursery Class and Sis. Verena Kaeppeler for the Intermediate Class.

Sis. Mary Harmon was a surgical patient in the hospital and we are happy to say that she is recuperating in the home of her son, Bro. Howard. Sis. Lois Newman was in the hospital but is now at home. Sis. Lena Rager is a hospital patient. We pray that God will help meet the special needs of each one.

OREGON, PORTLAND Connie Steffen

From the beginning of time, God saw the need of man to have encouragement and close company. In Genesis 2:18 we read, "And the Lord God said, it is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." We are so thankful our God doesn't change, and once again He has made a special love to grow between two young people, and has once again smiled on our small congregation. The engagement of Bro. Steven Miller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Pearl)

and Sis. Julie Anderson (Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Anderson, Gardnerville, Nev.) was announced with their wedding date planned for Apr. 12. We wish them God's rich blessings as they start their life together with God as the head of their home.

Bro. Ron Jones and Sis. Liz Moser are anticipating their marriage on Feb. 22. Bro. Ron's mother (Sis. Sherrill Jones, Morton, IL) and his brother David plan to be with us for this blessed occasion.

It's a real pleasure for our small congregation to see the Lord working in the hearts and lives of those we love, to bring about the forming of new homes and families. We thank God that these young couples have chosen the "better part" first and now are able to have Christ-centered homes.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Andy and Mary Jane Winkler

We are happy to announce the engagement and coming marriage of Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Sherrill), Morton, IL, and Sis. Elizabeth Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb) Portland. We wish them God's blessing and much happiness as they plan their life together. We are reminded in God's word that the Bride is also the Church and Christ the Bridegroom. It moves our hearts with joy and happiness when two are joined in holy matrimony. We hope Christ will be happy and anxiously waiting when we, His Church, can be joined together, never to part.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in
Jesus;

We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases..
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

Zion's Harp No. 79

We are also happy to have a new little bundle of joy in our small congregation. A little boy, Ryan Walt, was born to Harold and Linda Hari. What joy a new little one brings. We are reminded of our responsibility as parents to guide our children in this life below.

We want to thank Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland), and wish him God's blessing for bringing us

God's Word.

March is collection month for Silverton. Anyone wishing to subscribe to the Silver Lining is welcome to contact us.

PENNSYLVANIA, PHILADELPHIA

(See New Jersey, Union City)

TEXAS, McALLEN

Joyce Nohl

We enjoyed having Elder Bros. Leo Moser, Nathan Steffen and Ronald Nelson for a short visit on their return from the Elder meeting in Zapata.

Sunday, Jan. 25, was a special Sunday for those of us who live in the McAllen and valley area as we had our first Sunday meeting of the season. We listened to a tape and though we were few in number we had a blessed day of fellowship.

Once again on Feb. 8 we were together. We were fortunate to have Elder Bro. Herman Kellenberger with us to bring God's word to us. We thank him so much for his efforts, and also thank those who came with him. There were 25 in attendance.

God willing, we plan to have our next services on Feb. 22.

We invite any brethren or friends who might be in the valley to come and visit us. We appreciate any fellowship we can have with those of like mind and faith. Please call us and let us know you are near. Our address is: Lloyd and Joyce Nohl, 1501 Wisteria, McAllen, TX 78501, and our telephone number is (512) 682-0219.

TEXAS, ZAPATA

Margery Koehl

When we learned we were to host the Elder Conference held in January, it seemed like a huge task for the Zapata church. With so many willing hands it became a blessed, rewarding, and enjoyable project which we felt privileged to perform.

A pleasant part of the week with our elders and their wives was having brothers and sisters in our homes who we have known and loved for many years, along with ones we learned to know.

We all felt fortunate to be allowed to host this event, and believe our dear Lord blessed us through it.

SILVER THREADS

I cannot tell how precious
The Saviour is to me,
Since I have Him accepted,
And He hath made me free;
I cannot tell His goodness,
Enough to satisfy;
And if you'll only take Him,
You'll see the reason why.
I cannot tell how precious
The Saviour is to me;
I only can entreat you
To come, and taste and see.

Sermon . . .

(Continued from page 28)

energy, and we recognize the tremendous shortage of energy in the world today, we can see that the Arab nations are combining those two things—their wealth and their supply of energy—to force other nations' attention on Jerusalem, which they want.

Jerusalem, clearly, is becoming a burdensome stone, a cup of trembling to all nations. The Arabs are using their new political power and wealth to turn all nations against Jerusalem.

Beloved, I don't understand it all, but as children of light how can we witness these events and not be concerned and troubled?

We have read together that at such a time Jesus Christ will come as the Bridegroom to gather in His church. We have read together a description of that church. They shall be dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Those of us who have been charged to preach and teach the truth have a tremendous responsibility to keep the church clean, pure, righteous, and unspotted from the world. Beloved brothers and sisters, I have learned through the years that it is almost impossible to preach and teach so that people will take their own lives and place them on the altar of God and keep them unspotted.

I know it so well because my body also is clothed in flesh and I, too, suffer from the temptations of the world. I, too, am disturbed at the many temptations that I yield to. I have a great concern to understand precisely what is going on between my flesh and the Spirit that dwells within me.

I believe with all my heart that

the Holy Spirit dwells within me. Yet, I understand that the flesh that my body is clothed in rages a constant war with that Spirit. I find solace and comfort in the knowledge that the Apostle Paul shared in that great war. He confessed: "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not: but what I hate, that I do." Romans 7:15.

That is precisely where many of us find ourselves. "If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil that I would not, that I do." Romans 7:16-19.

Oh, how we find ourselves in those words! "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Romans 7:20-24.

I thank God for Jesus Christ our Lord. Beloved, I believe that the church is like Paul who desired to do the will of God. We want to. Yet, we find that evil, the thing that we hate so very much, is present at every turn.

We have a great desire to conquer evil and to overthrow it; and yet, we find that we are yielding to the temptations that the world offers. It takes constant cleansing, repentance, and, I believe, partaking of the communion of the blood of Jesus Christ to keep the garments of the church clean and white, prepared to meet the Bridegroom when He comes.

We have read together about the great marriage feast between Jesus Christ and the church. Jesus told numerous parables concerning that marriage. One story is told about a wedding feast which was prepared by a king for his son. Servants called this one and that one to come

to the marriage feast. Those called had many excuses; one had bought some land, another a yoke of oxen, and another had just married and could not come. So the king sent his servants into the highways and byways so that the house might be filled.

We know that the house of Israel rejected Jesus Christ, and that the opportunity was then given to "whosoever would," so that all people would have the opportunity to become children of God.

But in that parable one came in without a wedding garment. He was removed; he was not accepted. It becomes clear that only those who have prepared themselves and cleansed their garments will be accepted into the marriage feast. Beloved, we know from many passages of Scripture that there is only one way to cleanse our garments and that is in the blood of Jesus Christ.

We find continuity in God's Holy Word from the beginning to the end. If we hope to have our garments clean and white, we must remain in Jesus Christ. We must preach and teach Jesus Christ, and we must follow His example and His precepts.

We have read together of how Gog and Magog will attack Israel. We understand that Meshech, Tubal, Gog and Magog are of the land of Russia and that they will war against the Israelites. We believe that today Jews are leaving Israel because of the political and economic uncertainty of that nation which we have already mentioned.

Few Jews today recognize Jesus Christ as Lord. There is still a remnant in Jerusalem who worship God, and there are a few who worship Jesus Christ. But for the most part, they are atheistic in their views.

If we had read further in the twelfth chapter of Zechariah, we would have seen that Jesus Christ comes as King of kings and the mighty slaughter occurs in the Valley of Armageddon. His chosen people will recognize Him as their Messiah. They will weep as for an only son because they will realize that they crucified the Son of God!

A sixth part of the invaders will be turned back and the rest will be killed. For seven months there will be burial of the dead. I don't understand why they will search

for every bone so that it might be buried. We can imagine the stink because there will be so many dead. The birds will be invited to gorge themselves upon kings and upon beasts. We have read it twice together.

But, why every bone? I do not understand. There have been many theories put forth. Most of them are centered around the theory of radiation and that the bodies will be contaminated by nuclear holocaust. Others fear that there will be germ warfare, which is certainly a possibility today, and so perhaps that will be the reason. But, beloved, I don't know. I only accept the Scripture as it is given. For seven months they will bury the dead.

Why there will be fighting with hand weapons, I do not know. But there will be. We can see that. Perhaps it will be tied to the energy shortage.

The important thing in all these facts is that Jesus Christ, whom we have known and trusted, will be the Saviour of the world. It will be obvious to all!

Beloved, let us continue to place our trust in the Bridegroom, the Word of Life. Let us continue to place our trust in the Bridegroom, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Many people have said that they are concerned about the nations. They are concerned about the power of Russia. They are concerned about the unrighteous. Even David, when he wrote the Psalms, was concerned about the unrighteous. But many have said (almost in mock humor) that they have read the end of the Book (and we have read it together today, too), and the saints will win. The followers of Jesus Christ will win!

Don't worry about the end of the world. Don't worry if the ungodly seem to be gaining the upper hand at this time. Rest assured that you are safe in the arms of Jesus if you have asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart and to take control of your life.

If you haven't, beloved friends, then we encourage you to understand the Scriptures which we have read together, and to recognize that there is but one hope and that is to wash our garments in the blood of Jesus Christ.

SERMON BY BRO. JAMES A. RAMSEYER OF BAY CITY, MI

Text: Ezekiel 39 and Revelation 19

Today, beloved, we have come together, many of us from great distances, to witness the marriage of a brother in Christ and a sister in Christ.

In this scripture, Rev. 19, we have been instructed concerning the great marriage that will occur between the bride, the church, and Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

In the beginning, Jesus Christ was with God in heaven. In the beginning Jesus Christ was known as the Word of God as we find in John: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John 1:1.

Very clearly, then, we see that Jesus Christ was in the beginning. But perhaps we should read a little further: "The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:2, 3, 4, 5.

Consequently, beloved, we see that we are the children of light. As children of light we are followers of that Light, Jesus Christ, of whom we often sing: "As our lighthouse, as our beacon on the horizon . . ."

The light of Jesus Christ was brighter than day when Paul came against Him on the road to Damascus. It was so light that Paul was physically blinded because he walked in spiritual darkness.

Beloved brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, together we have an opportunity in this day to recount that great event which is to come, the marriage of Jesus Christ and the church, which includes those of you sitting here today who have sanctified yourselves before God.

As we open this chapter, we find tremendous rejoicing and happiness at the fall of Babylon. For

years many of us have wondered about Babylon. We can read in the Old Testament that it would be destroyed and never rise again. For thousands of years now, it has lain in ruins.

Yet many of us were shaken recently (perhaps it has been going on for several years—maybe as many as three or four) when it became common knowledge in the public press that Babylon is being rebuilt. What an awakening! Many of us had believed it was an allegory, that Babylon was the world of the occult, symbolic of unrighteousness and sin.

But perhaps Babylon will be a physical place and a mighty army exactly as the Bible prescribed. But it shall be destroyed. It will still be the occult center of the world as many of us have recognized, but it will be destroyed and there will be great rejoicing.

It is significant, beloved, that we have read two chapters that parallel each other, one in the Old Testament and one in the New. There is no question that God did indeed allow His people to come back to Jerusalem.

This morning I had the opportunity to sit quietly and read awhile. In Zechariah, it is specifically mentioned that God would bring His people from the land of the north and from all nations.

Several years ago the world was astounded when Jews were allowed to come out of Russia and go to their homeland. They were so happy that they kissed the ground when they arrived. It is interesting, beloved, because it is an exact fulfillment of the Holy Scriptures.

Since that time, many people who have direct descendancy from the tribe of Judah and from other Israelite tribes have returned to the land of Jerusalem. Today many are very unhappy there for various economic and political reasons,

and are leaving.

Time seems to be in its final hours, for we can read in Zechariah that Jerusalem shall become a burdensome stone. There will be great concern over this city of Jerusalem in the final days. Many of us have wondered why the little city would be so important that it would be a burdensome stone, and yet, we can read it together: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zechariah 12:2,3.

Beloved, we do not have to be wise to recognize that that time is near. I believe that events which are necessary to fulfill the Scripture that we have read together in both chapters are now present and current.

In 1967 there was a war, a minor scrimmage to most of the world, during which Israel recaptured Jerusalem. We call it the "Seven-day War."

In 1973 the Moslem nation tried to recapture Jerusalem and it was not able to, evidently by the miraculous hand of God; for we can read (history now bears this out) that Golda Meir, at that time Prime Minister of Israel, had armed with atomic weapons thirteen planes to destroy the capitals of thirteen Arab nations. We can guess what that would have done.

Many of us have tried to decipher the events of today and have not been able to. I, myself, am greatly perplexed over the wealth of the Arab nations. But when we realize that the reason for their wealth is oil which is needed for

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